***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5 APRIL 2023 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/838551*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/838551)*)   
  and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc53*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc53)*)*
* *Once fully completed,* ***in English or French only****, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto: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.* ***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*](https://www.un.org/dgacm/content/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*](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*](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*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** Zuleta de Merchan | **5. Year of birth:** 1947 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Carmen | **6. Place of birth:** Maracaibo |
| **3. Other name, if any:** Auxiliadora | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Venezolana |
| **4. Gender:** Female | **8. Any other nationality:** NA |

**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).**

A long university teaching experience (+ 30 years) as well as a long judicial experience (20 years) as a Magistrate of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court in Venezuela has allowed me to inform, interpret, apply and publicly disseminate the doctrine of Human Rights. These experiences are found in numerous publications of my authorship written in Spanish such as a compilations of judicial jurisprudence of the author as a speaker on the subject of Women, family, children, indigenous people, religion, workers and unions, criminal, political, publications that are part of of the jurisprudential heritage of Venezuela. Furthermore, this large body of work is available through textbooks in the bibliography of university courses in all Universities of Venezuela. Founder of Courts in Venezuela dealing with Violence Against Women. Government Advisor at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Women for International Conventions and Claims before the UN, ICC, and IACHR / OAS. Experience as a teacher in accredited undergraduate and postgraduate universities in Law Schools of Venezuelan Universities in subjects such as Social Law, Social Change, Administrative Law, Social Security, Unionism.

1. **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).**

Advice to government agencies in Venezuela such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or the Ministry of Women in the period 2012 to 2018) has consisted of Opinions requested by the UN (National Human Rights Commission) on the situation and justification of political prisoners in Venezuela; In the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (OAS) I have participated as a Qualified Expert promoted at the Human Rights Commission; at the UN representing Venezuela in the Defense of the CEDAW Agreements in 2012, 2013 and 2014; General Report UPR 2013, Report of the Convention on Political and Civil Rights 2016.

This experience can accredit knowledge in the area of the Human Rights Rapporteur position for which I am applying.

1. **ESTABLISHED** **COMPETENCE** (200-word limit)

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

Experience before the International Criminal Court through a visit to the Attorney General Boshuda in 2017 to talk about Venezuela's trajectory in the face of subversive political acts and also the fight against gender violence through the creation of specialized courts.

Report to the Supreme Court of Justice of Venezuela in 2019 on the list of public officials detained or prosecuted accused of raping women victims of violence. Experience as a teacher in accredited undergraduate and postgraduate universities in Law Schools of Venezuelan Universities in subjects such as Social Law, Social Change, Administrative Law, Social Security, Unionism.

Venezuela Liaison Judge to the Hague Convention on the Return of Children (2015-present).

1. **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.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** The Law of Children and Adolescents in the doctrine of the Constitutional Chamber

**Journal/Publisher:** Edited by the TSJ and by UNICEF

**Date of publication:** 2018

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** Advances in Gender Justice in the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Chamber

**Journal/Publisher:** Capriles Publishing Company

**Date of publication:** 2021

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Title of publication:** Relevant Legal Criteria in the TSJ Presentations Saved and Concurring Votes (years 2002/2010) Volumes I and II

**Journal/Publisher:** Edited by the TSJ

**Date of publication:** 2011

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three publications, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200-word limit):Author of publications in Books and Specialized Legal Magazines on constitutional rights of workers, Women and Children. Editor of Lex Magazine for Lawyers and LUZ Law School Magazine. Columnist for the newspaper La Verdad, dealing with political and social issues

* 1. **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:** Day of Non Violence Main speaker

**Event organizer:** Supreme Court of Venezuela

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** November 25, 2021

**Web link, if available:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ld3IrKi8yE

**2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** International Women's Day Main speaker

**Event organizer:** Women´s leadership in time of pandemic

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** March, 2021

**Web link, if available:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSBvcKI3vtY

**3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** International Seminar on Industrial Relations Co-Speaker on the topic of Unique Virtual Procedure

3rd International Digital Forum on the Situation of the Coup d'état in Peru

**Event organizer:** National Human Rights Network (NHRN) NGO

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** March 19, 2023

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three, kindly provide a summary of the rest** (200-word limit):Speaker and lecturer on human rights in the National Congresses in Venezuela, in Athens, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, The Hague, Istanbul, Warsaw

1. **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.**

**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 a salary or other financial compensation, except for travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance of “experts on mission”.**

I declare that I know and accept the conditions of the position for which I am applying, and I declare myself available for the indicated temporary transfers on the condition that these expenses will be borne by the contractual institution in question.

1. **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**

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

**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 another entity.

Honorable members

President and other members of the UN Human Rights Council

His office

Of my greatest consideration and respect,

The undersigned Carmen Zuleta de Merchan, Venezuelan and of legal age. I am writing to you in order to present my application for the position of Expert Rapporteur on Human Rights and international solidarity on my own initiative, for which I am sending you the online form issued on the website of that honorable international organization.

The universal consecration of Human Rights on its own is not enough. We must seek the effective validity of these Human Rights, to allow Humanity to maintain a minimum threshold of universal social well-being capable of recognizing us all as human beings, and to be able to definitively eradicate the possibility of dividing humanity into species and subspecies, as a result of a low and inferior quality of life in which many nations subsist and survive.

This objective forces the UN to be alert to prevent the deterioration of the quality of human life as a result of non-existent or limited validity of human rights due to political, war, social, economic, racial, gender, cultural factors as well as natural events.

The Rapporteurs must be the supervisory eyes and ears of this critical situation for the UN, capable of acting with sensitivity and determination so as not to trivialize nor keep in a state of poverty or social or moral chaos that may affect our fellow human beings, wherever they may be on the planet earth.

I remain your,

Sincerely

Carmen Zuleta de Merchan

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **SPANISH**

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

**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: **not 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. EDUCATION**

**NOTE: 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; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, place and country)*. 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: Doctorat d´e Universite  Field of study: Doctorat in droit social  Academic institution: University of Paris I La Sorbonne  Full or part-time: full time | 1971-1975 | YES | Paris France |
| Name of degree: Doctor in Law  Field of study: Law  Academic institution: Universty of Zulia  Full or part-time: full time | 1990-1993 | YES | Maracaibo Venezuela |
| Name of degree: Lawyer  Field of study: School Law  Academic institution: Universiity Zulia  Full or part-time: full time | 1967-1971 | YES | Maracaibo Venezuela |
| Name of degree:  Field of study: Contractualization  Academic institution: Montesquieu University in Bordeaux  Full or part-time: full time | 2004 | NO | Bordeaux Francia |
| Name of degree:  Field of study: Industrial Relationships  Academic institution: Higher Studies Institute for Industrial Relations of the University of Bologna  Full or part-time: full time | 1994 | NO | Bologna Italia |
| Additional: University of Cadiz, Constitutional Rights, 2008, Cadiz Spain |  |  |  |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT**

**NOTE: Please briefly 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.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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:** |
| Name of employer: Supreme Court of Justicia Constitutional Chamber  Functional title and main functions of position: Judge  Full- or part-time: full time | 2005-2022 | Caracas Venezuela |
| Name of employer: Judiciary Restructuring Commission  Functional title and main functions of position: President  Full- or part-time: full time | 2005-2005 | Caracas Venezuela |
| Name of employer: University of Zulia  Functional title and main functions of position: Titular Professor, postgraduate Director  Full- or part-time: full time | 1975-2008 | Maracaibo Venezuela |
| Name of employer: Santa Maria University  Functional title and main functions of position: Titular Professor postgraduate and doctorate  Full- or part-time: Part time | 2022-present | Caracas Venezuela |
| Name of employer:  Functional title and main functions of position:  Full- or part-time: |  |  |
| Name of employer:  Functional title and main functions of position:  Full- or part-time: |  |  |
| Name of employer:  Functional title and main functions of position:  Full- or part-time: |  |  |
| Name of employer:  Functional title and main functions of position:  Full- or part-time: |  |  |
| Additional: Creator of PhD and Master of Law Programs at the University of Zuli.  Academic coordinator master's degree in social work, agreement between the University of Caen Normandie France and Universty of Zulia Venezuela.  Coordinator for the Institutional Academic Agreement Venezuela Supreme Court of Justice / Armed Forces University. |  |  |

**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 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 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.**

YES

**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**](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)**).**

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

**Name:** CARMEN ZULETA DE MERCHAN

**Date:** April 2, 2023

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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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)