



Committee On Enforced
Disappearances
- CED -
26th session
(19 Feb – 01 March 2024)

Information Note for victims, CSOs and NHRIs

The Committee on Enforced Disappearances (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>

26th session (19 Feb - 01 March 2024)

The session will take place at Palais Wilson, Geneva, First floor Conference Room.

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/26/1) can be consulted at the following link:

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2722&Lang=en

Victims, NGOs and other civil society actors and National Human Rights Institutions are key partners of the Committee. This document explains how all can participate through contributions to the review of the State parties' reports. This document also provides practical tips (how to register to participate to the session, links to relevant documentation, and contact details).

I. Contributions to the review of States parties at the 26th session

As in all sessions, one of the main activities of the Committee consists in the review of States' reports on the measures they have taken to implement the Convention.

The participation of victims, civil society organizations, and National Human Rights Institutions in this process is key and is particularly welcome.

A. States to be reviewed at the 26th session:

Review of first reports
(art. 29(1) of the Convention)

At the 26th session, the Committee will review the first report of the following State party:

Cambodia

Two years after having ratified the Convention, all States parties must submit a "first report" to the Committee, to make a balance of the measures taken to implement the Convention, and of the challenges met.

The review of State party's first report takes place through a public constructive dialogue between the experts of the Committee and representatives of the national authorities that have some competence related to the issue of enforced disappearances.

In that context, the Committee particularly welcomes the contributions of victims, civil society organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and all interested stakeholders.

The idea is that all can provide information and share their views on the successes and challenges met as regards enforced disappearances and related issues. Such contributions are essential to allow the Committee to have a complete and objective view of the situation at stake in each of the States examined.

Such contributions must be made through written contributions and can be complemented by short oral interventions in private meetings that take place before the dialogue with the State party (see format of the contributions and corresponding deadlines below).

Following its exchanges with civil society actors and its constructive dialogue with each of the States parties under review, the Committee will adopt concluding observations in a closed meeting. In this official document, the Committee outlines the positive aspects, its principal subjects of concern and its recommendations to the State party regarding the measures it should take to prevent and eradicate enforced disappearances in line with the Convention.

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

Under this part of the procedure, the Committee will review the following States parties:

Burkina Faso

Honduras

Unlike other Treaty Bodies, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances does not have a system of periodic reports. However, in order to support States parties in preventing and eradicating enforced disappearances and their impunity, the Committee has the responsibility to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and of the Convention, as well as on the evolution of their respective situation as relates to enforced disappearances (article 29 (3) and (4) of the Convention).

Such interaction ceases when the Committee considers that the State party has taken all possible measures to implement its recommendations, and as long as the prevailing situation in the country with regard to enforced disappearances so allows.

At the 26th session, the Committee will review the first reports on additional information of **Burkina Faso** and **Honduras**.

Written and oral contributions from victims, CSOs and NHRIs on issues related to enforced disappearances and the implementation of the Convention and of the Committee's recommendations are welcome.

Lists of issues

The Committee will adopt lists of issues for:

Belize (in the absence of a report)

Malawi

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

Lists of issues in the absence of a report are adopted by the Committee for States that have a delay of five years or more to submit their report, and so despite various reminders.

In both cases, the lists of issues underline the questions that will guide the interactive dialogue of the State party with the Committee at one of the next sessions.

At the phase of adoption of lists of issues, civil society actors and National Human Rights Institutions are invited to contribute through written submissions (no space for oral briefings is available at this stage).

The objective of these written submissions is to bring to the attention of the Committee positive experiences, concerns and challenges related to enforced disappearances and related issues (see information on the format and deadlines below).

Upon adoption, the lists of issues are made public and are transmitted to the State party concerned, that must reply in writing within a deadline determined by the Committee.

Report on follow-up to Concluding Observations

This phase of the procedure is entirely written. Its purpose is for the Committee to analyse the measures taken by reviewed States parties to implement three of the recommendations contained in the Concluding Observations, one year after their adoption.

At the 26th session, the Committee hopes to examine the follow-up report of:

Panama (TBC upon receipt of State party's report)

Follow-up report due since September 2022. Not yet submitted.

Written inputs 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:

- 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](#)]

B. How to contribute to States reviews?

Written contributions

1. Content and format of written contributions:

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

- All documents must be submitted electronically (in Word or PDF) to the Secretariat of the Committee through a message 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 (26th session).**

- In that message, 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).

- The information you provide must relate to the situation of enforced disappearances in the country 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, disappearances in the context of illegal intercountry adoptions, 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 have 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 that you consider of relevance regarding the report of the State party (all relevant State reports are available on the session webpage: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2722&Lang=en)

(ii) Underline all other issues related to the Committee's mandate that you consider of relevance (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 (individuals 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 actors.**

- 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.

- 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

2. Deadlines for written contributions:

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

Lists of issues:

Belize
Malawi

10 December 2023

Follow-up to concluding observations:

Panama (TBC upon receipt of the State party's report)

10 December 2023

Concluding observations / dialogues with States parties:

Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Honduras

10 January 2024

Oral briefings during the session

(for countries at the stage of interactive dialogue)

Victims, civil society organizations, and National Human Rights Institutions can also 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 scheduled.

1. Content and format of oral briefings

Oral briefings take place during **private meetings** 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).**

The aim of oral briefings is to allow interested people, organizations and institutions to highlight and update the submitted written contributions or to new subjects of interest for the dialogue with the State party, and to

reply to the questions of the Country Rapporteurs of the Committee.

All interventions must be concise, with a maximum duration of around 5 minutes. The exact duration of the interventions can only be established once the number of speakers is confirmed.

The Country Rapporteurs can then raise questions and the speakers are given the floor to reply.

2. How and when to request an oral briefing?

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 for the 26th session: 10 January 2024

In your email, please specify:

- The country or countries concerned
- Issues you wish to raise
- Format of participation (in person or online).

3. Follow the dialogues between the CED and States under review and other public meetings

Dialogues between the Committee and States parties under review are public. All those interested are welcome to **attend these dialogues and all other public meetings as observers**, without the possibility to raise questions or make comments.

You can also follow all public meetings online on UN TV, under "CED 26th session" on the webpage of UN TV: <https://media.un.org/en/webtv>

4. Where to access the relevant information and documents adopted by the Committee?

- The reports of States parties to be examined and other public documents pertaining to the 26th session can be consulted at the following link:

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2722&Lang=en

- Upon their adoption during the session, the unedited version of 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.

II. Practical tips

A. How to register to attend the session

All those who wish to attend the session **in person** must register at the following link (INDICO): <https://indico.un.org/event/1004479/>

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

For the 26th session, registrations will open on 10 January 2024.

Once your registration is approved, you must get your badge going in person to the **Security Gate of the Palais Wilson.**

Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 6pm

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.

B. Additional information and contact details

A few publications that can help you:

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>

Manual on the Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearance: [Reporting under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance: Training Guide \(Part I - Manual\) | OHCHR](#)

Factsheet on Enforced Disappearances:
[Fact Sheet No. 6 \(Rev. 4\): Enforced Disappearances | OHCHR](#)

For further information, please 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):*
irina.tabirta@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