**Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances**

**21º Session**

**Rapporteur: Juan Pablo Albán Alencastro**

The Committee held its twenty-first regular session at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva from September 13 to 24, 2021.

During this session, the Committee carried out the following activities:

1. In accordance with Article 11 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee received the solemn oath of the new members elected during the Sixth Meeting of States Parties held on June 14, 2021, Mrs. Suela Janina and Mr. Juan Pablo Albán Alencastro.

2. In its first meeting of the Period of Sessions, the Committee, continuing with its previous practice, paid tribute to the victims and in that context heard in public session the testimony of Ms. Amina Masood Janjua, human rights activist and wife of Mr. Masood Ahmed Janjua disappeared in Pakistan since July 30, 2005. The Committee also received the report of the President, Mr. Mohammed Ayat, and launched a publication commemorating 10 years of the Committee's work, prepared by former member María Clara Gálvis Patiño.

3. The Committee elected by consensus the members of the Board for the 2021-2023 term, Mrs. Carmen Rosa Villa Quintana, Chair; Ms. Barbara Lochbihler and Ms. Milika Kolakovic-Bojovic and Mr. Mohammed Ayat, Vice-Chairs; and Mr. Juan Pablo Albán Alencastro, Rapporteur of the Committee.

4. The Committee examined the reports submitted by the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Republic of Panama pursuant to Article 29.1 of the Convention. It did so in light of the information originally provided by those States; the information submitted by the States in response to the lists of issues sent in a timely manner by the Committee; the information provided by Civil Society Organizations, National Human Rights Authorities and Regional Offices of the United Nations; and the constructive dialogues held publicly with both States on 13 and 14 September, and 15 and 16 September, 2021, respectively.

As a corollary of its analysis, the Committee adopted its concluding observations on the initial reports of Brazil and Panama, which will be duly communicated to the States concerned. By virtue of the provisions of Article 29.4 of the Convention, the Committee, exercising its power to request additional information, requested the States of Brazil and Panama to submit the pertinent, specific, and updated information, within the timeframes set forth in the respective concluding observations, on the application of the recommendations made.

5. The Committee also examined the supplementary information submitted by the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of France in accordance with Article 29.4 of the Convention. It did so in light of the supplementary information submitted in writing in response to the lists of questions sent in due course by the Committee; the information provided by Civil Society Organizations; and of the constructive dialogues held publicly with both States on Friday, 17 September and Monday, 20 September 2021, respectively.

Como corolario de su análisis el Comité adoptó sus observaciones finales sobre la información complementaria aportada por España y Francia, mismas que serán debidamente comunicadas a los Estados concernidos. En virtud de lo dispuesto por el artículo 29.4 de la Convención el Comité en ejercicio de su facultad de requerir información complementaria, el Comité requirió a los Estados de España y Francia que remitan dentro de los plazos señalados en las respectivas observaciones finales la información pertinente, específica y actualizada sobre la aplicación de las recomendaciones formuladas.

6. The Committee also adopted the lists of issues relating to the reports submitted, under article 29.1 of the Convention, by the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Costa Rica, in preparation for the future consideration of such reports.

7. During this session, the Committee held productive meetings with several States parties to the Convention, joined by a non-party, Ethiopia, which reaffirmed its commitment in the fight against enforced disappearances; the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances; the Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Executions; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Civil Society Organizations; and Academic Institutions. In this meetings, possible avenues for future cooperation and relevant issues for the future work of the Committee in compliance with the mandates imposed to it by the Convention were identified.

8. The Committee also held discussions about its working methods, in particular on its powers under Article 29.4 of the Convention, which it has identified as a priority issue and will continue to discuss during its next session; carrying out future visits; the urgent actions mechanism; the analysis of information on alleged systematic or generalized practices of enforced disappearance; the possibility of introducing amendments to its rules of procedure; the portfolio of State reports pending for analysis; the distribution of thematic and country rapporteurships; and the creation of working groups for these and other topics.

9. Finally, it should be noted that during the session ending today, the Committee decided to start the process for the future adoption of a General Comment on enforced disappearances in the context of migration and a declaration on non-state actors and enforced disappearances.