**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:** BAL | **6. Year of birth:** 1949 |
| **2. First name:** Ahmedou Tidjane | **7. Place of birth:** Kaédi |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):** | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Mauritanian |
| **4. Middle name:** | **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.)**

As of my educational qualifications, in 1976 I obtained a higher diploma in Law and Legal Sciences from the University of Mohamed V of Rabat, Morocco.

In terms of my professional experience, I've been working in the field of Human Rights for nearly 40 years. I particularily have an old hand experience with the promotion and protection of human rights through various activities within human rights NGOs and through my HR judicial protection practices, by defending these rights in my capacity as a lawyer.

Additionally, I have lived in multiethnic composite societies starting with mine where the diversity of the components makes it necessary to develop national strategies for social cohesion which allowed me within the framework of the United Nations and public authorities to carry out various studies to avert any discrimination or social stigmatization.

I have also defended, as a lawyer, victims of discrimination or marginalization.

I am familiar with the social surveys aiming at identifying cases of discrimination and marginalization culminating in proposals and recommendations to the public authorities and to the United Nations for national strategies of social cohesion.

In terms of communication skills, I write and fluently speak both French and Arabic. I also speak English and write it less easily.

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.)**

I was sworn in as a lawyer at the Court on November 16, 1976 at the Mauritanian Bar , and evolved in both national and international jurisdictions. I have thus defended victims and associations of victims claiming to be deprived of their rights between 1977 and 2001.

This experience has given me a profile through which the Mauritanian League for Human Rights and the Bar have mandated me for the various preparatory sessions of the World Conferences on Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, in which I have participated. This includes:

- in 2001, as a lawyer;

- in 2009 in Geneva (Durban II) as a Mauritanian Minister of Justice and Human Rights;

- I have also been associated with the preparation of Durban III in New York as an independent consultant.

This profile led me to be recruited by the United Nations as a Commission expert on the prison conditions of Hutu political prisoners claiming to be victims of discrimination and marginalization (the commission recommended by Nelson Mandela for Burundi in the framework of The Arusha Agreement for Peace in Burundi".

After the submission of this report, the United Nations expressed their satisfaction to me by designating me as a Senior Legal Advisor and Legal Unit Chief for the United Nations Office in Burundi; a position that I held for 6 years to supervise the office in its fight against impunity resulting from the political-ethnic conflict in Burundi.

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

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

On top of the memberships of various Human Rights NGOs namely Mauritanian Association of HR, Mauritanian League of HR, and Gerddhes (Study and Reflection Group on Democracy and HR), I have participated in several HR forums on the margin of the HR Council sessions from 1998 to 2000, 2011 and 2012.

This profile enabled me to participate actively between 1998 and 2001 in various works of the African Commission of Human Rights in Gambia as a member of the Mauritanian League of HR.

In 2008, I was appointed Minister of Justice and Human Rights, which enabled me to initiate the reforms for the promotion and protection of human rights. It was during my tenure as a Minister of Justice and that I negotiated in Geneva and obtained the UN agreement for the opening of the OHCHR in Mauritania, which still provides programs for the promotion and protection of human rights.

In 2009, I was appointed President of the Supreme Court of Mauritania, which enabled me to ensure the judicial protection of HR in all Mauritanian jurisdictions.

In 2010 I was appointed legal advisor to the President of the Republic in charge of Human Rights and as such I represented my country at the UPR in November 2010 and March 2011.

From 2012 to 2017, the UN entrusted me with a consultation to supervise the Guinean magistrates in charge of 2009 events file, where I participated in the fight against impunity and Women's rights abuses.

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:** Status of political prisoners and prison conditions of Huttus political prisoners in Burundi

**Journal/Publisher:** commission requested by Nelson Mandela, a mediator in the Burundi crisis back then, and provided for in the Arusha peace agreement for Burundi.

**Date of publication:** February 2002

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** Roadmap for the National Strategy for Social Cohesion in Mauritania.

**Journal/Publisher:** Consultation required by the United Nations (UNDP, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mauritania, Office of the Commissioner to Human Rights and Humanitarian Action)

**Date of publication:** June 2012 to September 2012

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Title of publication:** National Plans to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

**Journal/Publisher:** Consultation for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, UNDP, the Office of the OHCHR of Mauritania, as well as the Office of the Commissariat to Human Rights and Humanitaria

**Date of publication:** March 2015

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words):December 2012: roadmap for the implementation of the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in Mauritania.

* 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:** Statement for the Days of Reflection on Refugees and the Humanitarian Liability in Mauritania.

**Event organizer:** Mauritanian Government

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** May 2006

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Statement on the national unity at the national day of national reconciliation in Kaédi in Mauritania.

**Event organizer:** Mauritanian Government

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 25 March 2009

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** UPR Statement on Mauritania in Geneva about the fight against the vestiges of slavery and the measures taken for the humanitarian liability settlement and return of refugees in Mauritania.

**Event organizer:** UNHRC

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** November 2010

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words):March 2011: UPR Statement during the review of Mauritania in Geneva.

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 confirm that I can be available to fulfill this mandate and meet its requirements, both for the meeting of state and non-state actors as well as for all institutions required by the mandate;

I confirm my availability for all investigations and reports within the framework of the mandate;

I confirm that I will be available at least three months per year and even the time it takes for the mandate to be able to attend the work of the HRC as well as those of the UN General Assembly and all useful forums.

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

I was born and raised in a pivotal country between the Maghreb and the sub-Saharian Africa where there is a mixture of languages and cultures and where the question of harmony between different groups has always appealed to me. This naturally led me to opt for the profession of lawyer and made me an early human rights activist fighting all forms of injustice, marginalization or stigmatization:

My credo has always been the national unity to highlight what binds and eliminate what separates.

The Bar and my lived experience as a human rights activist and United Nations official made me accept the position of Minister of Justice, a high level of state responsibility, in order to be able to act in an upward fashion on these difficult issues in Mauritania and in the whole world.

I have made my voice heard in Durban, the United Nations and in all forums dealing with human rights to proclaim these principles.

As a stateman my record shows that I have always materialized these issues in my daily reality.

That is why the United Nations has always used me as a national and international consultant.

I still have the will to help all countries to combat racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance in all their forms, especially with the migration, interpenetration of cultures and globalization, these plagues still assume more refined and more pernicious forms.

Racism, xenophobia and discrimination are obstacles to the development of the stability of our states and undermine national and international harmony, and that is why I would like to put my experience at the service of all the states, all societies for a cultural dialogue and acceptance of the other within the framework of adequate strategies of social cohesion which will have to ban any negative and sectarian identity reflex.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:**

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

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

**Read:** Easily orNot easily: **Easily**  
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Easily  
Speak:** Easily or Not easily: **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: **Not 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: **Easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **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:** |
| 1st License Degree in Law and Economics  University of Algiers  Full time | 1970 - 1974 | Alger Algeria |
| 2nd Bachelor's Degree in Law  Higher Diploma in Law  Full time | 1974 -1976 | Rabat Morocco |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**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:** |
| United Nations, International Consultant, Expert Team Consultant, part-time | 2012 - 2017 | Conakry, Guinée |
| United Nations, International Human Rights Consultant, part-time | 2011 - 2012 | Nouakchott, Mauritania |
| The Presidency, Legal Advisor to the President of the Republic  Full-time | 2010 - 2011 | Nouakchott, Mauritania |
| The Supreme Court of Mauritania, President of the Supreme Court, Full -time | 2009 - 2010 | Nouakchott, Mauritania |

**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.**

I have neither occupation nor financial relationship nor any limitations of any kind that can undermine the occupations envisaged by the mandate nor affect the results of the investigations and conclusions of the works.

**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:**

I am not subject to any pressure or threat that could alter my independence or my willingness to carry out my mandate.

**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 current or past reason or situation or authority can alter my moral authority or credibility in the exercise of my mandate.

**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.***

With regard to the provisions of the paragraph, I am engaged in part-time activities that may be stopped at any time.

With respect to para 46 no government position or decision, organization or entity, whatever it may be, is likely to represent a conflict of interest with the mandate.

**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 my application is accepted, I undertake to comply fully with the provisions of paragraphs 44 and 46 and to avoid cumulation and conflicts of interest to renounce any international or regional national mechanisms and to devote myself exclusively and Independence from the mandate.

**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:** Ahmedou Tidjane BAL

**Date:** 19/05/2017

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