**Report of the Consultative Group to the President of the Human Rights Council relating to the vacancies of special procedure mandate holders to be appointed at the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council**

**Part II – Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination
against persons affected by leprosy and their family members**

*8 September 2017*

1. **Background**
2. In paragraph 47 of the annex to its resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a Consultative Groupcomprised of Permanent Representatives identified by Regional Groups and serving in their personal capacity. The Consultative Group is mandated by the Council to propose to the President a list of candidates who possess the highest qualifications for the mandates in question and meet the general criteria and particular requirements. Recommendations to the President of the Human Rights Council are required to be made public and substantiated pursuant to paragraph 50 of the annex to resolution 5/1.
3. The members of the Consultative Group for the selection of mandate holders to be appointed at the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council are: H.E. Mr. Hans Brattskar (Norway), H.E. Mr. Israhyananda Dhalladoo (Mauritius), H.E. Mr. Giampaolo Carmelo Rizzo Alvarado (Honduras), H.E. Mr. Amran Mohamed Zin (Malaysia) and H.E. Ms. Vesna Batistić Kos (Croatia) who assumed her functions as the Eastern European member of the Group on 28 June 2017, following the resignation of H.E. Mr. Jan Kára (Czechia) on 19 June 2017. The working cycle of the current Consultative Group commenced on 1 April 2017 and will end on 31 March 2018, pursuant to paragraph 1(b) of Council decision 30/115.
4. A total of seven special procedure vacancies are to be filled at the Council’s thirty-sixth session as follows (listed in alphabetical order):
5. **Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance** [[HRC resolution 34/35](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/34/35)];
6. **Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Western European and other States** [[HRC resolution 27/25](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/27/25)];
7. **Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, member from African States** [[HRC resolution 32/4](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/32/4)];
8. **Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, member from Asia-Pacific States** [[HRC resolution 32/4](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/32/4)];
9. **Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, member from Eastern European States** [[HRC resolution 32/4](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/32/4)];
10. **Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, member from Western European and other States** [[HRC resolution 32/4](http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/32/4)];

and

1. **Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members** [HRC resolution 35/9].
2. The seventh vacancy listed above, namely for the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, was not initially foreseen and arose as one of the outcomes of the decisions made by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session. This mandate was created pursuant to the adoption of Council resolution 35/9 on 22 June 2017.
3. The present report contains the list of recommended candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President of the Council for the seventh newly-established mandate, and should be read in conjunction with Part I of the report of the Consultative Group.
4. **Process**
5. The Consultative Group held two formal meetings on 4 September 2017 to consider candidates for the newly-established mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members. H.E. Mr. Amran Mohamed Zin (Malaysia) chaired the meetings held by the Consultative Group in relation to this mandate.
6. The Group followed the same process as for the vacancies covered in Part I of its report, and reference is made to the relevant paragraphs under section II entitled “Process” of Part I of its report.
7. The application period for the submission of applications for the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members was from 28 June to 17 August 2017, extended to 24 August 2017 due to the initially limited number of applications received.
8. The Consultative Group considered 11 individual applications from 11 candidates submitted for the aforementioned specific vacancy in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. The Group noted that from the total number of 11 eligible candidates who applied within the deadline, only 4 were women, representing 36 per cent of all applicants. The applications were made public on the designated OHCHR web page[[1]](#footnote-2) of special procedures as provided for in paragraph 22 (b) of the annex to Council resolution 16/21 (see annex I of this report).
9. The Group interviewed a total of five shortlisted candidates for the aforementioned vacancy (see annex II of this report). These interviews occurred on 4 September 2017, pursuant to paragraph 22 (c) of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. Each candidate was asked similar questions based on the relevant provisions of Council resolution 5/1, decision 6/102, resolution 16/21 and Council resolution 35/9 establishing the specific mandate under consideration. All decisions of the Consultative Group were made by consensus.
10. **Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members**
11. There were 11 eligible candidates for this vacancy. The Consultative Group interviewed five candidates and decided to recommend the following three candidates as best qualified to fulfil the mandate, ranking them in the order of preference below.

**1. Ms. Alice CRUZ (Portugal)**

**2. Mr. Imeru YIGEZU (Ethiopia)**

**3. Ms. Barbara FREY (United States of America)**

1. Ms. Cruz is External Professor at the Law School of University Andina Simón Bolívar – Ecuador. Her doctoral work in sociology focused on the biomedical promise for leprosy in Portugal and Brazil. She has been worked with the Brazilian non-profit organization Movement for the Reintegration of Persons Affected by Hansen disease (MORHAN), where she was involved in the organization of the First International Symposium on Leprosy and Human Rights (Rio de Janeiro, 2012). Ms. Cruz participated in the elaboration of WHO Guidelines for Strengthening Participation of Persons Affected by Leprosy in Leprosy Services. She served as a member of the International Leprosy Association’s Council (2014-2016). Ms. Cruz has conducted fieldwork in Portugal, Brazil, South Africa, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Ecuador, and has researched and written on the subject of eliminating leprosy and the stigma attached to it. She has interacted with various stakeholders including public health professionals, medical doctors, civil society as well as persons affected by leprosy. The Consultative Group noted her strong academic and practical understanding of the subject matter and knowledge of the international human rights framework, as well as her stated intention to work on the intersectionality of leprosy with other forms of discrimination.
2. Mr. Yigezu is a self-employed legal consultant in the areas of human rights, gender, governance and land rights. He has lectured in international law and human rights at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Mr. Yigezu is currently serving his second three-year term as an expert member of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee (2012-2018), and served as its Vice-Chair in 2016. He is currently the Chair of the Working Group on Communications of the Human Rights Council’s Complaint Procedure. He has stated his willingness to resign from his membership of the Advisory Committee and the Working Group on Communications should he be appointed as the Special Rapporteur. Mr. Yigezu was rapporteur for the Advisory Committee study on the implementation of the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, and participated in the African Regional Symposium on Leprosy and Human Rights organized by the Nippon Foundation (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2013).[[2]](#footnote-3) The Consultative Group noted his direct experience on the issue of leprosy in the Human Rights Council and ability to fulfil the mandate through his exposure to the Council-mandated study on this subject.
3. Ms. Frey is a Senior Lecturer in the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota, United States of America, where she directs the Human Rights Program. She is an Adjunct Professor in Minnesota’s Law School and also lectures at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Mexico). Ms. Frey was an alternate member of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2000-03) and the Sub-Commission’s Special Rapporteur on preventing human rights abuses committed with small arms and light weapons (2003-06). Ms. Frey served as an independent Expert Member of the International Working Group on Leprosy and Human Rights (2012-15) convened by the Nippon Foundation and participated in several regional consultations on leprosy. The Consultative Group noted Ms. Frey’s in-depth knowledge of the human rights framework and mechanisms and keen interest to contribute to awareness-raising and the elimination of leprosy-related discrimination in all its forms.

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***Annex I - List of eligible candidates considered by mandate[[3]](#footnote-4)***

**Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title and first name** | **Last name** | **Nationality** |
| Mr. Yohanna | ABDOU | Niger |
| Ms. Alice | CRUZ | Portugal |
| Ms. Barbara | FREY | United States of America |
| Ms. Jhuma | HALDER  | Bangladesh |
| Ms. Fouzia | HALI | Morocco |
| Mr. Raja | MARIA XAVIER | India |
| Mr. Amar | ROUABHI | Algeria |
| Mr. Nuah | TARIGAN | Indonesia |
| Mr. Amar | TIMALSINA | Nepal |
| Mr. Imeru | YIGEZU | Ethiopia |
| Mr. Adi | YOSEP | Indonesia |

***Annex II – List of shortlisted candidates interviewed by the Consultative Group[[4]](#footnote-5)***

**Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title and first name** | **Last name** | **Nationality** |
| Ms. Alice | CRUZ | Portugal |
| Ms. Barbara | FREY | United States of America |
| Ms. Fouzia | HALI | Morocco |
| Mr. Nuah | TARIGAN | Indonesia |
| Mr. Imeru | YIGEZU | Ethiopia |

1. [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC36.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC36.aspx) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. A/HRC/35/38. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The list of candidates is provided in alphabetical order. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The list of candidates is provided in alphabetical order. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)