



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
21 November 2019

Original: English

Commission for Social Development

Fifty-eighth session

10–19 February 2020

Programme questions and other matters: United Nations
Research Institute for Social Development

Nomination of a member 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. In June 2019, Joakim Palme (Sweden), Professor of Political Science, Department of Government, Uppsala University, concluded his initial two-year appointment as the Board Chair. 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)

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 of the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management and Professor of Economics, University of Witwatersrand (2019–2023)

5. At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission will be called upon to nominate one new Board member to fill one of the four vacant seats referred to in paragraph 2 (b) for a four-year term, effective 1 July 2020 through 30 June 2024.¹
6. The biographical information of the new candidate 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*

Godwin Rapando Murunga (Republic of Kenya)

Personal data

Date of birth: 30 October 1970

Present position

Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), Dakar, Senegal

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, Nairobi, Kenya

Experience

Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC), Nairobi, Kenya (2013–2016)

Founding Deputy Director, African Leadership Centre (ALC), Nairobi, Kenya (2008–2013)

Visiting Professor, Global Institutes, King's College London, United Kingdom (2013–2016)

African Guest Researchers Fellowship, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden (2009)

Visiting Research Fellow, African Studies Centre, Oxford University, United Kingdom (2008)

Education

Ph.D. in History, Northwestern University, Evanston, United States of America (2006)

M.A. in History, Northwestern University, Evanston, United States of America (2001)

M.A. in History, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya (1998)

B.A. (Hons.), Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya (1994)

* Curriculum vitae are issued without formal editing.