



For the attention of the Consultative Group of the Human Rights Council

His Excellency Mr. Burak AKÇAPAR
Mr. Burim BILALI
His Excellency Mr. José Francisco CALÍ TZAY
Mr. Pacharo KAYIRA
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CC:

His Excellency Mr. Jürg Lauber, President of the Human Rights Council
Human Rights Council Branch
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Re: Appointments to be made at 59th through 61st sessions of the Human Rights Council

Excellencies,

We write to you in your capacity as members of the Consultative Group of the Human Rights Council in relation to the appointment of mandate holders at the upcoming 59th – 61st Regular Sessions of the Human Rights Council.

The appointment of highly qualified and independent mandate holders is essential to ensuring a well-functioning system of Special Procedures, which, in turn, is of crucial importance to the functioning of the Human Rights Council. The selection and appointment of mandate holders through a transparent and merit-based process based on relevant expertise for the mandate in question and real and perceived independence, impartiality, personal integrity and objectivity are of crucial importance for the effective functioning of the mandates.

Civil society organizations often propose mandate-specific selection and appointment criteria that can be used to assess candidates' suitability for the role. We attach to this letter a general checklist based on the criteria in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and the technical and objective criteria set out in its decision 6/102 which we encourage you to consider in the selection process. We encourage you to apply both the letter and the spirit of these criteria when selecting and proposing candidates and to give due consideration to gender balance, equitable geographic representation, and an appropriate representation of experts of different legal systems and social backgrounds.

Signatories

Amnesty International
ARTICLE 19
GQUAL Campaign
International Commission of Jurists
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

GENERIC CHECKLIST FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR UN SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATES

DIVERSITY: CROSS CUTTING CONSIDERATIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN ASSESSMENT UNDER CRITERIA 1-4

Checklist:

- Consideration of gender balance when selecting candidates for interviews and shortlists, taking into account the current composition of mandate holders, the historical gender distribution across mandates, and the recommendations of the A/HRC/47/51 Advisory Committee Report.
- Consideration of geographical representation, including in relation to regional groups that are currently underrepresented.
- Consideration of candidates with experience from different social backgrounds, including from underrepresented groups, and where appropriate lived experiences, based on, but not limited to factors such as, age, gender, sex, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, disability, immigration status and being members of Indigenous Peoples or of ethnic, religious or linguistic groups.
- Consideration of candidates who are experts of different legal systems.
- Consideration of real and perceived independence, impartiality, personal integrity and objectivity of candidates with States.

1. QUALIFICATIONS (AND SKILLS): RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND EQUIVALENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Checklist:

- An advanced university degree, or equivalent experience, that includes a discipline directly related to the mandate, preferably with a substantial focus on international human rights law.
- Academic publications or other published material (articles, studies, reports, research papers or any similar written material demonstrating in-depth knowledge) addressing issues relevant to the mandate, from a human rights perspective.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in at least one of the UN working languages. Communication skills in other UN official language are welcome.
- Extensive experience in public speaking (for example in expert seminars) and in communicating with governments, the media and other relevant stakeholders including civil society actors and social movements.
- Awareness and understanding of intersecting realities and challenges of the specific human rights area of the mandate. Lived experience is desirable where appropriate.

2. ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE: NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED COMPETENCE RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

Checklist:

- Excellent knowledge and expertise, including legal expertise in human rights, proficiency in theoretical and practical human-rights based approaches, competency in several complementary fields of international law such as human rights, humanitarian, criminal, and refugee law.
- Extensive experience in critically analysing information and data, in order to be able to review individual cases as well as identify trends and make effective recommendations to States and other actors.
- Experience with management of participative research projects and the methodologies involved in processing and analysis of large amounts of information.

- Knowledge of human rights-based principles and methodologies for conducting country visits and the ability to conduct both academic and field research required in carrying out country visits.
- Experience in interacting sensitively and appropriately with victims of human rights violations.
- Experience in engaging on the impact on human rights and issues of accountability with authorities responsible.
- Commitment to working closely with a range of stakeholders, including the ability to work with State and civil society actors and social movements from diverse backgrounds.
- Evidenced history of capacity to work with and engage with diverse civil society in a productive, authentic, diligent manner.
- Progressive and innovative mindset and commitment to gender equality from an intersectional perspective.

3. RELEVANT EXPERTISE: KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS, NORMS, STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES; AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE OF INSTITUTIONAL MANDATES RELATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS' WORK IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS; PROVEN WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

Checklist:

- Extensive knowledge of international human rights law and standards, and other fields of international law and policy as relevant.
- A substantial level of progressively responsible experience in the field of human rights, including in conducting or monitoring human rights research, investigations and advocacy.
- Excellent track record and knowledge of the international and regional legal frameworks and case law relevant to the promotion and protection of human rights in the relevant area.
- Extensive experience in working in varied socio-cultural, legal and religious contexts to raise awareness on, and foster understanding of, human rights.
- Excellent knowledge of institutional mandates of the United Nations or other international or regional organizations in the area of human rights.

4. FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME TO PERFORM EFFECTIVELY THE FUNCTIONS OF THE MANDATE AND TO RESPOND TO ITS REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING ATTENDING HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL SESSIONS.

Checklist:

- Willingness and ability to conduct in-country investigations, in all regions of the world, into government policies, legislation and practices in the context of the relevant mandate.
- A demonstrated commitment to human rights law, standards and values.
- A commitment to uphold the integrity, independence and impartiality of the mandate
- Willingness and ability to devote a substantial proportion of working hours to fulfilling the mandate, which includes undertaking two to three country missions per year, preparing and presenting reports to the Human Rights Council and, for most mandates, to the General Assembly.
- Attending conferences and meetings at relevant regional and international fora as well as events and seminars relevant to the mandate.
- Willingness and ability to act urgently when cases or situations so require.
- Willingness and facility to work with all States, UN organs and Specialized Agencies, regional organizations and civil society.