

INSIDE THE 61ST SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Tracking 17 mandates across United
Nations Special Procedures and Expert
Mechanisms

From applications to appointments

#ChangeThePicture



341 CANDIDATES APPLIED TO 17 VACANCIES

191
MEN

150
WOMEN

WOMEN 44% APPLICANTS

Geographic Representation

**Across the 17 vacancies*

77	105	26	100	33
25 women 52 men	42 women 63 men	17 women 9 men	54 women 46 men	12 women 21 men
Africa	Asia-Pacific	Eastern Europe	WEOG	GRULAC

Seven of the available positions were reserved
for experts from specific regions



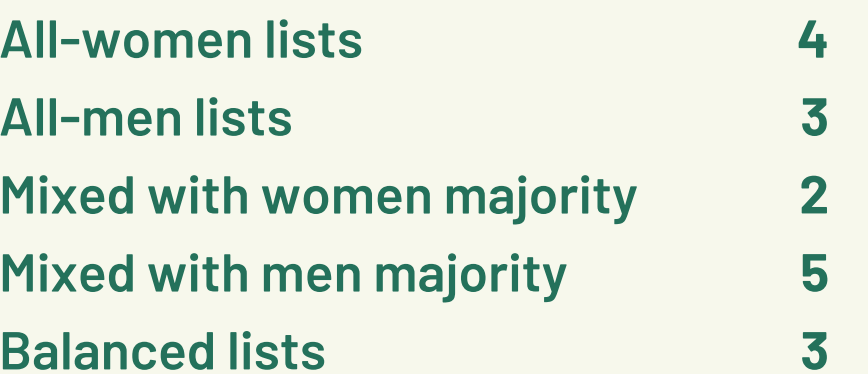
41 CANDIDATES WERE PROPOSED BY THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE HRC

Shortlisted Candidates



Indicating that gender balance
was considered in the selection

Shortlist Composition



Across the 17 recommended lists,
women occupied the first position in
8 cases, while men did so in 9

Geographic Representation

**Across the 17 vacancies*



Gender balance improved at the shortlist stage- but geographic
disparities persist, and diversity in the applicant pool does not
always translate into equally diverse shortlists.



17 APPOINTMENTS MADE



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SUSTAINING PARITY IN THE SP AND EM

Geographic Representation

1	5	2	7	2
Africa	Asia-Pacific	Eastern Europe	WEOG	GRULAC
1 mandate was reserved for the region	3 mandates were reserved for the region	1 mandate was reserved for the region	1 mandate was reserved for the region	





Geographic diversity in the candidate pool does not fully carry through to final appointments

A higher number of experts come from Western European and Other States, while Africa is represented only in a mandate specifically designated for that region.



A positive shift

The mandate on Human Rights Defenders was filled by a candidate from GRULAC for the first time – an important step given that the region remains the most dangerous in the world for human rights defenders.



Structural gaps persist

At least 7 mandates filled in this session have never been led by experts from key regions in the Global South, and this session did not change that pattern. In 4 of them, no African expert has ever held the position.



Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Appointment

**Andrea Bolaños
Vargas (W)**

Colombia, GRULAC

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Woman from
GRULAC

2nd Position

Man from
Africa

3rd Position

Woman from
WEOG

Total Applicants: 23 Women and 42 Men

12

Africa

20

Asia-Pacific

3

Eastern Europe

19

WEOG

11

GRULAC

Historical Composition

4 Women

1 Man



1 GRULAC

1 WEOG

1 Africa

1 Asia-Pacific

1 WEOG

This is the first time that an expert
from GRULAC is appointed to the
role. No expert from Eastern
Europe has ever held this mandate.

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons

Appointment

**Katarina
Schwarz (W)**

New Zealand, WEOG

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Woman from
WEOG

2nd Position

Man from
Eastern Europe

3rd Position

Man from
WEOG

Total Applicants: 27 Women and 20 Men

11

Africa

12

Asia-Pacific

2

Eastern Europe

17

WEOG

5

GRULAC

Historical Composition

3 Women

1 Man



1 Eastern Europe 1 Asia-Pacific
1 Africa
1 WEOG

**No expert from GRULAC has ever
held this mandate**

Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children

Appointment

Ai Kihara-Hunt (W)

Japan, Asia-Pacific

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Woman from
Asia-Pacific

2nd Position

Woman from
WEOG

3rd Position

Woman from
Africa

Total Applicants: 22 Women and 16 Men

11

Africa

11

Asia-Pacific

3

Eastern Europe

10

WEOG

3

GRULAC

Historical Composition

5 Women

2 Men



2 Africa

1 WEOG

2 Asia-Pacific

1 GRULAC

1 Asia-Pacific

**No expert from Eastern Europe has
ever held this mandate**

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

Appointment

**Elena Carolina
Diaz Galan (W)**

Spain, WEOG

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man from
Asia-Pacific

2nd Position

Woman from WEOG
Man from Asia-Pacific

Total Applicants: 10 Women and 13 Men

4

Africa

8

Asia-Pacific

1

Eastern Europe

8

WEOG

2

GRULAC

Historical Composition

3 Women

3 Men



1 GRULAC
2 WEOG

1 Asia-Pacific
2 WEOG

**No expert from Africa or Eastern
Europe has ever held this mandate**

Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons

Appointment

**Zvezdan
Pirtošek (M)**

Slovenia, Eastern Europe

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man from
Eastern Europe

2nd Position

Man from
Africa

Total Applicants: 17 Women and 11 Men

7

Africa

8

Asia-Pacific

4

Eastern Europe

7

WEOG

2

GRULAC

Historical Composition

2 Women

1 Man



1 WEOG
1 GRULAC

1 Eastern
Europe

**No expert from Asia-Pacific or
Africa have ever held this mandate**

Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures

Appointment

**Zeina
Jallad (W)**

State of Palestine, Asia-Pacific

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Woman from
WEOG

2nd Position

Woman from
Asia-Pacific

Total Applicants: 8 Women and 9 Men

1

Africa

3

Asia-Pacific

3

Eastern Europe

8

WEOG

2

GRULAC

Historical Composition

2 Women

1 Man



1 Asia-Pacific

1 Eastern Europe

1 Africa

**No expert from GRULAC or WEOG
have ever held this mandate**

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

Appointment

**Sofia Monsalve
Suarez (W)**

Colombia, GRULAC

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Woman from
GRULAC

2nd Position

Man from
Africa

Total Applicants: 8 Women and 7 Men

1

Africa

2

Asia-Pacific

1

Eastern Europe

8

WEOG

3

GRULAC

Historical Composition

2 Women

3 Men



1 WEOG

1 GRULAC

2 WEOG

1 Asia - Pacific

**No expert from Africa or Eastern
Europe have ever held this mandate**

Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing

Appointment

**Koldo Andoni Casla
Salazar (M)**

*United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland, WEOG*

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man from
WEOG

2nd Position

Man from
GRULAC

3rd Position

Woman from
WEOG

Total Applicants: 9 Men and 4 Women

4

Africa

2

Asia-Pacific

0

Eastern Europe

6

WEOG

1

GRULAC

Historical Composition

2 Women

3 Men



1 WEOG
1 GRULAC

1 Asia-Pacific
2 WEOG

**No expert from Africa or Eastern
Europe have ever held this mandate**

Special Rapporteur
on the situation of
human rights in
Cambodia

Appointment
**Thomas
Andrews (M)**
United States, WEOG

Shortlisted Candidates

- 1st** Position

Man from
WEOG
- 2nd** Position

Woman from
WEOG
- 3rd** Position

Man from Asia-
Pacific

Total Applicants: 11 Men and 4 Women



Historical Composition



Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

Appointment
Kelley Anne Eckels-Currie (W)
United States, WEOG

Shortlisted Candidates

- 1st** Position

Woman from WEOG
- 2nd** Position

Man from WEOG
- 3rd** Position

Man from Asia-Pacific

Total Applicants: 7 Men and 3 Women



Historical Composition



Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

(Member from Asia)

Appointment

Gam
Awungshi
Shimray (M)

India

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man

2nd Position

Woman

Total Applicants

5 MEN

5 WOMEN

Historical Composition of the Asian-designated seat

5 Women

5 Men



Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

(Member from the Arctic)

Appointment

**Dalee
Sambo
Dorough (W)**

United States

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Woman from
WEOG

Total Applicants

0 MEN

1 WOMAN

Historical Composition of the Arctic-designated seat

3 Women

0 Men



Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

(Member from WEOG)

Appointment

**Brian
Keane (M)**

United States

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man

2nd Position

Woman

Total Applicants

6 MEN

2 WOMEN

Historical Composition of the WEOG designated seat

2 Women

6 Men



Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

(Member from Eastern Europe)

Appointment

**Ramona
Biholar (W)**

India

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man

2nd Position

Woman

Total Applicants

1 MAN

7 WOMEN

Historical Composition of the Eastern Europe designated seat

7 Women

1 Man



Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

(Member from Asia - Pacific)

Appointment

**Xiaohui
Liang (M)**

China

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man

2nd Position

Woman

Total Applicants

13 MEN

3 WOMEN

Historical Composition of the Asia-Pacific designated seat

3 Women

13 Men



Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

(Member from Asia - Pacific)

Appointment

Serges Alain
Djoyou
Kamga (M)

China

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man

2nd Position

Woman

Total Applicants

19 MEN

4 WOMEN

Historical Composition of the Africa-designated seat

4 Women

19 Men



Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent

(Members from Asia-Pacific)

Appointment

John Phillip
Binondo (M)

Philippines

Shortlisted Candidates

1st Position

Man

2nd Position

Woman

3rd Position

Woman

Total Applicants

2 MEN

2 WOMEN

Historical Composition of the Asia-Pacific designated seat

2 Women

2 Men



→ **GO DEEPER**

Explore the full analysis, including historical gender and geographic trends for each vacancy

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