



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 120 (h)

### Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

## Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit

### Note by the President of the General Assembly

1. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the note by the Secretary-General of 18 November 2020 ([A/75/603](#)), the General Assembly is required, during its current session, to appoint two members of the Joint Inspection Unit to fill the vacancies that will arise from the expiration on 31 December 2021 of the term of office of Eileen Cronin (United States of America) and Jorge Flores Callejas (Honduras).
2. In accordance with the procedures described in article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit and with General Assembly resolution [61/238](#), the President of the General Assembly, at the 30th plenary meeting, held on 23 November 2020, having held the necessary consultations, and on the basis of the candidates submitted by the Latin American and Caribbean States and the Western European and other States, requested Mexico and the United States of America to propose candidates (see annexes I and II) to serve for a period of five years beginning on 1 January 2022.
3. The candidates, in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution [59/267](#), should have experience in at least one of the following fields: oversight, audit, inspection, investigation, evaluation, finance, project evaluation, programme evaluation, human resources management, management, public administration, monitoring and/or programme performance, as well as knowledge of the United Nations system and its role in international relations.
4. The President of the General Assembly has held the consultations described in article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. The replies received from the President of the Council and from the Secretary-General to the identical letters addressed to them on 25 November 2020 by the President of the Assembly are annexed to the present note (see annexes III and IV).
5. Having completed the required consultations, the President of the General Assembly has the honour to present to the Assembly the following candidates for appointment as members of the Joint Inspection Unit for a five-year term beginning on 1 January 2022 and expiring on 31 December 2026:

Carolina María Fernández Opazo (Mexico)  
Eileen Cronin (United States of America)



## **Annex I**

### **Note verbale dated 19 October 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat**

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of Carlos Gabriel Ruiz Massieu Aguirre in the Joint Inspection Unit for the term 2022–2026, in the context of the elections to be held during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly in November 2020.

Taking into consideration the fact that Mr. Ruiz Massieu currently holds the post of Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Colombia and Head of the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, the Permanent Mission of Mexico has the further honour to inform the Secretariat that the Government of Mexico has decided to present the candidature of Carolina Fernández Opazo to replace Mr. Ruiz Massieu and occupy the seat allocated to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States in the Joint Inspection Unit for the term 2022–2026, and is pleased to transmit herewith the curriculum vitae of Ms. Fernández Opazo.

**Enclosure**

[Original: Spanish]

**Curriculum vitae\*****Carolina Fernández Opazo (Mexico)****Candidature of Carolina Fernández Opazo for the Joint Inspection Unit, 2022–2026****Biographical information**

Carolina María Fernández Opazo (Mexican) was born in Kingston, Jamaica, in December 1972.

She speaks Spanish and English and has a basic knowledge of Italian and French.

Ms. Fernández is married and has two children.

**Academic qualifications**

She received a bachelor's degree in international relations from the University of the Americas Puebla, in Puebla, Mexico.

She also completed undergraduate studies in administration at the University of the Americas Puebla, Mexico and in economics at San Pablo Bolivian Catholic University, in La Paz, Bolivia.

She has studied results-based budgeting and programme and project evaluation.

**Professional background**

Ms. Fernández has held various positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, all in the multilateral arena. Her most recent posts include:

- Coordinator, Financial Affairs and Appointments Planning, Directorate General for the United Nations, May 2018 to date.
- Director, Financial Affairs, Directorate General for the United Nations, November 2007 to May 2018.
- Assistant Director, Administrative and Budgetary Affairs, Directorate General for the United Nations system, May 2003 to October 2007.

**Academic highlights**

- Presenter at a conference on the governance of international courts and tribunals, Leiden University, Netherlands (September 2019).
- Participant at the symposium entitled “Building the financial system of the 21st century: an agenda for Latin America and the United States”. Harvard University Faculty of Law (November 2014).
- Organizer of the high-level regional meeting entitled “Towards a more stable and predictable international financial system, and the link with social development” (September 1999).

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\* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

**Other activities**

- Member of the Committee on Budget and Finance of the International Criminal Court (April 2008 to date). She served as Chair of the Committee from 2014 to 2017.
- Member of the Finance Committee of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (2015 to date). She has served as Chair of the Committee since 2018.
- Member of the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) (2016–2019). She served as Chair of the Committee from 2016 to 2019.
- Participation in the negotiations on the United Nations budget, scale of assessments and peacekeeping operations, from 2003 to date.
- Technical secretariat for the evaluation of the membership of Mexico in international organizations (December 2006 to May 2007).
- Establishment of the special group on scales of assessments of international organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (January 2006).

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**Annex II****Note verbale dated 12 November 2020 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The United States Mission to the United Nations has the honour to confirm the candidature of Eileen Cronin for re-appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit for the term starting in January 2022, through elections to be held during the main part of the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Ms. Cronin currently serves as the Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit and has served in the capacity of inspector since January 2017. Ms. Cronin has more than 25 years of management and leadership experience in the government, non-profit, academic and private sectors, including in the United States, the Asia-Pacific region, Southern and Eastern Africa, and Eastern Europe. She has held positions in performance management and evaluation, as well as in programme development in several sectors. She has expertise in performance management, organizational development and strategic planning, as well as in public policy development and analysis. Ms. Cronin's background is well suited for her to continue to perform this role. It is hoped that her candidature will receive the most favourable consideration. A copy of Ms. Cronin's curriculum vitae is enclosed.

**Enclosure****Curriculum vitae\*****Eileen A. Cronin (United States of America)**

Ms. Cronin has more than 25 years of management and leadership experience across the world within government, non-profit organizations, academic institutions and the private sector, including in the United States, the Asia-Pacific region, Southern and Eastern Africa and Eastern Europe. She has held positions in performance management and evaluation as well as programme development in several sectors. She has expertise in evaluation, organizational development and strategic planning, as well as public policy development and analysis.

Currently, Ms. Cronin is serving as an Inspector with the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in Geneva, Switzerland. Elected to the position by the United Nations General Assembly in 2017 and serving a 5-year term, Inspectors are mandated to provide an independent view through inspections and evaluations aimed at improving management and methods, as well as achieving greater coordination across the United Nations system.

In her role as JIU Inspector, Ms. Cronin has completed four system-wide reviews of: United Nations whistleblowing policies and practices; United Nations system-wide action plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN-Gender SWAP); as well as reviews of change management and enterprise risk management in United Nations system organizations. She has also conducted a management and administrative review of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), of which all recommendations were adopted by both the management and the governing body.

In 2020, Ms. Cronin was elected by her fellow Inspectors to serve as Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit, which entails coordinating the JIU's programme of work processes, representing the JIU in official functions and providing briefings to governing bodies and United Nations system committees and coordinating bodies on the JIU's programme of work and other initiatives. During her tenure as Chair she designed a self-assessment for the JIU and briefed governing bodies, Member States and other stakeholders on the JIU's 2020–29 Strategic Framework.

Prior to her tenure in the JIU, Ms. Cronin was the Chief of Evaluation and Aid Effectiveness in the Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance Resources at the U.S. Department of State (2012–2016). Ms. Cronin oversaw the implementation of the Department's evaluation policy for bureaus and offices with foreign assistance funds and supervised a staff that provided training and technical assistance on planning, managing and conducting evaluations.

She represented the U.S. Department of State on the Evaluation Network of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC). In 2016, Ms. Cronin was seconded to the U.S. Department of Defense to develop their inaugural Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy.

Before joining the U.S. Department of State in 2012, Ms. Cronin held several overseas staff positions with the U.S. Peace Corps, an international development agency, including Programming and Training Officer for the re-opening of the program in Fiji (2003); Deputy Director for the programme in Thailand (2005); Regional Advisor in Southern Africa, covering 7 country programs (2007); and finally as Country Director in Eswatini (2008). She received several awards for her work

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with the Peace Corps, including a Distinguished Service Award in 2011. Ms. Cronin served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in North Macedonia in the role of Municipal Development Advisor from 1999 to 2001.

From 1995 to 1999, Ms. Cronin provided consulting services in the areas of programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as conducted evaluations and management assessments for government and non-profit clients.

Ms. Cronin has held positions in the private sector and academia, including adjunct professor of communications at Northwestern University. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio and a Master of Science in Communication Studies from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

### **Annex III**

#### **Letter dated 22 January 2021 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to write to you, in response to your letter of 25 November 2020, regarding consultations held with the Chairs of the regional groups regarding the appointment of members to fill two vacancies in the Joint Inspection Unit that will occur on 31 December 2021.

I wish to inform you, in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council, as provided for in article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit and in accordance with General Assembly resolution [61/238](#) of 22 December 2006, that I have reviewed the qualifications of the proposed candidates and have the pleasure to inform you that I am in full agreement with the proposal to nominate Carolina Fernández Opazo (Mexico) and Eileen Cronin (United States of America).

*(Signed)* Munir Akram  
President of the Economic and Social Council

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**Annex IV****Letter dated 15 January 2021 from the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to refer to your letter of 25 November 2020 regarding the proposed appointment to two vacancies in the Joint Inspection Unit that will occur on 31 December 2021.

In accordance with article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, and following consultations with members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, I have the pleasure to inform you that, in my capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, I concur with the appointment of the two candidates, Carolina María Fernández Opazo (Mexico) and Eileen Cronin (United States of America).

*(Signed)* António **Guterres**

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