



COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES
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Dear Members of the Consultative Group,

On behalf of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, I am writing to you in connection with the selection of new mandate holders, in particular the selection of several of our future colleagues at the upcoming session of the Human Rights Council in June. As you have just commenced this important task, I would like to assure you of the full support of the Committee. As with your predecessors, the Committee would be happy to meet with you at a mutually convenient time to exchange views on good practices for the identification of a broad range of suitable candidates for mandates, and the selection process itself.

The high quality and integrity of mandate holders are crucial to ensure the effectiveness and credibility of the system of special procedures. I recently invited the relevant outgoing mandate holders to provide information on the skills they consider essential for the new mandate holders to discharge the mandate. I sought their views in line with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 51, which says that “the Consultative Group should take into account, as appropriate, the views of stakeholders, including the current or outgoing mandate-holders, in determining the necessary expertise, experience, skills, and other relevant requirements for each mandate”.

I am therefore pleased to share with you the contributions received from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Annex I) and from the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (Annex II).

I trust that you will find these suggestions useful as you undertake the selection process. I am at your disposal to discuss this matter further if you have additional questions or require additional feedback. This letter will also be posted on the public website of special procedures. I wish you success in your deliberations.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isha Dyfan".

Isha Dyfan
Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures

cc: H.E. Mr. Omar Zniber
President of the Human Rights Council

Annex I

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ISALMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

It has been my great honour for having served as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran since July 2018. I am writing to you in connection with the selection of new mandate holder for the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. I write to you having regard to the Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 51 of which provides that “the consultative group should take into account, as appropriate, the views of stakeholders, including the current or outgoing mandate-holders, in determining the necessary expertise, experience, skills, and other relevant requirements for each mandate”.

In order to assist the Consultative Group with the selection of new mandate holder for this position, I make the following recommendations with a specific emphasis on the skills, qualifications and attributes required for the successful performance of this mandate.

I. Knowledge and Expertise

1. In addition to the general criteria as provided Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, I would recommend that the appointed individual should have a very good knowledge and understanding of the relevant international human rights obligations undertaken by the Islamic Republic of Iran through treaty law as well as within general international law.
2. While the knowledge and understanding of international human rights law remains paramount, the appointed individual should also be aware of the cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious issues (as well as the complexities arising from these issues) in the context of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. The appointed individual should have the ability to understand the laws and procedures pertaining to human rights within the Islamic Republic of Iran.
4. Country-Specific mandates generally evoke controversy and considerable challenges, and my mandate has been particularly challenging. I would recommend that the appointed individual should be aware of (and have a good understanding and knowledge of) the Code of conduct and Manual of Operations of the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.

II. Gender dimension

5. The gender dimension to the human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran is extremely significant. I would therefore expect that the appointed individual would be fully aware of the issues and challenges currently being faced by women and girls in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

III. Intensive nature of commitments

6. While all mandates require substantial time and personal commitment, in my view, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran is significantly challenging and therefore requires an extra-ordinary amount of time-commitment, is extremely work-heavy and requires great personal dedication. This became particularly evident since the commencement of the “women, life, freedom” movement from September 2022 in the Islamic Republic of Iran: dealing with the various human rights issues has required considerable amount of time.
7. Following from the previous comment about the intensive nature of commitment, in light of my personal experiences, there have substantial periods during each year of the mandate that the work of the mandate has occupied me on an almost full-time basis. I would therefore strongly recommend that any prospective mandate holder must be mindful of the intensity of this role and be prepared to take up this role only if they have sufficient flexibility in their other work commitments.

IV. Engagement with all relevant stakeholders

8. It would be very important for the appointed individual to be able to effectively engage with all relevant stakeholders. Since its re-establishment in 2011, the mandate has not been granted access to the country by the Islamic Republic of Iran. There has also been limited engagement with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and therefore it would be important for the appointed individual to have diplomatic skills, patience, and perseverance to make all possible efforts to have a constructive dialogue and engagement with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and ensure access to the country.
9. In the absence of cooperation with the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the absence of access to the country, the mandate is heavily reliant on the support from the civil society organisations based within and outside of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, the appointed individual must have the ability and the necessary skills to establish appropriate links with the relevant civil society organisations.

V. Ability to Cooperate with the United Nations Mechanisms and the Special Procedures Mandate Holders

10. The mandate requires significant and consistent cooperation with other relevant special procedures as well as with a range of United Nations Mechanisms, including working with the office of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Annex II

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

For the position of member from Eastern European States

The Working Group on Business and Human Rights submits this input to the Consultative Group, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 (paragraph 51), which provides that “the Consultative Group should take into account, as appropriate, the views of stakeholders, including the current or outgoing mandate-holders, in determining the necessary expertise, experience, skills, and other relevant requirements for each mandate”. Thank you for seeking our comments.

In view of the Working Group, the new member from Eastern European States should have the following skills and abilities.

1. Knowledge and Expertise:

- a. The selected candidate should have proven knowledge and expertise in business and human rights, from any field of study and experience. They should be well-versed with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Guiding Principles) and all relevant international standards and accountability mechanisms in the business and human rights field. They should also have an ability to analyse new frameworks in light of their alignment with the Guiding Principles, as this is a core part of the Working Group’s mandate.
- b. They should have knowledge of the many current legislative developments in States which are members of the European Union (EU), and the proposed EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, as many States in the Eastern European region are members, or candidates for membership, of the EU. This knowledge will assist the member to provide guidance and feedback to stakeholders in the Eastern European region – States, civil society and businesses - on these different developments.
- c. Familiarity with the current status of the proposed legally binding instrument on business and human rights (the draft treaty), as this will affect all States.
- d. A track record of raising understanding and mobilising effective, human rights compliant, action by States and businesses to deliver durable solutions to the regional challenges, including by working with all relevant stakeholders to raise awareness and building capacity about the Guiding Principles and by understanding the situation of groups at most risk of human rights abuses. This track record will assist in a region that requires accelerated efforts, after a few years of being inactive, to increase understanding and action by States and businesses to implement the Guiding Principles.
- e. Knowledge of current and new business and human rights issues, including recent Working Group thematic reports.
- f. Experience working successfully with key stakeholder groups including civil society in all its diversity, States, businesses and investors, through consultations, active engagement in

projects or initiatives that require strategic engagement to advance the business and human rights agenda.

g. Experience in addressing business and human rights issues from a practical perspective is desirable. For example, demonstration of work or activities that have led to policy outcomes, participation in legislative processes and working actively in collaborative and multi-stakeholder settings, would be helpful.

2. Independence and impartiality:

a. In order to maintain their independence and impartiality, the selected candidate should not have any formal or informal ties with any State department, agency and organ, or any ongoing affiliation with a business, industry association or organisation. The candidate should also have the ability, institutional autonomy and track record to raise politically sensitive business and human rights issues with any State, business and civil society organisation without fear or favour.

b. The selected candidate is trusted and respected by all stakeholders, and acts in an objective, constructive and gender-responsive manner. This is because being able to build bridges among stakeholders and consult widely is an important part of the mandate.

3. Time commitment:

In order to meet the growing expectations of various stakeholders, the selected candidate should commit to devoting a significant amount of their time (up to 50%) to perform various activities of the Working Group. The selected candidate is expected to participate actively in the Working Group sessions, write thematic and other reports, develop guidance, conduct country visits, organise regional consultations, participate in events and capacity building workshops, review received complaints, organise regional forums, respond to emails, and respond to requests from States, businesses, civil society organizations,