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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

20 November 2017

Excellencies,

In my capacity as President of the Human Rights Council, I have the honour to submit for your attention the candidate for the unforeseen vacancy of the mandate of the **Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity** to be filled at the organizational session for the 12th cycle of the Human Rights Council, to be held on 4 December 2017.

In accordance with paragraphs 52 and 53 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, 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 candidate.

I have decided to follow the first recommendation of the Consultative Group for this vacancy and have therefore decided to propose for appointment:

Mr. Victor MADRIGAL-BORLOZ (Costa Rica).

During my consultations with States and other relevant stakeholders, a general concern was raised in relation to the lack of female candidates that applied for the current vacancy. I would therefore strongly encourage qualified candidates from all regions and backgrounds, and especially women, to apply for forthcoming appointments.

I would like to thank the Consultative Group for its work and dedication, which has facilitated my efforts to identify an appropriate candidate for the vacancy, as well as the seriousness with which it has conducted its task.

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


Joaquín Alexander MAZA MARTELLI
President of the Human Rights Council

To all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Office at Geneva