***APPLICATION DEADLINE: 25 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 12 NOON GENEVA TIME***

* *The application process consists of two compulsory parts:****(1) online survey[[1]](#footnote-1)*** *(*[*https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/985419*](https://ohchr-survey.unog.ch/index.php/985419)*)  
  and****(2) application form in Word format[[2]](#footnote-2)*** *(to be downloaded from* [*https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC49.aspx*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/SP/Pages/HRC49.aspx)*)*
* *Once fully completed, in English or French only, the Word application form should be submitted by email to* [*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.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 additional 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.*
* *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.* ***No incomplete or late applications will be accepted****.*
* *Eligible for Working Group mandates are only nationals of the States belonging to the* [*regional groups*](https://www.un.org/dgacm/content/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/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 (*[*ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org*](mailto:ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org)*) or fax (+41 22 917 9008).*

**I. PERSONAL DATA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Family (last) name:** Bratspies | **5. Year of birth:** 1965 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Rebecca | **6. Place of birth:** USA |
| **3. Other name, if any:** | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** USA |
| **4. Gender:** F | **8. 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 limit)

**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 hold a law degree, with honors, from the University of Pennsylvania, and a BA in biology. from Wesleyan University. As a Henry Luce Foundation Scholar, I was seconded as a legal expert to the Taiwan, ROC Environmental Protection Administration where I worked on issues of pollution control and public participation. As a Professor at CUNY Law, I teach human rights and environmental law courses. In my role as the Director of the Center for Urban Environmental Reform, I work with New York City residents and government agencies to promote environmental rights and environmental justice, including under international legal theories.

I served as a consultant to the CGIAR. I am an appointed member of EPA's Childrens Health Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, and New York City Environmental Justice Advisory Board. In these roles, I provide expert opinions about how to realize the right to a healthy environment in a changing climate. I was one of a few foreign experts invited by the Chief Minister of Madya Pradesh to speak at the 2016 International Conference on the Universal Message of Simhasth. I was also an official Penn delegate to the Salzburg Seminar on Human Rights.

I am a native English speaker, and my job involves writing and public speaking in the English language. I also have rudimentary Chinese and a smattering of Spanish and German.

1. **RELEVANT EXPERTISE** (200 words limit)

**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 and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state how this was acquired.)**

**Proven work experience in the field of human rights and particularly in the area of the mandate. (Please state years of experience.)**

As a scholar and professor, I have spent the past decade immersed in human rights. The courses I teach include: Public International Law, Human Rights and the Environment, Law and Globalization, and Environmental Justice. I have written numerous law review articles, book chapters, and blog posts on various aspects of human rights. Books include: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: LAW, POLICY & REGULATION; INTERNATIONAL LAW: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS; PROGRESS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW; and TRANSBOUNDARY HARM IN INTERNATIONAL LAW: LESSONS FROM THE TRAIL SMELTER ARBITRATION.

I have been an invited speaker at meetings about human rights and enviromental protection around the World. Here are just a few of the meetings at which I have spoken here: Loyola (Climate Justice); U Houston (Restorative CLimate Justice); AALS (Climate Mobilization); U Wisconsin (Sustainable Development, International Law, and Human Right to a Healthy Environment); the International Conference on Living the Right Way: Universal Message of Simhasth, (Ujjain, India); U. Miami (Human Rights and Climate Wrongs); U Iowa (International Environmental Law, Environmental Justice, and the Global South); U. New South Wales (The Environmental Degradation/Corrution Nexus) U. Oslo (The Rule of Law for Nature); U Kwazulu Natal (Comparative Contitutionalism and Rights: Global Perspective) U Ottawa (Right to Food at the Nexus of Trade & Environment)

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

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

As an appointed consultant to the CGIAR, I worked closely with the FAO to develop a protocol for handling genetically engineered organisms. With the Center for Progressive Reform, I work to develop human rights norms in the US. In my role as an appointed member on EPA's Childrens' Health Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, I advocate for protecting children from environmental hazards. On the NYC Environmental Justice Advisory Board, I advise the city.

In the US, I am routinely invited to testify about issues of human rights, most notably before NYC Council on issues of environmental justice and children's health; before the United States Congress on issues of climate hazard reduction, and before the FAA over issues of environmental assessment. I have trained judges in New York and Belize about environmental protection. I was appointed to the ABA Standing Committee on Environmental Protection. I am a member of the New York City Bar Environmental Law Committee. My work with the graphic novel Mayah's Lot has been featured at Environmental Health film festivals, and has received environmental justice awards.

I was elected President of the American Association of Law Schools Environmental Section, and served on the Planning Committee for the American Society for International Law, where I organized a panel on Global Public Goods.

1. **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 participated in relation to the mandate.**

* 1. **Enter three publications in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Title of publication:** The Climate for Human Rights

**Journal/Publisher:** University of Miami Law Review

**Date of publication:** 2018

**Web link, if available:** https://lawreview.law.miami.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Bratspies\_\_p308.pdf

**2. Title of publication:** Our Climate Moment is Now (How to Change the Story and Save Our World)

**Journal/Publisher:** Environmental Law Institute

**Date of publication:** 2020

**Web link, if available:** https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=3436832

**3. Title of publication:** Renewable Rikers: A Plan for Restorative Environmental Justice

**Journal/Publisher:** Loyola Law Review

**Date of publication:** 2020

**Web link, if available:** https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=3660113

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):My scholarly work can be found at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/cf\_dev/AbsByAuth.cfm?per\_id=89185. I write about the science, environmental protection, and human rights under international and domestic law. The book chapter Reasoning Up to Human Rights, as well as the three articles listed above make the case for a human right approach to climate change. Articles such as Human Rights and Arctic Resources, and Human Rights and Environmental Regulation bracket that question to consider how human rights might improve and reshape domestic regulatory regimes more generally. Food, Technology and Hunger, and Hunger and Equity in an Era of Genetic Engineering test the relationship between the right to food, and the right to the environment. The Human Right to Environmental Information, The New Discovery Doctrine, and Using Human Rights to Improve Arctic Governance consider these ideas in the context of resource extraction, particularly in indigenous territories.

My three co-edited books: Environmental Justice: Law, Policy & Regulation; Progress in International Law and Transboundary Harm in International Law, grew out of conferences I organized. In them, scholars from different perspectives consider core questions of human rights and international law. My contributions to these books explore the relationship between science, uncertainty and protecting human rights and the environment.

* 1. **Enter three public statements or pronouncements made or events that the candidate may have participated in relation to the mandate applied for, in the order of relevance:**

**1. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** The International Conference on Living the Right Way: Universal Message of Simhasth

**Event organizer:** Government of Madhya Pradesh, India

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** May 2016

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** U Houston Energy Transition and Governance Series

**Event organizer:** U Houston Environment, Energy and Natural Resources center

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** May 2021

**Web link, if available:** https://www.law.uh.edu/news/summer2021/0524EENR.asp

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** Rule of Law for Nature Conference

**Event organizer:** University of Oslo

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

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):As indicated above, I lecture frequently on issues of human rights, climate change, and environmental protection. I have participated in many scholarly gatherings across the United States, as well as in India, South Africa, Canada, Norway, Finland, Australia, China, and Belize. I have organized many scholarly conferences. Here are 2:

During the 2015 UN Sustainability Summit, I organized a side-event on Overconsumption & Sustainability. This event brought speakers from India, China and the United States together for discussions about the relationship between Environmental Rights, and the right to food, water, and health. The conversation focused on inter- and intra-generational equity as core principles in an era of climate change.

In 2008, I organized a conference “Indigenous People Under International Law” This conference became an edited volume, including my own contribution, The New Discovery Doctrine. Other writings building on my knowledge of the UNDRIP include: Using Human Rights to Improve Arctic Governance, and The Vexing Relationship Between Environmental Protection and International Trade. These writings

I have been invited to testify before NYC City Council on issues of environmental justice and children's health; before the United States Congress on issues of climate & environmental justice, and was appointed to the ABA Standing Committee on Environmental Protection.

1. **flexibility/readiness and AVAILABILITY of time** (200 words limit)

**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 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 their 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.**

**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 a law professor based in New York City. I have a 9 month teaching schedule. The other three months of the year I typically devote to scholarship and research on questions of human rights and environmental protection. Thus, I have the freedom to devote those three months full-time to the role of Special Rapporteur. During the academic year, my time would be more limited. However, CUNY Law School, my home institution, fully supports my application for the post of Special Rapporteur. Should I be selected for the position, the school would provide me with a reduced teaching schedule, as well as administrative and researach support. My family similarly supports my application and understands that the post involves extensive travel.

Because I live in New York City, participating in the General Assembly sessions would involve only a subway ride. The trip to Geneva a direct flight from NYC. I am a frequent traveler, and a prolific researcher/writer. I do not anticipate any problems meeting the time commitment of the appointment.

1. **NOMINATION FOR THE MANDATE**

**Indicate whether the candidate has been nominated by (check all that apply):**

**Individual nominations (indicate this if the candidate is self-nominating)**

**Governments**

**Regional groups operating within the United Nations human rights systems**

**International organizations or their offices**

**Non-governmental organizations**

**National human rights institutions**

**Other human rights bodies**

**Name of the nominating entity and additional information about the nomination (use if applicable, for third-party nominations only)** (200 words limit)**:**

**III. Motivation Letter, INCLUDING YOUR VISION OF THE MANDATE**(600 word limit. Must be typed in the space below and not sent in a separate email or as an attachment. To be drafted and signed (i.e. with a typed signature) by the candidate himself/herself even if nominated by another entity.)

I am honored to submit this application. I have two decades of experience as a human rights scholar and teacher. In particular, my work focuses on three issues that will be critical for this Special Rapporteur: 1) the need to prioritize children and young people in the realization of human rights in a changing climate; 2) the further development and codification of the right to a healthy environment in an era of climate change; and 3) the need for interdisciplinary collaboration and cooperation to progressively realize all human rights, in the context of climate change.

Children are uniquely vulnerable to climate change, both because of their growing bodies and because they represent the future of humanity. We need to bring youth voices into environmental decision-making around climate change, and to center children’s health and welfare in that environmental decision-making. This must be a priority for the Special Rapporteur. As a member of EPA’s Children’s Health and Environmental Protection Advisory Committee, I give these issues deep attention under domestic law. The Center I run routinely collaborates with schools and youth organizations, and I have learned to respect the contributions young people can make to the progressive realization of human rights through law and policy. My work with environmental justice graphic novels has taught me the value of producing youth-friendly materials. I would bring youth leaders more fulling into discussions about how to realize human rights in an era of climate change, and how human rights can help change the climate dialogue. In particular, the Special Rapporteur needs to pay attention to the situation of environmental defenders around the world as well as the human rights impacts of biodiversity loss.

Climate change will present new human rights challenges. Much of my scholarship has focused on human rights at the intersection of science, law, and policy in the context of climate change. I have thought long and hard about how to create progress in this area. The Special Rapporteur can do much to create accessible toolkits that can be a resource for realizing human rights in an era of climate change, as well as for helping civil society fully participate in discussions about climate change and human rights. By promoting transparent and accessible environmental decision-making processes, the Special Rapporteur can leverage this mandate to facilitate important human rights conversations at the international and regional level. In this way, the Special Rapporteur can help build bridges between civil society, states, and the United Nations. As part of this initiative, the Special Rapporteur can make the case for further incorporation of human rights into the global climate regime.

None of this will happen if experts remain siloed, isolated from each other by institutional cultures, and professional fields. I trained as a scientist before becoming a lawyer. As a result, I naturally gravitate toward interdisciplinary work andam well-suited to facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations around various climate change questions focused on human rights. The Glasgow COP opened a window to more fully incorporating human rights into the global climate regime and bridging persistent gaps between law, science, and policy. I would build on that by developing initiatives to promote interdisciplinary collaboration between the UN and regional epistemic communities brought together under the auspices of the Special Rapporteur.

In short, my science background, my expertise with interdisciplinary collaboration, my focus on children’s health and environmental protection, my role promoting youth leadership, and expanding public participation, as well as my experience in using new media to reach non-traditional audiences make me uniquely positioned to build a global constituency for realizing human rights in the context of climate change. I believe I can reach new audiences and build more extensive interdisciplinary collaborations to further realize human rights in the context of climate change.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **English**

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

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

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

**Chinese:** 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**

**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: **no** If yes,

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

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

**V. EDUCATIONAL RECORD**

**NOTE: Please list the candidate’s academic qualifications (university level and higher, indicating the type of degree and field of study, and whether full- or part-time; for example, *Masters in Law, University of XXX, part-time, 1975-1977, city and country)*. If space in the table is insufficient, more than one degree may be listed in a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of degree, field of study and name of academic institution, full or part-time:** | **Years of attendance**  (provide a range from-to, for example 1999-2003;  for ongoing education, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place and country:** |
| Juris Doctoris, cum laude, University of Pennsylvania | 1989-1992 | USA |
| Biology, Wesleyan University | 1983-1987 | USA |
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**VI. EMPLOYMENT RECORD**

**NOTE: Please briefly list ALL RELEVANT professional positions held in the area of human rights, beginning with the candidate’s current (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 a single cell below, separating them by a blank line.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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;  for ongoing activities, please put e.g. 2018-present): | **Place  and country:** |
| CUNY School of Law, Professor (full time)  -teach human rights and the environment, climate change, as well as other law classes  --Center for Urban Environmental Reform, Director (part time)  --create programming, organize worshops, lectures and conferences about environmental protection, environmental justice and human rights.  --work with New York City Schools through Mayah's Lot graphic novel environmental justice project  --draft official comments, position papers and testimony on issues of environmental protection and environmental justice. | 2004-Present | NYC, USA |
| CGIAR, Consultant on Michigan State University School of Law,Visiting Professor, (full time) | 2003-2004 | East Lansing MI, USA |
| University of Idaho College of Law,Associate Professor, (full time) | 2001-2003 | Moscow, ID, USA |
| EPA Childrens Health Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (part time) | 2016-present | Washington DC, USA |
| New York City Environmental Justice Advisory Board (part time) | 2018-present | New York City, NY USA |
| Collaborative Stakeholder Advisory Committee member, NSF Funded Megalopolitan Coastal Transformation Hub (part time) | 2021-present | New Jersey, USA |
|  |  |  |
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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. 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. The candidate’s name below should match how it is entered on the first page of the form and in the online survey.***

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

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

**Name:** Rebecca Bratspies

**Date:** November 21, 2021

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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 must 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 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)