



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

To the President of the  
Lower House of the States General  
Princess Irene Street 6  
The Hague

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Rhine Street 8  
2515 XP The Hague P.O.  
Box 20061 Netherlands  
[www.rijksoverheid.nl](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl)

**Our reference**

BZ2513105

**Your reference**

2025Z02897

**Attachment(s)**

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Date March 26, 2025

Subject Answering questions by members Van Dijk (SGP) and Stoffer (SGP) on  
the possible reappointment of UN Special Envoy Mrs. Albanese

Dear Chairman,

I hereby offer you the answers to the written questions submitted by members  
Van Dijk (SGP) and Stoffer (SGP) on the possible reappointment of the UN Special  
Envoy Ms. Albanese. These questions were submitted on February 17, 2025 with  
reference 2025Z02897.

Minister,

Caspar Veldkamp

**Answers by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to questions by members Van Dijk (SGP) and Stoffer (SGP) on the possible reappointment of UN Special Envoy Ms. Albanese**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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**Question 1**

Are you familiar with the report 'Minister Veldkamp (Foreign Affairs) refuses to receive controversial UN rapporteur Albanian'?<sup>1</sup>

**Reply**

Yes.

**Question 2**

Given recent condemnations of her public statements, as well as formal refusals to receive Ms. Albanese, are you concerned about the impact Ms. Albanese's controversial statements have on the status and authority of the United Nations (UN)?

**Reply**

Special Rapporteurs are appointed by the UN Human Rights Council (MRR) to serve as independent experts to research and report to the Council and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a particular thematic human rights issue or country situation. They work in a personal capacity, are unpaid and are not employed by the United (UN). Therefore, they do not formally speak on behalf of the UN. Because of this set-up, the impact on the status and authority of the UN in a formal sense is limited. Nevertheless, the linkage of Special Rapporteurs to the UN system is undeniable and therefore they must also adhere to the UN Code of Conduct for Special Rapporteurs. In Ms. Albanese's case, several of her statements on social media are at odds with that Code of Conduct, which the Cabinet disapproves of and was conveyed during her visit to the Netherlands.

**Question 3**

Do you think such statements are appropriate to the standards of performing a job in a highly sensitive and complex environment?

**Reply**

In a general sense, the Cabinet strongly values both the independence of Special Rapporteurs and the importance of allowing them to do their work without pressure or interference from UN member states. However, Special Rapporteurs also have a large public reach and thus an important responsibility not to express personal political opinions in their public utterances from their position. Various statements made by Special Rapporteur Albanese on social media are at odds with the Code of Conduct. The Netherlands disapproves of these statements and has repeatedly addressed Special Rapporteur Albanese on this issue, most recently in February 2025. If necessary, the Netherlands will again bring its concerns about the impact of certain statements made by Special Rapporteur Albanese to its attention.

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<sup>1</sup> The Telegraph, Feb. 10, 2025, "Minister Veldkamp (Foreign Affairs) Refuses to Receive Controversial UN Rapporteur Albanese"  
(<https://www.telegraaf.nl/nieuws/1812418450/minister-veldkamp-buitenlandse-zaken-refuses-controversial-vn-reporter-albanese-received>)

#### Question 4

Do you think that the actions of the current rapporteur Ms. Albanese are consistent with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders, including objectivity and independence?

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#### Reply

All Special Rapporteurs are bound by a UN *code of conduct* that prescribes independence, impartiality and the highest integrity. This therefore also applies to Special Rapporteur Albanese. Complaints about the performance of a Special Rapporteur, or suspected violation of the code of conduct, can be submitted to the Chair of the so-called Coordination Committee of UN Mandate Holders. These complaints are handled confidentially by this committee. The Coordination Committee reports in general terms to the UN Human Rights Council annually on the performance of Special Rapporteurs. If the Coordinating Committee decides that there is an obvious, structural violation of the Code of Conduct, it may be referred to the President of the UN Human Rights Council. It is then up to the President of the UN Human Rights Council how this is presented to the members of the UN Human Rights Council.

#### Question 5

What is the formal procedure for the (re)appointment of Special Rapporteurs to the Human Rights Council?

#### Reply

After the establishment of the relevant mandate, in a resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council, a vacancy is posted online. Individuals are free to respond. From each of the UN's five regional groups, an ambassador from a country, currently a member of the UN Human Rights Council, is delegated in a personal capacity to a "consultative group. This group conducts selection interviews and then makes a public recommendation to the President of the Council with a top three list of candidates (in order of preference). The UN Human Rights Council president then nominates one candidate to the 47 members of the UN Human Rights Council. If there are no objections, the UN Human Rights Council agrees, by consensus, to the appointment for a three-year term. It is rare for the UN Human Rights Council to object to the President's decision. The appointment term can be extended for three years to a maximum of six years. This extension is by tacit agreement of the Council provided there is no well-founded objection. Exceptions to an extension are: 1) clear violation of the UN Code of Conduct, 2) resignation by the Special Rapporteur himself, or 3) termination of the relevant mandate, through an adopted resolution. The formal procedure of (re)appointment of the Special Rapporteurs is laid down in resolution A/HRC/PRST/OS/14/2.<sup>2</sup>

#### Question 6

What input has the Netherlands had in the past regarding the appointment of the Special Rapporteur for the Palestinian territories?

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<sup>2</sup> <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/PRST/OS/14/2>

**Reply**

During Ms. Albanese's appointment to the post of "UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967," the Netherlands was a member of the UN Human Rights Council and, like all other members, agreed to the proposed appointment (by consensus).

The Netherlands was not a member of the consultative group and therefore not involved in the selection process.

**Question 7**

Is it true that Ms. Albanese's mandate began in May 2022 for a term of three years?

**Reply**

Yes.

**Question 8**

Does the Human Rights Council intend to extend Ms. Albanese's mandate?

**Reply**

Reappointment is currently scheduled for the last week of the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council (March 31 to April 4, 2025). As outlined in response 5, reappointment may occur if there is no 1) clear violation of the UN Code of Conduct, 2) resignation of the Special Rapporteur himself or 3) termination of the relevant mandate. Ms. Albanese currently enjoys broad political support in the Council. The Cabinet does not support her possible reappointment.

**Question 9**

What is your assessment of a possible reappointment of Ms. Albanese? Do you intend to make efforts to prevent a possible reappointment of Ms. Albanese?

**Reply**

As outlined in the response to Question 3, Special Rapporteurs have a large public outreach and thus an important responsibility not to express personal political opinions in their public statements and in their role as Special Rapporteur. Several expressions by Special Rapporteur Albanese on social media are at odds with the Code of Conduct. The Cabinet disapproves of these expressions. Disapproval of views or reports by Special Rapporteurs is something the Netherlands will discuss in the first instance with the Rapporteur himself and/or in the UN Human Rights Council. The Cabinet does not support Ms. Albanese's possible reappointment.

**Question 10**

Do you know how other countries relate to a possible reappointment of Ms. Albanese? Are you consulting with countries on this issue?

**Reply**

Ms. Albanese can count on considerable international support for her work. At present, only Israel is known to have concerns about the

reappointment of Special Rapporteur Albanese. These concerns were shared with the Netherlands during a conversation with the Dutch Human Rights Ambassador during the High Level Segment of the UN Human Rights Council in late February 2025. Israel is not currently a member of the UN Human Rights Council. In addition, there are several countries, including Germany, France and the United States, which, like the Netherlands, have expressed concerns about certain statements made by Special Rapporteur Albanese in recent years. However, these countries have far not expressed their views on the reappointment of Special Rapporteur Albanese.

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**Question 11**

What efforts will you make to promote that Ms. Albaneses successor acts in line with the UN Code of Conduct?

**Reply**

All Special Rapporteurs are bound by a UN code of conduct that prescribes independence, impartiality and the highest integrity. Where appropriate, the Netherlands will communicate concerns about actions to the relevant Special Rapporteur.

**Question 12**

Can you answer these questions separately and in advance of the relevant UN Human Rights Council meeting?

**Reply**

Yes.