

Endorsement for Prof Christof Heyns, candidate of the Republic of South Africa for a elections to the United Nations Human Rights Committee

‘Prof Christof Heyns is highly respected in the human rights world for his lifetime activism for human rights...This started with his engagement to end apartheid in South Africa.

I worked closely with him on his mandate as UN Special Rapporteur and I can testify to his extraordinary insight, hard work and dedication... I endorse his nomination with enthusiasm.’
– **Navi Pillay, Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

‘Professor Heyns is recognized internationally as one of the great voices for human rights of our generation. His commitment to human rights is central to his identity...He is a person of unusual ability, energy and sound judgement. Prof. Heyns has an open mind, and governments, civil society and other stake-holders will all profit from his constructive approach and imagination.’ – **Dr Andrew Shacknove, Director, International Human Rights Law Programmes, Oxford University**

‘Professor Heyns has made an immense contribution to the advancement of human rights at national, regional and international levels... I am convinced that the UN Human Rights Committee will greatly benefit from his solid doctrinal and practical understanding of contemporary human rights challenges which will add value to the Committee’s monitoring mandate as well as its ever evolving jurisprudence.’ – **Dr Zonke Majodina, Former Chair, UN Human Rights Committee**

‘Christof Heyns’s qualifications and experience in human rights law and practice makes him an excellent candidate for the Human Rights Committee.’ - **Adv Pansy Tlakula, Chair, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights**

‘As a Special Rapporteur, Heyns displayed his strong theoretical and practical approach to search for new solutions, his solid roots in decades of promoting the cause of human rights in Africa on the domestic and regional level, as well as the seriousness, energy and commitment with which he addressed challenges.’ - **Dr Benyam Mezmur, Chair, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child**

‘Heyns is a committed, gifted and widely experienced human rights student and campaigner... He is an entrepreneur and innovative thinker who seems to carry an endless basket full of new ideas and creative plans with him into any career challenge he is faced with. He has the intellect and energy to match.’ - **Johann van der Westhuizen, Former Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa**

‘Christof Heyns has devoted his life to the protection and advancement of human rights. He stood firm against apartheid; initiated human rights educational programmes for Africa; and, as Special Rapporteur, displayed courage in opposing extrajudicial and arbitrary executions. He is exceptionally well, qualified to serve the cause of human rights on the Human Rights Committee.’

– **John Dugard, Former Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Judge ad hoc International Court of Justice**