

15 July 2024

Dear Members of the Consultative Group,

On behalf of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, I am writing to you in connection with the selection of new mandate holders, in particular the selection of several of our future colleagues at the upcoming session of the Human Rights Council in September.

As stressed in my previous letter to you, the high quality and integrity of mandate holders are crucial to ensure the effectiveness and credibility of the system of special procedures. I recently invited the relevant outgoing mandate holders to provide information on the skills they consider essential for the new mandate holders to discharge the mandate. I sought their views in line with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 51, which says that “the Consultative Group should take into account, as appropriate, the views of stakeholders, including the current or outgoing mandate-holders, in determining the necessary expertise, experience, skills, and other relevant requirements for each mandate”.

I am therefore pleased to share with you the contributions received from the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (Annex I).

I trust that you will find these suggestions useful as you undertake the selection process. I am at your disposal to discuss this matter further if you have additional questions or require additional feedback. This letter will also be posted on the public website of special procedures. I wish you success in your deliberations.

Sincerely yours,



Isha Dyfan  
Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures

cc: H.E. Mr. Omar Zniber  
President of the Human Rights Council

## **Annex I**

### **CONTRIBUTION FROM THE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT**

It is the view of the Working Group, that the new member to be appointed among the WEOG should meet with the following prerequisites:

1. The selected mandate holder should have proven knowledge in human rights protection and advocacy and be familiar with the international and regional human rights mechanisms, particularly those relating to the fight against racial discrimination.
2. The selected mandate holder should have a well-developed legal background, preferably with good knowledge of criminal law, constitutional law and/or public international law.
3. The selected mandate holder should have experience working with people of African descent, in relevant sectors (legal/legislative; political, economic, social and/or cultural development), and be familiar with key contemporary issues affecting people of African descent, viz., racial, reparatory, environmental and/or digital justice.
4. The selected mandate holder should preferably be a man, due to the current composition of the Working Group, to bring gender diversity to the Working Group.
5. The selected candidate should not come from a diplomatic background or have ties with any particular State from the concerned region as a governmental official, in order to ensure her independence and impartiality.