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**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

8 November 2017

Excellencies,

I have the honour to transmit for your attention the report of the Consultative Group, dated 8 November 2017, with its recommendations of candidates for consideration for the appointment to the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity [HRC resolution 32/2]. This unforeseen vacancy arose due to the resignation of the current mandate holder. The appointment is expected to be made at the organizational session of the Human Rights Council on 4 December 2017.

I would like to take this opportunity to recall that according to paragraph 52 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1: "on the basis of the recommendations of the Consultative Group and following broad consultations, in particular through the regional coordinators, the President of the Council will identify an appropriate candidate for each vacancy."

In accordance with this paragraph, I will be holding broad consultations, based on the report of the Consultative Group, with a view to identifying an appropriate candidate for the above-mentioned vacancy.

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

Yours sincerely,

Joaquín Alexander MAZA MARTELLI  
President of the Human Rights Council

Enclosure

To all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva