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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) Seven members nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council (with three 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. 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, as the Board Chair. The appointment was for an initial period of two years, from July 2017 through June 2019. On 3 July 2019, the



Secretary-General approved the appointment renewal for a period of two years, effective 1 July 2019 through 30 June 2021.

4. The nominated members currently serving on the Board are:

Hanif Hassan Ali Al Qassim (United Arab Emirates), Chairman, Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue (2019–2023)

Ha-Joon Chang (Republic of Korea), Reader in the Political Economy of Development, Faculty of Economics, and Director, Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge (2019–2023)

Sylvie Durrer (Switzerland), Director, Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality (2017–2021)

Saraswathi Menon (India), former Director, Policy Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) (2015–2021)

Godwin Murunga (Kenya), Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (2020–2024)

Shalini Randeria (India), Rector, Institute of Human Sciences, and Research Director, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (2019–2023)

Imraan Valodia (South Africa), Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management, and Professor of Economics, University of Witwatersrand (2019–2023)

5. The term of office of the following two members will expire on 30 June 2021:

Sylvie Durrer, Saraswathi Menon

6. At its fifty-ninth session, the Commission will be called upon to nominate two new Board members to replace those referred to in paragraph 5 for a four-year term, expiring on 30 June 2025.¹

7. The biographical information on the new candidates is contained in the annex to the present note.

¹ The term of office of the members of the Board is four years, renewable once for a further period of two years. 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.

Annex**Biographical information*****Olivier De Schutter (Belgium)****Personal data**

Date of birth: 20 July 1968

Present position

Professor, UCLouvain (Belgium) and SciencesPo (France)

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (2020–present)

Experience

Member, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2015–2020)

Co-chair, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (2015–present)

Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2008–2014)

Member, Scientific Committee of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (2013–2018)

Visiting Professor, Columbia University (New York, U.S.A.) (2008–2013), UC Berkeley (California, U.S.A.) (2013), Yale University (Connecticut, U.S.A.)

Chair, EU Network of Experts on Fundamental Rights (2002–2007)

Education

Ph.D., Law, UCLouvain, Belgium (1998)

LL.M., Harvard University, U.S.A. (1991)

M.A., Law, UCLouvain, Belgium (1990)

LL.B., UCLouvain, Belgium (1987)

* Curriculum vitae are issued without formal editing.

Graziella Moraes Silva (Brazil)

Personal data

Date of birth: 2 April 1976

Present position

Associate Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Department of Anthropology and Sociology (Switzerland) (2020–present)

Experience

Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Department of Anthropology and Sociology (Switzerland) (2016–2020)

Research Associate, Graduate Des Program in Sociology and Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Inequality, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) (2012–present)

Research Associate, University of Johannesburg, Centre for Social Development in Africa (South Africa) (2019–present)

Assistant Professor (on leave since 2016), Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Department of Sociology (Brazil) (2011–2020)

Postdoctoral Researcher, Research Institute for Applied Economics, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Inequality (Brazil) (2010–2011)

Education

Ph.D. Sociology, Harvard University, U.S.A. (2010)

M.A., Sociology, Harvard University, U.S.A. (2006)

M.A., Sociology and Anthropology Sciences, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2000)

Bachelor degree in Social Sciences, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1998)
