|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| REFERENCE:OHCHR/HRCTMD/AC24//NV1 |  |

Subject: Current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms

 The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, on behalf of the Advisory Committee, has the honour to refer to resolution 41/6 adopted by the Human Rights Council on 11 July 2019 entitled “Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls”. The resolution is attached for ease of reference.

 In the said resolution, the Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a report, in close cooperation with the Working Group and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms such as the Advisory Committee, the treaty bodies and the special procedures established by the Human Rights Council. The report, to be presented to the Council at its forty-seventh session (March 2021), is to include good practices by States in nominating, electing and appointing candidates to ensure balanced gender representation, in line with the system-wide strategy on gender parity, and recommendations to assist the Council and Member States in this regard.

 In this regard, and in accordance with paragraph 17 of the resolution, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, in preparation of the above-mentioned report, reiterates its request for views, inputs and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders, who may not yet have done so, including Member States, international and regional organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures, national human rights institutions, civil society and academic institutions. The Advisory Committee is therefore recirculating the attached questionnaire on the topic to facilitate the submission of inputs for the report.

 The Secretariat of the Advisory Committee would be grateful if any information could be submitted by **29 May 2020** to the following address:

Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

 OHCHR - United Nations Office at Geneva

CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

E-mail: hrcadvisorycommittee@ohchr.org

Fax: +41 22 917 9011

 The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

2 March 2020

**Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council**

**Questionnaire on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms**

1. Do current processes in the State allow for, or encourage, a consideration of gender balance when nominating, electing and appointing experts for human rights organs such as the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies? Do these processes ensure publicity, transparency, and participation by civil society organizations and/or other actors?
2. Does the State take into account the gender composition of the treaty bodies or the Advisory Committee at the time of nomination or election?

1. Does the State have any good national practices related to the nomination, election and appointing processes for human rights organs such as the Advisory Committee and treaty bodies? Do these processes take into account gender when nominating, electing, or appointing?

1. How does the State take into consideration its obligations concerning non-discrimination and women’s right to equal access to participation, as well as its obligations under Article 8 of CEDAW to ensure women’s equal participation in the work of human rights organs when nominating or appointing candidates for those organs and mechanisms?

1. How many women has the State nominated to human rights organs and mechanisms in the last five years (such as the Advisory Committee or treaty bodies)?
2. Does the State take any action to publicize and encourage women to apply for the special procedures mandate-holders vacancies?
3. What are the main challenges within your country in tackling the issue of gender balance when nominating and electing candidates for human rights organs and mechanisms such as the Advisory Committee, treaty bodies and the special procedures?
4. Are there good practices by the State or other stakeholders that ensure gender parity? If yes, could you please share these practices?

1. Are there recommendations directed to States, international bodies, or other entities, that you wish to make in order to strengthen and inform this report?