

Javier Vasquez

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

UNITED NATIONS (UN) SECRETARY GENERAL SPECIAL ENVOY ON DISABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY Washington, D.C.

Senior Advisor to the UN Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility (May 2019-present)

Advise UN Special Envoy on international human rights law issues including the interpretation and application of treaties, standards and case-law of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

- Provide advice during visits *in loco* and on the formulation and implementation of UN Special Envoy's statements and recommendations on COVID-19 and public health in the context of human rights of women, mental health, older persons and the right to accessibility in the context of local governments;
- Provide advice on international human rights law to UN Special Envoy in senior level meetings with the New York-based bodies and departments (e.g. UNDESA), the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), UN human rights treaty bodies (e.g. CRPD), UN agencies (e.g. UN Women and WHO), Permanent missions, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and NGOs;
- Co-organize with UN Women the high level meeting "Women with Disabilities in Political and Public Leadership: Towards Beijing +25" to reach a declaration and recommendations that contributed to the review of "Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action";
- Provide advice to UN Special Envoy for the formulation of statements at the ECOSOC High Level Political Forum on SDGs and COVID-19 and its side events on accessibility as a human right and local governments; and
- Coordinate the implementation of UN Special Envoy's principles and campaign on the protection of the rights of children with disabilities in specific countries of the Americas, Africa, Middle East and multilateral/regional organizations.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS INTERNATIONAL (SOI), Washington, D.C.

Vice-president Health Programs (September 2018 to April 2019)
Senior Director of Health Systems (December 2016 to August 2018)

Lead the implementation of the 2016-2020 Health strategy to reach a global tipping point where government funding and policies, laws, training programs, curricula and services are all inclusive for persons with intellectual disabilities, particularly children and adolescents according to international and

regional human rights treaties and standards such as CRPD and the “Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities”. The Vice-president focused on (1) an expansion of current programming in Middle East-North Africa, Africa, Latin America/Caribbean and Asia Pacific/East Asia (2) engaging and training governments, human rights commissions, legislators, universities, NGOs, and healthcare providers in inclusive health systems, (3) strengthening research to drive policy/law changes and funding, and (4) engaging athlete leaders, families and other persons with disabilities as advocates to raise awareness about their human rights and injustices faced and to issue a call to action to key influencers.

- Provide oversight to, supervise, coach and lead a global team of 50 staff and 15+ consultants;
- Provide strategic direction and oversight for the Health Program including informing the leadership of current trends, human rights violations and directions in the area of disability;
- Co-lead development of multi-year strategic plans, conducting stakeholder meetings to identify priorities, programming, targets, and indicators based on human rights norms and standards;
- Support the “Olympic Games Organizing Committees” for major events, such as “World and Regional Games”, in involving key international influencers such as high-level governmental officials, UN agencies and Special Procedures such as the UN Special Envoys and UN Special Rapporteurs on human rights;
- Serve as one of the focal points on a multi-year Cooperative Agreements with US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Organization of American States (OAS), World Health Organization (WHO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO);
- Development of E-Learning and other digital resources and tools that support training of and provide technical assistance for athlete leaders, family members, and ministries of Education/Health in ways that accelerate and enhance programmatic impact and health and performance of athletes with disabilities; and
- Collaborate with the “Government relations” and “Global development” teams to maintain and grow current partnerships, to identify new supporters and to assist with the production of high quality grant proposals to secure new resources to support the implementation of the strategic plan 2016-2020.

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION/WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO/WHO), SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

Washington D.C.

Human Rights Advisor (August 2005-November 2016) and Human Rights Specialist, (March 2000-July 2005)

Advise and work with governments, health workers, teams, technical areas, staff, country offices, civil society organizations and national human rights commissions on the reform of national laws, policies, programs, services and plans in a manner consistent with international human rights law instruments, case-law of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to promote the inclusion and non-discrimination of excluded populations such as women, indigenous peoples, afro-descendant populations, migrants, older persons, persons with disabilities and LGBTI groups (among others). Advise governments and PAHO/WHO teams across the Organization (headquarters and 44 country offices/territories), staff and six departments on how to formulate disability policies, laws, plans and services in a manner consistent with international human rights law. Serve as advisor and coordinator (and at times represent the Chair) in multidisciplinary working groups on: gender and ethnicity; inequalities and LGBTI working groups. Formulation and negotiation of grant proposals related to human rights of excluded populations. Official visits to and training have been coordinated in 34 countries and territories of the Americas.

- Collaborate with the IACHR, the OAS' Secretariat, other multilateral organizations, international treaty bodies/organs and Special Rapporteurs to promote and protect the human rights of persons in situation of vulnerability in accordance to the "American Convention on Human Rights", the "Protocol of San Salvador" and other international and regional human rights instruments. Responsibilities include formulating technical opinions on human rights in relation to individual complaints, country reports and precautionary measures as reviewed by IACHR; participation in specific hearings before international treaty bodies and the IACHR; coordination of training workshops on human rights in 34 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (including capacity building for judges and legislators) and on-site visits to PAHO Member States to review compliance with international and regional human rights instruments;
- Represent PAHO and/or WHO in the governmental negotiations of international treaties and protocols such as the "International Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (United Nations, New York) and the "Inter-American Convention on the rights of older persons" (OAS, Washington D.C.);
- Guide, plan and coordinate with technical units and advisors the formulation of complex legal opinions and technical reports which include civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and fundamental freedoms presented to IACHR, national courts, the legislative branch of governments and UN treaty bodies to advance human rights (including women's rights and disability rights), health information, women's health, nutrition, mental health in psychiatric institutions and human rights during the HIV pandemic, among others;
- Provide advice on international human rights law (including recommendations of the IACHR) in the negotiations and formulation of 15 strategies, plans of action, work plans and policies issued by PAHO/WHO Governing Bodies and governmental ministries/departments on: maternal mortality, HIV pandemic, disabilities, mental health, indigenous peoples, older persons, child and adolescent health, LGBTI persons, gender equality, health legislation, human security, health of migrants, tobacco control, human security and non-communicable diseases, among others;
- Facilitate and advise on the implementation of national plans related to human rights of women, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, persons with disability, children, persons with HIV and LGBTI populations in 44 countries in collaboration with Governments, PAHO/WHO country

offices, IACHR, national human rights commissions, United Nations programs, OAS' Secretariat and specialized agencies and civil society;

- Support and advise Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean on the negotiation, formulation and implementation of plans of actions and strategies which incorporate human rights norms and standards of the Inter-American and UN Human Rights Systems such as the “PAHO/WHO Resolution on Health and Human Rights” and “PAHO/WHO Strategy on Health-Related Law”;
- Formulate and present grant proposals to donors and universities in collaboration with PAHO/WHO's technical departments to mobilize resources and coordinate the implementation of human rights projects in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Develop the objectives, strategies, plans, budget, staffing and fundraising for health and human rights projects ensuring wide and very comprehensive approaches based on international human rights law, recommendations, case-law of the IACHR and the UN and OAS Charters;
- Monitor the human rights projects and prepare the annual technical plans for human rights products, services and tasks in accordance with the results based management approach (RBM) and the lines of action and indicators of PAHO Strategic Plan and WHO Program of Work;
- Provide leadership and guidance on human rights law to staff (specialists, consultants, collaborating centers and focal points) engaging in regular communications with governments, PAHO/WHO's country offices, IACHR, UN Special Rapporteurs and civil society organizations of Latin America and Caribbean;
- Plan/conduct training activities in the field and give presentations to governments and other stakeholders in relation to human rights of groups in situation of vulnerability such as: women; persons with disabilities; LGBTI persons; children; adolescents; persons living with HIV; persons with mental disorders; indigenous peoples/ethnic minorities; youth; persons deprived of liberty in health institutions and prisons; and older persons (among others); and
- Member of the PAHO/WHO *Grievance Panel* established under the *Policy on the Prevention and Resolution of Harassment in the Workplace* in charge of reviewing allegations of harassment within the Organization (2006-2012).

**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION/WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
(PAHO/WHO), Department of Human Resources, Washington D.C.
Consultant (March 1999-March 2000)**

Provide Advice with regard to the legal and administrative implications of hiring personnel by PAHO/WHO's country offices.

- Review general procedures used by PAHO/WHO for contracting personnel according to national and international labor laws;

- Advise the Administration regarding labor contracts in relation to national labor laws and the International Labor Organizations (ILO) standards; and
- Draft reports regarding legal and administrative implications of contracting personnel in a manner consistent with Latin American and Caribbean labor laws.

PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY
Panama, Republic of Panama
Labor Relations Specialist (August 1998-December 1998)

Serve as a labor relation's advisor in the Labor Relations Division.

- Advise and counsel agency managers' and supervisors' at all levels of the organization with respect to labor management relations and administrative rules;
- Prepare management arguments for agency positions in grievance arbitration and third party dispute resolutions procedures;
- Represent the agency and Labor Relations Division in collective bargaining negotiations and in third party dispute resolution; and
- Serve as a point of contact between agency management and employees as well as labor union officials and stewards.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (IACHR)
Washington D.C.
Staff Attorney (May 1997-May 1998)
Recipient of the Romulo Gallegos Fellowship

Analyze individual cases and draft individual and country human rights reports regarding Latin America and Caribbean countries.

- Draft reports regarding violations to the human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the precedent decision on disability rights known as the case of "Victor Congo *versus* Ecuador";
- Draft legal memoranda and other legal documents pertaining to violations of international human rights treaties (e.g. "American Convention on Human Rights" and "Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"); and
- Participate in the Commission's Sessions and hearings along with governments, petitioners and NGOs.

SPANISH CATHOLIC CENTER, Washington D.C.

Attorney –Practical Training- (September 1996-April 1997)

Represent and support the organization in all its official functions.

- Assist low income clients in Washington D.C. on immigration law issues;
- Represent the organization before non-profit organizations working on health, donors and foundations in Washington D.C.; and
- Research legislation that affects immigrants in Washington D.C.

**DISABILITY RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL (DRI),
Washington D.C.**

Intern (January 1996-December 1996)-Credit hours 16 per week as part of LL.M. studies-

Conduct planning for DRI's fact-finding missions with regard to the situation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with psychosocial, cognitive and intellectual disabilities.

- Establish a working group to reinforce and protect the rights of persons with psychosocial, cognitive and intellectual disabilities in the Americas (including youth) in collaboration with governments, international organizations and organizations of persons with disability;
- Formulate recommendations to draft "Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities" (OAS); and
- Conduct research regarding disability rights efforts in specified Latin American countries and with regard to the Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.

**COMMITTEE OF ORIENTATION AND SUPPORT FOR PANAMANIAN (COAP), Non-Governmental
Organization, Panama, Republic of Panama**

Director of the Mental Health Program (February 1992-December 1993)-Volunteer-

Implement a human rights program in the National Psychiatric Hospital of Panama.

- Conduct site visits to the hospital;
- Develop a literacy campaign for persons with psychosocial, cognitive and intellectual disabilities based on international human rights law;
- Coordinate the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in a rehabilitation/recovery program; and
- Recipient of a Certificate of Honor as the "Member with the greatest projection to the community", Panama, 1992.

EDUCATION

Washington College of Law, The American University, Washington, D.C.

Master's Degree (LL.M) in International Legal Studies (Advanced human rights, the UN human rights system, the Inter-American human rights system, disability rights, women's rights and gender equality, ethnicity, the rights of minorities and the law of international organizations), 1996.

Santa Maria La Antigua University, Law School, Panama, Republic of Panama

Degree in Law and Political Science 1992

(LL.B.). Thesis covered the United Nations and Inter-American legal systems and charters.

Honors included:

- Law Class Representative, 1990-1991
- University Student Council, 1990
- University Student Association, Member of the Board, 1989-1990

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- “Intensive course on results based management”, American Management Association, Virginia (USA), September 2011;
- “Intensive Course in Human Rights and Health”, Harvard University, “FXB Center for Health and Human Rights”, Boston, USA, June 2004;
- “Basic Labor Relations”, Graduate School, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C., October 1998;
- “Negotiating Labor Agreements”, Panama Canal Commission, Republic of Panama, September 1998;
- “International Law Seminar”, Louisiana State University (LSU), Paul M. Herbert Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Spring 1994; and
- “Advanced Level of English Language”, Louisiana State University (LSU), Division of Continuing Education, Fall and Spring 1994.

TEACHING AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN COUNTRIES

- More than 100 capacity building workshops on human rights have been taught for governments, UN agencies, legislators, universities, judges, NGOs, family advocates and other key influencers in 44 countries of Latin America, Caribbean, Middle East/North Africa, Asia Pacific and Africa; and

- Adjunct Professor at *American University* from 2011-2014 and 2017-Present (*Washington College of Law*). Developer of the first course on “Global Health Law”.

AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS

- Recipient of the 2018 “Katie Beckett Advocacy Award” awarded by the “American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD)”, Seattle, Washington;
- Recipient of the 2011 “Peter Cicchino Award” on public interest awarded by the “Washington College of Law” (American University), Washington D.C.;
- Recipient of the PAHO “Outstanding Team Award” (2011 and 2013), Washington D.C.; and
- Recipient of the PAHO’s Director “Exceptional Leadership Award” (2008), Washington D.C.; and

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish and English.

Working knowledge of Portuguese and Italian.

References available upon request.