

C. N 4136

The Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) presents his compliments and has the honor to transmit the following information concerning the election of the new alternate member of the WIPO Staff Pension Committee (WSPC).

At its ordinary session in 1977, the WIPO Coordination Committee decided that the WSPC would consist of three members and three alternate members, with one member and one alternate to be elected by the WIPO Coordination Committee. The members proposed by the Director General for election by the WIPO Coordination Committee normally serve a four-year term of office.

At its ordinary session in October 2021, the WIPO Coordination Committee elected the member of the WSPC for a one-year mandate, up to the end of the ordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in 2022, and the alternate member of the WSPC for a two-year mandate, up to the end of the ordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in 2023, respectively. Following a proposal by the Director General, the terms of office of the member and alternate member of the WSPC were reduced, exceptionally, in order to facilitate a broader-based call for, and consideration of, candidates proposed by Member States for the eventual election of the member and alternate member (see document WO/CC/80/5, paragraphs 31 and 32).

Accordingly, the election of the alternate member of the WSPC will take place during the ordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in July 2023, for a term of office of four years starting September 2023, until the ordinary session of the WIPO Coordination Committee in July 2027. The Director General therefore respectfully invites Member States to propose candidates possessing the required competencies and skills, as set forth in detail below, for consideration by him prior to the nomination of the candidate for election as alternate member of the WSPC by the WIPO Coordination Committee.

Article 13 of Appendix 7 of the Regulations, Rules and Pension Adjustment System of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, concerning the terms of reference of the Staff Pension Committees and their secretaries, provides that "in accordance with the Fund's Regulations and Rules - and as reaffirmed in the Accountability Statement as approved by the Pension Board - each Staff Pension Committee, assisted, when required, by SPC Secretaries, is responsible for:

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- a) communicating with and servicing the needs of participants in their respective member organization, in particular with regard to the questions of general interest relating to pension matters such as the actuarial status of the Fund, asset/liability management, sustainability, investment policy, benefit provisions and other plan design issues;
- b) facilitating the provision of the required human resources and financial information in respect of their organization's staff members' participation in the Fund as well as their separation from service and - as part of the risk management framework - monitoring, alerting, and recommending appropriate actions in this regard to the administration of the member organization;
- c) applying the UNJSPF Regulations and Administrative Rules as well as other implementation guidance including consideration of appeals pursuant to Section K of the Administrative Rules;
- d) determining incapacity for the purpose of award of disability benefits; and,
- e) formulating recommendations to the Pension Board, as well as providing nominations to the membership of advisory committees of the Board, and appointing members to the Pension Board in accordance with Article 5 of the Regulations."

Appendix 8 of the Regulations, Rules and Pension Adjustment System of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, concerning the terms of reference of the staff pension committee and their secretaries, provides that "[p]ension Board Members shall, in this capacity, inter alia:

- a) Contribute to the work of the Board in the interest of ensuring proper governance of the Fund, and abide by Board decisions;
- b) Act in the best interest of the Fund and its sustainability;
- c) Not seek to personally benefit from the Fund;
- d) Acquaint themselves with the Regulations and Rules governing the Pension Fund and the broader legislative framework;
- e) Acquaint themselves with the financial principles related to the Fund and the investment of its assets;
- f) Contribute to the administration of the Fund in accordance with the Regulations, and with the Administrative Rules, including the Financial Rules for the operation of the Fund in accordance with article 4 (b) of the Fund's Regulations, and in an impartial, prudent, responsible and honest manner;
- g) Observe the highest ethical standards and act to prevent any potential or actual conflict of interest;
- h) Not seek employment in the secretariat of the Fund or the Office of Investment Management within a period of one year after the end of their term on the Board or upon resignation from the Board;

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- i) Respect diversity and act in a spirit of dialogue.”

It would be appreciated if proposals for candidates by Member States, in response to this invitation could be sent, with a *curriculum vitae*, by email to thuta.hlaing@wipo.int, no later than March 31, 2023.

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February 28, 2023