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BIOGRAPHICAL DATA OF NOMINEES

Agnes Akosua AIDOO (Ghana)

Candidate of Ghana for UN Committee on the Rights of the Child

Date and place of birth: 1 October 1939, MAMPONTENG, Ghana

Languages: English; French, Akan (Ghanaian)

Working Language: English

Current position/function:

Vice-Chairperson, United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC),
September 2007 – present

Member, UNCRC, March 2007 – present

Co-Chair, Joint Working Group of UNCRC and African Committee of Experts on the Rights and
Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) of the African Union

Member, International Board of Trustees, African Child Policy Forum (ACPF)

Chairperson, Administrative Council, ACPF

Member, Steering Committee, Working Group on Early Childhood Development of the
Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)

Member, Board of Trustees, National Partnership for Children's Trust (NPCT), Ghana

Member, Advisory Board, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana

International Consultant (child rights, gender and development, social policy, poverty and
exclusion)

Main professional activities:

Active participation in the monitoring, representational and other activities of the UN Committee
on the Rights of the Child as Vice-Chair and Member

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Leadership of UNCRC cooperation with ACERWC to enhance coordination and harmonization of monitoring to improve fulfilment of the rights of the child in Africa

Policy and programmatic guidance and support to the African Child Policy Forum, a leading Pan-African NGO promoting the rights of children through policy advocacy, international policy conferences and major publications such as the groundbreaking **The African Report on Child Wellbeing: How Child Friendly Are African Governments?** and **Child Poverty: African and International Perspectives**

Advocacy, advisory services, research and presentation of major papers on Early Childhood Development (ECD) at African regional and international conferences as Member of Working Group on ECD of ADEA

Participation as adviser, chair or keynote speaker at meetings and activities of the Ghana NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child and Network on Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT)

Voluntary services and fund raising for scholarships for needy junior and senior high school children, reading clinics, health and sanitation facilities in disadvantaged primary schools as a Trustee of the NPCT, Ghana

Consultancies in policy analysis and advisory services for governments, UNICEF, United Nations System and NGO networks on children's and women's rights, ECD, child poverty, vulnerability and exclusion, gender and development

Educational background:

PhD (History, Social Anthropology), University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), 1975

Research Fellowship, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 1968/69

MA (History, International Relations), University of Toronto, Canada, 1966

BA (History, English, Political Science, Latin), University of Manitoba, Canada, 1963

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

Advisory services to the Ghana Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (on child rights and gender issues) and the National Development Planning Commission (on child rights and gender perspectives in national development strategies, child poverty, vulnerability and exclusion, rights-based social policy) (2001- present)

Participation in Inter-Committee Workshop on "Activities of Transnational Corporations: Impact on the Implementation of Human Rights Treaty Obligations", organized by International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), June 2010, Geneva

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Participation in Technical Consultation on "The Practical Application of the CRC to Advance Child and Adolescent Health in Countries", organized by WHO, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision International, May 2010, Geneva

Participation and presentation of keynote paper "*The Child at the Heart of Policy-making: Rights, Yardsticks and Relevance*", at Children's Rights at a Cross-Roads: A Global Conference on Research and Child Rights, November/December 2009, Addis Ababa

Participation as panel chair and panellist at the Fourth African International Conference on Early Childhood Development, November 2009, Dakar

Participation and presentation of keynote paper, "*Young Children and Basic Needs: Fulfilling their Rights under the CRC*", at the World Forum Foundation on Early Childhood Care and Education Conference, June 2009, Belfast

Participation as keynote speaker and panel chair at International Policy Conference on Child Poverty: African and International Perspectives, December 2008, Addis Ababa

Participation as keynote speaker on the CRC and panel chair at Second Pan-African Forum on Children: Mid-Term Review of 'Africa Fit for Children', November 2007, Cairo

Participation as keynote speaker on child rights at National Workshop on Child Labour and the *Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy*, organized by ILO and National Development Planning Commission, May 2007, Accra

Participation and presentation of lead theme paper, "*Ensuring a Supportive Environment for ECD in Africa*" at the Third African International Conference on ECD, May/June 2005, Accra

Policy guidance and professional support to research and academic staff and students of the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana on various programmes including child care, child protection and gender studies (2007 – present)

Participation and presentation of lead theme paper, "*Investing in the African Girl Child: Transforming the Future*" at Conference of African First Ladies, June 2001, Marrakech, Morocco

As UNICEF Representative to Tanzania, I led policy advocacy, situational analyses, fund raising and implementation of multisectoral support programmes for children, women and refugees (1992-1998)

As Global Gender Adviser at UNICEF HQ, I led research and global advocacy on equal rights for the Girl Child and women at the Commission on the Status of Women, UNICEF Executive Board and in Member States in South Asia, China, Africa, Middle East and Latin America (1989-1992)

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I supported UNICEF HQ in the process for the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 and assisted in the organization of the World Summit for Children in 1990.

As Gender Project Officer and Social Policy Adviser, UN Economic Commission for Africa, I helped to formulate policy and organize capacity building for national machineries for women and children, and assistance programmes for children, youth, women, persons with disabilities and refugees in all sub-regions of Africa (1978-1989).

List of most recent publications in the field:

2009: *Child Poverty in Ghana*, published by the African Child Policy Forum, Addis Ababa

2009: *Children in Ghana* (Co-Editor, Contributor and Study Coordinator), published by Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and UNICEF Ghana, Accra (first full multidisciplinary study of children's rights in Ghana)

2008: *Positioning ECD Nationally: Trends in Selected African Countries*, in M. Garcia, A. Pence and J. L. Evans (eds), *Africa's Future, Africa's Children: Early Childhood Care and Development in Sub-Saharan Africa*, World Bank, Washington D.C.

2007: *Child Rights and the Challenge of Education*, in *18 Candles: The Convention on the Rights of the Child Reaches Majority*, IDE and OHCHR, Stion, Switzerland

2005: *Moving Early Childhood Development (ECD) Forward in Africa: Ensuring a Supportive Policy Environment*, in *Conference Proceedings of Third African International Conference on Early Childhood Development*, Accra, May 2005, Vol. II, ADEA, Paris

2004: *Vulnerable Groups and Protection Issues in Ghana*, study report by Agnes Akosua Aidoo, Clara Fayorsey and Estelle Appiah for *Common Country Assessment (CCA), Ghana*, UN System, Accra

2002: *The Gender Perspective in the CCA/UNDAF and PRSP Processes and Priorities in West and Central Africa*, by Agnes Akosua Aidoo, Fatou Sarr & Idrissa Ouedraogo, UNICEF WCARO, Abidjan.

1991: *The Girl Child: An Investment in the Future*, Advocacy Booklet prepared for UNICEF, New York