



## Elections 2024

**Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

**Human Rights Committee (HR Cttee)**

**Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**

### *Questionnaire for candidates*

Four UN Treaty Bodies, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Human Rights Committee (HRCttee), and Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), will have elections organised in 2024.

In order to strengthen the treaty bodies, the International Disability Alliance, Child Rights Connect and IWRAW Asia-Pacific – as part of [TB-Net](#), the NGO network on the UN Treaty Bodies – seek to promote quality, independence and diversity of treaty body membership through transparent and participators nomination and elections processes.

This questionnaire, which is sent to all nominated candidates and is based on the criteria set forth in the relevant treaties and in the General Assembly Resolution 68/268, will enable all States and other stakeholders to better understand the skills, experiences and motivation of running candidates to CRPD, CEDAW, HRCttee, CRC and CESCRC in advance of the elections.

The written responses to the questionnaires will be made available on the website [www.untbelections.org](http://www.untbelections.org), while the video responses will be shared on a dedicated [YouTube page](#).

*This initiative does not imply that we support or oppose any individual candidates.*



## Questions for all treaty bodies candidates

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1. Name: **Timothy P.T. Ekesa**

2. Nationality: **Kenyan**

3. Current position: **Executive Director, Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children (KAACR)**

4. Are you currently holding, or have you previously held any position on behalf of, or for, your Government (Executive branch) that may compromise your actual or perceived independence and impartiality? If so, please give details:

**No, I am not currently holding any position in any government. I only once served on the National Council for Children Services (NCCS) – highest policy body for children, for a term of 4 years as one of the six NGOs representatives. My interest was to ensure that the body develops enabling policies that protect and advance rights of children. I have also served on a number of child -related Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in government to ensure views of children are upheld. This will not compromise my partiality or independence as a committee member since my goal remains advancing the rights of children.**

5. Please indicate any current or potential conflict of interest that may prevent you from exercising independence and impartiality in your work as a member of a UN treaty body:

**I don't have any current or foresee any potential conflict of interests that may prevent my independence. My wide experience and knowledge in child rights having served on local, regional and global child related bodies will be of great benefit to the work of the committee. My position as Executive Director at KAACR – a national umbrella NGO will give me time, space, time and latitude to do the assigned work of the committee and related country missions.**

6. Was the nomination process for your candidacy a transparent and participatory process? Was civil society or other relevant stakeholders involved?

**Yes, my nomination was a transparent and participatory process. The Office of the Attorney General (State Law Office) shared the vacancies to all contacts in the NGOs in Kenya on email and government ministries. I applied for nominations and later learnt from the State Law Office that we were six applicants for nomination and after assessment by the Solicitor General, I was found fit for nomination. I got to learn this through communication from the from Ministry of Foreign Affairs office addressed to head of mission in Geneva and New York.**

7. During your possible mandate as a Committee member, what other positions or professional activities do you intend to engage in?

**I am currently serving as the Executive Director of KAACR and will continue in this position if the Board of KAACR continues offers me the opportunity. The Board gave me ago ahead to apply for this nomination because the organization has able senior programmatic and administrative staff who are able to run the organization with minimal supervision from me. My term as Board member of East African Child Rights and member of Supervisory Board of ECPAT International is lapsing in**



**December 2024. However, given a chance I will continue to represent ECPAT members in the Eastern and Southern African region as it does not take a lot of my time.**

8. The commitments as a Committee member are very time-consuming during and outside session time. How will you ensure to have the capacity to dedicate the necessary time to the work of the Committee, both in person and online?

**I applied to serve on the Committee well aware that I will need to dedicate time to serve in a meaningful way both in person and online. Given my role as Director, I have been able to create time to serve in other capacities on regional and global bodies. Given the interest I have in Committee work and having appeared before the committee three times at pre sessional working and main session, I will certainly be able to plan and travel or join online meetings and sessions since CRC advocacy and monitoring are part of my day-to-day work at national and regional levels. I am flexible and will be able to delegate my work to senior officers as I offer the required services to the committee. My background training in communications will come in handy as I have a knack for reading, writing and working on assignments even at any time of the day or night. I will be able to plan well to handle the Committee assignments as requested and required.**

9. What are the current and main challenges that you see for the treaty body system and what are your ideas for improvement?

**A key glaring challenges of the CRC as s treat body that I am more familiar with is, the backlog of periodic reports. Past committees have hardly been able to complete assessment of state party reports on time. This has caused delays and frustrations from member states and CSOs involved in treaty reporting as sessions are held years beyond dates of submission. The main reason for the delays is time taken by state parties to submit their periodic reports. The committee could consider either introducing a form of reprimand to member states or have online automatic reminders so that members can submit reports as scheduled. At the same time, the Committee could have a clear follow up plan on Concluding Observations to keep the member states on toes. The Committee can make use of the NGOs from member states to keep them on toes, organize exchange visits with members who have good practices as a way of promoting good practices. The Committee could introduce a reward and punishment system where those that are punctual and implement Concluding Observations are rewarded while those that lag behind are reprimanded.**

10. **(Updated question!)** The COVID-19 pandemic has stalled, set back progress and exacerbated the challenge of ensuring that children's needs are met and their rights guaranteed. In recognition of these negative effects that are expected to persist in the long term and the multiplicity of crises that disproportionately affect children worldwide, the UN Secretary General released in July 2023 a [Guidance Note on Child Rights Mainstreaming](#) mandating the mobilisation of the UN system to collectively strengthen and elevate a shared UN child rights agenda. How can the Committee contribute to this mobilisation and ensure that children's rights are mainstreamed across all pillars of the UN?

As child rights practitioners, we were able to innovate and still got children to continue realizing their rights in particular giving them spaces to speak out through online media platforms i.e. Zoom, Teams and Google Meet on challenges of COVID-19 pandemic. It cannot be gainsaid that the multiplicity of crises continues affecting children worldwide hence the need to mainstream children rights in the entire UN System. The Committee in a very good standing in contributing to this mobilization in a number of ways.



The Committee can build on the good practice of having a separate session to listen to children voices during the state party presentation sessions which stemmed for an initiative I was part of in 2006 when we challenged the Committee to have a session with child representatives during the Pre sessional Working Group when Kenya was one of the countries under review. The Committee could develop specific lead questions in the 8 thematic areas that will require reports to have inputs from children from the grassroots.

The Committee can consider sieving out issues on children which can be shared with other UN System reporting channels and lobby for reporting on child rights since children are still part of the general population of the world using the Guidance Note on CR mainstreaming.

The Committee could also enrich the Model UN for Children as a strategy of putting children on the mainstream of not only the treat bodies but the entire UN System.

In a nutshell, have an intentional focus on enriching the engagement of children through meaningful participation of boys and girls not only in reporting process but entire child rights programming at country, regional and international levels.

Link to your full resume: <https://rb.gy/v29phr>

## Questions for candidates to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

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*Please provide responses that are as precise as possible and in no more than **200 words per question**.*

### ***Your motivation, experience and qualifications to become a member***

1. What motivates you to be a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child? (video option)

I am motivated to be a member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child given the urge I have to make a positive contribution to the work of the Committee given many years (29 years) in the child rights sector as an officer, director and regional representative with wide experience on child rights, child protection and child participation issues from across four continents i.e. Africa (over 30 countries), Europe (4 countries), Asia (3 countries), Middle East (one), North (USA & Canada) and South America (one). I believe I have the qualifications of a Committee Member given my education, training and international exposure. I have interacted with the Committee thrice through treaty reporting for my country and I am impressed with the work done, and am convinced that I can make a contribution that can transform the world through children.

2. Taking into account the current composition and expertise of the Committee, what would be your added value? (video option)

I closely follow the work of the Committee and have always appeared before it and 2006 saw a gap on how to involve children in a meaningful way, which bore fruits. My contribution will be strengthening the good work of child participation in Committee which has commenced and move it a new level given my many years of experience on Child Participation from the grassroots to global levels. This will be in all aspects of child protection including but not limited to the new



**media (Social Media) and emerging new forms of violence and abuse that children are exposed to including Artificial Intelligence.**

3. What do you think are the emerging issues and challenges in the implementation of the CRC and its Optional Protocols on a global scale as well as in your country/region?

**The emerging challenges for implementation of the CRC and its three Optional Protocols in my region by member states include but not limited to:**

- i. Delay in submission of periodic reports and when submitted, inability to implement the provided Concluding Observations or Remarks**
- ii. Member states allocating very minimal or no resources/budgets for matters children especially resources that will actualize the implementation of the four principles of the CRC i.e. Best Interests of the Child (Art. 3), Non-discrimination (Art. 2), Child's Opinion Article 12 and realization of rights of children to life and survival (Art. 6)**
- iii. Some member states have not ratified all the Optional Protocols making it hard to monitor their implementation**
- iv. The member states are struggling with how to address the new forms of child abuse and violence, some caused by non-predictable global changes like COVID 19 pandemic, global warming, instability in nations i.e. Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSEA), social and new media**
- v. The impact of the ever-changing climate change cannot be gainsaid. This is posing a challenge to programming in a shorter period than the 5 - year reporting prescribed period.**

4. What do you think are the areas where the Committee needs to strengthen international child rights standards?

- i. Role of state parties in financing child rights programming and related matters**
- ii. Impact of climate change in delivery of services on children**
- iii. Protection of children in humanitarian/conflict situations and state emergencies**
- iv. Engagement of children and meaningful child participation in political and social matters according to their evolving capacities of children**
- v. Mental health for children as a result of social (new) media that led to attention, learning and mental crisis including Artificial Intelligence (AI) challenges**

5. How do you envision the work of the Committee in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals?

**The aim of the SDGs is to transform the world through a call to action to end poverty & inequality, protect the planet and ensure all people including children enjoy health, justice and prosperity without leaving anyone behind. The Committee is well placed and in a good position to realize the achievement of the 17 SDGs as they all have aspects that affect children. in a number of ways i.e.**

- i. Through the 8 thematic clusters, the committee is able to challenge the member statements to show how they are contributing to each SDG since they all squarely fall in the thematic areas**
- ii. The Committee stands on a higher pedestal to evaluate the member states and lobby heads of states during the UN General Assembly to see which SDGs are impacting**



**negative on children and make specific recommendations in the Concluding Observations**

- iii. The Committee has the latitude to appoint Country or Thematic Rapporteurs for member states or regions and conduct missions that can hold the states accountable on SDGs that are less focused on or budgeted for.**

**6. How do you think the Committee could advance the standards and practices on child participation, and particularly children's right to participate in political life and child human rights defenders?**

- i. The Committee can use her capacity on Child Participation or enhance that capacity from experiences shared through periodic reporting and prepare Guidelines and standard practices from around the world which can be incorporated in relevant General Comments that will ensure children of different ages can participate in political affairs according to their evolving capacities.**
- ii. As a practitioner of Child Participation, the biggest challenge faced is the ability to understand and translate children's ideas, words, drawings into policy matters. The Committee can work with members to specialize in child participation and be able to handle children from their level.**
- iii. The Committee could also develop or improve on Child Safeguarding Guidelines that are very handy in carrying out child participation activities and initiatives. Such Guidelines can either be issue, regional, context specific so that those involved can be able to reach children from their perspective rather than from adult's view.**
- iv. If well equipped with relevant child participation skills that is a live to current new trends of child protection issues, the practitioners can be able to identify child human rights defenders of all ages who will in turn act as watchdogs for potential child abusers.**

**7. What can the Committee do to further strengthen its engagement with civil society?**

**The Committee has big role in strengthening engagement with civil society in many ways i.e.**

- i. Work with member states and lobby them to increase the shrinking space of civil society participation in local, national and global initiatives**
- ii. Promote, document and publish the best practices of civil society organizations in strengthening child protection strategies from various parts of the world**
- iii. Committee can be the link between civil society and government, civil society in the south and the north**
- iv. The Committee can be the melting pot on best practices on child participation and meaningful engagement of children in all processes in all spheres of influence across the world**
- v. The Committee can create more opportunities for civil society organizations engagement such as Days of General Discussions and in formulating General Comments. CSO seem to get only busy during the treaty reporting cycles which are not regular.**
- vi. The Committee can come up with a template or matrix for annual biannual reporting by civil society. This will be so useful in preparation of treaty reports and will help fill gaps that are identified as the changes are more rapid than before.**

