**Annex II**

Biographical data form of candidates to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**(Please respect the specified amount of lines when completing this form)**

**Family name and first name:** Al-Farsi, Yahya

**Date and place of birth**: 07 April 1976 [Muscat, Sultanate of Oman]

**Place of residence:** Barka, Sultanate of Oman.

**Nationality:** Omani

**Email address:** ymfarsi@gmail.com

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

**Current position/function:**

* Associate Professor of Public Health & Epidemiologist/ Consultant Public Health Physician (Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman).
* Adjunct Ass. Professor (School of Public Health, Boston University, MA, USA).
* Honorary Clinical Lecturer (Imperial College London, UK).
* Chairman, Oman Autism Society.

**Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:**

Principal Investigator of studies on Autism and intellectual disabilities in Oman, funded by His Majesty, The Sultan. Conducted studies about autism and intellectual disabilities including prevalence, risk factors, psychological burden, and molecular biology. Explored psychosocial burden of caring children with autism and societal perception of autism. Published 28 scientific articles and 34 proceedings in international conferences. Supervised 6 postgraduate theses on intellectual disabilities (3 MSc, 3 PhD). Received several local and international awards for efforts on disabilities. Developed an Arabic mobile application for screening of intellectual disabilities. Established and chaired Oman Autism Society, a prominent civil society in Oman and the region.

**Educational background, in particular on the rights of persons with disabilities**

2008 Doctorate of Science (DSc) in Epidemiology, Boston University, USA.

2003 Masters of Science in Public Health (MPH), Boston University, USA.

2002 Certificate Program in International Health, Boston University, USA.

2000 Doctor of Medicine (MD), Sultan Qaboos University, Oman.

1997 Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Health Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman.

**Please indicate whether you identify yourself as a person with disability or elaborate on your lived experience related to persons with disabilities.**

I am not a person with disability. Nonetheless, my son had been diagnosed with autism when he was 3 years old (year 2003). My wife and I worked hard to support him, and he is currently a second-year university student at University of South Florida, USA.

**Relevant expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities**

**Please elaborate on your areas of expertise under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and related experience.**

Conducted awareness and training campaigns about rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. Partnered with Ministry of Social Development and The Parliament in national strategies of intellectual disabilities in Oman. Contributed to Law of Disability in Oman. Advocated for inclusion of intellectual disabilities into mainstream education. Contributed to establishment the National Autism Centre, one of the biggest centers of excellence in the Middle East to provides rehabilitation services.

**List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:**

***Selected Publications:*** Autism in Gulf States. Frontiers in Bioscience. 2019;24:334. Stress, anxiety, and depression among parents of children with autism. Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment. 2016, 4;12:1943-51.Awareness about autism among school teachers in Oman. *Autism*, 2013. DOI: 10.1177/136236131350. Socio-economic burden for caring children with Autism: Caregiver perspectives. *JADD*. 2013;43(5):1214-21. Prevalence of autistic spectrum disorders in Oman. JADD. 2011; 41(6):821-825.