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Subject: Applications for vacancy of special procedure mandate-holder

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 honour to inform them that, following the resignation with immediate effect on 2 September 2011 of Mr. Githu Muigai, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, a vacancy is to be filled.

As announced at the Council meeting on 13 September 2011, a new Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance needs to be appointed as soon as possible to avoid too long a protection gap and to allow him/her to participate in upcoming UN events and present the report of Mr Muigai at the 66th session of the General Assembly. In order to fulfil this objective, the Secretariat also has the honour to call for applications to the vacancy which should be submitted **by 30 September 2011 (midnight, GMT)** so that the Consultative Group established in accordance with Annex to Council resolution 5/1 will be in a position to propose a list of qualified candidates to the President of the Council as soon as possible.

Attention is drawn to paragraph 42 of Annex to Council resolution 5/1, which indicates that the following entities may nominate candidates: (a) Governments, (b) Regional Groups operating within the United Nations human rights system, (c) international organizations or their offices, (d) non-governmental organizations, (e) other human rights bodies, and (f) individual nominations. Attention is also drawn to paragraph 22 (a) of Annex to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 which provides that national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles may also nominate candidates.

In its decision 6/102 of 27 September 2007, the Council approved technical and objective requirements for candidates eligible for special procedures mandate-holders.

Paragraph 22 (b) of Annex to Council resolution 16/21 stipulates that individual candidates and candidates nominated by entities shall submit an application for each specific mandate, together with personal data. A motivation letter, which should be no longer than 600 words, must be submitted by candidates.

An updated information note on selection and appointment of special procedure mandate holders and web-based application procedure, along with a new application form will shortly be available online at the following web page link: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/nominations.htm>

In accordance with the new procedure the Office of the High Commissioner shall prepare a public list of candidates who will apply for each specific vacancy (paragraph 22 (b) of Annex to Council resolution 16/21). Therefore, the public list of candidates dated 5 May 2011 posted on the Council Extranet, which was used for the previous cycle of appointments has ceased to exist. This new procedure has been disseminated, inter alia through the above-mentioned web page and the Council Extranet. Applications should be sent by email (hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) or by fax (+41-22 917 9011) in case of encountering technical difficulties in sending emails.

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

13 September 2011

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.