**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 and received by the Secretariat before the expiration of the deadline.

**First part:** **Online survey** (<http://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/891483?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, if appropriate, nominating entity.

**Second part:** **Application form in Word** can be downloaded from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC32.aspx> by clicking on the mandate. It should be fully 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 also be posted as received on 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 up to three reference letters (optional) can be attached in Word or pdf format to the email prior to the expiration of the deadline. No additional documents, such as CVs, resumes, or supplementary reference letters beyond the first three received will be accepted.

**Please note that for Working Group appointments, only citizens of States belonging to the specific regional group are eligible. Please refer to the list of United Nations regional groups of Member States at** [**http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml**](http://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml)

* **Application deadline: 26 april 2016 (12 noon GREENWICH MEAN TIME / 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, you may contact the Secretariat by email at [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) or fax at + 41 22 917 9008.

**You 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 email.**

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

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family name:** sob | **6. Year of birth:** 1952 |
| **2. First name:** Pierre | **7. Place of birth:** Dschang/Cameroon |
| **3. Maiden name (if any):** ----- | **8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Cameroon |
| **4. Middle name:** ----- | **9. Any other nationality:** Switzerland |
| **5. Sex:**  **Male**  **Female** |  |

**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.)**

I am holder of a Doctorate degree in International Relations (The Graduate Institute of International Relations of Cameroon) and a PhD in Law from the University of Geneva. I have also taken training in more than 12 areas as delivered by the United Nations Office in Geneva and a Participatory Gender Audit Specialist with Certification with the ITC/ILO in Turin. I am a trained diplomat seconded to the United Nations as Senior Human Rights Specialits between 1995 and 2014. In total, I have spent 35 years working in the field of Law and Human Rights, both at national and international levels. I am proficient in English and French with a good working knowledge of Spanish. I am also an excellent communicator whose experience has been built over the years at the UN with the provision of briefings to academia, Senior Officials from member States and delivering training to UN staff.

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.)**

My PhD dissertation was on the role of the Sub-Commission on protection and promotion of human rights at the global level. While based at the Permanent Mission of Cameroon in Geneva between 1991 and 1995, I assisted the delegations of Cameroon in the presentation of periodic reports before treaty bodies. During my secondment to OHCHR, I worked in all areas, including serving as Secretary of the three follow up mechanisms to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and field assignments. I am familiar with the Interamerican system of human rights for having suported the mandate of the Independent Expert on Structural Adjustment Policies and Programmes in joint missions with the International Monetary Fund to half-a-dozen countries in Central and Latin America and Southern Africa (2002-2003). Same goes with the African system whereby I participated and contributed to the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for a decade, notably by providing advice to the NGO Forum prior to the formal sessions of the Commission on a variety of sensitive issues.

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

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

During my tenure as Chief of the Legal Service in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, my responsibility was, inter alia, to support the accession to the UN treaty system, follow up its incorporation in national corpus juris and contribute to the preparation and presentation of relevant periodic reports. I held different senior positions among which: Former Alternate member of the Sub-Commission on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights; Former Coordinator of the African Group of Experts on Human Rights (1991-1993) for the preparation of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights; Former Convener and Chairperson of the Special session of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Rwanda after the genocide in 1994; Former member of the Board of Trustees, the Arab Institute of Human Rights (Tunis).

From an academic perspective, I sat as member of the Scientific Board, the Interdisciplinary Institute of Ethics and Human Rights (The University of Fribourg) for a decade, and served as Senior Visiting Scholar to the following academic institutions over the years: Centre de droit international (University of Paris X Nanterre); The Human Rights Institute (The University of Minneapolis/USA); Osgoode Hall Law School (York University/Toronto-Canada); Murdoch University (Perth/Australia).

1. **PUBLICATIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

**Please listsignificant and relevant published books, articles, journals and reports that you have written or public statements, or pronouncements that you have made or events that you may have participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** L'Indépendance des Experts de l'ONU revisitée

**Journal/Publisher:** Revue Africaine de Droit International et Comparé

**Date of publication:** Londres, Juillet 1995

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** The principle of Universality of Human Rights

**Journal/Publisher:** African Journal of International and Comparative Law

**Date of publication:** London, February 1996

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Title of publication:** The Dynamics of International Criminal Tribunals

**Journal/Publisher:** Kluwer, the Nordic Journal of International Law

**Date of publication:** June 1997

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words):I have published more than 50 articles, essays and communications relevant to human rights. I will just mention my contributions to half-a-dozen books published in the University of Fribourg series between 1998 and 2005, and relate secifically to: The responsibility of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the coordination of the work of civil society actors; the UN Secretary-General Global Compact; Human Rights in the UN system; Human Rights and the image of private businesses; and Africa in the Economic Gobalisation. My other major article is on Women's Exercise of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the African Yearbook of International Law by Martinus Nijhoff Publishers in 2007 at Boston.

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that you may have participated in relation to the mandate for which you are applying in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Sub-Commission on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

**Event organizer:** OHCHR

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 1993

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Annual session of the Commission on Human Rights

**Event organizer:** OHCHR

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 1994

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Side Event durng the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights

**Event organizer:** Asian University Women

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 1996

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words):

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.)**

As Independent Consultant, I am owner of a Consultancy firm in Switzerland known as Horizon Learning Link Consulting. It is registered as a business with the Chamber of Commerce and the United Nations platform called the UN Global Market Place at Geneva. I will be able to make myself available for the required three months a year without any additional cost.

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

To His Excellency Ambassador Choi Kyonglim

President of the Human Rights Council

c/o UN-Human Rights – Special Procedures Branch

Palais Wilson – Geneva

Nyon, 25 April 2016

Dear Mr President,

I am currently the Founding Director of Horizon Learning Link, a consulting firm active in the field of human rights and human rights related activities based in Switzerland. I retired from the United Nations-Human Rights Office in May 2014.

I have chosen to apply for the position of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea because I consider this an exceptional opportunity to share my expertise, knowledge and experience with a UN member State which has been facing serious difficulties in complying with its international human rights obligations for years.

Regarding my academic profile, I am holder of a Doctorate in International Relations and a PhD in Law, the latter with a specialization in International Human Rights Law. I have strengthened my knowledge base by taking more than a dozen training courses offered by UNOG. I am also an ITC/ILO Certified Expert in Participatory Gender Auditing.

What I can contribute to the effectiveness of the position, in addition to my availability, enthusiasm and commitment to the cause of the rule of law and human rights for the past 35 years, is a combination of my diplomatic skills and a sound understanding of the international human rights system.

Thanks to my travel to more than 110 countries worldwide for business and leisure, I am confident I have acquired a better sense of how best to address human rights gaps which appear to be a consequence of the varying perceptions prevailing at regional or country level.

To date, I am proud to have been part of the global efforts to attempt to restore a human rights culture to Haiti in the early 1990’s, Rwanda after the genocide that the country experienced in 1994, and Côte d’Ivoire following the post-electoral crisis which led to ethnic mass killings in 2010-2011.

I have always shown my independence and impartiality, particularly since I was appointed to the Cameroon Permanent Mission in Geneva and charged by the African Group of States Ambassadors to lead the group’s involvement in the preparation of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. This independence can also be inferred from my consecutive positions I held in the UN Internal Justice System, respectively as Member of the former UN Joint Disciplinary Committee, Member Joint Appeals Board, Chairperson of the Joint Appeals Board, and Vice Presiding Officer of the Joint Appeals Board for Europe.

During my years at UN-Human Rights both at Headquarters and the field, I successfully led colleagues from different backgrounds, profiles, origin and gender. I am happy to note that on my retirement ceremony, I received office wide praise from my colleagues for my flexible and respectful attitude, as well as the fair treatment extended to them from the senior positions I served.

Mr President,

I perceive this position as an opportunity for me to significantly contribute to the advancement of human rights in a situation that requires urgent action. I believe being appointed as Special rapporteur would allow me to deploy my full potential and utilize my skills and knowledge for the good of the UN objective. In that line, allow me to suggest that I am looking forward to your call for an interview.

If you need detailed information or additional documentation, I am ready to provide it to your office without delay.

Yours faithfully,

Pierre Sob, PhD

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **Nguemba (Bamiléké)**

**2. Knowledge of the 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: **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: **Not 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:** |
| Licence en droit et Sciences Economiques (Faculté de Droit et Sciences Economiques) - Université de Yaoundé | 1972-1977 | Yaoundé/Cameroon |
| Diplôme de Troisième Cycle en Relations Internationales (Institut des Relations Internationales du Cameroun) - Université de Yaoundé | 1977-1979 | Yaoundé/Cameroon |
| Doctorat en Droit (Faculté de Droit) - Université de Genève | 1996-2001 | Geneva/Switzerland |
|  |  |  |

**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:** |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Government of Cameroon) Chief, Legal Service - Advises | 1979-1982 | Yaoundé/  Cameroon |
| Presidency of the Republic (Government of Cameroon) Adviser on Diplomacy and Foreign Policy | 1982-1991 | Yaoundé)  Cameroon |
| Permanent Mission of Cameroon to UNOG (Government of Cameroon) First Counselor, Deputy Permanent Representative | 1991-1995 | Geneva/  Switzerland |
| Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations) on Secondment as Senior Human Rights Specialist | 1995-2014 | Geneva/  Switzerland |

**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 his/her behalf.***

**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.**

My current position in the private sector may not potentially or effectively give rise to a conflict of interest whatsoever. I am fully free, independent and available.

\*\*\*\*