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Research Institute for Social Development

Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General

1.   The functions of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, which are set out in paragraph 3 of document ST/SGB/126 of 1 August 1963 and in its addenda, are:

    (a)   To lay down general rules governing the action of the Institute in matters entrusted to it;

    (b)   To review and approve work programmes and the relevant budgets of the Institute;

    (c)   To submit regularly to the Commission for Social Development a progress report on the work of the Institute.

2.   At present, the Board is composed of:

    (a)   A Chair, appointed by the Secretary-General;

    (b)   Six members nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council (with four seats vacant);

    (c)   A representative of the Secretary-General;

    (d)   Representatives of selected United Nations specialized agencies, departments and regional entities who participate as observers;

    (e)   The Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, ex officio.

3.   The term of office of the members of the Board referred to in paragraph 2 (b) above is four years, renewable once for a further period of two years.[1]

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[1] In its resolution 10 (XXV), the Commission decided that the term of office of each nominated member of the Board should not exceed a total of six years.

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4.	Maureen O'Neil (Canada) completed her six-year term as Chair of the Board on 30 June 2017. In January 2018, the Secretary-General signalled his approval of the appointment of Joakim Palme (Sweden), Professor of Political Science, Department of Government, Uppsala University, who was already serving as a Board member, as the new Board Chair. The appointment was for an initial period of two years, from July 2017 through June 2019.

5.	The nominated members of the Board are:

Jimi Adesina (South Africa), Professor and Department of Science and Technology/National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative Chair of Social Policy, University of South Africa

Asef Bayat (United States of America), Professor of Sociology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Sylvie Durrer (Switzerland), Director, Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality

David Hulme (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Professor, School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester

Saraswathi Menon (India), former Director, Policy Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

Onalenna Selolwane (Botswana), Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Botswana

6.	The term of office of the following four members will expire on 30 June 2019. They will have served on the Board for six years:

Jimi Adesina, Asef Bayat, David Hulme, Onalenna Selolwane

7.	The term of office of Saraswathi Menon will expire on 30 June 2019, and she is eligible for renomination for a further period of two years.

8.	At its fifty-seventh session, the Commission will be called upon to nominate four new members to replace those referred to in paragraph 6 for a four-year term, expiring on 30 June 2023. The Commission will also be called upon to extend the term of office of the member referred to in paragraph 7 for an additional two-year term, expiring on 30 June 2021.

9.	The biographical information of the new candidates is contained in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Biographical information*

Hanif Hassan Ali Al Qassim (United Arab Emirates)

Personal data

Date of birth: 8 December 1960

Present position

Chairman and Founder, Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue, Geneva, Switzerland

Experience

Minister of Health of the United Arab Emirates (2009–2011)

Minister of Education of the United Arab Emirates (2006–2009)

Vice-President of Zayed University, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (1998–2006)

Visiting Professor, Harvard University, Cambridge, United States of America (1996-1997)

Education

Ph.D. Islamic Studies, Umm Al Qurra University, Mecca, Saudi Arabia

M.A. Islamic Shari'a, Umm Al Qurra University

B.A. Islamic Studies, UAE University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

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  * Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

Ha-Joon Chang (Republic of Korea)

Personal data

Date of birth: 7 October 1963

Present position

Reader in the Political Economy of Development, Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge

Director, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge

Experience

Lecturer in Development Studies, Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge (2004–2005)

Lecturer in Development Studies, Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge (2004–2004)

Assistant Director of Development Studies, Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge (1990–2004)

Education

Ph.D., Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge

M. Phil., Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge

B.A., Department of Economics, Seoul National University

Shalini Randeria (India)

Personal data

Date of birth: 7 January 1955

Present position

Rector, Institute für die Wissenschaften von Menschen/Institute of Human Sciences, Vienna, Austria

Research Director, IHEID, The Graduate Institute of International and Development, Studies and Professor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology of Development, Geneva, Switzerland

Experience

Visiting Professor, Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung (WZB), Berlin, Germany (since 2010)

Research Director, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (2015–2016)

Mercator Fellow (visiting professorship at the Free University, Berlin as part of the SFB 700 Governance in Spaces of Limited Statehood), Berlin, Germany (2014–2018)

Research Professor, Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung (WZB), Berlin (2006–2007)

Professor, Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Zurich, Switzerland (2003–2012)

Max Weber Professor (Visiting Professorship), University of Munich; Germany (2001–2002)

Member Working group on "Civil society: historical and comparative perspectives", Social Science Research Centre (WZB) Berlin (2001–2003)

Assistant Professor of sociology, Free University of Berlin (1993–1999)

Lecturer in social anthropology and modern Indian languages, Free University of Berlin (Lehrkraft für besondere Aufgaben) (1986–1993)

Lecturer in sociology, University of Bombay, India (1981–1982)

Lecturer in sociology, University of Delhi, India (1980–1981)

Education

Habilitation in Sociology and Anthropology, Free University Berlin

Ph.D. Social Anthropology, Free University of Berlin

M. Phil. Sociology, Oxford University, United Kingdom

M.A. Sociology/Social Anthropology, University of Delhi

Imraan Valodia (South Africa)

Personal data

Date of birth: 18 April 1965

Present position

Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management and Professor of Economics, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Experience

Associate Professor of Development Economics, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa (2009–2012)

Visiting Research Fellow, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva, Switzerland (2008–2009)

Senior Research Fellow, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban (1996–2008)

Education

Doctorate in Economics, University of KwaZulu-Natal

MSc, International Trade and Finance, University of Lancaster

B. Com, Economics, University of KwaZulu-Natal

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