



Téléfax: +41 (0)22 917 90 11
Telephone: +41 (0)22 917 92 23
E-mail: hrcexpertmechanism@ohchr.org
Website: www.ohchr.org



Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Genève 10

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 resolution 6/36 of 14 December 2007, approved the establishment of an Expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples, subsidiary to the Human Rights Council.

As stipulated in Council resolution 6/36, the mechanism shall consist of five independent experts, the selection of which shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established in paragraphs 39 to 53 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007. The independent experts to be appointed should therefore comply with the technical and objective requirements for eligible candidates, approved by the Human Rights Council in its decision 6/102 of 27 September 2007.

Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the resolution 6/36, in the selection and appointment process, the Council will give due regard to experts of indigenous origin.

Hence, as required by paragraph 42 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the following entities may nominate candidates to the expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples: (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.

Furthermore, by its decision 6/102, 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/hrcouncil/ExpertMechanism/nominations.htm>

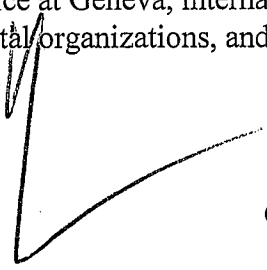
Candidatures to the Expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples may reach the Secretariat at the following address: hrcexpertmechanism@ohchr.org or HRC Secretariat, c/o Orest Nowosad (*Mailing address: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Room PW 4-093, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva; Tel: +41 (0)22 917 92 23; Fax: +41 (0)22 917 90 11*).

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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 will also give effect to paragraph 43 of the Council resolution 5/1 according to which the "*Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall immediately prepare, maintain and periodically update a list of eligible candidates in a standardized format, which shall include personal data, areas of expertise and professional experience (...).*"

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.



Geneva, 26 February 2008