

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (CERD)

118th session (10 – 25 August 2026)

NATIONAL HUMANRIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRIs)

INFORMATION NOTE

Venue and Webcast

The 118th session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, A Building, 3 Floor, Room no. VII in Geneva.**

The dialogue between the Committee and States parties and all other public meetings of the session are webcast live at [UN Web TV](#) and available thereafter in the webcast archives.

Participation of NHRIs

The Committee recognizes the important role that NHRIs play in combating racism and racial discrimination. In its General Recommendation 28, paragraph 2 (a), the Committee recommended that NHRIs assist their respective States to comply with their reporting obligations and closely monitor the follow-up to the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee.

Furthermore, according to the Committee's practice and Guidelines on cooperation with NHRIs, NHRIs that are accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) are provided with opportunities to engage with the Committee that are distinct from those of other actors.

NHRIs written contributions

The Committee welcomes written contributions by NHRIs, which should be reliable, concise, relevant and non-abusive. NHRIs are encouraged to provide written contributions or inputs of other forms that contain:

- (i) information on the implementation of some or all of the provisions of the Convention;
- (ii) comments on the report of the State party;
- (iii) information on the implementation by the State party of previous concluding observations of the Committee;
- (iv) information on positive aspects or emerging challenges registered in the State party.

It is the responsibility of NHRIs that their written contributions respect anonymity by not containing the names of individuals, unless they are already in the public domain or the concerned individuals have given their approval. NHRIs should ensure that identifiable information of individuals is not included or is redacted by inserting a black box over their names, or through other methods of fully anonymising the information. Photographs of alleged victims, witnesses or perpetrators are not to be included.

All submissions to CERD should be:

1. Submitted in English, French or Spanish, and submissions in one of the three languages may include, to the extent possible, an executive summary in one of the two other languages. **The Committee secretariat does not translate documents submitted by NHRIs.**
2. Transmitted to the CERD Secretariat within the deadlines detailed on the webpage of each session to allow members of the Committee to read the reports:
 - For the **list of themes: before 25 May 2026.**
 - For the **review: before 20 July 2026.**

- For the **follow-up procedure to concluding observations before 25 May 2026.**
 - For the **early warning and urgent action procedure (EWUAP) before 25 May 2026.**
 - For **the list of issues prior to reporting before 15 June 2026.**
3. **As concise as possible.** NHRIs reports should not exceed 20 pages.
 4. **Provided in Word format** through the online submission system **on <https://events.ohchr.org/>** indicating whether the submission could be published on the Committee's webpage or should be kept confidential.

Meetings with the Committee

Informal meetings: Representatives of NHRIs accredited by GANHRI who have submitted written contributions may address the Committee during *informal meetings* to present country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before the Committee. **Such informal meetings might take place in-person.**

NHRIs representatives are kindly requested to contact the CERD Secretariat (ohchr-cerd@un.org) preferably before **3 August 2026** to confirm their attendance in-person.

Participation during the formal dialogue: Furthermore, NHRIs accredited by GANHRI who have submitted written contributions to the

Committee have the possibility, at their request, to be allotted an amount of time (*five minutes*), to present a statement during the formal dialogue with the State party. Such a request should be made as early as possible to the Secretariat.

Accreditation for in-person meetings

NHRI representatives who wish to attend the CERD session **in-person** are requested to register online through Indico (UNOGs conference management platform) by clicking on the **link**. **All participants must have the meeting badge of the session.** Kindly ensure you register well in advance. The registrations will remain open until **3 August 2026.**

Please note that the OHCHR Secretariat will not assist with travel, visas or accommodation costs relating to the participation of NHRIs.

Adoption of concluding observations

Following the review of the States parties' reports, the Committee will, in a closed meeting, adopt concluding observations that will assist the States parties concerned in the implementation of the Convention. 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. They also identify a number of recommendations for the follow-up procedure. Once adopted, the concluding observations are posted on the Committee's **web page** under the relevant session.