



## **Elections 2016**

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

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

### **Human Rights Committee (HRCttee)**

### **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 June 2016.

In order to ensure the strengthening of the treaty body membership by promoting a merit-based and transparent elections process, Child Rights Connect, IWRAW Asia-Pacific and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights have launched a joint initiative to enable all States and other stakeholders to better understand the skills and experiences of the current candidates running for election to CEDAW, HRCttee and the CRC.

This questionnaire is part of this joint initiative; it is sent to all nominated candidates and is based on the criteria set forth in the relevant treaty. It echoes a similar questionnaire prepared by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and submitted to the candidates running for election to the CRPD.

The responses to both questionnaires will be available on the website [www.untbelections.org](http://www.untbelections.org). The responses will also be shared with all UN Member States.

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

## Open questionnaire to all candidates

### Generic section

1. Name: **Bukhari Bello**

2. Nationality: **Nigerian**

3. Current position: **Principal Partner, Bukhari Bello and Associates- Legal Practitioners**

4. a. Are you currently holding any position on behalf of, or for, your Government? If so, please give details: **None**

4. b. Have you held any position on behalf of, or for, your Government? **YES**. May any of your previous positions compromise your actual or perceived independence and impartiality? If so, please give details: **None**

4. c. 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**

5. What was the nomination process for your candidacy? Was civil society consulted?

**Nomination process was handled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and the National Human Rights Commission. I do not know whether or not the Civil Society was consulted.**

6.a. UN languages spoken fluently: **English Language**

6.b: Level of English: **High**

7. Link to your full resume: **curriculum vitae-Bukhari Bello Updated.doc**

8. Please summarise your experience relevant to this position (100 words):

**I was member of the governing council of the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria**

**Chief Executive Officer of the National Human Rights Commission**

**Member of the International Coordinating Committee of the National Human Rights Institution (ICC) Geneva,**

**Member Accreditation and privileges committee of the ICC, Geneva**

**Member Coordinating Committee of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions**

**President, Steering Committee of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions**

**member and later leader of Nigerian Delegation to the UN preparatory committee for the drafting of The Rome Statute**

**Vice-President to the diplomatic and plenipotentiary conference for the adoption of Rome statute**

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

**I am already actively engaged in the various activities of the promotion and protection of Human Rights in the above organizations and in my Legal Practice in the Law Firm which I operate.**

## Treaty-specific section:

### International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

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

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Human Rights Committee?

**I want to be a member of the Human Rights committee as it offers me the platform to promote and protect Human Rights by monitoring on the global scale the implementation of the ICCPR by state parties. I have always had a passion for promoting the rights of all peoples on the principle of equality and non-discrimination.**

**My passion for the promotion and protection of Human Rights dates back to when I was a kid and was inspired by Aminu Kano, Nelson Mandela, Malcom X, Martin Luther King jr, Angela Davies, Winnie Mandela and Muhammad Ali (the greatest) who incidentally died today when I was getting ready to send this mail to you. The Human Rights Committee is the umbrella for all Civil and Political Rights and is therefore a larger platform to holistically engage state parties in the implementation of same for a better and peaceful world.**

2. What are your specific areas of expertise in relation to the ICCPR? Please provide examples as appropriate. In particular, please specify if you have any expertise or knowledge in handling individual complaints/communications

**My expertise is in all areas of civil and political rights having served in as a member of the council of the National Human Rights commission of Nigeria for 4 years under a military dictatorship and served as the chief executive of the said commission for 6 years under a democratically elected government.**

**I have expertise and knowledge in handling individual complaints/communications during my 10 years in the commission as stated above, because one of the most important mandates of the commission is to receive individual complaints/communications and deal with same as appropriate. As an affiliate of the African commission for Human and Peoples Rights I also have the experience and knowledge of the way ACHPR handles complaints/communications mechanism.**

3. What do you think are the emerging issues and challenges in the implementation of the ICCPR? Please provide 1-2 examples.

**The emerging issues and challenges in the implementation of the ICCPR are, Terrorism, Torture, Gay Rights, Death penalty, Human Trafficking, neo-slavery and Freedom of Information and how the committee engages, state parties in the implementation of these**

**Rights. A fundamental area is the Reports submitted to the committee by state parties and how to compare and contrast these Reports with those of Independent Reports by Civil society and the National Human Rights Institutions and the independent observations by the Human Rights Committee itself.**

4. What do you think are the challenges in the implementation of the ICCPR at the national level (for example normative, legal, structural, ideological or cultural)? Please provide 1-2 examples.

**The challenges in the implementation of the ICCPR at the National Level are the both normative, Legal, Structural, Ideological, cultural and more but I will stick to the normative sense as in the way of manner state parties are used to doing things or running government in a particular way or manner not in conformity with the ICCPR, especially by the law enforcement agencies or in matters dealing with women, children and Gays .The legal challenges are also in the form of investigation of crimes by law enforcement agencies or issues dealing with due Process and the Rule of Law. The challenges here are in the institutions that deal with these legal issues are not strong. How to strengthen these institutions is sine qua non for the implementation of ICCPR.**

5. State parties to the ICCPR are required to take steps to implement the Covenant. How do you propose that the Committee should help guide States in the effective implementation of Covenant standards?

- a) Sensitization of state parties on the guideline for the Treaty-specific document to be submitted by state parties under Article 40 of the ICCPR.**
- b) Considering the Reports Submitted by state parties viz-a-viz the Independent Reports Submitted by the National Human Rights Institution, Civil Society or the committees own observations in respect to implementation of the ICCPR by state parties.**
- c) Giving appropriate feedback to state parties on the Repots Submitted and  
Visit to the state parties by special rapporteurs and engaging the state parties on the implementation of the ICCPR**
- d) Giving sanctions for persistent violations of the ICCPR by state parties**

6. What can the Committee do to further strengthen its engagement with other stakeholders including National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI), members of Parliament, judicial actors, civil society and UN agencies?

**The committee could further strengthen its engagement with other stakeholders including NHRI, member of parliament, Judicial actors, Civil Society and UN agencies by not only the usual correspondences on specific issues but by visiting the state parties and interacting with the said stake holders.**

7. How do you see the Human Rights Committee strengthening the domestic and international environment for holding business/private actors responsible for violations under the Covenant?

- a) Sensitizing the domestic and international environment on the violations under the covenant by the business/private actors.**
- b) Sanctions on the business/private actors who violate the ICCRP covenant**