

31st session

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE/PARTICIPATE?

Note for Civil Society actors and NHRIs

Civil Society actors (victims, NGOs, academics, etc.) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) are key partners of the Committee. This document explains how to contribute to the review of State Party reports and provides practical guidance on how to participate in the session (links to relevant documents, deadlines for submitting contributions, registration procedures, and contact details).

THE COMMITTEE

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 that have ratified the Convention. 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 consult [this link](#).

31ST SESSION

Date

14 - 24 September 2026

Venue of the session

Palais des Nations (Conference room IX)
Geneva (Switzerland)

Agenda

You can consult the agenda of the session (CED/C/31/1) at the following [link](#).

PLEASE NOTE

The Committee wishes to carry out its mandate in a timely manner and to inform all interested parties on time so that they can contribute and plan their interaction with the Committee efficiently.

*The planning reflected below was adopted by the Committee on the basis of the meeting time to which it is entitled. However, due to the United Nations Budget liquidity crisis, the Committee regrets to inform that the dates for the session **still have to be confirmed depending on the evolution of the financial situation**. The list of countries planned for review may therefore have to be amended depending on the meeting time that will be allocated to the Committee for 2026.*

31ST SESSION

How to attend?

HOW TO ATTEND THE SESSION IN PERSON

To participate in the session in person, you must register at the following link, specifying the meeting(s) that you wish to attend: [INDICO](#).

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

Registrations will open on 1 September 2026.

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 present these documents every time you wish to enter UN premises.

Palais des Nations
Portail de Pregny
14, Av. de la Paix
1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

PLEASE NOTE

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.



HOW TO FOLLOW PUBLIC MEETINGS

In person

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 take the floor. Private meetings are scheduled between civil society actors and/or NHRIs ahead of the dialogue (see below)

Online

You can also follow all public meetings online on UN TV, under "CED 31st session" on the [webpage of UN TV](#).

DIALOGUES WITH STATES PARTIES

How to contribute?

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

The outcome of this process is the adoption of Concluding Observations in which the Committee reflects positive aspects, concerns and its recommendations to the State Party.

The contributions of victims, civil society organizations, NHRIs and all other interested stakeholders are essential and welcome.

First reports - Art. 29(1) of the Convention

What does this step of the procedure consist of?

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 prevent and eradicate enforced disappearances in compliance with the Convention, and of the challenges met.

The review of State Parties' 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 enforced disappearances.

In that context, victims, civil society organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and all interested stakeholders are invited to provide information and share their views on the progress made 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. They must be made in writing, and can be complemented by short oral interventions in private meetings that take place before the dialogue with the State Party concerned (see below).

COUNTRIES

First reports

Belize
Lesotho

Additional Information - Art. 29(3) and (4) of the Convention

What does this step of the procedure consist of?

Unlike other committees, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances does not have a system of periodic reports. However, 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 the situation related to enforced disappearances in the States Parties (article 29 (3) and (4) of the Convention).¹

To do this, the Committee identifies the priority themes on which it will focus its dialogue with the State Party and the concluding observations it will adopt after a dialogue of three or six hours with the State concerned (duration determined by the Committee based on the situation under review).

¹ This interaction concludes once 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.

COUNTRIES

Additional information

Armenia
Gabon

DIALOGUES WITH STATES PARTIES

WRITTEN AND ORAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Issues to address in the written contributions

First reports

Contributions must relate to the situation of enforced disappearances in the country under review, from the perspective of their prevention, their eradication, and in relation to the rights of victims. The Committee recommends to address issues such as the search for disappeared persons, the investigation of disappearances, the related legislative and institutional frameworks, 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 and disappearances in the context of illegal intercountry adoptions.

Additional information

Contributions on additional information should focus on the list of priority themes identified by the Committee (see the link to the list of themes related to the 31st session at the end of the document). They can also bring to the attention of the Committee recent developments that should be addressed during the dialogue of the Committee with the State Party.

DEADLINE

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR ORAL BRIEFINGS

First reports and additional information

30 July 2026

Oral briefings

You can also contribute to the Committee's work through oral briefings related to the countries with which a constructive dialogue is scheduled.

In these briefings, victims and other civil society actors and NHRIs make a presentation of their concerns and what they consider as positive points and they provide updates related to the situation of enforced disappearances for a maximum of 5 minutes. The exact duration of the interventions will only be established once the number of speakers will be confirmed.

Country Rapporteurs and other experts of the Committee then raise questions to which participants are invited to reply.

For oral briefings, priority will be given to participants that have provided written inputs.

If you wish to take part in an oral briefing, please specify it when you submit your written

inputs through the [CED online submission platform](#). Please provide all the required details in compliance with the instructions of the system.

Confidentiality

Oral briefings take place during private meetings just before the dialogue with the State Party concerned.

Different meetings are scheduled for civil society actors and NHRIs.

Online or in-person

Participation in oral briefings can be in person, or online. No interpretation is provided.

In case you missed the deadline for written contributions, you can still request participation to the oral briefing. To this end, please send an email to ohchr-ced@un.org.

Priority will be given to requests for participation submitted within the deadline.

LISTS OF PRIORITY THEMES – Art. 29(3) and (4)

What does this step of the procedure consist of?

On the basis of the additional information submitted by a State Party, the Committee may decide to identify up to four themes that it considers as priorities to be addressed by the national authorities. These lists of themes (LOTs) will guide the constructive dialogue that will take place at one of the future sessions of the Committee.

COUNTRIES

Lists of priority themes

Colombia

Cuba

Italy

Paraguay

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

At this stage of the procedure, contributions can only be provided in writing.

They shall highlight what their authors consider as priority themes that the Committee should take into account in the forthcoming constructive dialogue, explaining the reasons of their relevance.

Such themes shall in the first place refer to the additional information of the State Party, and previous concluding observations of the Committee. They may also raise new issues related to the current situation of disappearances in the State Party concerned.

The Lists of themes adopted by the Committee will be transmitted to the State Party, that will have to address all the issues raised during its dialogue with the Committee at one of its future sessions, for 3 or 6 hours (duration determined by the Committee).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Lists of Priority themes

30 June 2026

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

How to submit?

Submission platform

All submissions should be transmitted through the [CED online submission platform](#). If you do not have an account on this platform, you will have to create one.

Confidentiality

When submitting your contribution, please specify whether you wish it to be public or confidential. Confidential contributions are only shared with Committee members and secretariat.

No anonymity

The Committee needs to know the authors of submissions to have the possibility to contact them. Anonymous submissions are therefore not accepted, and all contributions must specify the name of the submitting person, organization, or institution.

Format and word limit

Contributions must be submitted in Word format and shall not exceed 10,700 words, plus annexes.

PLEASE NOTE

All contributions must be specific, reliable and objective. They must be drafted in a non-abusive language.



Names of victims in the contributions

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 relatives, or representatives of a disappeared person).

Languages

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. Please note that the UN Secretariat does not translate contributions submitted by civil society and NHRIs.



GENERAL INFORMATION

CONTACTS

Civil Society Team of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division (CTMD-OHCHR)

ohchr-mechanismsngo@un.org.

National Human Rights Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section (OHCHR)

cynthia.radert@un.org.

johnny.white@un.org.

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)

k.rose@ganhri.org.

— CED SECRETARIAT —

OHCHR-CED@UN.ORG

PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Unauthorized filming, photographing, recording and dissemination of audio-visual materials during the session are prohibited.

Only accredited media representatives have the right to film and take pictures at the beginning and the end of public meetings of the Committee. They are required to wear their press badge issued by UNOG at all times when inside UN premises. Their accreditation can be withdrawn in case of misuse.

Accredited media representatives as well as photographers or camera teams hired by State Party delegations can film the introductory and closing remarks of the Head of delegation.

Group pictures may be taken before or after public meetings subject to the consent of the persons photographed or filmed.

Other photographing and filming are forbidden in the meeting room of the Committee.

Cases of misuse should be brought to the attention of the UNOG Security and Safety Service and/or the UN Information Service, which can follow-up on written complaints only.

DOCUMENTATION

ACCES TO DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE SESSION

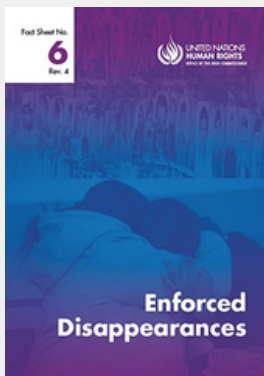
The first reports and additional information of States Parties to be reviewed, the list of issues and list of themes that will guide the dialogues and other public documents pertaining to the 31st session of the Committee can be consulted at [this link](#) (the documents are classified by procedure and by States Parties).

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

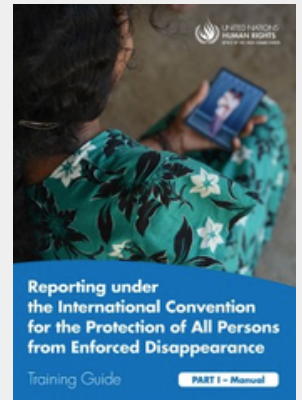
PUBLICATIONS

On the [participation of civil society actors](#) in the reporting process, please consult: [Guidelines for civil society and national human rights institutions](#).

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



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



[Becoming a Party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearance: Practical Guide](#)

