



ngo group for the crc

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NGO Group for the Convention
on the Rights of the Child
1, rue de Varembé
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2 April 2012

Your Excellency,

We are writing concerning the fourteenth Meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 18 December 2012), which will elect nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child whose terms of office are due to expire. The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child hopes you will give regard to a number of criteria when considering the nomination and election of candidates.

Article 43(2) of the Convention states that Committee members shall be of high moral standing and of recognised competence in the field covered by this Convention. This article also notes that members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and that consideration should be given to equitable geographical distribution and the principal legal systems. In addition to these requirements, we hope you will give consideration to the following criteria:

- demonstrated expertise in the field of human rights and particular commitment to respect for children's human rights
- a variety of complementary professional backgrounds
- independence and impartiality
- the ability to devote sufficient time to the work of the Committee
- experience working with a broad range of stakeholders (UN agencies, NHRIs, NGOs and children)
- an awareness of, and sensitivity to, cultural differences
- fluent in one of the three working languages (English, French, Spanish)
 - experience dealing with communications/complaints from children or their representatives, either as a child victim's representative or as part of the body or institution examining the complaints

We are confident that you share our aim of achieving a high level of expertise among the members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Our hope is that States parties will nominate the most suitably qualified experts from among their nationals.

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

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To ensure the broadest representation of different regions, we would also like to encourage your State to carefully consider achieving an appropriate geographical distribution both when nominating and electing candidates. At present East and South-East Asia, Southern and Francophone Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean are under-represented.

The NGO Group was involved in the drafting of the Convention, the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and of the new Optional Protocol on a communications procedure and has worked closely with the Committee on the Rights of the Child since its formation. It is an international network of international and national organisations committed to implementing the Convention and its Optional Protocols.

We would be grateful if you could share this letter with your relevant domestic authorities and with your Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, where the election will take place.

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

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Myers

Director

NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child