Annex II

Biographical data form of candidates to human rights treaty bodies

(**Please respect the specified amount of lines when filling out this form and  
return it electronically in word format**)

Name and first name:　 Ms. OTANI Mikiko

Date and place of birth:　 18 November 1964; Osaka, Japan

Working languages:　 English and Japanese

Current position/function:

(5 lines maximum)

* *Partner lawyer, Toranomon Law and Economic Offices; Lecturer (part-time), Soka University Graduate School of Law*
* *Chair, Japan Federation of Bar Associations Committee on International Human Rights*
* *Co-representative, Japan NGO Network for CEDAW;*
* *Country representative of Japan, Family Law & Family Rights Section of LAWASIA (The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific)*

Main professional activities:[[1]](#footnote-1)

Ms. Mikiko OTANI is a practicing lawyer who specializes in family law with an advanced academic background and extensive experience of NGO activities in international human rights law. Her focus areas include migrant women and children, human trafficking, international child abduction, remedies for victims of human rights violations, access to justice and human rights education. Ms. Otani played an instrumental role in Japan’s contracting the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction in 2014.

As a female leader representing civil society in Japan, Ms. Otani was an Alternate Representative of the Delegation of Japan to the 60th and the 61st UN General Assembly (Third Committee) (2005-2006) and an Advisor (NGO Representative) of the Delegation of Japan to the 53rd UN Commission on the Status of Women (2009). Ms. Otani has been actively involved with NGOs and professional organizations at the regional and the international levels, having served as a Regional Council member of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (2005-2014) and as Co-Chair of the Women Lawyers’ Interest Group of the International Bar Association (2013-2014).

Educational background:

1987　LL.B., Sophia University, Faculty of Law

1990　Diploma, Legal Training and Research Institute of the Supreme Court of Japan

1999　MIA, Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs

2003　LL.M., University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Law and Politics

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

Ms. Otani has been actively involved in the reporting process for Japan under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women representing NGOs.

Ms. Otani has frequently been invited to speak on children’s rights issues at regional and international conferences and to provide training on international human rights law, in particular, women’s rights and children’s rights, at professional training seminars for lawyers in various countries. She has also been invited to teach international human rights law at law schools in Japan and the USA.

List of most recent publications in the field:

* *Family Law: Jurisdictional Comparisons*, James Stewart (ed.) (European Lawyer Reference) (author for Chapter on Japan) (2013)
* *Practice of International Divorce* (co-author) (2012)
* “International Issues on Child Custody: Internationalization of Families and Need of International Response”, *International Affairs, No. 607* (2011)
* “The Hague Convention on Child Abduction”, *Horitsu Jiho, No. 1040* (2011)
* “Committee on the Rights of the Child”, Kentaro Serita et al. (ed.), *International Implementation of International Human Rights Law, Lecture on International Human Rights Law, vol.4* (2011)

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1. It should be noted that membership in the Committee on the Rights of the Child requires participation in three (January/February, May/June and September /October) sessions per year , pre-sessional working groups are held immediately after each session in order to prepare the following session. The total number of weeks during which the Committee meets in Geneva therefore amounts to 12 weeks per year. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)