

Call for applications for two additional HRC mandate holder positions - deadline 16 January 2026

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Cc "OHCHR-HRC Special Procedures"<ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org>

To the attention of National Human Rights Institutions,

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council is now accepting applications for two additional mandate holder vacancies. These positions are expected to be filled during the Council's 61st session (23 February – 2 April 2026).

VACANCY:

- **Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia** ([Human Rights Council resolution 60/33](#))
- **Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, member from Asia-Pacific States** ([Human Rights Council resolution 54/26](#))

Individuals seeking appointment as mandate holders should possess **extensive and recognized professional experience and expertise in the field of human rights**, with an emphasis on the specific human rights themes covered by the mandate for which they are applying.

The work of mandate holders is unpaid. Those appointed as mandate holders **serve in their personal capacity**. They are not United Nations staff members and therefore do not receive a salary or any other form of financial compensation. They are not based at United Nations offices in Geneva or any other United Nations location but may be required to undertake official travel in their capacity as mandate holders, for which they will only receive travel expenses and daily subsistence allowance in accordance with applicable United Nations rules and regulations. The specific functions and responsibilities of each mandate are defined in the Human Rights Council resolutions that establish or extend the mandate.

Candidates must be available to effectively carry out the functions of the mandate and respond to its requirements. These may include, according to the Human Rights Council resolution on the mandate: participating in Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva and General Assembly sessions in New York; undertaking two country visits per year; drafting reports within established deadlines; organizing and participating in consultations and meetings; addressing allegations of human rights violations with all relevant stakeholders; providing advice to States and other stakeholders on issues related to the mandate; and engaging with a broad range of stakeholders. **Candidates should be able to dedicate an estimated four to six months per year to the work of the mandate**, depending on its workload.

Candidates eligible for the vacancies in the Working Groups are only nationals of States belonging to the specific regional groups for which specific vacancies have been advertised; in this instance, nationals from Asia-Pacific States. Please refer to the [list of the United Nations regional groups of Member States](#).

HOW TO APPLY:

Deadline to receive complete applications: 16 January 2026 (12 noon Geneva time) – Early applications are encouraged

All applicants must submit by the deadline, both:

(1) a short online survey (<https://survey.ohchr.org/512797>)

and

(2) a mandate-specific Word application form. Application instructions and forms available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/hrc61>

- For information on how to prepare a **complete** application, please visit: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/application-guidelines>
- For general information about the application and selection process, and for **frequently asked questions**, please visit: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/sp/basic-information-selection-independent-experts>
- In case of technical difficulties, the Secretariat may be contacted by email at: ohchr-hrcspecialprocedures@un.org

Best regards,

National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section (NIRMS)

Global Operations Division (GLO)

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