**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 tothree 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 bye-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:**Techane | **6. Year of birth:** 1979 |
| **2. First name:**Meskerem | **7. Place of birth:** Addis Abeba |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):** | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Ethiopian |
| **4. Middle name:**Geset | **9. Any other nationality:** N/A |
| **5. Sex:** Female |  |

**II. MANDATE - SPECIFICCOMPETENCE/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 hold a Bachelor of Laws degree from the Addis Ababa Univeristy and a Master of Laws in human rights from the University of Pretoria. My Doctorate in human rights and multi-level governance is currently underway in the Joint International PhD program at the Human Rights Center, University of Padova.

In addition to the above academic qualifications, I have Diplomas and professional certificates on specialized human rights practices, such as adjudication of social and economic rights, human rights litigation, and women's rights , among others.

I had the opportunity to serve as a High Court Judge in the Ethiopian judiciary and practice as an Advocate of the Federal Courts of Ethiopia through which I adjudicated and litigated several cases dealing with women's rights. I have been a keen women's rights and human rights advocate in Ethiopia, where I participated in designing and leading numerous projects for the promotion of the rights of women. Further, my tenure as Deputy Director of the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) has expanded my legal and human rights practice at the international level.

I have good oral and written communication skills in English as attested by my record of international level research, teaching, publications, lectures/presentations, field missions, and leadership roles; all required advanced level mastery of the English language.

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.)**

My academic background has provided me with in-depth theoretical and empirical knowledge on international human rights instruments and norms. Such knowledge is complemented by 15 years of work experience in human rights filed in different capacities both at the national and international level.This experience includes litigation, research, teaching, training, advocacy, monitoring and investigation, legal drafting, and treaty bodies reporting.

I am conversant with the mandates of the United Nations (UN) and other international and regional organizations that work in the area of human rights. I extensively consulted and worked as an expert with different UN institutions, including the OHCHR, UNDP,UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM. I also have significant knowledge and experience related to the African Union(AU) and its institutions. While leading a prominent international organization (IHRDA), I had the opportunity to work closely with the African human rights bodies, and other regional and sub-regional bodies. Advising National Human Rights Institutions(NHRIs) also add to my profile.

My experience covers a long list of African countries, while the thematic diversity encompasses not only women’s rights, but a range of human rights issues (such as child rights, discrimination, socio-economic rights, citizenship rights, migrants and refugee rights, business and human rights, freedom of expression, arbitrary detention).

1. **ESTABLISHEDCOMPETENCE** (200 words)

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

I have worked with different human rights groups in my home country Ethiopia, in numerous capacities, including as a board member, activist, consultant, and manager. I was recognized for my pivotal role in the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association. My expertise as a consultant was often sought by international organisations and UN agencies working in the country.

Appointment to lead IHRDA's work proved my international recognition and competence as a seasoned human rights expert; offered me vast experience as well. I served in different African Human Rights Commission Working Groups (e.g on Social and Economic Rights, and Freedom of Association), and worked with the pertinent special rapporteurs. I also engaged actively in the work of the African Child Rights Committee and the African Court.

I participated in, and organized, several advocacy events held around the sessions of the AU and its human rights bodies to advocate for women's rights and other human rights issues. Not only spearheaded women's and children's rights litigation projects, I also trained a number of African lawyers, judges, human rights defenders, and the police on women's rights instruments. I led field missions and high research projects.

As a human rights scholar, I often lecture in different universities. My recent visiting scholar invitations include Abo Akademi, Geneva Academy, University of Toronto, University of Oslo.

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:** Article: Gender Discrimiantion and Changing Trends in Africa

**Journal/Publisher:**Padova University Press

**Date of publication:** 2017 (Forthcoming)

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** Book Chapter: 'The Impact of the African Charter and the Maputo Protocol on the Rights of Women in Ethiopia'

**Journal/Publisher:** Pretoria University Press

**Date of publication:** 2016

**Web link, if available:** http://www.pulp.up.ac.za/edited-collections/the-impact-of-the-african-charter-and-the-maputo-protocol-in-selected-african-states

**3. Title of publication:** Book Chapter:' The Impact of the African Charter and the African Women's Rights Protocol in Mauritius'

**Journal/Publisher:** Pretoria University Press

**Date of publication:** 2012

**Web link, if available:** http://www.chr.up.ac.za/index.php/research/impact-of-the-charter-protocol.html

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize**(200 words):Other relevant ongoing research projects for publication include commnentary work on the African Women's Rights Protocol (Maputo Protocol), and comparative work on the CEDAW and the Maputo Protocol. I have also contributed teaching materials and training modules on the rights of women, child rights, gender based violence, and gender and the law that have been published and disseminated.

* 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:** Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy and Human Rights

'Discrimination and Political Participation of Women in Africa'

**Event organizer:** Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, Berlin, Germany

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 28 May 2013

**Web link, if available:** http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?upcoming-events-2013&highlight=Annual%20conference%20cultural%20diplomacy%202013

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge9Faxtnwtw

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** The Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa

**Event organizer:** African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, 53 Ordinary Session

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 12 April 2013

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Statement on the definition of the child and age of marriage (child marriage) in Malawi

**Event organizer:** African Committee of Experts on the Rights of the Child, 20th Ordinary Session

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:**  12 November 2012

**Web link, if available:** http://www.acerwc.org/download/20th-ordinary-session-report/?wpdmdl=8718

**If more than three, kindly summarize**(200 words):I delivered several lectures,statements and presentations on the rights of women, gender discrimination, and gender based violence from national and international perspective in different universities, conferences and high-level panels.

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”.**

The academic environment and the self-managed nature of my research work affords me ample flexibility to undertake the responsibility of this mandate. I am in the position to dedicate the requisite time per year for the work of the mandate. In fact, I am fully aware, from experience, that such a mandate may often demand more time than expected, which I am prepared to meet. I confirm my readiness to accommodate frequent travels for country visits, consultations, General Assembly and Human Rights Council sessions, and for any other mission necessary to fully accomplish the goals of the mandate.I reassure my proven ability to work under pressure and handle concurrent demanding responsibilities efficiently.

I have no expectation of financial compensation for the work to be done as part of the mandate. I am very clear that the position is not salary or remmuneration based. On the other hand, I look to make it part of my responsibility to mobilise financial and technical support from possible sources for the optimal functioning of the WG.

As I am currently based in Italy, it is easier for me to travel more frequently to Geneva for relevant meetings, including Human Rights Council sessions, Special Procedures meetings, stakeholders consultations, etc.

I also have the readiness of my home as well as affiliate institutions to support me in possible ways, if appointed.

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

My motivation to apply for this Working Group (WG) position derives from my life commitment to fight discrimination against women using all available local, regional and international mechanisms. As a jurist, scholar and human rights advocate, I have always worked for women's rights and gender equality. I take injustice and inequality very seriously. I am not just passionate about, also committed to, working towards the advancement of women towards attaining their rightful equal position in society. For this reason, the work of the WG is positioned at the center of my agenda.

As shown in the previous work of the WG and other special procedure mandate holders, despite some positive developments in legalizing women's equal rights , women in Africa and in most parts of the world still face systemic and varied forms of discrimination by virtue of laws and practices that are against international norms and standards. I have witnessed this lived reality of many women in Africa through my work over the past 15 year in different capacities and countries. I have proper considerations of the complex issues and contexts that feature in the WG mandate.

I have built a strong network with academic, legal, NHRI, and civil society actors in Africa and across the world. This network will prove central to the WG. I will be able to garner instrumental support for the mandate through established affiliations with several human rights centers, and key local, regional and international actors. I am not just bringing my individual expertise but also rich institutional capacities from leading institutes, such as the Human Rights Center of the University of Pretoria, and national human rights commissions.

Building on the previous work of the WG, I would be interested to study women's economic empowerment and the SDGs framework. In particular, informed by my practical work with the African human rights bodies and the real challenges of many African women, the topic of equal access to land and capital, equal opportunities in employment and education, among others, would be thematic issues I wish to bring in perspective. These and other thematic issues very central to African women are not yet adequately addressed by the WG. Drawing from my hands-on knowledge of and exposure to these issues, I look to play important role in shaping the agenda of the WG for the coming years. Coupled with my proven skills in engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, my exposure to a diverse human rights topics will be a great advantage to integrate intersectional and cross-cutting thematic issues into the work of the WG. My vision for the mandate includes employing every possible diplomatic effort and strategic engagement for country visits to reach out to regions and countries that are underrespresnted in the work of the WG. Notably, the WG had a very limited reach to African countries in its previous work. It is also apparent that the WG did not have much interaction with the African system in the past years. My unique contribution will be bridging this gap between the WG and the African system, and fostering strong engagement and harmony among them--a goal envisioned by the Addis Ababa Road Map (2012) for collaboration between the UN and AU Special Procedures . I,in fact, have practical experience in facilitating similar cooperations.

My experience with the WG, UN mechanisms and Sepecial Rapporteurs of the African Commission has afforded me the apposite understanding of the roles and limits of special procedure mandates. I am aware of the challenges presented by the role for which I am prepared with the usual resilience and excellence.

I am highly driven by a desire to strengthen the role of the WG in the advancement of women's rights and the elimination of discrimination that hinder their development. To contribute to reporting on the situation of women and the different forms of discrimination they face both in law and practice,and to intensifying the impact of the WG mandate, would be both an honour and a duty I am ready to take part in.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **AMHARIC**

**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: **NOT EASILY  
Write:** Easily or not easily:**NOT EASILY  
Speak:** Easily or not easily:**NOT 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:**NO**If yes,

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

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academicqualifications(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:** |
| Bachelor of Laws, Addis Ababa University, full- time | 1997/1998-2001/2002 | Addis Ababa,Ethiopia |
| Master of Laws, University of Pretoria, full-time | 1997/1998-2001/2002 | Pretoria, South Africa |
| PhD in Human Rights & Multi-Level Governance, University of Padova, full-time | 2015-present | Italy |
|  |  |  |

**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:** |
| Human Rights Center, Univeristy of Padova, Doctoral Researcher: work on human rights research and publications (including my doctoral research); teaching & other academic activities. Full-time | 2015 -2017 | Italy |
| Institute for Human Rights and Development, Deputy Executive Director: lead/ design/ implement the programmes of the organisation (i.e litigation, capacity building, supporting the African human rights bodies, communications ); raise funds;form partnerships; represent the organisation in high level forums. Full-time | 2012-2014 | The Gambia |
| Meskerem & Associates ,Consultant and Attorney at Law: provide legal advice and representation to clients, draft litigation documents, human rights consulting for organistions and government institutions. Full-time | 2007-2012 | Ethiopia |
| UNDP, National Legal Expert: in charge of support to the Public Service College of Oromia Department of Law (worked as the founding director & senior law professor of the Department, and as a member of the College's Academic senate).Full-time  Amhara Region Supreme Court , High Court Judge: review lower court decisions on appeal (criminal & civil) and settle fresh cases (criminal & civil) coming in the first instance jurisdiction of the High Court.Full-time | 2004-2006  2002-2003 | Ethiopia  Ethiopia |

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

N/A

**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:** MESKEREM GESET TECHANE

**Date:** 28/05/2017

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