



COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION  
CERD

89<sup>th</sup> session (25 April to 13 May 2016)  
Ground floor conference room, Palais Wilson, Geneva

**INFORMATION NOTE**  
**NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (NGOs)**

**States parties reports**

The Committee will examine the reports of the following six States parties during its 89<sup>th</sup> session: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Namibia, Oman, Rwanda and Spain.

**CERD Committee Members**

The CERD Committee consists of 18 members, serving in their personal capacity. For the details about all CERD members, see:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/Membership.aspx>

**Decision of the Committee**

At its seventy-seventh session, on the 3 August 2010, the Committee held an informal meeting with representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss ways and means of strengthening cooperation. The Committee decided to have *informal meetings* with non-governmental organizations, at the beginning of each week of its sessions when States parties' reports are being discussed. The Committee welcomes representatives of national and international NGOs to provide country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before it.

**Documentation**

The reports of the six States parties to be considered at the 89<sup>th</sup> session, the provisional agenda and other documents pertaining to the session will be posted shortly on the OHCHR website:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1072&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1072&Lang=en)

**Venue**

The 89<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson Ground floor conference room.

**NGO reports for the Committee at its sessions**

The Committee welcomes written information, which should be as specific, reliable and objective as possible, from international, regional, national and local organizations. NGO "alternative reports" which follow the same form of presentation as the reports submitted by the Government concerned, are especially welcome. NGO reports prepared by coalitions, rather than individual NGOs, are also encouraged.

**All submissions to CERD should:**

1. Be submitted in English, French or Spanish. As most Committee members use English as their preferred working language, documents submitted in French and Spanish should, to the extent possible, be translated into English. Please note that **the UN Secretariat does not translate documents submitted by NGOs.**
2. Be transmitted to the CERD Secretariat preferably before **4 April 2016** for the information to be more likely taken into account by the country rapporteur as well as the other Committee members.
3. Be transmitted to the CERD Secretariat electronically and thereafter in **20 paper copies** by post. *OHCHR does not reproduce NGO documents.*

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## **Accreditation**

NGO representatives who wish to attend the CERD session are requested to complete the Conference Registration Form: <http://goo.gl/6zfhnx> and submit the full name of the NGO, names of their representatives, and the proposed dates of attendance to the attention of **Ms. Adele Quist at [aquist@ohchr.org](mailto:aquist@ohchr.org)**, copy **[cerd@ohchr.org](mailto:cerd@ohchr.org)** by **4 April 2016** so that arrangements can be made with the Accreditation Office for the issuance of the United Nations ground passes to enter United Nations premises. To claim for the ground pass all applicants are required present their passports or government issued ID (with photo) at the security.

**Please note that OHCHR will neither send letters of invitations to NGOs to attend CERD sessions nor assist with travel or accommodation costs relating to their participation.**

## **Informal meetings and lunchtime briefings**

NGO representatives are welcome to attend as observers, but will not be given the opportunity to speak during the Committee's meetings with the State delegation. Nevertheless, NGO representatives may have *informal meetings* with the Committee members to present country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before the Committee.

To find out the schedule of informal meetings, please consult the Programme of work available at:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1072&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1072&Lang=en)

*Lunchtime briefings* by the NGOs may also be arranged immediately prior to the afternoon meetings when the States parties' reports are being discussed, typically from 13.45 to 14.45 pm. There will be a designated room for these briefings. The Secretariat will not provide interpretation, but may provide equipment for power point presentation, which if needed, be requested three days in advance of the proposed date of the briefing. The accommodation of the request will depend on the availability of the Committee members.

Please contact the CERD Secretariat at [cerd@ohchr.org](mailto:cerd@ohchr.org) preferably before **4 April 2016** to confirm attendance to the informal meeting and/or arrange for lunchtime briefing with the members of the Committee.

## **CERD Concluding observations**

Following the consideration of the States parties reports during the 89<sup>th</sup> CERD session, the Committee will formulate concluding observations that will assist the States parties concerned in the implementation of the Convention. These concluding observations outline positive aspects, principal subjects or concerns and the Committee's recommendations on how to address challenges faced by the States parties. Once the concluding observation has been adopted, the document will be posted on the CERD Webpage at:

[http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1072&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1072&Lang=en)