The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations and has the honour to inform that the Office is seeking nominations from Member States to assist the Secretary-General in establishing a group of experts pursuant to Security Council resolution 1977 (2011).

Resolution 1977 (2011) “requests the Secretary-General to establish, in consultation with the 1540 Committee, a group of up to eight experts (“group of experts”), acting under the direction and purview of the Committee, composed of individuals with the appropriate experience and knowledge to provide the Committee with expertise, to assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate under resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006), 1810 (2008) and this resolution, including through facilitation of assistance to improve implementation of resolution 1540 (2004)”.

In the process of establishing the group of experts under this resolution, due regard will be paid to ensuring the highest standards of professionalism, competence and integrity, as well as equitable geographical distribution and gender equality. The areas of specific professional experience, expertise, knowledge and skills required for candidates are outlined in the attached Annex. They will provide the main indicators/criteria to be applied in evaluating the candidates. Member States’ attention is brought to the requirement to maintain gender balance when nominating experts. In order to ensure the desired standards in the composition of the group of experts and to promote as broad a pool of expertise for consideration, Member States are encouraged to nominate more than one candidate, taking into account the expertise and skills as outlined in the attached Annex I.

The individuals selected for the group of experts are expected to serve for two years with a possible extension of up to maximum five years of cumulative service. In accordance with relevant UN rules and regulations, each selected individual will be offered a UN consultancy contract which will outline specific contractual obligations of both the Organization and the expert, including consultancy fees and other remuneration.

Member States are invited to forward their nominations to the Office for Disarmament Affairs by 20 February 2012. A nomination should include a curriculum vitae (CV) for each candidate and his/her current point-of-contact. For further information, please contact Mr. Nikita Smidovich (smidovich@un.org).

For ease of reference, attached is the “1540 Report to the Security Council on Recommendations for the 1540 Committee and Group of Experts’ Structure, Methods and Modalities, Expertise and Representation” (S/2011/819).

19 January 2012

T. C. H.

Annexes enclosed