



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 participatory 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 CESCR in advance of the elections.

The written responses to the questionnaires will be made available on the website 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

- 1. Name:** Mariana IANACHEVICI
- 2. Nationality:** Republic of Moldova
- 3. Current position:** Chief Executive Officer of the Association for Child and Family Empowerment AVE Copiii (Republic of Moldova)
President of the Federation for Rights and Resources in Autism (Republic of Moldova)

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. Throughout my professional career I have worked in the Civil Society sector.

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:

None

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

Currently, there is no open nomination process for this Human Rights Treaty body in the Republic of Moldova. I submitted a request to the Moldovan Ministry of Foreign Affairs which in its turn consulted the line ministries and made a decision accordingly. Also, I have strong support of the Moldovan Civil Society.

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

I will keep my current position at the Association for Child and Family Empowerment AVE Copiii and at the Federation for Rights and Resources in Autism.

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 intend to reduce the actual working time by delegating part of responsibilities to the staff of the organisation and thereby I will be able to dedicate the time and energy necessary to fulfil the tasks of this position.



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

In the last few years, I have analyzed the annual reports of the Committee, but also the extent to which its final observations are implemented by the member states. From my point of view, I consider the following more important:

- The workload of the Committee continues to increase, following the accumulation of reports and dossiers of state parties submitted on the side of Protocol 3 and the resulting delays in their review;
- Apparently, there is significant overlap and duplication of work between treaty bodies, leading to inefficiencies and duplication in reporting processes;
- Although the Committee invests important time and expertise to develop consistent and detailed Final Observations to the States Parties, they are implemented to a lesser extent.

To address these challenges and improve the treaty body system, several strategies could be considered:

- Providing adequate resources, including funds and personnel to the Committee to enable it to carry out its mandates effectively and efficiently;
- Promote greater coordination and cooperation among treaty bodies to minimize duplication of effort and ensure consistency in the interpretation and application of human rights standards;
- Implement measures to address backlogs for submission and review of state reports, increase efforts to strengthen states' capacities to facilitate reporting, and explore innovative approaches to simplify the review process;
- Improving compliance mechanisms to ensure that states comply with their treaty obligations, including by strengthening procedures for following up on treaty body recommendations and considering the development of enforcement mechanisms for serious or systematic violations;

Facilitating greater engagement with CSO to increase transparency, accountability and participation in the treaty body system.

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?

A few possibilities the Committee could do include:



- advocate for the prioritization of children's rights within the UN system, sensitizing UN agencies, departments, programs on the importance of integrating children's rights into their work;
- provide guidance and policy recommendations to UN entities on the integration of children's rights into their policies, programs, activities;
- monitor and evaluate the progress of UN entities in mainstreaming children's rights;
- support capacity-building efforts within the UN system to strengthen the knowledge, skills and resources needed to mainstream child rights;
- collaborate with other UN bodies, agencies, programs to mobilize resources, expertise and networks in advancing a common UN agenda for children's rights;
- promote research and data collection on child rights, providing evidence-based information to support mainstreaming efforts within the UN system, including data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises;
- advocate for greater policy coherence within the UN system to ensure that children's rights are mainstreamed across all pillars, including development, peace, security and human rights.

The Committee may also engage with CSOs and other stakeholders to promote collaboration and dialogue on mainstreaming children's rights in the UN system, including consultation with children and youth organisations.

Link to your full resume:

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

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

I am committed to promoting children's rights and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to live a safe, healthy and fulfilled life.

I am motivated by a sense of social justice and a desire to address systemic inequalities and injustices affecting vulnerable and marginalized children.

I am willing through my work to make a difference in the lives of children around the world by influencing policies, laws and practices that affect their rights and well-being.

I believe in the importance of international cooperation and collaboration in addressing global challenges, including protecting children's rights across borders and cultures.

I think my professional experience and practical work on child protection can contribute to the activity of the Committee by providing practical knowledge about the situation of children and youth, what are the effects of malfunctioning policy and how to better design policies to benefit children and youth.



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

I have almost 29 years of extensive and varied professional experience in the field of child protection and children's rights, both in direct work with children and families at risk, and in advising state and non-state actors, at national and international levels, in the field of child protection, child rights, care reform, etc. In the context of the refugee crisis, I am the focal point for the border police related to protection of refugee children, including unaccompanied and separated.

I am a child protection trainer with extensive experience in providing capacity building support to social workers, child protection specialists, police officers, doctors, border guards, migration specialists etc.

I have experience in participating in the development and promotion of public policies in the field of child protection. Recent examples include co-facilitating the development of the National Child Protection Program 2022-2026.

I lead one of the largest national CSOs with just over a hundred employees, active in the protection dimension of the most vulnerable local and refugee children.

I speak five languages (English, French, Russian, Italian and Romanian), including two working languages of the Committee.

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?

Several emerging issues and challenges affect the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols globally, as well as different countries and regions. Some of these are:

- protecting children from violence, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, as well as neglect, child labour exploitation etc.;
- protection of children affected by migration and displacement, including addressing access to education, healthcare, legal protection and psychosocial support for migrant and refugee children, as well as preventing their exploitation and abuse;
- ensuring digital rights and online safety, including protecting children from online risks such as cyberbullying, exploitation and exposure to harmful content;
- protection of children's rights to life, health, education and a clean environment from the perspective of climate change and environmental degradation;
- protection of children affected by poverty and inequalities, including protection of rights to education, healthcare, housing and social protection for marginalized and disadvantaged children and families.

An important challenge is the monitoring and reporting of children's rights, including from the perspective of the Committee's capacities to analyse the reports of the state's parties in time and of the implementation of the final observations, as well to revise the individual complains under the 3rd Protocol.

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

Although the Committee has made significant progress in promoting and protecting children's rights globally, there are areas where international standards on children's rights should be strengthened. These include:

- protection of children from violence and exploitation, including but not limited to child labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, cyberbullying, exploitation and exposure to harmful content etc.;
- protection of children from the impact of armed conflict, including recruitment and use by armed groups, sexual violence and access to education and health in conflict-affected areas;
- address child poverty and socioeconomic inequality more comprehensively, including considering factors such as access to education, healthcare, housing and social protection for vulnerable children and families;
- protection and promotion the rights of migrant and refugee children.

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

The Committee's work is closely linked to the achievement of the SDGs, as both promote the well-being, rights and opportunities of children and young people around the world.

In terms of how the work of the Committee could facilitate the achievement of SDGs it can align its recommendations and actions to the specific SDG targets related to children's rights (i.e. SDG1 - eliminating poverty, SDG3 - promoting health and well-being, SDG4 - ensuring quality education, SDG10 - reducing inequalities). In this sense, the Committee could monitor the progress of the Member States towards the achievement of the respective SDGs, as well as support efforts to strengthen the capacities of the Member States to effectively implement the SDG targets related to children's rights.

At the same time, the Committee through periodic review of the State parties' reports can address cross-cutting issues that have an impact on children's rights and the achievement of the SDGs (i.e. climate change, conflict and displacement, digitization, violence against children, etc.).

Likewise, the Committee can promote children's participation in SDG-related decision-making processes by ensuring that their voices are heard and their perspectives are taken into account.

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 think, it is too little only to evaluate within the examination of the state reports the efforts to promote and protect the right of children to participate. The Committee should support the Member States in developing the capacities to implement measures that promote children's participation, including but not limited in political life.

At the same time, the Committee must raise awareness about the importance of children's participation and the role of human (child) rights defenders. In this sense, researches and data are needed on children's participation, including in political life and the challenges faced by human (child) rights defenders. Such evidence can inform recommendations and advocacy efforts both, globally and at the level of member states.

Of course, it becomes more and more necessary to ensure the protection of children's rights defenders from harassment, intimidation and violence. The Committee's role in this sense is crucial in encouraging the adoption by the States Parties of relevant legislations and policies with the aim to protect rights and safety of children involved in such activism.

And last but not least, the time has come to review General Comment 12 (2009) in which these aspects could be developed/detailed in a participatory manner.

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

In order to undertake a stronger and more inclusive engagement with civil society that will ultimately lead to better protection and promotion of children's rights globally, the Committee, in my view, apart from regular consultations with CSOs & children in various stages of its activity, could also consider:

- improving CSOs' access to its documents, reports and decisions, for example through dedicated online portals, regular updates and/or proactive dissemination of information to as many CSOs as possible
- strengthening the capacities of CSOs regarding the understanding of the CRC and the reporting process
- organizing thematic dialogues (round tables, workshops, etc.) on specific issues relevant to children's rights, to facilitate a deeper engagement with CSOs working on these issues and an active involvement in these dialogues of organizations representing different sectors, including children (i.e. disabilities, indigenous children, minority communities etc.)
- establishing follow-up mechanisms with CSOs after reviewing state reports to track progress and address implementation challenges.

At the same time, I believe that today, more than ever, the Committee, in its engagement with civil society, could and should place a greater and more serious focus on promoting and raising awareness of children's rights globally.