



Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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Conference of the States Parties

17th meeting

New York, 14 June 2024

Item X of the provisional agenda

Election, in accordance with articles 34, paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of 9 members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2022

Election of 9 members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In conformity with article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the 17th Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention will be convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters from 14 to 16 June, 2024, for the purpose of electing 9 members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from a list of persons nominated by States parties, to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2024 (see section I). The names of persons nominated by States parties appear in section II. The names of the other 9 members who will continue to serve on the Committee until 31 December 2026 appear in section III.

2. In accordance with the procedure set out in article 34 of the Convention, the Secretary-General, in a Note Verbale dated 10 November 2023, invited the States parties to submit their nominations for the election of 9 members of the Committee within 4 months. Per decision of the Bureau of the Conference of States parties (COSP) on 15 June 2023, the 17th session of the COSP is tentatively scheduled to take place at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 11-13 June 2024, during which the election of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with disabilities will be conducted. As a result, the deadline for nomination of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is 11 April 2024. All the curricula vitae received by 11 April 2024 are included in document CRPD/CSP/2024/CRP.1. Addenda to this note has been issued for nominations received after the deadline of 11 April 2024.

3. In compliance with the provisions of article 34 of the Convention, the Secretary-General has the honour to list below, in alphabetical order, the names of 15 persons nominated for election to the Committee on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities, indicating the States parties which have nominated them. Biographical data of the persons nominated, as furnished by the States parties concerned, are contained in the annex to the present document.

4. In addition, in compliance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the current situation with respect to the composition of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reflecting the balance in terms of geographical distribution and gender representation, professional background and different legal systems, as well as the tenure of current members, is contained in sections I and II of the present document along with the biographical data of current members found on the webpage of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2024/seventeenth-conference-states-parties-and-2024-elections>).

5. In its resolution 68/268 (para. 13), the General Assembly encouraged States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies.

- In its current composition eleven experts of the Committee are women, and seven are men; with their geographical distribution as follows: five members from the Asia-Pacific regional group, four experts from Latin America and the Caribbean, four from Africa, none from Eastern Europe and five from Western Europe and other States.
- All of the nine experts whose mandates expire on 31 December 2024, two members are from African States, two from Asia-Pacific States, none from Eastern European States, three from Latin America and Caribbean States and two from Western European and other States.

I. List of the nine members of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities whose terms expire on 31 December 2024

The professional backgrounds, legal systems, and further biographical data of the members may be found on the webpage of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities "Membership" by clicking on the name of the individual members: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2024/seventeenth-conference-states-parties-and-2024-elections>

<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Ms. Rosa Idalia ALDANA SALGUERO	Guatemala	01.01.2021
Ms. Gerel DONDOVDORJ	Mongolia	01.01.2021
Ms. Vivian FERNÁNDEZ DE TORRIJOS	Panama	01.01.2021
Ms. Odelia FITOUSSI	Israel	01.01.2021
Mr. Samuel Njuguna KABUE	Kenya	01.01.2017
Mr Abdelmajid MAKNI*	Morocco	20.10.2021
Mr. Robert George MARTIN	New Zealand	01.01.2017
Mr. Floyd MORRIS	Jamaica	01.01.2021
Ms. Saowalak THONGKUAY	Thailand	01.01.2021

* *Appointed, pursuant to article 34 (9) of the Convention) to serve for the remainder of the term of former Committee member Ms. Soumia Amrani.*

II. List of persons nominated by Parties to the Convention

<i>Member</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Mr. Magino CORPORÁN LORENZO	Dominican Republic
Ms. Gerel DONDOVDORJ	Mongolia
Mr. George DZNELADZE	Georgia
Mr. Odnel ELEAZARD	Haiti
Ms. Odelia FITOUSSI	Israel
Ms. Mara Cristina GABRILLI	Brazil
Ms. Natalia GUALA BEATHYATE	Uruguay
Ms. Elena KOCHOSKA	North Macedonia
Mr. Abdelmajid MAKNI	Morocco
Mr. Bonface MASSAH	Malawi
Mr. Floyd MORRIS	Jamaica
Mr. Christopher NWANORO	Nigeria
Ms. Inmaculada PLACENCIA PORRERO	European Union
Mr. Hiroshi TAMON	Japan
Mr. Wanhong ZHANG	China

The curricula vitae of the persons nominated, as provided by the States parties concerned, are contained in the annexes.

III. List of the nine members who will continue to serve on the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities after 31 December 2024

The professional backgrounds, legal systems, and further biographical data of the members may be found on the webpage of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities "Membership" by clicking on the name of the individual members: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crpd/membership>

<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Mr. Muhannad Salah ALAZZEH	Jordan	01.01.2023
Ms. Rehab Mohammed BORESLE	Kuwait	01.01.2023
Ms. Amalia GAMIO RIOS	Mexico	01.01.2019
Ms. Laverne JACOBS	Canada	01.01.2023
Ms. Rosemary KAYESS	Australia	01.01.2019
Ms. Miyeon KIM	Republic of Korea	01.01.2019
Mr. Alfred Kouadio KOUASSI	Ivory Coast	01.01.2023
Ms. Gertrude Oforiwa FEFOAME	Ghana	01.01.2019
Mr. Markus SCHEFER	Switzerland	01.01.2019

** Appointed, pursuant to article 34 (9) of the Convention) to serve for the remainder of the term of former Committee member Ms. Soumia Amrani.*

Annex

Curriculum Vitae of candidates (Nominated by Parties to the Convention)

Sr. Magino CORPORÁN LORENZO (República Dominicana)

- Lugar y fecha de nacimiento: San Cristóbal, República Dominicana. 19 de agosto de 1954
- Lugar de residencia: Santo Domingo, República Dominicana
- Nacionalidad: Dominicana
- Idiomas de trabajo: Español

Cargo o función actual:

- Asesor en materia de derechos e inclusión de las personas con discapacidad y sus familias: grupos asociativos de discapacidad nacionales e internacionales, líderes del sector público y privado. 2021-actual.
- Consejero Regional y Mundial de la OMPD. 2002-actual
- Asesor de la Fundación Probienestar de las Personas con Discapacidad (PROBIEN). 2021-actual.

Otras actividades principales en el ámbito de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad:

- Promoción de la inclusión: taller “Atrévete a Ponerte en mi Lugar” (25 años). Sello de buenas prácticas inclusivas, RDINCLUYE (7 años), más de 450 proyectos alineados a 8 ejes estratégicos de la Convención.
- Inclusión comunitaria: Agenda Municipal de Desarrollo Inclusivo. Programa “Saliendo del Escondite” (7 años) con más de 150 comunidades impactadas. Promoción del Turismo Accesible. Programa Vida Independiente.
- Mejora de estadísticas nacionales, promoviendo la inclusión de preguntas del Grupo de Washington.
- Coordinador de la Red por los Derechos Humanos.
- Diseño del Sistema de Valoración, Certificación y registro continuo de la discapacidad.
- Iniciativa y apoyo para la creación del Diccionario de la Lengua de Señas de RD.
- Fomento del baloncesto masculino y primer equipo femenino; fútbol con un solo pie mujeres y hombres.
- Creación del Sistema Nacional de Evaluación de la Accesibilidad Universal (SINAC).

Educación, particularmente la relacionada con los derechos de las personas con discapacidad: (Máximo 5 líneas)

1. **Diplomado en Seguridad Social**, Consejo Dominicano de la Seguridad Social, 2011.
2. **Rehabilitación con base comunitaria (RBC)**. Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS), Argentina, 2005
3. **Estudios en Gestión de Servicios Sociales**, Centro Internacional de Formación para el Desarrollo, Bolivia, 1995.
4. **Licenciatura en Derecho**, Universidad para la Tercera Edad, 1994. Tesis: Investigación sobre la inclusión laboral de las personas con discapacidad en RD, período 1982- 1992.

Indique si se identifica como una persona con discapacidad o elabore sobre su experiencia de vida relacionada con personas con discapacidad.

Adquirí una discapacidad físico-motora a los 16 años, fui rehabilitado en la ADR; fruto de esto me convertí en un activista social del colectivo y con ello sellé mi desarrollo profesional y técnico al formarme en el área y trabajar desde entonces en el ámbito privado y público por la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad.

Experticia relevante en el ámbito de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad. Par favor elabore sobre las áreas de experticia en la Convención sobre Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad y experiencia relacionada

Director de CONADIS y CONAPREM. Replicador de Vida Independiente MX. Directivo de FENADID. Fundador de PROBIEN y ASODIFIMO. Gestor: de la normativa nacional, del desarrollo de liderazgos de la sociedad civil, de la participación política y electoral y del turismo accesible en la región. Consejero de la OMPD. Miembro de la 1era directiva de RIADIS y del grupo de apoyo pro-aprobación de la CDPD y el Protocolo Facultativo en AL y el Caribe. Propulsor de la extensión del PAD de la CIADIS (2016-2026). Delegado de RD en la conferencia de la CDPD y del CEDIS.

Publicaciones más recientes en el ámbito de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad: (5 líneas)

Artículos sobre estigmatización de las personas con discapacidad y uso correcto del lenguaje.

- Publicado mayo 2022 y 2023
- Publicado cada año desde 1999
- Periódico “Hoy” 2003 y 2004
- PUCMM 2002

Ms. Gerel DONDOVDORJ (Mongolia)

Working languages: English

Educational background:

- 2013-2014 Master's Degree in International Human Rights Law, Law School of the University of Notre Dame, USA
- 2004-2007 Master's Degree in Law, School of Law, Mongolian National University /Major: Human rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 2004 Bachelor's Degree in Law, School of Law, Mongolian National University

Current position and experience:

- September 2023-present Part-time teacher on Human Rights at Law School of the Mongolian National University
- June 2023- present General coordinator of the Mongolian Disability Forum
- Apr 2022- present Non-Staff Advisor to the Minister of Education and Science
- Sep 2021-present Founding director of the Disability policy research and development center
- 2017-Sep 2021 President of the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind (MNFB)
- 2017-Present Coordinator, Project on Higher Education of the International Council of Education of Visually Impaired Persons
- Mar 2006- May 2013 General-Secretary, Mongolian National Federation of the Blind
- Jan 2011-Dec 2013 Coordinator, Project on capacity building of organizations of the blind in the developing countries under the framework of the World Blind Union Asian –Pacific Region”, MNFB
- Feb 2009-Apr 2009 Coordinator, Project on “Survey to analyze the criteria used for the assessment of the degree of impairment for adults”, MNFB
- Jan 2005-Mar 2006 Legal Advisor, Bank of Transportation and Development, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Membership with professional bodies:

- 2021 - present CRPD Committee Member, United Nations
- 2022 - 2023 A member of the ADB Disability Inclusion Reference Group
- 2017 - 2021 Member, National Committee on the Protection of the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- 2017 - 2022 Member of the Advisory Board of the Mongolian Human Rights Commission
- 2016 - 2017 Non-staff Advisor for Disability Policy to the President of Mongolia

2016 - 2021 Member of the Executive Committee of the World Blind Union

2012 - 2021 Board Member of the World Blind Union-Asia Pacific, Representative to the WBU Executive

2012 – 2016 Chairperson for East Asia Sub-Region, World Blind Union- Asia Pacific

Disability Sector Experience:

- August 2022- present Member of Working Committee established under the UN CRPD Committee to develop General Comment on Article 29 “Political and Social Participation” of the CRPD
- January 2021 – August 2022 Member of Working Committee established under the UN CRPD Committee to develop General Comment on Article 27 “Work and Employment” of the CRPD.
- January - September 2021 Member of the Working Group to develop the draft of Law on Accessibility, established under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection with an aim to ensure that environments of physical, transportation, road, information and communication is accessible for persons with disabilities
- June 2018 - June 2019 Member of the Working Group on amending the Law on Social Welfare, established under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
- August 2017 - September 2017 Consultant to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in developing a draft of standards for community based social services and regulation to monitor and evaluate service delivery under the framework of the EU project on Economic Governance for Equitable Growth.
- June 2016 - March 2017 Member of the Working Group on development of the National disability program for 2017-2021, established under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.
- October 2016 - December 2016 Local consultancy for drafting a regulation on Independent Living Services for persons with disabilities under the Law on Disability under the framework of the EU project on Economic Governance for Equitable Growth.
- June 2014 - February 2016 Member of the Working Group on drafting the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities established under the Ministry of Population Development and Social Welfare.
- May - August 2008 Member of the Working Group on amending the laws on tax, transportation, construction and sports established under the auspices of the President of Mongolia.
- July - August 2007 Member of the Working Group on amending the social security laws and regulations for persons with disabilities.

List of most recent publications in the field:

1. Implementation of the CRPD and civil society in Mongolia. Disability Rights in East Asia: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and Civil Society published by the Springer, 2019

2. Implementation of the right to education of visually impaired children in rural areas of Mongolia, 2019
3. Right to work of person with disability and how to create and reasonable accommodation at work places, 2018
4. Role of information technology and assistive devices for creation of accessible learning environment for visually impaired children at education, 2017.
5. The history of braille use in Mongolia, 2018

Reports and selected submissions:

- January 2018 to July 2018:
- Chair of Shadow Report Working Group on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Mongolia under the second state reporting https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCRPD%2fICS%2fMNG%2f31985&Lang=en
- March 2016 to June 2016:
- Chairperson of Shadow Report Working Group on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- June 2015 to February 2016:
- Chair of Shadow Report Working Group on the implementation of the CEDAW in Mongolia.
- January 2015 to May 2015:
- Chair of Shadow Report Working Group on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (ICESCR) in Mongolia.
- June 2014 to Jan 2015:
- Chair of Shadow Report Working Group on the implementation of the CRPD in Mongolia.

Mr. George DZNELADZE (Georgia)

Family name and first name: Dzneladze George

Date and place of birth: 10 August 1959; Martvili

Place of residence: Tbilisi, Georgia

Nationality: Georgian

United Nations working languages: English, Russian

Current position/function:

Chairperson of Coalition for Independent Living (CIL) - an umbrella organization uniting 22 other organizations working on disability topics.

Functions and responsibilities:

Design and approve programs and projects; ensure strategic leadership, high level advocacy and publicity of CIL's programs; reconcile key aspects of programs with CIL's mission and policies and ensure that common vision of member organizations is represented; represent organization in relations with third parties; prepare and present periodic reports to the Board; manage funds and personnel.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

George Dzneladze is a disability rights advocate for more than 30 years now. He pioneered the disability movement in Georgia in the early 1990s and since then has been in the forefront of the struggle for the rights. He has been instrumental in development of the disability legislation and policy documents in Georgia, including the most recent disability law, national disability rights action plans and standards and programs of social services. He founded wheelchair workshop in Georgia, which produces manual and electric wheelchairs. He has contributed to the formation of the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee responsible for the implementation of UN CRPD and is chairing one of the working groups at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs focusing on shifting to the new system of disability assessment and status determination, which will be based on social model.

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

- Mr. Dzneladze gained solid basis of knowledge in disability rights after taking part in Disability Rights Courses in the U.S. in 1992
- He also has incomplete Bachelor degree from the Institute of Sports, with specialization in physical therapy and sports events management.

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

Giorgi Dzneladze is a wheelchair user since 1975. He is international expert in wheelchairs and assistive technologies. Since 1990s he has dedicated his life to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities

Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.

Areas of expertise include:

- Article 19. Independent living – He has supported the establishment of the Independent Living Centers and contributed to the development of Personal Assistant service in Georgia
- Article 20. Personal mobility – He has founded the wheelchair workshop in Georgia; designed and piloted the mobility support services for persons with disabilities
- Article 29. Participation in political and public life – He has been invited expert at the Central Election Committee where he contributed to the legislative changes in the Election Code and reforms for accessibility of the voting procedures.
- Article 9. Accessibility – He has been member of the expert group working on the National Accessibility Standards of Georgia
- Article 26. Habilitation and rehabilitation
- Mr. Dzneladze has been a disability rights consultant and trainer in Central Asian and Eastern European Countries

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- CIL's Alternative Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Georgia (2019)
- Research on the Implementation of the Legal Capacity Reform in Georgia (2022)
- Assessment of the Implementation of Disability-Related Legislation (2023)

Mr. Odel ELEAZARD (Haïti)

Date et lieu de naissance : 03 octobre 1957 et Cap-Haïtien, Haïti

Lieu de résidence : Port-au-Prince, Haïti

Nationalité : Haïtienne

Langue(s) de travail : Français, anglais, créole et espagnol

Situation/fonction actuelle :

1. Consultant auprès du Bureau du Secrétaire d'État à l'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées (BSEIPH), chargé de l'élaboration du rapport périodique destiné au Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies en vertu de la Convention sur le droit des personnes handicapées.
2. Membre bénévole (trésorier) du Conseil d'Administration de la Société Haïtienne d'Aide aux Aveugles (SHAA).

Principales activités professionnelles :

- Juillet 2017 à date: consultant indépendant en renforcement de capacité, élaboration et gestion de projet, suivi et évaluation, problématique du genre et du handicap.
- Juillet 2016 à juillet 2017 : Conseiller technique au BSEIPH coordonnant les travaux de définition de la politique gouvernementale en matière de handicap.
- 4 mars 2010 au 31 janvier 2016 : Christian Blind Mission (CBM) International : Manager du programme Plaidoyer pour une société inclusive et Renforcement des capacités organisationnelles.
- Aout 2013 : Consultant recruté par le BSEIPH et le projet AKSE (financé par l'USAID) pour l'élaboration du premier rapport d'Haïti sur l'application de la Convention relative au droit des personnes handicapées.

Etudes, en particulier sur les droits de personnes avec handicaps :

Etudes de maîtrise en sciences du développement à l'université d'Etat d'Haïti (UEH). Licence en agronomie et en médecine vétérinaire. Licence en gestion des affaires. Participation à divers séminaires de formation autour du handicap, en Colombie, au Canada, à Togo.

Veillez indiquer si vous vous identifiez comme une personne handicapée ou développez votre expérience vécue en rapport avec les personnes handicapées.

Je suis une personne non-voyante (grande myopie) mais tout à fait fonctionnelle avec ses lunettes. Je milite depuis plus de 20 ans à la SHAA et travaille comme consultant au BSEIPH.

Expertise pertinente sur les droits des personnes avec handicaps

Merci de donner des détails concernant vos zones d'expertise conformément à la Convention sur les Droits des Personnes avec Handicaps, ainsi que les expériences liées.

Solides compétences en ce qui concerne des thématiques telles que la réhabilitation, la prévention de la cécité, l'intégration scolaire des enfants non-voyants, l'accessibilité universelle.

Liste des publications les plus récentes du candidat dans le domaine des droits des personnes avec handicaps :

- Guide pratique d'accessibilité (conformément à la Loi du 3 juillet 2018 sur les normes d'accessibilité de l'environnement bâti) (2020).
- Historique de la Loi portant sur l'intégration des personnes handicapées (2013)
- Intégration et réintégration des Personnes handicapées (travail collectif) (1999).

Ms. Odelia FITOUSSI (Israel)

Family name and first name: Fitoussi Odelia

Date and place of birth: May 24, 1977, Israel

Place of residence: Bat Yam, Israel

Nationality: Israeli

United Nations working languages: English, French

Current position/function:

- **CRPD Member:** Committee Vice-Chair; Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Situations of risk and humanitarian Emergencies; Member of the following Working Groups: De-institutionalization, Children with Disabilities, Women and Girls with Disabilities.
- Co-Director of the Civil Forum for Promoting the CRPD, operating in Israel.
- **Founder & Manager of "Ometz"**, an independent company promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in Israel.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Co-author of statements, reports and guide on behalf of the CRPD Committee on the issues: CBOs on certain States; Session report on Situations of persons with disabilities, including children in Russia-Ukraine war; Joint statement with the CRC on the Rights of Children with disabilities and Guidelines for deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities.
- **Professional Manager** of "*Simcha Layed*", focusing persons whom cope with medical or physical disabilities; **former board member and active volunteer** for "*Beit Hagalgalm*", promoting rights and services for persons with disabilities; **former Chairperson** of the Advisory Committee of the Equal Rights Commission for persons with disabilities, Ministry of Justice; **Art Therapist and Group Facilitator** for two NGOs, "*Beit Ekstein*" and "*Talpiot*": for children and their families which dealing with disabilities or coping times of crisis;

Educational background

MA in Art Therapy from Lesley University (2009). BA in Criminology, Sociology and Anthropology from Bar Ilan University (1998). "120 Program" - National Political Leadership Program, Shoham Institute (2015). Group Facilitation studies at the Central School for Social Services (2014). "Kolot Programs"- specialized studies for therapeutic professionals through the study of traditional Jewish texts (2011).

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

I was born with SMA type2 - Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which affects the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord. Consequently, I use a motorized wheelchair and need 24/7 assistance. I have been involved in activities and led initiatives for and alongside persons with disabilities.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities

Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.

Analyzing and identifying the gaps between the provisions of the CRPD and their realization; shaping laws to better encompass the spirit of the CRPD; The world of children and youth with disabilities: promoting diversity amongst school teachers with focus on teachers with disabilities; work with both government and civil society to promote the CRPD; contributing to reports produced by CRPD-related committees.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Report of the Commission to Examine and Build Management and Operation Protocols for Out-of-House Residential Facilities for Persons with Disabilities, submitted to the Ministry of welfare and social affairs , (February 2023).
- Fitoussi O. (2022) “The welfare services bill for persons with disabilities, 2022, a
- Sobering perspective”, Society and Welfare Issue 42 (June 2022) 146-149 | op-ed.

Ms. Mara Cristina GABRILLI (Brazil)

Date and place of birth: September 28th 1967, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Place of residence: Sao Paulo - SP, Brazil

Nationality: Brazilian

United Nations working languages: English (fluent) and French (intermediate)

Current position/function:

- Federal Senator for the State of São Paulo (2019-2027 term);
- President of the Joint (Senate and House of Representatives) Permanent Committee on International Migration and Refugees;
- President of the Subcommittee of Rare Diseases; member of the following Brazil's Senate bodies, among others:
 - i) Human Rights Committee;
 - ii) Social Affairs Committee;
 - iii) Foreign Affairs and National Defence Committee;
 - iv) Constitution and Justice Committee.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2019-2022);
- Founder of the Mara Gabrielli Institute, an NGO for persons with disabilities in situation of vulnerability in Brazil (since 1997);
- Participation in NGO's Advisory Councils and in Official Missions and International Conferences;
- Host of Radio Programs, relating to persons with disabilities issues (2007-2012) as well as columnist and author of over 300 hundred interviews and numerous articles related to the rights of persons with disabilities in several media outlines, including the main Brazilian newspapers (2007-today);
- Proponent of several bills related to the inclusion and disability rights at the Brazilian National Congress, including the Brazilian Law for Persons with Disabilities (2015) a binding instrument that regulated the UN Convention in Brazil, the National Policy for the Protection of Persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and author of over 80 bills as Senator.

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

- Bachelor's degree in Social Communication, Escola Superior de Propaganda e Marketing - ESPM, São Paulo, Brazil (1992);
- Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Universidade Paulista - UNIP, São Paulo, Brazil (1993);
- Post Graduation Course on Management of Civil Society Organizations. Getúlio Vargas Foundation - FGV, São Paulo (1999);

- Post Graduation Course on Negotiations. Getúlio Vargas Foundation - FGV, São Paulo (1999);

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

In 1994, after an automobile accident, Gabrilli became tetraplegic. In 2015, after 21 years of spinal cord injury, she recovered part of the movements of her arms giving her autonomy to drive her own wheelchair, which surprised medical doctors.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities

Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.

In 2005, Mara Gabrilli was Brazil's first Municipal Secretary for Persons with Disabilities of the city of São Paulo, prompting the creation and implementation of similar secretariats in hundreds of Brazilian cities. Since 2007, she has devoted her life to the political arena introducing bills and implementing new laws for persons with disabilities as Councilwoman of the city of São Paulo (2007-2010); as federal representative in Parliament's Lower House (2011-2018); and as federal senator (2019-present).

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- [*A Invisibilidade dos cuidados e de quem cuida*](#) (*The invisibility of Care and of the Caregiver*). GABRILLI, Mara. O Estadão de São Paulo. 23/01/2024;
- [*Quanto Somos Capazes*](#) (*How Capable we are*). GABRILLI, Mara. Folha de São Paulo. 20/11/2023;
- [*Revista CASRARAS*](#) (*Magazine of the Subcommittee of Rare Diseases*), 2023.
- [*Cartilha da Lei Brasileira de Inclusão*](#) (*Guidelines for the Brazilian Law of Inclusion*). GABRILLI, Mara. São Paulo, 2023;
- [*Cartilha da Calçada Cidadã*](#) (*Guidelines for the Citizen Sidewalk*). GABRILLI, Mara. São Paulo, 2023.

Sra. Natalia Sofía GUALA BEATHYATE (Uruguay)

Lugar y fecha de nacimiento: Buenos Aires, Argentina, 27 de abril de 1983

Lugar de residencia: Madrid, España

Nacionalidad: Uruguaya

Idiomas de trabajo: Español, Inglés, Portugués

Cargo o función actual:

Directora Técnica de Relaciones Internacionales del Grupo Social ONCE. Secretaria Técnica del Programa Iberoamericano de Discapacidad. Coordina programas internacionales, asistencia técnica en políticas públicas dirigidas a la implementación de la CDPD. Tiene a su cargo la estrategia de partenariados con organizaciones internacionales, las relaciones institucionales con representaciones diplomáticas y la organización de eventos paralelos en foros internacionales (COSP, HLPF, COP, GDS, etc.).

Otras actividades principales en el ámbito de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad:

- Directora Ejecutiva de la Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos entre 2009 y 2016, organización regional que representa a las personas con discapacidad visual de 19 países.
- Consultora en Derechos Humanos para el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD); Responsable de Campañas y Activismo para Amnistía Internacional Uruguay; Coordinadora de proyectos de promoción de la educación inclusiva y de acceso a la información pública para personas con discapacidad financiados por el Banco Mundial, UNESCO y la cooperación finlandesa.
- Delegada por Uruguay ante la Unión Latinoamericana de Ciegos (ULAC), ante la Unión Mundial de Ciegos (UMC), Secretaria General y Vicepresidenta de la Unión Nacional de Ciegos del Uruguay (UNCU).

Educación, particularmente la relacionada con los derechos de las personas con discapacidad:

Licenciada en Relaciones Internacionales, Licenciada en Ciencias de la Comunicación y Posgrado de Especialización en Marketing, Universidad de la República, Uruguay. Diploma de Especialización en Gerencia Social y Políticas de Discapacidad, Facultad Latino Americana de Ciencias Sociales, Chile. Diploma de Especialización en Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo por la AECID, España.

Indique si se identifica como una persona con discapacidad o elabore sobre su experiencia de vida relacionada con personas con discapacidad.

Se identifica como una persona con discapacidad visual congénita. Participa en OPDs desde el año 2001. Ha sido Secretaria General, Vicepresidenta, así como delegada en foros y Asambleas internacionales del movimiento de la discapacidad (ULAC, UMC, RIADIS e IDA).

Experticia relevante en el ámbito de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad

Por favor elabore sobre las áreas de experticia en la Convención sobre Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad y experiencia relacionada

Asistencia técnica a Gobiernos para la implementación de la CDPD (Programa EUROsociAL+, Programa Iberoamericano de Discapacidad y Agenda Euromediterránea para la inclusión social de las personas con discapacidad); asesoramiento a agencias de NNUU en la implementación de la UNDIS. Ha participado en la adopción y entrada en vigor del Tratado de Marrakech, la renovación de la década para las personas con discapacidad de la OEA 2016-2026.

Publicaciones más recientes en el ámbito de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad:

- “La inclusión implica sumar diversidad y riqueza, e impulsar el crecimiento económico de la región”. La participación de las personas con discapacidad en la educación y el empleo. Pódium. Año 6, número 11. Junio de 2023.
- “Propuesta educativa a lo largo de la vida basada en el Diseño Universal para el Aprendizaje”. OEI. Abril 2023, ISBN: 978-84-86025-32-8 (Coordinadora).
- “Personas con discapacidad e inclusión laboral en América Latina y el Caribe”. Publicación de las Naciones Unidas, CEPAL. LC/TS.2023/23. S.22-01290 (Coordinadora).
- “Una oportunidad hacia sistemas de protección social inclusivos”. IV Conferencia Regional del Foro Árabe de Mujeres con Discapacidad, Egipto, diciembre 2022

Ms. Elena KOCHOSKA (North Macedonia)

Date and place of birth:01.11.1978

Place of residence: Republic of North Macedonia

Nationality: Macedonian

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

- I am consultant for disability and human rights;
- Chairperson of the Macedonian Centre for international Cooperation
- I am a Board Member of the European network for independent living on regional level

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Through those 23 years of experiences I have extensive work on: legislative reform including and criminal justice and specific work on legislation and policy in the area of antidiscrimination, inclusive equality, political participation, including gender and ethnic equality. Knowledge and experiences in monitoring of laws, preparing shadow reports. Professional experiences in drafting legislation, strategic documents, as well as experience in developing comprehensive policy for services for support of people with and without disability;
- Experience in providing support, influence and advising central and local self-government authorities, OPDS, networking and negotiation with different stakeholders, on international, national, regional and local level.

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

I am an Economist with more than 23 year of experience as a legal practitioner

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

I am a woman with disability (physical).

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities**Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.**

- My expertise focuses on the civic and political rights of persons with disabilities and mainstream of the CRPD within comparative public policies and reforms, taking intersectional approach.
- Also my expertise is focused on the political participation of persons with disability through the intersectional lens and the right for independent living.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Assessment of gender and diversity dimension in the work of the Academy for Judges, 2023;
- The Electoral Participation of Persons with Disabilities and the Election Administration in North Macedonia, 2022;
- Prevention of Gender-Based Violence Against Women And Girls With Disabilities, 2022,
- Situational Analysis of the Issue of Disability in R. N. Macedonia, 2021
- Analysis about the parliamentary practices for CRPD implementation, 2021

M. Abdelmajid MAKNI (Maroc)

Date et lieu de naissance : 17 Janvier 1960 à Rabat – Maroc

Lieu de résidence : Rabat

Nationalité :Marocaine

Langue(s) de travail : Arabe, Français, Anglais

Situation/fonction actuelle :

Présidente du Collectif Pour la Promotion des Droits des Personnes en Situation de Handicap. Président de l'Association Inclusion et Handicap qui dirige le Centre Salmia pour le Développement Inclusif. Secrétaire général de l'Organisation Arabe des Personnes handicapées dont je suis membre fondateur.

Principales activités professionnelles :

- Retraité de l'Agence de Développement Social - Maroc (Janvier 2002 – Janvier 2020) j'ai occupé la fonction de coordinateur Régional de l'Agence de Développement Social dans la Région de Fès Meknès depuis 2007 à 2020.
- Ex Membre du Conseil National des droits de l'homme, Président de la Commission Régional des droits de l'homme de Fès Meknès (2011-2019). A ce titre il est intervenu au nom du CNDH à plusieurs auprès de la Comité NU des droits des personnes handicapées, notamment une intervention orale sur « la participation des personnes handicapées ».
- Ex-Membre de la Commission Scientifique pour l'élaboration du projet de loi du Conseil National de la Famille et de l'Enfance ;
- J'ai assuré la mission de conseiller technique, auprès du Ministère chargé du handicap, pour le programme de Réadaptation à Base Communautaire (1997-2001).

Etudes, en particulier sur les droits de personnes avec handicaps :

Titulaire d'une licence en sciences politiques en 1988 à la Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Economiques de l'Université Mohamed V à Rabat. En 2011, suivi des études supérieures sur les droits de l'Homme à l'Université de Genève. Formation des Formateurs sur la CRPD avec IDA. Membre des Comités de rédaction de l'Avis du CNDH et du Collectif pour la promotion des droits des PESH sur le projet de loi-cadre 97-13 relative aux droits des personnes handicapées et de rédaction des guides pour la participation politique des personnes en situation de handicap, la Stratégie de l'Agence de développement pour la prise en compte du handicap ». Suivi une formation sur la Réadaptation à Base Communautaire avec Save the Children en 1992.

Veillez indiquer si vous vous identifiez comme une personne handicapée ou développez votre expérience vécue en rapport avec les personnes handicapées.

Devenu handicapé depuis l'âge de 22ans, j'ai outrepassé les barrières culturelles et sociales pour poursuivre mes études et avoir une vie professionnelle dans un domaine focalisé sur la question du handicap et le développement inclusif

Expertise pertinente sur les droits des personnes avec handicaps

Merci de donner des détails concernant vos zones d'expertise conformément à la Convention sur les Droits des Personnes avec Handicaps, ainsi que les expériences liées.

Ex-Membre du CNDH, Chargée des droits des PESH. Je suis formateur en CRPD. Je suis convaincu que les droits humains des personnes handicapées passent principalement la promotion et la protection. J'ai mené un long plaidoyer pour la promotion du développement inclusif, la reconnaissance de l'éducation inclusive, le droit au travail, la capacité juridique et la pleine participation politique des personnes handicapées notamment des jeunes avec handicap intellectuel et cela dans le respect de l'égalité homme femme. J'ai lancé le programme de Réadaptation à Base Communautaire au Maroc.

Liste des publications les plus récentes du candidat dans le domaine des droits des personnes avec handicaps :

- Editorial de la revue littéraire " Stratégies familiales et communautaires pour le soutien et l'accompagnement des personnes en situation de grande dépendance au Maroc. Août 2021.
- « Le droit des personnes en situation de handicap au travail et à l'emploi » Etude du cadre normatif et des politiques publiques au Maroc » Déc. 2020.
- Rapport d'observation des élections législatives « participation des personnes handicapée » 2021.
- Coordination et réalisation du livre sur le handicap au Maroc "In Our Own Words". 1997.
- Membre du Comité de rédaction de l'Avis du CNDH sur le projet de loi-cadre 97-13. En 2014.
- Membre du comité de rédaction des guides pour la participation politique des personnes en situation de handicap. J'ai piloté l'étude sur la protection Sociale des PESH en 2015.2016.

Mr. Bonface MASSAH (Malawi)

Date and place of birth: 11 June 1983

Place of residence: Lilongwe, Malawi

Nationality: Malawian

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

A Commissioner at Malawi Human Rights Commission served as chairperson of Disability and Elderly Rights Directorate for three years and now chairperson of Child Rights Directorates. I am the current Country Director for Standing Voice - Malawi office where among others, I lead in interventions and initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of persons with albinism.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

I am Chairperson of the Federation of Disability Organization in Malawi (FEDOMA). I led the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi (APAM) as the President and National Coordinator from 2009-2016. I have served on the Board of Directors for Malawi Network Against Trafficking in Persons (M-NAT) and Disabled Women in Africa (DIWA). I am an expert member of the Albinism Think Tank team by the UN Independent Expert on enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism and the plan of action to end attacks and other human rights violations targeting persons with albinism in Africa (2021–2031). I am a member of the Southern Africa Federation of the Disabled (SAFOD) regional advocacy platform to champion UNCRPD and African Disability Protocol and key resource person on the development and implementation of the National Action Plan on Albinism in various African countries.....

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

- Master's (MPhil) degree in Human Rights and Disability Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa.
- Master's (MPhil) Rehabilitation, Disability, Gender and Development, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa.
- BSc in Agriculture, University of Malawi, Malawi.

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

Yes I Do Identify Myself as Someone with a Disability I Am a Person with Albinism.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities**Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.**

I have over 15 years' experience and expertise in equality and non-discrimination work for persons with disabilities in Africa. I have worked on equal and effective legal protection against discrimination and supporting victim of torture, to foster

their inclusion and dignity. I have raised awareness to combat stereotypes and harmful practices against persons with disabilities throughout community, family level and policy level regarding persons with disabilities.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- We Are Human, Just Like You: Albinism in Malawi – Implications for Security (a), Charlotte Baker - Lancaster University (b) Patricia Lund - Coventry University (c) Boniface Massah -Standing Voice (d) Jones Mawerenga - University of Malawi. (2021)
- Identifying strategies to enhance the educational inclusion of visually impaired children with albinism in Malawi, (a) Paul Lynch - School of Education, University of Birmingham (b) Pat Lund - Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Coventry University (c) Boniface Massah - The Albino Association of Malawi (2012)
- Information booklet for young people with albinism and for teacher; Paul Lynch, Pat Lund and Boniface Massah (2012)
- Families influencing the education of pupils with albinism in Malawi – a prism for educational, social and health practice. Gareth Dart – University of Worcester, UK g.dart@worc.ac.uk, Dr Pat Lund – University of Coventry, UK apx251@coventry.ac.uk, Boniface Massah – Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi bonmassah@gmail.com (2013)
- Look at Me See My Abilities Not My Albinism Condition. Annuntiatius, International association on Special Education, Vol, xxvii, issue 2 May 2015.

Mr. Floyd MORRIS (Jamaica)

Date and place of birth: July 23, 1969, Jamaica

Place of residence: Kingston, Jamaica.

Nationality: Jamaican

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

1. CRPD Member; Co-chair for preliminary preparatory working group on General Comments for Article 29; Member of Working Group on Communications;
2. Member of Task Force on Situations of Risks and Humanitarian Emergencies.
3. Director/Senior Lecturer, University of the West Indies Centre for Disability Studies;
4. CARICOM Special Rapporteur on Disability; Chairman, UWI Centre for Disability Studies Regional Conference Planning Committee.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

1. Participated in the review of 40 CRPD States Party reports
2. Rapporteur for four CRPD States Party
3. Participated in the assessment of approximately 29 communications under the Optional Protocol
4. Conducted seminar in the Caribbean and North America on de-institutionalization.
5. Participated in Commonwealth Secretariat Round Table discussion on situation of persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth
6. Conducted training sessions for media practitioners and youths in the Caribbean on the CRPD
7. Held Regional Disability Studies Conference in the Caribbean on health and disability
8. Held conference on establishing disability specific legislation in the Caribbean
9. Conducted seminar on the localization of the CRPD in the Caribbean
10. Participated in Caribbean conference on access to justice for persons with disabilities

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

Completed a PhD in Government at The UWI; Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Government at The UWI and a BA in Media and Communication at The UWI. I have researched and published 4 books, 3 of which are on disability; 9 peer-reviewed journal articles on disability; 7 peer-reviewed book chapters on disability and 6 non-peer-reviewed articles on disability.

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

I am a person with a disability, becoming blind at age 20 due to glaucoma. Notwithstanding, I have managed to overcome multiple challenges and become a success story in my country and to the world; becoming the first person with a disability to sit in the Parliament of Jamaica and be appointed the President of the Senate in 2013.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities

Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.

Being one of the leading researchers and authors about disability from Latin America and the Caribbean, I have researched and published 3 books, 9 peer-reviewed journal articles, 7 peer-reviewed book chapters and 6 non-peer-reviewed articles on varied aspects of disability. These works cover Article 4, Article 9, Article 24, Article 25, Article 27, Article 29 and Article 30 of the CRPD.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

1. Morris, F. (2024). "Universal Design and Assistive Digital Technology: Paving the Pathway for Inclusion, Participation and Non-Discrimination of Persons with Disabilities in Society." In *Palgrave Handbook of Everyday Digital Life*. Edited by Hopeton Dunn, Massimo Regnedda, Laura Robinson and Maria Ruiu. Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Morris, F. (2023). *Human Rights and Disability - A 75th Anniversary Panoramic View*. In "Shaping A World of Freedoms: 75 Years of Legacy and Impact of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." Edited by Nelu Burcea and Liberato C. Bautista. ISBN: 979-8-9894202-0-9
3. Morris, F. (2023). "Hierarchy, Education and Persons with Disabilities in the Anglophone Caribbean." In *Hierarchies of Disability Human Rights*. Edited by Stephen Meyers, Megan McCloskey and Gabor Petri. Routledge.
4. Morris, F. (2022). *Cultural Inclusion: The Case of Persons with Disabilities in Jamaica*. Arawak Publications. Kingston, Jamaica. ISBN 978-976-8282-33-0.
5. Morris, F. (Ed.) (2021). *Inclusive Education: The Key to Social Transformation*. Ian Randle Publishing. Kingston, Jamaica. ISBN 978-976-8286-31-4.

Mr. Christopher NWANORO (Nigeria)

Date and place of birth: 15th May, 1974 and Aba, ABIA STATE

Place of residence: Abuja

Nationality: Nigerian

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

- Deputy Director, Second United Nations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Chairman/CEO Lotus Initiative for the Blind (LIB).

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

President National Disability Empowerment Forum (NADEF).

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

- Ph. D. International Relations, Assertive Technology (CBVI).
- New Jersey, USA, National Broadcasting Commission.

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

I am virtually impaired (Blind). I attended special school for the blind in Umuahia, Abia State Nigeria.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities**Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.**

- Publisher Disability Voice Magazine.
- African Representative, National Federation of the Blind, Florida, USA.
- President Lotus Initiative for the Blind.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Reaching the under-represented group of persons with disabilities.

Ms. Inmaculada PLACENCIA PORRERO (European Union)

Date and place of birth: Mlilla (SPAIN) 4 August 1961

Place of residence: Belgium

Nationality: Spanish

United Nations working languages: English, Spanish and French

Current position/function:

Senior Expert for Disability and Inclusion in the European Commission's Unit that is UNCRPD focal point for the EU. I am responsible for coordination of disability policies at the EU level and the implementation of the UNCRPD through the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030. I have extensive interest and expertise in the development of accessibility policy and legislation.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

Leading the work on the EU negotiations, conclusion and implementation of the UNCRPD, including the preparation of EU Declaration of competences and related governance structures, like the EU monitoring framework and Disability Platform. Unique expertise in the UNCRPD implementation as a Regional Integration Organization (RIO). Since 2010, coordination of the comprehensive EU strategic framework on disability, including the latest Strategy. Responsible for the Directive on the European Accessibility Act and leading EU work on European accessibility standards, including via international cooperation. Leading the work on the European Disability Card Directive and mainstreaming disability in a wide range of EU policies and legislation including non-discrimination and human rights related initiatives.

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

- Licenciada en Ciencias Físicas: branch of Computer Sciences (Universidad Complutense Madrid) and Grado de Licenciatura en Ciencias Físicas (Universidad Complutense Madrid) (Equivalent to Bachelor and Master Degree).
- Doctorandus Natuurkunde (Universiteit Nijmegen - NL) (equivalent to Master degree).
- Practical trainings and participation in courses including in the European Law Academy (where I was also responsible for the contract) on Disability and Accessibility trainings.

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

As a person without disabilities, I have worked with and involved persons with disabilities in my daily work for over 30 years from meaningful involvement in research to consolidating participation through accessible channels in EU policy and law making.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities**Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.**

- Knowledge of the UNCRPD as an international human rights instrument and related processes. Knowledge of and experience in developing and implementing the European legal framework and policy processes related to the implementation of the UNCRPD in the EU, including as a RIO both through mainstreaming and targeted actions.
- Expertise on implementing instruments, accessibility and cooperation with DPOs.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- The European Accessibility Act and the Harmonized Standards 2022. Enjoy Magazine. European Telecommunication Standards Institute
- The importance of an ambitious transposition of the European Accessibility Act for deaf people in the EU. In the book Goedele A.M. De Clerck (Ed.) (2021). UNCRPD Implementation in Europe - a deaf perspective. EUD.

Mr. Hiroshi TAMON (Japan)

Date and place of birth: 13 February 1967, Fukushima, Japan

Place of residence: Kanagawa, Japan

Nationality: Japanese

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

- Chairperson, Meisei Gakuen School for the Deaf (2023-)
- Auditor, Nippon Foundation Telecommunication Relay Service(2022-)
- Legal Commission Member, International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (2021-)
- Human Rights Expert, World Federation of the Deaf (2016-2023)
- Lawyer, Tomin General Law Firm (1998-)

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

- Contribution to improving and strengthening measures and policies for persons with disabilities, serving in such roles as:
- Counsel of the Independent Living Center of People with Disabilities ‘Studio IL Bunkyo’ (2006–Present);
- Councilor of the Japan Deafblind Association (2003–Present); and
- Member of the Japan Federation of the Deaf (1986–Present).
- Engagement in public awareness-raising activities on the rights of persons with disabilities, working collaboratively with relevant civil society organizations to keep the public fully informed about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities

- Certificate, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C., United States (2004)
- B.A. in Law, Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo, Japan (1990)

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

As a deaf civil rights lawyer with extensive litigation experience, I have been working in the legal field for and with persons with disabilities to substantially improve their situation at both the national and international levels.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities

Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.

My areas of expertise include: significant contribution to protecting and promoting rights of persons with disabilities as a civil rights lawyer for over 25 years; extensive international expertise as a director of the Duskin AINOWA Foundation

(2011–) and through research on disability policies in the U.S. and the Republic of Korea; active engagement in the intellectual and physical development of young people and children with disabilities; and extensive experience in academia, including Musashino University (2018–2023).

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

- “How to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with the idea of ‘Business and Human Rights’ in Japanese society” in *New Business Law*, Vol. 1239 (2023) (Japanese);
- “A discussion on the concluding observation of 2022 for the Japanese government’s report: mainly focusing on the article 21 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” in *Labor and Welfare*, Vol. 1817=1818 (2023) (Japanese)

Mr. Wanhong ZHANG

Date and place of birth: June 15, 1976, Henan, China

Place of residence: Wuhan, China

Nationality: Chinese

United Nations working languages: Chinese (native); English (fluent)

Current position/function:

ZHANG Wanhong holds the position of Professor of Jurisprudence at Wuhan University School of Law, Wuhan, China. He studies and teaches human rights law and disability law. He is the Director of Wuhan University Institute for Human Rights Studies. He holds a Research Chair at Wuhan University Academy of International Law and Global Governance.

Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:

- As a person with physical disability, Prof. Zhang is a pioneer of rights-based disability studies in China and the founding editor-in-chief of *Disability Rights Studies in China*.
- He also is involved in a wide range of education and advocacy efforts addressing human rights and disability justice reform in China and beyond.
 - His other main activities and positions on the rights of PwDs include: China Disability Research Society, *vice-president*;
 - Expert Advisory Committee on the Outline of the Fourteenth Five-Year Plan for Persons with Disabilities in China,
 - *Member; International Journal of Disability and Social Justice*, Editorial Board member;
 - Expert Group on Revision of China's *Regulations on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities*, *Chief Expert*;
 - Hubei Provincial Disabled Persons' Federation, *Deputy Director-General*.

Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities :

- **Columbia University School of Law**, New York, NY, USA, LL.M. (2012): Disability law course.
- **Wuhan University School of Law**, Wuhan, China, Ph.D. (2004), LL.M. (2000), LL.B. (1997).
- Other training courses, e.g., training workshop on UN Human Rights Mechanisms by the Geneva Academy (GA), and
- the International Disability Law Summer School by the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.

Since Wanhong was injured in an electric accident at the age of 3, he was considered as a person with physical disability. After he got a PhD degree and joined a top law faculty in China, he started the journey of an activist/action researcher of disability rights.

Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities :

Wanhong played an important role in the disability paradigm shift from individual/medical model to the rights/social model in China. He set up the first “rights protection” committee under China Disability Research Society. He did numerous trainings to promote the CRPD. He is the drafter of Disability Section of China’s first National Human Rights Action Plan (NAP) and the evaluator of following NAPs.

List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:

1. *Disability, Sexuality, and Gender in Asia: Intersectionality, Human Rights, and the Law*, Routledge, 2023. (editor)
 2. *Harmonization of National Laws with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Country Case Study China*, UN ESCAP, 2023. (with Liu Yijun)
 3. *Disability Rights Studies in China, Editor-in-Chief*, Vol. 1-9, Beijing: China Social Science Academic Press, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022; Vol. 10, Wuhan: Wuhan University Press, 2023
 4. “30 Years’ Development of Rule of Law System for the Disability Cause in China: Reviews and Prospects”, in *Disability Research*, 2021 (1).
 5. *Equal Access to Justice for Persons with Disabilities in China*, UNDP, 2016. (with Ding Peng)
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