

Statement on behalf of the Asian Group at the 6th Session of the Human Rights Council on 18.09.2007 by Mr. O. L. Ameerajwad, Counsellor on the Facilitator's Non-paper on Technical requirements for eligible candidates for the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asian Group

Let me express, first of all, our sincere gratitude to the Facilitator, Ambassador Alicia Martin for her revised Non-paper with regard to the guidelines on Technical and objective requirements for eligible candidates for the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. The Group highly appreciates the transparent, flexible and inclusive manner in which the Facilitator conducted her consultations.

The Asian Group had already forwarded its detailed comments on her previous revised Non-paper and wishes to reiterate the following proposals: *important concerns of the Group.*

As to the title, the Group had proposed to add the words 'Guidelines on' before the Technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidates and that should read as follows:

Guidelines on Technical and objective requirements for eligible candidates

The Group wishes to reiterate that the Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 containing the institution- building package has provided sufficient basic principles related to the nomination of candidates to the Advisory Committee. Technical and objective requirements for the submission of candidatures to the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council outlined in the Facilitator's paper would be ~~only~~ ^{used} for the purpose of the member States to consider ^{them} as guidelines, when submitting their candidatures to the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council.

As to the first part of para 2 under Mandate, the Group wishes to emphasize that the language used in the HRC Resolution 5/1 on institution building should be reproduced here rather than reopening already agreed language. The Group is of the view that we should not engage in an exercise of renegotiating the already agreed language contained in the institution building package. The Group can go along with the language in the second part of para 2 which starts from "and apply the following guidelines on technical and objective requirements for the submission of their candidates

Under section 1: competence and experience, the Asian Group wishes to slightly modify the language in the following bullet points:

Bullet point 1: Academic studies in the field of Human Rights or related areas **and/or** experience and exposure to leadership roles in the Human Rights field at the national, regional, or international level. The rest of the language starting from 'will be recognized as equivalent or of similar level as academic experience' should be deleted, since it is a repetition

Bullet point 2: The language "substantial experience of at least five years" should be replaced by the following language: "**At least five years of experience**". The Group is of the view that "substantial experience" which is subjective and that cannot be determined by the Secretariat.

Bullet point 3: on the last line the words "considered as " should be deleted and that should read as "**will be desirable**"

Under the section other considerations, on the second para, the Group wishes to reiterate that language used in the HRC Resolution 5/1 on institution building should be reproduced here, if necessary. I quote the language from the Resolution 5/1:

"Due consideration should be given to gender balance and to an appropriate representation of different civilizations and legal systems" end of quote.

The Group wishes to point out that the the decision on equitable geographic distribution for the Advisory Committee has already been taken by the Council and the geographic distribution has already been stipulated in the HRC Resolution 5/1.

Finally, The Asian Group would like to assure of its fullest cooperation to the Facilitator and you, Mr. President, in achieving a consensual outcome on this subject.

I thank you