



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Twenty-first session

Agenda item 1

Organizational and procedural matters

Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee*

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, composed of 18 experts serving in their personal capacity and nominated by States Members of the United Nations following States' consultations with national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, are to be elected by the Council by secret ballot from the list of candidates whose names have been submitted in accordance with the agreed requirements.
2. The geographic distribution of members is as follows: (a) five from African States; (b) five from Asian States; (c) two from Eastern European States; (d) three from Latin American and Caribbean States; and (e) three from Western European and other States.
3. At its seventh session, the Human Rights Council elected the 18 members of the Advisory Committee, of whom four members for a one-year term, seven for a two-year term and seven for a three-year term.
4. At its tenth session, the Human Rights Council re-elected the four members originally elected for a one-year term for another three-year term, their terms of office ending in March 2012.¹
5. Pursuant to Human Rights Council decision 18/121, the Council decided, as a transitional measure, that the period of office of members of the Advisory Committee ending in March 2012 would be exceptionally extended until 30 September 2012. Consequently, the mandate of the four members elected at the tenth session of the Council will expire in September 2012. Of those four vacancies, there is one vacancy for

* The information contained in the annex to the present report is circulated as received, in the language of submission only.

¹ Following the demise of Miguel Alfonso Martínez (Cuba) in 2010, elections were held at the fourteenth session of the Human Rights Council, at which Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann (Nicaragua) was elected for the remainder of the term, until March 2012.

African States, one for Asian States, one for Latin American and Caribbean States and one for Western European and other States.

6. At its sixth session, the Human Rights Council adopted decision 6/102 on follow-up to Council resolution 5/1, in which it described the technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures, which include (a) recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights; (b) high moral standing; and (c) independence and impartiality.

7. When selecting their candidates, States are requested to apply the following guidelines on technical and objective requirements for the submission of their candidates:

(a) Competence and experience:

(i) Academic studies in the field of human rights or related areas, and/or experience and exposure to leadership roles in the human rights field at the national, regional or international levels;

(ii) Substantial experience (at least five years) and personal contributions in the field of human rights;

(iii) Knowledge of the United Nations system and of institutional mandates and policies related to the work in the area of human rights, as well as knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and disciplines; familiarity with different legal systems and civilizations will be preferable;

(iv) Proficiency in at least one official language of the United Nations;

(v) Availability of time to fulfil the work of the Advisory Committee in an effective manner, both to attend its sessions and to carry out mandated activities between sessions;

(b) High moral standing;

(c) Independence and impartiality: individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or any other organization or entity which might give rise to a conflict of interest with responsibilities inherent to the mandate will be excluded; elected members of the Advisory Committee will act in their personal capacity;

(d) Other considerations: the principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at the same time is to be respected.

8. In electing members of the Advisory Committee, the Human Rights Council should give due consideration to gender balance and appropriate representation of different civilizations and legal systems.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 71 of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the list of candidates is to be closed two months prior to the election date, and the secretariat is to make available the list of candidates and relevant information to Member States and the public at least one month prior to the election. In accordance with its annual programme of work, the Council will elect the four members at its twenty-first session.

10. On 20 April 2012, the secretariat of the Human Rights Council addressed a note verbale to the concerned regional coordinators to encourage proposals of candidates, informing them that the deadline for submission of nominations was 15 June 2012. The deadline was later extended until 29 June 2012, and subsequently until 27 July 2012.²

² The present report includes all candidatures received by 6 July 2012. Any additional candidatures will be included in an addendum.

11. As at 6 July 2012, the secretariat had received nominations of two candidates for the 2012 election to membership of the Advisory Committee from the Governments of Argentina and Bahrain.

12. The nominations received are listed below; biographical data relating to the candidates are contained in the annex.

Asian States

<i>Nominating State</i>	<i>Expert nominated</i>
Bahrain	Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani

Latin American and Caribbean States

<i>Nominating State</i>	<i>Expert nominated</i>
Argentina	Mario L. Coriolano ³

³ In accordance with paragraph 69 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and further to the request to that effect by the secretariat, the candidate, who is currently serving as Vice-Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture until 31 December 2012, has expressed his intention to relinquish the position in the event of election to the Advisory Committee.

Annex

[English only]

Biographical data

Mr. Saeed Mohamed Al Faihani

(Nominated by the Government of Bahrain)

Personal Data:

Domicile: Arad region

Place of birth: Muharraq

Date of birth: 23 March 1960

Education:

- Master of Arts in Political Science, Ohio University, United States of America, 1983 with a GPA average 3.67 out of 4.
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Concordia University, Canada, 1981 with a GPA average 3.3 out of 4.
- Secondary School Certificate, Al-Hidaya al-Khalifiya, Secondary School, 1976 (The top student in Bahrain-Literature Section)

Career:

- Undersecretary of Human Rights 2011-
- Ambassador, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, 2007 - 2011
- Ambassador, Office of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, 2005-2007
- Non-resident Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Austria, 2002-2005
- Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations Office in Vienna, 2001-2005
- Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Vienna, 2001-2005
- Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the World Trade Organization, Geneva, 2001-2005
- Permanent Representative of Bahrain to the United Nations Office, Geneva, 2001-2005
- Consul-General of Bahrain to the Swiss Confederation, Geneva, 2001-2005
- Counselor, Minister of Foreign Affairs Office, 1999-2001
- First Secretary, Minister of Foreign Affairs Office from 1995-1998
- Consul of Bahrain in New York, 1993-1994
- First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations, New York, 1988-1994

- Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Bahrain to the United Nations Office, Geneva, 1985-1988
- Vice-Consul, Consulate General of Bahrain in Geneva, 1985-1988
- Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as second secretary in 1983

Participation in Meetings and Course attendance:

Participated in the following International Organizations meetings and Forums:

1. Security Council (1988-2004)
2. United Nations General Assembly and its Committees (First, Second, third, Fourth, and Sixth Committees) from 1988-1994, 1996-2000, and 2006-2008
3. UN Economic and Social Council (1985-2004)
4. International Labor Organization Conferences (1985-1988 and 2001-2005)
5. World Health Organization 1985-1988 and (2001-2005)
6. World Intellectual Property Organization (1985-1988 and 2001-2005)
7. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (1985-1988 and 2001-2005)
8. Human Rights Commission (1984-1988) (2001-2005), (Elected Vice-Chair from Asia during the sixtieth session of the Commission, 2004 as the only person from the Gulf to be elected for a post in the Commission since its inception in 1946 until it was abolished in 2006)
9. United Nations Development Program (1987, 1989)
10. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (1985, 1986)
11. World Trade Organization (2001-2005)
12. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (1985, 2001-2005)
13. International Parliamentary Union (2003-2005)
14. Disarmament Commission (1989-1994)
15. International Committee of the Red Cross 1985-1988 and 2001-2005)
16. International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (1985-1988 and 2001-2005)
17. UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) (1985-1988 and 2001-2005)
18. Preparatory Meetings for the Establishment of the UN Human Rights Council and the first Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (2005-2006)
19. World Economic Forum in Davos, (1999-2000 and 2002-2005)
20. Crans Montana Forum, (2003-2004)
21. Middle East Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone, University of London UK (SOAS, Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy), 2006
22. Course in International Refugee Law, organized by International Institute of Humanitarian Law and UNHCR, San Remo, Italy, 1987
23. Fundamental Economics Course at Henry George School of Social Science, New York, 1991

24. Dealing with Mass Media Course, Ministry of Information, 1999

Special Assignments:

1. Negotiating with UNDP Bahrain's Net Contributor Status, Geneva, 1987
2. Covering the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its aftermath in the Security Council, New York, 1990-1994
3. Handling the human rights issues during the events of the nineties abroad 1995-1999
4. Worked on the release of Bahraini citizens held in Guantanamo
5. Repatriating Bahraini citizens held in Israel through heading a mission that negotiated with the Israelis their release, July 2009
6. Worked on the repatriation of Bahraini citizens held in Israel, July 2010
7. Worked on the repatriation of Bahraini fishermen from Qatar, 2010
8. Entrusted to transfer the Human Rights file from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Human Rights and Social Development (2010-2011)

Mr. Mario L. Coriolano

(Nominated by the Government of Argentina)

Mr Mario L. Coriolano is an Argentinian lawyer graduated from the National University of La Plata (UNLP). He also holds a degree as specialist in Penal Law and Criminology from the same university. Currently, he is an ordinary associate professor in the Chair of Procedural Law I at the School of Law and Social studies of the UNLP, position obtained through an open competitive exam.

The candidate has wide experience in the academic, judicial and cultural fields, most notably through his advocacy work against torture and other degrading conditions of detention, to name only the most relevant issue concerning human rights in the province of Buenos Aires.

In 2006, he has been appointed member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, created in the light of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture UN office obtained through a national and international selection process.

He was appointed by the Subcommittee to integrate a working group with the Committee against Torture in order to facilitate communication and coordinated action between the two bodies.

Also, he was appointed by the Subcommittee to write a paper analysing the national preventive mechanisms of different regions. The subcommittee will rely on this paper to study the measures to be taken to assist States to implement the guidelines. He was elected focal point with the National Preventive Mechanism of Mexico. He was part of the first international mission of the Subcommittee to Mauritius, Africa. He participated on behalf of the Subcommittee in Washington DC, USA, at a public hearing convened by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the prevention of torture to establish guidelines for coordinated work between the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommittee.

Finally, as a member of the Subcommittee, spoke at different events to promote the implementation of the national preventive mechanisms (Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru.)

He has headed the Office of Public Defenders before the Highest Criminal Court of the province of Buenos Aires since 1998. He obtained this position through an open competitive exam presided by the Council of Magistrates.

His work with the Police and Penitentiary Service personnel has allowed him to gain a sound experience concerning the design and implementation of public policies related to imprisonment issues and to the mechanisms for the supervision and visits to detention facilities. He has used this experience with a view to improving the aforementioned institutions.

Along the same line of work, he created and started-up the areas of the execution of Public Defense devoted to the attention of detainees and to the visits to places of detention, activities carried out by specialized lawyers, with the aim of protecting the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

He has also created a database where torture cases and other occurrences involving cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the province of Buenos Aires are recorded. Various local, national and international institutions concerned with the protection of human rights ("Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales" –CELS-; Amnesty International, Center for Justice and International Law –CEJIL- and the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights, among others) have used this database. Furthermore, he promoted the creation of a comprehensive programme for processing information on

harassment to defenders and adulteration of evidence. He has successfully developed and implemented an “Interdisciplinary Training Programme for Visits to Incarceration Facilities” whose aim is to improve the mechanisms of regular, unscheduled visits to detention facilities by providing specialized training to various state and civil sectors nationwide. The aforementioned programme is guided by the principles laid down in the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Protocol. It is sponsored by the Swiss Embassy and supported by the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).

Mr Coriolano’s wide experience as proved by the projects he has been involved in and by his current position, have enabled him to render his views on the issue of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in countless presentations at national and international events as shown by his participation in United States of America (2008); Brazil (2007- 2006, 2005, 2001); Bolivia (2007); Perú (2007); Colombia (2006); Mexico (2006, 2005); Argentina (2007- 2005); Paraguay (2007- 2005, 2002); Uruguay (2004); Ecuador (2003); Canada (2003); Costa Rica (2002, 1999, 1998); Chile (2001); Guatemala (2001). He has also been the author of various publications related to his field of work.

He is the founder and current head of “Centro de Estudios para la Defensa Pública”, an organization providing training and opportunities for the public discussion of Justice and human rights- related issues.

He is also a co-founder and member of the “Asociación de Defensores por los Derechos Humanos” and “Foro para la Justicia Democrática”, non profit- making civil associations composed by judges, prosecutors and defenders, whose purpose is to offer a pluralist approach to the discussion needed for the consolidation of the democratic Rule of the Law and the protection of human rights.

He has been appointed as the liaison official between the Province of Buenos Aires and the National Programme against Impunity, a joint effort against flagrant violations to human rights undertaken by state-run, non-governmental and civil organizations at the national, provincial and municipal levels.

He has served as advisor to the “Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos” (IIDH), San José de Costa Rica and currently holds a fellowship from the Government of Canada.
