



Committee On Enforced
Disappearances
- CED -
29th session
(22 September-3 October 2025)

Information Note for victims, civil society organizations and and National Human Rights Institutions

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>

29th session (22 September-3 October 2025)

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://webtv.un.org/en>

The provisional agenda of the session (CED/C/29/1) can be consulted at the following link:

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2852&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 29th 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 all other interested stakeholders such as the academia, lawyers, etc., and National Human Rights Institutions is particularly welcome.

A. States to be reviewed at the 29th session:

Dialogues on first reports (art. 29(1) of the Convention)

At the 29th session, the Committee will have constructive dialogues on the first report of the following States parties:

Benin Sri Lanka

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 State party:

Montenegro

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.

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

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

The Committee will adopt lists of issues for:

Finland

Oman

Slovenia

The lists of issues identify 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 disappearances, including 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.

Lists of priority themes

On the basis of the additional information submitted by a State party (see article 29 (3) or 29(4) of the Convention), the Committee may decide to identify up to four priority themes on which the State party has to focus its attention. For the 29th session, the Committee decided to adopt a list of priority themes on the basis of the additional information submitted by the following States parties:

Ecuador

Iraq

Through their contributions, victims, CSOs and other interested stakeholders shall bring to the attention of the Committee what they consider as priority themes, explaining the reasons why they consider them of particular relevance.

Such themes shall in the first place refer to the previous concluding observations of the Committee, but may also raise new issues of concern / interest as relates to the current situation of disappearances, including enforced disappearances, in the State party concerned.

The adopted list of priority themes will be transmitted to the State party, to guide the dialogue that will take place at the following session, for a duration of 3 or 6 hours. No written replies shall be expected from the State party at this stage.

B. How to contribute to States reviews?

Written contributions

1. Content and format of written contributions:

- All submissions should be transmitted through the **CED's online submissions system**. If you do not have an account on this platform, you will have to create one.

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

- Please specify whether you wish your contribution to be **public or confidential**. Confidential contributions are only shared with Committee members and are not made public on the Committee's web page.

- The information you provide must relate to the situation of disappearances in the country under review, as well as on all issues related to their eradication and prevention (regarding, for example, the search for disappeared persons, the investigation of disappearances, the related legislative and institutional framework, 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, so-called short term enforced disappearances, 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 or lists of priority themes, all contributions must be submitted in writing and must:

(i) Provide all comments that you consider of relevance regarding the report or additional information submitted by the State party (all relevant State reports are available on the session webpage: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2852&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 you can demonstrate that you count with the consent of the victim(s) (individuals who were disappeared and

then located, or the family, relatives, or representatives of a disappeared person).

- 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.

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:

Finland
Oman
Slovenia

20 June 2025

Lists of themes :

Ecuador
Iraq

20 June 2025

Review of first reports (6 hour dialogues with States parties):

Benin
Sri Lanka

20 July 2025

Review of reports on additional information (3-hour dialogue with State party):

Montenegro

20 July 2025

Oral briefings during the session

(for countries at the stage of constructive dialogue)

Victims, civil society actors, and National Human Rights Institutions can also contribute to the Committee's work through oral briefings related to countries with which a constructive dialogue on a first report or 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.

The aim of oral briefings is to allow interested people, organizations and institutions to highlight and update the submitted written contributions, and to reply to the questions of the Country Rapporteurs of the Committee.

Oral 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.

They can be made **in person**, or **online**. **No interpretation is provided by conference services.**

2. How and when to request an oral briefing?

If you wish to provide an oral briefing to the Committee, **please inform through the [CED's online submissions platform](#) when you submit your written inputs. Please make sure to specify all relevant contact details following the guidance of the system.**

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 29th session" on the webpage of UN TV: <https://webtv.un.org/en>

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 29th session can be consulted at the following link:

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2852&Lang=en

- Upon their adoption, the unedited version of the lists of issues, lists of priority themes and Concluding Observations will be shared with the States concerned and made public on the Committee's webpage under the relevant country and session.

II. Annual meeting of CED with CSOs and NHRIS

In compliance with the practice established by the human rights treaty bodies in convening informal consultations with civil society actors, intergovernmental organizations and National Human Rights Institutions, the Committee will organize a meeting on **Monday 29 September 2025**, at Palais Wilson, Conference room, first floor.

The objective of this meeting is to allow all interested actors to share information, but also to identify options and ideas to strengthen the synergy between the Committee, civil society actors, intergovernmental organizations and National Human Rights Institutions. The Committee is therefore honoured to invite you all to take part in this exchange.

III. Practical tips

A. How to register to attend the session

To attend the session **in person**, you must register at the following link, specifying the meeting(s) that you wish to attend (INDICO):

<https://indico.un.org/event/1010904/>

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

For the 29th session, registrations will open on 1 September 2025.

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a personal digital badge.

To enter the premises, you will have to present your digital badge and a valid national passport or ID document with 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.

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

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

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 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

- The Civil Society Team of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Divisions (CTMD): ohchr-mechanismsngo@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