



# International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

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## Meeting of States parties

### Thirty-fifth meeting

New York, 23 June 2016

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Election, in accordance with articles 28-34 of the  
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,  
of nine members of the Human Rights Committee  
to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2016**

## **Election of nine members of the Human Rights Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2016**

### Note by the Secretary-General

#### Addendum

1. In conformity with articles 28 to 32 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the thirty-fifth meeting of States parties to the Covenant is to be held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 June 2016.
2. In accordance with article 30 (2) of the Covenant, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 18 January 2016, invited the States parties to submit, in conformity with article 29 of the Covenant, their nominations for the election of nine members of the Committee by 15 April 2016.
3. The curricula vitae of 24 candidates received by 15 April 2016 are reproduced in document CCPR/SP/87.

### List of additional candidates nominated by States parties

4. Pursuant to article 30 (3) of the Covenant, listed below is the name of an additional nominee for the regular election and the State party that nominated her.

<i>Name of candidate</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Ms. Zohra Rasekh	Afghanistan

5. Annexed to the present document is the curriculum vitae of the candidate proposed by Afghanistan after 15 April 2016.

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## Annex\*

### **Zohra Rasekh (Afghanistan)**

**Date and place of birth:** 7 February 1969, Kabul, Afghanistan

**Working languages:** English and Farsi/Dari

**Current position/function:**

Ms. Rasekh is the Chief Executive Officer and President of Global Watch Group (GWG), an independent non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of human rights and the promotion of health for all people. GWG focuses on investigative research, promoting public awareness of human rights violation and providing health-care services in situations of health and human rights crises in conflict and post-conflict countries around the world.

**Main professional activities:**

Ms. Rasekh has launched human rights capacity-building programs within the health-care sectors in Heart and Mazar-e-Shareef provinces of Afghanistan. She also investigated violence against women in various communities in different countries, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and Nepal, and in West Africa.

In 2009, Ms. Rasekh was elected to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women with a majority vote from States parties. She served as an active member of the Committee from 2009-2012. In recognition of her commitment, experience and abilities, Ms. Rasekh was elected as the Vice-President of the Committee. Ms. Rasekh also served as the focal point for the Committee to UNAIDS and UN-WOMEN.

In 2003, Ms. Rasekh established the first human rights division within the Afghanistan Foreign Ministry. In her capacity as Director of the Office for Human Rights and Women's International Affairs, she initiated the human rights treaty body capacity-building program for the first time in Afghanistan.

From 2004-2009, she spearheaded educational and awareness-raising campaigns for human rights treaty body reporting, implementation and mainstreaming within the Afghan political, legal and social frameworks. Ms. Rasekh mobilized over \$1 million in donor funding for the human rights capacity-building and awareness-raising program.

**Educational background:**

Ms. Rasekh holds a Masters degree in Public Health from George Washington University School of Medicine and Health-care Sciences and a Fellowship on Women and Public Policy from Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Women and Public Policy Program. Ms. Rasekh is an internationally recognized expert on human rights, gender and public health with a focus on Afghanistan and South Asia. She has held leadership positions in national and international organizations both in Afghanistan and in the United States of America.

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\* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing. The full curricula vitae of the candidates as submitted by the relevant State party can be consulted on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ([www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/Elections34th.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/Elections34th.aspx)).

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:**

In 1998, at the height of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, Ms. Rasekh conducted an unprecedented study on the impact of Taliban policies on Afghan women's health and human rights. The result of the study was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) and several other professional health and human rights journals. She also co-authored a report, "The Taliban's War on Women: A Health and Human Rights Crisis in Afghanistan".

**List of most recent publications in the field:**

Ms. Rasekh has published numerous articles for journals and books as follows:

"Kabul National Hospital autonomy evaluation", Management Sciences for Health/USAID, October 2014

"Addressing public opinion in Muslim communities", *Terrorism and Public Health*, Oxford University Press, September 2012

*In this Generation: Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies for a Youthful World*, Population Action International Publishing, 2002

"The Taliban's War on Women: A Health and Human Rights Crisis in Afghanistan", Physicians for Human Rights, August 1998

"Health and human rights of adolescent girls in Afghanistan", *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*, 1999

"Education, a health imperative: the case of Afghanistan", *Health and Human Rights*, Harvard School of Public Health Publication, 1998.

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