Christof Heyns (South Africa)

**Date and place of birth**: 10 January 1959, Cape Town

**Working language**: English

**Current position/function**

* Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Pretoria;
* UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (2010-July 2016);
* Chair: UN Independent Investigation on Burundi (until September 2016);
* Teaches regular human rights seminars at Oxford and American University.

**Main professional activities**

* Teaches law at University of Pretoria since 1987 (human rights, international law, jurisprudence, criminal law, legal history);
* Member of staff and Director, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, 1987-2006; Dean, Faculty of Law, 2006-2010;
* Consultant to the South African Human Rights Commission; African Union;
* As UN Special Rapporteur authored reports to the Council and General Assembly on the protection of journalists; the death penalty; armed drones; autonomous weapons; domestic laws on the use of force; and the management of assemblies. Conducted country visits to India, Turkey, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, The Gambia, Ukraine.

**Educational background**

MA (Philosophy); LLB (University of Pretoria)

LLM (Yale Law School)

PhD (University of the Witwatersrand)

Fulbright Fellowships to Yale Law School (1986/7) and Harvard Law School (2012); Humboldt Fellowship to Max Planck Institute, Heidelberg

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned**

Worked with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights since 1990; consultant for the drafting of the Commission’s General Comment on the Right to Life (2015)

Member of the South African delegation to the meeting that prepared the first draft of the Protocol establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights (1994)

Conducted a study on the impact of the UN treaty bodies in 20 countries worldwide for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2000), published as The impact of the United Nations human rights treaties on the domestic level (Kluwer 2002)

As UN Rapporteur responsible for the revision of the UN Manual on the prevention and investigation of extra-legal, summary and arbitrary executions (2014-2016)

List of most recent publications in the field:

• ‘Human rights and the use of autonomous weapons systems (AWS)’ Human Rights Quarterly 2016;

• Compendium of key human rights documents of the African Union (PULP 2013, also available in French, Arabic and Portuguese);

• ‘The long-term human rights implications of targeted killings’ Harvard International Law Journal (2013);

• Human Rights Law in Africa, vols 1 and 2 (Martinus Nijhoff, 2004, also in French).