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# OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGO ENGAGEMENT

August – December 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 website at <http://bit.ly/ea8LRG>.

### UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

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#### What's coming up?

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) will hold its 12<sup>th</sup> session from 3 to 14 October 2011 in Geneva. The countries under review are Tajikistan, United Republic of Tanzania, Antigua and Barbuda, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Thailand, Ireland, Togo, Syrian Arab Republic, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor Leste, and Republic of Moldova. 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, and South Africa. 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>.

For a tentative calendar of the second cycle see: <http://bit.ly/rmjTHC>

### COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

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#### What's coming up?

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will hold its 47<sup>th</sup> session from 14 November to 2 December 2011 in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Argentina, Cameroon, Estonia, Israel, and Turkmenistan.

At its pre-sessional working group, from 5 to 9 December 2011, the Committee will prepare the lists of questions for Bulgaria, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Mauritania and United Republic of Tanzania, which will be reviewed at a later session.

#### What can you do?

NGOs may participate in parts of both the 47<sup>th</sup> session and the pre-sessional working group following it. See <http://bit.ly/hkv5nJ> for more information

## COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

### What's coming up?

The Committee against Torture will hold its 47<sup>th</sup> session from 31 October to 25 November 2011 in Geneva. It will consider the reports of Belarus, Bulgaria, Djibouti, Germany, Greece, Madagascar, Morocco, Paraguay, and Sri Lanka.

The Committee will hold its 48<sup>th</sup> session from 7 May to 1 June 2012, when it will review Albania, Armenia, Canada, Cuba, Czech Republic, Mexico, Russian Federation, and Rwanda. 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 submission of information to the 47<sup>th</sup> session is 14 October 2011. Information on the States to be reviewed at the 48<sup>th</sup> session is due by 20 April 2012. 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

### What's coming up?

The Committee on the Rights of the Child will hold its 58<sup>th</sup> official session from 19 September to 7 October 2011 in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Iceland, Italy, Syrian Arab Republic, Panama, Madagascar, Republic of Korea, Greece, and the Seychelles. It will also review DRC and Greece under the *Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict* and Sweden 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 for the Convention on the Rights of the Child 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

### What's coming up?

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will hold its 50<sup>th</sup> session from 3 to 21 October 2011 in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritius, Montenegro, Oman, and Paraguay. For more information see <http://bit.ly/fRdoiC>.

### 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](mailto: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 at 4:30pm on 11 July and 4pm on 18 July.

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

## HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

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### What's coming up?

The Human Rights Committee will hold its 103<sup>rd</sup> session from 17 October to 4 November 2011 in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Jamaica, Kuwait, Norway, Iran, and Côte d'Ivoire (in the absence of a report). Lists of issues will be prepared on Armenia, Lithuania, Kenya, Cape Verde (in the absence of a report), and prior to reporting on Uruguay, Cameroon, Monaco, Denmark, and Moldova.

### 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). 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 <http://bit.ly/o5M1xy>.

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

## COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

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### What's coming up?

From 8 August - 2 September 2011, 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, email [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 possibly hold its 11<sup>th</sup> session in May 2012; however, no exact date has been set yet. 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 in May 2012. Requests for a meeting should be sent by 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 11<sup>th</sup> session. For more information, consult the website here: <http://bit.ly/gQlvKj>.

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### What's coming up?

The Human Rights Council (the Council) will hold its 18<sup>th</sup> session from 12 to 30 September 2011 in Geneva. An organisational meeting will take place on 26 August.

### 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 24 August). You may also register to deliver oral statements under all agenda items. The speakers' list for oral statements opens at 8am Geneva time on 12 September. More information about the Council and NGO participation is available at <http://bit.ly/dSkbHC> and [www.ishr.ch/council](http://www.ishr.ch/council).

## HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> session from 8 to 12 August 2011, 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

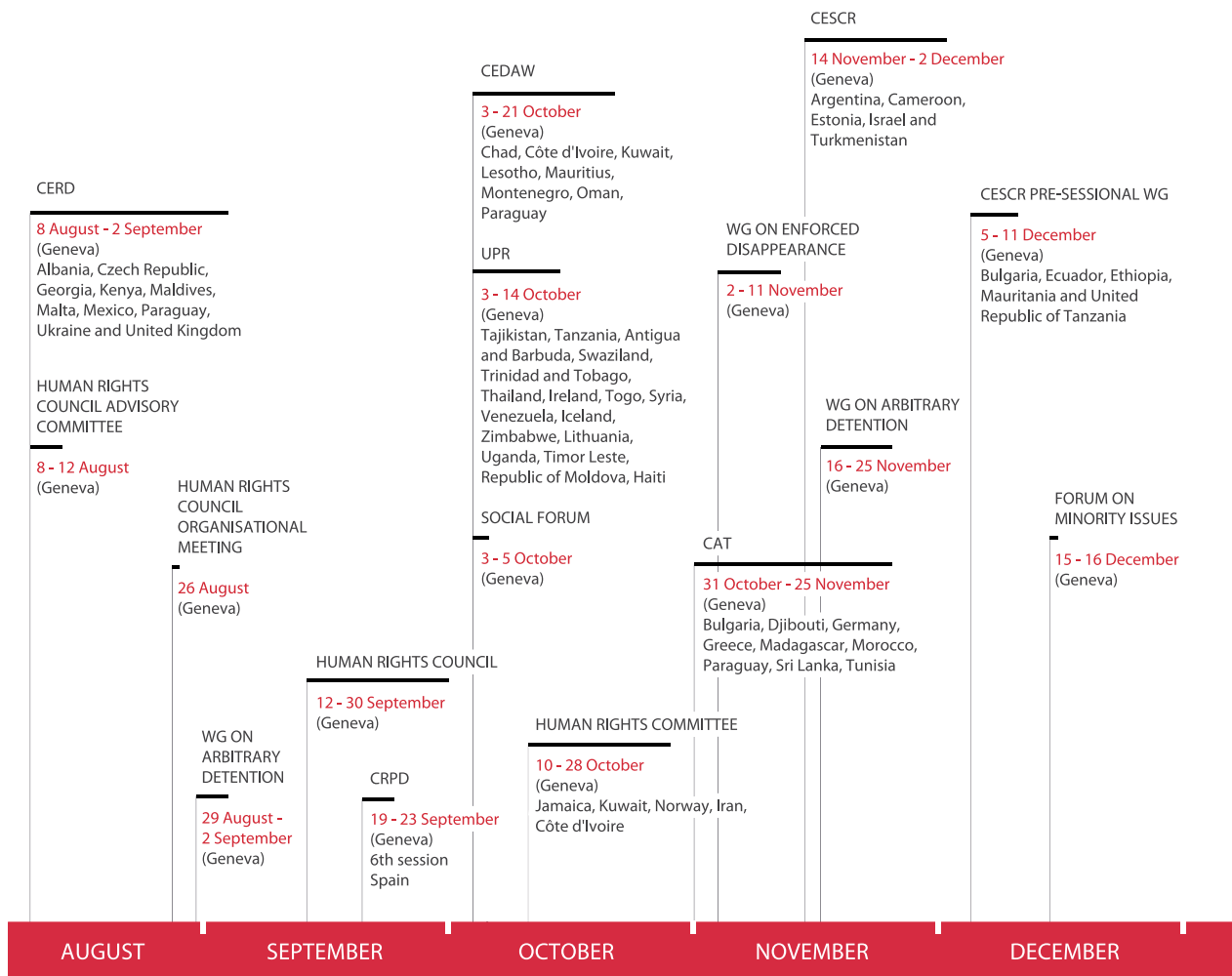
You can stay up to date about upcoming visits by the special procedures to countries around the world at <http://twitter.com/unrightswire> or join the OHCHR Civil Society mailing list at <http://conta.cc/c4paEC>. At the time of writing, information about the following 2011 visits was available:

- The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, Ms Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, will visit Thailand from 8 to 19 August. See <http://bit.ly/pfaYM1>.
- The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms Rashida Manjoo, will visit Jordan from 11 to 27 November. See <http://bit.ly/qKi1Ad>.
- The Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation, Ms Catarina de Albuquerque, will visit Uruguay from 13 to 18 November. See <http://bit.ly/o9RTLM>.
- The Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, Mr Frank La Rue, will visit Israel from 4 to 18 December. See <http://bit.ly/pYS1Gz>. ■

**ISHR ACTIVITIES:**

	<p>NGO FORUM ON THE ASIA PACIFIC FORUM</p> <p>5 - 6 September (Bangkok)</p>	<p>FRENCH GTC TREATY BODIES AND UPR</p> <p>2 - 14 October (Geneva)</p>	<p>NGO FORUM ON AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS</p> <p>20 - 22 October (Banjul)</p>
<b>REGIONAL MEETINGS:</b>			

	<p>ASIA PACIFIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING</p> <p>7 - 8 September (Bangkok)</p>	<p>AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS</p> <p>24 October - 8 November (Banjul)</p>
<b>UN MEETINGS:</b>		



**UPCOMING EVENTS AUGUST – DECEMBER 2011**