***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 17 OCTOBER 2019 AT 12:00 noon GREENWICH MEAN TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/283689*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/283689)*)*

*and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx)*)*

* *Once fully completed, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)
* *A maximum of up to three optional reference letters may be attached to the email (in Word or pdf format).*
* *No additional documents (e.g. CVs, resumes or supplementary reference letters) will be accepted.*
* *Applicants 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 the Secretariat. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.*
* *Please note that an application will only be considered if both parts and all sections of the Word application form have been completed and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.***
* *General description of the selection process and answers to frequently asked questions are available at* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx)
* *In case of technical difficulties or problems with accessing or completing the forms, you may contact the Secretariat by email (*[*hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** Behnassi | **5. Year of birth:** 1972 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Mohamed | **6. Place of birth:** Fez, Morocco |
| **3. Other name, if any:** NA | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Moroccan |
| **4. Gender:** Male | **8. Any other nationality:** NA |

**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 am a Senior Researcher & Professor of Global Environmental Politics & Human Security since 2004 (15 years).

I hold several degrees & certificates:

- PhD in International Environmental Law and Governance (2003), Master 2 in International Relations (1997), and Master 1 in Political Science and Human Rights (1996).

- In 2010, I obtained a Diploma of Aptitude to Supervise PhD Research. My research report’s title was: Sustainable Development, Human Rights and Governance: Toward an Integrated and Holistic Paradigm

- In 2011, I had been admitted as Visiting scholar in Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs (Syracuse, New York) within a highly competitive postdoc program called "Civic Education and Leadership Program (CELF)". The program covers human rights and political governance topics.

- Degree in Diplomacy & International Environmental Law from the University of Eastern Finland & UNEP

- Certificate, Training of Trainers: “Integration of Adaptation to Climate Change in Development Planning”, based on the OECD/GIZ Orientation Document, GIZ, 2012.

- Training in the International Organization of Francophony to become member of the  Moderation Board of the Mediaterre Portal "The Global Information of Sustainable Development", Paris 2009.

Excellent communication and writing skills in Arabic, English and French. These skills have been acquired through teaching, research and expertise.

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.)**

During my undergraduate and postgraduate studies and PhD research, I acquired an excellent knoweldge of the international law of human rights (key conventions, institutions and mechanisms). After accomplishing my PhD thesis, my teaching and research agenda comprises human rights as a key area. My knowledge of international and regional institutional mandates related to human rights has been acquired progressively, especially through my experience with the Equity and Reconciliation Commission (IER) for the drafting of the final report, training programs on behalf of public officials and NGOs, and my recent interaction with the Internministerial Delegation for Human rights (Morocco) for the preparation of the national mid-term report on the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations (co-organization and animation of a regional multi-actor consultation). My previous application for the position of special rapporteur has also enabled me to follow up the work of many current and previous special rapporteurs.

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

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

As a Senior Researcher and Professor, my publications covering topics such as sustainability, environmental/climate change and human security, are currently considered as recognized references nationally and internationally.

During 15 years, I have participated in many national and international conferences and training workshops covering different aspects of human rights.

My expertise on behalf of many national and international institutions interested in human rights confirms my compentence in this area. In addition, my focus on human security and environmental/climate challenges from a multidisciplinary approach and a multiscale/multistakeholders governance perspective enabled me to broaden my network and to deal with many partners.

As Lead Social Auditor – monitoring private companies in terms of environmental and social responsibility throughout Eastern Europe and MENA region after a robust training in Asia (China and Thailand) – I have acquired a large knowledge and experience pertained to human rights at work and corporate social and environmental responsibility (referentials: National regulations, ILO standards, certification norms such ISO14001, ISO26000, SA8000, FLA, BSCI…). In terms of skills, this career enabled me to develop fact-finding techniques, reporting, intercultural communication, sensitivity to local cultures, integrity, impartiality, and ability to travel extensively.

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:** Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resource Management: Perspectives from Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands

**Journal/Publisher:** Springer Nature

**Date of publication:** 2019

**Web link, if available:** https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319970905

**2. Title of publication:** Sustainable Food Security in the Era of Local and Global Environmental Change

**Journal/Publisher:** Springer Nature

**Date of publication:** 2013

**Web link, if available:** https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789400767188

**3. Title of publication:** Global Food Insecurity: Rethinking Agricultural and Rural Development Paradigm and Policy

**Journal/Publisher:** Springer Nature

**Date of publication:** 2011

**Web link, if available:** https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789400708891

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words):

Behnassi M., Gupta H. and Pollmann O. (2009), Human and Environmental Security in the Era of Global Risks, Springer Nature (https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319928272)

Behnassi M. & McGlade (2017), Environmental Change and Human Security in Africa and the Middle East, Springer Nature (https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319928272)

Behnassi M., Shabbir A.S., D'Silva J. (2011), Sustainable Agricultural Development - Recent Approaches in Resources Management and Environmentally-Balanced Production Enhancement, Springer Nature (https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319928272)

Behnassi M., Syomiti Muteng'e, M., Ramachandran, G., Shelat, K.N. (2014), Vulnerability of Agriculture, Water and Fisheries to Climate Change - Toward Sustainable Adaptation Strategies, Springer Nature (https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789401789615)

Behnassi M., Shabbir A.S., Habib-Mintz N. (2014), Science, Policy and Politics of Modern Agricultural System - Global Context to Local Dynamics of Sustainable Agriculture, Springer Nature (https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9789400779563)

Behnassi M. (2017), "The Energy-Water-Food Nexus and Climate Change: Implications for Policy-making, Research, and Business”, Climate Change, 3(9)/153-156.

Behnassi M., Gopichandran R. and Shabbir A.S. (2014), Agricultural and food System - Global Change Nexus: Dynamics and Policy Implications,

* 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:**

**Event organizer:** "Food Security as a Governance Issue: A Mediterranean Perspective", 7th Symposium SUD. SEC. MED on "Food Security & the Sanitary Public Order in the Mediterranean, CEMI & KAS, Tunis

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 2018

**Web link, if available:** NA

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Climate-Smart Agriculture: Potential, Practicability, and Governance Options, International Conference on Agriculture for Climate Change, Impacts Management, Community Leadership & Knowledge

**Event organizer:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Council for Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Leadership (NCCSD), New Delhi

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** February 7-9, 2012

**Web link, if available:** http://www.nccsdindia.org/events.html

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Achieving Food Security in a Changing Climate: The Potential of Climate-Smart Agriculture, Workshop on Environmental Cost and Changing Face of Agriculture in the Gulf States Workshop, Cambridge

**Event organizer:** Gulf Research Centre Cambridge (GRCC) and Cambridge University

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** July 11-14, 2012

**Web link, if available:** http://grm.grc.net/workshop/34\_Workshop%2011%20-%20Agriculture%20-%20Shahid%20and%20Ahmed.pdf

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words):

"Mainstreaming a Rights-Based Approach in the Global Climate Regime", International Seminar: Human Rights and Climate Justice in the light of the Paris Agreement, International Centre of Comparative Environmental Law, November 8, 2016, Marrakech (COP22 Event)

"Human Rights Implications of Climate Change: The Urgent Need to Mainstream Human Rights in the Post-2015 Climate Regime", International Conference: The Global Challenge of Human Rights Integration - Towards a Users’ Perspective, 9-11 December, 2015, Ghent, Belgium.

"Governance and Sustainable Agricultural Development: The Case-Study of Morocco", paper presented at the International Conference: Innovation and Sustainable Development in Agriculture and food, organized by CIRAD-INRA-Montpellier st SupAgro, June 28 – July 1, 2015 Montpellier.

"Land Resource Governance: Impacts in Terms of Rural Development and Sustainability", paper presented at the International Conference: Soil Classification and Reclamation of Degraded Lands in Arid Environments and Launching of Abu Dhabi Soil Survey Report, organized by The Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi and the International Center of Biosaline Agriculture, May 17-19, Abu Dhabi.

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 have no serious constraint regarding availability. As a Senior Researcher & Professor, managing one's schedule is granted by academic institutions in Morocco. Hence, this flexibility will enable me to effectively meet the mandate's requirements.

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

I am honored to apply for the position of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. I strongly believe that this mandate is intimately linked to one of my key areas of interest, which is food and nutrition security.

In 2018, more than 820 million people around the world are hungry, underscoring the immense challenge of achieving the Zero Hunger target by 2030. There are multiple drivers behind this growing challenge, mainly socio-economic factors (demographic change, urbanization, growing inequality, unequal access to resources, unhealthy eating habits, poverty, market mechanisms), environmental factors (environmental and climate change, soil degradation, over-exploitation of natural resources, water scarcity, biodiversity decline), and geopolitical related dynamics. Within this perspective, promoting the right to food with the aim to reverse such trends and reduce the number of people suffering from food and nutrition insecurity should be perceived as a very complex challenge which needs integrated and comprehensive response mechanisms.

I am a Senior Researcher & Professor with a PhD in International Environmental Law and Sustainability Governance since 2014. I have devoted the first stage of my academic career, during the accomplishment of my PhD thesis and after my access to university, to investigate the links between environmental change, sustainability and human security and how environmental challenges affect the resilience of socio-ecological systems. This has allowed me to apply a human rights-based approach to the management of environmental challenges and increasingly develop a robust insight on the need to rethink human rights from an environmental perspective and vice-versa. Implications of this interdisciplinary approach for decision-making processes, research agendas and advocacy are numerous and promising.

In 2015, I founded the Research Center for Environment, Human Security & Governance (CERES), as a Think Thank to investigate further the above issues in order to shape both decision and research agendas, especially from a developing country perspective. Simultaneously, I started to interact with national and international institutions (i.e. Interministerial Delegation for HR, Royal Institute for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Environment, GIZ, UNICEF, IRD, FAO) within policy-relevant research projects.

Additionally, I have organized many international conferences covering areas such as environmental/climate change, food and health security, science-policy interactions, sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, food-water-energy nexus, etc. and published as key editor many papers and distinguished contributed volumes books considered currently as worldwide references.

Through this experience, I have acquired a solid expertise and excellent knowledge pertained to human security and rights, environment, and climate challenges. This makes me qualified to participate in capacity-building initiatives and to initiate and lead many oustanding projects. For instance, in 2011, I have managed on behalf of the Royal Institute of Strategic Studies (IRES), Morocco a landmark three-year project on "Food and Health Security Face to Climate Change in Morocco: An Adaptation Strategy within the Perspective of an Integrated Governance" with valuable inputs for relevant decision-making processes.

As Lead Social Compliance Auditor, I have also aquired a valuable experience in terms of fact-finding techniques (interview of stakeholders, documentation review, observation, questionnaires, and research), reporting, intercultural communication, sensitivity to local cultures, integrity, impartiality, and ability to travel extensively.

Finally, I strongly believe that these background, experience and qualities may qualify me to successfully fulfill this Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur’s mandate.

Sincerely

Mohamed Behnassi

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **Arabic**

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

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

**Read:** Easily orNot easily: **Yes**  
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Yes  
Speak:** Easily or Not easily: **Yes**

**Chinese:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **No  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **No  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **No**

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

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

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

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

**Russian:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **No  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **No  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **No**

**Spanish:** Yes or no: **No** If yes,

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **No  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **No  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **No**

**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:** |
| Status of Full Researcher Professor at the Faculty of Law, Economic and Social Sciences, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir | 2010-2017 | Agadir, Morocco |
| Degree in Diplomacy and International Environmental Law from the University of Eastern Finland and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) | 2014 | Finland |
| Diploma of Aptitude to Supervise PhD Research obtained from the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences of Marrakech.  Research Report’s title: "Sustainable Development, Human Rights and Governance: Toward an Integrated and Holistic Paradigm" | 2004-2010 | Marrakech, Morocco |
| PhD in Global Sustainability Politics and Governance. Theme: "Multilateral Environmental Negotiations: Toward a Global Environmental Governance''.  Hassan II University - Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences of Casablanca. | 1998-2003 | Casablanca, 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:** |
| Full Professor of Global Environmental Politics  and Human Security  Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir  Main functions:  - Teaching, research and supervision of master and phd research.  - Expertise on behalf of national and international institutions.  –––––––––-  Founding Director, Research Center for Environment, Human Security & Governance (CERES)  link: https://www.ceres-center.org/ | 2017- ongoing  2016- ongoing | Agadir, Morocco  Agadir, Morocco |
| Associate Professor of Global Environmental Politics  and Human Security  Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir  Main functions:  - Teaching, research and supervision of master and phd research.  - Expertise on behalf of national and international institutions. | 2011-2017 | Agadir, Morocco |
| Visiting Scholar and Fellow, Civic Education and Leadership Program (CELF), Syracuse University and Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  Main functions:  Teaching and research + Participation in all activities scheduled during the fellowship period (participation in conferences and trainings, publication in peer-reviewed journals, interaction with different actors…) | January -May 2011 | Syracuse, New York, USA |
| Assistant Professor of Environmental Law  and Human Rights  Faculty of Law, Economic and Social Sciences, Ibn Zohr University of Agadir  Main functions:  - Teaching, research and supervision of bachelor and master research.  - Expertise on behalf of national and international institutions. | 2004-2011 | Agadir, Morocco |

**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 the candidate’s behalf.***

**1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause the candidate to limit the extent of inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.**

No, the candidate does not have such relationships.

**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 the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

No, there are no factors that may influence the candidate to act independently during the completion of the 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 the candidate discharges the mandate? If yes, please explain:**

No, such reasons don't exist.

**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 the candidate complies, NO if the candidate does 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.***

Yes

**5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, the candidate 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.**

Not applicable since the candidate already complies with these specific requirements.

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s 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   
email (**[**hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org**](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)**).**

**Please review your application before you insert your name and date to indicate your agreement.**

**Name:** Mohamed Behnassi

**Date:** October 16, 2019

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1. The short **online survey** 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. The same name, gender and nationality should be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The **application form in Word format** includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words (section III of the form). 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 the vacancy. The candidate’s application form will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)