

16 August 2022

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 September.

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 contribution received from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (Annex I).

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. As indicated earlier, special procedures mandate holders have decided that these contributions should be made publicly available as a way to enhance transparency. This letter will therefore be posted on the public website of special procedures. I wish you success in your deliberations.

Sincerely yours,



Tlaleng Mofokeng
Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures

cc: H.E. Mr. Federico Villegas
President of the Human Rights Council

Annex I

CONTRIBUTION FROM THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

The outgoing Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) considers that the following expertise, skills and capacities should be taken into account in the process of selection of her successor:

1. **Capacity to strategically implement the broad mandate of the Special Rapporteur as provided by the UN GA and UN HRC resolutions:** For purposes of accountability, expectations and time management, and given the broad mandate of the position, the Special Rapporteur must have the capacity to consult, decide and implement a coherent strategy on the implementation of the mandate during his/her term, with a clear articulation of priorities and intended outcomes.
2. **Knowledge and expertise:** The mandate requires the consistent implementation of its principal responsibilities to promote the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement in his/her dialogues with States and other stakeholders, and to mainstream the human rights of IDPs into the UN system as essential in his/her efforts to protect the human rights of IDPs. It is highly recommended that the Special Rapporteur have knowledge and expertise on the following:
 - a. Broad expertise on international human rights law and international humanitarian law (at the minimum) and how they directly apply to the human rights of IDPs, including as essential components in public policy and potential legislation for IDPs
 - b. Sufficient understanding of legal and policy developments in migration, climate change, and due diligence and accountability as applied to the human rights of IDPs and the causes of internal displacement
 - c. Knowledge of the broader UN humanitarian and development system to enable his/her effective advocacy in promoting the human rights of IDPs in the UN and through engagement with UN agencies and other stakeholders, and the ability to articulate his/her expertise on issues considered at the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the RC/HC system and in other platforms
 - d. Capacity to analyse the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement with respect to specific human rights as applied to IDPs in country situations
3. **Field experience or exposure to real life experience of IDPs:** The mandate of the Special Rapporteur would benefit enormously from real-life exposure to the lives of IDPs and to on the ground responses to the challenges of internal displacement as experienced by front-line stakeholders. This would ensure understanding of concrete (and not merely theoretical) policy and law application as confronted by States, civil society, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders in specific country situations.
4. **Accessibility in regard to and availability for responsibilities as follows:**

- a. Ability to respond to time-sensitive requests for the issuances of communications on allegations of violations of the human rights of IDPs in specific country situations, and to follow-up as required by the circumstances;
 - b. Time commitment to implement up to two official country visits (maximum 2 weeks per visit) and to facilitate the reports thereon for presentation to the subsequent session UN Human Rights Council;
 - c. Capacity to provide guidance in regard to the production of thematic reports and papers.
 - d. Availability to conduct working or academic visits to specific events, in-country requests for advice on assistance and protection to IDPs, and/or provide interventions where required;
5. **Advocacy and diplomatic skills:** The Special Rapporteur must use his/her advocacy and diplomatic skills in the conduct of dialogues with UN Member States at different levels and engage with many different stakeholders at international, regional, national and local levels; these dialogues and meetings may be public or private. It is highly recommended that the Special Rapporteur be able to craft a communication strategy in regard the use of a variety of public advocacy tools.
6. **Independence and impartiality:** In order to guarantee his/her independence, the Special Rapporteur must not come from a country's diplomatic service nor, while Special Rapporteur, be an executive official of any particular State entity, UN agency or civil society organisation working in the same field or scope of the mandate.