

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***  
**FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS (NHRIs)**

**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 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 89<sup>th</sup> session, the provisional agenda (CERD/C/89/1) and other documents pertaining to the session will be available soon 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)

**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.

**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 **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.

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### **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 on <http://goo.gl/6zfhnX> and provide 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 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](mailto:cerd@ohchr.org)) preferably before **4 April 2016** to confirm their attendance.

### **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 observations have been adopted, the documents 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)