

16 January 2023

Dear Members of the Consultative Group,

On behalf of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, I am writing to you once again 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 March.

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 Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (Annex I) and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (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. 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. Václav Bálek  
President of the Human Rights Council

## **Annex I**

### **CONTRIBUTION FROM THE WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES**

The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances submits this contribution 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”. It is the view of the Working Group that the new member to be appointed among the Latin American States should comply with the following pre-requisites:

1. The selected mandate holder should have proven knowledge and work experience in human rights protection and advocacy in the area of Enforced Disappearances, including at the regional level.
2. The selected mandate holder should have skills working and supporting the relatives and victims of grave human rights violations such as enforced disappearances.
3. Given the current challenges in the Latin American region, experience in search activities for a large number of disappeared persons as well as knowledge of enforced disappearances in the context of migration would be an asset.
4. Experience in relevant sectors (judiciary, legal sector/assistance, non-governmental sector, academia and other related professional areas), notably in dealing with the crime of enforced disappearance, is desirable.
5. Carrying out of the duties of the Working Group entails a significant time commitment. In addition to the three sessions per year; participation in country visits and collaboration in day-to-day communications, it is important that the new member to have sufficient availability to engage with victims, Civil Society Organizations and States within the region and beyond the formal sessions of the Group.
6. The selected candidate should not come from a diplomatic background or have ties with any particular State from the concerned region as a governmental official, in order to ensure her independence and impartiality.
7. The Working Group’s daily working language is English. It is important for the new member to have a working knowledge of English.

## Annex II

### CONTRIBUTION FROM THE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent requests that the following skills, expertise, and attributes are taken into consideration in the process of selecting the member from the Middle East and Asia – Pacific region.

**1. An academic with demonstrable knowledge and expertise in international human rights law.** Recent developments in the United Nations racial justice architecture, especially the establishment of new mechanisms, have reinforced the character of the Working Group as an expert group properly so called. It is expected that the Working Group would continue to contribute highly insightful evidence-based scholarly perspectives to drive the agenda and support the advocacy at the international, regional and national levels. It is therefore essential that the new member has proven scholarly competencies including research and analysis in international human rights law.

**2. Gender balance.** The Working Group reiterates the significance of representation in the execution of its mandate in order to reflect the demographics of its constituency. In view of the current composition of the membership of the Working Group that is majorly female, it is important that the new appointment addresses the gender imbalance.

**3. Strong affiliations to the Middle East and Asia-Pacific region.** The Working Group is desirous of global reach and the regional diversity of its members is essential in this regard. It is particularly seized of several human rights concerns in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific. A member who is based or has strong affiliations to the region would bolster the Working Group's work there.

**4. Lived experience or a track record on the human rights of people of African descent.** This would assure the Working Group's constituency of the authenticity of the Member, and that their concerns can be fully understood and represented and bolster the advocacy of the Working Group.