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The Secretariat of the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to invite the Member States to nominate specialized experts in mediation and good offices to assist the Department of Political Affairs.

Pursuant to the 2005 World Summit decision (A/RES/60/1) by Member States to support a strengthened good offices capacity, including in the mediation of disputes, the Department of Political Affairs has established a small Mediation Support capacity designed to enhance the quality of support and expertise available to United Nations and UN-supported mediation endeavours. One vital element of enhanced support to mediators will be the ability to quickly deploy experts to work with mediation teams. The need to call upon specialized experts has arisen in many good offices and mediation settings in the past. Whereas the United Nations has a standby facility of this type in the humanitarian field, there is no similar arrangement for political endeavours.

The specialized experts would be part of a Standby Team which would be composed of senior officers with experience in specialized negotiation techniques. The experts would be available full-time, for deployment on short notice, in support of ongoing good offices and mediation work. In this regard, the Department of Political Affairs is seeking the nomination of candidates who can provide the required assistance for an initial period of six months to one year. Experts nominated by Member States will be considered for inclusion in the Standby Team.

The Standby Team will be composed of five senior officers that would be available full-time in support of ongoing good offices and mediation work. The five officers would provide expertise in the following five areas: (1) constitution-making in the context of Comprehensive Peace Agreements; (2) wealth-sharing/economic arrangements; (3) power-sharing arrangements; (4) security arrangements; and (5) transitional justice and human rights issues. A sixth official would serve as a team leader.



Given their experience in managing standby facilities, the team of experts will be administered by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). In between deployments, the experts would carry out specific actions in the field of mediation, as defined by the Department of Political Affairs. The experts are to come from a geographically diverse pool, in order to ensure the needed geographical distribution, and the United Nations will retain control over all substantive aspects of the work.

Applications should be submitted to the Mediation Support Unit, Department of Political Affairs, room S-3755E by 15 August 2007.

This request is being transmitted to all Member States.

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation to the Permanent Missions accredited to the United Nations for their cooperation in this endeavour.

15 June 2007

S. B.