***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:** Cassotta | **5. Year of birth:** 1969 |
| **2. First (given) name:** Sandra | **6. Place of birth:** Brussels (Belgium) |
| **3. Other name, if any:** | **7. Nationality (please indicate the nationality that will appear on the public list of candidates):** Italian |
| **4. Gender:** Female | **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 have a B.A. in languages from the European School of Brussels (Belgium) a M.S. in Political Science - specialization in International law and International Relations from the State University of Milan (Italy) and a Ph.D. in International Environmental Law from the Department of Law at Aarhus University (Denmark). My mother tongues are French/Italian. I have proficiency in English (it is my main working language since 2007) and also Spanish since I worked in Spain (Madrid) for 5 years in an inter-governmental organization under the United Nations aegis and I am mother tongue French (I was born in Brussels and grew up there until the age of 29), and speak italian (I am actually bilingual), proficency in English and Spanish and speak Danish.

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.)**

I have acquired knowledge by teaching and reseraching extensively on the linkange between environmental (climate) law and human rights. Human rights law was part of my Master curricula and also my PhD research. I have 15 years of experience in the linkage climate change and human rights and have been publishing in many languages. In addition, my knowledge in continously growing since 2018 after my appoitnment by the Finnish Government (Academy of Finland) as Member of the Board of Assessment of the Panel assessing Governmental Grants on International Environmental Law, Human Rights, and EU Law. As a research fellow at the Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP) in Stockholm and at the Sustianability College Bruges (SCB) I am I continously reseraching on human rights issues in connection to climate change, the climate-ocean nexus and climate change litigation. I currenlty have a grant from the Euopean Union (under the programme Horizon 2020) on environmental justice where the nexus human rights and climate change is one of the core topics.

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

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

My primary strength regarding this position is my expertise and practice is international (environmental) law combined to human rights law. My archive of knowledge is founded in my teaching and extensive research on the linkange between environmental (climate) law, governance and human rights. In addition to teaching and teamwork practice, I bring with me a consistent number of publications. I have published a lot on human rights and indigenous issues. For example, the topic was also part of the discussion and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) when I was appointed by the danish national level as Lead Author for the Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate of 2019 and Invited Expert Reviewer at the IPCC on Special Report 1.5 C Global Warming of 2018. My list of publications shows a history of publishing and teaching on climate change and human rights, both in relation to the protection of indigenous people in the Arctic, but also in relation to climate change, human rights and climatically induced displacement. Some of these principal lessons also apply to warmer climates. I also worked for an international organziation under the UN aegis for 5 years in Madrid (Spain) which means that I have experience working within the system of the UN. I am still member of the IPCC and collaborate with this body regularly.

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:** Balancing de jure and de facto Arctic Environmental Law applied to Oil and Gas Industry: Linking Indigenous Rights, Social Impact Assessment and Investments in Greenland”

**Journal/Publisher:** Volume 6, Year Book of Polar Law, Brill Nijhoff

**Date of publication:** 2015

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Title of publication:** A Case Study of the Carmichael Coal Mine from the Perspectives of climate change litigation and socio-economic factors

**Journal/Publisher:** Law Environment and Development Journal, LEAD

**Date of publication:** 2017

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Title of publication:** Climate Change, Forced Migration and International Law in a Cross-Area and Interdisciplinary Approach: A Global Environmental Legal Solution Focusing on Adaptation?

**Journal/Publisher:** Journal of Academic Perpectives

**Date of publication:** Vol. 2, 2017

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three publications, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):other (selected) publications are: Cassotta et al., Conference Proceedings, 2017, « Climate Law and Governance Day 2017 Advancing Law & Governance Contributions to Climate Change Actions under the Paris Agreement » Round Table on « Climate Change, Human Rights and Forced Migration”, Climate Law and Governance Initiative (CLGI), pp. 19-20; Cassotta, et al. "Migrants Climatiques, pourquoi notre approche doit changer, La Croix, 23/4/2018; A Case Study of the Carmichael Coal Mine from the Perspectives of climate change litigation and socio-economic factors; Cassotta S. “Climate Change, Foreign Investments and Indigenous People Rights in the Arctic: What is the Optimal Level Regulatory Environmental Assessment Scheme in the Case of Oil and Gas in Greenland?”, Oil and Gas Environmental Law Review, OGEL, 2016; Cassotta, S., et al. "Legal Responses to the Nexus between Climate and Children's Rights, Chapter 12, in Children's Rights, DjØf Forlag, 2020; Cassotta, S. "Ocean Acidification in the Arctic in a Multi-regulatory, Climate Justice Perspective,2021, Frontiers Climate.

* 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:** COP 23 - "There is an urgent need to have a mechanism for the protection of climatically displaced people and to establish who is responsible to assist and protect them."

**Event organizer:** COP 23 - side event, Bonn (Germany) organized by the Climate Law and Governance Initiative (CLGI)

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 10 November 2017

**Web link, if available:**

**2. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:**  Conference"La migration organisée, relocalisation de la population forcée à se déplacer à cause du changement climatique a longtemps été un éléphant dans la salle des négociations sur le climat"

**Event organizer:** Centre Scientifique de Monaco, "Changement Climatique et perte e dommage en vertu de la Convention des Nations Unies sur les Changements Climatiques (CCNUCCC et l'Accord de Paris

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 10 April 2018

**Web link, if available:**

**3. Platform/occasion/event on which public statement/pronouncement made:** IPCC - "The Arctic Council explains the challenges that institutions are facing including also the human rights component related to “indigenity” when it comes to responses to climate change"

**Event organizer:** Intergovernamental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Third Lead Author Meeting Group II, UNEP, Lanzhou (China) Presentation during the Plenary Session on "Environmental Governance on Ocean & Cryoshere"

**Date on which public statement/pronouncement made:** 23 July 2018

**Web link, if available:**

**If more than three, kindly summarize** (200 words limit):Invited Speaker at COP 26, Glasgow, Pavillon Science, "The Legal and Governance aspects of Nature-based-Solutions" NbS, 5 november 2021 "We must create new smart regulations integrating climate law with biodiveristy law and human rights law - Link available at: https://fcs.tv/cop-26-podemos-confiar-en-los-procesos-naturales-del-oceano-para-la-mitigacion-del-clima/; Invited Speaker at the Panel Discussion on Climate Change in the Polar Systems and Climatically Displaced People from a Regulatory Perspective, Copenhagen Films Festival, CPH Dox, April 2020 "There is uncertainty regarding how many people will move because of climate change and a lack of statistics on ongoing induced movements. There is also a lack of definition for people climatically displaced: Link available at: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=d48sFy-HsoE&feature=youtu.be; "Climate Change, Forced Migration and Compensation (invited key note speaker - Eventbrite at Adelaide University, Adelaide School of Law (Autralia), 1 June 2018 "the notion of loss and damage must be related in providing aid to vulnerable countries that suffer damage from climate change. It includes: loss of species, destruction of infrastructue, loss of land from rising seas or the displacement of people from climate linked events. We need a human rights law approach"; ISDP-KIIP Symp. on Climate Change 26/11/21"COP26 text contains no reference to human rights".

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 can work 6 months per year and can dedicate every day 7 hours because I have a research grant from the European Union (EU) under the Programme Horizon 2020 on environmental justice and can go on leave (from my current work) part-time

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)**:**

not applicable

**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.)

In addition to my permanent position as Associate Professor in International, Environmental and Energy Law at Aalborg University (Denmark), I have several international fellowships and appointments. I was Lead Author at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) United Nations on Polar Issues and Governance (appointed by the Danish government), I am currently still member of the IPCC, Fellow at the Sustainability College Bruges – SCB (Belgium), Expert Consultant for the EU Commission and the EU Parliament (Brussels, Belgium), Adjunct Professor of Law at the International Centre of Ocean Governance – ICOG at Western Sydney University (Australia) and Expert Research Fellow at the Institute for Security and Development Policy – ISDP (Stockholm, Sweden).

In total, I have more than 12 years of research experience in Academia (and before that 7 years in the public and private sector of which 5 in an international organization under UN aegis). I am fully committed to providing my expertise and contributing to building up a new framework, integrating human rights and climate law in a multi-regulatory and cross-sectorial perspective and rendering such a framework actionable and useful to states, international organizations, as well as citizens. To adequately address the current human rights crisis of unprecedented proportions, it is necessary to have a holistic approach that intersects different areas of international law (climate law, human rights, biodiversity law, law of the sea) and different levels of governance and sources of law and policy (Global, Regional, national and subnational) to deal with the increasingly strained relationship between climate change and the enjoyment of civil rights, political, economic, social and cultural impacts on present and future generations. In respect of these rights of the most marginalized and of those living in poverty, the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, equality, and non-discrimination of workers' rights must then be guaranteed in climate policies. These sections of the population, however, must not be seen only as "victims" but as key agents of change and "leaders at local, national and international level".This was underlined at the latest COP 26, where I was present and active.

I aim to continue the work of the UN Resolution A/HRC/48/L23/Res/GA of the last 8 October and to broaden the economic and social rights to enhance elements of public interest, interacting with private interests and to render possible the incorporation of human rights in environmental treaties. The problem of causation needs to be tackled too. In doing so, it is relevant to overcome the different perspectives between western and non-western countries as human rights may have different significance in both and I believe it is necessary to have a knowledge of different geographic areas and levels of governance which I can contribute to. The aim would be to work for a mechanism and institutional reforms at UN level which would afford united action to protect individuals affected by climate change. In order to do that there is a need of strong knowledge of languages to check the vertical implementation of treaties at national level (the implementation laws and strategies are often in original languages) and knowledge of different areas (SIDS, Arctic, Asia. etc.) and a deep knowledge on how societies and vulnerable people are damaged by environmental problems using also a cross sectorial and transdisciplinary systematic method as the law alone cannot “save the world” even if it is human right law which has always to be put “in context”.

I bring with me fluency in French, Spanish, Italian and English. I bring with me experience in teamwork on the workplace in international perspective. I bring with me enthusiasm.

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

**Please indicate all language skills below.**

**1. Mother tongue:** **French**

**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: **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: **easily  
Speak:** Easily or not easily: **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:** |
| European Baccalaureate (linguistic) at the Ecole Européenne Uccle I, Brussels. Full time | 1975-1988 | Brussels (Belgium) |
| Master's Degree in Political Science - International Relations, Focus area: International Law/EU law. Università degli Studi di Milano. Full time | 1992-1998 | Milan (Italy) |
| PhD in Law, Department of Law, Aarhus University (Grant from the Danish Government through international competiion). Full time | 2007-2011 | Aarhus (Denmark) |
| Master of Specialization in Climate Change for Internaitonal Lawyers and Professionals, Faculty of Law, Università degli Studi di Milano. Full time | March-June 2009 | Milan (Italy) |
|  |  |  |

**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:** |
| Aalborg University, Department of Law, Associate Professor in International, Environmental and Energy Law. Full time | 2016- present | Aalborg (Denmark) |
| Aarhus University, Department of Law, Assistant Professor in International Environmental Law. Full Time | 2013-2016 | Aarhus (Denmark) |
| Aarhus University, Department of Law, Post.Doc in International Environmental Law. Full Time | 2011-2013 | Aarhus (Denmark) |
| Aarhus University, Phd reseracher (Awarded Grant) in International Environmental Law on Enviornmental Damage and liability problems in a Multilevel Context: The case of the environmental liability directive. Full time | 2007-2011 | Aarhus (Denmark) |
| IOOC (International Olive Council), Principal Assistant of the Chief Head Division - Press and information Office, Grade P1/VI (under UN aegis). Full time | 2000-2005 | Madrid (Spain) |
| Italian Ministery of Foreign Affairs in Denmark, Researcher working on a Bilateral Grant. Full Time | 1999-2000 | Aarhus (Denmark) |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**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.**

not applicable

**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:** Sandra Cassotta

**Date:** 23/11/2021

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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)