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Excellency,

On behalf of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, I welcome the agreement reached on 18 June 2007 by the Human Rights Council concerning the institution-building process. The resolution contains many interesting elements, and there are several areas where we believe we can make meaningful contributions.

Concerning the selection of mandate holders, I note that the resolution provides that "technical and objective requirements for eligible candidates for mandate-holders will be approved by the Council at its sixth session (first session of the second cycle), in order to ensure that eligible candidates are highly qualified individuals who possess established competence, relevant expertise and extensive professional experience in the field of human rights". In this regard, please see attached for your consideration, some inputs of the members of the Coordination Committee on the technical criteria for placing candidates on the public list.

In addition, we also look forward to submitting input for the consideration of the Consultative Group, once established, and would be interested to be informed as soon as possible about the modalities for submitting such inputs.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gay J. McDougall".

Gay McDougall
Chairperson Coordination Committee of Special
Procedures

H.E. Mr. Doru Romulus Costea
President of the Human Rights Council
6, Chemin de la Perrière
1223 Cologny
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SUGGESTED TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR THE PLACEMENT OF CANDIDATES ON THE PUBLIC LIST

Competencies

- Proven expertise, professionalism and independence. The requisite of independence and impartiality is not compatible with the appointment of individuals currently holding decision-making positions within the executive or legislative branches of their Governments.
- Comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of and exposure to a range of human rights issues, including proven knowledge of and experience in one or more of the subject matters of HRC mandates
- Excellent knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles
- Knowledge of institutional mandates and policies related to the United Nations work in the area of human rights
- Proven analytical and research skills, and excellent drafting ability
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Experience in working in multi-cultural and diverse environments, and demonstrated interpersonal skills

Qualifications

- *Education:* University degree in disciplines related to human rights or a combination of relevant experience and academic qualifications
- *Professional Experience:* at least 10 years of experience in human rights or related fields. Experience in and/or exposure to the subject matters of HRC mandates would be an asset. Professional experience at the international level desirable.
- *Language Skills:* Ability to draft and communicate in one or more of the official working languages of the United Nations (English, French, or Spanish)

Other desirable factors

- Experience functioning in a position requiring independence as a matter of procedure and judgment
- Knowledge of the UN system, its rules and procedures
- Experience with intergovernmental processes
- Exposure to and participation in international events and conferences on human rights
- Flexibility/availability to perform the functions of the mandate

- Publications or other public work in fields related to one or more HRC mandates
- Experience in fact-finding
- Familiarity with different legal systems
- Demonstrated negotiation and persuasion abilities to address highly sensitive issues and defend positions