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The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, international organizations or their offices, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other human rights bodies and has the honor to inform them that, at its sixth session, the Council, by its decision 6/102 of 27 September 2007, attached herewith for ease of reference, approved technical and objective requirements for eligible candidates for special procedures mandate holders, as stipulated in paragraph 41 of the Annex to Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007.

Attention is drawn to paragraph 42 of the said resolution which indicates that the following entities may nominate candidates as special procedures mandate-holders: (a) Governments, (b) Regional Groups operating within the United Nations human rights system, (c) international organizations or their offices (e.g. the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), (d) non-governmental organizations, (e) other human rights bodies, and (f) individual nominations.

The Secretariat will henceforth give effect to paragraph 43 of the same resolution according to which the *“Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall immediately prepare, maintain and periodically update a public list of eligible candidates in a standardized format, which shall include personal data, areas of expertise and professional experience. Upcoming vacancies shall be publicized”*.

Furthermore, by its decision 6/102 of 27 September 2007, the Human Rights Council decided that the Secretariat *“may provide a standardized form, on the basis of the technical and objective requirements stipulated below, for candidates to fill in, and shall allow for highlighting any expertise they possess in specific areas, so as to facilitate the selection of relevant candidacies from the roster as soon as appointments for particular mandates are necessary”*. The Secretariat is currently finalizing a draft form and will make it available to all concerned as appropriate.

Candidatures to special procedures mandates may reach the Secretariat at the following address: hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org or HRC Secretariat, c/o Orest Nowosad, (*Mailing address: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Room PW 4-093, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10; Tel: +41 (0)22 917 92 23; Fax: +41 (0)22 917 90 11*).

The Secretariat also wishes to draw attention to the fact that the Council by its decision 6/102 approved technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures to be elected by the Council as members of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, as stipulated in paragraph 67 of Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007.

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The Secretariat of the Council wishes to recall that pursuant to paragraph 66 of Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 “*all Member States of the United Nations may propose or endorse candidates from their own region. When selecting their candidates, States should consult their national human rights institutions and civil society organizations and, in this regard, include the names of those supporting their candidates*”. At its seventh session to be held from 3 to 28 March 2008, the Council is to elect the 18 members of the Advisory Committee, in secret ballot, from the list of candidates whose names have been presented in accordance with the agreed requirements. The list of candidates shall be closed two months prior to the election date, and the Secretariat will make available the list of candidates and relevant information to Member States and to the public at least one month prior to their election.

The Secretariat would like to inform all Member States of the United Nations that the deadline for the submission of nominations is set at **Wednesday, 2 January 2008**. The Secretariat will make available the list of candidates and relevant information to Member States and the public as soon as feasible past this deadline, and no later than one month prior to the start of the seventh session.

Candidatures to the Advisory Committee may reach the Secretariat at the following address: hrcadvisorycommittee@ohchr.org or HRC Secretariat, c/o Orest Nowosad, (Mailing address: *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Room PW 4-093, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10*; Tel: +41 (0)22 917 92 23; Fax: +41 (0)22 917 90 11).

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council avails itself of this opportunity to present to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, international organizations or their offices, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other human rights bodies the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, 11 October 2007