***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 17 OCTOBER 2019 AT 12:00 noon GREENWICH MEAN TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/283689*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/283689)*)*

*and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC43.aspx)*)*

* *Once fully completed, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.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 supplementary 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. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.*
* *Please note that an application 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.***
* *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*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx) *and* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/BasicInformationSelectionIndependentExperts.aspx*](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 (*[*hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org*](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** Cichon | **5. Year of birth:** 1953 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Michael | **6. Place of birth:** Bocholt/Germany |
| **3. Other name, if any:** n/a | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** German |
| **4. Gender:** Male | **8. Any other nationality:** n/a |

**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 not a lawyer. I came a long way from a mathematician, who turned into an economist and social protection actuary and policy analyst (1986-1992), who turned into a social policy advisor in Eastern Europe during the difficult transition from planned to market economies (1993-1995), to a manager and strategic policy planner in social protection (1995-2012). A sound knowledge of Human Rights, notably socio-economic rights, was a prerequisite for all policy advisory services that I provided to various constituents during my career. My first assignment in international law goes back to 1986 when I was assigned to check the compliance of national law and practice in a number of ILO member states with ILO social security conventions.

In parallel to my work at the ILO and my presidency of the ICSW I have taught social protection and global governance for 15 years at UNU-Merit in Maastricht and the ILO Training Centre in Turin. In the course of all my professional activities I had to acquire good written and oral communication skills. I have a preference for concise, evidence based and logically structured statements. I hate professional jargon and use it as sparingly as I can.

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.)**

As a former UN official, I am familiar with the mandates of most UN agencies.

My knowledge of HR instruments was acquired in the course of my work at the ILO. It first became very relevant during my time as social policy advisor in Eastern Europe in the early 1990s where social protection Conventions and Recommendations and the ICESCR often were the only guidance for new and unprecedented social legislation that had to be drafted in member states. Since the 1990s I have undertaken more than 100 intensive advisory missions to countries in all regions. These missions all included advice on the legal structure of national social policy frame works and national social protection systems. All advice given had to be in line with the UDHR, the ICESCR, and other UN instruments (i.a. the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)) and ILO legal norms. I also directed a department at the ILO that had a co-responsibility for the monitoring of the compliance of member states with ratified conventions for more than 7 years. In total my work experience with international organisations amounts to 30 years and I have worked for about 25 years on socio-economic Human Rights.

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

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

My work at the ILO and the UN also included

- the initial drafting and negotiation of an international Recommendation on social protection floors (2011-2012) which gives contents to Articles 22 and 25 of the UDHR,

- the management of the UN interagency initiative on SP floors (2009-2012),

- the set-up and co-chairing of Social Protection Interagency Board for Co-ordination (SPIAC-B) (2012).

After my time at the ILO I was elected President of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) which is the oldest Global NGO (founded in 1928) that pursues social justice through rights based social welfare. My tenure included substantial advocacy for the right to social protection. I also served as advisor to UNWOMEN for two of their flagship reports on the Progress of the World’s Women. I also advised the Asian Development Bank on the nature and fiscal implications of the social protection and social policy agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals for their member states in Asia.

I taught university courses (2013 - 2016) at the masters and PhD level on the legal and philosophical origins of the right to social protection and different definitions of poverty at the Graduate School of Governance of the United Nations University (UNU) in Maastricht.

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:** Hardly Anyone Is Too Poor to Share

**Journal/Publisher:** IMF, Finance & Development, December 2018, Vol. 55, No. 4

**Date of publication:** December 2018

**Web link, if available:** https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2018/12/pdf/fd1218.pdf

**2. Title of publication:** The Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202): Can a six‐page document change the course of social history?

**Journal/Publisher:** International Social Security ReviewVolume 66, Issue 3-4

Special Issue:The role of national social protection floors in extending social security to all

**Date of publication:** 2013

**Web link, if available:** https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/issr.12017

**3. Title of publication:** The Social Protection Agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals and Its Fiscal Challenge, in: Handayani,S:ASIA’S FISCAL CHALLENGE

**Journal/Publisher:** Asian Development Bank

**Date of publication:** October 2018

**Web link, if available:** https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/484991/asia-fiscal-challenge-social-protection.pdf

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

I accumulated a list of more than 50 publications on social, protection and social policy issues (ranging from health financing and health policy to social protection financing, governance and policy) stretching over four decades. I am the co-authour of two quantitative textbooks ("Social budgeting", "Actuarial practice in social security") and the lead author or two further textbooks ("Modelling in health care finance", and "Financing Social Protection"). In addition I wrote a substantial number of technicial advisory reports - generally mission based - to national governments on social protection financing and policy covering subjects ranging from general social policy reviews, to specific issues such as social assistance, health care systems, unemployment benefit schemes and old age income security (pension schemes). Countries covered were inter alia Argentina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Namibia, Nepal, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Vietnam and Ukraine. I also co-authoted and oversaw the publication of a number of ILO thematic reports such as the flagship World Social Security Report 2011/12.

* 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:** Commission for Social Development

**Event organizer:** UNDESA

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 14 February 2011

**Web link, if available:** https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd-2011/csocd49-videos.html

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** All you ever wanted to know about the UN social protection floor initiative

18 May, Public event, Streamed live online

**Event organizer:** Overseas Development Institute

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 18 May 2012

**Web link, if available:** https://www.odi.org/events/2894-all-you-ever-wanted-know-about-un-social-protection-floor-initiative

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Symposium New Directions in Social Policy: Towards a Post-2015 Agenda, 9 April 2014

**Event organizer:** UNRISD

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 9 April 2014

**Web link, if available:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILTS\_hFLyC4

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words):Over the years I was invited a number of times in my capacity as ILO director and as President of the ICSW to make statements the Commission for Social Development, the adjunct Civil Society Day and a number of side events. I spoke at the social security commission of the International Labour Conference (2011,2012), several times at the ILO Governing Body between 2005 and 2012, at the Annual Meetings of the IBRD and the IMF (October 2009), at the triennial Conferences of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) between 1995 and 2010, at the European Economic and Social Committee, the UN Financing for Development Conference in Doha and other national and international fora.

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 (HRC) sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on special procedures visits, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. Kindly indicate whether the candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approximately three months per year to the work of a mandate.**

**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”.**

I am in the fortunate position to be a UN pensioner and could focus on this assignment. I can easily devote three months and more to this task and there is no need for compensation other than travel and DSA. Seeing the enormous amounts of work done by the previous and the incumbent mandate holders, I have no illusion about the real workload that this assignment will create, and I would give up all other advisory activities.

I have undertaken more than 100 advisory missions to at least 30 countries and supervised and backstopped many more, so I know that country missions take substantial preparation, travel and reporting time as well as administration. I thus probably have to organise and enlist technical, adminstrative research support for country missions which - I hope - the OHCHR will be able to support.

**III. Motivation Letter**(600 word limit, must be included below and not in a separate email or as an attachment)

The community of nations has already in 1948 formulated in article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the right to an adequate standard of living and hence the right not to live in poverty is a human right. The world, however, so far remains an unfair an unjust place for more than one third of its population that lives in poverty, without access to essential goods and services and hence in in debilitating material insecurity. That situation is not god-given or an inevitable side effect of our present economic systems, it is human made or at last humanly tolerated and - in most countries – it can be changed by political will. Social protection measures are the fastest acting, socially effective, economically efficient and fiscally affordable tools to abolish absolute poverty that almost every state can deploy and finance by its own means. Tolerating extreme poverty is a human right violation in itself.

Two recent instruments of global social governance have given content and demonstrated global consensus on the right to an adequate standard of living for all. The International Labour Conference in June 2012 unanimously adopted the ILO the Recommendation No. 202 on National Floors of Social Protection (SPF). Three years later the SPF was explicitly included into target 1.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) . The SDGs, in fact, define a far reaching social protection agenda which reflects a major international social policy consensus on the need for social protection in development policies and strategies.

Abolishing extreme poverty by guaranteeing a minimum standard of living that guarantees access all essential goods and services should thus become a legally codified or even constitutional obligation of all states. This is the number one perquisite for all sustained and successful anti-poverty policies. Just as civil, criminal or environmental laws define the bounds and space for activities of governments and members of societies such social obligations should define the space for economic activities and in particular define the bounds of fiscal policy space. To provide guidance for the codification of such legal obligations, a standard setting UN convention on the SPF or the right to an adequate standard of living would be invaluable. The UN rapporteur should explore its feasibility. S/he should also promote the incorporation of the right to an adequate standard of living as a binding objective in national legislation and constitutions. Her/his thematic annual reports of the next six years should provide the analytical and evidence base. Country reports should support the overall objective by providing focused analyses of legal deficits as well as document the positive effects of good legal practice on the wellbeing or people.

So far my career took me from service in a national government, an international organization to civil society and academia. As the director of Social Security at the ILO I had the opportunity to oversee the conceptualisation, formulation, promotion and finally the negotiations leading to the adoption of the ILO the Recommendation No. 202 on National Floors of Social Protection. I co-chaired the UN crisis initiative on the social protection floor (2009-2012) and was the first co-chair of the SPIAC-B (the social protection inter-agency co-ordination board) (2012). The overarching theme of these 40 years has been to prove that rights based social protection is affordable and feasible nearly everywhere.

I would like to complete my professional work by supporting governments and the international community to include the right to an adequate standard of living into national and international legislation as a central objective of the state. The road to that objective has to lead from sound factual situational analyses to constructive dialogue with governments and societal stakeholders. I am convinced that it can be done. The road will be long but it is important to start walking.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **German**

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

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

**Read:** Easily orNot easily:   
**Write:** Easily or Not easily: **Speak:** Easily or Not easily:

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

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

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

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Easily**

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

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **not easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **not easily**

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

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **Write:** Easily or not easily: **Speak:** Easily or not easily:

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

**Read:** Easily or not easily: **not easily  
Write:** Easily or not easily: **not easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **not easily**

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating type of degree, subject, and whether full or part-time, ex. *Masters in law, University of xxx, part-time)*.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003): | **Place and country:** |
| Diplom-Mathematiker (MSc), Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen (RWTH), full-time | 1972-1977 | Aachen, Germany |
| Dr.rer.pol (PhD) Economics, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen,part-time | 1980-1984 | Göttingen, Germany |
| Master of Public Administration (MPA), Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA, full-time | 1983/1984 | Boston, MA, USA |
|  |  |  |

**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with your current occupation.** **Also indicate whether positions held were not full-time.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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): | **Place  and country:** |
| Graduate School of Governance, UNU-MERIT Maastricht, Honorary professor with full ius promovendum, part-time | 2012-2018 | Maastricht, Netherlands |
| International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), President,  unpaid elected position, part-time | 2012-2016 | New York based organsition, but working from Germanyand Ireland |
| International Labour Office (ILO) (all full-time),  - actuary and health economist (1986-1992)  - social policy advisor (1993-1995)  - Chief, Financial, Actuarial and Stats. Branch (1995-2005)  - Director, Social Security Department (2005-2012) | 1986-2012 | Geneva, Switzerland and Budapest, Hungary |
| Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs,  Actuary and health economist, full-time | 1978-1986 | Bonn, Germany |

**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.**

N/A

**VIII. CERTIFY AND SUBMIT APPLICATION  
*To be completed by the candidate or by the nominating entity on the candidate’s behalf.***

**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 (**[**hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org**](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)**).**

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

**Name:** Michael Cichon

**Date:** 14/10/2019

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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 should 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 only. It will be used as received to prepare the public list of candidates who applied for the vacancy. The candidate’s application form will also be posted as received on the OHCHR public web page for the selection process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)