



BUREAU DU PRÉSIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

2 March 2026

Excellencies,

In my capacity as President of the Human Rights Council, I have the honour to submit for your attention the candidates I propose for the following 15 of 17 mandate holder vacancies that are to be filled at the sixty-first session of the Human Rights Council (listed in alphabetical order):

1. **Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, member from African States** (Human Rights Council resolution 42/23)
2. **Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, member from Asia-Pacific States** (Human Rights Council resolution 42/23)
3. **Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, member from Eastern European States** (Human Rights Council resolution 42/23)
4. **Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, member from Western European and other States** (Human Rights Council resolution 42/23)
5. **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, member from Asia** (Human Rights Council resolution 33/25)
6. **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, member from the Arctic** (Human Rights Council resolution 33/25)
7. **Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons** (Human Rights Council resolution 60/11)
8. **Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**<sup>1</sup> (Human Rights Council resolution 52/10)
9. **Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons** (Human Rights Council resolution 60/25)
10. **Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights** (Human Rights Council resolution 53/10)
11. **Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights** (Human Rights Council resolution 54/15)

To all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva

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<sup>1</sup> The appointment of this mandate holder will be made provided that the mandate itself is extended by the Human Rights Council.



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12. **Special Rapporteur on the right to food** (Human Rights Council resolution 58/10)
13. **Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children<sup>1</sup>** (Human Rights Council resolution 52/26)
14. **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders<sup>1</sup>** (Human Rights Council resolution 52/4)
15. **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar<sup>1</sup>** (Human Rights Council resolution 58/20)

In follow-up to my letter of 26 January 2026, and in accordance with paragraphs 52 and 53 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, upon receipt of the Consultative Group's report, dated 23 January 2026, I have held broad consultations in particular through the regional coordinators and based on the recommendations of the Consultative Group, to ensure the endorsement of my proposed candidates.

After careful consideration of all of the views expressed during my thorough consultations with the regional coordinators, political groups and the Consultative Group, my proposal aims at identifying the most qualified candidates for the vacancies in light of the criteria established by the Human Rights Council, in particular: expertise; experience in the field of the mandate; independence; impartiality; personal integrity; and objectivity. I also paid due consideration to gender balance, geographic representation as well as to an appropriate representation of different legal systems.

Recognizing the selection and appointment process is comprised of checks and balances, my proposal seeks to achieve balance and comprehensiveness.

For the **Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, member from African States**, I propose for appointment **Mr. Serges Alain DJOYOU KAMGA (South Africa)**.

For the **Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, member from Asia-Pacific States**, I propose for appointment **Mr. Xiaohui LIANG (China)**.

For the **Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, member from Eastern European States**, I propose for appointment **Ms. Ramona BIHOLAR (Romania)**.

For the **Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, member from Western European and other States**, I propose for appointment **Mr. Brian KEANE (United States of America)**.

For the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, member from Asia**, I propose for appointment **Mr. Gam Awungshi SHIMRAY (India)**.



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For the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, member from the Arctic**, I propose for appointment **Ms. Dalee SAMBO DOROUGH (United States of America)**.

For the mandate of **Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons**, I propose for appointment **Mr. Zvezdan PIRTOŠEK (Slovenia)**.

For the mandate of **Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context**, I propose for appointment **Mr. Koldo Andoni CASLA SALAZAR (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)**.

For the mandate of **Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons**, I propose for appointment **Ms. Katarina SCHWARZ (New Zealand)**.

For the mandate of **Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights**, while acknowledging the expertise and knowledge of the candidate ranked first by the Consultative Group, I have decided to propose for appointment **Ms. Elena Carolina DIAZ GALAN (Spain)** given her solid academic and scientific background, accompanied by professional experience in the areas of human rights and poverty eradication, as well as her commitment to working with other mandates to avoid overlaps and duplication.

For the mandate of **Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights**, while acknowledging the expertise and knowledge of the candidate ranked first by the Consultative Group, I have decided to propose for appointment, **Ms. Zeina Jallad (State of Palestine)** given her practice-grounded perspective and vision for the implementation of the mandate as well as her pledge to approach the role with independence, transparency and a commitment to listen.

For the mandate of **Special Rapporteur on the right to food**, I propose for appointment **Ms. Sofia MONSALVE SUAREZ (Colombia)**.

For the mandate of **Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children**, I propose for appointment **Ms. Ai KIHARA-HUNT (Japan)**.

For the mandate of **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders**, I propose for appointment **Ms. Andrea BOLAÑOS VARGAS (Colombia)**.

For the mandate of **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar**, while acknowledging the expertise and knowledge of the candidate ranked first by the Consultative Group, I have decided to propose for appointment, **Kevin Chia-Kang CHANG (Australia)** given his expertise and experience in the region as well as his excellent knowledge of the mandate, its challenges and the possible approaches to them.



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I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Consultative Group for their hard work, which has facilitated my efforts to identify an appropriate candidate for each vacancy.

I look forward to receiving the addendum to the Consultative Group's report with recommendations of candidates for the unforeseen vacancies of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia and of member from Asia-Pacific States of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, which I will transmit to you once received.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sidharto R. Suryodipuro', is written over a horizontal line.

Sidharto R. Suryodipuro  
President of the Human Rights Council

Enclosure