How to start the application process:

- The application process has been split into 2 parts, the first part is a Web-based survey and the second part is an application form in word which can be downloaded, completed and returned by email. Both parts and all sections of the application form should be filled in for the application to be processed.

The **first part**, i.e. the [Web-based survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/hrc25_spmandateholders_emripexperts) 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 complete****d once**, i.e. multiple selection allowed to indicate if the candidate is applying for more than one mandates.

This is the **second part, i.e.** of 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, 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 Internet.

Once completed the application form in Word should be submitted by email to [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org/documents/hrbodies/sp/callapplications/iemali_haiti/hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)

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

* A maximum of 3 reference letters can be attached, in pdf format, to the application sent by email. No additional document is required.
* **Application Deadline: 31 OCTOBER 2013 (midnight, GMT)**.
* Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.

If encountering technical difficulties, you may contact us by email: [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org%2520)  or fax: + 41 22 917 9011

**An acknowledgment will be sent when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the information through the web-based survey and the application form through email.**

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

Family Name: Belhassen Sex: Male Female

First Name: Souhayr Date of birth ( d-MMM-yy): 19-06-43

Maiden name (if any):       Place of birth: Tunisia

Middle name: Fatma, Saïda Nationality(please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Tunisia

Any other nationality: France

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

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.) | *- Two Bachelor's Degrees in Law and Literature (Tunis, Tunisia).*  *- Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Paris, France).*  *- More than 30 years of experience in human rights at the national and international levels, with the Ligue Tunisienne des Droits de l'Homme (LTDH) and the International Federation for Human Rights (Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme, FIDH).*  *- Languages: French (mother tongue), Arabic (mother tongue), English.*  *- Work, experience and expertise in human rights and the protection of human rights defenders recognised on several occasions, notably through awards: (i) Honorary Doctorate of the University of Louvain, Belgium (2008); (ii) Takreem Award, “Arab Woman of the Year” (2011); (iii) North-South Prize of the Council of Europe (2011); (iv) Knight of the National Order of the Légion d'Honneur of the French Republic (2012).* |
| 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. | *- Academic knowledge of international human rights law and public international law, including international criminal law.*  *- Practical knowledge of international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms, including the UN Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, special procedures and treaty bodies, as well as regional instruments and courts. The role of President of FIDH includes supervising research, field missions and publications, as well as litigation activities, the submission of amicus curiae briefs, and activities before/towards the United Nations (submission of reports and communications to special procedures, both thematic and country-specific).*    *- The President of FIDH also exercises oversight, along with OMCT, over the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a joint programme of FIDH and OMCT.*  *- 30 years of experience in the field of human rights.* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)  Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired). | *- Panelist or keynote speaker on multiple occasions on various human rights issues, notably at OHCHR-organized events (Human Rights Day 2012), colloquiums, and Council of Europe forums (2012, 2013). Topics included human rights defenders, women's rights, migrants, and democracy and the rule of law.*  *- Experience leading fact-finding and monitoring missions, as President and Honorary President of FIDH.*  *- My expertise and competence, recognized through my mandate as President of FIDH, brought me to engage with and lead dialogues on human rights with Heads of States and Ministers from more than 38 stqtes, including Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Bahrain, Cambodia, the State of Palestine, Qatar, Syria, Thailand, Yemen, Armenia, Belgium, Finland, France, Georgia, Italy, the Republic of Moldova, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, the European Union, as well as with the UN Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and leaders of the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the African Union and Commission, the Interamerican Commission and the ASEAN.* |
| 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) | *- In May 2013, after two three-year terms, I left my position as President of FIDH. I was appointed as one of the organisation's Honorary President, a position that is honorific in essence.*  *- I will be able to dedicate six months per year to the mandate, including undertaking country visits, participating in Human Rights Council and General Assembly sessions, engaging with stakeholders, and drafting reports and updates.* |

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

**Please indicate all language skills**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Languages** | **Read** | | **Write** | | **Speak** | |
|  | **Easily** | **Not Easily** | **Easily** | **Not Easily** | **Easily** | **Not Easily** |
| **Arabic** | X |  | X |  | X |  |
| **Chinese** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **English** | X |  |  | X | X |  |
| **French** | X |  | X |  | X |  |
| **Russian** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spanish** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mother tongue:**  French |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

|  |
| --- |
| *As an Arabic woman coming from Tunisia, a country that was highly repressive towards human rights defenders, I experienced threats, attacks and harassment that human rights defenders may receive in situation of severe repression of fundamental freedoms. This initial human rights activism made me engage with and benefit from United Nations human rights protection mechanisms, an experience which made me understand their merits, value and relevance.*  *In 2007, I was elected President of FIDH by worldwide organizations identifying themselves with our shared human rights cause. During the six years of two successive mandates in this responsibility, my mission was to give voice and echo human rights defenders from various countries, horizons and walks of life. I have worked at the domestic and international levels, engaging in dialogues on human rights with Heads of States and Government officials from more than 38 States, leading high-level missions throughout the world and launching advocacy initiatives before the United Nations, as well as through regional and national human rights bodies.*  *In particular, I oversaw the development of dedicated activities on the protection of human rights defenders through the “Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders”, a joint programme with the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), established in 1997, which undertakes fact-finding activities and daily alerts on the situation of human rights defenders throughout the world, provides assistance against legal, physical or psychological threats from States or non-State actors, and reinforces the capacities of local human rights organisations.*  *Under my presidency, FIDH also developed its work on the rights of migrants, documenting the challenges of their recognition and implementation, including the particular situation of the defenders of the rights of migrants, striving to strengthen national laws and policies and holding to account perpetrators of violations and abuses.*  *Another priority of my presidency was to strengthen our work on the rights of women, whereby FIDH launched two major campaigns for the protection of women’s rights and women human rights defenders in the Arab region and in Sub-Saharan Africa, but also in highlighting the role played by women human rights defenders in these countries.*  *I have a comprehensive understanding of the legal and practical challenges in implementing the UN Declaration on human rights defenders, due to my extensive experience – 10 years at the international level – working with a range of stakeholders, including Government officials. I believe that my cooperative approach along with my practical experience as a woman human rights defender while working with victims of human rights violations and human rights defenders from more than 100 countries that are experts of their respective fields, could make a real difference to the protection of human rights defenders.* |

**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** | **Place and Country** |
| Institut d'Etudes Politiques | 1973 | Paris, France |
| DEUG de droit, Faculté de droit et sciences économiques de Tunis | 1966 | Tunis, Tunisia |
| DEUG de lettres, Faculté de droit et sciences économiques de Tunis | 1964 | Tunis, Tunisia |
|  |  |  |

**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 Attendance/Work | Place and Country |
| International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  President (elected position, non-remunerated) | 6 | Paris, France, world coverage |
| International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)  Vice-President (elected position, non-remunerated) | 3 | Paris, France, world coverage |
| Tunisian League of Human Rights  Vice-President (elected position, non-remunerated) | 10 | Tunis, Tunisia |
| Canal + Horizons  Communications Director and Consultant  Reuters, journalist, Correspondent in the Maghreb and to the League of Arab States  Le Temps (daily newspaper)  Editor-in-Chief  Contact (bi-monthly cultural issue)  Editor-in-Chief  Jeune Afrique (weekly)  Journalist, Correspondant in the Maghreb and to the League of Arab States  Agence Tunis Afrique Presse  Journalist  Radio Télévision Tunisienne  Journalist | 10  10  1  1  20  2  2 | Paris, Algiers, Casa­blanca, Bamako, Abidjan, Tunis, Dakar  Tunis  Tunis  Tunis  Tunis  Tunis  Tunis |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS (of 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.

|  |
| --- |
| 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 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:

No.

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.

In the event that I am appointed as Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, I commit to take an extended leave from any position which may conflict with the mandate.

You will receive an acknowledgment when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the information through the Web-based application and the Word application form by email.  
  
Thank you for your interest.