



**Committee On Enforced
Disappearances
- CED -
24th session
(20 -31 March 2023)**

Information Note for victims, CSOs and NHRIs

Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

CED is the body of independent experts in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance by the States parties. It consists of 10 members, nominated by States parties and serving in their personal capacity. For details about the current membership of the Committee, please see:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/membership>

24th session (20 -31 March 2023)

The session will take place in person at Palais Wilson, Geneva, first floor conference Room (information subject to change depending on prevailing sanitary conditions).

All public meetings of the Committee will be webcast at the following link:
<https://media.un.org/en/webtv>

The provisional agenda of the session (CED/C/24/1) can be consulted at the following link:

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CED%2fC%2f24%2f1&Lang=en

States parties under review

1. First reports (art. 29(1) of the Convention)

The Committee will hold dialogues with the following States parties:

Costa Rica
Zambia (in absence of a report)

The review of State party's first report, or the examination of a State party in the absence of a report take place through an interactive dialogue with representatives of the national authorities

that have some competence related to the issue of enforced disappearances.

Prior to this dialogue, the Committee holds private meetings with national human rights institutions, and civil society actors such as NGOs and victims.

Following its interactive dialogues with the States parties under review, the Committee will adopt concluding observations in a closed meeting. In this official document, the Committee will outline the positive aspects, its principal subjects of concern and its recommendations to the State party regarding the measures it should take to respect the Convention.

2. Reports on additional information (art. 29(4) of the Convention)

The Committee will examine the reports on additional information of the following State party:

Argentina
Germany

Contrary to other Treaty Bodies, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances does not have a system of periodic reports. However, it can request States parties to provide additional information on the implementation of its recommendations and of the Convention (article 29-4 of the Convention).

With the aim to ensure a thorough monitoring of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and of the Convention by all States parties, the Committee is implementing new modalities for this procedure.

This procedure is being implemented progressively. At the 24th session, the Committee will review Argentina and Germany on the occasion of dialogues of 3 hours (exact modalities to be confirmed shortly).

Written and oral contributions from victims, CSOs and NHRIs on issues related to the implementation of the Convention and of the CED recommendations are welcome.

Following the consideration of available information, the Committee will adopt, in a closed meeting, Concluding Observations on Additional Information. These concluding observations aim at providing guidance to the State party concerned to implement the Convention and will clarify the next steps of the interaction of the Committee with the State party concerned.

3. Lists of issues

The Committee will adopt lists of issues for:

Benin
Malta
Norway

Lists of issues are adopted by the Committee for States that have submitted their first report to the Committee.

Upon adoption, they are transmitted to the State party, which is invited to provide written replies within a deadline determined by the Committee.

At this phase of adoption of the list of issues, civil society actors and National Human Rights Institutions are invited to bring issues of concern and positive experiences to the attention of the Committee. All inputs must be provided in writing and there is no space for oral briefings.

4. Report on Follow-up to Concluding Observations

For this part of the procedure, the Committee analyses the measures taken by the State party to implement three prioritized recommendations a year after the adoption of the concluding observations.

The Committee will examine the follow-up reports of the following States party:

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| <p>Brazil (TBC upon receipt of State party's report)</p> <p>Mongolia</p> <p>Panama (TBC upon receipt of State party's report)</p> |
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Written inputs from civil society, NHRIs and other stakeholders are welcome. They should focus on the issues that were prioritized in the adopted concluding observations by the Committee, and that are hereby copied for ease of reference:

- Brazil: paragraphs 13 (statistical information), 15 (offence of enforced disappearance) and 19 (military jurisdiction) [See CED/C/BRA/CO/1]
- Mongolia: paragraphs 17 (offence of enforced disappearance), 35 (training) and 39 (legal situation of disappeared persons whose fate has not been clarified and that of their relatives) [See CED/C/MNG/CO/1]
- Panama: paragraph 11 (compilation of the centralized register of missing and disappeared persons), paragraph 27 (communication by persons deprived of liberty) and paragraph 37 (search for disappeared persons and return of their remains) [see CED/C/PAN/CO/1]

Where to access the relevant documentation and documents adopted by the Committee?

The reports of States parties concerned and other public documents pertaining to the session can be consulted at the following link:

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2609&Lang=en

Upon their adoption during the session, the lists of Issues and Concluding Observations will be shared with the States concerned and will then be posted on the Committee's webpage under the relevant country and session.

Participation of victims, Civil Society Organizations and National Human Rights Institutions

The Committee on Enforced Disappearances highly encourages and welcomes the participation of victims, civil society organizations, and National Human Rights Institutions in its work.

You can participate through the submission of written information prior to the session (see deadlines below) and, for the countries at the phase of the interactive dialogue, you can also participate with oral briefings to the Committee.

1. Written contributions

a) Content of written contributions:

- All contributions must specify the name of the submitting organization, institution or person. **Anonymous submissions are not accepted.**

- You must specify if you want your contribution to be public (in this case it will be posted on the Committee's webpage), or confidential (in such case, the contribution will only be shared with Committee members).

- Provided information must relate to the situation of enforced disappearances in the State under review, as well as on all issues related to the eradication and prevention of enforced disappearances (regarding, for example, the search for disappeared persons, the investigation of disappearances, the legislative framework that is applicable, the registration of persons deprived of their liberty and access to related information, non-refoulement to countries where persons are at risk of enforced disappearance, disappearances in the context of migration and of trafficking in persons, the cooperation and mutual assistance between States parties, etc).

- All contributions must be specific, reliable and objective. They must be drafted in a non-abusive language.

- Written submissions should be **as concise and precise as possible**. They must limit to a **maximum of 10,700 words**, plus annexes.

- When related to a State with regard to which the Committee will adopt a list of issues, all contributions must be submitted in writing and must:

(i) Provide all comments considered of relevance as to the report of the State party (please consult corresponding reports on the session webpage);

(ii) Address all other issues related to the Committee's mandate (even if not referred to in the State party report).

- **The information should not contain names of victims**, except if related to cases of large public knowledge, or if the organization submitting the report counts with the consent of the victims (the persons who were disappeared and then located, or the family, relatives, or representatives of a disappeared person). The organizations that submit a report with names must be able to demonstrate such consent.

- Please note that **the UN Secretariat does not translate documents submitted by national human rights institutions and civil society representatives.**

- All contributions must be submitted in English, French or Spanish. As most members of the Committee use English as their working language, it is highly recommended to translate to English all documents submitted in French and Spanish. An unofficial translation is sufficient. In such case, please provide all available language versions of the document.

- All documents must be submitted electronically (in Word or PDF) to the Secretariat of the Committee at the following email address:

ohchr-ced@un.org

- **The subject matter of your email must specify the country to which the submission refers to, and the corresponding session number (24th session).**

- If you still need to submit printed documents, you should send them to the following address, taking into account the deadlines for the submission of contributions:

**Committee on Enforced Disappearances
Secretariat
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH 1211 Geneva 10 - Switzerland**

b) Deadlines for written contributions:

The deadlines for written contributions vary depending on the phase of the procedure corresponding to each State concerned.

**Benin - Malta - Norway
30 November 2022**

**Argentina - Costa Rica - Germany - Zambia
6 February 2023**

**Brazil - Mongolia - Panama
5 December 2022**

2. Oral briefings during the session for countries at the stage of interactive dialogue

Victims, civil society organizations, and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) are also highly encouraged to contribute to the Committee's work through oral briefings related to countries with which an interactive dialogue on an initial report or on a report on additional information is going to be held. Such briefings take place during **private meetings** that are scheduled just before the dialogue with the State concerned. They can be provided in person, or online (please note that online briefings impose various technical constraints and put limits on the availability of interpretation).

If you wish to provide an oral briefing to the Committee, **please inform the Secretariat through email at least one month before the beginning of the session.**

**Deadline to request oral briefing:
15 February 2023**

When requesting to take part to an oral briefing, please specify:

- Country concerned
- Issues you wish to raise
- Format of participation (in person or online)

Victims, civil society organizations, and NHRIs are also welcome **to attend public meetings of the Committee as observers**. This means that during such meetings, you will not have the possibility to address the Committee or the State party.

3. Accreditation

Victims, civil society organizations and NHRIs wishing to attend the session, be it in person or online, must register at the following link (INDICO): <https://indico.un.org/event/1001842/>

Kindly ensure that you register well in advance following the instructions provided.

For the 24th session, registrations will open on 1 March 2023.

In case you wish to participate in person to the session, your registration must be approved.

Once your registration is approved, you must get your badge going in person to the **United Nations Pass and Identifications Unit** located at the **Palais des Nations, Villa les Feuillantines**, (13 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Monday to Friday, 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.).

To get your badge you will have to present a valid national passport or ID document bearing a photograph. Please note that you will have to bring your passport or ID document every time you wish

to enter UN premises, even when you have your badge.

Please note that the United Nations does not send letters of invitation and does not assist with visa requests, travel or accommodation related to the participation of victims, civil society organizations or NHRIs in the sessions of Treaty Bodies.

Further information

On the participation of **civil society actors** in the reporting process, please consult:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/guidelines-civil-society-and-national-human-rights-institutions>

You can also contact:

- CED Secretariat:

ohchr-ced@un.org & albane.prophette@un.org

- The Civil Society Team of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Divisions (CTMD):
britta.nicolmann@un.org

On the participation of **NHRIs**, please contact

- The National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, OHCHR:

cynthia.radert@un.org

johnny.white@un.org

- The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions: k.rose@ganhri.org
