



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Subject: Twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the Permanent Missions of the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the Convention) and has the honour to refer to the upcoming elections of the members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee) at the twenty-first meeting of the States Parties to the Convention to be convened on **29 June 2020** at 10:00 a.m. at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, **Conference Room 3**. For an updated list of the States Parties to the Convention as well as the certified true copy of the Convention, please refer to the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet, Status of Treaties, Chapter IV-8 at <http://treaties.un.org>

At the meeting, the States Parties will elect **eleven** members of the Committee to replace those whose terms of office are due to expire on 31 December 2020 (Annex I). The members of the Committee will be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by State parties. The term of the members elected shall begin on 1 January 2021 and expire on 31 December 2024. Information on the **requirements, responsibilities and entitlements relating to membership** of the Committee, whose language of drafting is English, can be found in Annex II.

The provisions of the Convention relating to elections of experts are contained in article 17, which reads, in pertinent part, as follows:

“1. For the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) consisting, ..., of twenty-three experts of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention. The experts shall be elected by States parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographic distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as the principal legal systems.

2. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its nationals.

3. The initial election shall be held six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention. At least three months before the date of each election the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties.

4. Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at a meeting of States parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons



elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

5. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. However, the terms of nine of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these nine members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.”

In accordance with the above provisions of the Convention, the Secretary-General has the honour to **invite the States Parties to the Convention to submit under cover of a Note verbale their nominations** for membership of the Committee to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva, Switzerland, **by 6 March 2020** at the latest. The electronic versions of the Note verbale and the curriculum vitae (**in Word format**) of the candidate should be submitted to the Secretariat of the Committee at cedaw@ohchr.org, with copy to Mr. Jakob Schneider (jschneider@ohchr.org), in accordance with the biographical data form contained in **Annex III**.

In accordance with article 17, paragraph 1 of the Convention, the Committee shall be composed of experts of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention. Moreover, experts shall serve in their personal capacity. The Permanent Mission will recall that the General Assembly in its resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, encourages States parties “to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies” (para. 10).

The Permanent Mission will also recall that in the same resolution (para.13), the General Assembly encourages States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies.

The same General Assembly resolution 68/268 (para. 12), requires the provision of information regarding the current composition of the Committee. This information can be found in the note by the Secretary General, as well as on the webpage of the Committee at the following address: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Membership.aspx>

After **6 March 2020**, the deadline for submission of nominations, the Secretary-General shall submit to the States parties the list of nominations together with relevant information concerning the twenty-first Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, in accordance with article 17, paragraph 3 of the Convention.

19 December 2019