COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST

WOMEN (CEDAW)

Participation by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

84th session (6-24 February 2023) and Pre-sessional Working Group for the 86th session (27 February-3 March 2023), Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXIII

**I. Consideration of reports by States Parties**

The Committee will consider the reports of the following States parties during its 84th session: **Bahrain, Costa Rica (tbc), Georgia, Hungary, Mauritania, Norway, Slovenia and Tunisia.**

The **Pre-sessional Working Group for the 86th session** will adopt lists of issues in relation to the periodic reports of the following States parties: **Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka**. In addition, the Pre-sessional Working Group will adopt lists of issues prior to reporting on **Argentina, Australia and Trinidad and Tobago.**

**II. Documentation**

The reports of the States parties to be considered at the 84th session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/84/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2603&Lang=en

**III. Venue**

The 84th session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations in Conference Room XXIII. The Pre-sessional Working Group (PSWG) for the 86th session will also take place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations in Conference Room XXIII. **NHRIs will be able to participate either physically or remotely via Zoom** in relevant meetings of the Committee and its pre-sessional working group. NHRIs will also be able to follow the Committee’s public dialogues with the aforementioned States parties either in person or via the **live webcast on UN Web TV: http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/**

**IV. Face masks**

Please note that the wearing of **face masks** (surgical or FFP-2 type) remains obligatory at all times in the Conference Room (except when taking the floor).

**V. NHRI participation**

The Committee has emphasized the importance it attaches to its cooperation with NHRIs in its statement on national human rights institutions adopted in 2008 (goo.gl/96eYm7). In 2019, it adopted a paper on the cooperation between the Committee and NHRIs (<https://bit.ly/2teZHtA>), which takes into account recent procedures and practices developed by other human rights treaty bodies. The Committee encourages the NHRIs concerned to provide country-specific information on issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention by the States parties scheduled for consideration at the 84th session and 86th Pre-sessional Working Group. This can be done orally and/or in writing. Due to the volume of documentation received, written submissions should not exceed **3,300 words**. They must be submitted in one of the working languages of the Committee (**English, French or Spanish).** They must not follow any specific structure or template and may be organized thematically and/or on an article-by-article basis.

**VI. Written submissions for the 84th session (6-24 February 2023)**

NHRIs are encouraged to make written submissions that contain:

* Information on the implementation of some or all of the substantives articles (articles 1 to 16) of the Convention;
* Comments on the report of the State party and its written replies to the list of issues;
* Information on the implementation by the State party of previous concluding observations of the Committee;
* Information highlighting priority concerns and suggesting country-specific recommendations to facilitate the work of the Committee; and
* **Information on the impact of measures taken by the States parties concerned in relation to the COVID-19 crisis on women's rights and gender equality and the integration of a gender perspective in COVID-19 recovery plans.**

NHRIs wishing to make written submissions to the Committee are requested to:

* Indicate the full name of the NHRI;
* Indicate the country to which the information relates;
* Indicate whether or not the submission can be published on the OHCHR website for CEDAW for public information purposes;
* Anonymize the names of any alleged victims, witnesses and perpetrators in the report by replacing them with their **initials** and ensure that **no photographs** of alleged victims, witnesses or perpetrators are included;
* Submit the written information not exceeding **3,300 words** in **Word format** by e-mail; and
* Submit the written information in one of the working languages of the Committee **(English, French or Spanish)**.

All submissions should be received four weeks prior to the beginning of the session by the Secretariat of the Committee, i.e., no later than **9 January 2023**. The written submission should be sent electronically in Word format to the following e-mail address: ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org). Please indicate in the subject of the email: “submission” and the “name of the country” (e.g. “Submission Bahrain”).

In line with the UN greening policy, hard copies of submissions are no longer necessary.

**VII. Written submissions for the Pre-Sessional Working Group (27 February-3 March** **2023)**

The pre-sessional working group will be held in closed meeting. It will prepare lists of issues for the following States parties that are scheduled to be considered at future sessions of the Committee: **Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka**. In addition, it will prepare **lists of issues prior to reporting for Argentina, Australia and Trinidad and Tobago** under the simplified reporting procedure. The pre-sessional working group prepares lists of issues and questions for States parties that normally are scheduled to be reviewed two sessions later (does not apply to lists of issues prior to reporting), except that this sequence has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Receiving information from NHRIs at an early stage of the reporting process is of critical importance. NHRIs are therefore invited to submit written contributions for the development of the lists of issues and lists of issues prior to reporting by the pre-sessional working group. NHRIs wishing to submit written information to the pre-sessional working group should follow the same procedure as for the submission of written information for the session (see above). Written NHRI submissions must be **in one of the working languages of the Committee (English, French or Spanish),** **must** not exceed 3,300 words and should be sent **by 30 January** 2023 at the latest electronically in Word format to the following e-mail address: ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org).

**VIII. Written submissions under the follow-up to concluding observations procedure**

In its concluding observations adopted at the end of the consideration of a State party report, the Committee identifies up to four sub-paragraphs, requiring the State party concerned to submit **follow-up information** in relation to these sub-paragraphs within one or two years.

The follow-up procedure allows for the consideration of information received from NHRIs. **NHRI submissions** shall be in one of the working languages of the Committee (English, French or Spanish), as concise as possible, must not exceed a maximum length of **3,500 words** and should be sent electronically in Word format to ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org). The deadline for the submission of written information by NHRIs is four weeks before the beginning of the session at which the State party’s follow-up report is scheduled to be assessed (i.e. 9 January 2023 for the 84th session).

For more information on the follow-up to concluding observations procedure see: <https://bit.ly/34og440>

**IX. Informal public meetings with NHRIs during the 84th session**

NHRIs have the possibility to brief the Committee as a whole in informal public meetings with interpretation into the working languages of the Committee (English, French and Spanish; exceptionally Arabic, Chinese and Russian), as well as in informal private meetings without interpretation at the request of the NHRI and closely preceding the dialogue.

These informal public meetings **will be held** on **Monday**, 6 February 2023 from 16:30 to 17:00, for the countries that will be considered during the first week (Hungary, Georgia, Norway and Tunisia), and on **Monday**, 13 February 2023 from 16:30 to 17:00, for the countries that will be considered during the second week (Bahrain, Mauritania and Slovenia) and third week (**Costa Rica (tbc**)) of the 84th session. The meetings will be held in Conference Room XXIII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and are open to the public. For the schedule of consideration of States parties’ reports, please consult the Committee’s website for the 84th session at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2603&Lang=en

NHRIs should inform the Secretariat whether they wish to participate in these meetings either **physically or remotely** via Zoom (**with interpretation** services). The meetings will also be publicly webcast on UN Web TV: **http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/**

All NHRIs that wish to intervene should contact the CEDAW secretariat at ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org) **by 23 January 2023** so that the meeting link can be sent to them and/or they can be included in the list of speakers.

Oral interventions by NHRIs must be concise. A maximum of 5 minutes is allocated for interventions by NHRIs per country. NHRIs making oral interventions are requested to send an electronic version of their statement in Word format to ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org) in advance of the informal public briefing. In addition, NHRI representatives physically attending the informal public meetings with the Committee to make oral interventions should ensure that they bring 25 copies of their oral statement at least **1 hour** in advance of the meeting for circulation to the Committee and for interpretation purposes.

**X. Contributions during the constructive dialogue**

Moreover, the Committee will offer NHRIs that have been accredited with A-status by the Coordinating Committee of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), **at their request**, an opportunity to present **either in person or** **via Zoom** remarks **not exceeding 5 minutes** at the dialogue with the State party concerned, following the introductory statement by the head of the delegation. The NHRI statement shall be shared with the Committee the day before the dialogue.

**Please note that all public meetings of the Committee, including the informal public NHRI briefings on Mondays 6 and 13 February 2023 as well as the dialogues of the Committee with the States parties scheduled for consideration during the 84th session, will be** **publicly webcast on the following website:** [**http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/**](http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/)

**XI. Informal private briefings by NHRIs during the Pre-sessional Working Group**

At the **informal private meeting**, the pre-sessional working group invites NHRIs to make oral interventions to provide country-specific information on the States parties scheduled for consideration at the 86th pre-sessional working group. The meeting will be held on Monday, 27 February 2023 from 16:30 to 17:00 (Geneva time) in **Conference Room XXIII** at the Palais des Nations. NHRIs should inform the Secretariat whether they wish to participate in these meetings **physically or remotely** via Zoom (**with interpretation** services). All NHRIs that wish to intervene should contact the CEDAW secretariat at ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org) **by 30 January 2023 at the latest** so that the meeting link can be sent to them and/or they can be included in the list of speakers. Prior to the presentation, NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statement in Word format to ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org), in one of the working languages of the Committee (English, French or Spanish). In addition, NHRI representatives physically attending the informal private meeting with the pre-sessional working group to make oral interventions should ensure that they bring 7 copies of their oral statement at least **1 hour** in advance of the meeting for circulation to the Committee and for interpretation purposes.

**Oral interventions by NHRIs must be concise.** A maximum of **5 minutes** will be available **per NHRI**.

**XII. Representatives of other national institutions**

National institutions other than NHRIs, which have a **specific mandate** to promote and protect women’s rights and gender equality, such as Equal Opportunities Commissions or Ombudspersons for women, are also invited to provide the Committee and/or its pre-sessional working group with written information and may upon request brief them if time permits. The information contained in relation to written submissions and informal remote private briefings applies to such institutions a well, with the difference that their written submissions are labelled “information from other stakeholders” and that they **cannot present remarks during the formal dialogue** of the Committee with the State party concerned.

**XIII. Allegations of intimidation or reprisals**

NHRI representatives have the right of unhindered access to and to communicate with the Committee and its members for the effective implementation of the Committee’s mandate. Individuals or groups of individuals facing **intimidation or reprisals** for seeking to cooperate or cooperating with the Committee, or their representatives, can inform the Rapporteur on reprisals and alternate Rapporteur on reprisals appointed by the Committee of any alleged incident of intimidation or reprisals. Such **complaints should be sent** electronically to ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org), copy to ohchr-[reprisals@ohchr.org](mailto:reprisals@ohchr.org)

**XIV. Registration**

NHRI representatives who wish to attend any sessions of the Committee or its pre-sessional working groups **must** **register online** by using the following links:

* For the 84th plenary session: **<https://indico.un.org/event/1001676/>**
* For the pre-sessional working group for the 86th session: **<https://indico.un.org/event/1001678/>**

Please note that **OHCHR will not provide** **letters of invitation** to NHRIs to attend CEDAW sessions for purposes of obtaining visas. However, upon request, the Secretariat can provide a general “to whom it may concern” letter specifying that a representative has requested and obtained accreditation to a meeting. Please note that OHCHR is unable to assist with travel and/or accommodation costs. All participants are responsible for making their own arrangements relating to travel and accommodation as well as visas to enter Switzerland. The Secretariat of the Committee will not provide any assistance in this regard and is not in a position to issue letters to the Swiss authorities on visa matters.

Representatives requiring a visa are requested to apply as soon as possible, in case of long delays in obtaining authorization from the Swiss authorities, and to ensure that the visa is received in time for travel. For visa procedures, it is recommended to bring copies of the registration confirmation, as well as a letter of support from the NHRI concerned.

Please note that NHRI representatives **need not register** if they wish to **participate remotely** in relevant meetings of the Committee or its pre-sessional working group.

**XV. Ground pass**

In order to receive a ground pass, all applicants must bring the confirmation of registration which will be sent to you by email upon successful registration online, a valid national passport or government issued ID bearing a photograph, and appear in person at the United Nations Pass and Identification Unit, [**Villa Les Feuillantines**](https://cm-email-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/images/ContactMonkey-Team-KePFHdcDMO9T3wIryM9FYueMb0wfCX9FkiU9dkdY29ASmeHGN4OyoOMGZrWKsIt9Fz6zOsUir7ToL5AGxeLwlEqKh086Ag9S05vOuZYpehZm1TOPwmIQtOTb4vK8Ho3p/Broadcast%2029%20August/1.jpg), United Nations Office at Geneva, Avenue de la Paix 13, Geneva, Switzerland. The office hours are 8:00 to 16:45, Monday through Friday. Please note that NHRI representatives must bring their passport (or government issued photo ID) as well as their ground pass every time they wish to enter the UN premises.

Following issuance of a badge, access to the Palais des Nations will be through the [**Peace Gate “bis”**](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcontactmonkey.com%2Fapi%2Fv1%2Ftracker%3Fcm_session%3D12201367-a209-45cf-a134-dc7a49743bfa%26cs%3Dd40cf76e-b7b9-4d3a-b6b7-bcec0a3a0547%26cm_type%3Dlink%26cm_link%3D4f60046b-a532-4ae9-a0ca-14d6cbf73a49%26cm_destination%3Dhttps%3A%2F%2Fcm-email-assets.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fimages%2FContactMonkey-Team-KePFHdcDMO9T3wIryM9FYueMb0wfCX9FkiU9dkdY29ASmeHGN4OyoOMGZrWKsIt9Fz6zOsUir7ToL5AGxeLwlEqKh086Ag9S05vOuZYpehZm1TOPwmIQtOTb4vK8Ho3p%2FBroadcast%252029%2520August%2FPlan%252002.jpg&data=05%7C01%7Cjamila.seerathun%40un.org%7C8dd85acedf3f49e8be9e08da89b6402b%7C0f9e35db544f4f60bdcc5ea416e6dc70%7C0%7C0%7C637973713369547227%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jTPVbMK45L7juoT3CbpmKP9Eu2hkjtgJm87PvXgfsjM%3D&reserved=0), a new temporary access screening point.

**XVI. Additional Information**

For further information about the treaty bodies in general, specific information on CEDAW and on the participation and role of national human rights institutions in the reporting procedure, please consult the following links:

* <https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT/CEDAW/BAP/8997&Lang=en>
* <http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx>;
* <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/NHRI/Pages/NHRIMain.aspx>;
* https://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/default.aspx