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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

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 Board is composed of:

(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;¹

(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.

* [E/CN.5/2024/1](#).

¹ At the end of June 2024, there will be five vacancies to be filled.



3. The term of office of the members of the Board referred to in paragraph 2 (b) above is four years. Members can then be nominated again for a further and final period of two years, pursuant to resolution 10 (XXV), whereby the Commission decided that the term of office of each nominated member of the Board should not exceed a total of six years.
4. The current Chair of the Board is Azita Berar-Awad (Islamic Republic of Iran and Switzerland), whose initial appointment is from July 2021 to June 2025.
5. The nominated members currently serving on the Board are:²
 - 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 (2019–2025)
 - Godwin Murunga (Kenya), Executive Secretary, Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (2020–2024)
 - Imraan Valodia (South Africa), Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management, Professor of Economics, University of the Witwatersrand (2019–2025)
 - Olivier de Schutter (Belgium), Professor, UCLouvain and SciencesPo (2021–2025)
 - Graziella Moraes Silva (Brazil), Associate Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Department of Anthropology and Sociology (2021–2025)
 - Naila Kabeer (India), Joint Professor, Departments of International Development and Gender Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom (2023–2027)
6. At the end of June 2024, of the above-mentioned six members, five will be serving on the Board.
7. Accordingly, at its sixty-second session, the Commission will be called upon to nominate Godwin Murunga for an additional two-year term expiring on 30 June 2026 and to nominate four new members for a four-year term expiring on 30 June 2028.
8. The biographical information of the new candidates is contained in the annex to the present note.

² Hanif Hassan Ali Al Qassim (United Arab Emirates) has indicated that, effective 2023, he is no longer able to serve.

Annex

Biographical information*

Leila Patel (South Africa)

Present position

Distinguished Professor of Social Development Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, (2023–2025)

Experience

Professor of Social Development Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, (2002–2022)

South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, (2016–2022)

Founding Director of the Centre for Social Development in Africa, Faculty of Humanities, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, (2004–2018)

Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice Principal, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, (1998–2002)

Director General, Department of Welfare, Government of the Republic of South Africa, (1996–1998)

Education

PhD, Social Policy, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, 1992

MSW, Social Policy, Social Planning and Administration, Western Michigan University, United States of America, 1979

Higher Diploma, Social Work, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, 1977

Diploma Social Work, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, 1976

* Curriculum vitae are issued without formal editing.

Diego Sánchez-Ancochea (Spain)

Present position

Associate Head for People, Social Science Division, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, (2021–)

Professor of the Political Economy of Development, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, (2018–)

Governing body fellow, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, (2008–)

Experience

Associate Professor in the Political Economy of Latin America, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, (2008–2018)

Senior Lecturer in Economics of Latin America, Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London, United Kingdom (2008–2008)

Lecturer in Economics of Latin America, Institute for the Study of the Americas (formerly Institute of Latin American Studies), University of London, United Kingdom (2003–2008)

Education

Post-Graduate Diploma in Learning and Teaching, University of Oxford, United Kingdom, (2015)

PhD in Economics, New School for Social Research (New York), United States of America, (2004)

Master in Public Administration and Government Policy, Institute Ortega and Gasset (Universidad Complutense of Madrid), Spain, (1998)

Bachelor's Degree in Economics, School of Economics and Business (Universidad Complutense of Madrid), Spain, (1997)

Dzodzi Tsikata (Ghana)**Present position**

Distinguished Research Professor of Development Studies, Department of Development Studies, SOAS University of London, United Kingdom, (2023–)

Experience

Professor and Director, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Ghana, (2016–2022)

Associate Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Ghana, (2010–2016)

Deputy Director and Director, Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy, University of Ghana, Ghana, (2006–2012)

Junior Research Fellow, Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), Ghana, (1991–2010)

Education

Doctor of Social Science (cum laude), Leiden University, the Netherlands, (2003)

M.Phil. Sociology, University of Ghana, Ghana, (1995)

M.A. Development Studies (Women and Development), Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, the Netherlands, (1989)

B.L. (Barrister at Law), Ghana Law School, Ghana, (1986)

LL.B. Honours (Law), University of Ghana, Ghana, (1984)

Timo Voipio (Finland)

Present position

Senior Specialist on Global Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland (2022–)

Senior Adviser for Global Social Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland, (2001–)

Experience

Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Finland in Tanzania, (2021–2022)

Director, Government of Finland's Tax for Development (T4D) Action Programme, (2019–2020)

Director, Capacity Development and Partnerships, European Union Social Protection Systems Programme (EU-SPS), (2015–2019)

Social Security Analyst and Research Manager, International Social Security Association (ISSA/ILO), (2007–2009)

Secretary General, Advisory Board for Relations with Developing Countries, KESU, (1996–1999)

Education

PhD in Global Social Policy, University of Eastern Finland, Finland, (2011)

MSSc, Economic and Social History, Environmental Economics, Helsinki University, Finland, (1993)

Professional Degree of Journalism, Sanoma School of Journalism, Finland, (1983)
