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The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, international organizations or their offices, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other human rights bodies, and has the honor to inform them that, at its sixth session, the Council, by its decision 6/102 of 27 September 2007, approved technical and objective requirements for eligible candidates for special procedures mandate holders, as stipulated in paragraph 41 of the Annex to Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007.

Attention is drawn to paragraph 42 of the said resolution which indicates that the following entities may nominate candidates as special procedures mandate-holders: (a) Governments, (b) Regional Groups operating within the United Nations human rights system, (c) international organizations or their offices (e.g. the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), (d) non-governmental organizations, (e) other human rights bodies, and (f) individual nominations.

The Secretariat will henceforth give effect to paragraph 43 of the same resolution according to which the *“Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall immediately prepare, maintain and periodically update a public list of eligible candidates in a standardized format, which shall include personal data, areas of expertise and professional experience. Upcoming vacancies shall be publicized”*. The list of vacancies to be filled in June 2008 is attached to this communication.

Furthermore, by its decision 6/102 of 27 September 2007, the Human Rights Council decided that the Secretariat *“may provide a standardized form, on the basis of the technical and objective requirements stipulated below, for candidates to fill in, and shall allow for highlighting any expertise they possess in specific areas, so as to facilitate the selection of relevant candidacies from the roster as soon as appointments for particular mandates are necessary”*. This standardized form is available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/nominations.htm>

Candidatures to special procedures mandates may reach the Secretariat at the following address: hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org or HRC Secretariat, c/o Michelle Erazo, (*Mailing address: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Room PW 4-060, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10; Tel: +41 (0)22 917 97 22; Fax: +41 (0)22 917 90 11*).

In order for the consultative group to be able to review all applications and to provide a list of candidates to the President of the Human Rights Council one month prior to the eighth session of the Human Rights Council (2-13 June 2008), the Secretariat would like to inform all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, international organizations or their offices, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other human rights bodies, that the deadline for the submission of nominations is set at **11 April 2008**.

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council avails itself of this opportunity to present to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, international organizations or their offices, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, and other human rights bodies the assurances of its highest consideration.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line followed by a large, sweeping curve.

Geneva, 18 March 2008