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: Rajagopal  | Sex: [x]  Male [ ]  Female |
| First Name: Balakrishnan  | Date of birth ( d-MMM-yy): 12-Jul-67 |
| Maiden name (if any):        | Place of birth: India |
| Middle name:        | Nationality(please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): USA |
|  | 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 a doctoral degree in law and development from Harvard Law School and a first law degree from University of Madras, one of India’s oldest law schools. With over 20 years of teaching, research and professional experience in human rights including land, property and housing, I also teach MIT’s only comprehensive human rights course. I also have over 15 years of research on social movements and human rights advocacy around the world. In over 4 years of experience working with the UN in the area of human rights at the field level in Cambodia, I was responsible for monitoring, investigation, education and advocacy, as well as law drafting in a variety of areas including land and housing. During these years, I had lead responsibility for writing the UN field Office relevant reports to the UN General Assembly as well as the then UN Commission on Human Rights. I have taught for over 12 years in one of the world’s best urban planning schools, acquiring expertise over design of government policy and institutions, local government, mobilizing human rights for change, poverty, and social exclusion. |
| 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 have taught, researched and written extensively on multiple dimensions of human rights, for more than 20 years. During my years of work with the UN in Cambodia, I had to have a detailed knowledge of human rights norms, laws, and principles, of the UN and other systems, in order to sufficiently be able to assess the compliance with those standards by Cambodia’s laws and practices. I have provided detailed commentaries on a variety of legal and other standards to many NGOs, governments and other actors over the years. I am also extensively informed about the various institutional mandates in the UN system, due to my past work, and my research, teaching and scholarship. In particular, I have provided support for over 4 years to special procedure mechanisms such as the UN Special Representative for Cambodia and engaged in regular communications with other institutional mandate holders as well. I also founded in 2001 and direct MIT’s first and only university wide Program on Human Rights and Justice, with an explicit focus on economic, social and cultural rights. During my UN work in Cambodia, I proposed the creation of the UN-Cambodia Hybrid Criminal Tribunal, which then became a reality. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired). | My competence in human rights is widely recognized. For my UN work, I received Cambodia’s highest civilian honor given to foreign citizens by King Sihanouk. I have been elected to the Executive Council and Executive Committee of the American Society of International Law, and currently sit on the Asia Advisory Board of Human Rights Watch. I have been human rights advisor to the World Commission on Dams. My work on Dalits and right to sanitation, has been covered by leading Indian media. I have given several distinguished lectures on invitation such as the Lecture on “International Courts and Second and Third Generation Human Rights” at the Brandeis Institute for International Judges, Brandeis University, the Keynote on ‘Rethinking the Right to Development: Challenges and Opportunities’ at the 3nd Inter-American Conference on Human Rights, Bogota, Colombia, the Keynote on ‘Right to housing: Comparative perspectives’, Human Rights Law Resource Center, Melbourne, Australia, Special Lectures at the UN University for Peace, Costa Rica, the Rechtskulturen Lecture, at the Institute for Advanced Study, Germany, the Valerie Gordon Human Rights Lecture, Northeastern University School of Law, and the Annual Hansen/Hostler Distinguished Lecture on Global Justice, San Diego State University.  |
| 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) | I would be able to devote the time that’s necessary for the mandate. My teaching and academic obligations are for nine months of the year and we are allowed by MIT to use the remaining time to engage in outside professional activities. The flexibility provided by the academic schedule also will allow me to remain invested in the mandate during the rest of the year, and allow me, as needed, to conduct missions or to travel to New York or Geneva. The teaching schedule itself is flexible and typically I am able to engage in other professional activities. I have already used this time to develop relationships with many actors in the human rights field, including government officials, NGOs, social movements, academics, key people in internaitonal organizations and community level activists. The supporting environment for research and writing, especially in a graduate-school environment like mine, will also make it comparatively more helpful to carry out the mandate.  |

**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** | [x]  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  |
| **French** | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Russian** | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Spanish** | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| **Mother tongue:** **Tamil** | [x]  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  | [x]  | [ ]  |

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

|  |
| --- |
| The Special Procedure mechanisms of the UN system are a seldom-acknowledged success of the international community. Within a relatively short period of 2 decades, the mechanisms have laid the legal foundation and points of mobilization for a range of fundamental human rights including the right to housing. The key dynamics of today’s world involve rapid and often uncontrolled urbanization, and the struggle over land and struggle for housing are the central human stories of this enterprise. The mandate holders have so far done much of the foundational work including on the legal side. Now is the time to focus on implementation and transformation of practices. No discipline is better positioned than urban planning and economic development to enable this transition. Human right to adequate housing must now go beyond law and transform practices in urban design, government services and institutions, land tenure arrangements, infrastructure provisioning, and environmental planning. This mandate requires a strong leader with the ability, location and perspective to make this possible. If elected, I will build on the very valuable work done by the previous rapporteurs and develop the mandate in at least three directions. First, I will focus on developing legal and technical standards that link the right to adequate housing with other areas of development planning such as participation in government decisions and budgeting, land tenure and property rights, and technology interface for alternative housing infrastructure. These standards will better enable a translation of normative goals of the right into practices on the ground, which address the challenges of poverty and exclusion. For example, there is much scope for better standards on how the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Displacement and Evictions can be adapted for evaluating budgetary processes to make them more participatory. Second, I will focus on the building of alliances between activists, academics and policy makers to better understand the extent, causes and remedies to serious violations of right to housing. In this I can benefit from the recently launched MIT research project on displacement, which I direct. There is more of a need for constructive dialogue between key actors for the future of the right to adequate housing. Third, I will continue to focus on country visits, including to those countries, which have been seriously affected by the recent economic crisis and slowdown. They include countries in the North as well as the South, as well as key regions in countries, which sometimes have rapid economic growth rates but have serious violations of right to adequate housing. In developing a plan for country visits, I want to develop a clearer rationale and strategy, which link these visits with the other two goals I have articulated above. For example, a country visit can be preceded by strategy meetings held by key partners, which develop goals to be met during visits in the light of the international obligations and ground level responses, and be followed by a series of technical and other interventions, which respond to the findings of the rapporteur during the visits. Groundwork before and follow up afterwards remain relatively weak in the current system and I hope to be able to improve them. Through these and other public outreach strategies, I hope to be a central catalyst in global conversations about the future of housing as a human right in today’s rapidly globalizing and urbanizing world. On a personal level, I also feel strongly that as a scholar who has researched many social movements on the ground, I have a rare ground-level feel for the issues as well as a more urgent commitment to addressing them.  |

**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** |
| Doctor of Juridical Science, Harvard Law School | 1997-2000 | Cambridge, MA, USA |
| Master of Laws, Washington College of Law, The American University | 1991-92 | Washington, DC, USA |
| Bachelor of Laws, University of Madras | 1985-90 | Chennai, India |
|       |       |       |

**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 |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor of Law and Development and Director, Program on Human Rights and Justice | 2000-current | Cambridge, MA, USA |
| UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia, Human Rights Officer Legal Assistance | 1993-96 | Phnom Penh, Cambodia |
| UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, Human Rights Officer | 1992-93 | Kampong Som, Cambodia |
| Neill and Company, Attorney | 1992 | Washington DC |

**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.

N/A

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.