



E-mail: hrcpresidency@unog.ch
Tel: +41 (0) 22 917 57 27

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

30 August 2016

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 five vacancies of special procedures mandate holders to be appointed at the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council, namely:

- 1. Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;**
- 2. Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;**
- 3. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Eastern European States;**
- 4. Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and**
- 5. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.**

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.

Following my broad consultations with States and other relevant stakeholders, I have decided to propose, in four out of five cases, the candidate recommended and ranked first by the Consultative Group, for approval by the Council; while in one case, I propose the candidate recommended and ranked second.

For the **Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons**, I propose **Ms. Cecilia JIMENEZ-DAMARY (Philippines)**.

With regard to the **Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**, following broad consultations with stakeholders and 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, and while acknowledging the qualifications of the candidate recommended first by the Consultative Group, I have decided to propose **Mr. Nils MELZER (Switzerland)**, given his operational and practical experience in the field of the mandate, in particular expertise gained when he was ICRC delegate.

For the **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Eastern European States**, I propose **Ms. Elina STEINERTE (Latvia)**.

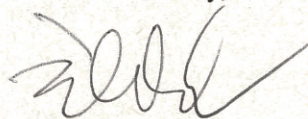
For the **Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**, I propose **Mr. Vitit MUNTARBHORN (Thailand)**.

For the **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran**, I propose **Ms. Asma JAHANGIR (Pakistan)**.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the challenges faced by the members of the Consultative Group and myself, in meeting the deadlines provided for in paragraphs 47 and 52, respectively, of Council resolution 5/1. According to the resolution, the members of the Consultative Group should present to the President their report with their recommendations “at least one month before the beginning of the session”, and as President, I should present to member States and observers my list of proposed candidates “at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the session”. These deadlines were agreed upon at a time when the selection and appointment process was different and less time consuming. At that time, candidates were recommended by the Consultative Group on the basis of a public list containing names of candidates that had expressed interest in becoming a special procedure mandate holder. This list was available on the HRC extranet. The selection process did not entail individual applications for each specific mandate and interviews of short-listed candidates by the Consultative Group, which were innovations introduced in Council resolution 16/21. As a result of these innovations, the workload of the Consultative Group and the Secretariat has considerably increased as has the time necessary to finalise the selection process (i.e., publish vacancies, review individual applications, shortlist candidates for interviews, conduct the interviews, assess the qualifications of candidates and make recommendations to the President). There are additional elements that may cause further delay in the process, such as when the application deadline must be extended due to an insufficient number of eligible candidates, or when unforeseen vacancies arise. Consequently, it has been extremely difficult for I and my predecessors to meet the deadlines set in Council resolution 5/1. Thanks to the considerable efforts of the Consultative Group, which I would like to thank for its professionalism, and all those involved in this process, I am able to share my list of candidates in accordance with the prescribed deadlines. I would, however, like to stress that it has impacted on the time available for my consultations. In this context, I encourage the Council to consider revisiting these deadlines based on the latest innovations brought to the selection process by Council resolution 16/21.

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

Yours sincerely,



CHOI Kyonglim

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 33rd session of the Human Rights Council**

1. Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
Ms. Cecilia JIMENEZ-DAMARY (Philippines);
2. Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Mr. Nils MELZER (Switzerland);
3. Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, member from Eastern European States
Ms. Elina STEINERTE (Latvia);
4. Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
Mr. Vitit MUNTARBHORN (Thailand); and
5. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran;
Ms. Asma JAHANGIR (Pakistan).
