



COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (CERD)

117th session (13 April – 1 May 2026)

INFORMATION NOTE FOR THE NGOs

Venue and Webcast

The 117th session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, Conference Hall, Ground Floor in Geneva.**

The dialogue between the Committee and States parties and all other public meetings of the session are webcast live at [UN Web TV](#) and available thereafter in the webcast archives.

NGOs written contributions

The Committee welcomes written contributions by NGOs, which should be reliable, concise, relevant and non-abusive. NGOs are encouraged to provide written contributions that contain:

- (i) information on the implementation of some or all of the provisions of the Convention;
- (ii) comments on the report of the State party;
- (iii) information on the implementation by the State party of previous concluding observations of the Committee;
- (iv) information on positive aspects or emerging challenges registered in the State party.

It is the responsibility of NGOs that their written contributions respect anonymity by not containing the names of individuals, unless they are already in the public domain or the concerned individuals have given their

approval. Photographs of alleged victims, witnesses or perpetrators are not to be included.

All submissions to CERD should be:

1. Submitted in English, French or Spanish, and submissions in one of the three languages may include, to the extent possible, an executive summary in one of the two other languages. **The Committee Secretariat does not translate documents submitted by NGOs.**
2. Submitted in **Word format** (only documents submitted in Word format can be accepted).
3. Transmitted to the CERD Secretariat within the deadlines detailed on the webpage of each session to allow members of the Committee to read the reports:
 - For the **list of themes before 30 January 2026**.
 - For the **review before 23 March 2026**.
 - For the **follow-up procedure to concluding observations before 13 February 2026**.
 - For the **early warning and urgent action procedure (EWUAP) before 13 February 2026**.
4. **As concise as possible.** NGO reports prepared by coalitions, rather than individual NGOs are encouraged. **Submissions should not exceed 20 pages.**
5. **Provided in word format** through the online submission system **on <https://events.ohchr.org/>**, indicating whether the submission could be published

on the Committee's webpage or should be kept confidential.

Informal meetings and lunchtime briefings

Informal meetings with the Committee:

Only NGO representatives who have submitted written contributions to the Committee will have the possibility to register and attend the private *informal meetings* organized for NGOs to present country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before the Committee. **These meetings take place in-person.**

Interpretation into the three working languages of the Committee (English, French or Spanish) is provided during the meeting. Interpretation into other UN languages (Arabic, Chinese or Russian) is provided when relevant.

To register for the informal meetings, kindly inform the Secretariat by using the platform: <https://events.ohchr.org/>. You will be requested to provide a copy of your statement in advance to facilitate the work of the interpreters on ohchr-cerd@un.org.

Lunchtime briefings: NGOs that have submitted written information on a given country may request for a lunchtime briefing.

This briefing usually takes place at the request of submitting organizations during lunchtime outside the official meeting time of the session. **These briefings take place in-person.** Interpretation is not available for the lunchtime briefings.

Taking photos and recording audio or video during the *informal meetings* and **lunchtime briefings** is prohibited.

Accreditation for in-person meetings

NGO representatives who wish to attend the CERD session **in-person** are requested to register online through Indico (UNOGs conference management platform) by clicking on the [link](#). **All participants must have the meeting badge of the session.** Kindly ensure you register well in advance. The registrations will remain open until **6 April 2026**.

Please note that the OHCHR Secretariat is not in a position to send letters of invitation to NGOs to attend CERD sessions or assist with travel, visas or accommodation costs or arrangements relating to their participation. Also note that a confirmation of accreditation does not guarantee a seat in the meeting room as space may be limited.

Adoption of concluding observations

Following the review of the States parties' reports, the Committee will, in a closed meeting, adopt concluding observations that will assist the States parties concerned in the implementation of the Convention. These concluding observations outline positive aspects, principal subjects of concern and the Committee's recommendations on how to address challenges faced by the States parties. They also identify a number of recommendations for the follow-up procedure. Once adopted, the concluding observations are posted on the Committee's [web page](#) under the relevant session.