




**“I am committed to a world where women and men enjoy equal rights, and all human beings have equal opportunities to live their lives in dignity. The CEDAW Convention is an important instrument to move towards this goal.”**

Erika Schläppi is a lawyer, an experienced consultant on women’s rights and co-director of Ximpulse Ltd, a consultancy firm specialised in the areas of human rights and governance. She has a versatile profile and extensive experience in analysing, advising, supporting and building the capacity of state and non-state actors in the areas of women’s rights, access to justice, and state organisation in various countries all over the world, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.

During her term on the committee, Erika Schläppi wishes to contribute to (1) strengthening the legal work of the committee; (2) increasing the visibility and impact of the CEDAW Convention as a reference instrument for the implementation of women’s rights and the achievement of equality; and (3) making the most effective use of the committee’s resources, with a particular emphasis on cooperation and synergies with other international bodies that play an important role in the fight against discrimination against women.

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation



More information  
on Erika Schläppi's  
candidacy



## Erika Schläppi

Swiss candidate for a term  
on the Committee on the  
Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women (CEDAW  
Committee) 2025–2028

## Professional and personal skills

### Legal and thematic expertise

Erika Schläppi is a lawyer who possesses extensive legal expertise on the CEDAW Convention. She co-edited the first German-language commentary on the matter in 2015. She also contributed several times to the preparation of the Swiss report for the CEDAW Committee and took part in the development of an online tool to facilitate the use of the CEDAW Convention by lawyers in Switzerland. She has a wealth of knowledge that will enable her to help consolidate the work of the CEDAW Committee.

### Commitment against all forms of discrimination

Erika Schläppi has dedicated most of her career to the promotion of human rights, and in particular to the promotion of women's rights and gender equality. Her wish to join the CEDAW Committee stems from this commitment to combat all forms of discrimination, strengthen equality and empowerment of women and girls.

### Versatile and independent profile

Erika Schläppi is an independent and versatile expert who has developed her experience both in support of civil society and on behalf of state actors. Her academic, political and legal expertise complement each other, ensuring an understanding of the challenges of implementing in practice the rights covered by CEDAW in various areas, including sustainable development and governance.

### A quest for dialogue

Her numerous mandates have taken Erika Schläppi to many different parts of the world and a great variety of contexts. This broad experience has instilled in her an understanding of complex realities and a wish to seek dialogue and compromise, taking into account the perspectives of all stakeholders. These skills are enhanced by her fluency in English, French, Spanish and German.

## Curriculum Vitae: key dates

- since 1999** Various consultancy mandates as an expert, including:
- Various independent evaluations and multiple contributions to and support for development programmes involving the gender dimension in various countries, mandated by Switzerland in the field of development cooperation.
  - Design and development of an online tool for lawyers to use the CEDAW Convention in practice for the Swiss Federal Commission for Women's Issues.
  - Participation as an expert in the preparation and drafting of several periodic reports of Switzerland for the CEDAW Committee as well as Switzerland's first report on the implementation of the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence for the GREVIO Committee.
  - Key advice, design and implementation of the strategy for the establishment of a national human rights institution in Switzerland.
  - Support for monitoring of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs' Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights.
  - Co-design and contribution to several training courses and workshops on CEDAW, human rights and development in the field of development cooperation.
- 1998** Doctorate in law, doctoral thesis on human rights in development cooperation.
- 1989–1994** Legal adviser at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, responsible for various issues related to Swiss human rights policy, including vis-à-vis the UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE.
- 1985** Admission to the bar in Bern.