



10 May 2021

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources

Subject: **Internal Justice Council**

1. The purpose of the present circular is to inform staff of the terms of reference, conditions of service, appointment requirements and membership of the Internal Justice Council.

Terms of reference of the Internal Justice Council

2. In paragraph 36 of its resolution [62/228](#) of 22 December 2007, the General Assembly decided to establish the Internal Justice Council as part of a new internal justice system in order to help ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the administration of justice system of the United Nations. The system, which was established as of 1 July 2009, includes a two-tier judicial structure consisting of a first instance tribunal, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and an appellate instance tribunal, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal. Pursuant to paragraph 37 of resolution [62/228](#), paragraph 57 of resolution [63/253](#) and paragraph 45 of resolution [66/237](#), the tasks of the Internal Justice Council are to:

(a) Engage in liaison with the Office of Human Resources on issues relating to the search for suitable candidates for the positions of judges, including by conducting interviews, as necessary;

(b) Provide its views and recommendations to the General Assembly on two or three candidates for each vacancy on the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, with due regard to geographical distribution; in that regard, no more than one candidate should be recommended from any one Member State for a judgeship on the Dispute Tribunal, and no more than one candidate from any one Member State for a judgeship on the Appeals Tribunal;

(c) Draft a code of conduct for the judges for consideration by the General Assembly;¹

* The present circular supersedes [ST/IC/2017/31](#) of 11 October 2017 and will be in effect until further notice.

¹ Having considered the reports of the Internal Justice Council containing the draft text of a code of conduct ([A/65/86](#) and [A/66/158](#)), the General Assembly approved the code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal in its resolution [66/106](#).



- (d) Provide its views on the implementation of the system of administration of justice to the General Assembly;
- (e) Include the views of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal in its annual reports;
- (f) Perform other duties, as requested by the General Assembly on an ad hoc basis.²

Conditions of service and appointment requirements for the Internal Justice Council

3. In paragraph 36 of its resolution [75/248](#), the General Assembly approved the proposed conditions of service and appointment requirements for the Internal Justice Council, which shall guide the appointment of the members of the Council and its functioning. The approved conditions of service and appointment requirements are set out in annex V to the report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice at the United Nations ([A/75/162](#)).

Composition of the Internal Justice Council

4. As set forth in paragraph 36 of its resolution [62/228](#), the General Assembly decided that the Internal Justice Council would consist of a staff representative, a management representative and two distinguished external jurists, one nominated by the staff and one by management. The Assembly also decided that the fifth member would be a distinguished jurist chosen by consensus by the four other members, who would chair the Council.

5. The Secretary-General appointed the new representatives and the distinguished external jurists nominated by the staff and management, respectively, for a four-year term commencing on 13 November 2020. By consensus, the members of the Internal Justice Council chose the Chair, who was thereupon appointed by the Secretary-General. The members of the Council are:

Carmen Artigas, distinguished external jurist nominated by staff (Uruguay)
Dennis Byron, Chair (Saint Kitts and Nevis)
Adama Dieng, management representative (Senegal)
Louise Otis, distinguished external jurist nominated by management (Canada)
Matthew Perkins, staff representative (United States of America)

The term of office of the members of the Internal Justice Council expires on 12 November 2024.

² See, for example, resolutions [71/266](#), para. 45, [70/112](#), para. 42, [69/203](#), para. 47, [68/254](#), para. 39, [67/241](#), paras. 42 and 57, and [66/237](#), para. 45.