**How to apply:**

The entire application process consists of two parts: **1. online survey** and **2. application form in Word format**. Both parts and all sections of the application form need to be completed before the deadline for the application to be processed.

**First part:** **Online survey** (<http://icts-surveys.unog.ch/index.php/934635/lang-en>) is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and nominating entity.

**Second part:** **Application form in Word** can be downloaded from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC30.aspx>, 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. The application form should be completed in English only. It 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 public website.

Once fully completed (including Section VII), the application form in Word should be submitted to [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) (by email). A maximum of three reference letters can be attached in Word or pdf format to the email (optional). No additional documents such as CVs or lists of publications will be accepted.

* **Application deadline: 18 June 2015 (12.00 noon GMT)**
* No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.
* Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.

General description of the selection process is available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx>

In case of technical difficulties, or if encountering problems with accessing or completing the forms, the Secretariat may be contacted by email at [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) or fax at + 41 22 917 9011.

**An acknowledgment email will be sent when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form by email.**

**Thank you for your interest in the work of the Human Rights Council.**

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family name:** De Baets | **5. Sex:**  **Male**  **Female** |
| **2. First name:** Antoon | **6. Year of birth:** 14-Sep-55 |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):** - | **7. Place of birth:** Eeklo, Belgium |
| **4. Middle name:** Herman Maria | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Belgian |
|  | **9. Any other nationality:** |

**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)

**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.)**

My name is Antoon De Baets. I hold degrees in history (MA 1977, PhD 1988), history education (MA 1978) and Third World Studies (MA 1978) from the University of Ghent (Belgium). My PhD thesis (cum laude) regarded the representation of non-western cultures in history textbooks (1945–1984).

For the past 26 years, I have worked at the University of Groningen (Netherlands), currently as professor of History, Ethics and Human Rights. I teach about contemporary history, world history, the history of human rights (violations), transitional justice, and the ethics of historians.

I have published 166 works (including five books), mainly focusing on the censorship of history, the ethics of historians and problems at the crossroads of history, ethics and human rights, in languages such as English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Norwegian and Russian, and in countries such as the USA, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, UK, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Greece, Norway, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, China and Australia. My latest article (published June 2015 in Krakow, Poland) was about “iconoclastic breaks with the past.”

I am a staff representative at the university (2007-present).

I am fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Dutch; I read German.

(A full curriculum vitae of 35 pages is available at concernedhistorians.org/va/cv.pdf).

1. **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 am the author of books such as Censorship of Historical Thought: A World Guide (2002; xviii+695 pages) and Responsible History (2009; xviii+274 pages), and substantive articles on “The UDHR and the historian” (English, Portuguese, Dutch editions), “posthumous privacy and reputation”, “historical imprescriptibility”, “human-rights history”, “the place of academic freedom under the UN Covenants”, “iconoclasm”, etc.

Research to be published soon regards, inter alia, the relationship between historical writing and democracy; historians and archivists killed for political reasons; a historian’s view on the right to be forgotten; the power of historical parallels; and post-conflict history textbook moratoria.

Current research regards history-related complaints before the UN; the legal framework of historical writing; and a theory of free expression about the past.

I have conducted and led several sponsored research projects at the intersection of history and human rights. I supervise PhD students working on the censorship of archives and history; transitional justice; Auschwitz; and history before the court.

I have been active in the human-rights sector, including as full-time volunteer of Amnesty International in Costa Rica (1980–1982), board member of its Flemish Section (1983–1988), and founder-coordinator of the Network of Concerned Historians (1995–present).

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200 words)

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

I am professor of History, Ethics and Human Rights at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands (by special appointment of EUROCLIO, the nominating entity). I am a member of the Honorary Boards of EUROCLIO and the International Students of History Association. I sit on the Advisory Board of the multilingual Historiografías, revista de historia y teoría (Spain).

The website of the Network of Concerned Historians (concernedhistorians.org) functions as a bridge between human-rights organizations and historians, and currently includes twenty Annual Reports (which I all compiled), campaigns for persecuted historians, UN resources for historians, and unique collections of ethical codes and history-related legal cases. The Network consists of 1,650 historians worldwide.

I have (co-)organized multiple conference panels. Two recent examples: I am the organizer of the four-day seminar of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences about “Academic Freedom and Scientific Integrity” (June 2015) and co-chairman of the panel “Use and Abuse of History” at the World Congress of Historians in Jinan, China (August 2015).

I delivered key-note addresses at conferences in Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, China, UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Bulgaria, Belgium and the Netherlands.

1. **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.)**

My time commitment will be a minimum of six months a year, calculated as follows: 40% of my annual workload (= 4.8 months per year) is constituted of legally protected research time. I also have a guaranteed compensation time (for which the money is already earned) of 1.2 months per year for the next six years. I will entirely spend this time slot for the Special Rapporteur work.

In addition, I have the full support of my institution, the University of Groningen in the Netherlands; it will facilitate my work as rapporteur: please see its recommendation letter. This may increase my availability even more and allow maximum schedule flexibility.

Furthermore, as I will devote myself to year-round work on the mandate, I shall organize my annual master course (one of the two courses I teach each year for a semester), for which I am free to determine the subject, around selected thematic issues of the mandate. This, in turn, could result in PhD projects in the field of the mandate.

Two large and important INGOs strongly endorse my application and will support me as rapporteur: the nominating entity EUROCLIO (The Hague) and Scholars at Risk (New York): please see their recommendation letters.

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

Cultural rights encompass the rights to culture and science. Both rights are oxygen for the human being and her/his dignity and personality. The exercise of the right to culture generates expressions (stories, memories, world views) of existential meaning and individual and collective identity. The exercise of the right to science produces reliable knowledge to understand and evaluate the world. Ideally, the latter informs the former. At the crossroads of both, the Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights has three critical roles: (1) properly analyze the nexus of cultural rights within the framework of the entire human rights family, (2) on that basis, arouse awareness and build coalitions with all relevant stakeholders to protect and promote these rights, and (3) alert the world community to obstacles to, threats for, and violations of these rights.

Building on the nine thematic reports constituting Farida Shaheed’s impressive legacy, I would gradually cover the entire field of cultural rights, acting under Human Rights Council leadership and with the help of CCPR and CESCR jurisprudence, joint work with other rapporteurs and UNESCO, best-practice exchanges with governments, input by NGOs and human rights defenders, and academic research. To clarify my views on the mandate and my underlying motivation, I drafted a rough plan for future Special Rapporteur reports. While avoiding to duplicate work already done by Farida Shaheed, such a plan should revisit aspects meriting further reflection, and include entirely new aspects. It could look like this:

Treaty-related issues (leading)

State obligations to respect, protect and fulfill cultural rights (art. 15.2 ICESCR)

Scientific and creative freedom (art. 15.3 ICESCR)

Cultural rights, international cooperation and solidarity (art. 15.4 ICESCR)

Treaty-related issues (jointly)

Cultural rights, youth and education (art. 13 ICESCR)

Cultural rights and the freedoms of thought and religion (art. 18 ICCPR)

Cultural rights, free expression and free assembly (art. 19 ICCPR)

Protection from the adverse effects of science (including art. 7 ICCPR)

Conceptual clarifications

Cultural rights: scope, substance and limitations

Cultural rights and duties

The interrelationship between culture and science

The right not to participate in culture

Obstacles

Barriers to access culture and science

Abuses in the name of cultural rights (discrimination, incitement, destruction)

Cultural rights and crimes against humanity (ethnic cleansing, iconoclasm)

Best practices

Cultural rights and archives

Cultural rights and impunity (including right to the truth, symbolic reparation)

Cultural rights and the dead (remains, funerals, cemeteries)

Cultural heritage embodying crimes of the past (including symbols, prisons)

Protecting cultural rights during violations (including early warning)

Cultural rights and diversity: conditions for mutual support

Channels of awareness about cultural rights

Multiple relationships

Cultural rights and generations (older persons, intergenerational awareness)

Cultural rights and self-determination (including art. 1 ICCPR/ICESCR)

Cultural rights and gender (including art. 3 ICESCR)

Cultural rights, globalization, development, poverty (including art. 11 ICESCR)

Cultural rights, minorities, indigenous peoples, migrants (incl. art. 27 ICCPR)

Cultural rights, data protection and data globalization

A final reflection. I taught human-rights history backward by the centuries and lived it forward day by day from the late 1970s on. In so doing, I have dedicated a substantial part of the past thirty-five years to the basic themes of the mandate. As years have turned into decades, the time has finally come, I feel, to put my knowledge and experience to the benefit of the broadest possible circle of citizens, based on a deep sense of service and urgency.

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

**Please indicate all language skills:**

**Mother tongue:** **Dutch**

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

**Read:** Easily orNot 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**

**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**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003): | **Place and country:** |
| PhD history (cum laude), University of Ghent | 1983-1988 | Ghent, Belgium |
| MA Third World Studies, University of Ghent | 1977-1978 | Ghent, Belgium |
| MA History Education, University of Ghent | 1976-1978 | Ghent, Belgium |
| MA History, University of Ghent | 1973-1977 | Ghent, Belgium |

**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 work** (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005): | **Place and country:** |
| University of Groningen, Professor of History, Ethics and Human Rights by special appointment | 2014-present | Groningen, the Netherlands |
| University of Groningen, Associate Professor of History | 2010-present | Groningen, the Netherlands |
| University of Groningen, Assistant Professor of History | 1989-2010 | Groningen, the Netherlands |
| University of Ghent, assistant at Third World Department, later senior researcher at the University Bureau | 1979-1990 | Ghent, Belgium |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS   
(of Human Rights 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

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