



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Nineteenth session

Agenda item 1

Organizational and procedural matters

Election of members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee*

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note was prepared following the demise of Purification V. Quisumbing, who had been elected by the Human Rights Council, at its sixteenth session, for a three-year term to the Advisory Committee. As a vacancy from the Group of Asian States must be filled for the remainder of that term, the Council will elect a new member to the Committee at its nineteenth session.
2. On 12 December 2011, the secretariat of the Human Rights Council addressed a note verbale to the Permanent Mission of Japan, in its capacity as the regional coordinator for Asian States with regard to the submission of nominations.
3. On 20 January 2012, the secretariat received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines communicating the nomination of Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing as candidate for membership of the Advisory Committee. The biographical data of the candidate are annexed to the present note.
4. The Secretary-General recalls that, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, the 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, shall be elected by the Council, by secret ballot, from the list of candidates whose names have been submitted in accordance with the agreed requirements.
5. 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.

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

6. At its sixth session, the Human Rights Council adopted decision 6/102 on the follow-up to its 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;
- (c) Independence and impartiality.

7. When selecting their candidates, States should 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 shall 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.

Annex

Biographical data

Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing

(Nominated by the Government of the Philippines)

I am an internationally-recognized expert in human rights and international development, with extensive experience in the United Nations and the U.N. human rights system, e.g. the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies, special procedures, the HRC Advisory Committee, Security Council, UNGA, OHCHR, UNDP, WHO, ILO, and OCHA.

In my current work as a Commissioner in the Commission on Human Rights, an A-status National Human Rights Institution, I participate in and stay abreast of developments in the HRC, (including the recent review of the body) and in the HRCAC such as its work on HRts. Education, Leprosy, Transnational Corporations, Indigenous Peoples.

My work includes research, advocacy, policy making and recommendations on issues that the HRCAC covers such as human rights education; leprosy, HIV and other diseases; and human rights and business.

- Ability to hit the ground running. Proven ability to work with the HRCAC. I am very familiar with the substantive work, processes in the HRCAC, members – Involved in discussions towards Declaration on Right to Human Rights Education, i.a., assisted then-President, Dr. P.V. Quisumbing as she chaired the January 2011 session, in preparations for the earlier sessions, and as the HRCAC lobbied for greater clarity of its role in meetings with the HRC leadership.
- Recognized name and expertise among HRC Member States, HRCAC members and OHCHR officers. Panelist in 2 HRC dialogues, frequent statements during HRC sessions, active role in the first Philippine UPR, resource person at OHCHR seminars & activities.
- Independence from national government; the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines is an independent body. While I have demonstrated the ability to work constructively with government, this is not at the expense of independence. It is, rather than a modus to keep engaged, to offer recommendations and other input.
- Over 26 years of experience in intl. law, human rights, humanitarian affairs and law, intl. development (MDGs and Global Compact), judicial reform, project management and fund-raising, journalism and communications, academe & research, and government – all of which are relevant to the thematic and substantive work of HRCAC.
- Ability to work in English, French and Spanish and in multi-cultural settings – Negotiated provisions of the UPR report in 3 languages. Worked and lived in various countries as a journalist, human rights/devt. resource person. I translated draft documents into unofficial English versions for the HRCAC President in January '11 so that non-francophones would be able to understand the document in general and make comments during discussions on agenda items.

Commissioner, Commission on Human Rights (Appointed May 2008):

Special Areas of Coverage: Human Rights and Peacebuilding, Administration of Justice and HRts. Remedies, Child Rights Center (including Children in Armed Conflict) & Women's HR Center, Education, Research, and Advocacy, EJKillings, Torture, E. Disappearances, Human Rights Resource Center, including Publications, Info Systems and Library. Government and Civil Society Linkage, including Judicial Education & Legislative Drafting, Focal Commissioner for UDHR Anniversary Commemorative Activities, Business and Human Rights, Indigenous Peoples, Persons w/ Disabilities

Some achievements:

International & Regional:

- Assisted UN Human Rights Council interact with HRC Working Group on HRC Reforms
- Consultant and Advocate for Terms of Reference an independent, effective ASEAN human rights body including Commission for protection of women and children
 - March '11 – panelist in 11 March 2011 – HR Council panel on Counterterrorism, Hostage Taking and Hu. Rts.
 - Dec '10 – expert, technical consultations on guidance note on National Anti-Discrimination Action Plans
 - Dec '10 – expert panelist, UNHCR, High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges
 - May '10 – panelist, OHCHR Seminar – H. Rts. & H. Trafficking
 - Dec. '09 – panelist, OHCHR Pacific Islands Seminar on Prevention of Torture
 - Nov. '09 – panelist, OHCHR SE Asia Workshop on the UPR
 - Oct. '09 – panelist, HR Council panel - Mainstreaming Gender into UPR
 - July 09 - speaker, Asian Society of Intl. Law - Good Practices in Gender & Devt.
 - March '09 – Resource Person for Int'l Coordinating Committee of NHRIs - Working with Special Procedures
- Consultant/Author, UNICEF – Background paper on International Cooperation for Child Protection in Asia-Pacific Region (July to Nov 2010)
- Resource Person - Bangladesh govt. committee towards establishment of NHRI - in November 2010, chaired a session for a conference on human rights jointly hosted by the CHR of Bangladesh and UNDP
- Resource Person for Cambodia W. Grp. for ASEAN HR Mechanism - towards a Cambodia NHRI
- Resource person for Papua New Guinea government committee towards an NHRI
- Cooperation projects on HR Education, ESCR, Migrant Workers, Trafficking and Protection of Women & Children with other NHRIs in Southeast Asia
- Raised millions of USD and Euros from donors for projects on Extrajudicial Killings, Indigenous Peoples
- Capacity-Building for CHR, Production of education materials i.a.

Domestic:

- Strengthened CHR as an institution through legislation & internal reform, including strengthening Women's Human Rights Center & Child Rights Center
- Raised millions of US dollars from International Partners; oversee project management including M & E and reporting
- Oversee CHR activities on “Human Rights and HIV/AIDS”
- Strengthened partnership with Phil. Judicial Academy for training of judges on human rights issues such as gender responsiveness, child responsiveness, civil & political rights violations
- Prioritization of human rights related legislative measures in Congress, ensured to be compliant with hr standards, incl. bills to criminalize torture, ejk & disappearances, bill on age of criminal responsibility; Helped draft and advocate passage of laws on IHL, Anti-torture and Magna Carta of Women, anti-child pornography law; Adviser to legislative committee on law against racial and religious discrimination
- Organized and Chaired national summit on IHL and HR for 60th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions (Aug. '09)
- Wrote and presented CHR independent report to the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Aug. '09) including vulnerabilities of indigenous peoples to the effects of armed conflict, economic underdevelopment and natural disasters
- Report on Government and Civil Society Actions to address Extrajudicial Killings
- Training of top legislative staff on HR-based approach to legislation
- Review of HR education curricula for military
- Consultant to National Council on Persons with Disabilities preparing national report to U.N. Committee on CPWD
- Formulated CHR policy on rights based-approach to disasters
- Developing CHR's policy and network on business and human rights, including advocacy for the Global Compact on Corporate Social Responsibility
- Working with civil society groups of women and youth in Mindanao towards peace building and human rights

Other current activities:

- Lecturer, Philippine Judicial Academy
 - Legal Devts. to address EJK and Disappearances
 - Anti-Violence against Women and Children
- Lecturer, San Beda Graduate School of Law
 - Protections for Women & Children in Domestic and Intl. Law
 - U.N. Law and Legal Remedies
 - Governance and Human Rights
- Member, Philippine Working Group for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children

Highlights from 20 years in law, development, human rights, and journalism:

- Resource Person, Philippine Senate - towards ratification of the ASEAN Charter
- Resource Person on Universal Periodic Review process - U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Asia Regional Office
- Former Undersecretary (Dep. Min.), Office of the President of the Philippines and Executive Director, Presidential Human Rights Committee (Feb 2007- May 2008)
 - established entirely new PHRC at the Office of the President
 - established mainstreaming of human rights action and reporting throughout the executive branch
 - coordinated national interagency and multi-stakeholder preparations for Universal Periodic Review
 - launched multi-stakeholder process for 2nd National Human Rights Action Plan
 - coordinated government interaction with Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Arbitrary and Summary Killings
 - raised a multi-million Euro package in technical assistance, major grant from the UNDP and a grant from the Asia Foundation /USAID
 - achieved President's ratification of OP-CAT
- Consultant to Supreme Court of the Philippines
 - Strategic Planning Workshop for Gender and Development, Committee on a Gender Responsive Judiciary (2009)
 - training materials for judges and lawyers on new Rules of Court for Examination of Child Witnesses in cases of sexual abuse and exploitation (2006)
- Former Adviser (Sec. Council & 3rd Comm), Philippine Mission to U.N., New York (2005-2007)
 - prepared advisories to our Permanent Representative on social, human rights and economic matters related to Council discussion
 - represented Philippines in discussions with other delegations
 - helped maintain gender issues as part of Security Council discussions and resolution drafts through advisories to our Permanent Representative and discussions with other delegations, advocating for consistent reference to Security Council Resolution 1325 and gender-responsive principles in resolutions
 - organized a Security Council interactive dialogue on peacemaking and civil society,
 - handled media relations while Philippines held Presidency of the U.N. Security Council, including during the 2006 UNGA
 - drafted UNGA resolutions on migrant workers & trafficking.
 - created an internet communications tool with Philippine-based media to build their capacities to cover international and U.N. affairs

- Intern, UN OCHA, NY
 - Early Detection and Early Warning Unit (2004)
 - analysis of political, geopolitical, economic, social and other factors in various countries to identify those that are likely to have crises soon, and therefore need prevention or preparation action by OCHA and other UN agencies.
- Asian Development Bank (water and poverty, World Water Summit), 2003
 - Organized all aspects of preparations for a special activity for the 3rd World Water Forum in Kyoto, including identification of speakers and resource persons and close coordination with them on their roles, logistics, preparation of information materials, and media coverage.
 - Research into the Role of Women and Children in Water and Poverty issues, including disaster risk reduction. This entailed close cooperation and coordination with partner agencies such as the World Bank, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.
 - I also chaired that panel where panelists such as World Bank Director Peter Woicke and ADB President Tadao Chino and government ministers of developing countries discussed the issues of Water and Poverty Alleviation.
 - I was also responsible for post-event reporting and evaluation.
 - Arranged media coverage.
 - Responsibilities included project design and strategic work plan, budget management, building & maintaining network of partners, implementation supervision, M&E, reporting
- Project Manager, ILO (empowering returning migrant workers for self-employment), 1991

As the representative of the ILO in a joint project with the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment, I evaluated print and video materials to educate returning migrant workers on self-employment strategies and skills; and oversaw the production schedule.

Achievements: I made sure that the brochures, comic books, video and audio materials communicated the messages as identified by the project terms of reference. I kept production on schedule through timely monitoring; when there were schedule problems I worked with the production suppliers and DOLE staff to identify the problems and possible solutions and refine the schedule and then reported such to the ILO.

Responsibilities included project design and strategic work plan, budget management, building & maintaining network of partners, implementation supervision, M&E, reporting

- Project Manager WHO (AIDS/HIV), 1990

I advised the program director on public awareness strategies for the AIDS Prevention and Control Program of the Dept. of Health. I also supervised a the development of development communications strategies and materials for behavioural change in the work place and in the treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS

Achievements: During my tenure, I created and managed a data management system for media relations, held regular press briefings for health correspondents of news organizations, and supervised the production and distribution of HIV awareness material throughout the country. Material produced include: 5 television spots, 8 radio spots, two comic books, three brochures, press releases and a press kit on HIV/AIDS. I also organized a fun run to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS that attracted 400 participants and was covered on three major television networks and five newspapers.

Responsibilities included project design and strategic work plan, budget management, building & maintaining network of partners, implementation supervision, M&E, reporting

- Project Manager UNHCR (documentary on voluntary repatriation to Vietnam), 1990

Responsibilities included project design and strategic work plan, budget management, building & maintaining network of partners, implementation supervision, M&E, reporting

- Information Officer, U.N. Information Centre, Manila (1989-1993)
 - I designed a non-news media strategy for the U.N. as a whole in the Philippines (before concept of Country Teams).
 - I produced, wrote, edited and hosted weekly TV and radio programs about the United Nations, as an unpaid consultant, with the title of Information Officer. This included highlighting the various programs of the U.N. and interviews with high-level officials.
 - I also advised on public information strategies regarding special U.N. special topics, events and visitors, not only for UNIC but also for other agencies such as UNDP and UNICEF.
 - Raised awareness of the work and values of the United Nations and its Manila-based agencies through various media outlets.
 - Explored possibility of establishing independent television production facilities, including contacting suppliers and advertisers and setting budgets but eventually recommended that this was not viable for UNIC Manila.
 - Hosted several UN events including workshops for UNICEF.
 - Produced television specials on a major ESCAP conference in Manila, and the visit of then Deputy Secretary-General Yasushi Akashi.
- Marketing and Communications Consultant for various clients, including:
 - Oracle (1999 to 2002) - created and hosted a web-based marketing tool discussing the latest trends and future directions for business and information technology, such as 3G, b2b (business to business) and crm (customer relations marketing)
 - produced audio-visual material featuring high-value users of various software products, explaining the tools in use for marketing to similar companies
 - Coca-Cola (2000) – trained top-level regional executives and marketing directors in Asia on media skills, conducted brain-storming workshops on media for marketing

- Project Director, Sea-Change Partners, Singapore 2001-2002

For this Singapore-based capacity building organization, I designed the communications components of projects aimed at improving organizations conflict- and crisis-management skills. I developed a multi-media project to document the experiences and perceptions of people impacted by and working in conflicts in Mindanao and Sri Lanka. This included identifying subjects, arranging production, fund-raising, project management, M & E.

- Former journalist and editor 1984-2001 (CNBC Asia 1994-1999, NHK Japan, RPN9 Phils. 1989-1994, Star TV 1999-2001), Radio Australia, NBC Radio USA, Metro Radio HK, United Broadcasting Co. 1984-1989)
 - stories included impact of Asian Financial Crisis on children of Indonesia, sexual abuse at home of children of migrant workers, build-up to independence of Timor Leste, implementation on Beijing Declaration, MDGs and gender, women and water, gender impact of 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, impact of Indonesian austerity measures on women & children, child incest among families of migrant workers, among others
- Volunteer Trainer, U.P. Law Center, Barangay Justice and Human Rights Project (1984-1987)
 - village-level info advocacy in Philippines on human rights, gender equality and empowerment, including writing info materials
- Information Officer, U.N. Information Centre, Manila (1989-1993)

Some other research & publications:

- Philippine Judicial Academy – “The Commission on Human Rights and Civil Society”, Helpbook on Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (Target: March 2011)
- Commission on Human Rights, Editing book for International Human Rights Day, “Speak up against Discrimination: Voices from Vulnerable Sectors” about various forms of discrimination & vulnerability (Dec 2010)
- For UNICEF, background paper on South-South Cooperation for Child Protection (Sept 2010)
- Commission on Human Rights Manual on legal education relating domestic law and agency policies to int'l HR standards (Dec '09)
- Commission on Human Rights, Edited proceedings of National Summit on Intl. Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (Aug '09)
- For ADB, I wrote papers on effects of water and poverty on women & girls, with recommendations for countries such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (2003)
- For UNICEF, policy analysis paper on the PRSP of Tanzania, its effect on water supply and welfare of children (2004)
- For Oxfam, scoping paper on international initiatives on water and privatization (2004)

Education and Fellowships

- Fulbright Scholar, Masters in International Affairs (2003 - 2005)
Columbia Univ. School of International and Public Affairs, NY, USA

- Bachelor of Law, Univ. of the Philippines (1988-1993)
- Masters in Business Administration, Golden Gate Univ., SF, USA (1997)
- Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Univ. of the Philippines (1982-1986)
- Friedrich Eibert Steiftung Fellow, Broadcast Communications (1985)

Other Personal Details:

- Female
 - Member of 2 indigenous groups in the Philippines (Ibanag and Aeta)
 - Languages: impeccable English, proficient French, working Spanish, Tagalog, Cebuano, basic Bahasa Indonesia
 - Expertise known by: Emmanuel Decaux, Committee on Enforced Disappearances, former HRCAC member// Virginia Dandan, Independent Expert on Human Rights and Intl. Solidarity// Amb. Rosario Manalo, former chairperson U.N. CEDAW Committee, current Philippine Representative to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights //Prof. Vitit Muntabhorn, Chulalongkorn University, former Sp. Rapporteur for Children and for DPRK// Prof. Philip Alston, New York University, Sp. Rapporteur for Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Killings // Renaud Meyer, Country Director, UNDP in the Philippines// Eric Tistounet, Chief, OHCHR HRC Branch// Craig Mokhiber, OHCHR DESIB
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