

# **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN**

## **SUGGESTED CHECKLIST**

### **INDEPENDENCE, IMPARTIALITY, PERSONAL INTEGRITY AND OBJECTIVITY**

- ☐ Demonstrated expertise;
- ☐ Demonstrated experience in the field of the mandate including comparable human rights situations to that of Afghanistan;
- ☐ Demonstrated real and perceived independence, including how to avoid and approach situations that may lead to a real or perceived conflict of interest;
- ☐ Demonstrated impartiality;
- ☐ Be of high personal integrity; and
- ☐ Demonstrated objectivity.

### **QUALIFICATIONS (AND SKILLS): RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND EQUIVALENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

- ☐ Demonstrated experience addressing issues relevant to the human rights situation in Afghanistan.
- ☐ A university degree, or equivalent in experience, in a discipline directly related to the mandate, preferably with a focus on international human rights law, would be highly desirable;
- ☐ Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.
- ☐ Extensive experience in communicating and/or working together with relevant stakeholders, including senior government officials, the diplomatic corps, intergovernmental organisations, civil society, human rights defenders and victims of human rights violations, businesses, media and other non-state actors;
- ☐ Extensive experience in public speaking.

### **RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE: KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS, NORMS, STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES; AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE OF INSTITUTIONAL MANDATES RELATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS' WORK IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS; PROVEN WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

- ☐ Extensive knowledge of international human rights and humanitarian law and standards.
- ☐ Several years of progressively responsible work experience in the field of human rights, including in human rights research, monitoring, reporting, investigating and advocacy including with an intersectional lens;
- ☐ Excellent knowledge of the international and regional legal frameworks, including Afghanistan's compliance with its international obligations, including case law relevant to the promotion and protection of the rights of human rights defenders, rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, torture and other ill-treatment, extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and enforced or involuntary disappearances, including through a gender perspective, as well as women's rights including protection from gender-based violence, denial of access to education, work, and other forms of gender-based discrimination.
- ☐ Excellent knowledge of institutional mandates of the United Nations and/or other international or regional human rights bodies.

**ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE: NATIONALLY, REGIONALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED  
COMPETENCE RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS**

- A demonstrated commitment to human rights law and standards;
- Recognized knowledge and experience of human rights-based academic and field research and/or fact-finding methodology, including carrying out fact-finding visits;
- Experience in applying international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- Experience at national, regional and/or international level in developing legislation, policies to advance human rights protection including through an intersectional lens.
- Extensive experience with and proven commitment to working and/or interacting with civil society, women's groups and individuals whose human rights may be at risk of, or who have experienced, discrimination, harassment, violence or other human rights violations;
- Proven awareness of the particular risks faced by and particular protection needs of specific groups including but not limited to women and girls, human rights defenders, religious minorities.
- Experience in interacting with type of actors impacting the human rights situation in Afghanistan, such as: political groups; women groups, civil society, governments; armed groups; companies, international or regional financial institutions or development finance institutions; and religious groups and institutions and inter-governmental organizations.
- Experience in the development and delivery of assistance and capacity building in human rights and the rule of law.
- Knowledge and sensitivity to the issue of reprisals or intimidation experienced by persons who interact with the mandate in any way.

**FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME TO PERFORM EFFECTIVELY THE FUNCTIONS OF THE  
MANDATE AND TO RESPOND TO ITS REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING ATTENDING HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
SESSIONS**

- Willingness and ability to conduct in-country investigations, to Afghanistan and the sub-region, into laws, policies, and practices affecting human rights defenders and their work;
- Preparedness, willingness and ability to devote a substantial proportion of working hours to fulfilling the mandate, which includes undertaking two to three country missions per year, preparing and presenting reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly (such as the annual report, and country mission and follow-up reports), attending seminars and other UN meetings and acting on individual cases of human rights violations committed against human rights defenders;
- Willingness and ability to act urgently on cases or situations requiring immediate attention;
- A demonstrated commitment to human rights in general, and a commitment to uphold the integrity, objectivity, discretion, independence and impartiality of the Special Rapporteur's mandate and the Special Procedures system as a whole.