



**Vanessa Sedletzki**  
Child Rights Specialist

### **Short Biographical Sketch**

Vanessa Sedletzki is a Child Rights Specialist, responsible at IRC for research on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Key areas of her current work focus on independent human rights institutions (ombudspersons) for children, government children's machineries, and governance issues. She joined UNICEF in 2001 at New York Headquarters, initially supporting the UN Special Session on Children negotiations and the peace and security agenda. She then worked more broadly on policy advocacy for children's rights in UN bodies and at the national level on a wide array of topics, with specific attention to legislative reform, discrimination and multiculturalism, particularly on indigenous issues. She has an academic background in public policy, law and international affairs from Sciences Po, Panthéon-Sorbonne law faculty, and Columbia University.

### **Fields of Research**

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Independent Human Rights Institutions for Children (Ombudspersons)

Government Children's Machineries

Governance and Child Rights

### **Languages**

French, English, Spanish, Italian

### **Recent Publications**

"Fulfilling the right to education for minority and indigenous children: Where are we in international standards?", *State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2009*, Minority Rights Group International, London, 2009

"Legislative reform for the protection of the rights of child victims of trafficking", *Chapter IV in Handbook on Legislative Reform: Realizing Children's Rights*, UNICEF, New York, 2008

*Culture, Public Policy and the Rights of Indigenous Children*, DPP Working Papers, UNICEF, New York 2008

*UNICEF's experience in the area of legislative reform: A review of selected countries*, Legislative Reform Initiative Paper Series, UNICEF, New York, 2007

