

80th 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), have a key role to play in assisting the Committee to fulfil its mandate effectively.

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 Economic, Social and Cultural rights (CESCR) is the body of independent experts in charge of monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by its State Parties. The Covenant enshrines economic, social and cultural rights such as the rights to adequate food, adequate housing, education, health, social security, water and sanitation, and work.

The CESCR Committee consists of 18 members, nominated by the States Parties and serving in their personal capacity.

For details about the current membership of the Committee, please consult [this link](#).

80TH SESSION

Date

2- 13 November 2026

Venue of the session

Palais des Nations - Geneva (Switzerland)
Conference room XI

Submissions deadlines

Consideration of State reports: 2 October 2026

List of Issues: 3 September 2026

Follow-up to CoBs: 2 October 2026

Programme of work

Please consult this [link](#).

Agenda

You can consult the Agenda of the session 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.

CESCR 80TH 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 3 August 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.

The session will take place at:

Palais des Nations

Pregny Gate - Avenue de la Paix 14a
CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 raise questions or make comments.

Online

You can also follow all public meetings online on UN TV, under "CESCR 80th session" on the [CESCR webpage of UN TV](#).

All public meetings of the Committee are generally webcast live at <http://webtv.un.org/> and available thereafter for viewing in the webcast archives.

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' initial or periodic reports and additional information on the measures they have taken to implement the Covenant.

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

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

WRITTEN AND ORAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Written contributions / Parallel reports

The Committee welcomes written information, which should be as specific, reliable and objective as possible, from international, regional, national and local organizations as well as national human rights institutions. It is the responsibility of submitting organizations to ensure that parallel reports do not contain personal identifiable data or use abusive language.

Submissions may be made in English, French or Spanish. Contributors are strongly encouraged to provide an English translation, or at least a summary in English. Please note that the United Nations Secretariat does not have the capacity to translate submissions.

DEADLINE
WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS
AND REQUESTS FOR ORAL
BRIEFINGS
2 October 2026

COUNTRIES

Concluding Observations

Austria
Eswatini
Mexico
Pakistan

Submissions should be as concise as possible and should not exceed 10 pages, or 15 pages in the case of coalition submissions. Paragraphs and pages should preferably be numbered for ease of reference.

It must be ensured that any witnesses or victims are referred to by their initials only and that no photographs of witnesses, victims or alleged perpetrators are included, unless written agreement has been obtained from these persons. Parallel submissions prepared by coalitions, rather than individual organizations, and covering a broad range of economic, social and cultural rights, are also encouraged.

All submissions should be transmitted through the [CESCR online submission platform](#). The link is also available from the [webpage of the session](#).

DIALOGUES WITH STATES PARTIES

How to contribute?

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, civil society actors and NHRIs make a presentation of their concerns and what they consider as positive aspects and they provide updates related to economic, social and cultural rights for an average of five minutes. The exact duration of their interventions will only be established once the number of speakers are 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 [CESCR online submission platform](#). Please provide also all the required details in compliance with the instructions of the system.

Online or in-person

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

If you decide at a later stage that you would like to participate in the oral briefing, please contact us by email at: ohchr-cescr@un.org.

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.

DOCUMENTATION

Access to documents related to the session

The initial and periodic reports and additional information of States Parties to be reviewed, the list of issues that will guide the dialogues and other public documents pertaining to the 80th session of the Committee can be consulted at [this link](#) (the documents are classified by procedure and by States Parties). The provisional agenda as well as the tentative programme of work are also found on each session's page.

All submissions received from external participants (except the confidential ones) will be available on the webpage of the session no later than one week after the submission deadline.

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

LISTS OF ISSUES

How to contribute?

What does this step of the procedure consist of?

Lists of issues (LOIs) are adopted by the Committee for States Parties that have submitted their first report to the Committee to identify the questions that will guide the constructive dialogue between the State Party and the Committee at one of the next sessions.

COUNTRIES

Lists of Issues

Burkina Faso
Estonia
Slovakia
Zambia

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

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

It is recommended that such inputs provide comments on the reports submitted by the States Parties on which LOIs will be adopted. They may also underline other issues related to the Committee's mandate that are not referred to in the State Party's report.

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

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Lists of Issues

3 September 2026

DOCUMENTATION

Access to documents related to the session

The initial and periodic reports and additional information of States Parties to be reviewed, the Common Core Document and other public documents pertaining to the 80th session of the Committee can be consulted the page of the 80th session at [this link](#) (the documents are classified by procedure and by States Parties). The provisional agenda as well as the tentative programme of work are also found on each session's webpage.

All submissions received from external participants (except the confidential ones) will be available on the webpage of the session no later than one week after the submission deadline.

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

FOLLOW UP TO CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

How to contribute?

What does this step of the procedure consist of?

The State party is requested to provide, within 24 months of the adoption of the concluding observations by the Committee, information on the implementation of three specific recommendations selected by the Committee.

Once received, the reports on follow-up to concluding observations are posted on the CESCR webpage under the Follow up procedure webpage, url tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/FollowUp.aspx?Treaty=CESCR&Lang=en

COUNTRIES

Follow-up to CoBs

Cambodia
Portugal

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Follow-up to CoBs
2 October 2026

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

At this stage of the procedure, contributions may only be submitted in writing.

It is recommended that such submissions provide comments on the follow-up reports submitted by the States Parties or on the follow-up requests contained in the last section of the concluding observations of the State Party concerned.

During the session, the Committee will adopt a follow-up letter, which will be transmitted to the State Party concerned approximately one week after the end of the session.

DOCUMENTATION

Access to documents related to the session

The list of States considered under the follow-up procedure can also be consulted on the 80th session page, at the bottom at [this link](#) (the documents are classified by procedure and by States Parties).

All submissions received from external participants (except the confidential ones) will be available on the webpage of the session no later than one week after the submission deadline.

Upon their adoption, the Follow-up letter will be shared with the States Parties concerned and made public on the Committee's webpage under the relevant country and session.

Documentation on follow-up is available through the dedicated page at:

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/FollowUp.aspx?Treaty=CESCR&Lang=en

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS

How to submit?

Submission platform

All submissions should be transmitted through the [OHCHR online submission platform - CESCR Session](#). 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 the 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

Submissions should be as concise as possible and should not exceed 10 or 15 pages for coalition submissions. Paragraphs and pages should preferably be numbered for ease of reference.



PUBLICATIONS

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

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

Information provided should not contain the names of victims, except in cases that are already a matter of public record or widely known, or where the consent of the victim(s) can be demonstrated.

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 provide an English translation of 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

— CESCR SECRETARIAT —

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

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The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)

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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.

