

Report of the Consultative Group to the President of the Human Rights Council relating to the vacancies of mandate holders to be appointed at the fifty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council

Addendum (mandate on the use of mercenaries)

25 June 2024

I. Background

1. In paragraphs 47 and 49 of the annex to its resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a Consultative Group comprised of five members appointed by Regional Groups and serving in their personal capacity. The Consultative Group is mandated by the Council to propose to the President a list of candidates who possess the highest qualifications for the mandate in question and meet the general criteria and particular requirements. Recommendations to the President of the Human Rights Council are required to be made public and substantiated pursuant to paragraph 50 of the annex to resolution 5/1.

2. The members of the Consultative Group for the selection of the mandate holders to be appointed at the fifty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council are: His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Kwame Asiedu ANTWI (Ghana), Her Excellency Ms. Patricia Ann HERMANNNS (Bahamas), His Excellency Mr. Galib ISRAFILOV (Azerbaijan), Her Excellency Mrs. Michèle TAYLOR (United States of America) and Dr. LI Xiaomei (China).¹ The working cycle of the current Consultative Group commenced on 1 April 2024 and will end on 31 March 2025, pursuant to paragraph 2(b) of Council decision 30/115. The Consultative Group held its initial organizational meeting on 24 April 2024.

3. A total of three vacancies of special procedure mandate holders are to be filled at the Council's fifty-sixth session, as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

- 1. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran** (Human Rights Council resolution 55/19)
- 2. Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, member from Eastern European States** (Human Rights Council resolution 53/3)
- 3. Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, member from Western European and other States** (Human Rights Council resolution 51/13)

4. On 20 May 2024, the Consultative Group presented its main report² to the President of the Human Rights Council with its list of candidates recommended for the following two mandates (listed in alphabetical order):

- 1. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran** (Human Rights Council resolution 55/19)

¹ H.E. Mr. Galib Israfilov was appointed by the Group of Eastern European States on 30 May 2024 and H.E. Ms. Patricia Ann Hermanns was appointed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States on 6 June 2024. They therefore did not participate in the process leading to the recommendations made by the Consultative Group with respect to the vacancies of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran and of member from Eastern European States in the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, which were transmitted to the President of the Human Rights Council in a report dated 20 May 2024 (available [here](#)).

² Available [here](#).

2. Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, member from Eastern European States (Human Rights Council resolution 53/3)

5. In the said report, the Consultative Group indicated that, at that time, it was not in a position to consider the applications received for the vacancy of member from Western European and other States in the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination. This was due to the fact that, given its incomplete composition at that time and the recusal of H.E. Mrs. Michèle Taylor pursuant to paragraph 13 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2 on the methods of work of the Consultative Group of the Human Rights Council following the application of an eligible candidate from the United States of America to the mandate, the Consultative Group had not been able to reach the minimum quorum required for decision-making (reference is made to paragraph 7).³ The minimum quorum was reached with the appointment of H.E. Mr. Galib Israfilov on 30 May 2024.

6. The present addendum, to be read in conjunction with the main report of the Consultative Group dated 20 May 2024, contains the recommendations of the Consultative Group in relation to the following remaining mandate:

3. Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, member from Western European and other States (Human Rights Council resolution 51/13)

II. Process

7. The application period for the submission of applications for the position of member from Western European and other States in the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination opened on 23 February 2024 and was scheduled to close on 8 April 2024 (12 noon Geneva time). Due to the initially limited number of eligible applications received, the application period was extended until 16 April 2024 (12 noon Geneva time).

8. The Consultative Group considered 12 individual applications, from 12 eligible candidates, submitted for the mandate covered in this addendum to the report, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. The applications of the eligible candidates were made public on the designated web page of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)⁴ as provided for in paragraph 22 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 and paragraph 26 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2 (see also annex I of this addendum for the alphabetical list of eligible candidates).

9. The Consultative Group followed the same methodology as for the vacancies covered in its main report dated 20 May 2024. Reference is made to paragraphs 9 – 10 as well as paragraphs 12 – 15 of section II entitled "Process".

10. The Consultative Group held a total of four formal meetings on 10, 18 and 21 June 2024 to consider and interview candidates for the vacancy covered in this addendum. The chairing arrangement for the specific mandate under consideration is noted in paragraph 16 below.

³ In this respect, see also letter of the Consultative Group addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council, dated 30 April 2024 (available on [Human Rights Council Extranet](#)).

⁴ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc56>.

11. In accordance with paragraph 13 of President's statement PRST OS/14/2, H.E. Mrs. Michèle Taylor recused herself from participating in the shortlisting for the mandate covered in this addendum since a candidate from the United States of America was under consideration.

12. The Consultative Group held a total of seven interviews with seven shortlisted candidates for the mandate covered in this addendum (see annex II for the alphabetical list of interviewees). These interviews took place on 18 and 21 June 2024, pursuant to paragraph 22 (c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. Each candidate was asked similar questions based on the relevant provisions of Council resolution 5/1, decision 6/102, resolution 16/21, President's statement PRST OS/14/2 and Council resolutions relating to the specific mandate under consideration.

13. Shortlisted candidates were able to request in advance and make use of interpretation in one of the six official languages of the United Nations during their interviews, pursuant to the President's statements PRST 29/1 and PRST OS/14/2. Fluency in one of the two working languages of the United Nations was also assessed by the members of the Consultative Group for all candidates.

14. The Consultative Group carried out interviews by video calls through the platforms Webex and Zoom.

15. The decisions of the Consultative Group were taken by consensus and on the basis of the information provided by the candidates, both in their application forms and during the interviews.

III. Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the mandate of Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, member from Western European and other States

16. The meetings held by the Consultative Group in relation to this mandate were chaired by Dr. LI Xiaomei (China). There were 12 eligible candidates for this vacancy. Of the seven candidates interviewed, the Consultative Group decided to recommend the following four candidates as best qualified to fulfil the mandate, ranking them in the order of preference below, with two candidates ranked equally and listed alphabetically in the third place.

1. Joana LOPES DE DEUS PEREIRA (F) (Portugal)

2. Leticia ARMENDARIZ (F) (Spain)

3. Marnie LLOYDD (F) (New Zealand) and Taygeti MICHALAKEA (F) (Greece)

17. **Joana Lopes de Deus Pereira** is a Senior Research Fellow at Royal United Services Institute Europe in Belgium and a Senior Research Fellow at the University of South Wales in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Sciences Po – Paris School of International Affairs in France and a Lecturer at the NATO Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism. Previously, she worked as consultant at Flexiblearth Lda. and as freelance Country Risk Analyst / Above Ground Risks consultant, both in Portugal. She also worked as International Relations Officer for the Ministry of Justice of Portugal and as Researcher at DINAMIA - ISCTE in Portugal, and served as Project Evaluator for the National Agency of Innovation (Agência Nacional de Inovação). Ms. de Deus Pereira has published extensively on issues relating to the field of the mandate. She holds a Licenciatura in International Relations and Political Science from Nova University Lisbon and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Diplomacy from Lusíada University Lisbon, both in Portugal. She also holds a PhD from King's College London and a Post-Doctorate Fellowship from the University of South Wales, both in the United Kingdom. The Consultative Group noted Ms. de Deus Pereira's skills relevant for the mandate, including her ability

to work with a variety of stakeholders, as well as her expertise and extensive experience in the field of the mandate. The Consultative Group also noted her excellent understanding of the mandate and her clear vision and priorities for its implementation. The Consultative Group further noted Ms. de Deus Pereira's cooperative approach and appreciated her commitment to and passion for the mandate.

18. **Leticia Armendariz** is the Academic and Executive Director and Professor at the International University of La Rioja in Spain. She is also a Reporter for the International Law in Domestic Courts – Spanish section at Oxford University Press. Previously, she was a Professor and Academic Coordinator at the Open University of Catalunya and a Legal Adviser and Research Coordinator at NOVACT – International Institute for Nonviolent Action, both in Spain. Furthermore, she worked as a Visiting Professional at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Costa Rica. Ms. Armendariz has several publications on issues relating to the field of the mandate. She holds a Law Degree from the Public University of Navarra, a Master of Laws in Intellectual Property and New Technologies Law from the International University of La Rioja, and a PhD in International Law from the Open University of Catalonia, all in Spain. She also holds an Advanced Studies and Research Diploma in Law and a Postgraduate Degree in International Studies from the University of Barcelona, both in Spain. The Consultative Group noted Ms. Armendariz's expertise and vast academic background and practical experience in the field of the mandate. The Consultative Group also noted her strong understanding of the mandate and her vision for its implementation. The Consultative Group further noted Ms. Armendariz's cooperative approach.

19. **Marnie Lloyd** is a Senior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. In addition, she is *inter alia* a member of the New Zealand's National International Humanitarian Law Committee and of the New Zealand Intergovernmental Working Group on Lethal Autonomous Weapons. Previously, she worked as International Humanitarian Law and Policy Manager at the New Zealand Red Cross; as Legal Consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and as Protection Delegate, Legal Advisor and Special Advisor at the International Committee of the Red Cross in multiple locations. Additionally, she worked as Legal Research Associate at the European Centre for Minority Issues in Germany. Ms. Lloyd has numerous publications on issues relating to the field of the mandate. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and a Bachelor of Laws from Victoria University of Wellington, both in New Zealand; a Master of Arts in International Humanitarian Assistance from Ruhr University Bochum in Germany; a Master of Laws in International Law of Armed Conflict from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law in Switzerland; and a PhD in International Law from the University of Melbourne in Australia. Ms. Lloyd indicated that, if appointed mandate holder, she would be willing to relinquish her roles with New Zealand's National International Humanitarian Law Committee and with the New Zealand Intergovernmental Working Group on Lethal Autonomous Weapons to ensure that there is no real or perceived conflict of interest with the mandate. The Consultative Group noted Ms. Lloyd's expertise and strong academic background and practical experience, including with the United Nations system. The Consultative Group also noted her ability to engage with a variety of stakeholders.

20. **Taygeti Michalakea** is a Lecturer in International Law at the European Law and Governance School in Greece. She is also a Researcher at Panteion University, a Module Instructor at Global Compact Greece, and a Senior Legal Consultant at the National Human Rights Commission, all in Greece. She is also a Senior Legal Consultant at ENACT Sustainable Strategies. Previously, she worked as Senior Legal Consultant at Global Rights Compliance, Lecturer at the Police School in Greece and Legal Officer at the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. Additionally, she *inter alia* worked as a Lawyer at Dedes & Associates Law firm in Greece and as a Researcher at International Bridges to Justice in Geneva and at the Hague Institute for the Internationalization of Law in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Ms. Michalakea has several publications on human rights issues, including on issues relating to the mandate. She holds a

Bachelor's Degree in Law from the University of Athens in Greece, a Master Degree in International Law from Utrecht University in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and a PhD in International Law, Human Rights and Sustainability from Scuola Superiore Sant' Anna in Italy. The Consultative Group noted Ms. Michalakea's expertise as well as her strong academic background and practical experience, including with the United Nations system. The Consultative Group appreciated her commitment to and passion for the mandate.

Annex I - List of eligible candidates by mandate⁵

**Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination,
member from Western European and other States**

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Leticia	ARMENDARIZ	Spain	F
Freya	BAETENS	Belgium	F
Lorna	DAVIDSON	Australia	F
Belén	DERIU	Italy	F
Huw	LLEWELLYN	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	M
Marnie	LLOYDD	New Zealand	F
Joana Rita	LOPES DE DEUS PEREIRA	Portugal	F
Taygeti	MICHALAKEA	Greece	F
Seyed Abbas	POOR HASHEMI	Canada	M
Ekkehard	STRAUSS	Germany	M
Kyla	TENNIN	United States of America	F
Aly	VERJEE	Canada	M

⁵ The list of candidates is provided in alphabetical order.

Annex II – List of shortlisted candidates interviewed by the Consultative Group⁶

**Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination,
member from Western European and other States**

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Leticia	ARMENDARIZ	Spain	F
Belén	DERIU	Italy	F
Huw	LLEWELLYN	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	M
Marnie	LLOYDD	New Zealand	F
Joana Rita	LOPES DE DEUS PEREIRA	Portugal	F
Taygeti	MICHALAKEA	Greece	F
Ekkehard	STRAUSS	Germany	M

⁶ The list of candidates is provided in alphabetical order.