



## **United Nations Human Rights Council 62<sup>nd</sup> Session**

### **Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers**

**25 June 2026**

#### **Oral Statement**

The Law Council of Australia, LAWASIA and the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute thank the Special Rapporteur for her report setting out Principles for judicial appointments.<sup>1</sup>

We welcome the report's emphasis on transparent, merit-based and accountable appointment processes as an essential safeguard of judicial independence and the rule of law.

Our organisations have adopted resolutions that reflect these foundational principles.<sup>2</sup>

A judiciary that reflects the society it serves enhances public confidence and strengthens institutional legitimacy. We support the transparent application of publicly available, detailed selection criteria that cover both professional and personal qualities to ensure meritorious appointments that reflect the diversity of each jurisdiction.

Personal qualities include understanding of variations in lived experience, including with respect to gender, sexual orientation, cultural, ethnic and socio-economic background, and disability, amongst others.

We stress the importance of data collection and public reporting to monitor representation in the judiciary and evaluate the effectiveness of appointments processes.

We call for continued international collaboration, including between States, judiciaries and legal professional associations, to promote and implement these principles, and to enhance public understanding of the vital importance of a competent, independent judiciary to protect human rights and the rule of law.

***Delivered by Tania Wolff, President of the Law Council of Australia***

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, 'Principles for judicial appointments' (14 April 2026) UN Doc [A/HRC/62/43](#).

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Law Council of Australia, *Policy on the Process of Judicial Appointments* (Policy Statement, 26 June 2021) <https://lawcouncil.au/publicassets/0eac8c98-b1d7-eb11-943d-005056be13b5/2021-06-26-PS-Process-of-Judicial-Appointments.pdf>; International Bar Association Human Rights Institute 'Resolution on the values pertaining to judicial appointments to international courts and tribunals' (October 2011); LAWASIA 'Beijing Statement of Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary in the LAWASIA Region' (August 1995) <https://lawasia.asn.au/sites/default/files/2018-05/Beijing-Statement-19Aug1995.pdf>.