

## SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD FORMAT

### Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment

Appointment to be made by the Human Rights Council at its 55th session,  
provided the mandate itself is extended by the Council

#### **APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME**

- The application process consists of two compulsory parts:  
(1) **online survey**<sup>1</sup> (<https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/687683>) and  
(2) **mandate-specific application form in Word format**<sup>2</sup> (to be downloaded from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc55>)
- 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](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. 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](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).

#### I. PERSONAL DATA

1. Family (last) name: Ebbesson	5. Year of birth: 1963
2. First (given) name: Jonas	6. Place of birth: Badelunda, Sweden
3. Other name, if any:	7. Nationality (please indicate the one nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Swedish
4. Gender: Man	8. Any other nationality: --

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).**

As a Professor of environmental law, with a doctoral degree (LL.D.) in environmental law, most of my work for 30 years has focused on environmental law in transboundary contexts (international, EU and transnational law), and my writings and teaching have regularly addressed or related to human rights in environmental contexts. Throughout these years, much of my writing (and editing), teaching and speaking at academic and other international events has been in English. I have directed the international Master Programme in Environmental Law at Stockholm University for 6 years, while also doing most of the teaching. As a member of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee at UNECE for 16 years, and its Chair for 10 years, I am well experienced in working with human rights in English in international contexts; in drafting legal documents, chairing hearings and public events, and leading the Committee's work and meetings. I have made presentations at numerous conferences and international events (e.g., before MOPs and COPs, before the European Parliament, and also at workshops or other meetings by international organisations), and met with governments when examining and discussing their compliance with international law. I have successfully brought a case to the European Court of Human Rights.

### 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).**

Through my research and teaching on international human rights and environment protection I have gained knowledge about applicable human rights instruments of global and regional scope. I have also studied the development of the notion of participatory rights in environmental matter in international law, as well as the development of the notion human rights in relation to the environment.

In parallel, I have for 25 years worked practically with the Aarhus Convention in the UNECE, first in the establishment of the Compliance Committee and then as a Committee member and Chair. During my time as Chair, the Compliance Committee learned from established procedures and reviews of human rights bodies when developing its own reviews.

I have successfully brought a case on an environmental matter to the European Court of Human Rights (Karin Andersson et al v Sweden).

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In 2020-2023 I was part of an international project teaching more than 300 Colombian judges environmental law for the purpose of preventing illegal deforestation. My role was to teach on human and participatory rights, and on the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters. In addition to giving lectures to judges, the project involved other meetings with judges, government officials and NGOs.

### 3. ESTABLISHED COMPETENCE (200-word limit)

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

Both my theoretical and practical competence related to human rights has been hinted at in previous sections. My competence builds on many years of both academic work (research, teaching, writing, editing, publishing, presenting etc.) and practical work in UNECE with the Aarhus Convention; with ECLAC in establishing the Escazú Agreement's Compliance and Implementation Mechanism and in sharing the experience from the UNECE; with UNEP in drafting its guidelines on access to information, public participation and access to justice; with UNEP and OHCHR at High Legal Expert Meeting on human rights and the environment; with governments, judges and civil society organisations in different countries as part of missions and follow up on states' non-compliance with requirements on participatory rights; and in lawsuits on environmental matters (as a representative of 800 Chileans against a Swedish mining company in the biggest lawsuit of its kind in Sweden, in 2013-2019; and in successfully bringing Sweden to the European Court of Human Rights).

The mentioned activities in teaching and working with Colombian judges on human rights matters in environmental contexts were also a very useful and learning experience.

### 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:** "Getting it Right: Advances of Human Rights and the Environment from Stockholm 1972 to Stockholm 2022"

**Journal/Publisher:** 52 Environmental Policy and Law (2022)

**Date of publication:** 2022

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** "International Participatory Rights and Environment Protection in Africa – Powerful Tools or 'Sleeping Rights'?"

**Journal/Publisher:** in Human Rights and the Environment in Africa – A Research Companion (Routledge)

**Date of publication:** 2023

**Web link, if available:**

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**3. Title of publication:** "The Notion of Public Participation in International Environmental Law"

**Journal/Publisher:** 8 Yearbook of International Environmental Law 1997 (1998)

**Date of publication:** 1998

**Web link, if available:**

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

In addition to the three publication listed above (indicating different topics over a long time), I have dealt with human rights in the following works as author or editor:

\* The Cambridge Handbook of the Sustainable Development Goals and International Law (Cambridge University Press, 2022) -- co-author and co-editor;

\* The Aarhus Convention: An Implementation Guide, (UNECE, Genève, 2nd ed., 2014) -- co-author;

\* Environmental Law and Justice in Context, (Cambridge University Press, 2009) -- author and co-editor;

\* Deforestación y Derecho: Manual para el abordaje judicial de la deforestación en Colombia (Environmental Law Institute, GGGI, Consejo Superior de la Judicatura etc, 2023) -- co-author;

\* Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in the EU – Accès à la justice en matière d'environnement dans l'UE (Kluwer, 2002) -- author and editor;

\* "Public Participation", in The Oxford Handbook of International Environmental Law (2nd ed., Oxford University Press, 2021) -- author;

\* "L'accès à la justice en matière d'environnement en droit international: pourquoi et comment?", in Le droit d'accès à la justice en matière d'environnement (IFR Actes de colloques No 26, Presses de l'Université Toulouse, 2016) -- author;

\* "Principle 10: Public Participation", in The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: A Commentary (Oxford University Press, 2015) -- author.

**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:** "Escazú and the Protection of Environmental Defenders", statement in panel at Tercer Diálogo de Política Transformaciones del Derecho Ambiental para el Desarrollo Sostenible en Colombia, Bogotá  
**Event organizer:** ELI, GGGI, Rama Judicial Consejo Superior de la Judicatura, Republica de Colombia, Universidad Externado de Colombia

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 18 November 2022

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** "Law, Integrity, Due Process, Constructive Dialogue and Trust: Experiences from the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee", statement at COP 2 of the Escazú Agreement, Buenos Aires

**Event organizer:** UNECLAC, Government of Argentina

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 20 April 2023

**Web link, if available:**

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**3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** "Participatory and Procedural Rights in Environmental Matters: State of Play", High Level Expert Meeting on the New Future of Human Rights and Environment, Nairobi

**Event organizer:** UNEP and OHCHR

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 30 November 2009

**Web link, if available:**

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

"International Law on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters", at Seminar on illegal logging in Brazil, Opening Ceremony for the Edelstam Prize 2022, Stockholm, 6 December 2021

"Public Participation in Environmental Matters – International Human Rights Dimensions and Developments", at International Seminar on Human Rights and Environmental Law, Nsukka, 2 November 2016

"Public Participation in Environmental Matters: Reflections on Global and Regional Developments", at International Seminar on Participatory Rights in International Environmental Law, Tehran, 13 April 2019, and Dubai, 15 April 2019

"The Aarhus Convention: Rules, Procedures on Compliance and Lessons Learned for the Escazu Agreement", at International Conference "El Acceso a la Justicia en Asuntos Ambientales, en el Marco de la Entrada en Vigor del Acuerdo de Escazú, Escuela de Jueces del Estado, Sucre/online, 21 April 2021

"Accountability for Corporations", at ILC Seminar on Protection of the Environment in Relation to Armed Conflicts, UN Headquarters, New York, 18 October 2018

"The EU and the Aarhus Convention", at European Parliament (EU), Directorate General for Internal Policies, Petitions Committee hearing, Brussels, 22 June 2016

**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 a Professor of environmental law, I have teaching and writing commitments. It is my intention to continue the International Master Programme in Environmental Law. Before applying for this position I had a confirmation from the Head of the Law Department that if I am offered the position, I will be able to use time of my position at Stockholm University to perform the tasks as Special Rapporteur.

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As mentioned, I was Professor and Dean at the Law Faculty while I was also serving in the Aarhus Convention, acting as Chair for 10 years and Committee member for another 6 years, with 4 meeting per year in Geneva, and missions and other events related to that position. I thus think that I would be able to perform effectively the functions that the mandate requires, including sessions in Geneva and country visits.

**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".**

#### 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.

At this moment in time, when the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is recognised as a human right both by the UNGA and the UNHRC, and increasingly also by international human rights courts and other institutions, it is vital that this right becomes a core part of life, societies and legal orders around the world.

I apply to this position because I think I can work and contribute to that.

I have for decades been engaged with human rights in environmental contexts, academically and practically. I have followed the international legal developments in the increasingly integrated areas of international environmental law and human rights law. I have worked practically in the UN for the realisation of these rights, and I have seen how this matters in real life for members of the public.

The recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a significant step to a more sustainable world at large, and to a fairer, decent, equitable and more gender-equal society. While sustainable development has mostly been related to inter-generational equity, the bold recognition of the right a clean, healthy and sustainable environment implies a cosmopolitan approach to sustainable development, where everyone counts, and no one is left behind. This is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), although the SDGs are defined as goals rather than entitlements. In a recent comprehensive review of the SDGs and international law (referred to in my list of publications) we concluded that human rights law and institutions are significant to achieve most if not all SDGs. This calls for a thorough implementation and realisation of the right to a clean, health and sustainable environment as a human right.

In my position as Special Rapporteur I would build on the work of previous rapporteurs to promote the human rights obligations of states as well as of the private sector.

In particular, I would work to promote the protection of human rights and environmental defenders and members of the public at large when they claim their rights and engage in protecting the environment; promote the best practices to that end; examine how states act to ensure such protection; and respond to violations when members of the public are harassed, persecuted or penalised for claiming their right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

I would use my experience in examining how the procedural and participatory dimensions of the human rights in relation to the environment are ensured and in promoting best practices to influence policy-making on this matter. We see increasing and promising activities and commitments in international treaty regimes to promote participatory rights in environmental contexts. We also see the development of important jurisprudence by human rights institutions to that end. Yet, for huge parts of the world there are still neither any international frameworks at place, nor any international human rights jurisprudence developed with respect to environment protection.

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I would also work to develop practices and means to apply the general right to a clean, health and sustainable environment in more specific contexts, e.g. with respect to air, water and biodiversity, and examine these developments.

Finally, I would work to include the human right to a clean, healthy and satisfactory environment in the international financing institutions and trade and investment regimes, to make clear that financing, trade and investment should serve this right, rather than preventing its realisation.

Working as Special Rapporteur would be an outstanding opportunity to work with governments, civil society and the business sector to help realising this so recently reconised right for everyone in all parts of the world.



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

Please indicate all language skills below.

1. Mother tongue: **Swedish**

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

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

**Read:** Easily or not 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: If yes,

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

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

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

**Speak:** Easily or not easily: **Not easily**

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**V. EDUCATION**

**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.**

<b>Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time:</b>	<b>Years of attendance</b> (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003; for ongoing education, please put e.g. 2018-present):	<b>Degree obtained</b> (please indicate YES or NO):	<b>Place and country:</b>
Name of degree: Master of Laws (LL.M.) Field of study: Law Academic institution: Stockholm University Full or part-time: Full time	1984-88	Yes	Stockholm
Name of degree: Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) Field of study: Environmental Law Academic institution: Uppsala University Full or part-time: Full time	1991-95	Yes	Uppsala
Name of degree: Docent Field of study: Environmental Law Academic institution: Stockholm University Full or part-time: Full time	1997	Yes	Stockholm
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.**

Name of employer, functional title, main functions of position (brief description), full- or part-time:	Years of work (provide a range from-to, e.g., 05/1999-10/2005; for ongoing activities, please put, e.g., 08/2018-present):	Place and country:
Name of employer: Stockholm University Functional title: Professor in Environmental Law Main functions of position: Academic work, i.e. research, teaching and reaching out to society on matters relating to environmental law (including human rights dimensions), mostly in transboundary contexts. Also Head of Subject at the Department of Law Full- or part-time: Full time	Since 2003	Stockholm
Name of employer: Stockholm University Functional title: Dean at the Faculty of Law Main functions of position: Head of the Faculty, also working with Deans of other faculties and the leadership of the University (including in the Board of the University) and in reaching out to society at large on legal matters and legal education Full- or part-time: Part-time (75 %), combined with being Professor	2012-17	Stockholm
Name of employer: Stockholm University Functional title: Lecturer in Environmental Law Main functions of position: Academic work, i.e. research, teaching and reaching out to society on matters relating to environmental law (including human rights dimensions), mostly in transboundary contexts Full- or part-time: Full time	1995-2003	Stockholm

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Name of employer: Functional title: Main functions of position: Full- or part-time:		
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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](mailto: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:** Jonas Ebbesson

**Date:** 29 November 2023

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