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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

28 September 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 three vacancies of special procedures mandate holders to be appointed at the thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council, namely the:

- Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights;
- Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Latin American and Caribbean States; and
- Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, member from Eastern European States.

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 all three cases the candidate recommended and ranked first by the Consultative Group for approval by the Council.

For the position of the **Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights**, and following the recommendation of the Consultative Group, I propose **Ms. Karima BENNOUNE** (United States of America). As stated by the Consultative Group, Ms. BENNOUNE has a distinguished academic record in human rights research and a clear vision for the Special Rapporteur mandate. I wish to note that preferences were expressed by some States for the other candidates recommended and ranked second and third.

Following the Consultative Group's recommendation, I would like to nominate **Mr. Ahmed REID** (Jamaica) as the member from **Latin American and Caribbean States** for the **Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent**, due to his professional experience. I wish to note that the gender balance within the Working Group, in case of this appointment, will be four male mandate holders and only one female. As the gender balance within Working Groups is of crucial importance, I strongly encourage female candidates to apply for future vacancies in this Working Group.

In relation to the mandate of the **Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, member from Eastern European States**, I wish to follow the Consultative Group's recommendation and propose **Mr. Henrikas MICKEVICIUS** (Lithuania) to the Human Rights Council. As the Consultative Group noted, he has extensive professional experience at the national, regional and international level, multi-stakeholder engagement and a strong commitment in implementing the mandate of the Working Group. Also in regard to this Working Group's gender balance, in case of this appointment, there will be four male mandate holders and only one female. I strongly encourage female candidates to apply for future vacancies.

I would like to thank the members of the Consultative Group for their work of having considered 56 individual applications and having conducted 21 interviews for the three vacancies. As noted in the report of the Consultative Group, I welcome that the Group continued to discuss ways to alleviate concerns about possible or perceived conflicts of interest. Let me take the opportunity to compliment the Consultative Group on their 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 30th session of the Human Rights Council

- 1. Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
Ms. Karima BENNOUNE (United States of America)**
- 2. Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from the Latin American and Caribbean States
Mr. Ahmed REID (Jamaica)**
- 3. Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, member from the Eastern European States
Mr. Henrikas MICKEVICIUS (Lithuania)**