

SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD FORMAT
**Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the
context of climate change**

Appointment to be made by the Human Rights Council at its 49th session

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 25 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME

- The application process consists of two compulsory parts:
(1) online survey¹ (<https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/985419>)
and
(2) application form in Word format² (to be downloaded from
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC49.aspx>)
- Once fully completed, in English or French only, the Word application form should be submitted by email to ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.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 additional 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.
- Applications 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.**
- Eligible for Working Group mandates are only nationals of the States belonging to the [regional groups](#) for which specific vacancies have been advertised.
- 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> and <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 (ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).

I. PERSONAL DATA

1. Family (last) name: Gavouneli	5. Year of birth: 1964
2. First (given) name: Maria	6. Place of birth: Greece
3. Other name, if any: -	7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Greece
4. Gender: Female	8. Any other nationality: -

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 must be used both in the online survey and in the Word application form.

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 or French only, the two working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. The application form will be used as received to prepare the public list of eligible candidates who applied for the vacancy. The application forms of eligible candidates will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process.

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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 limit)

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.)

LLB (Honours) (Athens), LLM (Cambridge), PhD (Cambridge) (Paul Guggenheim Prize). Professor of international law, University of Athens (2003-): international law, human rights and environment law, including the first LLM courses in climate law and energy as well as Business & HR in the country. Senior Policy Advisor, Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP); Associate, Hellenic Institute of International & Foreign Law; Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London (2005-2019). Fulbright Scholar, University of California Berkeley (2018-2019); visiting professor, including Edinburgh (Brodies Lecture), Glasgow, Manchester, Utrecht, Tulane, the British Institute of International & Comparative Law, the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), the Hague Academy of International Law. Author of 5 monographs, multiple chapters in books and numerous articles, editor of several volumes, co-editor-in-chief: Yearbook of International Environmental Law, board member in multiple journals. Member of academic societies, including ESIL and ASIL, convenor of interest groups; the ILA Committee on sea-level rise, having served in the Committee on the legal principles relating to climate change and the Committee on transnational enforcement of environmental law (rapporteur). Fluent in Greek, English and French, excellent in Spanish and Italian.

2. RELEVANT EXPERTISE (200 words limit)

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 and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state how this was acquired.)

Proven work experience in the field of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state years of experience.)

As an academic, I teach and research on human rights protection. I also have long experience in the workings of international organizations: UN: GA Third Committee; UNEP-MAP on the Mediterranean Offshore Protocol; the UN Convention against Corruption (evaluator); as independent expert at the 2001 Durban Conference on Racism and Xenophobia. Council of Europe: chair, member and evaluator in numerous committees, including the Steering Committee on Penal Matters (2007-2011); GRECO – the Group of States against Corruption (since 2005); the Steering Group of the Pan-European Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (2016-2019). EU: President of the Article 36 Committee, coordinating Justice and Home Affairs (2003 and 2014); member of the Group of Experts on Corruption (2011-2020). OECD: vice-chair and evaluator, Working Group on Bribery (since 2003). As a National Human Rights Institution: parallel reports to UN treaty bodies during the examination of Greece, including UPR (2015 and 2021), HRC (2015 και 2021), CESCR (2015), CERD (2016

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καί 2021), CAT (2019), CRPD (2019), CRC (2020), as well as the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related financial obligations of the State on the full enjoyment of all human rights and the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women. Board member in NGOs, including the venerable League for Women Rights.

3. ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words limit)

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

Greek National Commission of Human Rights, President (2019-2022), vice chair (2017-2019) and chair of the international affairs group (2015-2017); Bureau member, European Network of National Human Rights Institutions – ENNHRI (2019-2022, 2016-2019); Bureau member, Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions – GANHRI (2019-2022).

Founding member (1998) and vice chair (since 2004) of the Human Rights Defence Center, NGO with observer status to the UN and the Council of Europe; Bureau member (since 2018-) of the League for Women Rights, the oldest feminist organisation in Greece (est. 1920). Member of the Governing Board, National Transparency Authority (2020-2023); Member, National Accessibility Authority (since 2020).

Invited to join 100 environmental scholars in the preparation of the Global Pact for the Environment (2017).

4. PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Please list significant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that the candidate has written or public statements, or pronouncements that the candidate has made or events participated in relation to the mandate.

4.1 Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:

1. Title of publication: Energy at Sea

Journal/Publisher: Edward Elgar

Date of publication: 2022

Web link, if available:

2. Title of publication: Energy installations in the marine environment, in Jill Barrett & Richard Barnes (eds.), Law of the Sea: UNCLOS as a living treaty, pp. 187-208

Journal/Publisher: British Institute of International & Comparative Law

Date of publication: 2016

Web link, if available:

3. Title of publication: A human right to groundwater?

Journal/Publisher: 13 International Community Law Review 2011, pp. 305-319

Date of publication: 2011

Web link, if available:

If more than three publications, kindly summarize (200 words limit): Protecting Women Fishers: The gender parameters of labour rights at sea, in Irini Papanicolopulu (ed.), Gender and the Law of the Sea, Brill 2019, 165-179 (ASIL WILIG Scholarship Prize 2021)

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L'effet normatif des mécanismes de suivi : l'exemple de la lutte contre la corruption, in Hervé Ascencio & Nicola Bonucci (dir.), *Le pouvoir normatif de l'OCDE*, Pedone, Paris 2013, 45-53

Citizens environmental rights: The example of the Aarhus Convention, in Aliko Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos, Antonis Bredimas & L.-A. Sicilianos (eds.), *Protection of the environment in law and practice*, Athens 2008, 125-154 [in Greek]

MG & Vangelis Kyriakopoulos (eds.), *Human Rights in the 21st Century*, Athens 2002

Chamayev & 12 others v. Russia and Georgia, ECtHR, 100 AJIL 2006, 674-683

L.-A. Sicilianos & MG (eds.), *Scientific and Technological Developments & HR*, Athens 2001

Access to environmental information: Delimitation of a right, 13 Tulane Environmental LJ 2000, 303-327

Protection standards for the marine environment: Updating Part XII of the Law of the Sea Convention?, in Stephen Minas & H. Jordan Diamond (eds.), *Stress Testing the Law of the Sea*, Brill 2018, 254-266

Legislating by Compacts? – The legal nature of the Global Compacts, EJIL Talk!, 28 February 2019

The EU approach to migration and international standards: A fruitful interplay or a dialogue of the deaf?, *Observatory of European Migration Law* 2018

4.2 Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that the candidate may have participated in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:

1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made: NHRIs COP26 SYMPOSIUM

THE ROLE OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
IN BRIDGING THE ACCOUNTABILITY GAP IN THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Event organizer: GANHRI, University of Sterling, Scottish HRC, ENNHRI, OHCHR with UNEP, UNDP

Date on which public statement/pronouncement made: 3 November 2021

Web link, if available: https://ganhri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/NHRIs-COP26-Symposium_agenda.pdf

2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made: High-Level Meeting on Ensuring Respect for the Human Rights of Migrants at Borders: The Role of NHRIs

Event organizer: ENNHRI

Date on which public statement/pronouncement made: 2 June 2021

Web link, if available: <http://ennhri.org/news-and-blog/event/high-level-meeting-human-rights-of-migrants-at-borders/>

3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:

Introducing a Climate Law in Greece:

Towards a zero emissions climate resilient future

Event organizer: British Embassy in Athens & WWF

Date on which public statement/pronouncement made: 20 July 2021

Web link, if available:

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If more than three, kindly summarize (200 words limit): Both as an expert and as the President of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights, I make regular statements to the press, am invited for interviews and appear on the media mostly to comment on current events, ranging from COVID-19 measures to violence against women to Roma inclusion. A significant proportion relate to migration issues, including the presentation of the Greek National Report on Migrants at Borders, part of an ENNHRI project (15 July 2021); the launch event on the OHCHR-UNOCT trainers guide on human rights at international borders (25 October 2021); or the rebuttal to the Greek Minister for Migration during the 18th Annual Lecture of the LSE Hellenic Observatory (22 June 2021). Under my leadership, the Greek National Commission for Human Rights has also made its first recorded public statement, the day the leaders of Golden Dawn, the neonazi organization, were found guilty of a number of criminal offences, including murder. I am also invited to public discussions and webinars on the human rights aspects of climate change, as I participated in the drafting committee for a climate law offered by WWF Greece to the Greek Government: the bill is currently on public consultation and will be presented to Parliament by the end of the year.

5. FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME (200 words limit) **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 two country visits per year, drafting reports according to established deadlines, organizing and participating in consultations and meetings, addressing allegations of human rights violations with all concerned, providing advice to States and other stakeholders on issues related to their mandate and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated time of four to six months per year to the work of a mandate depending on its workload.**

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”.

My academic background has the advantage of a flexible schedule, as I may organize my classes and assorted lectures relatively freely within the parameters of the academic year: my current schedule allows for a term of intensive teaching engagements to be followed by a term of research and thus I am well in a position to dedicate the required amount of time to the mandate. As an international law scholar, I travel quite frequently (even during these times of the pandemic) and I am also well-tuned to the exigencies of long-distance communication and the digital world. Belonging to an international community of scholars, I am quite adept at working in the field, public speaking and relating to persons and countries the world over, including addressing stressful situations in conditions of crisis. The discipline of academic research and the targeted effort required offer an excellent training field for the intensive work required by the mandate.

6. NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE

Indicate whether the candidate has been nominated by (check all that apply):

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- Individual nominations (indicate this if the candidate is self-nominating)**
- Governments**
- Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights systems**
- International organizations or their offices**
- Non-governmental organizations**
- National human rights institutions**
- Other human rights bodies**

Name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination (use if applicable, for third-party nominations only) (200 words limit):

I am an independent candidate – as befits both my academic background and my position as the elected head of a National Human Rights Institution, with the status of an independent authority. I am also particularly pleased and grateful for the letters of support offered by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions – GANHRI and two major environmental non-governmental organisations: Greenpeace Greece and WWF Greece.

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III. MOTIVATION LETTER, INCLUDING YOUR VISION OF THE MANDATE

(600 word limit. Must be typed in the space below and not sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be drafted and signed (i.e. with a typed signature) by the candidate himself/herself even if nominated by another entity.)

In my latest book on 'Energy at Sea', I explore the transition to renewable sources of energy as evidence of an emerging human right to climate stability, with the ancillary rights of access to the best available science and the preservation and protection of an environmental acquis while in the ILA Committee on sea-level rise I explore the impact of climate change on legal norms. In a major funded research project with a team of brilliant young researchers, we challenge the fundamental tenets of the field, exploring the limits of the concept of sovereignty and its impact on universal concerns, including climate change. I had long argued in my scholarship that we need to build upon the architecture of human rights protection, essentially thinking of new, out-of-the box ways in which we could use our venerable tools with a view to adjusting to emerging needs and making full use of the experience and expertise gained from a robust system of protection: the recent spate of climate-related cases brought before the UN treaty bodies and human rights adjudication both before international and domestic courts speaks to the advantages of that incremental approach, which takes full advantage of our existing toolbox – and as such is duly noted in the Glasgow Climate Pact. Indeed, as head of an NHRI and member of the Board of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), I have consented to an intervention before the European Court of Human Rights in the Seniors case.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that the piece-meal approach of human-rights-based climate litigation does not fully cover the essentially distributive nature of climate justice. It is the reason I have been involved, along with an excellent team of outstanding legal scholars, in developing a Global Pact on the Environment. And I am thrilled that the Human Rights Council recognised in resolution 48/13 the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and called upon States to cooperate to implement this right.

The greatest challenge of a scholar, however, lies in translating theory to practice and declarations of intent to functional, effective and sustainable policies. I was pleased and honoured to have been invited by WWF Greece to participate in the drafting of the first climate law for the country: harnessing expectations to viable policies and effective legal tools is often an exercise in frustration but the combination of outstanding expertise and positive political will have made this effort particularly rewarding: the draft has been accepted by the Government and a climate bill is currently in public consultation soon to be discussed in Parliament.

This is but an example of the efforts required to address the challenges of the climate crisis. As a GANHRI Bureau member, I encouraged the creation of a GANHRI Caucus to strengthen the link between human rights, climate change and climate justice mostly in the Global South, and have the Greek NCHR participate in an exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices among NHRIs across all regions of the world with a view to addressing the climate crisis with a human-rights based approach, working towards a just transition to a zero-carbon economy with the benefits and burden of climate action shared equally through decisions that are participatory, non-discriminatory and accountable and ensure access to effective remedies. This is the manner in which I view the present mandate: a ground-breaking challenge which is at the same time an excellent opportunity for effective contributions to current thinking on the climate crisis, building on adaptation, mitigation and resilience and common action. Coming from a collegial institution, which serves as a bridge between the State and civil society, I have long experience in accommodating often widely conflicting interests and opinions and

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seeking a common ground which is viable and effective and certainly not the lowest common denominator. In fact, that could be my compass: joint action for a common future.

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IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)

Please indicate all language skills below.

1. Mother tongue: Greek

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

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

Read: Easily or Not easily:

Write: Easily or Not easily:

Speak: Easily or Not easily:

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

Read: Easily or not easily:

Write: Easily or not easily:

Speak: Easily or not easily:

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

Read: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

Write: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

Speak: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

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

Read: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

Write: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

Speak: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

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

Read: Easily or not easily:

Write: Easily or not easily:

Speak: Easily or not easily:

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

Read: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

Write: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

Speak: Easily or not easily: **Easily**

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V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD

NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, and whether full- or part-time; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, city and country*). If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.

Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time:	Years of attendance (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003; for ongoing education, please put e.g. 2018-present):	Place and country:
Ph.D. in International Environmental Law, University of Cambridge (full time)	1988-1994	Cambridge, UK
LL.M. in International Law, University of Cambridge (full time)	1987-1988	Cambridge, UK
Ptychion - LLB in Law, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (full time)	1981-1987	Athens, Greece

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VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD

NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate's current (most recent) occupation. Also, indicate whether positions held were full-time or part-time. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one position may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.

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; for ongoing activities, please put e.g. 2018-present):	Place and country:
National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Professor of International Law, full time	2003-	Athens, Greece
Greek National Commission for Human Rights, President, full time	2015-	Athens, Greece
European Network of National Human Rights Institutions - ENNHRI, Member of the Board, full time	2016-	Brussels, Belgium
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions - GANHRI, Member of the Board, full time	2018-	Geneva, Switzerland
League for Women Rights, Member of the Board, full time	2018-	Athens, Greece

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**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

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

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

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.

NO

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VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION

To be completed by the candidate. The candidate's name below should match how it is entered on the first page of the form and in the online survey.

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 (ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org).

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

Name: Maria Gavouneli

Date: 25 November 2021
