

**Biographical data form of Ms. Theodora Oby Nwankwo  
Candidate of Nigeria to CEDAW**

**Name and first name**

Theodora Oby Nwankwo

**Date and place of birth**

September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1956.

**Working languages**

English

**Current position/function**

Executive Director, CIRDDOC Nigeria; Member - International Steering Committee, Coalition on the International Criminal Court (CICC) New York; Advisory Board of Global Fund for Women San Francisco USA; Member, National Technical Committee on CEDAW; National Committee on the Review of Discriminatory Laws against Women; National Drafting Committee on the Nigeria Country Report on CEDAW 2006; Nigerian Movement for Children (NMC); Coordinator, National Coalition on Affirmative Action.

**Main professional activities**

She is a lawyer of over 30 years post call experience in litigation, judicial duties and development work. She served as a Chief Magistrate in Nigerian judiciary for 23 years. She is in the forefront of the campaign for respect for women's rights, gender equality and good governance for over 3 decades. She is a gender expert, human rights activist, election monitor, community mobiliser, independent development consultant and a trainer/Facilitator. She represents Africa on the Steering Committee of the CICC New York, and a member of the ICC Gender Justice Team. She is Chairperson of the Civil Society Coordinating Committee on Electoral Reform, an umbrella organisation of all CSOs engaging the constitutional and electoral reform processes. She is the founder and Coordinator of NCAA, a network of CSOs committed to the adoption of affirmative action as an effective strategy for increasing the numbers of women in governance.

**Educational background**

LL.M University of Nigeria (1992) (Masters in Law); B.L Nigeria Law School (1980); LL.B University of Nigeria (1979), Women's Global Leadership Institute, Rutgers University, New Jersey 1999, Academy on Human Rights & Humanitarian Law, Washington College of Law, American University, U.S.A. 2003, Using International Human Rights Instruments in the Enforcement of Human Rights by OMCT Geneva and Global Course on "Empowerment, HIV and Violence against Women" by Development Connections (DVCN) and UNIFEM 2009.

### **Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned**

She is taking the lead in the campaign for the domestication of CEDAW and the AU Protocol in Nigeria. She was on the government delegation to defend the CEDAW Report at the United Nations in 2008. She has attended all CEDAW Committee Hearings on Nigeria since 2004. She participated in and presented a paper “Effectiveness of Legislation Enacted to Address Violence against Women in Nigeria” – Presentation at the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women Experts’ Meeting on Good Practices in Legislation against Violence against Women, Vienna, May 2008 at the DAW Expert Group Meeting on Good Practices in Legislation on VAW in 2008. She worked with other consultants to conduct a study on the processes for the domestication of CEDAW and the African Women’s Protocol in Nigeria, Senegal, Niger, other West African countries, Uganda India, Morocco and South Africa (2008).

### **List of most recent publications in the field**

(1) “Current Issues on the Domestication of CEDAW in Nigeria” – Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology – 2005. (2) Current Themes in the Domestication of Human Rights Norms (Eds.) Nweze C.C. & Nwankwo O – FDP Books 2003. (3) “Ensuring Justice to Women in the ICC: A Call to Action”: The ICC Monitor; No. 33 (4) Human Rights of Women: A Compilation of Treaties and Conventions – Peculiar Instincts 2005. (5) CEDAW as a Tool for Women’s Rights Activism: FDP Books 2001. (6) Affirmative Action Strategies: Perspectives from around the Globe (Eds.) Egwu Sam & Nwankwo Oby - FDP Books 2003. (7) Engendering the Budget Process in Nigeria FDP Books 2008. (8) VAW and HIV/AIDS – Exploring the intersection of the Twin Pandemics FDP Books 2009. (9) “Using CEDAW as a tool for mobilisation of Women’s Human Rights” Expo 2000 Baltimore MD USA. . (10) Achieving Gender Balance in the Context of International Frameworks/Commitments: .....” – Commonwealth Secretariat’s 2005.

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