

United Nations  Nations Unies

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REFERENCE:

**Rector (Under-Secretary-General) for the United Nations University (UNU)**

The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to request candidates for the post of Rector of the United Nations University (UNU). The term of the current Rector of the UNU, Dr. David M. Malone, will expire on 28 February 2023.

In conformity with Article V, paragraph I, of the [Charter of the University](#), the UNU Council will designate a Nominating Committee to begin the preparation of a panel of names of candidates for the Rectorship.

As in the past, Member States of the United Nations and of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as appropriate inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, are invited to propose candidates.

In accordance with the procedures adopted by the UNU Council, we are now beginning the selection process of the Rector, so that the appointment may be formally announced before the end of the incumbent's term of office.

Article V, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the UNU states that the Rector shall normally serve for five years and shall be eligible for reappointment for a further term of five years. Article V, paragraph 3, describes the duties and responsibilities of the Rector, whose emoluments and allowances are the equivalent of an Under-Secretary-General in the United Nations system.

***Background***

UNU is the academic arm of the United Nations and for the last four decades has been a go-to think tank for evidence-based research on the pressing global problems of human survival, development, and welfare. Fully funded through voluntary contributions, UNU counts over 400 researchers in 12 countries, and its work spans the full breadth of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, generating policy-relevant knowledge to effect positive global change in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. UNU maintains numerous collaborations with UN agencies, leading universities, and research centres. For more information, please visit <https://unu.edu>.

### ***Skills and Expertise***

Candidates for the post of Rector of the UNU should have experience in the management of an academic or research institution combined with experience of the international world and scientific cooperation at the international level. In addition, candidates will demonstrate an understanding of contemporary development and policy-making challenges and will have experience translating research for policy communities. Candidates should also have a successful track record of fundraising.

The candidate should be well known to the international community and committed to the principles and ideals of the United Nations. The candidate should be capable of establishing and maintaining close cooperative ties, as the University works with a wide variety of individuals and governments as well as research and training establishments around the world. The Secretariat of the United Nations hopes that among candidates proposed there will be women.

### ***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.

### ***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 screening*

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-United Nations) employment or occupation; outside activities, including political activities; receipt of gifts, honours, awards, favours or remuneration from external (non-United Nations) 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 a 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.

Member States are invited to submit nominations at their earliest convenience and **no later than 15 July 2021**. All applications must include a cover letter describing how the qualifications and experience of the candidate meet the criteria for the position, a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, and a completed and signed UNU Personal History (P.11) form, which can be downloaded at <https://unu.edu/about/unu-services/hr/applying-for-a-position#files>

The nominating government is also requested to certify that it is not aware of any allegations against its nominated candidate, 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.

All nominations will be treated with the strictest confidence and short-listed candidates will be contacted directly to undergo an assessment process, reference and background checks, including human rights and conflicts of interest screening.

Applications must be sent to the UNU Rectorship Nominating Committee at [rectorship@unu.edu](mailto:rectorship@unu.edu). The Director-General of UNESCO is sending a similar letter to the Member States of UNESCO.

The Secretariat takes this opportunity of reiterating to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest esteem.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. K. S.", located to the right of the United Nations logo.

3 May 2021

Enclosure: 1