

**Biographical data form of candidates to the  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**Name (family name, first name):** Nwankwo Theodora Oby

**Nationality:** Nigerian

**Date and place of birth:** 22 September 1956 Nigeria

**Working languages:** English

**Current position/function:**

Executive Director, Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CiRDDoC) an NGO committed to the promotion and protection of human rights, women's rights, gender equality, good governance and access to justice. Independent Gender and development expert and has consulted for UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC, ADB and UNFPA on Gender budgeting, anti-Corruption strategy, Women's Political participation, access to justice, Gender Policy among others.

**Main professional activities<sup>1</sup>:**

Retired from Nigerian Judiciary after 23 years as Chief Magistrate; runs an NGO that provides pro bono legal services to indigent women; trainer and facilitator on CEDAW, women's rights and gender; in the forefront of the campaign for respect for gender equality for over 3 decades; represents Africa on the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the ICC; Chairperson of the CSO Coordinating Committee on Constitutional and Electoral Reform; founding Coordinator of NCAA, a network of CSOs committed to the domestication of CEDAW and the adoption of affirmative action for women's increased participation in governance in Nigeria. Member: National Technical Committee on CEDAW, National Committee on the Review of Discriminatory Laws against Women; Advisory Board of Global Fund for Women; ICC Gender Justice Team.

**Educational background:**

LL.M University of Nigeria (1992); 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, Training on "Using International Human Rights Instruments in the Enforcement of Human Rights" by OMCT Geneva 2002.

**Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:**

Active involvement in legislative advocacy and the campaign for the domestication of CEDAW in Nigeria as coordinator; facilitation of NGO shadow reporting on CEDAW; provision of technical advice to Government on CEDAW Periodic Country reporting. Consultant on the comparative analysis of CEDAW and AU Protocol domestication processes in different countries in Africa to inform the process in Nigeria; Consultant for UN bodies on

engendering the Nigerian national anti corruption strategy, engendering the Liberian public finance management systems and policies within Government Agencies and development of Gender Policies and Strategic Results Frameworks. She has attended all CEDAW Committee hearings on Nigeria since 2004. UN DAW Experts Group member on Good Practices in Legislation against Violence against Women, Vienna, May 2008.

**List of most recent publications in the field of discrimination against women and advancement of their human rights:**

Current Themes in the Domestication of Human Rights Norms (Eds.) Nweze C.C. & Nwankwo O; FDP 2005. “Ensuring Justice to Women in the ICC: A Call to Action”: The ICC Monitor; No. 33. Human Rights of Women: A Compilation of Treaties and Conventions – Peculiar Instincts 2005. CEDAW as a Tool for Women’s Rights Activism: FDP Books 2001. Affirmative Action Strategies: Perspectives from around the Globe (Eds.) Egwu Sam & Nwankwo Oby - FDP Books 2003. Engendering the Budget Process in Nigeria FDP Books 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that membership in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requires participation in three annual sessions of three weeks duration, plus participation (on a rotating basis) in a pre-session working group of one week in respect of each session.