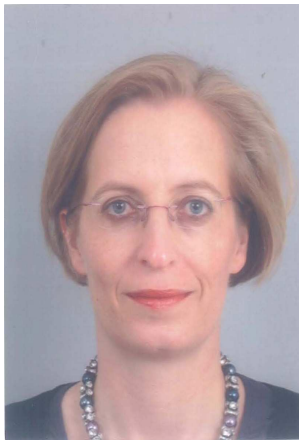
Staff Representative of the United Nations to the Staff Pension Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Nominee		
Full name [please print]	**Christine Elisabeth ZANDVLIET**	
ORG/DEPT/Division	**ICTY / Administration / General Services Section**	
Duty Station	**The Hague, The Netherlands**	
Telephone	**+31 70 512 5783**	
Email address	**zandvliet@un.org**	

STATEMENT/DECLARATION OF SERVICE:

The functioning of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) has attracted my interest since joining the United Nations in 2007. In part, this interest follows from my academic degrees in economics and in law, as well as a brief period of employment as a taxation and pension/benefits lawyer in New York. I currently hold a position as Legal Officer within the Administration Division of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague.

Since 2007, I have had increasing opportunities to gain an understanding what the UNJSPF means for current staff and staff facing separation. These past few years I have had the opportunity to engage in many informal discussions with staff members, explaining, among others, on the difference between the withdrawal settlement and the lump sum option as part of the retirement benefit. I have noticed that many staff could benefit from enhanced information as to their future entitlements and other aspects of the Fund's operations. I have also come to understand that the UNSSPF is not just about providing pensions – it also is the cornerstone for the UN's disability benefits regime. The United Nations Staff Pension Committee is tasked with making determinations of incapacity for the purpose of disability benefits (as well as children's and secondary dependent's benefits).

With staff participation on the United Nations Staff Pension Committee, the staff perspective can be taken into consideration in the Committee's incapacity determinations. The staff perspective can also be heard more generally as the members of the Committee (12 in total) also serve on the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board. This board is tasked with the overall administration of the UNJSPF, including particular performing various accounting and actuarial tasks.

My interest to serve as a member of the United Nations Staff Pension Committee should be placed against my ongoing interest, as a serving UN staff member, in the proper functioning of the UNJSPF in the best interest of its participants, both present and future. In these turbulent economic times, the importance of the solid administration of the UNJSPF's assets and access to relevant benefits information cannot be overstated.

Hence, I look forward to serving as a staff representative on the United Nations Staff Pension Committee and receiving your vote in the elections taking place by electronic ballot on 13-14 December 2012. Thank you.