

REFERENCE: EOSG/SA/2019/6

## **Commissioner-General, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East**

The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to request the nomination of candidates for the position of Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) at the level of Under-Secretary-General, based in Jerusalem.

UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and is mandated to provide assistance and protection to a population of some five million registered Palestine refugees. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and Gaza to achieve their full potential in human development pending a just solution to their plight. UNRWA services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance, and emergency assistance. UNRWA is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions. The Commissioner-General is the chief executive officer of UNRWA and is responsible to the General Assembly for the operation of the programme.

General Assembly resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949 provides that the Secretary-General appoints the Commissioner-General following consultation with the Governments represented on the Advisory Commission for UNRWA.

Further information on UNRWA is available on the following website:  
<http://www.unrwa.org/>

**In order to ensure a wide pool of candidates for this position, the Secretariat welcomes nominations to supplement the Secretary-General's search and consultations. The nomination of women candidates is strongly encouraged.**

**Nominations must be submitted through the following website:**  
<https://www.un.org/sg/en/vacancies/index.shtml> by Monday 20 January 2020.

**The nominating Government is also requested to certify that it is not aware of any allegations against its nominated candidates that they have been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any acts that amount to violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.**

The Secretary-General is seeking an individual with the following attributes:

- Recognized leader with extensive knowledge and experience in the sustainable development field, humanitarian and refugee issues, notably the situation of Palestine refugees;
- Demonstrated leadership experience with strategic vision and proven skills to manage a complex organization with significant staff in multiple locations, as well as the ability to mobilise various forms of support from multi-stakeholders and partners;
- Demonstrated leadership experience with proven skills in change management, reform, organizational development and leading organizational transformations;
- Demonstrated ability to work harmoniously in a multi-cultural team and establish harmonious and effective working relationships both within and outside the organization;
- Demonstrated commitment to the values and guiding principles of the United Nations, the work and objectives of UNRWA as well as familiarity with the United Nations system, notably peace and security, development and human rights.

### ***Languages***

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. For this position, fluency in English is required. A working knowledge of another United Nations official language will be an advantage; knowledge of Arabic would be an asset.

### ***Human rights screening***

In accordance with the policy for the nomination of candidates, the Secretariat wishes to outline that it is the responsibility of the nominating Government to ensure that each candidate it nominates has not been convicted of or is not currently under investigation or being prosecuted for any criminal offence, or any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law. In the case of nominees who have been investigated for, charged with or prosecuted for any criminal offence but were not convicted, the nominating Government is requested to provide information regarding the investigation(s) or prosecutions concerned. The nominating Government is also requested to certify that it is not aware of any allegations against its nominated candidates that they have been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any acts that amount to violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

Individuals who are either nominated by Member States or who seek to serve with the United Nations in any individual capacity will be required, if short-listed, to complete a self-attestation stating that they have not committed, been convicted of, nor prosecuted for, any criminal offence and have not been involved, by act or omission, in the commission of any violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law.

### ***Conflicts of interest***

All United Nations staff members are expected to uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. Senior leaders in particular, have the responsibility to serve as role models in upholding the organization's ethical standards. A conflict of interest occurs when, by act or omission, a staff member's personal interests interfere with the performance of their official duties and responsibilities, or call into question their integrity, independence and impartiality. Risk for conflicts of interest may arise from a staff member's engagement in outside (non-UN) employment or occupation; outside activities, including political activities; receipt of gifts, honours, awards, favours or remuneration from external (non-UN) sources; or personal investment. In particular, no staff member shall accept any honour, decoration, favour, gift or remuneration from any Government (staff regulation 1.2 (j)).

Where a real or perceived conflict of interest does arise, senior leaders are obligated to disclose this to the organization without delay. In order to avoid real or perceived family influence or preferential treatment and conflicts of interest that could stem from such situations, the United Nations Staff Rules provide that appointments "shall not be granted to anyone who is the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of a staff member" (staff rule 4.7 (a)).

Short-listed individuals will also be required to complete the pre-appointment declaration of interests for senior positions to identify possible conflicts of interest that may arise and to proactively prevent and manage, as much as possible and in a timely manner, situations in which personal interests may conflict or appear to conflict with the interests of the United Nations, should the individual be appointed to this position.

The Secretariat of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.