

SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD FORMAT
Working Group on discrimination against women and girls
Appointment to be made by the Human Rights Council at its 54th session

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 13 JUNE 2023 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME

- The application process consists of two compulsory parts:
(1) online survey¹ (<https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/563873>)
 and
(2) mandate-specific application form in Word format² (to be downloaded from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc54>)
- Once fully completed, **in English or French only**, the Word application form should be saved in Word format and submitted by email to ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org
- A **maximum of up to three optional letters of support** may be attached to the email (in Word or PDF format).
- No additional documents (e.g., CVs, resumes or additional letters of support) 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. Please read the instructions in this form carefully and fill the form fully in accordance with such instructions. **No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.**
- Candidates 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/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/nominations> and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts>
- 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: Mahboobi	5. Year of birth: 1989
2. First (given) name: Madina	6. Place of birth: Kabul
3. Other name, if any:	7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Afghan
4. Gender: Female	8. Any other nationality:
9. Please indicate for which region you are applying (please tick one box only):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Member from African States	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Member from Asia-Pacific States	
<input type="checkbox"/> Member from Eastern European States	
<input type="checkbox"/> Member from Western European and other States	

¹ The **online survey** is used to collect information for administrative 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 **mandate-specific 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-word limit)

Relevant educational qualifications or equivalent professional experience in the field of human rights, and 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).

I hold a Bachelor degree in Business Administration and a Master degree in Public Administration. In addition to my academic qualifications, I have attended numerous human rights trainings, conferences and conducted exposure visits to a number of Asian countries. I obtained certificates in leadership, management and human rights, social and economic rights and women's rights.

I am passionate about women's rights and have dedicated my career and life to advancing the rights of women. I had the opportunity to serve at senior positions in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, through which I advocated and promoted women's participation in high-ranking positions. I have been a keen women's rights advocate in Afghanistan, where I participated in designing and leading numerous projects for the promotion of women and girls rights. Further, in my current tenure as Executive Director of a NGO, I have been promoting women and girls' rights through various projects as well as advocacy and engagement with the de facto authorities in my country. My current position allowed me to work closely with the UN on gender and human rights issues, which has expanded my knowledge and expertise of human rights.

I am fluent in English and three other languages spoken in the region.

2. RELEVANT EXPERTISE (200-word limit)

Knowledge of international human rights instruments, norms and principles (please indicate how this was acquired). Knowledge of institutional mandates related to the work of the United Nations or other international or regional organizations in the area of human rights, and particularly in the area of the mandate (please indicate how this was acquired).

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

I am conversant with the mandates of the United Nations human rights mechanisms and other international and regional organizations that work for the promotion of human rights. For years, I have had direct engagement with various UN agencies, contributed and supported Afghanistan reviews under the various treaty bodies as well as Universal Periodic Review. I also have significant knowledge and experience related to the Asia Pacific and its institutions.

My experience encompasses not only women's rights but also children rights, discrimination, socio-economic rights, migrants and refugee rights, business and human rights.

3. ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200-word limit)

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

I have worked with different national and international institutions in Afghanistan, in various capacities, including at the Directorate, Advisor and Chief of Staff level. I have worked with a broad range of actors at the national level and led advocacy, accountability, and capacity building initiatives.

I participated in, and organized, several advocacy events around Afghanistan's reviews under Universal Periodic Reviews and treaty bodies, and advocated for women's rights and other human rights issues. I led field missions and high research projects and spearheaded advocacy around women and children's rights projects. I trained a number of Afghan defense lawyers, judges and human rights defenders.

I played critical role in the passage of Elimination of Violence against Women law that was key for the protection of violence against women. I was a strong advocate against the Shia Personal Law, which had problematic provisions. I spearheaded efforts on the prevention of sexual exploitation and harassment against female employees within the Ministry of Urban development and land with 6,000 employees.

I have deep understanding of Asian history, civilisation and Asian approach to international law and conflict prevention. My mediation skills and professional qualities are critical addition that would be key for the mandate.

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 in which the candidate has 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:

Journal/Publisher:

Date of publication:

Web link, if available:

2. Title of publication:

Journal/Publisher:

Date of publication:

Web link, if available:

3. Title of publication:

Journal/Publisher:

Date of publication:

Web link, if available:

If more than three publications, kindly provide a summary of the rest (200-word limit):

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

1. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement: Press conference

Event organizer: Vision Development Organisation

Date of public statement/pronouncement: 27 March 2022

Web link, if available:

2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement: Regional Public conference on Gender with the de facto authorities in Northern Afghanistan

Event organizer: UNICEF

Date of public statement/pronouncement: 24 October 2022

Web link, if available:

3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement: Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

Event organizer: Human Rights Council

Date of public statement/pronouncement: 19 June 2023

Web link, if available:

If more than three, kindly provide a summary of the rest (200-word limit):

5. FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME (200-word limit) to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, such as participating in Human Rights Council 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 the 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.

As an activist, I have dedicated most of my life and time advocating for women and girls rights. I believe working for women and girls rights require commitment of time and energy. The issue of women and girls rights is close to my heart, since women are facing an apartheid in my country. I am certain that I will be able to dedicate sufficient time and energy and there is no doubt that I will make all my efforts to attend the Working Groups' meetings in person and online, undertake mission tasked by Working Group, work on cases of violations against women and girls as well as respective government.

As I have been traveling frequently, I can easily travel to Geneva, New York and other places for relevant meetings, including Human Rights Council sessions, Special Procedures meetings, stakeholders consultations, etc. If appointed, I also have the readiness of my home as well as affiliate institutions to support me in possible ways.

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

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United Nations location, and they do not receive a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.

6. NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE

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

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

For third-party nominations, please provide the name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination (200-word limit):

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III. MOTIVATION LETTER, INCLUDING YOUR VISION OF THE MANDATE

600-word limit. Must be typed in the space below. Cannot be sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be written by the candidates themselves, even if nominated by an other stakeholder.

As a human rights advocate and women's rights activist, I have dedicated my entire life for the promotion and protection of women and girls right. I have always worked for women's rights and gender equality in my home country Afghanistan. For me, injustice and inequality are unacceptable and cannot be justified on any grounds. Therefore, I believe I am well suited to contribute constructively to the work of the Working Group.

Women across the globe, specifically in Asia face systemic and widespread discrimination by virtue of laws and practices in contravention of international norms and standards. I witness this reality in my home country, where women have been deprived of all basic and fundamental rights. They are facing an imminent erasure from social and public life as the restriction of their rights include their freedom of movement, attire, behavior, access to education, work, health and justice. Afghanistan remains the sole country that deprives half of its population from their rights and bans girls and women from education and employment, which gives rise to gender apartheid and gender persecution. I live this injustice and discrimination every day and which prompted me to stand firm in the defense of women and girls rights. After the take over of my country by Taliban, while everyone fled the country I chose to stay to make a difference. Since then, I have initiated numerous projects across the country, through which I support and promote women and girls rights. I have also been negotiating with the de facto authorities and despite challenges; I was able to make headways. I believe in dialogue and negotiations – no matter how difficult it may be. I also believe that for a social change, women have to collaborate with men.

While having interest in the social and economic issues, I would be keenly interested to study and explore women's economic empowerment and the UN development programs including the SDG framework. I believe the SDG framework is key to addressing the existing gaps and generating responses to gender-based violence through dismantling harmful gender stereotypes and enhancing accountability. I believe in women empowerment and providing equal opportunities in employment and education, equal access to land and capital. Empowering people, especially women as active agents of sustainable development, considering their views will no doubt lead to increased development gains, especially if concerted effort is made to include women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. I believe I will be in better position to bring this novel perspective to the work of the Working Group, which will bring improvement in the situation of women and girls across the globe.

Additionally, being an active member of local movements, I believe change should be inspired at the community and grassroots level. For a change, collaboration with civil society, government officials, institutions and communities is key in bringing tangible gains for women and girls.

I am motivated by my desire to promote women and girls rights through translating regional and international norms into tangible gains for women and girls and to strengthen the role of the Working Group in the advancement of women's rights by eliminating barrier that hinder their development. Being a victim and a defender, I will be in better position to contribute to the policy making, recommendations that are realistic and achievable and to report on the different forms of discrimination that women and girls encounters both in laws and practices. I

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will discharge my duties and the mandate of the Working Group with utmost sincerity and commitment and will spare no efforts to promote and strengthen the impact of the Working Group.

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IV. LANGUAGES (READ / WRITTEN / SPOKEN)

Please indicate all language skills below.

1. Mother tongue: Dari/Persian

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

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

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

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

Speak: Easily or not easily: **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: **No** If yes,

Read: Easily or not easily:

Write: Easily or not easily:

Speak: Easily or not 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: **No** If yes,

Read: Easily or not easily:

Write: Easily or not easily:

Speak: Easily or not easily:

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Please list the candidate's academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, academic institution and whether full- or part-time). If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in the additional 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):	Degree obtained (please indicate YES or NO):	Place and country:
Name of degree: Master Field of study: Public Administration Academic institution: Kardan University Full or part-time: Part time	2014-2016	Yes	Afghanistan
Name of degree: Bachelor Field of study: Business Administration Academic institution: Umef Swiss Full or part-time: Part time	2009-2013	Yes	Afghanistan
Name of degree: Field of study: Academic institution: Full or part-time:			
Name of degree: Field of study: Academic institution: Full or part-time:			
Name of degree: Field of study: Academic institution: Full or part-time:			
Additional:			

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VI. EMPLOYMENT

Please list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (or 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 the additional cell below, separating them by a blank line. Please be as precise as possible since this section is important for assessing the eligibility of candidates in terms of professional experience.

<p align="center">Name of employer, functional title, main functions of position (brief description), full- or part-time:</p>	<p align="center">Years of work (provide a range from-to, e.g., 05/1999-10/2005; for ongoing activities, please put, e.g., 08/2018-present):</p>	<p align="center">Place and country:</p>
<p>Name of employer: Vision Development Organization Functional title: Founder and Executive Director Main functions of position: executing human rights and women empowerment initiatives, provision of services for GBV survivors, establishing digital hubs, economic resilience for women and girls, mobilizing girls in informal education and advocating for girls education, advocating for women rights Full- or part-time: full time</p>	<p align="center">08/2021- current</p>	<p align="center">Kabul - Afghanistan</p>
<p>Name of employer: Administrative Office Of President Functional title: Deputy Director Main functions of position: promoting women in economy, female led businesses and mobilizing interantional investment to the national projects of Afghanistan for strenghtening the private sector particularly initiatives led by women and girls, facilitating and supporting the investment proceses of the foreign direct invesments in Afghanistan by international business men, providing business analysis to the business concept to the office of president of Afghanistan Full- or part-time: full time</p>	<p align="center">05/2021- 08/2021</p>	<p align="center">Kabul - Afghanistan</p>
<p>Name of employer: Ministry of Urban Development and Land Functional title: Chief of Staff Main functions of position: leading the committee of gender and anti harrasement for female staff of ministry (478 out of 6000 staff) managing the office of minister, managing development projects and</p>	<p align="center">05/2019 - 05/2021</p>	<p align="center">Kabul - Afghanistan</p>

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<p>initiatives for the land and housing sector of Afghanistan, executing president 's decrees related to the ministry, foreign relations, staff management Full- or part-time: Full time</p>		
<p>Name of employer: Ministry of Urban Development and Land Functional title: Director of HR Main functions of position: managing the recruitment process of 6000 employees in leadership and technical positions of the ministry, support and mobilizing women in leadership positions, organized capacity building sessions for female staff, established feedback mechanism for the sexual harrasement complaints by the female staff of the ministry, providing advice to minister on strenghtening structure of the ministry Full- or part-time: Full time</p>	<p>09/2018-05/2019</p>	<p>Kabul - Afghanistan</p>
<p>Name of employer: American University of Afghanistan Functional title: Associate Executive Director Main functions of position: promoting and strenghtening the economic resilience of women entrepreneurs, advancing the role of women in the afghan GDP, supporting full value chain for women in businesses, conducting research on the role of women in economy, providing policy recommendations for donors and guidance on the Afghan laws in regards to supporting the women inclusion Full- or part-time: Part Time</p>	<p>01/2014-03/2016</p>	<p>Kabul - Afghanistan</p>
<p>Name of employer: GRM International / AusAID Functional title: Senior Project Officer Main functions of position: supporting and providing technical and operational support to the gender initiatives to 8 key sectoral ministries of Afghanistan, facilitating scholarships for girls education, teacher training for schools Full- or part-time: Part Time</p>	<p>08/2010-09/2012</p>	<p>Kabul - Afghanistan</p>
<p>Name of employer: MTN telecome company Functional title: GL Accountant Main functions of position: maintaining the financial accounts of the telecome company, supplier management, communication, internal and external audits management, cash clearance with the bank and stakeholders management Full- or part-time: full time</p>	<p>04/2008-08/2010</p>	<p>Kabul - Afghanistan</p>
<p>Name of employer: Functional title: Main functions of position: Full- or part-time:</p>		

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Additional:		
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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. 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 paragraphs 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, and provide 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 a 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 that the candidate will take in this regard.

Not applicable

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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.

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).

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.

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

Name: Madina Mahboobi

Date: 11 June 2023
