



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, IWRAW 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: Madina Jarbussynova

2. Nationality: Kazakhstan

3. Current position: National consultant to the UN Women Kazakhstan

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

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:

None

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

Members of the National Commission on Women and Family and Demographic Policy (an advisory body composed of deputies, representatives of government agencies, experts, representatives of NGOs) and the office of the Commissioner for Human Rights took part in the nomination process

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

Possibly, advising the UN Women structure

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?

During my professional career, I have held positions at the national and international levels that required a lot of effort and time from me, commitments were time-consuming. Therefore, I am used to work hard and able to rationally build a work schedule, determine priorities, address them and thus I am sure I will be able to pay due attention and devote necessary time to the work of the Committee both in person and online.

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

The treaty body system plays a crucial role in maintaining human rights standards around the world. However, it faces a number of problems that affect its effectiveness. One of them is the accumulation of pending State reports, which delays the review process and, consequently, the implementation of recommendations. This backlog is often compounded by the limited resources and capabilities of the treaty bodies, which hampers their effective work. Another challenge is the need for greater harmonization and coordination between the various treaty bodies. There are overlapping of mandates and recommendations in the existing system, which may confuse States and weaken the effectiveness of the recommendations provided. To improve the situation, I propose to simplify and harmonize reporting requirements across treaty bodies to reduce the burden on states and facilitate timely reviews. A unified reporting mechanism could significantly alleviate the current backlog and ensure more consistent state engagement. Besides, I assume enhancing coordination among treaty bodies would help to create a more cohesive system. There should be more transparency in the process and outcomes along with active involvement of civil society. It is also essential to increase the funding and resources available to treaty bodies for these bodies to expand their capacity, embrace technological solutions for efficiency, and ensure more thorough and frequent state reviews. State's engagement should be strengthened.

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?

During the peak of the COVID-19, I already had to adapt to the situation and worked online for nearly two years - doing research, teaching students and participating in various meetings.

Link to your full resume (see appendix):



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.

Why do you want to be a member of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women? ([video option](#))

My wish to join the CEDAW Committee stems from a long-standing dedication to the fundamental principles of human rights and in particular to the ones on which the Convention is based. I aspire to become a member of the CEDAW Committee, since I may say with confidence that I am a person deeply committed to the promotion of human rights in general, including the rights of women and girls. Throughout my life I have been doing my best to ensure that, first of all, in my country, as well as in the region, fundamental human rights were recognized and protected at the legislative level and in practice. I have been fighting all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls. And I advocate for gender equality, political and economic empowerment of women. My experience, especially in working with the most vulnerable groups of the population, including victims of human trafficking and gender-based violence, has given me the opportunity to see the pervasive nature of discrimination against women. My work on the CEDAW Committee, if I am elected, will not only allow me to continue my life's work of implementing the fundamental principles of human rights, but will also give me the opportunity to use my experience in strengthening global partnerships and developing strategies aimed at the comprehensive elimination of gender discrimination.

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

Throughout my diplomatic service I have been very much focused on promotion of human rights and in the last decade specifically on combating human trafficking and promoting the rights of victims of trafficking, most of whom are women and girls. In addition, I currently coordinate the work of government agencies to fulfill the commitments taken by Kazakhstan in the framework of GEF Action Coalitions on Gender-Based Violence, Economic Justice and rights. My knowledge in

these areas can contribute to the CEDAW's work to protect women's rights, empower them economically, and address gender-based violence. My experience in developing national and international policies and strategies could be instrumental in advising on effective measures that member states can adopt to align with CEDAW's recommendations. My work has included significant public speaking and advocacy work aimed at raising awareness about the rule of law, human trafficking and gender-based violence. My experience in these areas could contribute to CEDAW's efforts to highlight issues affecting women around the world and mobilize action. In addition, I believe that my experience in diplomacy and international relations will be helpful for engaging with member states and promoting the implementation of CEDAW's provisions.

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

The situation of women's human rights and gender equality is constantly changing, and along with the known problems of women's unequal access to education, health care, gender-based violence, economic injustice and low involvement in decision-making several critical and emerging issues come to the fore. First, the digital divide and violence in cyberspace pose new challenges to women's rights, which requires robust digital literacy. Secondly, the effects of climate change disproportionately affect women, especially in rural areas and vulnerable communities, making climate justice an integral part of gender equality. Addressing these challenges requires innovative policies and international cooperation to protect and promote women's rights in all spheres of life.

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?

To ensure that the rights and issues of the most marginalised groups of women are addressed by the Committee I would recommend strengthening the approaches to inclusivity and intersectionality in policy and enforcement. To understand the specific challenges faced by marginalised groups and tailor interventions accordingly the Committee should advocate for the collection and analysis of disaggregated data that includes not only gender but also such factors as race, ethnicity, disability, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic location. When reviewing state compliance, the Committee should provide targeted, actionable recommendations that specifically address the needs of marginalised groups.

To my mind in order to increase the participation of marginalized groups of women in political life, States should apply multifaceted approaches. First of all, there should be a political will to eliminate barriers to participation by carrying out legal reforms and ensure equal opportunities in political life. This includes introduction of quota systems and supporting legislation that encourages women's representation at all levels of governance. As the goal is not only to protect the rights of all women but also to empower them to lead in their community, States should invest in education and capacity-building programmes aimed at empowering women from marginalized communities providing them with the tools they need to participate in political life.

In order to increase representation in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and similar bodies, purposeful efforts must be made to nominate and elect candidates from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that the Committee reflects the multifaceted nature of women's experiences worldwide, which unfortunately is not always observed. Through these measures, we can work towards a more inclusive and equitable political landscape where every woman's voice will be heard and appreciated.

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

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) has been instrumental in setting a comprehensive international legal framework that promotes and protects women's rights. However, to further strengthen these standards, we should enhance the standards to more thoroughly address discrimination that affects women not only based on gender but also on race, ethnicity, age, disabilities, and socio-economic status among other factors. As digital technology increasingly affects our lives, there is a need to develop standards that protect women from cyber violence and harassment while also safeguarding their right to privacy and freedom of expression online.

Enhancing the protection of women's rights in conflict and post-conflict situations is critical. Women are disproportionately affected by war and violence, and specific measures need to be tailored to these contexts. In addition, the development of stronger mechanisms for the enforcement of CEDAW provisions is necessary. While recommendations are influential, it is evident that their impact is limited without robust enforcement tools at the international level.

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

Throughout my diplomatic career, I have actively collaborated with human rights organizations, including women's organizations, both within the country and around the world. In 2009 I initiated the creation of an advisory platform for dialogue with NGOs, including women's ones, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As the OSCE Special Representative on Combating Human Trafficking, I worked with women's organizations of participating states directly and within the framework of the Alliance against Human Trafficking. Currently, I am coordinating a network of women's organizations in Central Asia, "Act for Equal Rights", as a structure of GEF Action Coalition on gender-based violence

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)?

Effective implementation of the Convention's standards requires concerted efforts and strategic guidance. It is necessary to promote capacity-building that enhances state parties' abilities to implement CEDAW. This should include training for lawmakers, judicial entities, and civil society organizations on the intricacies of the Convention and its application. Providing technical assistance to states to reform laws and policies in line with CEDAW recommendations will be vital. This involves offering legal expertise and policy guidance to harmonize national laws with international standards.

To encourage states to remove reservations, particularly those contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention (notably Articles 2 and 16, which deal with eliminating discrimination and ensuring equality in marriage and family relations), fostering open dialogues with governments will be essential. These discussions will emphasize the benefits of full compliance with CEDAW in achieving gender equality and enhancing societal progress.

Enhancing mechanisms for monitoring state compliance and regular reporting can improve adherence and encourage the removal of reservations as most states strive to meet their international obligations fully.

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?

To further strengthen its engagement with various stakeholders and enhance accountability mechanisms at the country level, CEDAW Committee should establish inclusive partnerships with national gender machineries, human rights institutions, legislative bodies, judiciary and UN agencies to facilitate more integrated approach to promote women's rights. As civil society organizations are crucial in advancing women's rights and holding governments accountable the Committee should work closely with them to tap into their grassroots networks and leverage their advocacy work. To form policies and recommendations that are relevant to the specific contexts of different countries the Committee should also collaborate with academic institutions. Holding regular consultations with all relevant stakeholders, including members of parliament will ensure that the Committee's initiatives are comprehensive and aligned with on-the-ground needs.

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

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

To strengthen the accountability of business and private actors under the CEDAW the Committee can develop clear guidelines and frameworks that define their responsibilities in relation to the rights upheld by the Convention. This includes no-discrimination, workplace equality, and measures against sexual harassment. Moreover, there is a need to encourage states to legislate and enforce due diligence laws for businesses that require them to proactively prevent and address human rights abuses, including gender-based discrimination. In addition, the Committee should work with international trade and economic institutions to incorporate gender equality standards into business practices globally, ensuring that companies operating internationally adhere to CEDAW principles.

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;

To enhance accountability of state parties, particularly in multilateral systems where economic and financial decisions are made, the Committee should advocate for the integration of gender perspectives in all multilateral economic policies, ensuring that states consider the gendered impacts of their actions, particularly in terms of economic inequality, climate change policies, and health emergencies like COVID-19 pandemic; regularly review and audit state actions to assess their compliance with CEDAW commitments, focusing on the outcomes of their economic and environmental policies on women's rights

fortifying international cooperation on these and other urgent global matters?

To enhance international cooperation on these matters the Committee should foster global partnerships that prioritize gender equality in international agreements and treaties, promote international platforms for sharing best practices and innovations in implementing gender equality measures, allowing countries to learn from diverse experiences.

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? To achieve this the Committee should encourage states to adopt holistic legal frameworks that address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women such as those based on race, age, socio-economic status, disability and sexual orientation, promote policies and educational programmes that foster an inclusive society and raise awareness about the rights and protections afforded by CEDAW, aiming to reduce stigma and promote diversity.

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 CEDAW Committee plays a pivotal role in advancing global commitments towards gender equality, particularly those enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This alignment is crucial, as gender equality is not only a separate goal under SDG 5 but also influences the achievement of other goals, from education and economic growth to combating climate change. The Committee can enhance its review process by conducting thematic reviews that specifically address critical areas of the SDGs, such as gender-based violence, women's economic empowerment, educational equality, and health services. This targeted approach ensures that specific SDGs are addressed systematically and comprehensively within the state party reviews. The review process is instrumental in holding states accountable for their commitments under both CEDAW and the 2030 Agenda. By evaluating state reports and providing pointed recommendations, the Committee helps to monitor progress, identify gaps, and push for further action in areas lagging behind.

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?

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are integral to the CEDAW state review process, offering insights, data, and accountability that complement the official reports submitted by state parties. Their role is multifaceted and critical for a comprehensive review. CSOs often provide alternative reports, commonly known as shadow reports, which present data and perspectives that might be overlooked or underreported by state governments. These reports are vital for the Committee to get a fuller picture of the situation on the ground. Civil society can influence the review process by lobbying for specific issues to be addressed during the evaluations. Civil society is key in implementing CEDAW recommendations at the national level. They monitor government action, or inaction, and continue to provide feedback to both national authorities and the CEDAW Committee on the progress or the need for further intervention. By engaging with the media and publicizing findings and recommendations of the CEDAW reviews, CSOs help raise public awareness and support for gender equality initiatives. This public engagement is crucial for societal change and for pushing governments towards greater compliance and action.

CURRICULUM VITAE

NAME: Amb. Madina Jarbussynova
DATE OF BIRTH: November 10, 1954
PLACE OF BIRTH: Almaty, Kazakhstan
NATIONALITY: Kazakh



WORK EXPERIENCE

- Apr 2021 -** - National Consultant, Senior adviser at the UN Women Kazakhstan
- Jan 2020 -Dec 2021** - Head of the Department of International Organizations at the Foreign Policy Research Institute under the MFA of Kazakhstan
- Sep 2014 – Jul 2018** - OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- June 2012 – Aug 2014** - OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
- Aug 2003 - June2012** Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan
- Nov 1999 - May 2003** - Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to UN
- Sep 1998 - Nov 1999** - Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Aug 1995 - Sep 1998** - Counselor, Head of the Department of Multilateral relations and international organizations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Dec 1990 - Aug 1995** - Head of the Sector of Interparliamentary relations of the Center for Information of the Parliament of Kazakhstan
- Dec 1987 -Dec 1990** - Senior lecturer of the Kazakh State Pedagogical University for Women
- Oct 1983 -Dec 1987** - Head of the Division of young scientists of the Central Youth Committee of Kazakhstan
- May 1980 -Oct 1983** - Lecturer at the Kazakh State University of International Relations and the World Languages

EDUCATION

- 1971 –1975** - Kazakh State University of International Relations and the World Languages (Almaty Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages)
- 1977 - 1980** - Postgraduate courses at the Academy of Sciences of USSR (Moscow). Got Candidate of philologic science degree
- 1982 -1983** - Postgraduate courses at London University College, Survey of English
- 1998** - Courses at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

2005 – 2007 - Law Faculty at the University named after D. Kunayev, Almaty, Kazakhstan

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Participated as a member of the delegation of Kazakhstan at UN GA Sessions (51 -56, 65-66, 78), Rio +5 Special GA Session, 23 Special GA Session “Women in 2000: equality between men and women, development and peace in XXI century”; 24, 37 Sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Headed delegations of Kazakhstan at 49-54, 56 sessions of the Commission on the Status of women, 43, 45 Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Annual (2004, 2005, 2009-2011) OSCE Human Rights Implementation Meetings, First and Second OIC Conferences on “Women’s Role in the Development of OIC Member States” (2006,2008). Served as Head of the Human Dimension group of the Kazakhstan OSCE Chairmanship Task Force. Participated as the OSCE Special Representative at 71-72 UN GA Sessions and addressed the UN SC meetings in 2017 -2018, 2023 on SC resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security). Participated as adviser in the work of the UNIFEM Advisory Board (2001-2003), and as member of the Bureau of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (2001-2002). Senator of SOS Kinderdorf International Senate (Vienna) – since June 2008 to July 2012. Consulted Central Asian Women Leaders Dialogue in 2023. Participated at the 67-th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

PUBLIC ACTIVITY

Member of the National Commission on Family Issues and Gender policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan since 1999 to 2012;
Member of the Commission on Human Rights under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan –from 2004 to 2013;
President of the Board of the National Fund of SOS Kinderdorf Kazakhstan since 2007 to September 2012;
National Coordinator on “Women, Peace and Security: humanitarian actions” since June 2023.

CURRENT ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Professor at the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of the Academy of State Service of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
Author of numerous publications on issues of international relations, human rights, and gender equality, etc.

FAMILY STATUS: married, mother of two children, grandmother of three grandsons.