



COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
CERD

91st session (21 November – 9 December 2016)
Ground floor conference room, Palais Wilson, Geneva

INFORMATION NOTE
NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

States parties reports

The Committee will examine the reports of the following six States parties during its 91st session: Argentina, Italy, Portugal, Togo, Turkmenistan and Uruguay.

CERD Committee Members

The CERD Committee consists of 18 members, serving in their personal capacity. For the details about all CERD members, see:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/Membership.aspx>

Decision of the Committee

At its seventy-seventh session, on the 3 August 2010, the Committee held an informal meeting with representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss ways and means of strengthening cooperation. The Committee decided to have *informal meetings* with non-governmental organizations, at the beginning of each week of its sessions when States parties' reports are being discussed. The Committee welcomes representatives of national and international NGOs to provide country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before it.

Documentation

The reports of the six States parties to be considered at the 91st session, the provisional agenda and other documents pertaining to the session will be posted shortly on the OHCHR website:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1080&Lang=en

Venue

The 91st session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson Ground floor conference room.

NGO reports for the Committee at its sessions

The Committee welcomes written information, which should be as specific, reliable and objective as possible, from international, regional, national and local organizations. NGO "alternative reports" which follow the same form of presentation as the reports submitted by the Government concerned, are especially welcome. NGO reports prepared by coalitions, rather than individual NGOs, are also encouraged.

All submissions to CERD should:

1. Be submitted in English, French or Spanish. As most Committee members use English as their preferred working language, documents submitted in French and Spanish should, to the extent possible, be translated into English. Please note that **the UN Secretariat does not translate documents submitted by NGOs.**
2. Be transmitted to the CERD Secretariat preferably before **31 October 2016** for the information to be more likely taken into account by the country rapporteur as well as the other Committee members.
3. Be transmitted to the CERD Secretariat **electronically** and thereafter in **20 paper copies** by post. *OHCHR does not reproduce NGO documents.*

E-mail of the Secretariat:
CERD Secretariat
cerd@ohchr.org

Postal address of the Secretariat:
CERD Secretariat
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Accreditation

NGO representatives who wish to attend the CERD session are requested to complete the Conference Registration Form: <http://goo.gl/6zfhnx> and submit the full name of the NGO, names of their representatives, and the proposed dates of attendance to the attention of the Secretariat of the Committee on cerd@ohchr.org, by **14 November 2016** so that arrangements can be made with the Accreditation Office for the issuance of the United Nations ground passes to enter United Nations premises. Kindly mention “**accreditation**” in subject when sending an email message. To claim the ground pass all applicants are required to present their passports or government issued ID (with photo) at the security.

Please note that OHCHR will neither send letters of invitations to NGOs to attend CERD sessions nor assist with travel or accommodation costs relating to their participation.

Informal meetings and lunchtime briefings

NGO representatives are welcome to attend as observers, but will not be given the opportunity to speak during the Committee’s meetings with the State delegation. Nevertheless, NGO representatives may have *informal meetings* with the Committee members to present country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before the Committee.

To find out the schedule of informal meetings, please consult the Programme of work available at:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1080&Lang=en

Lunchtime briefings by the NGOs may also be arranged immediately prior to the afternoon meetings when the States parties’ reports are being discussed, typically from 13.45 to 14.45 pm. There will be a designated room for these briefings. The Secretariat will not provide interpretation, but may provide equipment for power point presentation, which if needed, be requested three days in advance of the proposed date of the briefing. The accommodation of the request will depend on the availability of the Committee members.

Please contact the CERD Secretariat at cerd@ohchr.org preferably before **31 October 2016** to confirm attendance to the informal meeting and/or arrange for lunchtime briefing with the members of the Committee.

CERD Concluding observations

Following the consideration of the States parties reports during the 91st CERD session, the Committee will formulate concluding observations that will assist the States parties concerned in the implementation of the Convention. These concluding observations outline positive aspects, principal subjects or concerns and the Committee’s recommendations on how to address challenges faced by the States parties. Once the concluding observation has been adopted, the document will be posted on the CERD Webpage at:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1080&Lang=en