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 completed 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%40ohchr.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  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: Wohlers  | Sex: x Male Female |
| First Name: Laurence  | Date of birth ( d-MMM-yy): June 12 1955 |
| Maiden name (if any):        | Place of birth: Nagasaki, Japan |
| Middle name: Dietrich  | Nationality(please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): United States |
|  | Any other nationality: none |

**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.) | I have worked extensively to promote respect for human rights and adherence to human rights standards. As a professional diplomat with 36 years of experience prior to my recent retirement, I have worked in many countries where human rights questions have been a high priority. Although I have not held a position dedicated solely to human rights, throughout my previous diplomatic career I always worked to integrate it into the United States’ broader objectives, particularly in related areas including democracy and elections, transparency, and good governance.Human rights are a high priority for the US government, and during my diplomatic career I was regularly involved in the development of human rights assessments, including the State Department’s human rights report. More importantly, as a specialist in public diplomacy, I had a particular focus on civil society groups, youth and educators, and the press. This was particularly the case for my two postings in the Central African Republic. In addition to English (in which I have written and spoken widely), I am fluent in both spoken and written French and regularly spoke on radio and TV in Bangui. I also have some basic knowledge of the CAR national language Sango, which should also be useful in this endeavor.  |
| 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. | As a 36 year member of the US Foreign Service, I worked regularly on questions of human rights, both directly in posts such as the Central African Republic and indirectly in postings in Washington as well as to the European Union in Brussels. Indeed, during my posting to the European Union, human rights were a major theme of consultation with the European Union’s committee on common foreign policy. Each year during my tenure in Brussels, the EU and the US held high-level consultations on human rights priorities, which I was privileged to help prepare and participate in. As the US Ambassador to the Central African Republic during the last three years of my diplomatic career (2010-2012), I worked particularly closely with the United Nations agencies there, as together we advocated for the respect of human rights and the strengthening of institutions and frameworks to enhance the protection of human rights.  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired). | Human rights organizations in the Central African Republic can attest to the close relationship that I developed with them during my tenure in Bangui. The United States was perceived as an active but impartial advocate for human rights in the CAR and I was involved in various activities to provide technical support and expertise for the promotion and protection of human rights. I personally invested myself heavily in understanding the country, and spoke regularly about the topic both publicly and privately. |
| 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) | As I am now retired, I am fully available to devote a substantial amount of time to this position. The plight of the Central African people is of deep concern to me because I have lived there for nearly five years and have a deep affection for the country. I am therefore prepared to devote as much time as necessary to create a very strong record of the human rights situation in CAR as well as to providing the Human Rights Council recommendations and advice as to how best to proceed there. The Central African people deserve our whole-hearted support. |

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

**Please indicate all language skills**

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

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

|  |
| --- |
| I have spent almost five years in the Central African Republic, as a public affairs officer 1985-1987 and then as the US ambassador from 2010 until the Embassy’s suspension of operations last December. During those years I worked particularly closely with civil society in the CAR and developed many close relationships with people in the Central African press, the educational world, youth and civil society. My association with civil society took many forms, including grants to support local NGOs supporting electoral participation, a project to help poor women develop independent businesses, community self-projects to build schools and develop community associations to curb inter-ethnic tensions, and support to a fledgling youth organization. I also worked in tandem with BINUCA and other international community members on DDR, democracy activities, and civil society support.Human rights activities were an integral part of our work. At my urging, the State Department funded a project by an NGO to create a nationwide database of trafficking in women and children, which I followed in detail. I met constantly with members of the league of human rights in Bangui and spoke regularly at meetings of the Youth Network of Human Rights. We were also developing a project to support good governance before we were forced to close the embassy in December 2012. As a result of these and other friendships developed in the course of my five years living in the CAR, I have a very deep knowledge of the complexities of Central African society. In turn, Central Africans respect the fact that I have made a significant effort to understand their country. These relationships of trust will be extremely important in any effort to establish an accurate record of the human rights violations and abuses of the last year.The current situation political and security in CAR is extremely tense and any investigation to monitor and report on human rights issues, and in turn to make recommendations concerning technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights for CAR on the basis of those findings, must be done carefully. Many of the perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses have also been victims. The recent violence has both reopened old ethnic and religious wounds and created new conflicts. There is a serious risk of the country lapsing into a chronic cycle of internal conflict from which it might never emerge. Therefore, any investigation of human rights violations and abuses, which is necessary to monitor the situation of human rights in the Central Africa Republic and to make recommendations concerning technical assistance and capacity-building must be undertaken in a manner which all parties perceive to be fair and even-handed. That does not mean minimizing the degree of violations and abuse. Investigations should be transparent and not shy from the truth. However, it does mean that all sides must believe that they have been given a complete and fair hearing. My wide-ranging contacts within Central African society will facilitate this task immensely. It will be much easier for me to assess the veracity of different players and accounts because I know them well. Most people will also perceive me to be an honest broker and should be willing to work with me. As a retiree, I am completely free to act and make decisions as I choose. With a sufficient personal income, I can also devote myself completely and without reservation to an issue that I believe to be of vital importance. The people of CAR have suffered enormously and deserve our full support. I am committed to doing so. |

**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** |
| Washington University in St. Louis, BA, Political Science | 1973-1976 | USA |
| National Defense University, MA, International Relations and Strategic Studies | 1996-1997 | Washington DC |
|       |       |       |
|       |       |       |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held, beginning with the most recent one:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of EmployerFunctional TitleMain functions of position | Years of Attendance/Work | Place and Country |
|      Ambassador to the Central African Republic |     2010-12 |       |
|      Political Affairs Counselor, US Mission to the European Union |     2006-08  |      Brussels, Belgium |
|      Public Affairs Officer, US Embassy Bangui |  1985-87     |       |
|      U.S. Foreign Service Officer |  1977-2013     |       |

**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.

|  |
| --- |
| None |

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.

Retired, no other positions

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.