**Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
Questionnaire on the Role, Composition and Functions of Bar Associations**

1. Please provide information on the way the legal profession is organised and regulated in your country. What are the legal bases for its establishment (e.g. constitutional provisions; ordinary law or other)? Please also indicate the main legal provisions protecting the right of lawyers to freely join or create a local, national or international association, and mention the existing associations.
2. Does a professional association of lawyers play a role in the regulation of the profession? If so, please provide information on:
3. the exact denomination of the body;
4. the legal basis for its establishment (e.g. constitutional provisions; ordinary law or other);
5. whether the association has been established as an ‘independent’ and self-governing association;
6. the composition and appointment process of the executive body of the association.
7. Please provide information on the relationship between the association of lawyers and the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary powers. In particular, please provide information on the role of the Ministry of Justice and/or the judiciary in relation to the establishment and functioning of this association.
8. Please provide information on the role that professional associations of lawyers play with regard to:
9. the admission process to the legal profession and the licensing of lawyers;
10. the conduct of disciplinary proceedings against lawyers;
11. the provision of legal aid;
12. the protection of individual lawyers from any form of intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference in the exercise of their functions;
13. the development and implementation of legislation concerning the free exercise of the legal profession and the administration of justice.
14. Is membership in the professional association of lawyers mandatory to practice law in your country? In case membership is a prerequisite to practice law, please provide detailed information on the measures the State has taken to ensure access to justice in cases where there is a shortage of lawyers in the whole country or part of its territory.