

**Statement by Mr. Marghoob Saleem Butt, First Secretary,
on behalf of the OIC on the Non-Paper presented by the
Facilitator on Technical and Objective requirements for eligible
candidates for mandate holders- 11 September 2007**

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the OIC.

The OIC appreciates your efforts in realizing this important task through wide consultations on the subject. We also recognize the fact that you were able to manage this extra burden despite your heavily committed agenda being the President of the Council.

The OIC has already forwarded his views on the subject to Your Excellency and would like to reiterate them here that our preference is for the general criteria already defined in the June document, which is sufficiently broad and pertinent to have appropriate nominations.

OIC also considers experience in the related field, moral and political integrity as important elements, however, there should be no further prescriptive element that restricts nominations from developing countries.

We however, welcome your non-paper and have following specific comments to make:

- The title should be changed from requirements to general guidelines.
 - Our first impression is that it is too detailed and too prescriptive.
 - It will restrict the categories of professions amongst which one could select mandate holders. In its present form it is tilted in favour of academics and researchers. It tends to exclude public personalities, opinion leaders and human rights advocates.
 - The details of qualifications given in the non-paper are more suited for a P-4/P-5 appointment in the OHCHR rather than for a special procedure.
 - In order to elaborate further, I would like to recall that in many of the developing countries, some of the best human rights defenders or activists did not have any formal human right education or training. They developed their credentials overtime through interaction at grass root level.
 - Again Mr. President, language requirement should not be a barrier or norm setting exercise. The United Nations at present recognize a selective number of languages.
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- To elaborate on this point, I would like to give example of one of the most reckoned human rights icon in Pakistan namely Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi who does not have knowledge of any of the recognized UN languages.
 - Again the reference to experience with UN and other multilateral organization is selective. Someone may have rich experience in defending human rights but may not have UN experience. Competent candidates can always be given an orientation course about UN systems.
 - // - Elements suggested in point No.3.4 makes it difficult to be a uniform criterion. It leads to a prescreening process and it is not clear who would judge these credentials. As the OHCHR only has to prepare a public list the responsibility would lay on the shoulder of consultative group or ultimately at the Council itself.
 - On the point of ten years work experience we would suggest to change it with significant experience.
 - * - The requirement of readiness to perform the functions and to respond to its requirements is an important element, however, it does not come under the general headings of experience. It should be spelled separately.
 - Similarly, requirement of publications, contributions at international events and participation in fact finding missions etc., are favourable to candidates from a selected region hence discriminatory.
- *Particular req could also be merged into relevant experience.*
- We would, therefore, urge you Mr. President, to seriously consider revising the requirements listed in your paper in a general format that is neither descriptive nor selective.

I thank you Mr. President

Also the points on Gender balance, legal and cultural system

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