

22 July 2020

Tom Tugendhat, MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons,
SW1A 0AA



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
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Secretary of State

Dear Tom,

My predecessor undertook to update you on the UK's involvement in elections to multilateral organisations. I am writing to update you on developments since his letter of 6 June 2019 and the Government's priorities in this area.

As you know, the UK's national security and prosperity greatly benefits from an effective rules-based international order. At a time when this order faces considerable challenge, it is self-evidently in our national interest to maintain a high level of UK commitment to, and senior participation in, key international institutions. I therefore attach great importance to ensuring that the UK is well-represented in all relevant international organisations.

We are focussing on three priority elections in 2020, for which our diplomatic network is engaged in high-level lobbying:

- a) **World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General (DG)**. Dr Liam Fox was nominated as the UK's candidate for the role.
- b) The judicial election to the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, which will take place in December.
- c) The **UN Human Rights Council (HRC)**. The UK's candidature is currently unopposed.

On the 8 July, the Prime Minister nominated Dr Liam Fox as the UK's candidate for the role of World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General (DG). Securing support for his candidacy is a top priority for the Government. Dr Fox is a strong candidate for the role after decades of experience of global politics, as well as first-hand experience of running a trade ministry. He is fully committed to advancing the WTO and rules-based trading system.

After an open competition, Her Honour Judge Joanna Korner CMG QC was selected to be the UK candidate for the ICC. Judge Korner is a High Court judge with 26 years' experience, including at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. We announced her candidature at the December Assembly of ICC State Parties.

We are actively campaigning and are increasingly using digital means to reach partner countries due to current travel restrictions. This is a heavily contested election, with 22 candidates vying for 6 seats. I should be grateful for any support the Foreign Affairs Committee can offer through your own networks for this campaign.

The nomination of a UK judge to succeed Judge Howard Morrison QC, who has served his full term on the ICC, is an important demonstration of our support for the ICC at a time when we are also trying to land some tough messages on ICC reform. The link to material on Judge Korner is <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-candidate-for-the-international-criminal-court-icc-elections-2020-judge-joanna-korner>, and Sheila Lyall-Grant (Sheila.lyall-grant@fco.gov.uk) in the FCO's Multilateral Directorate can provide the FAC with further background and material, if that would be helpful.

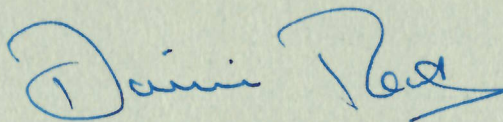
Beyond these priority elections, British candidates are standing for re-election as Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority and for the Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on international food standards. The UK is also seeking the Universal Postal Union's Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council.

We have also achieved a number of successes over the last 12 months. Professor Penelope Endersby, Chief Executive of the Met Office, was elected to the Executive Council of the **World Meteorological Organisation** (WMO). Steve Kavanagh (former Chief Constable of Essex Police Force) was appointed as Executive Director of Policing Services in INTERPOL and Christa Rottensteiner (formerly of DFID) was appointed as Head of the Yemen mission of the International Organisation for Migration.

The UK was also elected to:

- The Executive Council of the intergovernmental **Oceanographic Commission** at UNESCO
- The **Economic and Social Council** (ECOSOC)
- The Council of the **International Civil Aviation Organization** (ICAO)
- The Council of the **International Maritime Organization** (IMO)
- The ECOSOC Executive Board of the **World Food Programme** (WFP), and
- The **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** (CCPCJ)

I look forward to discussing progress on the three key campaigns mentioned above at our next meeting.

Yours,


THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP