**How to apply:**

The entire application process consists of two parts: **1. online survey** and **2. application form in Word format**. Both parts and all sections of the application form need to be completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.

**First part:** **Online survey** (<http://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/898354?lang=en>) is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and, if appropriate, nominating entity.

**Second part:** **Application form in Word** can be downloaded from [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC36.aspx](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC36.aspx) by clicking on the mandate. It should be fully completed and saved in Word format and then submitted as an attachment by e-mail. 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 also be posted as received on the OHCHR public website.

Once fully completed (including Section VII), the application form in Word should be submitted to [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) (by e-mail). A maximum of up to three reference letters (optional) can be attached in Word or pdf format to the e-mail prior to the expiration of the deadline. No additional documents, such as CVs, resumes, or supplementary reference letters beyond the first three received will be accepted.

**Please note that for Working Group appointments, only citizens of States belonging to the specific regional group are eligible. Please refer to the list of United Nations regional groups of Member States at** [**http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml**](http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml)

* **Application deadline: 1 June 2017 (12 noon GREENWICH MEAN TIME / gMT)**
* **No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.**
* **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](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx)

In case of technical difficulties, or if encountering problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by e-mail at [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) or fax at + 41 22 917 9008.

**You will receive an acknowledgment e-mail when both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form, have been received by e-mail.**

**Thank you for your interest in the work of the Human Rights Council.**

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family name:** Kaneza | **6. Year of birth:** 1987 |
| **2. First name:** Elisabeth | **7. Place of birth:** Kigali |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):** none | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** German |
| **4. Middle name:** none | **9. Any other nationality:** none |
| **5. Sex:** Female |  |

**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.)**

I obtained my educational qualification in the field of human rights as followed: In 2010 I graduated at Maastricht University (NL) with a Bachelor's degree in European Studies, specialising in International Relations, European and International law. In 2013 I received my Master's degree in Intercultural Conflict Management from the Alice-Salomon University of Applied Sciences in Berlin (Germany). The programme equipped me with a profound knowledge of international human rights.

Since 2016 I am a Doctorate Candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Potsdam. My research focuses on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and its impact on the legal status of people of African descent in Germany. My research is supported by the German Economy Foundation.

My communications skills are good in English, orally and in writing. Furthermore, I have good communications skills in French, orally and in writing. I have basic Spanish skills. Throughout my academic and professional career I demonstrated these skills in different international settings.

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 researcher I focus on human rights instruments, norms and principles laid down in the human rights treaties as well as the concrete mandates of the human rights monitoring mechanisms of the United Nations.

I acquired further knowledge of institutional mandates as an Awardee of the United Nations Office of Human Rights’ Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent in 2015. In addition to my scientific knowledge, I was able to gain practical experience with institutional mandates by closely following the work of treaty-based and charter-based human rights bodies. In particular, I gained a detailed insight into the mandate of the independent experts of CERD as well as the WGEPAD.

I am currently based at the University of Potsdam as Doctorate researcher (1 Year) and serve as President for the Kaneza Foundation for Dialogue and Empowerment (4 Years). Earlier positions include: Youth Volunteer (4 years), Trainer in integration programme (3 years), Officer at the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda in Berlin (5 years), Research Associate and Political Advisor at the German Parliament (8 Months), Project Coordinator in the joint project between the AU and the German Ministry for Development Cooperation (9 Months) and Coordinator of the OHCHR's Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent (1 Month).

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

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

In my capacity as human rights advocate I advise political stakeholders, state authorities, civil society organisations on anti-racism and the situation of people of African descent in Germany and Europe. Thanks to my civic engagement and scientific reseach I was able to make a regionalwide contribution for the visibilty of the human rights issues of people of African descent.

Following the proclaimation of the International Decade for People of African Descent I engaged at the forefront to mobilise action for the recognition of this decade in Germany. After successful advocacy the Federal Government recognised the decade as first European state on 7 June 2016. For this end I have initiated cooperation with the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, the Parliament and the German Institute for Human Rights.

On the regional and international level I have organised joint activities with the European Network for People of African Descent and also participated in regional conferences at UNESCO and the OHCHR in Geneva.

In recognition of my work for human rights I was selected by the OHCHR as Fellow for the Programme for People of African Descent in 2015. In the following year I qualified to support the 2016 Fellowship Programme as Coordinator.

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please listsignificant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that you have written or public statements, or pronouncements that you have made or events that you may have participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:**

Das Recht auf Bildung im deutschen Schulsystem: Was zum Abbau von Diskriminierung notwending ist (The Right to Education in the Germany school system: What is needed to eliminate discrimination);p.68

**Journal/Publisher:**  German Institute for Human Rights

**Date of publication:** 09/2016

**Web link, if available:** http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/publikationen/show/analyse-das-menschenrecht-auf-bildung-im-deutschen-schulsystem/

**2. Title of publication:** Rassistische Diskriminierung nicht hinnehmen - UN Dekade nutzen (Not accepting racial discrimination - Utilising the UN Decade)

**Journal/Publisher:** LoNam Magazine

**Date of publication:** 01/2016

**Web link, if available:** none

**3. Title of publication:** International Decade for People of African Descent

**Journal/Publisher:** Africa Positive

**Date of publication:** 05/2016

**Web link, if available:** none

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words):In addition to the above mentioned publications, I have contributed to the German Institute for Human Right's report "Implementation of Selected OSCE Commitments on Human Rights and Democracy in Germany - Independent Evaluation Report on the Occasion of the German OSCE Chairmanship 2016". Web Link: http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/cae/servlet/contentblob/745934/publicationFile/220595/161012\_DIMR\_SummEN.pdf

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that you may have participated in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:**

1. **Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent in Germany at the Federal Ministry for Women, Senior Citizens and Youth

**Event organizer:** Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency and High Council of the African Community in Germany

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 7 June 2016

**Web link, if available:** https://www.antidiskriminierungsstelle.de/SharedDocs/Aktuelles/DE/2016/20160607\_UN\_Dekade.html

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Interview with Deutsche Welle on the WGEPAD fact finding mission in Germany

**Event organizer:** Deutsche Welle

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 27 February 2017

**Web link, if available:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHWPBRCwPFA

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Joining hands to end racial discrimination: CERD consultation with Civil Society

**Event organizer:** Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 23 November 2016

**Web link, if available:** http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/ConsultationwithCivilSocietyNov2016.aspx

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words):In addition to the above, I spoke on different occasions. Noteworthy for the mandate are the following: I gave briefing on the International Decade for People of African Descent to the Social Democrat Parliamentary Group on 5 July 2016 and moderated an expert panel organized by the City of Schwäbisch Gmünd on the International Day of Human Rights on 21 March 2017. Moreover, I planed and implemented a capacity-building workshop for civil society for the preparation of a National Action Plan for the International Decade for People of African Descent, from 17 - 18 December 2016. From 20 - 27 February 2017 I coordinated the participation of civil society in the fact-finding mission of the United Nations Working Group for People of African Descent in Germany. On these occasions I made public statements on the human rights situation of people of African descent.

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 (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on special procedures visits, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approximately three months per year to the work of a mandate.**

**Please note that the work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders serve in their personal capacities. They are not United Nations staff members, they are not based in United Nations offices in Geneva or at another United Nations location, and they do not receive salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

I am flexible and ready to be availabe for the required time of three months per year in order to perform the functions of the mandate successfully. I confirm my readiness to fulfil the requirements of the mandate. Finally, I acknowledge receipt of the information that this position is unpaid.

**III. Motivation Letter** (600 word limit, must be included below and not in a separate e-mail or as an attachment)

Dear Chair,

Dear Members of the Consultative Group of the Human Rights Council,

It is my honour to herby apply as mandate holder for the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (WGEPAD).

Improving the human rights situation of people of African descent has been the focus of my work for the past 15 years. I serve as the President of the Kaneza Foundation for Dialogue and Empowerment, a civil society organisation with the mandate to promote the rights of people of African descent. Furthermore, I research the legal status of people of African descent in Europe as part of my doctorate in law at the University of Potsdam.

I first encountered the institutional mandates of the UN during my academic career. Already then I developed a strong interest in working within the international human rights system. In 2015 the OHCHR selected me as Fellow for the Programme for People of African Descent. One year later I initiated the launch of the International Decade for People of African Descent in Germany and worked in Geneva as coordinator for the 2016 OHCHR Fellowship Programme. These positions provided me with a deep insight into the activities of the WGEPAD. When the WGEPAD conducted a country visit to Germany in February 2017, I cooperated with the independent experts and the Secretariat in my function as the coordinator for civil society participation. This experience sparked in me a great desire to support the mandate of the working group.

As a mandate holder I would like to engage Member States and civil society for more concerted efforts for the improvement of the situation of people of African descent. My longstanding work with communities and civil society has shown that especially young people suffer from racial discrimination and poverty in Western countries. It is apparent that girls and young women of African descent experience multiple discrimination. Therefore, as a female candidate, my wish is to make a contribution to the working group so that its mandate benefits present and future generations of women and youths in accordance with the 2030 Agenda.

Given the current global migration challenges, the WGEPAD will have to address the human rights concerns of African refugees. The example of Germany, a country that now hosts more than one million refugees, provides good practices of how these challenges can be met. Here, I can access the experience I gained as an advisor in the German Parliament, working on integration measures for refugees and also developing public activities to preserve social cohesion in the face of growing right-wing populism and xenophobia in the region. I continue to speak up against the incitement to hatred on grounds of race and ethnicity by using social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.

I also bring in know-how from the field of multilateral cooperation. In my former positions as project coordinator in German development cooperation and officer in the diplomatic mission of Rwanda, I worked with Berlin-based Embassies, the African Union and other international organisations on activities promoting public awareness for the history of Africa and the positive role of the diaspora.

I believe that this is a position where I can bring in my passion for human rights as well as my thematic expertise. Most importantly, it will give me the opportunity to make a significant change to the lives of many. I am convinced that together we can achieve recognition, justice and development for people of African descent!

I look forward to be invited to an interview and provide you with further information about my qualification.

Sincerely yours,

Elisabeth Kaneza

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **German, Kinyarwanda**

**2. Knowledge of the official languages of the United Nations:**

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

**Read:** Easily orNot easily:   
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Speak:** Easily or 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: **Yes** If yes,

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

**Russian:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

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

**Spanish:** Yes or no: **Yes** If 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, indicating type of degree, subject, and whether full or part-time, ex. *Masters in law, University of xxx, part-time)*.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003): | **Place and country:** |
| Doctorate in Law, University of Potsdam, full-time | 2016 - now | Potsdam, Germany |
| Master of Arts in Intercultural Conflict Management, Alice-Salomon University of Applied Sciences, full-time | 2011-2013 | Berlin, Germany |
| Exchange Semester, Loughborough University, full-time | 2009-2010 | Loughborough, United Kingdom |
| Bachelor of Arts in European Studies, Maastricht University, full-time | 2007-2010 | Maastricht, The Netherlands |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with your current occupation.** **Also indicate whether positions held were not full-time.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of employer,**  **functional title,**  **main functions of position, full or part-time:** | **Years of work** (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005): | **Place and country:** |
| Kaneza Foundation for Dialogue & Empowerment, President; Chair of the board in charge of partnerships and cooperation, human rights training programmes and activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent in Germany; part-time in honorary capacity  OHCHR, Anti-racial Discrimination Section, Coordinator for the 2016 Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent; Coordination of the Fellowship’s programme of work, mentoring and support for participants, evaluation and preparation of the final report; full-time | 2013 - now  Nov - Dec 2016 | Aachen, Germany  Geneva, Switzerland |
| Engagement Global (German Agency for Development Cooperation), Project Coordinator for the multilateral programme "African-German Youth Initiative" - between Germany and the African Union; Coordination of capacity-  building programmes for civil society, public  relations, planing and implementation of high-level conferences; full-time | Mar - Nov 2016 | Berlin, Germany |
| Deutscher Bundestag (German Parliament), Research Associate and Political Advisor to Member of Parliament Hon. Nadine Schoen (CDU); Research for the Parliamentary Committee on Families, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, analysis of gender equality, children’s rights and asylum policy; part-time | 2015-2016 | Berlin, Germany |
| Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda, Communications Officer and Diaspora Affairs; Coordination of external communication and diaspora activities, public education on human rights in Germany and Rwanda, administrative support; full-time  Sports Federation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Association Rhenania Rothe-Erde, Trainer in the Programme "Integration through Sport"; Implementation of extra-curricular and educational activities for migrant children and youths in secondary, primary and nursery schools as well as in youth centres; part-time  African Parental Association, Youth Volunteer; Awareness-raising campaigns on the right to education, briefings for African parents and students on the German education system, implementation of activities for the celebration of the African diaspora; part-time | 2010-2015  2006-2010  2002 - 2006 | Berlin,  Germany  Aachen,  Germany  Aachen,  Germany |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1)  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on his/her behalf.***

**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.**

NO

**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:**

NO

**3. Is there any reason, currently or in the 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:**

NO

**4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1? (Please answer YES if you comply, NO if you do not comply, together with an explanation.)**

***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.**

Not applicable

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on his/her behalf.***

**I hereby certify that all of the statements made in this application are true, complete and are made in good faith. I understand that falsifying or intentionally withholding information will be grounds for not being selected or appointed or the withdrawal of any proposed appointment or, if an appointment has been made and accepted, for its immediate cancellation or termination.  
  
Kindly note that whilst no changes can be made after this application form has been submitted and the deadline for applications has expired, any relevant change of current occupation, employment, or position, or any other relevant fact or circumstance should be brought to the attention of the secretariat by   
e-mail (**[**hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org**](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)**).**

**Please review your application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:** Elisabeth Kaneza

**Date:** 7 June 2017

\*\*\*\*