



## Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

### **Statement on behalf of OIC, delivered by Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, Geneva, during the Second round of Open consultations on HRC's Decision 43/117 "Methods of work of the Consultative Group of the Human Rights Council"**

**25 November 2020**

I have the honor to make this statement on behalf of the OIC Member States.

We thank you, Madam President, for convening the second round of consultations to consider the draft methods of work of the Consultative Group.

The text before us represents a good basis for further discussions even though some of the proposals made by the OIC Group have not been adequately reflected in the text. The OIC therefore wishes to make the following observations and proposals:

First, the final product on the methods of work should fully conform to the Institution Building (IB) Package and the provisions of HRC decision 43/117.

Second, the OIC countries attach high importance to meaningfully operationalize the principles of geographic and gender representation as well as representation of diverse legal systems. The OIC reiterates that general criteria and considerations, prescribed by the IB Package for appointment of UN Special Procedures, should be applied both at the stage of initial screening of applicants and when the Consultative Group reviews and recommends the appointments to the Council.

Accordingly, the OIC has shared textual proposals with the Presidency relating to paragraphs 16, 18, 21, 23, 42 and 43.

Let me briefly share the main elements of the OIC suggestions:

- The OHCHR should ensure wider dissemination of information on vacant positions while calling for applications. In this context, greater and targeted information flow between OHCHR, member states as well as political and regional organizations is essential.
- The short-listing of applicants should be in full accord with the general criteria enshrined in paragraphs 39 and 40 of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1. This requires fair application of due consideration to gender balance, equitable geographic representation, and adequate representation of different legal systems.
- The issue of dual nationality needs careful determination both at the screening level as well as by the Consultative Group. This issue has direct relevance to the operationalization and application of the question of geographic representation. Applicability of the current address and nationality of the applicant is a critical in deciding on the nationality of the applicant.
- Availability of disaggregated data on how the criteria and considerations of geographic representation, gender balance and representation of different legal systems have been applied since the establishment of the Council in terms of the appointments of the Special Procedures. This



## **Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN** **Geneva**

data would serve as a good indicator how adequately the general criteria and considerations have been operationalized in the past. It would also help in ensuring fair representation on account of all the considerations, in the future.

I thank you, Madam President.