



Elections 2024

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)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)

Questionnaire for candidates

Six 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), Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)) will have elections organised in 2024.

In order to strengthen the treaty bodies, the International Disability Alliance, Child Rights Connect, IRAW Asia Pacific, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights, and the Global Initiative For Economic, Social And Cultural Rights – 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 TB-Net website, 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: Diana González Perrett

2. Nationality: Uruguayan

3. Current position: I am a lawyer and consultant on gender issues.

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, I did not work in the public sphere since 2005. Until that date I was a public official, the last task was advising a feminist legislator. Later I worked in legal advising and defending rights independently or contracted by civil society organizations.

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:

There is no conflict of interest. The government has nominated me since I am neither a worker nor a political sympathizer of the government. I do not work in any political party or in any government space.

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

Yes. I was proposed by the NGO El Paso, an organization that works on the issue of violence against women and girls. Next, this proposal was presented to civil society networks and organizations on women's rights: Pro Care Network, Uruguayan Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence, National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations Oriented to Development (ANONG), CLADEM Uruguay, Mujer Ahora Uruguay, Women and Health in Uruguay (MYSU) and Cotidiano Mujer. I have the pleasant honor of having been unanimously supported by social organizations. This support was also provided by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences- Uruguay (FLACSO- Uruguay). In the following link you will find the my institutional support <https://diana-gonzalez-perrett.es/apoyos-institucionales/>

This application was accepted and also supported by the government.

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

I propose to continue supporting and advising women voluntarily (honorary) in the area where I live and in the Pro Care Network, to the extent that my work in CEDAW allows me. I believe that maintaining contact with concrete situations and with advocacy organizations on the issue will enrich my work on the Committee, as long as the time I dedicate to them can be reconciled with the time required by the Committee, whose tasks I will prioritize.

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 am available full-time to work on the Committee. The activities mentioned in the response to the previous question would only be undertaken to the extent that they do not hinder my work in CEDAW.

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

As a user of these organs, find the following challenges:

Effective response - The response of the treaty bodies to complaints is of very good quality but generally arrives late, which often results in their ineffectiveness. I believe that a balance must be achieved, in such a way as to reach the best possible response in time for the specific situation. The same happens with the reports, which often refer to periods already surpassed by the country. Intermediate actions that initiate dialogue with the countries in the given situation could be strengthened, betting on the dialogue process over the final pronouncement.

Facilitate the preparation of national reports - Given that each treaty body requests a report and at the same time regional bodies also request it, countries are overburdened with the task of highlighting them, since reports have to be a tool for improvement and not an overload. I believe that there should be coordination between the treaty bodies and other regional bodies that refer to common themes so that the response given to one of them is useful for all, homogenizing the reports and coordinating the rendering of accounts.

Provide tools to States for self-assessment of the state of compliance with international human rights standards in their public policies, plans, services, etc. This process is already being carried out in some bodies and also in MESECVI/OAS, providing the States with indicators to self-evaluate the processes and implementation of the Belem do Para Convention.

Approach to States and civil society organizations - It is difficult and expensive, especially for social organizations, to participate in treaty bodies. I believe that it is necessary to make bureaucratic demands more flexible and facilitate communication through digital media.

Adapt the language and length of the statements, particularly the general recommendations. I consider that the language and length of the statements conspire against good communication with the new generations and with the population in a disability situation, old people or other situations.

They follow the standards required by the academy and this can sometimes make them tedious and even incomprehensible for some people, mainly the youngest or those who have reading difficulties, due to disability situations, age, or other situations. It is necessary to recognize and respect the language and form of communication of the populations to whom the pronouncements of the treaty bodies are addressed, to allow dialogue and the strengthening of rights.

10. Given the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide and the disruption of in person meetings of treaty bodies, will you be willing to adapt to undertake online work during your mandate, as an increasing way of functioning of the Committees?

Of course. Although in-person meetings provide a richer exchange, virtual communication significantly expands the possibilities for participation, both for experts and for other women and women's organizations. Therefore, I believe it is important to continue advancing in this direction and to use make the most of the opportunities offered by online communication to promote inclusive participation and knowledge exchange.

Link to your full resume: <https://diana-gonzalez-perrett.es/sobre-mi/>





Questions for candidates to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee)

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 Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women? ([video option](#))

I believe I have strengths and good skills to have a favourable impact on CEDAW Committee.

Firstly because I am familiar with the regulations and how they impact women in my region, the latinoamerican. I have always worked from the perspective of international human rights treaties.

Secondly, because my experience on the Expert Committee of MESECVI/OAS, monitoring the Convention of Belém do Pará, was very positive. I was able to contribute to the development of recommendations and reports that strengthened women's rights. To achieve this, I devoted myself to rigorously studying the topics presented and to understanding the diversity of cultures and life experiences.

I am supported by social organizations in my country and the region based on my many years of work in this field, and in this sense, they confer legitimacy to my actions.

2. **What are your specific areas of expertise in relation to CEDAW? Please provide examples as appropriate.** ([video option](#))

- Review and drafting of national and regional legislation with international human rights standards as a reference framework.
- Advocacy within the justice system through strategic litigation and researchs and compliance reviews of international and national regulations.
- Counseling, defense, and research on the following topics:

- Women in situations of violence, particularly sexual violence, forced prostitution, commercial sexual exploitation, and sex trafficking of women and girls.
- Rural women, a population that faces persistent discrimination in legislation and practice regarding rural assets, social security, rural family enterprises, as well as opportunities to participate in public life.
- Right to care, to be cared for, and to provide care. It is still not a reality for women, who provide care, to share caregiving responsibilities with men. And for women to be cared for and able to self-care. This is a topic that needs to be incorporated into the public policy agendas of countries.
- Sexual diversity and gender identity as inherent human rights to the free development of personality.
- Attached is the website where most of the publications resulting from the studies conducted can be found: <https://diana-gonzalez-perrett.es/publicaciones>

3. What do you think are the most critical and emerging issues for women's human rights and gender equality? Please provide 1-2 examples.

1. The urgent need for public care policies. The inclusion of women in the public world (training, paid work, leisure, care of their bodies, cultural and creative activities), the full possibilities of social and political participation as active actors, is permanently limited by the cultural assignment of work. to care for the people who depend on that care in their environment. It determines one of the biggest obstacles to achieving gender equality in development processes.

Women reproduce poverty through their families, they endure violence and make it structural in societies that do not contemplate co-responsibility for the care that maintains the well-being of the population.

2. Violence against women remains a critical obstacle to equality, as pointed out by the Committee in RG 35. As women advance in equality and participation, new mechanisms are generated: violence in digital media, in contexts of drug trafficking, in political life and of course, in the family environment, now covered with another discourse: the SAP, which has given rise to the compulsive separation of their children or the threat of it as a disciplinarian to women who achieve advances in freedoms and rights.

4. How will you ensure that the rights and issues of the most marginalised groups of women are addressed by the Committee? What measures should States take to ensure the political participation of marginalised groups of women in political life, at the local, national and international levels, including enhancing representation within the CEDAW Committee?

This is the great challenge. All women must be protagonists of the fight for their rights and not beneficiaries. The Committee, like the national and international political spheres, thus faces its own barriers, those created by the system to which it belongs: language and translation costs, costly application processes, difficulties in understanding the extensive documents designed from a Western logic, the difficulties of access to the Headquarters where the meetings take place, the delay between the statement of a need and the Committee's response.

If we aim for all women to participate in decision-making, the mechanisms must be adapted, making the necessary adjustments. Surely digital media can promote access, communication and even overcome language barriers. It is necessary, not only Committee's pronouncements, substantiated and qualified but also timely responses, in time, including contents which reflects the experience and opinion of the women themselves referred to in the report.

5. What do you think are the areas where the Committee can further strengthen international women's rights standards?

- **RIGHT TO CARE** This topic, presented briefly in the previous question, is key to the development of women and equal societies. It must include not only the distribution of care, as CEDAW already expressly mentions in article 5, but also the state responsibility in the development of care policies and the responsibility of the business world. And care must be considered as a right, the right to be cared for, to care for and to self-care.
- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**. It is an emerging issue with a global impact, in which women must participate to identify paths for the prevention and protection of the rights of women and girls.
- **USE OF THE FALSE PARENTAL ALIENATION SYNDROME (SAP in spanish) AS A MECHANISM OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, GIRLS AND BOYS.**- This topic has already been addressed in RG 35 (paragraph 31 ii), and requires further investigation to reveal its causes, processes and consequences. It is an opportunity to re-articulate with the CRC, so that both women and children are located as subjects of rights and not only in their role as caregivers or objects of care.

- DRUG TRAFFICKING. Women who participate or are exploited in drug trafficking groups go through multiple forms of violence, still poorly visible, which extend to torture and femicide and often continue in prisons.
- ARMED CONFLICTS - The global context requires thinking about the situation of women in armed conflicts, who are generally assigned the task of protecting the lives of dependent people while continuing to be used as a weapon of war, particularly through sexual violence.

6. What has been your experience of working with the women's rights movement in your country or globally?

As my curriculum vitae says, I have been working in defense of the rights of women and girls for almost 40 years.

In addition to legal defense, I have participated directly in the drafting of laws for the prevention of violence against women, the protection and reparation of their rights (today Law 19.580), the law on Equality and non-discrimination of women (today Law 19.846) and the comprehensive law against exploitation and trafficking in persons (today Law 19.643). These works were carried out in permanent consultation with state actors and women's organizations.

At the regional level I worked from 2011 to 2018 in the MESECVI Committee of Experts, being its president the last year. During that period, we agreed on the emerging rights standards of the Belem do Pará Convention and the process and compliance indicators thereof. In addition to monitoring national reports, we deepened into topics such as femicide, sexual violence and violence against women in politics.

Likewise, at the regional level, I have developed several comparative studies of national criminal legislation and criminal procedure to respond to situations of violence against women.

Attached link where these publications are found: <https://diana-gonzalez-perrett.es/publicaciones/>



7. State parties to CEDAW are required to take steps to implement the Convention. How do you propose to help guide States in the effective implementation of Convention standards? How will you guide States in the removal of reservations to the Convention, especially reservations that relate to the object and purpose of the Convention (Articles 2 and 16)?

I believe that we must first facilitate knowledge and understanding of CEDAW, the general recommendations and the jurisprudence of the Committee.

At the same time, I understand that it is important to generate tools so that States can self-evaluate their public policies, plans, programs, and services in light of CEDAW and other international and regional human rights conventions, determining legal standards, process and compliance indicators in the most didactic way.

Regarding the reservation to articles 2 and 16, they are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, that's why they are inadmissible (art. 28 CEDAW). I consider that those States need to review their legislation to truly be part of this Treaty. In order to overcome these contradictions, it is essential to strengthen and accompany and support women's rights movements in these countries.

8. What can the Committee do to further strengthen its engagement with other stakeholders and accountability mechanisms at country level, including gender machinery, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), members of parliament, judicial actors, civil society organisations and UN agencies?

I believe that the best way to strengthen the commitment of institutions to CEDAW is to work together, which does not necessarily mean the permanent contribution of human resources but also contribute with materials which can provide tools for the better application of CEDAW and its general recommendations.

It is important that the CEDAW rulings are easy to access, both for specialized actors and those without training in international human rights law, so that operators can use them in their daily work, whether to base sentences, administrative resolutions, justify plans and programs, etc.

The documents issued by the CEDAW Committee should be easy to read, promoting more fluid communication and easier systematization. I believe that there is a significant lack of knowledge of the Committee's work, particularly in relation to the general recommendations.

On-site visits can be very effective when there are well planned. Though it is necessary to take into account the costs of these activities.

9. How do you see the CEDAW Committee strengthening the domestic and international environment for:

(a) holding business/private actors responsible for violations under the Convention?

It is necessary to promote complaint processes by civil society organizations for the omission of States in the duty of due diligence in the event of violations of rights carried out by private actors. To achieve this, it is necessary to provide support and advice to these organizations and provide it timely and timely responses from the Committee.

At the same time, it is necessary to support States that decide to adopt sanction measures for these business actors, preventing their pronouncements from generating negative consequences against the countries themselves and their population.

(b) ensuring accountability of State parties while acting within the broader multilateral system, including the gendered impact of State action or inaction on global economic and financial matters, the climate crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic; and

(c) fortifying international cooperation on these and other urgent global matters?

I believe that it is necessary to make agreements between the different treaty bodies as well as with other spaces of the multilateral system, in order to decide that any decision adopted must take into account equality and non-discrimination against women in the measures adopted, consider historical conditions of discrimination: gender, age, disability, race, etc.. For this purpose, the participation of women with experience in the subject must be guaranteed in decision-making, as well specific and mandatory protocols can be generated to facilitate the review of agreements from a gender perspective and impose sanctions for non-compliance. To be effective, global agreements are required, in which the treaty bodies act jointly.

(d) eliminating intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women and strengthening an inclusive approach to the domestication and application of CEDAW's norms and standards nationally?

The intersectionality of discrimination has still been addressed in little depth. It is not enough to mention the intersections (race, age, disability, etc.) but it is necessary to delve deeper into the differentiated expressions of discrimination in the various populations. This primarily involves promoting the participation

of women in their diversity in spaces such as treaty bodies and other decision-making spaces. They are/we are women, who endure a multiplicity of discriminations, who have to define the paths to highlight the barriers they face and the paths to overcome them.

10. How do you see the CEDAW Committee and the review process contributing to the delivery of global commitments on gender equality, including under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The role of the Committee is fundamental to provide information and monitor compliance with global commitments on gender equality with a human rights approach. The CEDAW compliance review processes in the countries allow them to analyze and review their public policies from a rights and gender equality perspective. I consider that the dialogue between the Committee and the States is particularly important in these processes, given that they provide suggestions and support for progress towards equality and emphasizing the sustainable development objectives of the 2030 Agenda. In this sense, I consider that all the SDGs They must be interpreted from a gender perspective to overcome structural inequalities.

11. What role do you see civil society playing in the CEDAW State review process? Do you regularly engage with civil society in your current work? If so, how?

I think it is a key role because:

- Follows up on State reports
- Enrich information from the perspective of civil society organizations.
- Generates a space for exchange with the State that enriches both parties and women in general.

I relate permanently with civil society. Now, for example, I am accompanying the process of presenting the CEDAW recommendations to Uruguay, supporting CLADEM in this task. I also support the Pro Care Network. I recently worked on technical aids for disabled people and suffer from illnesses and for those who care for people in different dependency situations.

On previous occasions I have supported the preparation of civil society reports.

In the territorial level, I am currently legal advising women in an organization called "Casa de la Mujer de las Toscas", about 50 km from Montevideo.