Annex III

Biographical data form of candidates to the Committee on the Rights of the Child

**Family name and first name**: OTANI Mikiko

**Date and place of birth**: 18 November 1964, Osaka

**Place of residence**: Tokyo

**Nationality**: Japanese

**Email address**:

**United Nations working languages**: English

**Current position/function**:

* Member, Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (2017-present)
* Council Member, International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute (2017-present)
* Director, Japan Committee for UNICEF (2018-present)
* Country representative of Japan, Family Law & Family Rights Section of the Law Association for Asia and Pacific (2008-present)
* Partner Lawyer, Otani & Partners Law Offices (2017-present)
* Lecturer, Graduate School of Law, Soka University (2004-present)

**Other main professional activities, in particular related to children’s rights**:

* Served as a member of the CRC since 2017 and have committed to protecting and promoting children’s rights, with long experience of engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms, including the CRC, and of legal practice and NGO activities in support of Japan’s implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
* About 30 years of legal practice in the field of family law, focusing on the rights of children, women and migrants, with special expertise in international family law and international human rights law.
* Internationally recognized leading expert in the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.
* Served as Alternative Representative of Japan to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2005 and 2006 and participated in various UN conferences on human rights, women’s issues and crime prevention.
* Engaged in the work of national, regional and international bar associations in the area of human rights and provided training and expert advice to lawyers, judges and government officials at the nation, regional and international levels.
* Frequently invited to speak on child rights issues at regional and international conferences.

**Educational background**:

* Ph.D., Aoyama Gakuin University, Graduate School of Law (2020)

Dissertation: *Right to Remedies of Child Victims of Violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law*

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

Master’s thesis: *Clauses to Waiver Claims of Nationals and Diplomatic Protection in Peace Treaties*

* M.I.A. in Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs (1999)
* Diploma (qualified to practice law), Legal Training and Research Institute of Supreme Court of Japan (1990)
* LL.B. in International Legal Studies, Sophia University, Faculty of Law (1987)

**Relevant expertise on children’s rights**:

Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related experience:

* Actively contributed to the CRC during the first term, including by:
* Leading the work of [the Day of General Discussion (DGD) 2018 of the CRC on “Protecting and Empowering Children as Human Rights Defenders”](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/Discussion2018.aspx) as Co-coordinator of the Working Group on DGD 2018;
* Improving the working methods of the CRC as Coordinator of the Working Group on Working Methods;
* Engaging in the 2020 Treaty Bodies review process as Co-Focal Point of the CRC; and
* Participating in the Working Group on the [Joint General Comment on the human rights of children in the context of international migration](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC/C/GC/23&Lang=en), the Working Group on the [General Comment on children’s rights in relation to the digital environment](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/GCChildrensRightsRelationDigitalEnvironment.aspx), the Working Group on SDGs, and the Working Group on child participation.
* During nearly 30 years of practicing family law, including over 15 years of experience in international family mediation, have tirelessly committed to integrating a child rights-based approach into legislation, procedures and practice of family law by encouraging the States parties and relevant professionals to promote the best interests of the child, child participation and mediation.
* Actively engaged in efforts to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups of people such as migrant families and victims of human trafficking, including children, by founding “Lawyers Network for Foreigners” (served as co-representative from 2009 to 2019) and “Lawyers for Trafficked Victims” (former “Trafficking in Persons Project Team) (served as representative from 2013 to present) in Japan.

**List of most recent publications in the field of children’s rights**:

* “The Hague Convention and International Human Rights Law” in *Guide to National Implementation of the Hague Convention*, Mikiko Otani and Yuko Nishitani (eds.) (to be published in 2020) (Japanese)
* “The Activities of the United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms on the Protection of the Human Rights of Children in the Context of Human Movement,” *The United Nations Studies,* No. 19 (2018) (Japanese)
* “The Fifth World Conference on Women — opportunity for empowerment of girls,” *Asian Breeze*, No. 83 (2018) (English)
* “Position of family in the international human rights law,” *International Human Rights*, No. 28 (2017) (Japanese)
* *Family Law: Jurisdictional Comparisons*, James Stewart (ed.) (European Lawyer Reference) (author for Chapter on Japan) (2013) (English)