



United Nations – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Junior Professional Officer Program (JPO) Chiffre Nr. 2023-1-05

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. General Information

Title: JPO in Human rights and the environment

Sector of Assignment: Human Rights, Political Affairs

Organization/Office: United Nations / OHCHR/Thematic Engagement Special Procedures and Right to Development Division / Right to Development Section

Country and Duty Station: Geneva, Switzerland

Duration of assignment: 2 years with possibility of extension for another year. The extension of appointment is subject to yearly review concerning priorities, availability of funds, and satisfactory performance

Please note that for participants of the JPO-Programme two years work experience are mandatory! Relevant work experience can be counted. In order to assess the eligibility of the candidates, we review the relevant experience acquired after obtaining the first university degree (usually bachelor's degree).

II. Supervision

Title of Supervisor:

Human Rights Officer, Environment and Climate Change Focal Point

Content and methodology of supervision:

Establishment of a Work Plan: During the first month of the assignment, the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) will work jointly with his/her direct supervisor to finalize an agreed upon work plan. The final work plan will be discussed and mutually agreed to by the JPO and his/her supervisor.

Evaluation: The United Nations Performance Evaluation System (e-performance) will serve as a primary platform to evaluate of the JPO's performance.

III. Duties, Responsibilities and Output Expectations

Within delegated authority, the Junior Professional Officer will be responsible for the following duties:

The post will have the following areas of responsibilities, guided by the OHCHR Environment and Climate Change Focal Point:

- Support activities on environment, climate change and human rights organized by the Section;
- Research, review and analyse information on environment, climate change and human rights;
- Strengthen OHCHR field office capacity on environment, climate change and human rights through developing appropriate tools and organizing training and other capacity-building activities;
- Keep abreast of environment and climate change related developments within the United Nations system and contribute to the development of strategic institutional partnerships and joint activities in the field of human rights, environment and climate change, including in the context of inter-agency coordination efforts, UNEA, the UNFCCC and other multilateral environmental agreements;
- Prepare and contribute to statements, speeches and reports by the High Commissioner and other senior staff on the issue of human rights, environment and climate change;
- Assist in the preparation of reports on human rights, the environment and climate change for the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly and support related mandates;
- Liaise with representatives of governments, regional and international organisations, human rights treaty bodies, special procedures, and civil society organisations on human rights and environmental issues and represent OHCHR at working level meetings;
- Perform other related duties as required.

IV. Qualifications and Experience

Education:

Master's degree degree in Law, International relations, Political Science, Development or related subject is required.

Work experience:

At least two years of relevant work experience in human rights and/or the environment is required.

Languages:

For this position, fluency in English, including excellent writing skills, is required. Knowledge of another UN official language is an advantage.

UN competencies:

PROFESSIONALISM: Shows pride in work and in achievements; Demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; Is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; Is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; Shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; Remains calm in stressful situations

COMMUNICATION: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; Listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; Asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; Tailors language, tone, style and format to match the audience; Demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed

TEAMWORK: Works collaboratively with colleagues to achieve organizational goals; Solicits input by genuinely valuing others' ideas and expertise; is willing to learn from others; Places team agenda before personal agenda; Supports and acts in accordance with final group decision, even when such decisions may not entirely reflect own position; Shares credit for team accomplishments and accepts joint responsibility for team shortcomings

PLANNING & ORGANIZING: Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; Identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; Allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; Foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; Monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; Uses time efficiently

Workforce Diversity

The United Nations believes that an inclusive culture attracts the best talent and encourages all qualified applicants, regardless of gender, disability, sexual orientation, cultural or religious backgrounds, to apply.

V. Learning Elements

On completion of the assignment, the JPO will be able to

- Draft substantive briefing notes, statements, reports and speeches;
- Develop tools and materials on environment, climate change and human rights and carry out capacity-building activities;
- Research issues involving human rights and the environment;
- Critically assess developments in the area of human rights and the environment.

VI. Background Information

Environmental degradation interferes with the enjoyment of a broad range of human rights including those to housing, water and sanitation, food, health, development, and an adequate standard of living. Ensuring sustainable development that benefits all people requires effectively addressing environmental harms through an internationally coordinated response based on common human rights and environmental principles such as solidarity, accountability, transparency, participation, access to information and remedies, the precautionary principle, equality, and equity. OHCHR's work programme on rights based environmental action aims to reinforce efforts to promote the rights of people on the move, prevent conflict, improve early warning, expand civil society space, strengthen human rights mechanisms, reduce inequalities, address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and implement the 2030 Agenda.

OHCHR promotes the equitable distribution of the benefits of sustainable development and the meaningful and effective participation of all persons in environmental decision-making processes with the objective of protecting the rights of persons disproportionately affected by environmental harms and addressing the root causes of their exclusion and disadvantage. The implementation of the Paris Agreement and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development combined with the increasing engagement of the Human Rights Council, its special procedures

mechanisms and the human rights treaty-bodies with environmental issues present unique opportunities for improved integration of human rights in the implementation and development of environmental policies at the national and international level. While several UN and other international agencies have a mandate to work on environmental issues, many lack an explicit human rights focus to their activities. The Office accordingly advocates for a human rights-based approach to environmental laws and policies with a particular focus in the following areas:

- Advancing and implementing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Strengthened partnerships for the integration of human rights in environmental actions, including efforts to implement multilateral environmental agreements.
- Enhanced support and advocacy for access of civil society to environmental fora, environmental decision-making processes, environmental information, environmental justice and effective remedies.
- Increased support to human rights mechanisms in their engagement on environmental issues including climate change.
- Enhanced ability of the UN system, including UN country teams and relevant human rights mechanisms, to respond to the protection needs of environmental human rights defenders.
- Research and advocacy conducted to address the human rights harms caused by environmental degradation, including climate change, particularly in relation to groups in vulnerable situations.

OHCHR's work on the environment, climate change and human rights is led by its Environment and Climate Change Focal Point in the Right to Development Section (RTDS) of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division (TESPRDD). The Right to Development Section is also responsible for several other thematic areas within OHCHR, including corruption, trade and investment, sustainable development, and mainstreaming the right to development.

OHCHR is a United Nations secretariat department, with its Headquarters in Geneva and various types of human rights field presences in over 50 countries. At Headquarters, the Office is organized in three Divisions, namely the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division (which develops research in priority areas and supports the High Commissioner's policies and advocacy in these areas which include climate change and the environment and also provides substantive support to the special procedures mechanisms of the Human Rights Council), the Human Rights Council and Treaties Division (providing support to the Human Rights Council, its Advisory Committee and the human rights treaty monitoring bodies), as well as the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (supporting our human rights field presences).

**Bitte senden Sie Ihre JPO-Bewerbung direkt an das Büro
Führungskräfte zu Internationalen Organisationen (BFIO) unter
Angabe der Chiffre Nr. 2023-1-05 auf dem Bewerbungsbogen**

Alle Informationen finden Sie unter www.bfio.de