



BUREAU DU PRÉSIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

11 August 2023

Excellencies,

I have the honour to transmit to you the reports of the Consultative Group dated 19 May and 11 August 2023. These reports contain the Consultative Group's recommendations of candidates for the following vacancies of mandate holders that are to be filled at the 54th session of the Human Rights Council:

1. **Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity** (Human Rights Council resolution 53/5)
2. **Special Rapporteur on minority issues** (Human Rights Council resolution 52/5)
3. **Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants** (Human Rights Council resolution 52/20)
4. **Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism** (Human Rights Council resolution 49/10).
5. **Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity** (Human Rights Council resolution 50/10)
6. **Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (Hansen's disease) and their family members** (Human Rights Council resolution 53/8)
7. **Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities** (Human Rights Council resolution 53/14) - unforeseen vacancy due to resignation
8. **Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, member from African States** (Human Rights Council resolution 50/18)
9. **Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, member from Asia-Pacific States** (Human Rights Council resolution 50/18)
10. **Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, member from Eastern European States** (Human Rights Council resolution 50/18)

Enclosure

To all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva



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11. **Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, member from Western European and other States** (Human Rights Council resolution 50/18)
12. **Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, member from Eastern European States** (Human Rights Council resolution 51/13) - unforeseen vacancy due to resignation

According to paragraph 52 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, “[o]n the basis of the recommendations of the Consultative Group and following broad consultations, in particular through the regional coordinators, the President of the Council will identify an appropriate candidate for each vacancy.” In line with this paragraph, I will be holding broad consultations, based on the two reports, with a view to identifying appropriate candidates for the above-mentioned twelve vacancies.

Allow me to recall that on 18 July, I informed the Bureau that my consultations with the regional coordinators would be held within the context of a Bureau meeting and that minutes of the Bureau meeting would be produced. Additionally, the consultations would be on all of the candidates recommended by the Consultative Group and any objection should be presented in the presence of all regional coordinators. Regional coordinators would be asked to state whether the comments by delegations are statements of preference or formal objections. The explanation for each objection, guided by the criteria set forth in paragraph 39 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, shall be provided. To ensure transparency, objections conveyed bilaterally would not be accepted, as they do not allow for full transparency with all delegations.

Following the consultations and in line with resolution 5/1, I will circulate a letter on/or before 28 August 2023 with my list of proposed candidates for the vacancies of mandate holders that are to be filled at the 54th session.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. BALEK', written in a cursive style.

Václav BÁLEK
President of the Human Rights Council