



Council

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Election to fill a vacancy on the Legal and Technical Commission in accordance with part XI, section 4, subsection C, article 163, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Council is invited to note that Mr. Isikeli Uluinairai Mataitoga (Fiji), member of the Legal and Technical Commission, has resigned. Mr. Mataitoga was elected a member of the Commission on 14 August 2006 (see ISBA/12/C/11), for a term of five years beginning 1 January 2007.
2. In accordance with article 163, paragraph 7, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and rule 80, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the Council of the International Seabed Authority, in the event of the death, incapacity or resignation of a member of the Commission prior to the expiration of his or her term of office, the Council shall elect for the remainder of the term a member from the same geographical region or area of interest.
3. Article 163, paragraph 3, of the Convention and rule 81 of the rules of procedure of the Council provide that members of the Commission shall have appropriate qualifications in the area of competence of the Commission, and States parties shall nominate candidates of the highest standards of competence and integrity with qualifications in the relevant fields so as to ensure the effective exercise of the functions of the Commission.
4. By a note verbale dated 18 May 2011, the Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations informed the secretariat of the Authority of the nomination of Mr. Russell Howorth, Director of SPC Applied Geoscience and Technology Division, Suva, as a candidate to fill the vacant seat on the Commission. The curriculum vitae of Mr. Howorth is contained in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Curriculum vitae

Russell Howorth

Dr. Howorth returned to the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) as Director in February 2010. He is a professional earth scientist. He retired as Deputy Director of SOPAC on 30 September 2005, after serving the region with SOPAC for over 26 years. He has worked for and/or carried out fieldwork in all Pacific small island developing States. He has published over 60 research papers, as well as being on country teams as adviser at many international forums, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, for seven years (1998-2005); the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in 2002; and, in 2004-2005, the preparatory meetings for both the Mauritius International Meeting on small island developing States and the second World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Kobe, Japan. During 2005 he also assisted the ACP/EU Secretariat and member States in the formulation of the new ACP/EU Natural Disaster Facility and participated in the Task Force drafting the Pacific Plan. He has worked with all development partners supporting the region.

Dr. Howorth is also the owner/operator of Matadrevula Advisory Services, a small company he established and registered in the Fiji islands in 2006 in order to provide visibility to his being requested to provide advice with a broad environmental and sustainable development emphasis to countries, organizations and individuals in the region.

From 2006 until February 2010, he provided services to the New York-based Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Department's Water Branch and Small Island Developing States Unit, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Subregional Centre in Suva, the European Union Suva Delegation and the South Pacific Tourism Organization, as well as serving a part-time Senior Adviser to the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission Directorate. In mid-2007 he completed a substantial project proposal for the Christian World Service to support the churches in the Pacific islands in developing and strengthening their role in disaster risk reduction. During the first half of 2008 he assisted the newly established Regional Office for IUCN Oceania in preparing its strategic and operational plans and developing particular project concepts, including the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge, a major project endorsed in October 2008 by the World Conservation Council. Country-specific work over the past three years has included visits to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu to develop country implementation plans for disaster risk management-related projects supported from the EDF9 national programmes. In September 2008 he was in the Cook Islands drafting a business plan for Emergency Management Cook Islands, as part of the Prime Minister's Office.

During 2009 he engaged in the following consultancies:

- Senior technical adviser to the European Union Regional Authorizing Office based at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, to assist in managing the selection of projects to be funded under the tenth EDF Regional Indicative Programme, worth €95 million

- Member of a three-person team to analyse and validate the regional institutional arrangements proposed for SOPAC, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
- Prepared a regional overview of the Millennium Development Goals for the Asian Development Bank in conjunction with the UNDP Pacific Centre
- Currently, he is about to commence a consultancy for the Pacific Operations Centre of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to prepare the reporting for the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

He has a keen interest in capacity-building for Pacific island nations and established the Certificate in Earth Science and Marine Geology for in-service training of technicians working in the earth sciences.

His broader environmental and sustainable development interests are demonstrated in many ways, for example: (a) as a team leader of the work on developing the first globally applicable environmental vulnerability index, which Pacific small island developing States presented at the Mauritius Meeting, and (b) as a technical adviser to the United Nations on national sustainable development strategies and the Millennium Development Goals in Pacific small island developing States.
