**Annex II -** Biographical data form of candidates to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

**Family name and first name:** Fitoussi, Odelia

**Date and place of birth:** May 24, 1977, Israel

**Place of residence:** Bat Yam, Israel

**Nationality:** Israeli

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

**United Nations working languages:** English, French

**Current position/function:** (Five lines maximum)

Chairperson of the Advisory Committee to the Equal Rights Commission for People with Disabilities, Ministry of Justice. In addition, I serve as Co-Director of the Civil Forum for Promoting the CRPD. I am also CEO of "Hadas," an NGO on the field of sexuality and relations among PWDs, and the Founder and Manager of "Ometz," a company that promotes the inclusion of PWDs.

**Other main activities on the rights of persons with disabilities:** (Ten lines maximum)

Currently acting as a Facilitator and Consultant for Merchavim Institute, working with the Ministry of Education to promote diversity in and inclusion teachers with disabilities. I was a Board Member and currently volunteer for "Beit Hagalgalim" and "Bizchut," two NGOs promoting rights and services for PWDs.Prior to that I worked as an Art Therapist **f**or two NGOs, "Beit Ekstein" which provides person-centric services for PWDs; and "Talpiot" which supports children and families in times of crisis. In addition, I have been a Group Facilitator for Joint Israel JDC, providing PWDs with skills to prevent and cope with exploitation, violence or abuse. I am also a lecturer and facilitator on PWDs issues, such as self-advocacy, making choices etc. Finally, I Co-Edited a "Shadow Report" on four articles of the CRPD for Israel's last Review.

**Educational background:** (Five lines maximum)

MA in Art Therapy from Lesley University (2009). BA in Criminology, Sociology and Anthropology from Bar Ilan University (1998). "120 Program" - National Political Leadership Program, Shaharit Institute (2015). Group Facilitation studies at the Central School for Social Services (2014). "Kolot Programs"- specialized studies for therapeutic professionals through the study of traditional Jewish texts (2011).

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

I am an activist all of my life in many fields of PWDs. I was born with SMA type2- Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which affects the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord. As a result, I need a motorized wheelchair and round-the-clock assistance by a companion.

**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.** (Five lines maximum)

As Co-Director of the Civil Forum for the CRPD, I gathered expertise at identifying gaps in the implementation of the CRPD. Meanwhile, as art therapist and volunteer in various NGOs working with children and youth with disabilities, I specialized in helping them gain leadership and independence. Now, in the Equal Rights Commission for PWDs, I have a role in changing policy and legislation in the spirit of the CRPD.

**List of most recent publications in the field of the rights of persons with disabilities:** (Five lines maximum)

Fitoussi O. (2009) "Shall we have a seat? The therapeutic relations between a therapist with a visible disability and his patients, from their perspective" MA thesis, Lesley University, Cambridge Massachusetts.

Fitoussi O., Schwartz-Schur P., Ido O. (2012) "What, I'm a 'pass parcel'? Perceptions of the independence of adults with disabilities"- qualitative research. Hertzelia.

Fitoussi O. (2015)" The holes in the strainer" bureaucracy and people with disability's rights – column in Yediot Acharonot newspaper. Tel Aviv.

Fitoussi O.,Schwartz-Schur P., Ido. O. (2016) "The disability is part of my therapeutic identity - The influence of physical disability from therapists and teachers's point of view who experience it," Qualitative research. Hertzliya.

The 32 NGO's Forum of the promotion and the implementation of the CRPD in Israel (Fitoussi O. & Kraim Y., managers) (2018) "Shadow Report," a report that focuses on four significant rights in the life of persons with disabilities which the CRPD enshrines. Jerusalem.