How to start the application process:

- The application process has been split into 2 parts, the first part is a Web-based survey and the second part is an application form in word which can be downloaded, completed and returned by email. Both parts and all sections of the application form should be filled in for the application to be processed.

The **first part**, i.e. the [Web-based survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HRC25_SPmandateholders_EMRIPexperts) is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate/s applying for and nominating entity. **The web-based survey should only be completed once**, i.e. multiple selection allowed to indicate if the candidate is applying for more than one mandates.

This is the **second part, i.e.** of the application form in Word which can be downloaded, 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, will be used as received to prepare the public list of candidates who applied for each vacancy and will be made available to concerned parties, including through the OHCHR Internet.

Once completed the application form in Word should be submitted by email to [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/SP/CallApplications/IEMali_Haiti/hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org)

If the candidate is applying for more than one mandates, an application form needs to be completed and sent for each mandate.

* A maximum of 3 reference letters can be attached, in pdf format, to the application sent by email. No additional document is required.
* **Application Deadline: 31 OCTOBER 2013 (midnight, GMT)**.
* Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.

If encountering technical difficulties, you may contact us by email: [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org%20)  or fax: + 41 22 917 9011

**An acknowledgment will be sent when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the information through the web-based survey and the application form through email.**

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Family Name: Facio | Sex:  Male  Female |
| First Name: Alda | Date of birth ( d-MMM-yy): 26-Jan.-48 |
| Maiden name (if any): | Place of birth: N.Y.C., USA |
| Middle name: Maria | Nationality(please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Costa Rican |
|  | Any other nationality: USA |

**II. MANDATE - SPECIFIC COMPETENCE/QUALIFICATION/KNOWLEDGE**

**NOTE: Please describe why the candidate’s competence/qualifications/knowledge is relevant in relation to the specific mandate:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 official languages of the United Nations (i.e. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.) | Ms. Facio is a lawyer and judge with master’s degrees in Comparative Jurisprudence from New York University and Labour Law with an emphasis on ILO Conventions from the University of Costa Rica. She has been actively defending human rights since 1985 when she was a supporter of the Central American Commission for Human Rights in Costa Rica and a consultant for UNICEF in Central America. In 1986 she started working at the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights training government officials, including the military on human rights theory and practice. She has been a correspondent and a writer for several years in Latin American and North American magazines/ journals writing on human rights issues. She has excellent communications skills in written Spanish and English and has been a lecturer and key note speaker in many universities and international conferences, including U.N. panels on issues of human rights and violence against women. She speaks, reads, understands and conducts trainings in French for many francophone African countries. She has trained women from over 160 countries during the CEDAW sessions which have given her a very good understanding of the importance of taking culture and language into consideration when teaching and defending human rights. |
| 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. | Ms. Facio has been following the UN Human Rights System since she was the permanent delegate to the UN Offices in Geneva in the 1970s and has attended several international conferences on human rights as an advisor to the official delegation from Costa Rica, including the 1993 Vienna Conference on Human Rights and Rome Conference on the International Criminal Court. She also participated in the drafting of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women. This work, which spans over 40 years, has given Ms. Facio a deep understanding of the instruments, norms and principles of Human Rights as well as its mandates and institutions.  Ms. Facio currently teaches at the UN University for Peace, the University of Costa Rica and the University of Toronto on the UN Human Rights System, including the Treaty-Body System and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Alda teaches and has written widely about the International Criminal Court and was founder and director of the Women’s Caucus for Gender Justice at the International Criminal Court. In addition, she was the founding director of the Women, Gender and Justice Program of the Inter-American Institute for Crime Prevention. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200 words)  Nationally, regionally or internationally recognized competence related to human rights. (Please explain how such competence was acquired). | Ms. Facio´s competence in the area of human rights is illustrated by the fact that she is continuously invited by governments and NGOs to help them comply with human rights standards or to train government officials and judges on these issues. She is recognized throughout Latin America as an expert on human rights and especially on women´s human rights. This competence has been acquired through numerous years of studying Human Rights treaties and jurisprudence, and keeping abreast on meetings and resolutions of the Human Rights Council, the Inter-American Commission and the work of national, regional and international NGOs such as CEJIL, the American Association of Jurists, IWRAW-Asia Pacific, CLADEM, the Due Diligence Project and many others.  Ms. Facio serves as a strategic advisor to numerous organizations, including JASS (Just Associates) and the Mesoamerican Human Rights Defenders Initiative. She has also taught various courses on human rights offered by National Human Rights Institutions as well as by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and has helped many national governmental institutions develop their gender and human rights programs. |
| 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) | Although Ms. Facio has many commitments at present, she is happily willing and able adjust, move or withdraw from some of these in order to effectively perform the functions of the mandate. At present, she does not hold a permanent full time job which allows her the flexibility to dedicate three months per year to the work of the mandate. In regards to working with a variety of stakeholders, Ms. Facio has extensive experience working with very diverse people in many regions of the world, working easily with governments, judges, police, the military as well as with different and very diverse members of civil society—including indigenous communities, religious leaders, women, human rights defenders, journalists, youth, among others. She has experience working with academics as well as with people with little to no literacy from many parts of the world and has conducted hundreds of trainings on human rights for people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, indigenous women, women in prostitution, religious leaders, teachers, etc. |

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

**Please indicate all language skills**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Languages** | **Read** | | **Write** | | **Speak** | |
|  | **Easily** | **Not Easily** | **Easily** | **Not Easily** | **Easily** | **Not Easily** |
| **Arabic** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Chinese** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **English** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **French** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Russian** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spanish** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mother tongue:**  Spanish and English |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

|  |
| --- |
| As a human rights defender I am extremely concerned about the rising number of incidents reported in different UN Reports as well as the media concerning an excessive and often indiscriminate use of force against those exercising their right to defend human rights. For example, more and more human rights defenders are being detained for exercising their right to freedom of assembly while journalists are being killed for exercising their freedom of expression. We hear about farmers who have been prosecuted in anti-terrorist courts for protesting attempts by State security forces to evict them from their lands. We read about indigenous people standing up against mega-projects that threaten their environment and livelihoods, and who are being charged with conducting anti-State actions. We hear about peace activists who have been maligned and threatened with prosecution for defying travel restrictions, teachers who have been arrested for protesting the privatization of education and pro-democracy activists whose lives are threatened. Lastly, in many places around the world, women defenders are deeply and dangerously affected because of their traditionally lower socioeconomic status and the specific roles attributed to their gender, such as caregivers.  The Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Right Defenders can help States to recognize the contributions of human rights defenders to society, and help them understand their obligations and remind them that many of the basic human rights that we take for granted today took years of struggle by previous defenders before they became widely accepted. It’s important that States recognize that the rights of defenders, especially those working on women‘s rights or gender issues are not new human rights, although they may be perceived as new because they address issues that might challenge the status quo or tradition and culture—but tradition and culture are not static and the concepts of human rights are constantly evolving.    It’s because of the contributions and encouraging visions of courageous defenders, that human rights as they stand now have developed and transformed our societies. These visionaries have held, inter alia, that women´s rights are human rights, that indigenous peoples are human beings, that poverty, racism and all forms of discrimination are human rights violations, that slavery, torture and genocide must not be tolerated. These same defenders have asked us to recognize the importance of establishing international rights norms and to hold nation-states accountable for violating rights; they even pushed against states claiming blind sovereignty, while their citizens are treated unjustly. Yes, these ideas often meet resistance, especially because they challenge the legitimacy of the status quo as well as socio-cultural norms and traditions but if no one had ever challenged the status quo in the past, we would never have been able to accomplish the growing universal acceptance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – values which are crucial for a democratic society to exist.  The State is the ultimate guarantor of democracy, a role that entails positive obligations to secure the effective enjoyment of rights. These obligations are of particular importance for persons holding unpopular views or belonging to groups who have faced historical discrimination or marginalization. In this context, the need to protect those defenders who advocate for new visions and ideas of human rights is of the utmost importance.  As the Special Rapporteur, I would work closely with governments and national institutions to support their understanding of their obligations and the important role that human rights defenders play in building and strengthening democracy. I would also work with civil society to help frame their issues within a human rights framework and support their justice work. |

**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** | **Place and Country** |
| Masters in Comparative Jurisprudence - New York University | 1984 -1985 | USA |
| Masters Degree in Law - University of Costa Rica | 1979-1983 | Costa Rica |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**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 Attendance/Work | Place and Country |
| Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime (ILANUD)  Program Director  Develop training programs on human rights for judges  Help legislatures draft laws with a gender perspective  Research and Investigate human rights violations in Prisons | 1991 - 2012 | Headquarters in Costa Rica |
| Inter-American Institute of Human Rights  Program Advisor  Develop and train on Human Rights | 1986-1987 | L.A. |
| Independent International Consultant on Women Human Rights | 1985- present |  |
|  |  |  |

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS (of Council Resolution 5/1)**

1. To your knowledge, does the candidate have any official, professional, personal, or financial relationships that might cause him/her to limit the extent of their inquiries, to limit disclosure, or to weaken or slant findings in any way? If yes, please explain.

|  |
| --- |
| NO |

2. Are there any factors that could either directly or indirectly influence, pressure, threaten, or otherwise affect the candidate’s ability to act independently in discharging his/her mandate? If yes, please explain:

NO

3. Is there any reason, currently or in that past, that could call into question the candidate’s moral authority and credibility or does the candidate hold any views or opinions that could prejudice the manner in which she/he discharges his mandate? If yes, please explain:

NO

4. Does the candidate comply with the provisions in paragraph 44 and 46 of the Annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1?

*Para. 44: The principle of non-accumulation of human rights functions at a time shall be respected.*

*Para. 46: Individuals holding decision-making positions in Government or in any other organization or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to the mandate shall be excluded. Mandate-holders will act in their personal capacity*

YES

5. Should the candidate be appointed as a mandate holder, he/she will have to take measures to comply with paragraphs 44 and 46 of the Annex to Council resolution 5/1. In the event that the current occupation or activity, even if unpaid, of the candidate may give rise to a conflict of interest (e.g. if a candidate holds a decision-making position in Government) and/or there is an accumulation of human rights functions (e.g. as a member of another human rights mechanism at the international, regional or national level), necessary measures could include relinquishing positions, occupations or activities. If applicable, please indicate the measures the candidate will take.

NA

You will receive an acknowledgment when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the information through the Web-based application and the Word application form by email.  
  
Thank you for your interest.