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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

29 May 2017

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 mandate holders scheduled to be filled at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council:

- 1. Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity;**
- 2. Special Rapporteur on minority issues;**
- 3. Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; and**
- 4. Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.**

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

During my consultations with States and other relevant stakeholders, concerns have been expressed in relation to the gender balance and equitable geographic representation of the candidates recommended by the Consultative Group for the four mandates. My decision as to the candidates included in this list and proposed for appointment by the Council takes these concerns into account.

With regard to the position of **Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity**, I have decided to propose for appointment **Mr. Obiora OKAFOR (Nigeria)**. While recognizing the qualifications, competence and expertise of all of the candidates recommended by the Consultative Group, this decision takes into account equitable geographic representation.

For the position of **Special Rapporteur on minority issues**, I have decided to propose for appointment **Mr. Fernand DE VARENNES (Canada)**. This decision follows broad consultations with stakeholders and takes into consideration the general criteria contained in paragraph 39 of Council resolution 5/1 relating to (a) expertise; (b) experience in the field of the mandate; (c) independence; (d) impartiality; (e) personal integrity; and (f) objectivity.

As to the position of **Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants**, I have decided to propose for appointment **Mr. Felipe GONZALES MORALES (Chile)**. While recognizing the qualifications, competence and expertise of all of the candidates recommended by the Consultative Group, this decision takes into account equitable geographic representation.

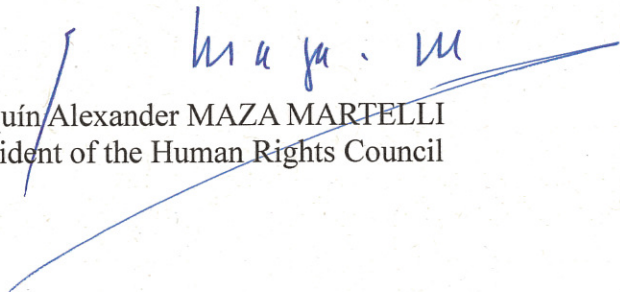
In relation to the **Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**, I have decided to propose for appointment **Ms. Fionnuala NI AOLAIN (Ireland)**. While recognizing the qualifications, competence and expertise all of the candidates recommended by the Consultative Group, this decision takes into account gender balance.

While I note the Consultative Group's objective to pay due attention to gender balance and geographic representation at all stages of the selection and appointment process, I would like to stress that more needs to be done in this regard. I would therefore strongly encourage qualified candidates from all regions and backgrounds, and especially women, to apply for forthcoming appointments.

I would like to thank the members of the Consultative Group for their hard work and dedication, which has facilitated my efforts to identify an appropriate candidate for each vacancy, and commend them for the seriousness with which they carried out their task.

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

Yours sincerely,

  
Joaquín Alexander MAZA MARTELLI  
President of the Human Rights Council

Enclosure

To all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva,



**List of special procedures mandate-holders  
scheduled to be appointed at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

1. Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity

**Mr. Obiora OKAFOR (Nigeria)**

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2. Special Rapporteur on minority issues

**Mr. Fernand DE VARNES (Canada)**

3. Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

**Mr. Felipe GONZALEZ MORALES (Chile)**

4. Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

**Ms. Fionnuala NI AOLAIN (Ireland)**

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