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# OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGO ENGAGEMENT

May – September 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/feFwjo> or the UPR page at <http://bit.ly/ea8LRG>.

A tentative 2011 calendar of country reports to be considered by UN human rights treaty bodies and the UPR can be found at <http://bit.ly/dOruUI>.

## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

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### What's coming up?

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> session from 2 to 13 May in Geneva. 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, when the countries under review will be Tajikistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Antigua and Barbuda, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Thailand, Ireland, Togo, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor Leste, the Republic of Moldova, and Haiti. The 12<sup>th</sup> session will be the final session of the first cycle of the UPR. The first session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle will start in June 2012.

### What can you do?

The deadlines for submissions of information to the 12<sup>th</sup> session have now passed. If you would like to submit information on any of the countries to be examined in June 2012, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle starts, please follow the guidelines found at <http://bit.ly/d07u3s>.

The countries to be examined in June 2012 will be Bahrain, Ecuador, Tunisia, Morocco, Indonesia, Finland, United Kingdom, India, Brazil, Philippines, Algeria, Poland, Netherlands, South Africa, Czech Republic, and Argentina. Your submission should be sent to [uprsubmissions@ohchr.org](mailto:uprsubmissions@ohchr.org) following the above-mentioned guidelines. Submissions should be sent at least five months before the relevant session of the UPR. Exact deadlines will be posted in due course at <http://bit.ly/dJJoOb>.

## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

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### What's coming up?

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) 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 lists 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.

## COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

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### What's coming up?

The Committee Against Torture (CAT) 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 deadline for submissions of information to the 46<sup>th</sup> session has now passed. Information on the States to be reviewed at the 47<sup>th</sup> session is due by 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.

## COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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### What's coming up?

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 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 Organisations Reporting to the Committee on The Rights of the Child*', which is available at <http://bit.ly/gNbare>.

## COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

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### What's coming up?

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will hold its 49<sup>th</sup> session from 11 to 29 July in New York. It will examine the reports of Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Zambia. For more information see <http://bit.ly/fRdoiC>.

The Committee's pre-session working group will meet from 23 to 27 May to prepare lists of issues for the 51<sup>st</sup> session. The following countries will be examined at that session: Algeria, Brazil, Comoros, Grenada, Jordan, Norway, Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe. For the latest information see the Committee's webpage: <http://bit.ly/a3Ud11>.

### What can you do?

If you are working on discrimination against women in any of the countries under review, you can submit information to the Committee in Microsoft Word format to BSmith@ohchr.org, indicating whether the materials may be published on the Committee's website; and also in hard copy to Mrs Gaynel Curry, Gender and Women's Rights Advisor, OHCHR, New York Office, Room DC1-0511, UN New York 10017, USA. All submissions should arrive by 27 June. The Committee will meet with NGOs at 3pm on 11 and 18 July, and with national human rights institutions (NHRIs) at 4:30pm on 11 July and 4pm on 18 July.

To submit information to the pre-sessional working group, send information to BSmith@ohchr.org by 9 May. A meeting with NGOs will be organised, however the dates are not yet publicised. Please check the Committee's website for the latest information: <http://bit.ly/ecR3cb>.

More detailed information on NGO participation is available at <http://bit.ly/dayPAF>. Alternatively, IRAW Asia Pacific can help NGOs submit reports to CEDAW. Please contact IRAW Asia Pacific on [iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org](mailto:iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org) or [iwraw\\_ap@yahoo.com](mailto:iwraw_ap@yahoo.com).

## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

### What's coming up?

The Human Rights Committee (the Committee) will hold its 102<sup>nd</sup> session from 11 to 29 July in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, and Dominica (in the absence of a report). Lists of issues will be prepared on Angola, Maldives, Turkmenistan, and Mozambique (in the absence of a report).

### What can you do?

If you are working on issues related to civil and political rights in any of these countries you can submit information to the Committee for its examination, to assist it in drafting the lists of issues. Please send information to Ms Nathalie Prouvez, [nprouvez@ohchr.org](mailto:nprouvez@ohchr.org) on the lists of issues before 21 April and for the review of States by 3 June. Information on NGO participation can be found in the '*NGO Guidelines on the Reporting Process of the UN Human Rights Committee*' which is available at [www.ccprcentre.org/en/ngo-guidelines](http://www.ccprcentre.org/en/ngo-guidelines).

If you would like to submit information for upcoming examinations, you can contact the Centre for Civil and Political Rights on [info@ccprcentre.org](mailto:info@ccprcentre.org).

## COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

### What's coming up?

From 8 August - 2 September, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will hold its 79<sup>th</sup> session and examine the reports of Albania, Czech Republic, Georgia, Kenya, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Paraguay, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

The Committee will hold an open meeting with NGOs to discuss their participation in the Committee's work. See the NGO information note for more details: <http://bit.ly/egaJB6>.

### What can you do?

If you are working on issues related to racial discrimination in any of the above countries, you can submit information to the Committee through the Secretariat: Ms Gabriella Habtom, [ghabtom@ohchr.org](mailto:ghabtom@ohchr.org). The deadline for submissions is 22 July.

## MEETINGS

### PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

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#### What's coming up ?

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> session from 16 to 27 May in New York. The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council, with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

#### What can you do?

The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Mr James Anaya, will hold individual meetings with representatives of indigenous peoples and organisations. The meetings are an opportunity to raise issues relevant to the Special Rapporteur's mandate. The meetings will be held from 18 to 20 May. Requests for a meeting should be sent by 29 April to [indigenous@ohchr.org](mailto:indigenous@ohchr.org). Further information is available at <http://bit.ly/fBMUz3>. To meet with the Special Rapporteur you will also need to pre-register for the 10<sup>th</sup> session. For more information on pre-registering and the session in general, consult the website here: <http://bit.ly/gQlvKj>.

### HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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#### What's coming up?

The Human Rights Council (the Council) will hold its 17<sup>th</sup> session from 30 May to 17 June in Geneva. An organisational meeting will take place on 16 May. An organisational meeting for the 7<sup>th</sup> cycle of the Council will be held on 20 and 21 June in Geneva.

#### What can you do?

If you work with an ECOSOC accredited NGO you may attend all sessions of the Council. You may also submit written statements and request rooms to organise parallel events (deadline 16 May). You may also register to deliver oral statements under all agenda items. The speakers' list for oral statements opens at 8am Geneva time on 30 May. 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).

### ANNUAL MEETING OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES

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#### What's coming up?

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of special procedures will take place in Geneva from 27 June to 1 July. More information on the meeting will become available at <http://bit.ly/hgYzMP>.

## INTER-COMMITTEE MEETING AND MEETING OF TREATY BODY CHAIRPERSONS

### What's coming up?

The 12<sup>th</sup> Inter-Committee meeting will take place in Geneva from 27 to 29 June. This will be followed by the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Chairpersons from 30 June to 1 July.

### What can you do?

The Inter-Committee meeting provides an opportunity to discuss the work of all the treaty bodies and provide input on ways to enhance the effectiveness of the treaty body system as a whole. More information on the meeting will be made available here: <http://bit.ly/hbKhWO>

## EXPERT MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be held from 11 to 15 July in Geneva. For more information on this meeting consult the website: <http://bit.ly/ek3DpT>

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> session from 8 to 12 August, in Geneva. NGOs can participate in all public sessions. More information on this meeting will be made available here: <http://bit.ly/byzWQz>.

## 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 mailing list at <http://conta.cc/c4paEC>. At the time of writing, information about the following forthcoming visits was available:

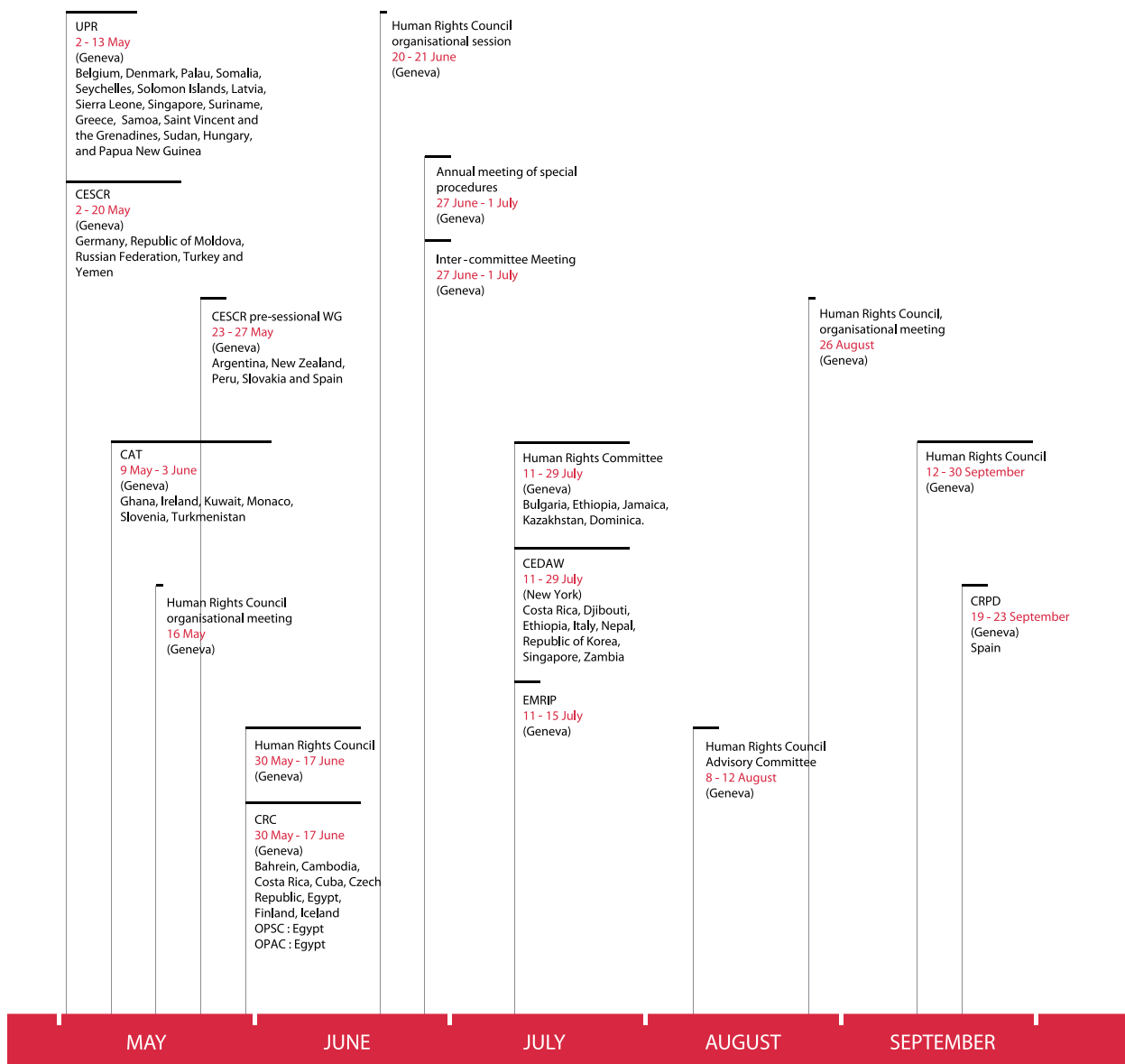
- The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Ms Raquel Rolnik, will visit Argentina from 13 to 22 April. See <http://bit.ly/hQVylk>.
- The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Mr James Anaya, will visit Costa Rica from 18 to 22 April. See <http://bit.ly/gWh46a>.
- The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Ms Najat Maalla M'jid, will visit Mauritius from 2 to 10 May. See <http://bit.ly/flvhey>.
- The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Ms Gulnara Shahinian, will visit Peru from 9 to 20 May. See <http://bit.ly/eqHMq7>.
- The Working Group of Experts on People of African descent will visit Canada from 16 to 20 May. See <http://bit.ly/fqOzMM>.
- The Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Ms Gabriela Knaul, will visit Romania from 17 to 24 May. See <http://bit.ly/eZm4vl>. ■

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

ACHPR  
28 April - 13 May  
(Banjul, the Gambia)

APF annual meeting (TBC)  
6 - 9 September  
(Bangkok, Thailand)

UN MEETINGS:



UPCOMING EVENTS MAY – SEPTEMBER 2011