



Child Rights Connect
1, Rue de Varembe
1202 Genève

17 April 2020

Your Excellency,

We are writing concerning the 18th Meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, **30 June 2020**), which will elect nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Committee).

As a State party to the Convention, you have the opportunity to **ensure the effectiveness of the Committee** by electing the most qualified and suitable experts from amongst the candidates.

To this end, when voting for candidates, Child Rights Connect strongly encourages you to take into account the official criteria highlighted in the [Note Verbale](#) that you have received from the OHCHR, as well as the following additional criteria:

- The candidate's **independence** and lack of conflict of interest (as per the [Addis Ababa Guidelines](#));
- The relevance of the candidate's **expertise** and **skills** for the work of the Committee;
- The candidate's experience working with a **broad range of stakeholders** (e.g. UN agencies, NHRIs, NGOs), including children themselves;
- The candidate's **commitment to listen to children** directly and give due consideration to their views;
- The candidate's ability to **devote sufficient time** to the work of the Committee;
- The candidate's ability to communicate fluently in **English, French or Spanish**;
- The current composition and under-representation of certain regions (**South-east Asia** and **Latin America**) and areas of expertise (**child participation/interaction with children, public health, economy, humanitarian law** and **legal complaints handling**). You will find here [a table with an overview and detailed analysis of the current composition of the Committee](#).

We would also like to draw your attention to the 2018 [TB-Net report](#) on *Promoting Quality, Independence and Diversity in Treaty Body Membership: the Importance of Transparent and Participatory Nominations and Election Processes*, which includes good practices on Treaty Body membership.

Information on nominated candidates

As in previous years, Child Rights Connect promotes a merit-based and transparent elections process by sending questionnaires to all nominated candidates. Their responses will be made publicly

available at www.untbelections.org. We are also contacting national, regional and international NGOs working in child rights to obtain their views about the nominees.

We would be grateful if you could share this information widely, with your relevant domestic authorities, elections officers and other State missions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Alex Conte
Executive Director

Child Rights Connect is an independent, non-profit organisation with special ECOSOC status founded in 1983. We are the largest international network for children's rights. Through our 85 member organisations, we reach out to almost every country on the globe.

Child Rights Connect does not support or oppose any individual candidate.