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REFERENCE: SPs/6th Meeting

Subject: Elections of five members of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances during the sixth Meeting of States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The Secretary-General of the United Nations (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) presents his compliments to the Permanent Missions of States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and has the honour to refer to the forthcoming meeting of States parties to the Convention.

The sixth Meeting of States parties to the Convention will convene on 14 June 2021, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The prevailing circumstances linked to the pandemic do not allow to confirm yet whether in person meetings will be possible in June 2021. Therefore, the Committee will send further details about the modalities of the meeting (on-site or remotely) as soon as this information is available.

This meeting will mainly focus on the election of five members of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances whose terms are due to expire on 30 June 2021. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of the General Assembly resolution 68/268 on the strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the treaty body system, the meeting may also comprise discussions on the implementation of the Convention.

The Secretary-General, therefore, has the honour to invite all States parties to the Convention to submit nominations for membership to the Committee, in accordance with article 26, paragraph 3, of the Convention. **Nominations and biographical data should be submitted using the attached Word format (Annex I), to the Secretary-General Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at Geneva, Switzerland, by 1 March 2021 at the latest,** at the following email address ced@ohchr.org.

In accordance with article 26 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, members of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties from among their nationals, at a meeting of States parties convened for this purpose. The Committee shall “consist of ten experts of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, who shall serve in their personal capacity and be independent and impartial. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States parties according to equitable geographical distribution. Due account shall be taken of the usefulness of the participation in the work of the Committee of persons having relevant legal experience and of balanced gender representation”. According to paragraph 4 of article 26 of the Convention, the members of the Committee “shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election once”.

The Secretary General would like to draw attention to General Assembly resolution 68/268, adopted on 9 April 2014 entitled “Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system” and its paragraphs 10 and 13 on the nomination and election of treaty body experts:

“10. *Encourages* States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in

the field covered by the relevant treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies;”

“13. *Encourages* States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies.”

The current gender and geographic composition of the membership of the Committee, as well as the list of the five members whose mandates will expire on 30 June 2021, are available in Annex II.

After the deadline for the submission of nominations and in accordance with article 26, paragraph 3, of the Convention, the Secretary-General shall prepare an alphabetical list of all nominated candidates, indicating the States parties which nominated them, and shall submit the list to all States parties, together with appropriate information concerning the sixth Meeting of the States parties.

All relevant information on elections can be found on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights website at the following link: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/Elections2019.aspx>

The Secretary-General of the United Nations (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) avails himself of the opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the assurance of his highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. K. Singh', is positioned above the date.

30 November 2020