

**SECOND PART: APPLICATION FORM IN WORD**  
**Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights**  
**[HRC resolution 28/9]**

*Appointment of a special procedures mandate holder to be made  
at the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (14 September - 2 October 2015)*

**How to apply:**

The entire application process consists of two parts: **1. online survey** and **2. application form in Word format**. Both parts and all sections of the application form need to be completed before the deadline for the application to be processed.

**First part: Online survey** (<http://icts-surveys.unog.ch/index.php/934635/lang-en>) is used to collect information for statistical purposes such as personal data (i.e. name, gender, nationality), contact details, mandate applying for and nominating entity.

**Second part: Application form in Word** can be downloaded from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/HRC30.aspx>, completed and saved in Word format and then submitted as an attachment by email. Information provided in this form includes a motivation letter of maximum 600 words. The application form should be completed in English only. It will be used as received to prepare the public list of candidates who applied for each vacancy and will be made available to concerned parties, including through the OHCHR public website.

Once fully completed (including Section VII), the application form in Word should be submitted to [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) (by email). <mailto:>A maximum of three reference letters can be attached in Word or pdf format to the email (optional). No additional documents such as CVs or lists of publications will be accepted.

- **Application deadline: 18 June 2015 (12.00 noon GMT)**
- No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.
- Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at a later stage.

General description of the selection process is available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Nominations.aspx>

In case of technical difficulties, or if encountering problems with accessing or completing the forms, the Secretariat may be contacted by email at [hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org](mailto:hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org) <mailto:>or fax at + 41 22 917 9011.

**An acknowledgment email will be sent when we receive both parts of the application process, i.e. the data submitted through the online survey and the Word application form by email.**

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

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**I. PERSONAL DATA**

1. Family name: Donders	5. Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female
2. First name: Yvonne	6. Year of birth: 17-jan-72
3. Maiden name (if any):	7. Place of birth: Haarlem, NL
4. Middle name:	8. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates): Dutch
	9. Any other nationality:

**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 Professor of International Human Rights and Cultural Diversity and Director of the Amsterdam Center for International Law at the Law Faculty of the University of Amsterdam. My PhD dissertation was on the right to cultural identity and my current Chair focuses on research and teaching on human rights and cultural diversity. My work concentrates on the question to what extent the universal human rights system, including the instruments and monitoring mechanisms, leaves room for cultural diversity and pluralism between and within states. The development and elaboration of cultural rights and the cultural dimension of human rights are central elements in this endeavor. Between finishing my PhD and returning to academia at the University of Amsterdam, I have worked at the Human Rights Division of UNESCO's secretariat in Paris as programme specialist on economic, social and cultural rights. My position as Professor and Director require excellent analytical and writing skills as well as presentation and communication skills. I have learnt to work in a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment and I am able to work with persons at different levels, varying from professors to PhD candidates and students. I can speak and write in English and French.

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**2. 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.)**

I have worked in the area of human rights since 1997, first as PhD candidate and lecturer at the University of Maastricht, then as Programme Specialist at the Human Rights Division of UNESCO in Paris and then as Professor of International Human Rights and Cultural Diversity at the University of Amsterdam. I have taught national and international human rights law for many years now at different universities, which requires me to remain up to date with the functioning and development of the UN human rights system, as well as that of regional human rights organizations. In order to be able to develop new research insights I have studied international human rights extensively and have participated in many conferences and seminars, academic as well as non-academic or more policy oriented. I have edited and published several books as well as many articles on human rights and cultural rights with internationally renowned publishers and in international top ranking journals (see for an overview of publications my university webpage: <http://www.uva.nl/en/contact/staff/item/y.m.donders.html?f=Donders>). I have also done consultancy work for the current Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, as well as for different divisions of UNESCO's Secretariat in Paris.

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

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

I have been appointed Professor on the basis of three main competences: research, teaching and management. The first two have always been mainly dedicated to international human rights. I have taught many human rights classes and have been (anonymously) evaluated by students several years, who have given me an overall score between 8,5 and 9 (out of 10). I have extensively published on human rights and cultural rights (see for an overview of publications my university webpage: <http://www.uva.nl/en/contact/staff/item/y.m.donders.html?f=Donders>).

I have participated in many international conferences as speaker or panelist. I have been asked to be a member of several expert groups or advisory boards on human rights and culture, such as the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, the European Expert Network on Culture (EENC), the Human Rights Committee of the Advisory Council on International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Editorial Board of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights. As regards

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management, I have ample experience in coordinating projects and in supervising and stimulating professionals. I am capable to work in an international environment and can work independently as well as in cooperation with others.

**4. FLEXIBILITY/READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF TIME (200 words)  
to perform effectively the functions of the mandate and to respond to its requirements, including participating in Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York, travelling on special procedures visits, drafting reports and engaging with a variety of stakeholders. (Indicate whether candidate can dedicate an estimated total of approx. three months per year to the work of a mandate.)**

As a fulltime University Professor I have the necessary flexibility to organize my agenda according to the different tasks assigned to me, inside and outside the Faculty. My Law Faculty fully supports this application and is willing to facilitate me in effectively performing the functions of the mandate. If needed, I can obtain assistance from students and PhD candidates, who may help me with more practical tasks and for whom this may be a great experience. I have no problem with travelling, as I am quite used to it and I can dedicate the required three months per year to the work of the mandate.

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**III. MOTIVATION LETTER (600 word limit)**

Ever since the establishment of the mandate, the position of Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights has drawn my great interest. Having contributed to the reports of the current Special Rapporteur on access to cultural heritage and on gender and having followed her activities, have reaffirmed my interest. I have spent most of my career working on human rights, in particular cultural rights. My PhD dissertation was on the right to cultural identity and my current Chair on International Human Rights and Cultural Diversity at the University of Amsterdam focuses on research and teaching on human rights and cultural diversity. In between I have worked at the Human Rights Division of UNESCO in Paris as programme specialist on economic, social and cultural rights.

Cultural rights can in my view no longer be considered a “forgotten” category of human rights, at least not in terms of attention and formal recognition. The work of the current Special Rapporteur, as well as the adoption of General Comment 21 by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to take part in cultural life are examples of this increased attention. Cultural rights are also advanced by UNESCO’s activities on tangible and intangible cultural heritage and on the intercultural dialogue and intercultural competences. The importance of culture for individuals and communities is also affirmed by its inclusion in the post-2015 sustainable development goals.

Recognition of the importance of cultural rights is, however, just a first step in the actual advancement of these rights. How to best operationalize and implement cultural rights, in order for individuals and communities to properly enjoy them, still requires further elaboration. Cultural rights cut across other categories of human rights and emphasize the individual as well as the collective dimension of human rights. There is a need to further elaborate cultural rights as well as the cultural dimension of human rights, such as the rights to food, housing or health or the right to a fair trial or respect for private life. It is therefore crucial that the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights works closely with other mandate holders, for instance on freedom of expression, the right to education or the right to health. Culture remains a complex and dynamic notion that is not easily captured in international legal rights and obligations and the interaction between different actors in the field of cultural rights, including states as well as non-state actors, such as cultural communities, civil society organizations and companies, poses complex challenges.

Much of the elaboration of cultural rights takes place within academia. The challenge is to translate these academic sources and ideas into policy oriented elaboration and recommendations that can help states and non-state actors in the implementation of these rights. My work in an intergovernmental organization (UNESCO) as well as in

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academia has given me the necessary experience to contribute to such a process. I combine academic reflection with policy advice also as member of several advisory committees, such as the National Commission for UNESCO and the Human Rights Committee of the Advisory Council on International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through consultancies for UNESCO, the OHCHR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I am also active in several NGOs, as President of the Dutch United Nations Association, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Shelter City project coordinated by Justice and Peace and as member of Amnesty International.

I strongly believe that the different UN institutions dealing with human rights, including the intergovernmental Human Rights Council, its independent Special Procedures, as well as the treaty bodies, each have their specific role to play in advancing human rights. It would be an honor and a great pleasure for me to serve as mandate holder and contribute to the further elaboration and realization of cultural rights.

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

**Please indicate all language skills:**

**Mother tongue: Dutch**

**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: **yes** If yes,

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

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

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

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

**Read:** Easily or not easily:

**Write:** Easily or not easily:

**Speak:** Easily or not easily:

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

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

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

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

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**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate's academic qualifications (university level and higher).**

<b>Name of degree and name of academic institution:</b>	<b>Years of attendance</b> (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003):	<b>Place and country:</b>
Chair International Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Amsterdam	2011-current	Amsterdam, NL
PhD, Faculty of Law, Maastricht University	1997-2002	Maastricht, NL
Faculty of Arts, Utrecht University	1990-1996	Utrecht, NL



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**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held, beginning with the most recent one.**

<b>Name of employer, functional title, main functions of position:</b>	<b>Years of work</b> (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2005):	<b>Place and country:</b>
University of Amsterdam	2006-current	Amsterdam, NL
UNESCO Division of Human Rights	2003-2006	Paris, France
University of Maastricht	1997-2002	Maastricht, NL

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**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PROVISIONS**  
**(of Human Rights 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.*

No

**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.**

N/A

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