How to start the application process:

The application process consists of two parts: the first part is a web-based survey and the second part is an application form in Word format. Both parts and all sections of the application form need to be completed for the application to be processed.

**First part:** The [web-based survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WebApplication_SMH_HRC27_Sept2014) is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate/s applying for and nominating entity. **The web-based survey should only be completed once**, i.e. multiple selection is allowed to indicate if the candidate is applying for more than one mandates.

**Second part:** The application form in Word which can be downloaded, completed and saved in Word format and then submitted as an attachment by email. Information provided in this form includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words. The application form should be completed in English only. It will be used as received to prepare the public list of candidates who applied for each vacancy and will be made available to concerned parties, including through the OHCHR public website.

Once completed, the application form in Word should be submitted by email to [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)

If the candidate is applying for more than one mandate, a mandate-specific application form needs to be completed and sent for each mandate.

* A maximum of three reference letters can be attached, in pdf format, to the application sent by email. No additional document is required.
* **Application deadline: Monday, 28 July 2014 (midnight, GMT).**
* Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.

General description of the selection process is available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx>

Please note that for the Working Group appointments, only nationals of States belonging to the specific regional groups are eligible. Please refer to the list of United Nations regional groups of Member States at <http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml>

In case of technical difficulties, or if you encountering problems completing or accessing any of the forms, the Secretariat may be contacted by email at [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) or fax at + 41 22 917 9011.

**An acknowledgment email will be sent when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the information through the web-based survey and the Word application form by email.  
Thank you for your interest in the work of the Human Rights Council.**

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Family name: Sancin | 5. Sex:  Male  Female |
| 2. First name: Vasilka | 6. Date of birth (dd-mm-yy): 22-Mar-79 |
| 3. Maiden name (if any): / | 7. Place of birth: Ljubljana |
| 4. Middle name: / | 8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Slovene |
|  | 9. Any other nationality: / |

**II. MANDATE - SPECIFIC COMPETENCE / QUALIFICATIONS / KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence / qualifications / knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

1. **QUALIFICATIONS** (200 words)

Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communication skills (i.e. orally and in writing) in one of the six official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.)

The candidate holds a PhD in Public International Law and teaches international law, including human rights law and environmental law at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana for eleven years, where she now acts as a Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations. She has previously worked at the Department of International Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and since then provides expert consultancy to the Ministry. She regularly publishes works and holds lectures in English at conferences, seminars, universities etc. and acts as a Conference Chair of the two international scientific conferences being organized bi-annually at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana in the fields of human rights (Responsibility to Protect in Theory and Practice Conferences – www.R2Pconference.com) and environment (Contemporary Challenges of International Environmental Law Conferences-www.environmentlawconference.com). Since 2005 she coaches teams of students participating at international moot court competitions and Model United Nations conferences involving human rights issues. In 2011 she received a special award by the Senate of the University of Ljubljana for outstanding teaching and research achievements. She regularly appears in Slovene media as an expert on international law and human rights.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words)

Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. (Please state how this was acquired.)

Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the United Nations or other international or regional organizations’ work in the area of human rights. (Please state how this was acquired.)

Proven work experience in the field of human rights. (Please state years of experience.)

As a professor of international law and human rights the candidate has an in-depth knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles. In 2005 she was appointed a member of the Slovene National Inter-ministerial Commission for Human Rights, responsible also for drafting periodic reports for UN and regional human rights mechanisms and addressing other human rights issues in Slovenia. From 2005-2010 she acted as a representative of the United Nations Association of Slovenia (where she held a position of the Vice-President between 2005-2008) in the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO and was after the reform of the commission that reduced the number of members and NGOs represented, in 2010 appointed to the UNESCO commission in individual capacity. She regularly organizes and/or lectures at conferences, seminars, summer schools etc. on human rights issues and publishes works on the topic at home and abroad. Many of the extra-curricular activities at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana where she is full time employed since 2003, focus on human rights aspects (including for example moot court competitions, legal clinic and Model United Nations conferences) and she regularly cooperates with NGOs in the area and Human rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE**  (200 words)

Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired.)

The candidate is a well-known professor of international law and human rights in Slovenia and the region. Due to her guest lectures at foreign universities (in Europe, South Africa, Japan), her regular appearances as a speaker at international conferences, membership in professional associations (e.g. International Law Association), organization of international conferences and seminars, publication of works in the field of human rights, she has become known also to wider public. She acts as supervisor of doctoral students and as an examiner of doctoral theses, many of candidates coming from foreign universities. As an expert on the normative concept of Responsibility to Protect, concerned with most egregious violations of human rights, she was, among others, invited as a speaker to address the European parliament and actively participates in different fora engaged with human rights issues, including her recent (November 2013) co-organization (with the University of Lisbon) of an international scientific workshop entitled Access to Safe Drinking Water and the Need for Enhanced International Cooperation and presentation at the CONFERÊNCIA INAUGURAL DO CURSO PÓS-GRADUADO DE APERFEIÇOAMENTO EM DIREITO DA ÁGUA, entitled The right to water in the United Nations Agenda for global sustainable development post 2015 (University of Lisbon, March 2014).

1. **flexibility/readiness and AVAILABILITY of time** (200 words)

to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on special procedures visits, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. (Indicate whether candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approx. three months per year to the work of a mandate.)

The candidate, being employed at the University, has a privilege of organizing her time in a manner allowing for engagement in various projects requiring occasional absence from her regular work place and thus can dedicate an estimated total of approx. three months per year, or more, if needed, to work on a mandate. If need arises, the candidate could also take a sabbatical to focus entirely on the work of the mandate, should that be required. The candidate has flexibility to travel and participate in Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York or to meet relevant stakeholders, as necessary. Additionally, working in an academic environment, she has a possibility of acquiring assistance from other researchers and also engage younger researchers to assist her with the work on the mandate, if need be.

**III. Motivation Letter (600 word limit)**

|  |
| --- |
| The UN has on many occasions recognized indivisibility and interrelatedness of peace and security, development and human rights. On the planet where there is no life without water, none of the aforementioned can be achieved without access to safe drinking water and sanitation, in times of peace and armed conflicts. Working on access to safe drinking water and sanitation, thus, imperatively requires a good understanding of all three mentioned UN goals. In order to promote coherence in, and coordination of, UN system action aimed at the implementation of the agenda defined by the Millennium Declaration and the World Summit on Sustainable Development as it relates to water issues, the UN in 2003 created the UN-Water. The establishment by the Human Rights Council in 2008 of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, following its recognition by the UN General Assembly, however, in my personal conviction, marked a turning point in global endeavours to ensure that drinking water and sanitation are available, accessible, safe, acceptable and affordable for all without discrimination. Taking into account that billions of people still do not enjoy this fundamental right, the mandate justifiably calls for attention to gender-specific vulnerabilities and needs of those most disadvantaged and marginalized, which necessarily implies an explicit focus on participation, empowerment, accountability and transparency. Being born on 22 March, declared a World Water Day in 1993, seems to have predetermined my professional passion for dealing with water issues since the beginning of my professional career. Starting with environmental aspects in my doctoral dissertation and at my first job at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I later focused also on human rights and international humanitarian law aspects and have been now for over a decade working on these interrelated issues at the law faculty in close cooperation with the Government, the private sector, local authorities, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and academic institutions. As an international law professor I seek to meaningfully contribute to further clarification of the content of human rights obligations, while my personal challenge has always been to search for practical solutions with regard to implementation of internationally recognized rights and standards, taking into account the different country circumstances, through identification of divergent approaches and exchanging the views on best practices with relevant stakeholders. I strongly believe that concrete meaningful proposals for the betterment of existing situation can only result from comprehensive, transparent and inclusive consultations, which is in my view a crucial task of the special rapporteur, requiring not only formal qualifications but also the strongest personal commitment and ability to work tirelessly towards this end. I am firmly convinced that the special rapporteur’s mandate has an immense potential to change lives of billions around the globe and I fully recognize responsibilities coming with it. While I admire the energy and contribution of individuals who have already contributed to the achievement of UN goals in a plethora of its organs, bodies and various mechanisms, and would definitely look to their examples as models, I also believe there are many other qualified individuals with a potential to importantly contribute to the success of the mandate such as this one. This is why I am applying for this position and would be immensely honoured if given an opportunity to continue Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque’s remarkable work. |

**IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)**

**Please indicate all language skills:**

**Mother tongue:** **Slovene**

**Arabic:** Yes or no: **YES If yes,**

**Read:** Easily orNot easily: Not easily  
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Not easily  
Speak:** Easily or Not easily: **Not easily**

**Chinese:** Yes or no: **NO If yes,**

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**English:** Yes or no: **YES If yes,**

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Easily**

**French:** Yes or no: **YESIf yes,**

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily**

**Russian:** Yes or no: **YESIf yes,**

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily**

**Spanish:** Yes or no: **YESIf yes,**

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily**

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher).**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of degree and name of academic institution: | Years of attendance  (From/To): | Place and country: |
| PhD in Public International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana | 2004-2007 | Ljubljana, Slovenia |
| International Law Seminar, Office of the United Nations at Geneva | 2007 | Geneva, Switzerland |
| LL.B., “magna cum laude”, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana | 1998-2002 | Ljubljana, Slovenia |
|  |  |  |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held, beginning with the most recent one.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of employer,  functional title,  main functions of position: | Years of work (From/To): | Place and country: |
| University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law,  Current position: Director of the Institute for International Law and International Relations  • lectures on Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Diplomatic and Consular Law, Law of the Sea, International Organizations, International Law and the EU, EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Slovene and English language (separate courses for foreign students)  • supervises diploma, master and doctoral theses (a list can be found at: http://izumbib.izum.si/bibliografije/Y20140426114740-24286.html)  • 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition Washington D.C., USA, Coach of Ljubljana University School of Law Team  • 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 Regional IHL Moot Court Competition, Coach of Ljubljana University School of Law Team  • 2014 World Human Rights Moot Court Competition, Geneva, Switzerland, December 2014, Coach of Ljubljana University School of Law Team  • Conference Chair of biannual international scientific conferences organized at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana (Responsibility to Protect in Theory and Practice Conferences – www.R2Pconference.com and Contemporary Challenges of International Environmental Law Conferences - www.environmentlawconference.com)  • Co-founder and co-mentor of the Environmental Legal Clinic at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana (2012 - ) | 11 years (2003-) | Ljubljana, Slovenia |
| Institute for Comparative Law, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law  Research Associate,  • Research project: Analysis of requirements for understanding the international law of armed conflicts and international humanitarian law and elaboration of a manual for Slovenian armed forces  Sponsor: Ministry of Defence  • Research project: Programme P5-0337(A), Legal challenges of the information society | 8,5 years  (2006-) | Ljubljana, Slovenia |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia  International Law Department, junior officer | 1 year  2002-2003 | Ljubljana, Slovenia |
|  |  |  |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)**

1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause him/her to limit the extent of their inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.

|  |
| --- |
| / |

2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging his/her mandate? If yes, please explain:

/

3. Is there any reason, currently or in that past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which she/he discharges his mandate? If yes, please explain:

/

4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1?

*Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected.*

*Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate-holders will act in their personal capacity.*

yes

5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, he/she will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures the candidate will take.

The candidate would relinquish all positions, occupations or activities that could be considered as conflicting with the mandate.

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