



PLENARY MEETING

Document 31-E
6 May 2022
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Note by the Secretary-General

CANDIDACY FOR THE POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to the information published in Document 3, I have the pleasure in transmitting to the Conference, in annex, the candidacy of:

Mrs Gisa Fuatai PURCELL (Independent State of Samoa)

for the post of Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union.

Houlin ZHAO
Secretary-General

Annex: 1

EMBASSY
OF
SAMOA



AMBASSADE
DU
SAMOA

Note No. 22/28

The Embassy of the Independent State of Samoa in Brussels presents its compliments to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and has the honour to submit the attached Note Verbale No. 22/181 dated 3 May 2022 from the Samoa Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade confirming the nomination of **Mrs Gisa Fuatai Purcell** by the Government of Samoa for the post of Deputy Secretary General of ITU for the term 2023 – 2026 at the elections to be held during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest, Romania from 26 September to 14 October 2022.

The Embassy of the Independent State of Samoa has further the honour to enclose:

- i. The vision statement by Mrs. Purcell in word format
- ii. An electronic copy of Mrs. Purcell's Curriculum Vitae
- iii. A photo in JPG format

The Embassy of the Independent State of Samoa in Brussels avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Brussels, 5th May 2022

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
GENEVA





GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

NOTE: 22/181

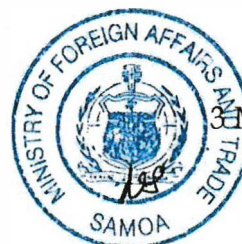
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Independent State of Samoa, presents its compliments to the International Telecommunications Union and has the honour to communicate the decision of the Government of the Independent State of Samoa to present the candidature of Mrs Gisa Fuatai Purcell for the post of Deputy Secretary General of the ITU for the term 2023-2026, at the elections to be held during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest, Romania on 26 September-14 October 2022.

Mrs Gisa Purcell, current Regulator of the Office of the Regulator of Samoa has over 25 years of international experience in broadening ICT digital transformation development through appropriate implementation strategies to address the needs of members of the organisations she served.

She worked at the ITU for seven years initially as a Project Coordinator for the ICT program for Pacific Island countries (ICT4PAC) covering 14 countries. Later she led the Division for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Emergency Telecommunication, E-Waste Management and Climate Change Adaptation and mitigation. Gisa Purcell also worked at the Commonwealth Telecommunication Office in London as the Head of the IT Division. The curriculum Vitae of Gisa Purcell is attached to this Note.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of the Independent State of Samoa avails itself of the opportunity to extend to the International Telecommunications Union the assurances of its highest consideration.

International Telecommunications Union
Geneva



31 May 2022

MRS GISA FUATAI PURCELL

Candidate for the post of Deputy Secretary General –
International Telecommunication Union PP22
(Bucharest, Romania)



VISION STATEMENT

ICTs to improve the standard of living for all

I present my candidacy as Deputy Secretary General of the ITU. I dedicate my candidacy to ensuring that digital telecommunication/ICTs will improve the standard of living for all. I am committed to ensure ITU pays special attention to least developing countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and countries with economy in transition. With the ongoing challenges of climate change, poverty and the pandemic crippling our world, universal access to secure, affordable and trustful ICTs is key to addressing these challenges in order to build back better and improve the standards of living for all. I am committed to ensure the ITU remains relevant and contributes effectively to our global effort to build a sustainable world; to ensure resilient communities, cities and economies and to connect the unconnected. To achieve this vision, we need improved coordination among the three sectors and continuous dialogue with the members. Supporting the LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition with advancing ICT infrastructure to the rural areas; and empowering vulnerable populations is critical to leaving no one behind and helping ITU members achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

BIOGRAPHY

A national of the Independent State of Samoa who is highly experienced in telecommunications/information and communication (ICT) development issues in a multicultural setting, Gisa has over 35 years in the ICT sector. She has excellent leadership skills, which is maintained with honesty, courage, strategic thinking and a peoples' person attitude with respect for culture of any country.

Her vision and leadership achieved the telecommunication sector reform of Samoa, which she led, represented Samoa at international conferences and worked at the ITU for 7 years as Project Coordinator and Head of Division for LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries with economies in transition; emergency telecommunication; e-Waste and Climate Change Adaptation. After working for the ITU, Gisa was appointed Director of ICT Development at the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation (CTO), and within two months she was also appointed as Acting Secretary General (SG) for over two years.

As SG, Gisa spearheaded the reform of some programmes of the CTO that benefited the Membership, develop innovative ways of delivering services, increasing the Membership, managed the implementation of the CTO Strategic Plan and the operations of the CTO Secretariat, in particular with a view to increasing the transparency and efficiency of the organization among others.

One of Gisa's main contribution was during the time of Covid-19 where her excellent leadership skills moved the CTO to working from home before Government announcement of the lockdown to ensure the safety of staff. In particular, she developed strategies to ensure the Secretariat still functioned efficiently while working from home. Her vision and accurate assessment of the impact of Covid-19 to the Secretariat operation and in particular CTO staff resulted in the collective agreement of staff for reducing salaries due to many Members feeling the impact of Covid-19 and economic downturn.. However, the UK Government COVID19 assistance ensured there was no impact on CTO staff salaries.

Gisa's sound experience in ICT development is evident when she received a fellowship from the Director of the UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to work in Geneva for 6 months in setting up the first IGF office and planning the first ever Internet Governance Forum in 2006. It is the same year that she put forward the proposal to include SIDS to the ITU programme for LDCs.

She represented the ITU at the UN High Level Panels for the Sustainable Development Goals (2030) in Geneva and New York, among others.

Gisa is married with 4 children and six grandchildren. She is fluent in English and Samoan while speaking basic French.

Achievements

Gisa's notable achievement include but not limited to the following:

- Spearheaded the reform of telecommunication in her country Samoa through developing the national ICT policy, technical review of the Telecommunication Act 2005, tender process that successfully achieved the liberalization of the mobile market (2003 – 2005) at a time when liberalization of the mobile market was male dominated.
- Reduced the Training Consultant's fees to more than 50% benefitting the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation (CTO) Member States that requested training on any subject (2019).
- Successfully convinced the ITU Membership to include small island developing states (SIDS) to the ITU programme for least developing countries at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC, 2006) which was approved unanimously by the Membership. Eventually, landlocked developed countries and countries with economy in transition was included.
- Successfully represented the ITU at the United Nations (UN) high level meetings on developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 in Geneva and New York ensuring ICT Infrastructure formed part of the SDGs.
- Convinced the drafting group of the Declaration at the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) preparatory phase to include a paragraph that focus on least developing countries (LDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), landlocked countries (LLDCs) and countries with economies in transition. Gisa drafted paragraph 16 for consideration of the Plenary, which was approved.
- Successfully planned and organized the first Global Conference on Emergency Telecommunication (GET) that was hosted by Kuwait (2016).
- Resource mobilization for the satellite project of the ITU for SIDS

Professional Experience

Government of Samoa

2020-present	Chief Executive Officer/Regulator – Office of the Regulator
2003-2009	Secretary of the National ICT Committee of Samoa and Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT). Led the reform and liberalization of the telecommunication sector.
1979-1980	Senior Interpreter – Legislative Assembly
2018 (May) – Sept 2020	Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization, London, United Kingdom Director, ICT Development - Provided leadership and direction of ICT Development for the member states, implementing strategies for broadening ICT digital transformation development and address the needs of members
2018 (July) – Aug 2020	Acting Secretary General – Led the implementation of the strategic plan to achieve the mission and mission and address ICT issues of Member States and preparation of Council meetings, conferences and reform programmes that saved Members money.

2011-2016	International Telecommunication Union – Development Sector Head of Division for Least Developing Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Emergency Telecommunication, E-Waste Management and Climate Change Adaptation and mitigation.
2009-2011	Project Coordinator – Lead and completed on time and within budget the project of ICT for Pacific Island countries (ICT4PAC) in 14 countries.
1995-1996	New Zealand - ICT and Financial Consultant New Zealand In both private and public sector including Accident Compensation Corporation, Wellington City Council, Prudential Portfolio Managers, ANZ Bank, National Bank to name a few.
1988-1995	Telecom New Zealand Consultant, Telecom Auckland – collaboration with NZ post and Post bank in sharing properties after the split of the former Post Office into Telecom, NZ Post and Post Bank. Telecom New Zealand Wellington - Held various positions at Telecom New Zealand. Last position was Business Analyst.
1984 – 1988	Auckland, New Zealand Worked in both private and public sector including Ministry of Trade and Industry, as Computing and Finance Senior Officer, Feltex International as Corporate Accountant, Cutler Hammer as Chief Financial Officer, and Wang Computers as IT and Accounting Consultant on implementing financial systems packages in companies.
1983-1984	Carrington Technical Institute - Arrived in New Zealand from Samoa and studied Computer Operator course. Worked at Smith and Nephew as Senior Accounts, Winston Industries as Assistant Accountant and temporary jobs.
1980 -1983	Samoa – Letolo Plantation as Sole Accountant
1978 – 1980	Samoa - Embassy of New Zealand – Librarian and Accounts Clerk
1975-1978	Samoa – O.F. Nelson Co. Ltd – Salaries Clerk
1973-1975	Samoa – O.F. Nelson Public Library – Librarian

Education

- Master of Commerce and Administration – Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- Postgraduate Diploma in Information System – Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- Certificate of Management Studies – Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand
- Certificate of Computer Operation – Carrington Tech, Auckland, New Zealand
- Certificate of Internet Governance Studies – Diplo Foundation, Malta
- Certificate in Research, Internet Governance – Diplo Foundation Malta
- School Certificate – Samoa College

Languages – English (fluent), French (basic), Samoan (Fluent)

Titles – Ms. Purcell holds three Chief Titles of her extended families in Samoa bestowed to her. These Titles are Gisa, Lematua and Tagaloaataoa from her paternal and maternal sides but she prefers to use only Gisa.