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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

20 March 2015

Excellencies,

In my capacity as President of the Human Rights Council, I have the honour to submit for your attention the list of candidates proposed for the four vacancies of special procedures mandate holders to be appointed at the Twenty-Eight session of the Human Rights Council, namely the:

- African member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia; and
- Member from Latin American and Caribbean States of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

I have held broad consultations, in particular through the regional coordinators, based on the recommendations of the Consultative Group, to ensure the endorsement of my proposed candidates in accordance with paragraphs 52 and 53 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1.

On balance, I have decided to **follow the recommendations of the Consultative Group** on all mandates while carefully noting and considering a number of concerns expressed by States and civil society.

For the position of the **African member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, I propose **Mr. Albert Kwokwo BARUME (Democratic Republic of the Congo)**. As stated by the Consultative Group, Mr. Barume has extensive experience and expertise on human rights issues on the international, regional and national level and in particular on the rights of indigenous peoples in Africa. Together with his demonstrated engagement with various stakeholders, including in the field, Mr. BARUME qualifies to serve as the EMRIP member for African States. Notwithstanding, I share concerns that the Working Group would, following the appointment, consist of only male members.

In relation to the mandate of the **Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights**, I propose **Mr. Idriss JAZAIRY (Algeria)**. Concerns were raised by relevant stakeholders, in particular in view of his extensive work, as Algerian Ambassador and on-going, on the system of Special Procedure mandate holders.

In relation to the mandate for the **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia**, I have decided to propose **Ms. Rhona SMITH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**. The Consultative Group noted her in-depth knowledge of the country, her language skills, and her extensive contacts with

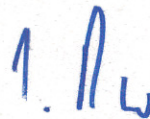
different Cambodian stakeholders as well as her expertise on the human rights challenges faced by the country. I took due note of the letter sent to me by the ASEAN member states on 17 March which is available on the Extranet. I am, however, encouraged that concerns addressed can be overcome due to Ms. SMITH's clear vision to engage and build a constructive dialogue with the Government and other stakeholders.

I would like to nominate **Mr. Dante PESCE (Chile)** as the **Member from Latin American and Caribbean States for the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises** due to his professional experience, multi-stakeholder engagement and dedication to the promotion of social justice, sustainable development and responsible business practices. I took careful note of concerns raised in relation to the overall composition of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, in particular with regard to the independence of the experts and to the gender balance within the Working Group.

I would like to commend and thank the members of the Consultative Group for their work. While I note the Consultative Group's objective of paying due attention to geographical and gender balance among mandate holders, I would like to stress that more needs to be done in regard to both, but in particular in regard to a better gender balance within the Working Groups. Therefore, I would strongly encourage qualified women-candidates to apply for forthcoming appointments.

Lastly, let me take the opportunity to compliment the Consultative Group on their on-going work on how best to ensure the integrity of the process as well as compliance with relevant Human Rights Council resolutions and decisions.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Joachim Ruecker
President of the Human Rights Council



To all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

List of special procedures mandate-holders scheduled to be appointed at the 28th session of the Human Rights Council

1. **African member of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Mr. Albert Kwokwo BARUME (Democratic Republic of the Congo)**
2. **Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights
Mr. Idriss JAZAIRY (Algeria)**
3. **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia
Ms. Rhona SMITH (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**
4. **Member from Latin American and Caribbean States for the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
Mr. Dante PESCE (Chile)**