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# OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGO ENGAGEMENT

February – June 2011

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## COUNTRY EXAMINATIONS AND REVIEWS

For more detailed and up to date information, please consult the relevant treaty body pages at <http://bit.ly/d07u3s> or the UPR page at <http://bit.ly/ea8LRG>.

### COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

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#### What's coming up?

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will hold its 78<sup>th</sup> session from 14 February to 11 March. It will examine the reports of Armenia, Bolivia, Cuba, Ireland, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Rwanda, Serbia, Spain, and Uruguay. For more information see <http://bit.ly/iaVCHI>.

The 79<sup>th</sup> session will examine the reports of Albania, Czech Republic, Georgia, Kuwait, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Paraguay, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Yemen.

#### What can you do?

If you are working on racial discrimination in any of the countries under review, you can submit information to Committee at any time, but preferably two months prior to the relevant session. You may submit the information to the Committee's Secretary, Ms Gabriella Habtom at [ghabtom@ohchr.org](mailto:ghabtom@ohchr.org).

### COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS

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#### What's coming up?

The Committee on Migrant Workers will hold its 14<sup>th</sup> session from 4 to 8 April in Geneva. It will examine the report of Mexico and will adopt the lists of issues for Argentina, Chile and Guatemala.

#### What can you do?

If you are working on the rights of migrant workers in any of the countries under review, you can submit information to Committee's Secretary, Ms Noemy Barrita-Chagoya at [nbaritta-chagoya@ohchr.org](mailto:nbaritta-chagoya@ohchr.org). For more information visit <http://bit.ly/e0zJEb>.

### COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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#### What's coming up?

The 5<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will take place from 11 to 14 April. It will review Tunisia, and adopt the list of issues for the review of Spain scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> session (19 to 23 September). For more information see <http://bit.ly/homq6D>.

#### What can you do?

If you are working on the rights of persons with disabilities in any of the countries under review, you can submit information to the Committee's Secretary, Ms Safak Pavey at [spavey@ohchr.org](mailto:spavey@ohchr.org).

## COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### What's coming up?

The Committee on the Rights of the Child will hold its 57<sup>th</sup> session from 30 May to 17 June in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Bahrain, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, and Iceland. It will also review Egypt under the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict and under the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children.

### What can you do?

If you would like to submit information for upcoming examinations, you can contact the NGO group on the CRC for advice: [www.childrightsnet.org](http://www.childrightsnet.org). Information on NGO participation can be found in 'A Guide For Non-Governmental Organizations Reporting to the Committee on The Rights of the Child', which is available at: <http://bit.ly/bN1dR3>.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

### What's coming up?

The UPR will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> session from 2 to 13 May. The countries under review are: Belgium, Denmark, Palau, Somalia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Latvia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Suriname, Greece, Samoa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Hungary, and Papua New Guinea.

It will also hold its 12<sup>th</sup> session from 3 to 14 October. All interested stakeholders may submit information, which will serve as the basis for the interactive dialogue in October. The 12th session will be the final session of the first cycle. It is unclear when the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle will begin, as the functioning of the UPR is currently being reviewed by the Human Rights Council.

### What can you do?

If you would like to submit information on any of the countries to be examined in October, please follow the guidelines found at <http://bit.ly/d07u3s>.

The deadlines for submissions are as follows: 14 March for submissions on Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand; and 21 March for submissions on Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Antigua and Barbuda, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Moldova, and Haiti. For more information see <http://bit.ly/h2sHEi>. Your submission should be sent to [uprsubmissions@ohchr.org](mailto:uprsubmissions@ohchr.org) following the above mentioned guidelines.

## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

### What's coming up?

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will hold its 46<sup>th</sup> session from 2 to 20 May in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Germany, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, and Yemen.

At its pre-sessional working group, from 23 to 27 May, the Committee will prepare the list of questions for Argentina, New Zealand, Peru, Slovakia, and Spain, which will be reviewed at a later session.

### What can you do?

NGOs may participate in parts of both the 46<sup>th</sup> session and the pre-sessional working group following it. See <http://bit.ly/hkv5nJ> for more information.

Organisations wishing to submit information to the Committee with respect to the States listed above should do so electronically to [cescr@ohchr.org](mailto:cescr@ohchr.org) by 14 March. Please note that submissions will be treated as public documents unless specifically marked as 'confidential'. See <http://bit.ly/f8PxPt> for more information.

## COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

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### What's coming up?

The Committee against Torture will hold its 46<sup>th</sup> session from 9 May to 3 June in Geneva. It will consider the reports of Finland, Ghana, Ireland, Kuwait, Mauritius, Monaco, Slovenia, and Turkmenistan. At the same session, it will adopt lists of issues for Bulgaria, Germany, Morocco, Sri Lanka, and Tunisia, which will be reviewed at the 47<sup>th</sup> session.

The Committee will hold its 47<sup>th</sup> session from 31 October to 25 November. In addition to the States mentioned above, the Committee will review Greece, Paraguay, Djibouti, and Madagascar. For more information see <http://bit.ly/eknkCG>.

### What can you do?

If you are working on the issue of torture, you can submit information to the Committee at any time, but preferably six weeks before the session. The following deadlines apply:

- Information on the States reviewed at the 46<sup>th</sup> session: 21 April.
- Information for inclusion in the lists of issues to be adopted at the 46<sup>th</sup> session: 9 February.
- Information on States reviewed at the 47<sup>th</sup> session: 14 October.

Information should be sent in electronic Microsoft Word format to [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org), [jnataf@ohchr.org](mailto:jnataf@ohchr.org) and [bcorvalan@ohchr.org](mailto:bcorvalan@ohchr.org), and will be posted on the Internet.

## MEETINGS

### HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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#### What's coming up?

The Council will hold its 16<sup>th</sup> session from 28 February to 25 March. The Council will hold its 17<sup>th</sup> session from 30 May to 17 June.

#### What can you do?

If you work with an ECOSOC accredited NGO you may attend all sessions of the Human Rights Council (the Council). You may also submit written statements and request rooms to organise parallel events (deadline 14 February for both). You may also register to deliver oral statements at the Council under all agenda items. The speakers' list for oral statements opens at 8 a.m. Geneva time on 28 February. More information about the Council and NGO participation is available at <http://bit.ly/dSkbHC> and at [www.ishr.ch/council](http://www.ishr.ch/council).

### REVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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#### What's coming up?

The Open-ended Working Group on the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> session in three parts. The first part will be held on 7 February, the second part on 17 and 18 February, and the third part on 23 and 24 February. In the lead-up, between and after the formal Working Group session, there is likely to be a continuation of the informal process currently underway. The President intends to present a final document for adoption to the March session of the Council.

### What can you do?

If you work with an ECOSOC accredited NGO, you may attend and participate in all sessions of the Working Group. You may also contact ISHR for more information at [review@ishr.ch](mailto:review@ishr.ch).

#### WORKING GROUP ON AN OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The Working Group will hold its third session from 10 to 11 and 14 to 16 February. See <http://bit.ly/gb56Ze> for more information.

### SPECIAL PROCEDURES' VISITS

You can stay up to date about upcoming visits by the special procedures to countries around the world at <http://twitter.com/unrightswire> or join the OHCHR Civil Society Section mailing list at <http://conta.cc/c4paEC>. At the time of writing, information about the following forthcoming visits was available:

- The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Mr Jorge A. Bustamante, will visit Greece from 28 February to 8 March. See <http://bit.ly/dnncRo>.
- The Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights, Ms Farida Shaheed, will visit Austria from 4 to 15 April. See <http://bit.ly/bH2k2X>.
- The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Ms Raquel Rolnik will visit Argentina from 13 to 22 April. See <http://bit.ly/hQVylk>.
- The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent will visit Canada from 16 to 20 May. See <http://bit.ly/98kQg7>.

### ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

#### APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATE HOLDERS

### What's coming up?

At the March session of the Human Rights Council (28 February to 25 March) the President of the Council will appoint new mandate holders to the following mandates, both of which were newly established at the Council's 15<sup>th</sup> session in September 2010:

- Five members to the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice.
- Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

The Consultative Group will present a list of recommended candidates to the President at least one month before the beginning of the March session. Interested candidates may fill in the form at <http://bit.ly/9plH33> to be placed on the public roster. The recommendations of the Consultative Group will be made available on the HRC Extranet at <http://bit.ly/9yRU8X> (Username: hrc extranet, Password: 1session).

See the full list of vacancies for mandates to be filled at the June and September sessions at <http://bit.ly/amdMtw>. ■

ISHR ACTIVITIES:

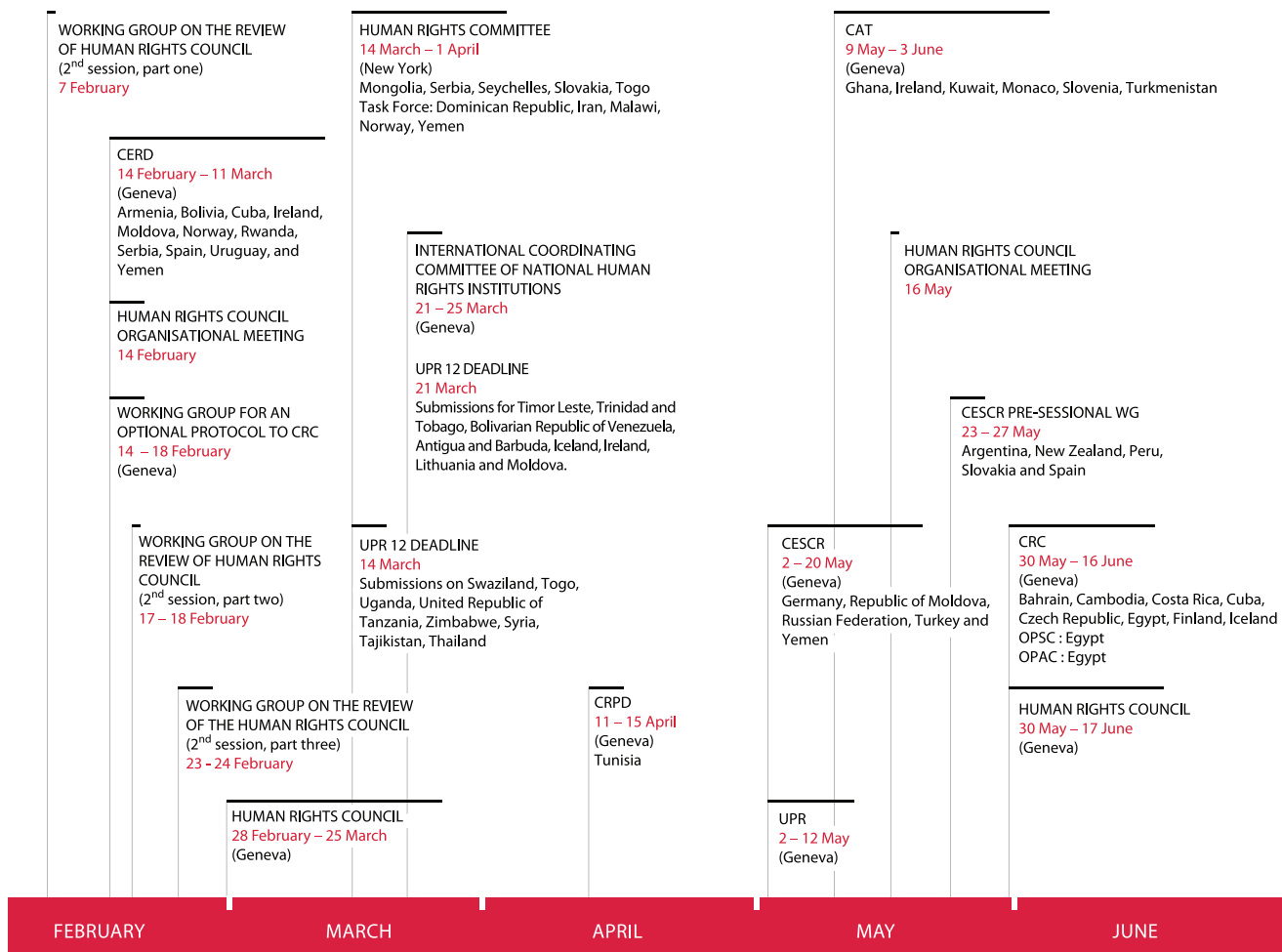
ISHR ADVANCED GENEVA TRAINING COURSE  
 6 – 18 March  
 (Geneva)  
[www.ishr.ch/trainings](http://www.ishr.ch/trainings)

NGO FORUM @ AFRICAN COMMISSION  
 25-27 April

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS  
 28 April – 12 May

UN MEETINGS:



UPCOMING EVENTS FEBRUARY – JUNE 2011