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@ohchr.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](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org%20)  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:  Rombouts | Sex:  Male  Female |
| First Name: Heidy | Date of birth ( d-MMM-yy): 5-Aug-74 |
| Maiden name (if any): / | Place of birth: Belgium |
| Middle name: / | Nationality(please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Belgian |
|  | Any other nationality: |

**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 on justice and human rights for over 15 years, based upon an academic foundation both in Law (Masters Level) and Social and Political Science (Masters and Ph.D.). The combination of both disciplines provides me with the analytical tools to comprehend the actual application of human rights law in complex socio-political environments. I have specialised in developing institutions and mechanisms to protect human rights, specifically rights of victims, survivors and human rights defenders seeking remedies for victims and fighting impunity. I have conducted field research and provided advisory services to governmental institutions, INGO's, CSO's, CBO's and independent commissions (such as human rights and truth commissions), in various countries such as Rwanda, Mali, Kenya, Burundi, DRC, Niger, South Africa and Vietnam; all countries where human rights defenders face numerous challenges.  I have strong analyticial and writing skills in both French and English, as demonstrated by publications (articles and book). During both my academic and international cooperation work, I have given numerous presentations at international and national conferences, meetings and workshops and have assisted human rights institutions with the development of abridged communication tools. |
| 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. | My familiarity with international and regional human rights instruments, norms, and principles stemmed initially from comparative research during my research fellowship period (2000-2006). Since then human rights have become instruments of my daily work when providing advice on reforming and strengthening justice and security systems. When advising national CSO's and CBO's, localising the human rights instruments to ensure their relevance has been a key working angle.  In the various countries I have worked in (long and short term), coordination with bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies (e.g. UNDP, OHCHR, BINUB, MONUC) has been crucial, working to highlight and increase protection of human rights, including the role of HRDs. My work with BTC (Belgium) and GIZ (Germany), both agencies for international cooperation, and close collaboration with DFID (UK) enabled access to a wide operational international network, in addition to my academic network.  My first working experience in the field of human rights was acquired with a South African NGO, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, in 1998 and has since then further developed (in total 15 years). |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)  Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired). | Over the last 15 years, I have been requested to contribute to publications, invited to speak at colloquia and workshops across the world. Further, I have contributed to policy and practice advice both inside and outside my direct field of employment.  In Belgium I was one of the founding board members of VORMEN, an organisation for human rights education (2008). The International Criminal Court (ICC) contacted me for advice on investigative methods involving victims of gross human rights violations and human rights defenders, and for advice on the Standard Application Form for Reparations (2004). ICTJ (International Centre for Transitional Justice) in partnership with the Assembly of State Parties, invited me to contribute to further the complementarity debate and its operationalisation (2010-2011). In Kenya, local organisations request for advice and assessments of specific human rights situations, including of HRDs, beyond formal partnerships. Having worked in both development and human rights, I bring unique expertise to the situation of human rights defenders covering the entire spectrum of human rights, from economic, social and cultural rights to political and civil rights. |
| 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) | From early 2014 onwards, I will work as an independent advisor and consultant; therefore the permission of my employer to avail time to fulfill this mandate does not pose a challenge. Because of my personal conviction and eagerness to contribute to a better understanding of the contemporary challenges faced by human rights defenders and to an improvement of their working environs, I will avail the necessary time for the mandate.  I am confident of being able to travel as is required as well as to undertake the necessary country missions; I will be available for three months per year. The field experiences both in terms of research and working relations with high level authorities, international community and civil society will enable me to effectively carry out those missions and relevant meetings. My academic experience and writing skills demonstrate the ability of report writing and producing them timely. |

**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** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Russian** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spanish** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mother tongue:**  Dutch  Please note also good knowledge of German; Basic knowledge of Swahili |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

|  |
| --- |
| The combination of strong human rights law knowledge and operational experience in international development cooperation ground my strong belief that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders is crucial to both the development of a country and a sustainable system of rule of law, hence my application.  My entire academic and professional life has been dedicated to defending and understanding human rights and especially the impact upon victims and defenders.  Despite the adoption of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognised Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms about 15 years ago, the need for this Special Rapporteur can be sharply felt on the ground. I would like to contribute to fulfill the promise of this Declaration, on which so many people across the world depend.  I believe the following two grounds underscore the contemporary importance of the mandate.  First, human rights defenders are indispensable for any sustainable rule of law system. Rule of law is not only about creating institutions and systems to respond to quests for justice. There must be a complementary effort to increase knowledge and use of these systems. This demand side of rule of law requires an enabling environment, including an important community of people--HRDs--that is empowered to test, use and challenge systems to improve them and make them sustainable. This is true for both the global "south" as it is for the "north" where cynicism is now growing, weakening rule of law in many countries. It is my experience that all too often attention is only given to strengthening formal "supply" mechanisms, at the expense of the demand side. Having spent a significant time designing programs and advising on rule of law systems, I have seen the dire need for more attention to strengthening the "software" of the demand side with its HRDs and I would be privileged and honored to do this via this mandate.  Second, while the inter-connectedness of development and rule of law is starting to get recognition, it is still rather new and its extent somewhat unclear for various actors, including human rights defenders. Indeed, in many parts of the world, HRDs working in the development arena --environment, indigenous rights, minorities, labor rights, sustainable development --have been subjected to rising risks. Without a concerted effort to highlight and protect HRDs in this field, the contemporary context of global financial crises and serious competition for resources to drive economic growth risks to deteriorate the situation of HRDs.  The international community plays a critical role in development and also provides support to HRDs. The countries providing support to HRDs are often also involved in contracts for extraction of resources or are subject to the consequences of diplomatic pressure. How does that impact upon HRDs and how can operational best practices improve their working conditions? How can HRDs in the "home countries" be motivated to hold their governments accountable? What are appropriate responses when development negatively affects HRDs? These sorts of dilemmas deserve particular analyses from all perspectives to understand the evolving complexity of the situation of HRDs.    The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders allows for critical questioning and analysis to unravel the complexity of the work of HRDs and the local, regional and global framework within which they have to operate. It offers the opportunity to promote regional and global approaches to thorny, but critical situations. I would feel honoured to serve this exciting opportunity and cause.  Sincere Regards,  Heidy Rombouts (Ph.D.) |

**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** |
| Ph.D. in Social and Political Sciences  University of Antwerp- Belgium  Principal subjects: Reparations under international law, international human rights law and civil society | 4 (2000-2004) | Antwerp - Belgium |
| Bachelor in Social and Political Sciences and Master in Sociology  Catholic University of Leuven - Belgium  Principal subjects: Sociology of Law, Political Anthropology and Statistics | 4 (1996-1999) | Leuven - Belgium |
| Bachelor and Master of Laws  Catholic University of Leuven – Belgium and University College Galway - Ireland  Principal subjects: International Law, Human Rights law, Criminal Law | 5 (1992-1997) | Leuven - Belgium/ Ireland |
|  |  |  |

**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 Attendance/Work | Place and Country |
| July 2010 - to date GIZ Project Manager, Social Justice, Reconciliation and National Cohesion Project in Kenya  Fields of expertise: transitional justice, ICC in Kenya, protection of victims and human rights defenders, national accountability mechanisms, truth seeking, reparations, conflict prevention and cohesion building, fighting hate speech and ethnic discrimination, project and team management  Main responsibilities and activities: Overall responsibility (technical, financial and human resources) for the implementation of the project (6,5 million €). Ensure capacity development of Kenyan partner organisations, using various tools and instruments. Conduct continuous socio-political analyses of the working environment, including the situation of human rights defenders and human rights violations in the country. Coordinate interventions with other development partners/international and national institutions. Participate in donor coordination and provide strategic advice for German Development Cooperation in Kenya. | 3,5 | Nairobi/Kenya |
| July 2008 – June 2010 Governance and Justice Advisor for the Belgian Technical Cooperation in Mali  Fields of expertise: public sector reform, institution building and capacity development, donor coordination  Main responsibilities and activities: design new programme based interventions on public sector reform (for over 25 million €; bi-lateral and multi-donor (especially with the EC), contribute to the development of SWAps, technical follow-up, conduct socio-political country analyses, conduct sector dialogue with Ministries and donors, manage difficult situations (e.g. conflict), writing reports and discussion notes, manage teams and - outside Mali – continue to provide support to and follow-up of the joint DFID-Belgian Justice programme in Burundi. | 2 | Bamako/Mali |
| Aug. 2006 – June 2008 Justice and Governance Advisor for the Belgian Technical Cooperation/Head Quarters (Brussels)    Fields of expertise: Access to Justice with specific attention to mechanisms to protect human rights, Sector wide approaches in the Justice and Rule of Law Sector, capacity development, program design  Main responsibilities and activities: Design justice support programmes (bi-lateral and multi-donor), design and support implementation of Justice SWAp’s, technical follow-up of programmes, conduct justice sector, institutional and organisational analyses, including the human rights situation in the countries of operation, negotiate with Ministries of Justice and Cabinets, design justice indicators and contribute to the development of Management Information Systems (M&E), manage teams.  Multiple field missions: Burundi (multi-donor justice programme: DFID, Sweden (silent partner) and Belgian bi-lateral Cooperation), Democratic Republic of Congo (multi-donor justice programme: EU, DFID, Belgian and Dutch bi-lateral Cooperation), Rwanda (justice), Benin (justice), Vietnam, Niger | 2 | Brussels/Belgium |
| Jan 2000 – Aug 2006 Development policy advisor and research fellow at the Institute of Development Policy and Management    Field of expertise: Fragile States and situations, Reparations for victims of gross human rights violations, Human Rights and Development, Security Sector Reform, governance indicators, monitoring and evaluation within the new aid paradigm.  Main responsibilities and activities: Conducting Ph.D. research with extensive and in-depth field work, analyses of best practices in development cooperation, giving advice to the Belgian Development Cooperation, training public servants (Belgian Training Institute for the Federal Administration), writing and publishing reports, papers and articles, giving presentations at international conferences, field missions (mainly Rwanda) | 6 | Antwerp/Belgium |

**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.

|  |
| --- |
| 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.

Not applicable.

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.