

## SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD FORMAT

### Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, five members(one each) from five regional groups

Appointment to be made by the Human Rights Council at its 55th session

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

- The application process consists of two compulsory parts:  
(1) **online survey** (<https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/687683>) and  
(2) **mandate-specific application form in Word format** (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 (+41229179008).

#### I. PERSONAL DATA

<b>1. Family (last) name:</b> Apena	<b>5. Year of birth:</b> 1979
<b>2. First (given) name:</b> Adeyemi	<b>6. Place of birth:</b> Abeokuta, Ogun State
<b>3. Other name, if any:</b> Olorunfemi	<b>7. Nationality (please indicate the one nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):</b> Nigeria
<b>4. Gender:</b> Female	<b>8. Any other nationality:</b>
<b>9. Please indicate the region that you are applying for, according to your nationality (please tick a box):</b>	Member from African State ✓ Member from Asia-Pacific States Member from Eastern European States Member from Latin American and Caribbean States Member from Western European and other States

#### II. MANDATE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCE/QUALIFICATIONS/KNOWLEDGE

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

I am a Barrister at law. I graduated with LLB from University of Lagos and bagged my BL from the Nigerian Law School since 2004. My qualifications allow me to be able to defend indigent prison inmates who are awaiting trial without collecting any fees. I can also seek redress on behalf of persons whose rights have been abused but who cannot afford the charges of a lawyer

#### 1. QUALIFICATIONS (200-word limit)

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**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).**

**I am a qualified Barrister with a degree in law and I have also been called to Bar since 2004. I graduated from the University of Lagos in 2002 . I'm fluent in Yoruba and English languages. I have a passion for human rights which was the reason I went to study law.**

#### **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).**

I knew about the United Nations Charter on Human Rights and the African charter on human rights in the University whilst studying law. I have always had passion to help the indigent or peasants in the community. Since I became a lawyer in 2004, I was the president of the Legal Aid Community Development service when I was doing my National Youth Service Corps and I was able to take up 3 awaiting trial cases in which I concluded one and the inmate was discharged by the High Court. I was able to get a personal experience with the United Nations when I handled Mrs. Sayo Owolabi's case. Unknowingly to me, Mrs. Sayo Owolabi had initially reported a case of domestic violence to the Federation of International Gender and Human Rights organization of the U. N. before contacting me and we were able to work together with the Federation of International Gender and Human Rights of the U. N. and Apena Olabisi Foundation to help Mrs. Owolabi resolve her issues by helping her in getting custody of her children and living in a safe place devoid of fear of violence from her husband.

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

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

I acquired my knowledge and competence in human rights through my knowledge of law and experiences gathered whilst volunteering in the various human rights organization for over 19 years now. I go to court, visit the sick in the hospital and follow the organization for the empowerment programmes. I have also joined several human rights organizations and continued to help the indigent awaiting trial inmates. I also collaborate with other organizations to help alleviate the pains of children from poor homes, help donate money for those who are ill but cannot afford drugs, help the peasants in the community by empowering them financially or giving them the equipment or tools for their hand craft etc.

#### **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:**

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**1. Title of publication:** The legal analysis of student intervention in economic and political activities in Nigeria

**Journal/Publisher:** Adeyemi Apena

**Date of publication:** 2012 August 1

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** The significance of human right advocacy at this period of change

**Journal/Publisher:** Adeyemi Apena

**Date of publication:** 21st July 2016

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Title of publication:** Report on the massive abuse of human rights by the officers of the special anti-robbery squad

**Journal/Publisher:** Adeyemi Apena

**Date of publication:** 2021

**Web link, if available:**

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

#### **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:** financial empowerment for the peasants

**Event organizer:** Community Welfare Association, Ogun State. RC No: CAC/IT/131587

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

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/pronouncement:** Public lecture on human rights to technicians

**Event organizer:** Automotor spare parts sellers Association of Ogun State. RC No: CAC/IT/ No 34427

**Date of public statement /pronouncement:** 4th of March 2019

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Platform/occasion/event of public statement/ pronouncement:** public lecture for the teachers at Lantoro High School.

**Event organizer:** Ogun State Ministry of women affairs with collaboration of Apena Olabisi Foundation

**Date of public statement/pronouncement:** 25-07-2023

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three, kindly provide a summary of the rest (200-word limit):** I am one of the lawyers to Prisons Rehabilitation and Law Abiding Organization aka Pralarg and they have a radio program titled 'Eto mi' in some radio stations in Nigeria which I also attend occasionally and make public statements on the Rights of peasants. It's a weekly program but it was halted in 2022 due to lack of funds. We educate the public on their rights which is the literal meaning of the title of the program in Yoruba language.

This organization also organizes public lecture every quarter in the year throughout all the southwestern states in Nigeria which I also attend and deliver public lectures on human rights to the populace in attendance.

**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;**

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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 off our to six months per year to the work of a mandate depending on its work load.

I'm a legal practitioner and I own my private practice under the name of A. O. Adebajo & Co. I'm a busy person but my passion is human rights and I believe that being a mandate holder of the U. N. would help me have a better knowledge of human rights, meet new people that will make me grow and have better productivity in my country, see different countries first hand and learn more about how to reduce abuse of human rights in my country. I believe that being a mandate holder can make me achieve all these, so I'm prepared to sacrifice time and energy to actualize my dream and passion. Working with the Federation of International Gender and Human Rights organization opened my eyes to a wider perspective of the enforcement of human rights and it's redress, especially in my country that doesn't respect court orders, not to talk of rights. I believe I can do more to help people in Nigeria and the region I represent, if I am appointed as a mandate holder. I am ready to devote an aggregate of at least 6 months for this cause and I am prepared to travel outside my country anywhere my help is needed. I love traveling and meeting new people so for me, I can continue to do what I love and also enjoy myself whilst doing it

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 "expert commission".

#### **5. 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 with in 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):

**Anthonia Toyin Soremekun Foundation is a non-governmental organization and it's registered with RC No: CAC/IT/NO 131989 is aimed at helping and assisting the less privileged, by paying in full or in part medical bills, drugs or material for the young or aged. Mrs. Adeyem Apena is one of the Trustees in this organization and a foundation member**

**Apena Olabisi Foundation is a non-governmental organization and registered with RC No: CAC/IT/No 196158. This organization is also aimed at assisting widows, peasant children and indigent awaiting trial inmates. They help resolve conflicts and check human rights abuse. Mrs. Adeyemi Apena is one of the Trustees to this organization and helped to create this organization when Pralarg was not able to fulfill it's objectives as a human rights organization**

**The International Human Rights Movement: This organization is a non-governmental organization Based in Cape Verde. It's a registered body and they are also an international human rights body. They help fight injustice and help the peasants immigrants in Cape Verde. Mrs. Adeyemi Apena is the Assistant Secretary-General to this organization**

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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 another stakeholder.

I Adeyemi Apena (my former surname was Adebajo), proudly Nigerian is humbly requesting to be appointed as a mandate holder for the Human Rights Council of the United Nations Organization because of the following reasons.

I've always had passion to become a voice for the voiceless, defend the defenceless and hope to the hopeless in the society, which was a strong propelling power for being a lawyer today. I deliberately did not seek a public employment so I can have the time and make free decision in pursuing my passion for human rights. I am not under any allegiance to any public institution or sworn to secrecy on public matters. I started rendering pro Bono services to indigent awaiting trial inmates immediately I became a lawyer and I was able to succeed in getting one Fulani man who had been incarcerated for over 8 years in prison his liberty sometimes in 2005. That is one of the happiest days in my life.

This passion to help the peasants made me give my time (due to lack of funds) to the motherless babies home, Stella Obasanjo babies home, Abeokuta. I unilaterally wrote a letter to the Nigerian Correctional center in Abeokuta to give me inmates who cannot afford legal services and I took some inmates Cases up which made me to meet with the CEO of Prisons Rehabilitation and Law Abiding Organization aka Pralarg who were also doing the same but didn't have a lawyer who could be doing it for there organization. I was able to achieve a lot with this organization, just to name a few, Sunday Ero incarcerated for 7 years got his liberty in 2018, Samuel Amure free legal representation convicted now out since 2021, Sunday Fatusi, free legal services convicted, Michael Olude incarcerated for over 6 years now out since 2021, Olamilekan Balogun incarcerated for over 5 years now out since 2022 etc. Pralarg gave me the right platform to educate people on there rights and tackle erring police officers, magistrates and any corrupt public officer using his position to abuse the rights of peasants. I was also a member of the Justice Sector Reform Team, created by the Ogun State Judiciary. Pralarg had a radio program titled 'Eto mi' in all the southwestern states in Nigeria which I attended occasionally but which has stopped since 2022.

The passion to help others, made me become a founding member and Trustee of Anthonia Toyin Soremekun Foundation ATSF. This organization gave me the platform to help peasants patients who could not afford basic health care and drugs. So I donated my time and money to this organization. I later became the legal adviser to Communities Welfare Association Ogun State and it gave me the correct platform to help the peasants in the community by empowering them financially or giving them the equipment and tools to make a living.

When Pralarg lost focus in 2022, I and some other comrades in Pralarg came together to form Apena Olabisi Foundation (AOF) in 2023 so that we can continue to do legally what we were doing in Pralarg. so I continued to help indigent awaiting trial inmates and give help to widows and peasants. AOF donated books and writing materials to some peasant children in a rural area and I also delivered a public lecture on sexual harassment at Lantoro High school on behalf of AOF in conjunction with the Ogun State Ministry of women affairs and social welfare. AOF has a weekly radio program also titled 'Gbejomi' on Ogun State Broadcasting corporation 90.5 F. M, every Thursday at 6.30pm to 7pm

If I'm giving the opportunity to be a mandate holder for the Human Rights Council of the U. N., I can help utilize my knowledge to identify the real peasants for the region I represent, give ideas on how to alleviate the suffering of these peasants, ensure the execution of such projects, do other ancillary instructions like giving reports, attending meetings etc and help other mandate holders in the execution of our mandate so that our world can become a better place for every living being on Earth.

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**Thank you for your time.**

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

Please indicate all language skills below.

**1. Mother tongue:** Yoruba Language

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

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

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

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

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

**English:** Yes or no: If yes, 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:  
**Write:** Easily or not easily:  
**Speak:** Easily or not easily:

**Russian:** Yes or no: 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:  
**Write:** Easily or not easily:  
**Speak:** Easily or not easily:



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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: Bachelor of laws Field of study: Law Academic institution: University of Lagos Full or part-time: Full time	1997-2002	Yes	Nigeria
Name of degree: Barrister at law Field of study: Law Academic institution: Nigerian Law School Full or part-time: Full time	2003-2004	Yes	Nigeria
Name of degree: Field of study: Academic institution: Full or part-time:			
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., 08/201 8-present):	Place and country:
Name of employer: A. O. Adebajo & Co Functional title: Principal Partner Main functions of position: Practicing as a Barrister and Solicitor. Helping indigent awaiting trial inmates Full-or part-time: Full time	2006-present	Nigeria
Name of employer: Prisons Rehabilitation and Law Abiding Organization Functional title: Legal Adviser Main functions of position: To help the volunteers with legal advice on all matters Full-or part-time: Part time	2013-2022	South western part in Nigeria
Name of employer: Communities Welfare Association, Ogun State Functional title: Legal Adviser Main functions of position: Helping the organization on legal matters on how to empower people financially and other tools or equipment Full-or part-time: Part-time	2019-present	Ogun state in Nigeria
Name of employer: Anthonia Toyin Soremekun Foundation Functional title: Trustee Main functions of position: Donate money and time for the peasants patients Full-or part-time: Part time	2019-present	Ogun State in Nigeria
Name of employer: The International Human Rights Movement Functional title: Assistant Secretary-General Main functions of position: To assist with legal advice and majorly take up human rights abuse Cases in Nigeria Full-or part-time: Part-time	2023-present	Cape Verde and Nigeria
Name of employer: Apena Olabisi Foundation Functional title: Trustee and Legal Adviser Main functions of position: To assist the organization in giving legal advice in all matters, donate time and money to help the peasants in the community.	2023- present	South western part of Nigeria

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Full-or part-time:    Part-time		
Name of employer: Functional title: Main functions of position: Full-or part-time:		
Name of employer: Functional title: Main functions of position: Full-or part-time:		
Additional:		

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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.

None

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

None

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:

None

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.

### 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

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relevant factor 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:** Adeyemi Apena

**Date:** 09-11-2023

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