Annex III

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

(**Please respect the specified amount of lines when filling out this form and  
return it electronically in word format to** [**crc@ohchr.org**](mailto:crc@ohchr.org))

Family name and first name: **Kassis Rifat**……………………………………………………………

Date and place of birth: **02.10.1958**…**Beit Sahour, Palestine**………………………………………………………………

Place of residence: **Beit Sahour, Palestine**………………………………………………………………………

Nationality: **Palestinian & Netherlands**………………………………………………………………………………

Email address: …………………………………………………………………………..

United Nations working languages: **Arabic, English**……………………………………………………..

Current position/function: [[1]](#footnote-1) (5 lines maximum)

Co-founder, MENA Representative and Executive Director of GRIP Consulting, a group of international consultants. I supervise and conduct consultancies in various aspects, like evaluations, strategic planning, baseline studies, researches and drafting policies and strategies, with focus on child protection. Our clients include ministries, national and international organizations like UNICEF, Save the Children International, Defense for Children International, Terre Des Homes and others.

Other main professional activities, in particular related to children’s rights: (10 lines maximum)

Between 1989 and 1996, I ran the Palestine YMCA Rehabilitation Programs providing psycho-social and rehabilitation services for traumatized and disabled children. I founded the only child rights organization in Palestine in 1991, DCIP, a section of the Geneva-based Defense for Children International (DCI) and was its director between 2008 till 2014. In 1996, I co-founded a shelter for street children in Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan as part of my work as representative of consortium of donors in Central Asia. In 2005, I was elected as President of the International Executive Council of DCI and was re-elected for another term in the year 2008 till the year 2012. In 2013, I was appointed as DCI General Commissioner for MENA Region. During my term ten Arab sections joined the international movement. In 1995 I helped establishing ARD/Denal, a local organization provides rehabilitation services to Chechen children victims of the civil war. I was selected to become a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on child welfare for two consecutive years (2008 and 2009). In 2014, I was elected by the International General Assembly of DCI as its president for the next five years.

Educational background: (5 lines maximum)

B.A. Psychology and Sociology, Bethlehem University, Awarded: 1987

Advanced training

General Management, Bir Zeit University & Federation for International Training/Canada (November 1995)

Group Dynamics: Theory and Application, Bir Zeit University (September 1987)

Individual and Group Therapy, Bir Zeit University (November 1986)

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:

(5 lines maximum)

I have experience in evaluating and assessing programs, drafting policies and strategies related to human rights in general and in particular children rights. I also have extensive working experience in child protection; children in armed conflict, children in conflict with the law, protecting children deprived of liberty from torture and ill treatment, children victims of violence neglect and abuse, children with disability and justice for children in many countries and regions in the world among them Palestine, Jordan and MENA region, Chechnya, Central Asia and Europe.

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

(5 lines)

**Contribution to books**: in 2019 Palestinian Children: Caught in the Snare of Israeli Military Occupation, in 2009 A History of Child Rights in Action, **Researches:** in 2019 Research on electronic Gender Based Violence, in 2019 Guidebook on Alternatives to Detention for Children in Jordan, in 2017 National Referral System of Child Protection against Abuse, Violence and Neglect; **Papers in conferences:** in 2018 “Humanitarian Access in Gaza, impact on Children”, UN Forum on Question of Palestine in New York, in 2017 “Role of Civil Society in Respect of Palestinian Children Rights”, in Kuwait

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 of three weeks duration each per year; in addition, pre-sessional working groups are held immediately after each session during five working days in order to prepare the following session. The total number of weeks during which the Committee meets in Geneva therefore amounts to at least 12 weeks per year. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)