

SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD FORMAT

Special Rapporteur on the right to development [HRC res. 33/14]

Appointment to be made by the Human Rights Council at the 34th session of the Human Rights Council (27 February - 24 March 2017)

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/397559?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/HRC34.aspx> by clicking on the mandate. It should be fully 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 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 (by email). A maximum of up to three reference letters (optional) can be attached in Word or pdf format to the email 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>

- **[APPLICATION DEADLINE: 16 NOVEMBER 2016 \(12 NOON GREENWICH MEAN TIME / GMT\)](#)**
- **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>

In case of technical difficulties, or if encountering problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email at hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org or fax at + 41 22 917 9008.

You will receive an acknowledgment email 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 email.

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

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I. PERSONAL DATA

1. Family name: BISSIO	6. Year of birth: 1952
2. First name: Roberto	7. Place of birth: Montevideo, Uruguay
3. Maiden name (if any):	8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Uruguay
4. Middle name: Remo	9. Any other nationality: NO
5. Sex: Male	

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 have been working in the fields of development and human rights since 1980 in various capacities:

- ! As writer and editor of the "Third World Guide" (later "World Guide") a reference book on developing countries and global issues published in English by New Internationalist (Oxford) until 2007.
- ! As a researcher on development issues, bringing expert testimony in different occasions to the UN ECOSOC and General Assembly, the US Congress, the European Parliament and other bodies.
- ! As Latin American representative of Third World Network (since 1989)
- ! As global coordinator of Social Watch, an international network of citizen coalitions monitoring implementation of UN commitments on poverty and gender equality (since 1995)
- ! As member of the Civil Society Reflection Group on Sustainable Development and of the editorial team of its "Spotlight Report 2016"

2. RELEVANT EXPERTISE (200 words)

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

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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.)

I have extensive knowledge of the international human rights system, first as a member of different Latin American solidarity committees with the victims of human rights violations (between 1976 and 1984), then as co-founder of the Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, Democracia y Desarrollo (1992), as a member of the international board of the Program on Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR, based in Delhi, 2013 until present) and as Latin American representative of Third World Network (1989 until present), an alliance of Southern-based NGOs and researchers that has championed the Right to Development since its creation in 1984.

As coordinator of Social Watch (since 1996) and main author of its yearly report I have actively promoted a rights-based approach to development and I have participated as a consultant in the Fourth session of the High-Level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development (7-15, January 2008) and made the closing remarks on "The Right to Development and the Evolving Global Agenda and Goals for Sustainable Development" during the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the RtD Declaration at the UN (December, 2014).

3. ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)

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

Through my activities in research, fact finding and campaigning on the right to development and a variety of development and human rights issues I have acquired competence, recognized by appointments and invitations to, inter alia:

- Member of the Civil Society Advisory Committee to the UNDP administrator (1999 - 2009)
- Expert advisor to ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) on accountability issues (2015)
- Member (2004) of the advisory panel to UNIFEM (together with Dr Nafis Sadik, Sir Richard Jolly, Dr Mbikusita-Lewanika and Margaret Snyder) that recommended the upgrading of that fund for women into a full UN agency, kicking off a process that ultimately led to the creation of UN-Women.
- Commissioned in 2000 by UNDP administrator to co-write (together with Chad Dobson, from the Bank Information Center) the first public information disclosure policy of UNDP.
- Member (2014 - present) of the Steering Committee of "Righting Finance" an initiative to develop and advocate a human rights approach to financial regulation at global and national levels.
- Panelist in the dialogue on "Monitoring and Accountability Framework for the Post-

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2015 Development Agenda" convened by the President of the UN General Assembly, 1 May 2014

4. PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Please list-significant 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.

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

1. Title of publication: The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

Journal/Publisher: OHCHR: Realizing the Right to Development: Essays in Commemoration of 25 years of the UN Declaration on RtD

Date of publication: 2013

Web link, if available:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/RightDevelopmentInteractive_EN.pdf

2. Title of publication: The New Goal on Poverty: A Welcome Paradigm Shift

Journal/Publisher: Spotlight Report 2016

Date of publication: 2016

Web link, if available: <https://www.2030spotlight.org/en/book/ii1-new-goal-poverty-welcome-paradigm-shift>

3. Title of publication: Budgets, Information and Participation: Civil Society Approaches to Increasing Rights Accountability

Journal/Publisher: In "Making Equal Rights Real" edited by Jody Hermann and Adele Cassola, Cambridge University Press

Date of publication: 2012

Web link, if available: <https://books.google.fr/books?isbn=1107378311>

If more than three publications, kindly summarize (200 words): My regular columns on development issues are available (in Spanish) at www.redtercermundo.org.uy. The "Third World Guide / World Guide a reference book on development issues and countries that I edited between 1979 and 2009 is not available online but a detailed summary of the last (11th printed edition) can be found at: [https://newint.org/books/reference/1-16_\(prelims\).pdf](https://newint.org/books/reference/1-16_(prelims).pdf). The Social Watch annual reports include relevant pieces on the link between rights and development, such as "In Dignity and Rights" (2007 report, focused on Social Security), "Rights is the Answer" (2008), "The Right to a Future" (2012, on sustainable development). They are available at www.socialwatch.org

4.2 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:

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1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:

Interactive Dialogue "Elements for a Monitoring and Accountability Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda"

Event organizer: President of the UN General Assembly:

Date on which public statement/pronouncement made: 1 May, 2014

Web link, if available: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/16414>

2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:

From Aspiration to Action: A Human Rights Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Event organizer: Meeting organized by the UN Human Rights Office and sponsored by the Governments of France and Tunisia

Date on which public statement/pronouncement made: 24 September 2013

Web link, if available: <http://webtv.un.org/search/from-aspiration-to-action-a-human-rights-framework-for-the-post-2015-development-agenda/2711054443001?term=bissio>

3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:

"The political meaning of the World Social Summit in the contemporary world" - Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development

Event organizer: ECOSOC

Date on which public statement/pronouncement made: June 8, 2015

Web link, if available: <http://webtv.un.org/search/31st-meeting-coordination-and-management-meeting-ecosoc-2015/4284033502001> (intervention by Roberto Bissio starts at 1:26:00 approximately)

If more than three, kindly summarize (200 words): Among other relevant recent statements and pronouncements:

-on Common but Differentiated Responsibilities. Intervention on a side-event on financing sustainable development, co-organized by co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN, CIDSE and Social Watch (See

<http://www.socialwatch.org/node/16796>)

-on role of the Business sector, intervention at the opening panel of the "Informal Interactive Hearing with the Business Sector on Financing for Development", organized by the president of the UN General Assembly and held in New York, on April 8, 2015.

See more at <http://www.item.org.uy/size-matters-corporations-and-smallbusiness-in-sustainable-development-4/>

5. 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

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stakeholders. (Indicate whether candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approx. three months per year to the work of a mandate.)

Yes I can dedicate significantly more than three months of my time for the mandate. In the remaining time I will also be working, in my capacity as coordinator of Social Watch and a member of the Reflection Group on Sustainable Development on researching, writing and building capacity of civil society groups on Right to Development issues. These activities include the establishment of a regular information flow between the UN system and the public through different initiatives aimed at identifying synergies amongst governments, independent institutions and civil society.

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III. MOTIVATION LETTER (600 word limit)

Dear Madam, Sir,

The HRC appointment of an SR on RtD coincides with the launch of the 2030 Agenda.

This Agenda and the other key resolutions of 2015 represent a major paradigm shift in development consensus, as it

- a) identifies poverty as an universal problem (with extreme poverty as the most urgent priority -target 1.1- but incorporating relative poverty in all countries in target 1.2)
- b) recognizes that social progress (in health, education, social protection) needs to take place in a framework of planetary boundaries (climate change, depletion of fisheries, excessive use of chemicals in agriculture),
- c) identifies inequalities as a major global problem and proposes to reduce it within and among countries, as spelled out in goal 10, but also in SDG 5 on gender equality and women empowerment and in multiple references to justice and inequalities,
- d) emphasizes governance issues (peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice, affective, accountable and inclusive institutions) as inherent to sustainable development.

This new agenda is "grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (and) it is informed by (...) the Declaration on the Right to Development." (Paragraph 10)

Further, the 2030 Agenda, same as Human Rights, is universal: no country can claim to be sustainably developed and all countries have to make efforts to reach their targets domestically and to achieve global goals that no Member State can meet by itself no matter how powerful. In fact countries from all regions of the world and very different capabilities are volunteering to submit to the UN their progress reports. While non binding legally, the 2030 Agenda is becoming the international standard and thus acquires enormous political weight.

The 2030 Agenda is consistent and compatible with the Right to Development and it shares with RtD its aspiration to a "fair distribution of benefits". The aspirational nature can be seen as "soft law" and therefore limited when compared with legally enforceable rights. But it can also be seen as an opportunity to create synergies between the development agenda and the right to development and to strengthen the global partnership for both.

For more than 20 years I have been working building coalitions to implement ambitious but not legally binding UN resolutions and I know of the obstacles but also of the enormous energies that can be unleashed. As Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, if appointed, I look forward to working together with international institutions, including those dealing with finances, trade and investment, to mainstream RtD and 2030 Agenda in their policies and to assist governments in their right and duty to formulate programs conducive to sustainable development and the fair distribution of its benefits.

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I understand the creation of this mandate as expression of a will of Member States to strengthen accountability mechanisms at all levels, from national and local to global. I have argued consistently that without effective accountability within a framework that understands common responsibilities but differentiated capabilities, implementation will suffer.

The mandate created by Resolution 33.14 is well placed to bring congruence between the two instruments of the 2030 Agenda and the Declaration on RtD. The normative framework of the RtD can offer valuable guidance to international organizations and to states on how to safeguard "policy coherence" in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda, and can help to specify the common but differentiated responsibilities which all countries have to ensure that their policies and actions do not undermine sustainable development and human rights beyond their borders.

For all those reasons I feel confident to submit this application to be the first Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development.

Yours,
Roberto Bissio

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IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)

Please indicate all language skills below.

1. Mother tongue: Spanish

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

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

Read: Easily or Not 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: **Not 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: **Easily**

Write: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

Speak: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

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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 (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003):	Place and country:
Bachiller - Facultad de Arquitectura (Architecture School), Universidad de la República	1971 - 1974	Montevideo, Uruguay

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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 (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005):	Place and country:
Instituto del Tercer Mundo, Director ejecutivo	1989 - Present	Montevideo, Uruguay
Editora do Terceiro Mundo, researcher, editor, correspondent	1980 - 1989	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Periodistas del Tercer Mundo AC, writer, columnist, researcher	1976 - 1980	Mexico DF, Mexico

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**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 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.

There is no conflict as I hold no official national or international position and I am not a member of any official human rights mechanism at any level.
