



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Meeting of States parties

Eighteenth meeting

New York, 24 November 2020

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Election of nine members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in accordance with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as amended (see General Assembly resolution 50/155)

Election of nine members of the Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 28 February 2021

Note by the Secretary-General*

1. In conformity with article 43 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the eighteenth meeting of States parties to the Convention is to be held at Headquarters on Tuesday, 24 November 2020, for the purpose of electing nine members of the Committee from a list of persons nominated by States parties to replace the members whose terms are due to expire on 28 February 2021.

I. Members of the Committee whose terms expire on 28 February 2021¹

2. The terms of the following nine members expire on 28 February 2021:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Ms. Amal Salman Aldoseri	Bahrain	2013
Ms. Olga A. Khazova	Russian Federation	2013
Mr. Cephas Lumina	Zambia	2017
Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur	Ethiopia	2013
Ms. Otani Mikiko	Japan	2017
Mr. Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna	Uruguay	2017
Ms. Ann Marie Skelton	South Africa	2017
Ms. Velina Todorova	Bulgaria	2017

* The present document was submitted after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.

¹ With regard to professional background and different legal systems, biographical data of the members may be found on the web page of the Committee, under "Membership", by clicking on the name of the individual members. See www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/Membership.aspx.



<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Ms. Renate Winter	Austria	2013

II. Members of the Committee whose terms expire on 28 February 2023

3. The following nine members will continue to serve on the Committee until 28 February 2023:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Member since</i>
Ms. Suzanne Aho Assouma	Togo	2015
Ms. Aïssatou Alassane Sidikou	Niger	2019
Ms. Hynd Ayoubi Idrissi	Morocco	2015
Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson	Iceland	2019
Mr. Philip D. Jaffé	Switzerland	2019
Mr. Gehad Madi	Egypt	2011
Ms. Faith Marshall-Harris	Barbados	2019
Mr. Clarence Nelson	Samoa	2015
Mr. José Angel Rodríguez Reyes	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2015

III. Candidates nominated by States parties

4. In accordance with the procedure set out in article 43 (4) of the Convention, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 28 February 2020, invited the States parties to submit their nominations for the election of nine members of the Committee by 30 April 2020. All the curricula vitae received by that date are included in the annex to the present document. Addenda to the present note will be issued for nominations received after the deadline.

5. In compliance with the provisions of article 43 (4) of the Convention, the Secretary-General has the honour to list, in alphabetical order, the following persons nominated for election to the Committee and the States parties that nominated them:

<i>Name of candidate</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Ms. Amal Salman Aldoseri	Bahrain
Mr. Rinchen Chophel	Bhutan
Ms. Fatimata Djourté Dembélé	Mali
Mr. Rifat Kassis	State of Palestine
Ms. Sopio Kiladze	Georgia
Mr. Cephas Lumina	Zambia
Mr. Benyam Dawit Mezmur	Ethiopia
Ms. Otani Mikiko	Japan
Mr. Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna	Uruguay

<i>Name of candidate</i>	<i>Nominated by</i>
Ms. Zara Ratou	Chad
Ms. Ann Marie Skelton	South Africa
Ms. Velina Todorova	Bulgaria
Mr. Benoit Van Keirsbilck	Belgium

6. In compliance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 68/268, information regarding the current composition of the Committee, reflecting the balance in terms of geographical distribution and gender representation, professional background and different legal systems, as well as the tenure of current members, is contained in the biographical data of current members, which may be found on the web page of the Committee (www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/Membership.aspx).

7. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 68/268, the General Assembly encouraged States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies.

Annex

Curricula vitae*

Amal Salman Aldoseri (Bahrain)

Main professional activities:

- Vice-chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, United Nations (2013–2017, 2019–2021)
- Member of the Consultative Committee on the Arab Child Rights (2013–)
- Board member of Fatma bint Mubarak Award for Childhood and Motherhood (2018–)
- Focal Person for Asia and the Pacific in the Committee
- Candidate for the position of the chair of the Committee in 2015

Started as a teacher and in 2000 served as Director of Children’s Department at the General Organization for Youth and Sports. During her work, she was the team manager of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS – 2000). She participated in the preparation of initial and the combined second and third periodic reports of the Kingdom of Bahrain and a delegation member in the dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva 2001, 2011. Was appointed as the team manager to conduct the study “Situation Analysis of the children in Bahrain” (SitAn) in 2003 in collaboration with UNICEF and the American University in Cairo. Headed the team for the preparation of the Children’s Act. Was appointed as the consultant to the President for Youth Affairs, where she initiated the development of the first National Youth Strategy for the period 2005–2009 and managed its working team in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This Strategy has received three international awards as the best youth policy from the International Council on National Youth Policies (ICNYP) in Vienna in 2006, and the best youth strategy from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Amal worked again with UNDP to develop the new Youth Strategy for the period 2011–2015. As member of the National Committee for Children, she was appointed as head of the working team to develop the first National Child Strategy for the period 2013–2017. In collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) she established the network of peer education (Y-PEER) in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Was elected a member of the United Nations Sport for Peace and Development – International Working Group (SPD IWG) for the period 2010–2012.

As a member, she participated, among others, in the development of five general comments, co-chairing one of them. Was also elected the coordinator of the 30th anniversary of the CRC during 2019.

* Curricula vitae are issued without formal editing.

Rinchen Chopel (Bhutan)

Date and place of birth: 24 March 1960/Bumthang, Bhutan

Place of residence: Thimphu, Bhutan

Nationality: Bhutanese

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

Director General, SAIEVAC (South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children), The SAARC Apex Body for Children.

As the Chief Executive, responsible for the implementation of SAIEVAC's vision and mission regionally and nationally; principle contact point to provide necessary support and guidance to the SAIEVAC Mechanisms, which includes Governments, NACGs (CSOs), SACG (UN/INGO Network), Children and all other partners/stakeholders; Foster meaningful partnerships and networking; resource mobilization and development and implementation of an effective monitoring and evaluation strategy.

Other main professional activities, in particular related to children's rights:

- Strengthening the SAIEVAC movement within the framework of the 8 SAARC countries by fostering national and regional cooperation and partnerships;
- Implementing SAIEVAC's five thematic areas (commonest forms of VaC in South Asia) i.e. child marriage, corporal punishment, child labour, child sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking by developing regional actions and strategies with mainstreaming of CRC concluding observations as an important strategic mission;
- Ongoing efforts to create and implement a SAIEVAC Management Information System that can support a dynamic movement;
- Promoting/institutionalizing Child Participation in the SAIEVAC movement with clear policy instruments;
- Driving a vibrant CSO Movement (NACGs) to strengthen the National and Regional Actions.

Educational background:

- Medical Doctor with specialized training in public health, STIs, Health Education.
- Master's in Business Administration (Human Resource Management).
- Master's in Human Rights with special focus on children's rights.
- Intensive Course on Human Rights Instruments with major focus on CRC and CEDAW Reporting.

Relevant expertise on children's rights:

- For Bhutan – Drafting of national reports and presentation of CRC Reports to the Committee (2000 and 2004); Creating national institutions – National commission for Women and Children, Women and Child Protection Units, promoting child friendly Judicial and law enforcement procedures, and drafting of legal instruments – Child Care and protection Act;
- South Asia Region – founding member, chief architect and executive of the SAIEVAC Movement.

List of most recent publications in the field of children's rights:

- Legal Review on Strengthening Responses on Missing Children with Focus on Victim Protection for Child Survivors of Cross Border Trafficking – 2016.

- India Leads South Asia with its rapid decline in Child Marriages – 1 August 2019 on social story with Neha Chauhan.
- Member of the Leadership Team for Child Rights on Geoman Bind HTO, a prominent Research Organisation – 2017.

Fatimata Djourté Dembélé (Mali)

[Original: French]

Date and place of birth: 18 October 1953, Bamako, Mali**Working languages:** French**Current position/function:**

Human Rights Commissioner

Chair of the Working Group on Vulnerable Persons

Lawyer

Main professional activities:

Member of the subcommission for the protection of human rights, which is responsible for receiving individual and collective complaints concerning alleged human rights violations; recording human rights violations and taking all possible measures to put an end to them; ensuring respect for vulnerable groups and persons, including, inter alia, children, women, persons with disabilities; investigating human rights violations and submitting recommendations to the appropriate authorities regarding measures to strengthen human rights protection and human rights culture; and submitting recommendations to the public authorities regarding measures to strengthen respect for and the effective enjoyment of human rights. Member of the subcommission for the promotion of human rights, which is responsible for conducting awareness-raising, information and communication activities.

Educational background:

Toulouse University of Social Sciences, Faculty of Law

Certificate of Admission to Practice Law, 1981

Master's Degree in Public Law, 1978

Bachelor's Degree in Public Law, 1977

Training in research and analysis methodology and reporting techniques, Dakar, 1992

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Member of the committee responsible for drafting the periodic report of Mali on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Member of the steering committee for the child victim protection support project in Mali

Member of the technical coordination committee for the "Stop the War on Children" programme

Training of government and civil society actors on children's rights and local, national and international child protection mechanisms

Training for trainers on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the role of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

List of most recent publications in the field of children's rights:

Training module on children's rights for State officials and civil society organizations involved in the protection and promotion of those rights, 2019.

Report on the state of children's rights in Mali, 2018.

Legal guide on the protection of women and children in Mali, 2016.

Rifat Kassis (State of Palestine)

Date and place of birth: 02.10.1958, Beit Sahour, Palestine

Place of residence: Beit Sahour, Palestine

Nationality: Palestinian and Netherlands

United Nations working languages: Arabic, English

Current position/function:

Co-founder, MENA Representative and Executive Director of GRIP Consulting, a group of international consultants. I supervise and conduct consultancies in various aspects, like evaluations, strategic planning, baseline studies, researches and drafting policies and strategies, with focus on child protection. Our clients include ministries, national and international organizations like UNICEF, Save the Children International, Defense for Children International, Terre Des Homes and others.

Other main professional activities, in particular related to children's rights:

Between 1989 and 1996, I ran the Palestine YMCA Rehabilitation Programs providing psychosocial and rehabilitation services for traumatized and disabled children. I founded the only child rights organization in Palestine in 1991, DCIP, a section of the Geneva-based Defense for Children International (DCI) and was its director between 2008 till 2014. In 1996, I co-founded a shelter for street children in Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan as part of my work as representative of consortium of donors in Central Asia. In 2005, I was elected as President of the International Executive Council of DCI and was re-elected for another term in the year 2008 till the year 2012. In 2013, I was appointed as DCI General Commissioner for MENA Region. During my term ten Arab sections joined the international movement. In 1995 I helped establishing ARD/Denal, a local organization provides rehabilitation services to Chechen children victims of the civil war. I was selected to become a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on child welfare for two consecutive years (2008 and 2009). In 2014, I was elected by the International General Assembly of DCI as its president for the next five years.

Educational background:

B.A. Psychology and Sociology, Bethlehem University, Awarded: 1987

Advanced training

General Management, Bir Zeit University & Federation for International Training/Canada (November 1995)

Group Dynamics: Theory and Application, Bir Zeit University (September 1987)

Individual and Group Therapy, Bir Zeit University (November 1986)

Relevant expertise on children's rights

I have experience in evaluating and assessing programmes, drafting policies and strategies related to human rights in general and in particular children rights. I also have extensive working experience in child protection; children in armed conflict, children in conflict with the law, protecting children deprived of liberty from torture and ill-treatment, children victims of violence neglect and abuse, children with disability and justice for children in many countries and regions in the world among them Palestine, Jordan and MENA region, Chechnya, Central Asia and Europe.

List of most recent publications in the field of children's rights:

Contribution to books: in 2019 Palestinian Children: Caught in the Snare of Israeli Military Occupation, in 2009 A History of Child Rights in Action, **Researches:** in 2019 Research on electronic Gender Based Violence, in 2019 Guidebook on Alternatives to Detention for

Children in Jordan, in 2017 National Referral System of Child Protection against Abuse, Violence and Neglect; **Papers in conferences:** in 2018 “Humanitarian Access in Gaza, impact on Children”, UN Forum on Question of Palestine in New York, in 2017 “Role of Civil Society in Respect of Palestinian Children Rights”, in Kuwait.

Sopio Kiladze (Georgia)

Family name and first name: Kiladze Sopio

Date and place of birth: 16 January, 1984

Place of residence: Tbilisi, Georgia

Nationality: Georgian

United Nations working languages: English, Russian

Current position/function:

Ms. Sopio Kiladze serves as the Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration of the Parliament of Georgia since 2016. In her capacity, Ms. Kiladze is actively engaged in human rights policy making process; leads the activities of the Committee; represents the Committee in the Parliament, as well as in relevant interparliamentary relations; provides general supervision to the Committee work; exercises the powers granted to her by the rules of procedures and other legislative acts.

Other main professional activities, in particular related to children's rights:

Ms. Sopio Kiladze is the author of two major legislative initiatives on the rights of the child in Georgia: *the Code on the Rights of the Child and the Law on Social Work*. Adoption of the Code as a unified state policy document, provides for the effective mechanism to ensure the well-being of children. Proper realization of child rights is one of the major objectives of the Law of Georgia on Social work. The law ensures the protection of the most vulnerable groups, including children and provides for better services to them. For improved systematic and coordinated work on child rights, Ms. Kiladze advocated for the creation of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Child Rights. The Council aims at supervision of the execution of the legislation on children's rights, as well as the scrutiny of draft laws in light of child rights. Under the campaign "Children for Children" initiated by Ms. Kiladze, she united number of different activities across the country promoting children's solidarity and volunteerism. It is noteworthy that she herself is leading Regional Awareness Raising Campaign on children's rights. Ms. Sopio Kiladze teaches Public International Law at one of the leading Universities in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Educational background:

2006–2011 Ruprecht-Carls University of Heidelberg, Germany; Law Faculty (Staatsexamen)

Relevant expertise on children's rights:

Ms. Kiladze has a long-standing and recognized expertise in the field of elaboration and implementation of the relevant legal frameworks for the advancements of children's rights. She acquired extensive experience in the process of working on the Code on the Rights of the Child, which is applicable to all areas of the Convention. Social rights of the child is the field of her special interest.

List of most recent publications in the field of children's rights:

1. *Police Law handbook* – Irakli Beraia, Nukri Gelashvili, Ketevan Giorgishvili, Levan Izoria, Sopio Kiladze, Davit Muzashvili, Paata Turava (MIA Academy, 2015; Tbilisi).
2. *Manual on Social Work Law* – Sopio Kiladze, Anna Pirtskhalashvili (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; 2018; Tbilisi).
3. *Commentaries of the Code on the Rights of the Child* – Sopio Kiladze, Paata Turava (in progress).

Cephas Lumina (Zambia)

Date and place of birth: 13 June 1962, Kabwe, Zambia

Place of residence: East London, South Africa

Nationality: Zambian

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

- Member, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (since March 2017).
- Visiting Professor of Law, University of Lusaka (since 2015, lecturing postgraduate modules on Human Rights Law and Constitutional and Human Rights Litigation, among others).
- Advocate of the High Court of Zambia (admitted 1986).
- Human Rights Consultant (since 2002).

Other main professional activities, in particular related to children's rights:

- Full Professor of Law, conducting research and supervising postgraduate student research mainly in the field of human rights (including children's rights) at the Universities of Fort Hare and Lusaka.
- Conducting human rights training (including on children's rights) in both academic and non-academic contexts, giving invited lectures on human rights at various universities and presenting papers at international conferences on human rights.
- Consulting for international organisations, governments and non-governmental organisations (including the African Child Policy Forum; UNDP; International Development Law Organisation; Canadian International Development Agency; Swedish International Development Agency; Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs [Zimbabwe]; Legal Resources Centre [South Africa]; and Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law [Sweden], to mention a few).
- Visiting Professor, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (2007–2008); and Extra-Ordinary Professor of Human Rights Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa (2010–2018).
- UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights (2008–2014). In that context, contributed to the development of international human rights standards (including the Guiding Principles on foreign debt and human rights and the Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty).
- Member: International Institute of Human Rights, Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Extra-Territorial Human Rights Obligations Consortium, African Network of Constitutional Lawyers and Law Association of Zambia.

Educational background:

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in International Human Rights Law (Griffith University, Australia, 1999).
- Master of Laws (LLM) in International Human Rights Law (University of Essex, United Kingdom, 1993).
- Bachelor of Laws (LLB) (with Merit) (University of Zambia, Zambia, 1985).
- Postgraduate Diploma in International Human Rights Law (Abo Akademi University, Finland, 2003).
- Certificate of Admission to Practice as an Advocate of the High Court of Zambia (1986).

- Certificate in International Humanitarian Law (ICRC/University of Pretoria, 2001).

Relevant expertise on children's rights:

- Currently, a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (since March 2017) and its Working Groups on Individual Communications, Working Methods, Rules of Procedure (Joint Coordinator) and the SDGs. Also serve as the Committee's focal person on climate change and corruption and human rights, and have represented the Committee at various meetings, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union 141st Assembly Workshop on the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, October 2019 (Presentation: "Role of parliaments in implementing the Convention"); OHCHR/UNDP Senior Level Expert Consultation on the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy, June 2019; Geneva Academy/OHCHR Meeting of UN treaty bodies on "corruption and human rights", October 2018; COP23 side events on "Children's Rights, Climate Change and Climate Action" (organized by UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children, ChildFund Alliance and World Vision) and "Dreaming Big in Climate Education", (organized by One UN), November 2017; and Sub-Saharan Regional Workshop on Freedom of Religion or Belief, November 2019 (Presentation: "Religion and child marriage").
- Conducted a "Continental Study on the Status of Harmonization of Laws on Children in Africa with International and Regional Child Rights Instruments" for the African Child Policy Forum (2019).
- Have conducted and published academic research as well as training for non-governmental organizations and in an academic context on, inter alia, children's rights.

List of most recent publications in the field:

Professor Lumina has numerous publications including official reports prepared as UN Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights and the following scholarly work:

- "The Normative Complementary of the African Children's Charter and the African Women's Protocol in the Context of Efforts to Combat Child Marriage" (2017) 31(1) *Speculum Juris* 41 (with A Olaborede)
- "The Protection of Children in Armed Conflict", in F Viljoen and D Kuwali (eds), "All Means Necessary": *Protecting Civilians and Preventing Atrocities in Africa* (Pretoria University Law Press 2017)
- "Child Soldiers: War Criminals or Pawns in a Deadly Game?" (2007) *African Yearbook on International Humanitarian Law* 76.
- "Counting the Cost: The Impact of Corporate Warfare on the Human Rights of Women and Children in Africa" in S Gumede (ed), *Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa: The Need for a New Continental Approach*. Monograph No. 147 (Institute for Security Studies 2007).

Benyam Dawit Mezmur (Ethiopia)

Date and place of birth: 22 May 1980, Addis Ababa

Nationality: Ethiopian

Working languages: English

Current position/function:

Member and former Chairperson (2015–2017) of the *UN Committee on the Rights of the Child*, and the *African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child* (chairperson from 2012–2013, and 2015–2017, and currently its special rapporteur on children and armed conflict) of the African Union.

Professor of Law, and Deputy Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies, University of the Western Cape (UWC), Cape Town, South Africa and lecture/supervise on an *ad hoc* basis in Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

Senior Researcher and Coordinator at the Children's Rights Project, Dullah Omar Institute for Constitutional Law, Governance and Human Rights, UWC.

Member of the *Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors* appointed by the Holy Father Pope Francis.

Other main professional activities, in particular related to children's rights:

Mr. Mezmur is currently a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (and served as its Chairperson from May 2015 until May 2017) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the African Union (and served as its Chairperson twice from 2012–2014, and 2015–2017). As an academician, Mr. Mezmur has lectured (and supervised) on children's rights, children's rights and climate change, the rights of persons with disabilities, international protection of human rights, international family law, and the African human rights system in a number of academic institutions in Africa (Ethiopia and South Africa) and Europe (Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, The Netherlands, UK etc). Mr. Mezmur conducts research on law and policy development on children's rights in a number of African countries and beyond, and has been involved as a resource person in institutional efforts aimed at providing technical support to governments through UN agencies such as UNICEF and UNHCR. In addition, he has been involved in advocacy work on the rights of the child with treaty bodies and special procedures (on torture, environment, minority issues, sale and sexual exploitation of children, etc) at the UN, as well as at the Human Rights Council.

Educational background:

Doctorate in Law (LLD), (2010), University of Western Cape, (research paper on child rights in intercountry adoption);

Master's in Law (LLM) in Human Rights and Democratization (CHR), (2005), University of Pretoria, South Africa (research paper on child soldiers);

Postgraduate Diploma in international protection of human rights, (2007), Abo Akademi, Finland;

Bachelor of Laws (LLB), (2003), Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia; and Certificates in mental disability law (CEU, Budapest); development law; international criminal and humanitarian law; ESC rights; etc.

Relevant expertise on children's rights:

Mr. Mezmur is serving/has served as the Coordinator of the CRC Committee's Working Groups on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (since 2017), Optional Protocol on a communications procedure (OPIC) (2019–2020) and is also the Focal Person for UNICEF (since 2017). He also served as Coordinator of the Committee's Working Group that drafted the Joint General Comment on children's rights and migration; has taken part in the

negotiations to draft the 3rd Optional Protocol; and has made submissions to, or participated in, the Human Rights Council, and its Day on the Rights of the Child. Mr. Mezmur also serves/served in Expert Groups/Meetings/Task Forces/Advisory Boards such as on the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Their Liberty; children’s rights and digital media; budgeting for children; children’s rights and the business sector; commercial sexual exploitation (ECPAT); violence against children including harmful practices (SRSG VAC); and the right to education. Mr. Mezmur has also been invited as a speaker/moderator to more than 100 international and regional meetings/conferences/workshops in the last decade including recently to the World Statelessness Conference (June 2019, The Hague), the Social Forum of the Human Rights Council, the UN Forum on Minority Issues (2018, 2019), and the Annual High-Level Panel of the Human Rights Council on human rights mainstreaming (Feb 2020). Mr. Mezmur has also been invited to engage with the European Parliament and Council of Europe (on child marriage, migration, child participation etc), and the Pan African Parliament.

Mr. Mezmur is a member of the Governing/Advisory Boards of the Children’s Institute (South Africa), Keeping Children Safe (UK), and All Survivors Project (Liechtenstein). He is also a member of the Advisory Board on Travel and Tourism, ECPAT International (Thailand), Institute on Statelessness (Eindhoven, The Netherlands and London, UK); Expert Committee of the International Children’s Prize (Netherlands); Special Advisor to the Supervisory Board Child Helpline International (The Netherlands); and Member of the Advisory Committee for the Development of Principles on Citizenship Stripping as a Security Measure (since 2016). Formerly Mr. Mezmur was a Legal Officer (2003–2005) at the ACPF (Ethiopia) and continues to serve on its International Board of Trustees, which is chaired by Mme. Graça Machel.

List of most recent publications in the field of children’s rights:

Mr. Mezmur has more than 60 published academic and lay publications/reports/ etc on child/human rights in the last few years including:

1. “Reflections on family law issues in the jurisprudence of the UN CRC Committee: The Convention on the Rights of the Child @ 30:” (with O Khazova) (2019) *The International Survey of Family Law* 305–327
2. “Technology changing @ a dizzying pace: Reflections on selected jurisprudence of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child” (with A Skelton) (2019) 3 *Peace Human Rights Governance* 275–305
3. ““Every ‘i’ dotted, and every ‘t’ crossed?: The Joint General Comments on the rights of children in the context of international migration in the Horn of Africa” (2019) IV *Ethiopian Journal of Human Rights* 1–33
4. “No second chance for first impressions: The first amicable settlement under the African Children’s Charter” (2019) 19 *African Human Rights Law Journal* 62–84
5. “Taking measures without taking measurements? An insider’s views on monitoring the implementation of the African Children’s Charter in the context of armed conflict” (2019) 905 *International Review of the Red Cross*
6. “The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child” in Boezaart CJ (ed.) *Child Law in South Africa* (Juta) (2017) 401–423

Otani Mikiko (Japan)

Date and place of birth: 18 November 1964, Osaka

Place of residence: Tokyo

Nationality: Japanese

United Nations working languages: English

Current position/function:

- Member, Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (2017–present)
- Council Member, International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute (2017–present)
- Director, Japan Committee for UNICEF (2018–present)
- Country representative of Japan, Family Law and Family Rights Section of the Law Association for Asia and Pacific (2008–present)
- Partner Lawyer, Otani and Partners Law Offices (2017–present)
- Lecturer, Graduate School of Law, Soka University (2004–present)

Other main professional activities, in particular related to children’s rights:

- Served as a member of the CRC since 2017 and have committed to protecting and promoting children’s rights, with long experience of engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms, including the CRC, and of legal practice and NGO activities in support of Japan’s implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- About 30 years of legal practice in the field of family law, focusing on the rights of children, women and migrants, with special expertise in international family law and international human rights law.
- Internationally recognized leading expert in the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.
- Served as Alternative Representative of Japan to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2005 and 2006 and participated in various UN conferences on human rights, women’s issues and crime prevention.
- Engaged in the work of national, regional and international bar associations in the area of human rights and provided training and expert advice to lawyers, judges and government officials at the national, regional and international levels.
- Frequently invited to speak on child rights issues at regional and international conferences.

Educational background:

- Ph.D., Aoyama Gakuin University, Graduate School of Law (2020)
- Dissertation: *Right to Remedies of Child Victims of Violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*
- LL.M., University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Law and Politics (2003)
- Master’s thesis: *Clauses to Waiver Claims of Nationals and Diplomatic Protection in Peace Treaties*
- M.I.A. in Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (1999)
- Diploma (qualified to practice law), Legal Training and Research Institute of Supreme Court of Japan (1990)
- LL.B. in International Legal Studies, Sophia University, Faculty of Law (1987)

- Relevant expertise on children’s rights:
- Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related experience:
- Actively contributed to the CRC during the first term, including by:
 - Leading the work of the Day of General Discussion (DGD) 2018 of the CRC on “Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders” as Co-coordinator of the Working Group on DGD 2018;
 - Improving the working methods of the CRC as Coordinator of the Working Group on Working Methods;
 - Engaging in the 2020 Treaty Bodies review process as Co-Focal Point of the CRC; and
 - Participating in the Working Group on the Joint General Comment on the human rights of children in the context of international migration, the Working Group on the General Comment on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment, the Working Group on SDGs, and the Working Group on child participation.
- During nearly 30 years of practicing family law, including over 15 years of experience in international family mediation, have tirelessly committed to integrating a child rights-based approach into legislation, procedures and practice of family law by encouraging the States parties and relevant professionals to promote the best interests of the child, child participation and mediation.
- Actively engaged in efforts to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups of people such as migrant families and victims of human trafficking, including children, by founding “Lawyers Network for Foreigners” (served as co-representative from 2009 to 2019) and “Lawyers for Trafficked Victims” (former “Trafficking in Persons Project Team) (served as representative from 2013 to present) in Japan.

List of most recent publications in the field of children’s rights:

- “The Hague Convention and International Human Rights Law” in *Guide to National Implementation of the Hague Convention*, Mikiko Otani and Yuko Nishitani (eds.) (to be published in 2020) (Japanese)
- “The Activities of the United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms on the Protection of the Human Rights of Children in the Context of Human Movement,” *The United Nations Studies*, No. 19 (2018) (Japanese)
- “The Fifth World Conference on Women – opportunity for empowerment of girls”, *Asian Breeze*, No. 83 (2018) (English)
- “Position of family in the international human rights law”, *International Human Rights*, No. 28 (2017) (Japanese)
- *Family Law: Jurisdictional Comparisons*, James Stewart (ed.) (European Lawyer Reference) (author for Chapter on Japan) (2013) (English)

Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna (Uruguay)

[Original: Spanish]

Date and place of birth: Uruguay, 5 October 1969**Place of residence:** Uruguay**Nationality:** Uruguayan**Working languages:** Spanish (mother tongue), French (advanced), Portuguese (advanced) and English (basic knowledge)**Current position/functions:**

Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, Vice-Chair of the meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

Independent consultant

Other professional activities, in particular related to children's and adolescents' rights:

Coordinator, Day of General Discussion: "Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders", 2018

Member of the Working Group on Communications acting under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure

Member of the Academic Committee for the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Juvenile Justice offered by the University of Geneva and the International Institute for the Rights of the Child

Guest lecturer in undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Uruguay and abroad, and author of numerous articles on children's rights in specialized and academic publications

Chair of the Scientific Committee of the World Congress on Justice for Children, to be held in Mexico in 2021

Experience in working with civil society and in children's rights protection

Member of the International Board of Trustees of the African Child Policy Forum

Guest lecturer at the University of Malaga for its summer course on immigration and vulnerable groups

Module supervisor, Certificate of Advanced Studies in Juvenile Justice 2018/19, University of Geneva and the International Institute for the Rights of the Child

Educational background:

- Legal studies, Faculty of Law, University of the Republic, 1989–1996
- VII Specialization Course: "Jurisdictional protection of children's rights for judges, lawyers and prosecutors in the Southern Cone", Santiago, Chile, 2004, organized by UNICEF and the Faculty of Law of Diego Portales University
- Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights, Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, San José, Costa Rica, 1996

Relevant expertise on children's and adolescents' rights

Specialist expertise in juvenile justice issues and the monitoring of adolescent detention centres in Latin America. Invited to various regions by States, national human rights institutions, children's ombudsmen, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations to support the dissemination of and follow-up to the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Jury member for several competitions involving children's rights. Observer to the XXII Pan American Child and Adolescent Congress, held

in Colombia in 2019, the objective of which was to bridge the gap between the inter-American and universal child right protection systems.

List of most recent publications in the field of children’s and adolescents’ rights:

- *Justicia juvenil: Prácticas restaurativas y políticas públicas*, Ombudsman of Santa Fe Province, (Children’s and Adolescents’ Ombudsman of Santa Fe Province, 2020).
- “Risk of Violence, Abuse and Negligence to Children Living in Institutions”, in *A Goal Within Reach: Ending the Institutionalization of Children to Ensure No One is Left Behind* (United Kingdom, Lumos, 2019).
- *30 ans de droits de l’enfant: un nouvel élan pour l’humanité* (University of Geneva, 2019).
- “Prologue”, in *Niñez que cuenta: el impacto de las políticas de drogas sobre niños, niñas y adolescentes con padres y madres encarcelados en América Latina y el Caribe* (Buenos Aires, Church World Service Regional Office).
- “Consideraciones Generales a 28 años de aprobada la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño”, *Boletín IINFancia*, No. 4 (Inter-American Children’s Institute, Organization of American States, 2018).

Zara Ratou (Chad)

[Original: French]

Date and place of birth: 3 June 1962**Nationality:** Chadian**Working languages:** French, Arabic**Current position/function:**

I am currently the Director of Children's Affairs and Coordinator of the Child Protection Programme. My duties are to design, prepare and coordinate the national children's policy; to contribute to ensuring the widespread coverage of basic social services (education, health, nutrition, etc.) for children through information campaigns and awareness-raising activities in local communities on the legal instruments that protect children's rights; to combat the use and recruitment of children by armed forces and armed groups and ensure the withdrawal and social and occupational reintegration of child recruits; and to combat harmful traditional practices.

Main professional activities, in particular related to children's rights:

From 2014 to the present: Director of Children's Affairs and Coordinator of the Child Protection Programme, responsible for the design and development of tools for the management of transit and referral centres for children in conflict with the law and children involved with armed forces and armed groups or terrorist organizations; the situation of unaccompanied and separated children in refugee camps; the creation of child-friendly spaces in camps for refugees and displaced persons in Chad; family tracing for reunification purposes; the effective coordination of the child protection sector through the organization of subcluster meetings; the preparation of and participation in biannual and annual reviews of child protection programmes; the implementation of international legal instruments for the protection and well-being of children deprived of special protection, including the Presidential Directive to Stop the Recruitment of Children by Armed Groups; the establishment of recreation centres organizing games and recreational, cultural and artistic activities; the development of regional partnerships with public and private institutions, representatives of different religious denominations, non-governmental organizations and traditional leaders with a view to eradicating polio.

Educational background:

Diploma in Technical Administration from the Chadian Institute of Educational Sciences; one-year Master's Degree in Participatory Development Communication, Cotonou, Benin; Bachelor's Degree in Childhood Sciences from the National Institute of Social Training in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; Certificate in Preschool Education from the National College of Public Health and Social Services of Chad; Certificate of Training on Preschool Education in the French-speaking Countries of Africa from Zhejiang University, China; Certificate of Training on the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, Senegal.

Relevant expertise on children's rights:

I developed extensive expertise in the field of children's rights during the eight years that I spent at UNICEF as a health communication assistant, a monitoring and evaluation assistant for cooperation projects and programmes, and a development communicator. My six years as Director of Children's Affairs at the Ministry for Early Childhood Protection have allowed me to develop teamwork skills and to gain experience in organizing forums, designing tools and preparing periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), which addresses the six grave violations of children's rights.

List of most recent publications in the field of children's rights:

Drafting of national terms of reference and design of posters, leaflets and training modules for the annual commemoration of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; preparation and submission of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; drafting of the Interim Child Justice Strategy for Chad; publication of tools for launching the campaign against child marriage; drafting of legal instruments and publication of the Plan of Action and the Road Map on Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation in Chad.

Ann Marie Skelton (South Africa)

Date of birth and citizenship: 13 July 1961, South African

Working language: English (home language), French (basic)

Current position/function:

Ann Skelton is recognized in her country and internationally as a foremost expert in child law. Ann Skelton is a Professor of Law at the University of Pretoria, where she holds the UNESCO Chair in Education Law in Africa, teaches child law and education law, and supervises post graduate students. She has been a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child since 2017.

Main professional activities:

Professor Ann Skelton has worked as a children's rights lawyer in South Africa for 30 years. She played a leading role in child law reform through her involvement with the committees of the South African Law Reform Commission that drafted the Child Justice Act and the Children's Act. Ann was the Director of the Centre for Child Law for 10 years, and initiated its strategic impact litigation work. She is an advocate and has appeared as counsel in many landmark child law cases in the South African superior courts, including 12 cases in the Constitutional Court. She is an internationally recognised researcher and has published widely on international children's rights, education law and restorative justice. In addition to her teaching at the University of Pretoria, she is a visiting lecturer in advanced masters' courses at the University of Leiden and at the University of Oxford.

In 2012 she received the Honorary World's Children's Prize, presented by Queen Sylvia of Sweden. In December 2016 she was awarded the Juvenile Justice Without Borders award presented by the International Observatory on Juvenile Justice, Paris.

During her first term on the Committee on the Rights of the Child, she chaired the working group that drafted General Comment 24 on Children's rights in child justice systems, presented to the Scottish Parliament on behalf of the Committee, has served on the working group on simplified reporting procedures and has been an active member on the working group on the communications procedure (OPIC).

Educational background:

Ann Skelton has a doctorate in law (LLD) from the University of Pretoria, the thesis topic was child justice and restorative justice. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

Ann Skelton is recognized within the United Nations system as an expert on children's rights and as such has been invited by UNICEF, UNODC, OHCHR, amongst others, to provide expert technical input, for example:

Chaired an international expert committee that drafted the Abidjan Principles on the Right to Education and the regulation of private education, adopted in February 2019.

Chaired the Advisory Board of the United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty and attended two expert meetings in Venice related to the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of their Liberty in March 2019 and March 2017.

March 2014: Participated in the expert meeting to discuss access to justice in the IDLO region (Eastern Europe) in Geneva, at the request of UNICEF.

Jan 2012: Prepared the concept document for and participated in an expert consultation on "*Violence against children in the juvenile justice system*" in Vienna, at the request of the UNODC, the OHCHR and the SR of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children.

This culminated in a thematic report. It was presented to the General Assembly on 27 June 2012 (A/HRC/21/25).

September 2011: Participated as a plenary panel speaker at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child “*Day of General Discussion: Children of incarcerated parents*”.

July 2011: Participated in the expert group meeting to discuss “*The legal framework required to prohibit, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children*” in Geneva, at the request of OHCHR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

June 2010: Participated in the expert group meeting to discuss “*The 3rd optional protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure*”, at the request of the OHCHR.

Selected recent publications:

Ann Skelton has published over 50 peer reviewed articles and chapters in books, a small selection of relevant recent work appears below:

Ann Skelton “A hiding to something: Reduction of violence against children in South Africa’s justice system” in W O’Brien and C Foussard (eds) *Violence Against Children in the Criminal Justice System: Global Perspectives on Prevention* (2019) Routledge: Abingdon.

Skelton A “Child justice in South Africa: Application of international instruments by the Constitutional Court” (2018) 26 *International Journal of Children’s Rights* 391–422.

Skelton A “International Children’s Rights Law: Complaints and Remedies” in: In: Kilkelly U., Liefwaard T. (eds) *International Human Rights of Children. International Human Rights*. Springer, Singapore (2018).

Skelton A “South Africa” in T Liefwaard and J Doek (eds) *Litigating Children’s Rights: The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Domestic and International Jurisprudence* (2015) 1–13 Springer: Netherlands.

Skelton A “Freedom in the Making” in F Zimring et al *Juvenile Justice in Global Perspective* (2015) 327–369 NYU Press: New York.

Velina Todorova (Bulgaria)**Date and place of birth:** 03.05.58, Bulgaria**Place of residence:** Sofia, Bulgaria**Nationality:** Bulgarian**Working languages:** English, Russian, Bulgarian**Current position/function:**

2017–2021: UN Committee on the Rights of the Child – Member.

2019: Vice Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Member to the following Working groups to the Committee:

- (a) Drafting Guidelines on the Implementation of the CRC – OPSC (Chair to the WG);
- (b) Communications Procedure (OPIC);
- (c) SDGs and Children’s Rights;
- (d) Joint WG: CRC – CRPD;
- (e) Revision of the General Comment 10 on Children’s Rights in Juvenile Justice.

2007: Associate Professor (Docent): Law Faculty, University of Plovdiv and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Research & teaching subjects: Civil and Family Law and Rights of Children, Civil Status.

2014: Member to the Experts’ Committee on the CoE Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

2005: Member to the Editorial Advisory Board of the International Journal on the Rights of the Child, BRILL, Nijhoff and Intersentia – CEFL (2015).

Main professional activities:

December 2011–May 2013: Deputy Minister of Justice (sectors i.a.: International Child Protection and International Adoption, Juvenile Justice Reform).

2004–2009: National Programme Manager for International Labour Organization (ILO) – PROTECT CEE: child labour, WFCL, incl. sexual exploitation and trafficking in children.

2001–2004: Director International Cooperation – Governmental Agency for Child Protection.

2000: Member of the: Commission on European Family Law <http://www.ceflonline.net/>
 Extensive legal expertise and law making experience: Family Code (2008), Child Protection legislation (1999–2000, 2003, 2009; incl. Draft Child’s Rights Act of 2010), Protection against Domestic Violence Act (2005), Supported Decision Making Draft Law (2014–2015); new Juvenile Justice Legislation (2014–2015).

Experience in strategic planning (compilation of National Strategy on the Child

(2008–2018 and 2019–2030), Road Map on the Juvenile Justice Reform (2013–2015).

Educational background:

July 2000: Oxford University, UK: Children and Family Law; Law on Human Rights;

September–December 1997: European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, Nottingham University UK Law Faculty;

1989: Ph.D. in Sociology of Law;

1976–1980: Lawyer, MA, Law Faculty, Sofia University.

Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned:

2017–2019: Speaker to Intersessional events of the UN Human Rights Council:

36 Session (1/ ‘Ending Violence against Children in Europe and Central Asia’ organized by the PMs of Montenegro and of Norway, and UNICEF; 2/ ‘Empowering Children with Disabilities through Inclusive Education: Building on Diversity’, organized by the PM of Bulgaria in collaboration with the OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UNICEF.

2018–2019: 10th and 11th International Disability Law Summer School “*Intersectionality as a tool for Social Change*” and “*People with Disabilities and the Right to Family Life*”, Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP), NU of Ireland; Intersectional approach with regard to rights of children with disabilities in the Jurisprudence of the UN CRC; Alternative care for children with disabilities.

2018: 4th Meeting of the Council of Europe, Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child:

The two Joint General Comments of the CRC and of the CMW on the Human Rights of Children in the Context of International Migration (CMW/C/GC/3-CRC/C/GC/22 and CMW/C/GC/4-CRC/C/GC/23).

2018: Informal COHOM¹ Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria, during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union; Working Session 1: “Empowering Children with disabilities through inclusive education”.

2018: Eurochild General Assembly Meeting, Brussels.

2018: “All appropriate measures. Budgeting for the realization of children’s rights (art. 4)”, Annual conference “Barnrättsdagarna”, Sweden.

2018: “Cambridge Family Law” (University of Cambridge) and Academy on European Law (ERA) conference on Law and Practice of Surrogacy; The jurisprudence of the UN CRC on surrogacy and international surrogacy.

2018: 11th Human Rights Forum, Budapest, Hungary, presentation “The role of education in the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child”.

2018: Centre for Child Law, University of Pretoria, RSA: conference “*Imagining children Constitutionally: 20 years of strategic litigation and advocacy*”. Paper: Eastern European Jurisprudence on Children’s Rights.

Awarded by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria in 2014 for an extraordinary contribution for the protection of the rights of the child in Bulgaria and in the occasion of 25th anniversary of the UN CRC.

List of relevant and recent publications in the field:

Guardianship for Children: Challenges in the Context of Migration. In: Family Law and Family Realities. 16th ISFL World Conference Book. 2019.

Juvenile Justice in Bulgaria: Reforms and Resistance. International and National Perspectives on Child and Family Law, Intersentia, 2018.

Family Code: Thematic Commentary. 2015, Sofia, Chapters: Adoption; Parents – Child Relationship.

Commentary on the new Family Code. 2009. Sofia. Co-author.

Juvenile Justice in Bulgaria: Reforms and Resistance. International and National Perspectives on Child and Family Law, Intersentia, 2018.

¹ COHOM is the Working Party on Human Rights and contributes to the shaping of the policy of the European Union on Human Rights in its external relations and monitors developments in the area of Human Rights worldwide.

Family Justice in Bulgaria: The Old System and the New Demands. In: Delivering Family Justice in 21st Century. Hart Publishers, 2015.

The New Paradigm of the Legal Capacity: article 12 of the UNCRPD. Pravna Misal, 1/2014 г. co-author.

Mothers and Fathers Disputing Parental Rights: For a New Gender Order in the Family Law? In: Family Relationships in the Changing Society. Sofia, SIBI, 2014.

Child Relocation: the Law and Practice in Bulgaria. Pravna Misal, 3/2011.

Children's Rights in Bulgaria after the End of the Communism. The International Journal of Children's Rights, Vol. 17, No 4, 2009.

Benoit Van Keirsbilck (Belgium)

Date and place of birth: 4 March 1963 – Cochabamba (Bolivia)

Place of residence: Belgium

Nationality: Belgian

United Nations working languages: French, English, Spanish

Current position/function:

Director of Defence for children international (DCI-Belgium) since 2012, a leading child rights-focused organization committed to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the local, national and international level.

Member and Teacher at the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Rights of the Child (Centre interdisciplinaire des Droits de l'Enfant – CIDE – www.lecide.be) an academic Research and Training Center, since 2007.

Editor in Chief – Journalist at the “Children’s right journal” (Journal du Droit des jeunes – www.jdj.be), since 1990.

Member of the advisory body of the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, since 2015.

Member of the Advisory Committee of the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/StudyChildrenDeprivedLiberty/Pages/Index.aspx).

Other main professional activities, in particular related to children’s rights:

Lecturer in numerous international symposiums, conferences and seminars in matters dealing with migrant children, juvenile justice, access to justice, child protection, socio-legal defence of children, etc.

International trainer and expert in children’s rights, justice for children and child protection, notably for the Council of Europe, the European Union, the International Organisation of the Francophonie and other international bodies, universities and research centres.

Participation in the Council of Europe Expert Group in charge of the drafting of the Council of Europe Guidelines on Child Friendly Justice, the development of an online training on the same topic for the COE HELP Programme and participation in the evaluation of the Council of Europe strategy on the rights of the child. Expert in child justice for many European projects: Children rights behind bars, My Lawyer, my rights, Projus, TALE, Twelve, AWAY, BRIDGE (www.dei-belgique.be).

Educational background:**Academic background:**

1982–1985: Institut Supérieur de Formation Sociale – Brussels Bachelor in Social Work

1995 University of Ghent: Postgraduate studies on children’s rights

Other training and courses:

Training in youth law and children’s rights at the Training center Jeunesse et Droit and at the Summer School of the University Institute Kurt Bosh in Sion (University of Geneva – Switzerland).

Numerous occasional training courses, participation in study days, symposiums, working seminars at national and international levels.

Relevant expertise on children’s rights:

Benoit Van Keirsbilck has dedicated his entire 35-year career to children’s rights at national and international levels. He has a rich and broad experience: working in the field alongside

children and families, legal expertise, evaluation of social and legal systems, training of professionals, writing articles and publishing books, monitoring legal proceedings at national and international levels, participation in expert committees, teaching. He has an in-depth knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and has followed the work of the United Nations Committee since its creation, in particular by participating in several monitoring activities.

List of most recent publications in the field of children's rights:

Benoit Van Keirsbilck and Anna Tomasi, *Socio-legal Defense Model: Realising children's rights*, in *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Taking Stock after 25 Years and Looking Ahead*, ed. Brill/Nijoff, edited by Ton Liefaard and Julia Sloth-Nielsen, 2016.

Benoit Van Keirsbilck et Sarah Grandfils, *Privation de liberté d'enfants, les défis du monitoring*, in *Justice Juvénile: les fondamentaux*; ed. Institut International des droits de l'enfant, Genève, 2016 (sous la direction de Philip D. Jaffé, Michel Lachat, Paola Riva Gapany, Renate Winter, Jean Zermatten).

Benoit Van Keirsbilck et Géraldine Mathieu (dir.), *Les droits de l'enfant expliqués aux grands*, Couleur livres, Jeunesse & Droit (éd.), 2014.

Benoit Van Keirsbilck, *La privation de liberté des enfants, l'importance du monitoring*, in *Justice Juvénile: les fondamentaux*, Institut international des Droits de l'Enfant, 2016.

Benoit Van Keirsbilck, *Rôle des ONG dans la mise en oeuvre de la Convention internationale relative aux droits de l'enfant*, in «Regards croisés sur deux décennies d'application de la Convention des Nations-Unies relative aux droits de l'enfant au Nord et au Sud de la Méditerranée», 2014.
