

Questionnaire for Candidates to the Committee against Torture (CAT)

Please reply in writing by 18 August 2025

1. Name: *Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov*
2. Nationality: *Russian Federation*
3. Current position¹: *expert at the Committee against Torture, Judge ad hoc at the International Court of Justice, Vice-President of the Russian Association of International Law, member of the Council of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, member of the Board of the International Review of the Red Cross.*
4. The CAT and GA resolution 68/268 require experts to possess “recognized competence in the field of human rights” and “in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty”, including to give consideration to the usefulness of “some persons having legal experience” (article 17). Please explain how you qualify as an expert.

I hold two degrees in international law from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (JD and SJD-equated) and an LLM from Harvard Law School. I have practiced and taught international law at academia, national and international judiciary since graduation in 1977. Experience with judiciary, relevant to the mandate of the Committee, and more generally to human rights, includes the post of senior counsellor on international law at the Secretariat of the Russian Constitutional Court (1992-2016, with unpaid sabbaticals for the duration of international assignments), judicial positions as permanent judge at the UN ICTR and the UN ICTR/ICTY Appeals Chamber, ad hoc judge, formerly at the ECHR and currently at the ICJ, as well as during posting to the UN Peace Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina as civil affairs officer. Relevant past academic experience included teaching at the Diplomatic Academy and Moscow State Linguistic University, University of World Economy and International Relations (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), The Hague Academy of International Law (The Hague, The Netherlands), School of Law, University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA, United States). I am invited to give occasional talks at various fora, including recently at the International Forum on Youth Rights (Tashkent, Uzbekistan), the

¹ CV submitted for the 20th Meeting of States Parties lists membership in the European Society of International Law, which has been discontinued due to inability to pay membership fees because of restrictions imposed on the Russian financial institutions, which, however, did not prevent the ESIL’s American counterpart, ASIL, from continuing my membership.

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European-Asian Youth Legal Forum (Yekaterinburg, Russia) and Kazan International Legal Forum (Kazan, Russia), those being of relevance to the mandates and activities of the human rights treaty bodies, as are several of my recent academic publications and op-eds, including, in English: HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES – LAW, DIPLOMACY, EITHER OR NEITHER – in: Research Handbook of Law and Diplomacy, McGuinness and Stewart (eds.), Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.

5. According to the Addis Ababa Guidelines, “Treaty body members shall not only be independent and impartial, but shall also be seen by a reasonable observer to be so”. Do you have any experience or affiliation that could be considered a real or perceived conflict of interest (e.g. holding a position within or on behalf of your country’s government)? If so, how do you intend to address it, to ensure full independence and impartiality in the exercise of the functions?

I am not aware of any affiliation that could undermine or put into doubt my independence and impartiality, unless my membership in the Group of Governmental Experts on Torture-Free Trade, established by the UN Secretary-General pursuant to A/RES/73/304, is interpreted as such.

6. If elected, how will your professional commitments enable you to dedicate the necessary time and attention to perform your duties effectively, both during and between sessions?

There should be no interference as almost all my commitments are flexible. As to my duties of an ad hoc judge at the ICJ, commitments can be reconciled, as they have been in the past.

7. In your view, what is the role of civil society, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), in engaging with the Committee in relation to its mandated functions? In your opinion, how can the voices and experiences of survivors of torture and other ill-treatment be meaningfully considered in the Committee’s functions and working methods?

CAT membership needs to continuously seek and obtain detailed and objective information from diverse and multiple sources about individual States Parties compliance with their obligations under the Convention. The role of NHRIs and NPMs, as well as of various civil society entities, goes beyond monitoring of human rights situation and alerting authorities – and the Committee – of the indicators of deterioration, but should include constructive interaction with

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authorities in order to jointly prevent such deterioration. As to survivors of torture, their voices supported by proven facts and solid evidence, should be indispensable sources for the Committee. Regard should be had, though, to their experience affecting their ability to be balanced and impartial, hence the need to verify information through other sources in order to save embarrassment to the Committee. The overall goal of engagement with those interlocutors is to ensure that conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee are informed, balanced and impartial.