



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

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations has the honour to refer to article 8 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, relating to the election of members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The twenty-seventh Meeting of States parties is scheduled to convene at United Nations Headquarters in New York on **22 June 2017 at 10.00 am in Conference Room 3 (CR3)**, with the aim of electing nine members, representing half of the membership of the Committee, in view of the expiration of the term of office of nine members on 19 January 2018. In this regard, attention is drawn to Annex I, which lists the names and nationalities of members on the Committee, with an indication of the dates on which their respective terms of office are due to expire.

Article 8 (2) of the Convention provides that "each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals". The Secretary-General, therefore, in accordance with article 8 (3), has the honour to invite His Excellency's Government to nominate a candidate for membership of the Committee. Nominations and relevant biographical data should be submitted according to the enclosed candidacy form (Annex II) and should not exceed the number of lines indicated under each heading of the form. Nominations should be submitted prior to **6 April 2017** to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in electronic (**Word**) version to [cerd@ohchr.org](mailto:cerd@ohchr.org) and copied to [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org).

Paragraph 1 of article 8 provides that the members of the Committee shall be "experts of high moral standing and acknowledged impartiality elected by States parties from among their nationals, who shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration



being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as of the principal legal systems.”

The Secretary-General would also like to draw attention to General Assembly resolution 68/268, adopted on 9 April 2014 entitled “Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system” and its paragraphs 10 and 13 on the nomination and election of treaty body experts:

“10. *Encourages* States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies;”

“13. *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.”

After 6 April 2017, the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 8 (3) of the Convention, will prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States parties which have nominated them, and forward this list to States parties, together with other appropriate information concerning the meeting of the States parties.

Information on elections relating to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination may be found on the following link:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/Elections27.aspx>

15 December 2016