Re: High-level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence: Public Call for Nominations

Dear Under-Secretary Amandeep Gill Singh
Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Technology (OSET)

The undersigned civil society organisations are writing with regards to the Nomination Process recently launched to gather nominations for a [High Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence (the Body)](.).

As civil society stakeholders, we appreciate the public call and the opportunity to provide nominations. However, we are concerned about the process instituted for the public call. We have two main concerns: (1) the timeframe for nominations and (2) the lack of information regarding the criteria and process for selecting nominees.

With regards to the first concern, the three-week timeframe is insufficient to run joint or coordinated nomination processes for civil society constituencies. Such processes generally require the selection of a nomination committee, the implementation of an internal nomination process and then a review or deliberation process. Running such processes improves the engagement of a wider range of diverse stakeholders in such processes and can support the visibility and legitimacy of civil society nominees who may otherwise be underrepresented in nomination processes to high-level positions or positions in multilateral institutions. Such a process is required for a thorough review to take place and to ensure the Body is gender and age-balanced, geographically representative, and ultimately interdisciplinary in its composition.

With regards to the second concern, the public call stipulates that "evaluation of nominees will be conducted on the basis of the nominee's suitability, capacity and willingness to contribute to the Body's overall objectives. Those nominees under consideration will be contacted directly". However, neither the criteria relating to 'suitability' nor the composition of the Advisory Board is provided.
For that reason, we request that the following changes be made:

1. **Extension of Nomination Deadline:** We are requesting that the deadline be extended until such information (as outlined above) is provided. We are recommending extending the deadline by **6 weeks**, to ensure a sufficient timeframe and to ensure an open and inclusive nomination process can be carried out.

2. **Transparency of Assessment Criteria:** We also request that the criteria used to assess the suitability of candidates be published, and further information be provided about the composition of the Body , and its role and responsibilities.

3. **Commitment to Civil Society:** As outlined in the [Roadmap for Digital Cooperation,](#) the Body will be comprised of "Member States, relevant United Nations entities, interested companies, academic institutions and civil society groups. However, the public call for nominations notes only that civil society *"may" be included*. We thereby request that OSET reiterate its commitment to multistakeholderism, confirm that there will be civil society representation in the Body and that nominations coming from civil society organisations will be taken into equal consideration.

4. Following the closure of the process and the nomination of we would request that the nominations be published to ensure meaningful transparency.

We remain committed to the office's work to provide guidance on artificial intelligence that is trustworthy, human-rights based, safe and sustainable and promotes peace.

INSERT SIGNATURE

1. Global Partners Digital
2. Access Now
3. ARTICLE 19
4. Association for Progressive Communications
5. Derechos Digitales - América Latina
6. Internet Governance Caucus
7. Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD)
8. Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation (AODIRF)
9. CCAOI
10. Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
11. Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum
12. Afghanistan Democracy and Development Organization (ADDO)
13. NGO Women Be Free
14. Alliance for Universal Digital Rights (AUDRi)
15. Equality Now
16. Fundación Karisma
17. Transparência Brasil
18. European Center for Not-For-Profit Law Stichting
19. Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)
20. Global Network Initiative (GNI)
21. Paradigm Initiative
22. Data Privacy Brasil Research Association
23. Rayznews

24. Learn Internet Governance
25. Gender Standing Group – Internet Society
26. Nigeria Network of NGOs
27. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
28. Center for Journalism and Liberty (CJL) at the Open Markets Institute