

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
CERD

88th session (23 November to 11 December 2015)
Ground floor conference room, Palais Wilson, Geneva

INFORMATION NOTE
FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRIs)

States parties reports

The Committee will examine the reports of the following six States parties during its 88th session: Egypt, Holy See, Lithuania, Mongolia, Slovenia and Turkey.

CERD Committee Members

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

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

Participation of NHRIs

The Committee examines all periodic reports in public meetings which NHRIs representatives can attend. The Committee recognizes the important role that NHRIs play in combating racism and racial discrimination. In its General Recommendation 28, paragraph 2 (a), the Committee recommended that NHRIs assist their respective States to comply with their reporting obligations and closely monitor the follow-up to the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee.

Furthermore, according to the Committee's rules of procedure (Rule 40, paragraph 2), NHRIs accredited to take part in the deliberations of the Human Rights Council may, with the consent of the concerned State party, address the Committee in plenary on issues related to the dialogue between the Committee and a

State party, on the second day of the consideration of the report.

Documentation

The reports of the six States parties to be considered at the 88th session, the provisional agenda (CERD/C/88/1) and other documents pertaining to the session will be available soon at:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=998&Lang=en

Venue

The 88th 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.

NHRIs reports

The Committee welcomes written information submitted by NHRIs in relation to the implementation of the Convention by States parties whose reports are to be considered. NHRIs reports which follow the same form of presentation as the reports submitted by the States parties concerned are particularly welcome.

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 NHRIs.

2. Be transmitted to the CERD Secretariat preferably before **2 November 2015** 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.

E-mail of the Secretariat:
CERD Secretary
cerd@ohchr.org

Postal address of the Secretariat:
CERD Secretariat
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Accreditation

NHRIs representatives who wish to attend any session of the Committee are required to be duly accredited. They are therefore requested to complete the Conference Registration Form (<http://goo.gl/6zfhnx>) and provide the proposed dates of attendance to the attention of **Ms. Adele Quist** at aquist@ohchr.org, copy cerd@ohchr.org by **2 November 2015** so that arrangements can be made with the Accreditation Office for the issuance of the UN ground passes to enter UN premises. To claim for the ground pass all applicants are required to present their passports or government issued ID (with photo) at the Security.

Please note that OHCHR will not assist with travel or accommodation costs relating to the participation of NHRIs.

Informal meetings

NHRIs representatives who do not address the Committee in official meetings (in the absence of accreditation at the Human Rights Council) are welcome to attend the plenary sessions as observers. They may have *informal meetings* with the Committee members to present country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before the Committee.

NHRIs representatives are kindly requested to contact the CERD Secretariat (cerd@ohchr.org) preferably before **2 November 2015** to confirm their attendance.

CERD Concluding observations

Following the consideration of the States parties' reports during the 88th 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 observations have been adopted, the documents will be posted on the CERD Webpage at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treebodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=998&Lang=en