



WASH United



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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Call for applications and checklist for the selection and appointment of the new United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

In September 2014 at the 27th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), the President of the Council is to appoint the new Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The recognition of and support for the human rights to water and sanitation have developed significantly over recent years, including through constructive discussions at the UN Human Rights Council and the work of Special Procedures, notably the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

WASH United, WaterAid and Amnesty International, as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on the human rights to water and sanitation are offering, in the form of a checklist, an outline of qualifications that we believe are relevant to the selection and the appointment of the next mandate-holder. These are intended to help apply to the present mandate the general criteria that are applied to the nomination, selection and appointment of all Special Procedures mandate-holders.

We encourage governments, NGOs, National Human Rights Institutions and others, including relevant professional networks, to disseminate the vacancy widely so as to encourage candidates to apply for it.

We consider commitment to universal human rights, relevant experience, competence, independence and personal integrity to be obligatory requirements for any individual to be considered an eligible candidate for this mandate. While it is not necessary for a candidate to meet every specification listed below, the strongest candidates should meet a substantial number of them. Please note also that these checklists are not intended to be exhaustive as to the desirable qualifications of the Special Rapporteur.

Nomination Process

All applicants must submit an application for the mandate through the OHCHR online application system available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC27.aspx>

The deadline for receipt of nominations is 28 July 2014

Prospective mandate-holders should be aware that this is a voluntary, unpaid role. They would not receive a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of 'experts on mission'. It will require a substantial time commitment from the individual, including readiness to travel and respond to urgent situations, as explained in the checklist.

Checklist for selection of candidates for the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

The HRC process of selection is designed to ensure that eligible candidates are highly qualified individuals who possess established competence, relevant expertise and extensive professional experience in the field of human rights. The process is subject to the general criteria and technical and objective requirements set out in HRC resolution 5/1 and decision 6/102, respectively (see further under 'background information').

The following checklist is intended as an interpretive aid for those requirements:

1. Qualifications (and skills): relevant educational qualifications and equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights; good communications skills in two of the official languages of the United Nations.

Checklist:

- A post-graduate university degree or equivalent in a discipline directly related to the mandate, preferably with a substantial focus on international human rights law and/or access to water and sanitation;
- Academic publications or other published material, including for NGOs (articles, studies, reports, research papers or any similar written material demonstrating in-depth knowledge) on human rights issues relevant to the mandate;
- Excellent oral and written communications skills in at least two of the UN working languages (English, French and Spanish); knowledge of other widely-used or official UN languages, such as Arabic, Chinese or Russian, would be an asset;
- Strong inter-personal communication skills in order to effectively engage both expert and non-expert audiences;
- Extensive experience of public speaking and in communicating at senior levels with governments, UN officials, the media and other relevant stakeholders.

Note: The high level of public and media awareness of the human rights to water and sanitation has been an important enabling factor for changes in policy and practice in recent years. In order to maintain this it is important that the mandate-holder has a strong track record of public engagement.

2. Relevant expertise: knowledge of international human rights instruments and standards; knowledge of relevant institutional mandates related to the UN or other international or regional organizations' work in the area of human rights and water and sanitation; proven work experience in the field of human rights and/or water and sanitation.

Checklist:

- Extensive knowledge of international human rights law and standards;
- At least 10 years of work experience in the field of human rights and/or water and sanitation, in particular in work on economic, social and cultural rights and on access to water and sanitation;
- Knowledge or expertise related to thematic areas that are pertinent to the scope of the mandate, such as sanitation and hygiene, water resources management, the post-2015

development agenda, and on inequality and the marginalisation of specific groups in society with respect to water and sanitation service provision;

- Proven ability to engage constructively with all relevant stakeholders and interest groups. The mandate-holder should have a proven track record of engaging with stakeholders from various sectors and of balancing sometimes competing positions of different interest groups, including national governments, the diplomatic community, multi-lateral agencies, public and private sector water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector actors, as well as non-governmental organisations and communities;
- A clear commitment to the realisation of all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and an ability to convey their value. The mandate-holder will have to explain, with evidence, to practitioners at all levels how human rights can add value to water and sanitation service provision.

3. Established competence: nationally, regionally or internationally recognised competence related to human rights.

Checklist:

- Experience of implementation and enforcement of human rights in practice. The recognition of and support for the human rights to water and sanitation have developed with remarkable speed. From this follows a demand for guidance on the implementation and use of the rights in practice by virtually all stakeholders and at all levels (local, national, regional, international). It is therefore highly desirable that the mandate-holder have practical experience of working with human rights and more specifically with economic, social and cultural rights, while also being able to communicate in an accessible and appealing manner to a wider audience outside of the human rights sector.
- The ability to conduct both theoretical and field research required in conducting fact finding missions;
- Experience in critically analysing information and data, in order to be able identify trends and make effective recommendations;
- Experience in working with authorities responsible for water and sanitation and related issues;
- Awareness of persisting inequalities, marginalisation and specific needs of specific groups (e.g. people living in poverty, people living in slums and informal settlements, women, children, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities) in access to water and sanitation.
- Commitment to work closely with a range of stakeholders, including NGOs.

4. Flexibility/readiness and availability of time to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including conducting country visits, writing reports in a timely fashion and attending Human Rights Council and General Assembly sessions.

Checklist:

- Willingness and ability to conduct in-country missions, in all regions of the world, to assess challenges relating to the realisation of the human rights to water and sanitation;
- A demonstrated commitment to international human rights law, standards and values, including those related to economic, social and cultural rights. A commitment to uphold the integrity, independence and impartiality of the Special Rapporteur's mandate;

- Willingness and ability to devote a substantial proportion of working hours to fulfilling the mandate, which includes undertaking two to three country missions per year, preparing and presenting reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly (including annual and country mission reports), and attending seminars and UN meetings;
- Willingness and ability to act urgently on cases or situations requiring immediate attention.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HRC resolution 5/1 sets general criteria that are of 'paramount importance while nominating, selecting and appointing mandate-holders: (a) expertise; (b) experience in the field of the mandate; (c) independence; (d) impartiality; (e) personal integrity; and (f) objectivity' (paragraph 39).

HRC decision 6/102 establishes four technical and objective requirements (qualifications, relevant expertise, established competence and flexibility/readiness and availability of time) to be considered in the selection of Special Procedures mandate-holders.

HRC resolution 5/1 excludes as potential mandate-holders 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 (paragraph 46).

HRC resolution 5/1 requires that due consideration be given to gender balance and equitable geographic representation, as well as to an appropriate representation of different legal systems (paragraph 40).