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REFERENCE: EOSG/SA/2017/6

The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States and Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations and has the honour to request candidates for the post of Rector of the United Nations University (UNU). The first five-year term of the current Rector of the UNU, Dr. David M. Malone, will expire on 28 February 2018.

In conformity with Article V, paragraph I, of the Charter of the University (copy attached), 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 first term of office.

Article V, paragraph 2, of the UNU's Charter 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.

Candidates for the post of Rector of the United Nations University 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 policymaking 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.

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

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

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.

All nominations must include 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

Nominations must be submitted no later than 22 April 2017. Nominations must be sent to the UNU Rectorship Nominating Committee at rectorship@unu.edu Nominations may also be accepted by post at the following address:

UNU Rectorship Nominating Committee United Nations University 5-53-70 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8925, Japan

The Director-General of UNESCO is sending a similar letter to the Member States of UNESCO.

The Secretariat of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions of Member States and Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

8 March 2017

Enclosure: 1