



# COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CESCR

Geneva – Switzerland

## INFORMATION NOTE

rev. December 2018

### CESCR Committee Members

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

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

### Venue

The session and the meeting of the pre-session working group of the Committee take place in Geneva in Palais des Nations or Palais Wilson. Please consult the page of the relevant session or pre-session for information about the venue.

### Documentation

The reports of the States parties to be considered as well as other relevant documentation such as the lists of issues adopted by the pre-session working group, the States parties' replies thereto, the submissions received by the Committee and the concluding observations are posted on the webpage of each session:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CESCR](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CESCR)

The provisional agenda as well as the tentative programme of work are also found on each session's page.

### Webcast

The dialogue between the Committee and States parties is held in public. All public meetings of the Committee are generally webcast live at <http://webtv.un.org/>

### PSWG-Adoption of lists of issues (LOIs)

At the meeting of the pre-session working groups, CESCR adopts lists of issues relating to

the reports of States parties in advance of the dialogue. States parties are in turn expected to submit replies to the lists of issues.

### PSWG-Adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting

CESCR has made the simplified reporting procedure available, on a pilot basis, to a number of States parties on the basis of a set of criteria. Under the simplified procedure, the State party's reply to the list of issues prior to reporting (LOIPR) constitutes its report to the Committee. **Submissions from civil society organizations and national human rights institutions in advance of the adoption of LOIPRs are encouraged as dialogues on reports submitted under the procedure will focus on the issues included in the list.**

### Session-Adoption of concluding observations

Following the consideration of the States parties' reports, CESCR adopts in a closed meeting concluding observations that will assist the States parties in the implementation of the Covenant. These concluding observations outline positive aspects, principal subjects of concern and the Committee's recommendations on how to address challenges faced by the States parties.

Once adopted, the concluding observations are posted on the CESCR webpage under the relevant session.

### Parallel reports

The Committee welcomes written information, which should be as specific, reliable and objective as possible, from international, regional, national and local organizations as well as national human rights institutions. It is the responsibility of submitting organizations to

ensure that parallel reports do not contain personal identifiable data.

Parallel submissions prepared by coalitions, rather than individual organizations, and covering a broad range of economic, social and cultural rights are also encouraged. Reports for the pre-session should focus on information relevant in particular to the adoption of the LOIs or the LOIPRs. All submissions to CESCR should:

- Be submitted in English, French or Spanish. It is very useful if you could submit a report and/or summary translated into English. Please note that the UN Secretariat does not translate these reports.
- **For the Session:** Be transmitted to the CESCR Secretariat **preferably 6 weeks and latest 3 weeks before the beginning of the session.**
- **For the PSWG:** Be transmitted to the CESCR Secretariat **preferably 10 weeks and latest 8 weeks before the beginning of the PSWG.**
- Be transmitted to the CESCR Secretariat electronically in word format to the following **email address:** [cescr@ohchr.org](mailto:cescr@ohchr.org) (pls note that paper copies are in principle no longer distributed)
- be as concise as possible, and should not exceed 10 pages, or max 15 pages for coalition submissions. Paragraphs should preferably be numbered for ease of reference.

#### Public briefings and informal lunchtime meetings

Institutions and organizations that have submitted reports to the Committee may deliver a statement at a public meeting dedicated to partners (check the programme of work posted on the page of the relevant session for details of schedule) and/or organize an informal *lunchtime briefing*. The accommodation of request for lunchtime briefings will depend on the availability of the Committee members.

**Institutions and organizations that have submitted information on a given country are encouraged to coordinate among themselves, especially for the organization of lunchtime briefings.** For that purpose, mention of contact information in submissions is useful.

Likewise, institutions and organizations which have submitted information for the meeting of the pre-sessional working group may brief working group members.

**Please inform the CESCR Secretariat of attendance at the public briefing and/or about proposed lunchtime briefings at the time of submission of reports.**

#### Video message, teleconference and videoconference

Representatives of institutions and organizations that are unable to travel to Geneva can engage with the Committee via video message, teleconference or videoconference. Please contact the CESCR Secretariat for the technical requirements and to make the necessary arrangement. Possible remote participation should be indicated to the Secretariat at the time of submission of reports, as trial runs may need to be scheduled.

#### Accreditation

Representatives of institutions and organizations who wish to attend CESCR sessions or the meetings of the pre-sessional working group should register at least **ten days before the beginning of the session or the pre-session**. Accreditation requests are submitted and processed through UNOG's conference management platform - Indico. The link to the registration page is available on the webpage of the relevant session or meeting of the pre-sessional working group.

Please note that OHCHR is not in a position to send letters of invitations to attend CESCR sessions or assist with travel or accommodation arrangements. Also note that a confirmation of accreditation does not guarantee a seat in the meeting room, as space may be limited.

#### Further information

For more information on how to participate in the work of the Committee, please consult the information on working methods available on the OHCHR website:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CESCR/Pages/WorkingMethods.aspx>