Ms. Catalina Devandas-Aguilar (Costa Rica) is a lawyer by training and human rights advocate, who has worked extensively on disability issues at the national, regional and international level. Before taking up her duties as first Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities on 1 December 2014, she worked as a Programme Officer for Strategic Partnerships with the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, and was formerly with the United Nations Secretariat unit responsible for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the World Bank as a consultant for the Disability and Inclusive Development team for Latin America and the Caribbean region. Ms. Devandas-Aguilar has previously served as a Board Member of the Latin American Network of Persons with Disabilities representing the region in the International Disability Alliance. Her work has focused on the rights of women with disabilities and the rights of indigenous peoples with disabilities, and she has experience supporting capacity building and technical assistance projects with Governments, United Nations system actors, national human rights institutions, and organizations of persons with disabilities.