



**2026 ELECTIONS FOR  
THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS  
OF PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES**

**VOTE**

# 2026 Elections for the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Next 9th June, at the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP), States Parties will elect 9 (nine) members for the CRPD Committee for the period 2027 to 2030. **For now, States Parties have nominated only 11 (eleven) candidates**, as it can be noted in the official website for the elections, available [here](#). This shortage of nominations is concerning as a short pool of candidates limits the competitiveness of the process.

States parties to the international human rights treaties nominate and elect treaty body members from among their nationals. The nominations are compiled by the Secretary-General who submits them for consideration to all the States parties to a specific treaty.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/268, States are encouraged to give due consideration to the following criteria in their nominations:

- equitable geographical distribution;
- the representation of different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems;
- balanced gender representation;
- the participation of experts with disabilities.

The resolution also reaffirms the importance of the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies.

Underlining the need for independence and impartiality, but also qualification of members, the Chairs of the treaty bodies endorsed in 2012 the Addis Ababa Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies.

The main criteria for membership specifically to the CRPD Committee stems from Article 34, paragraphs (3) and (4) CRPD:

"3. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of *high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Convention*. [...]" (emphasis added)

"4. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties, consideration being given to *equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities*." (emphasis added)

Taking into account the 9 CRPD Committee's members whose mandates expire by the end of 2026, the gaps of the overall membership would require to:

- **Elect at least five women, as six of the current 10 women experts will conclude their mandate in 2026, to ensure gender parity in the overall composition of the Committee.**
- **Consider candidates from underrepresented regions, including Eastern Europe (not currently represented) and WEOG (only one member) \***
- **Reflect an enhanced diversity of persons with disabilities, including especially persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities.**

The Geneva Human Rights Hub, the GQUAL Campaign and the International Disability Alliance (member of the TB-Net) will collaborate to undertake several activities to enhance visibility and disseminate information of the electoral process, calling States Parties to duly consideration the requirements set by [article 34\(4\) of the CRPD](#) and in the [Addis Ababa Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies](#):

### **Save the Date: March 31st – Online Public presentation of candidates to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

All candidates will be invited to a two-hour public online event for them to introduce themselves and respond relevant questions asked in the session.

Registration link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/z0YpdyLuRnOlqJYkb34YiQ>

English and French interpretation, and captioning will be available.

**Today towards the elections day - Invitation to candidates to respond to a TB-Net / IDA questionnaire and preparing short videos.**

All content will be published on a dedicated webpage and remain available for interested stakeholders. Videos will consist of responses to two relevant questions and have a duration of no more than 2 minutes.

**Dissemination of information throughout the period and until the elections take place on June 9th, including posting of election results following the elections on June 9th.**

\* There is no requirement for an exact quota for each region nor a clear criterion for setting it, but it remains clear that there should be members from each region.

**DISCLAIMER:**

The Geneva Human Rights Hub, the GQUAL Campaign and the International Disability Alliance do not take a stand in support nor against any individual candidate to the CRPD Committee elections, being the different initiatives undertaken to call States Parties to take decisions as informed as possible on the profile of candidates and focusing on the requirements established for the composition of the CRPD Committee.