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**Programme questions and other matters: United Nations
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. The present composition of the Board is:

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

(b) Ten members nominated by the Commission for Social Development and confirmed by the Economic and Social Council;

(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 subparagraph 2 (b) above is four years, renewable once for a further period of two years.¹

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.



4. Maureen O’Neil (Canada) has been Chair of the Board since 2011. 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, Pretoria

Bina Agarwal (India), Director, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi

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

Evelina Dagnino (Brazil), Professor, Department of Political Science, Cidade Universitária “Zeferino Vaz”, São Paulo

Ping Huang (China), Director, Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

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

Joakim Palme (Sweden), Professor of Political Science, Department of Government, Uppsala University

Patricia Schulz (Switzerland), Expert, Commission on the Status of Women

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

Julia Szalai (Hungary), Professor, Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest

5. The term of office of the following two members will expire on 30 June 2015 and they are eligible for renomination for a further period of two years to 30 June 2017:

Ping Huang, Patricia Schulz

6. The term of office of the following three members will expire on 30 June 2015. They will have served on the Board for six years:

Bina Agarwal, Evelina Dagnino, Julia Szalai

7. At its fifty-third session, the Commission will be called upon to extend the terms of office of the two members referred to in paragraph 5 above for an additional two-year term expiring on 30 June 2017.

8. In view of the current financial circumstances of the Institute and its reduced staff numbers as a result of resource constraints, the Commission is requested to consider nominating only one new member to the Board at the fifty-third session. As such, as of July 2015, the Board would have eight members and two seats would be left vacant.

9. Should the Commission agree to this proposal, it will be called upon to nominate one new member for a four-year term expiring on 30 June 2019. The biographical information of the proposed candidate is contained in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Biographical information

Ms. Saraswathi Menon

Personal data

Nationality: Indian

Date of birth: 1954

Experience

Director, Policy Division, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), 2011-2014

Director, Evaluation Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2003-2011

United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Mongolia, 2000-2003

Deputy Resident Representative (Programme), UNDP Nepal, 1999-2000

Policy Analyst, Human Development Report Office, UNDP, New York, 1989-1995

Evaluation Specialist, Central Evaluation Office, UNDP, New York, 1988-1989

Independent consultant, Central Evaluation Office, UNDP, New York, 1984-1988

Education

B.A., Sociology, Gold medallist for first rank in Delhi University, New Delhi

M.A., M.Phil., Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Ph.D., Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
