

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

**Addendum: Mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent,
member from Western European and other States**

7 September 2018

I. Background

1. In paragraph 47 of the annex to its resolution 5/1, the Human Rights Council decided to establish a Consultative Group comprised 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 mandate 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.

2. The members of the Consultative Group for the selection of mandate holders to be appointed at the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council (10 to 28 September 2018) are: H.E. Mr. Negash Kebret Batora (Ethiopia), H.E. Mr. Victor Arturo Cabrera Hidalgo (Ecuador), H.E. Mr. Kok Jwee Foo (Singapore), H.E. Ms. Aviva Raz Shechter (Israel) and H.E. Mr. Vaqif Sadiqov (Azerbaijan). The working cycle of the current Consultative Group commenced on 1 April 2018 and will end on 31 March 2019, pursuant to paragraph 1(b) of Council decision 30/115. The Group held its initial organizational meeting on 2 May 2018.

3. A total of three special procedure vacancies are to be filled at the Council's thirty-ninth session as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

- 1. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus [HRC resolution 38/14];**
- 2. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea [HRC resolution 38/15];**
- 3. Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Western European and other States**

4. The third vacancy listed above, relating to the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, was not initially foreseen and arose due to resignation on 30 July 2018 of the mandate holder, Ms. Marie-Evelyne Petrus-Barry (France), from her post as the Working Group member from Western European and other States. The present report therefore contains the list of recommended candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President of the Council for the additional vacancy of the mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Western European and other States.

5. This addendum to the report should be read in conjunction with the main report of the Consultative Group dated 9 August 2018.¹

¹ Report of the Consultative Group (dated 9 August 2018, see <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/SP/CallApplications/HRC39/CGReportHRC39.pdf>)

II. Process

6. The Consultative Group held one formal meeting on 3 September 2018 to consider and interview candidates for the aforementioned vacancy, which was chaired by H.E. Mr. Vaqif Sadiqov (Azerbaijan). H.E. Mr. Victor Arturo Cabrera Hidalgo (Ecuador) participated neither in the shortlisting nor in the interviews for this mandate.

7. The application period for the submission of applications for the mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Western European and other States, was from 31 July until 29 August 2018.

8. The Consultative Group considered 10 individual applications from 10 eligible candidates submitted for the aforementioned specific vacancy in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of Human Rights Council resolution 16/21. The applications of eligible candidates were made public on the designated OHCHR web page² 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 Consultative Group followed the same process as for the vacancies covered in its previous report dated 9 August 2018. Reference is made to the relevant paragraphs under section II entitled "Process".

10. The members of the Consultative Group took into full consideration the technical and objective requirements as stipulated in paragraphs 39-41, 44-46, 48, 50-51 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, decision 6/102 and paragraph 22 of resolution 16/21, and relevant Council resolutions establishing the specific mandate under consideration.

11. In accordance with established practice, it was decided that each member of the Consultative Group would individually rank and propose a list of candidates for the vacancy drawing on the written applications received, reflecting on their stated qualifications, relevant experience, expertise, independence, impartiality, personal integrity, objectivity, availability and motivation in compliance with relevant provisions of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, decision 6/102, resolution 16/21 and resolutions related to the specific mandate under consideration. As a result of this ranking exercise, a shortlist of candidates to be interviewed was established for the mandate.

12. The Consultative Group held a total of three interviews with three shortlisted candidates for the aforementioned vacancy (see annex II of this report). These interviews were held on 3 September 2018, 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 resolutions related to the specific mandate under consideration.

13. The decisions of the Consultative Group were taken by consensus.

III. Candidates proposed by the Consultative Group to the President for the mandate of Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Western European and other States

14. There were 10 eligible candidates for this vacancy. Of the three candidates interviewed, the Consultative Group decided to recommend the following three candidates as best qualified to fulfil the mandate, ranking them in the order of preference below.

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC39.aspx>

1. Elisabeth KANEZA (F) (Germany)

2. Dominique DAY (F) (United States of America)

3. Sheila S. WALKER (F) (United States of America)

15. **Elisabeth Kaneza** is a doctorate candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Potsdam, Germany, focusing her research on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its impact on the legal status of people of African descent in Germany and Europe. She is a fellow at the Regional Office for Europe of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Consultative Group found the candidate to have a strong practical and academic background relevant to the mandate. The candidate has good knowledge of the mandate having worked with it before. The Consultative Group noted the candidate's relevant experience in dealing with different stakeholders, including civil societies, academia and States. The candidate is aware of the current and historical challenges of the issues implied in the mandate, in particular the impact of current trends on migration and the intersectionality and multidimensional nature of discrimination of people of African Descent. The candidate has clear ideas on how she could contribute to the Working Group, including incorporating the gender perspective to its work. The candidate has strong knowledge of the UN system, with experience working in it, and a clear vision on how to improve cooperation between the Working Group and other human rights mechanisms, as well as with other stakeholders.

16. **Dominique Day** is a lawyer and the founder and Executive Director of Daylight, an access to justice platform supporting human rights. She has worked on issues of legal aid in Afghanistan, capacity building in Iraq and incarceration policies targeting African-Americans in the United States of America, engaging with a variety of stakeholders. The Consultative Group noted the relevant academic and professional experience of the candidate. The candidate has a clear vision of how she could contribute to the mandate, including tackling current challenges such as the migration crisis. The candidate highlights the intersectionality of discrimination that women of African Descent face, and has ideas on how to incorporate this knowledge to the work of the mandate. The candidate's field experience could add a practical perspective to the Working Group.

17. **Sheila S. Walker** is a cultural anthropologist and the Executive Director of Afrodiaspora, Inc., a non-profit organization with the mission of educating the public about the global African Diaspora. She was Director of the Center for African and African American Studies, and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin in the United States of America. The Consultative Group noted the vast knowledge of the candidate on the issue. The candidate demonstrated she could present different perspectives to the Working Group. The candidate has a clear vision on the need of highlighting the importance of recognizing the positive contributions of people of African descent, and the key role that education can play. The candidate highlighted the significance of data collection and sharing information, as well as the importance of bringing attention to the activities of the Working Group.

Annex I - List of eligible candidates by mandate³

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Western European and other States

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Stephen Eric	BRONNER	United States of America	M
Dominique	DAY	United States of America	F
Constance	DE LA VEGA	United States of America	F
Shulaika	GIRIGORI	Netherlands	F
Elisabeth	KANEZA	Germany	F
Federico	LENZERINI	Italy	M
Jena	MARTIN	United States of America	F
Esther	OJULARI	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	F
Sheila S.	WALKER	United States of America	F
Veronica	WOMACK	United States of America	F

³ The list of mandates and of candidates is provided in alphabetical order.

Annex II – List of shortlisted candidates interviewed by the Consultative Group⁴

Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Western European and other States

First name	Last name	Nationality	Gender
Dominique	DAY	United States of America	F
Elisabeth	KANEZA	Germany	F
Sheila S.	WALKER	United States of America	F

⁴ The list of mandates and of candidates is provided in alphabetical order.