
OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGO ENGAGEMENT

COUNTRY EXAMINATIONS AND REVIEWS

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

What's coming up?

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will hold its 44th session from 3 to 21 May in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Afghanistan, Algeria, Colombia, Kazakhstan, and Mauritius.

The Pre-Sessional Working Group will take place from 25 to 28 May to prepare the lists of issues for the upcoming examinations of the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Turkey, and Yemen.

At its November session the Committee will examine the following countries: the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, Uruguay, Sri Lanka, and Switzerland.

What can you do?

If you are working on economic, social and cultural rights in any of the countries to be examined in November you can submit information for the Committee to the Secretariat: Ms Susan Mathews, smathews@ohchr.org. Please inform the Secretariat in advance if you intend to submit information. You are encouraged to check the website in June for up-to-date information about the November session and relevant deadlines.

COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

What's coming up?

In November, the Committee against Torture will prepare its preliminary questions (the 'list of issues') for the examination in 2011 of the following countries: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Burundi, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lithuania, Montenegro, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Republic of Macedonia, Togo, and Zambia.

What can you do?

If you are working on issues related to torture in any of these countries, you can submit information to the Committee by 16 August 2010. Information should be sent to the Secretariat of the Committee at jnataf@ohchr.org and registry@ohchr.org. More detailed information regarding NGO submissions and other engagement with the Committee is available at:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cat/follow_up_ngo.htm

Background

Under the new optional reporting procedure adopted by the Committee against Torture in May 2007, the Committee will adopt a list of issues to be transmitted to the State party prior to the submission of a State report. The State party's response to the list of issues will then constitute the State party's report under Article 19 of the Convention. The list of issues will be drafted on the basis of information received by the Committee, including submissions by NGOs.

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

What's coming up?

On 25 May-11 June the Committee on the Rights of the Child will examine the following countries: Argentina, Belgium, Grenada, Guatemala, Japan, Nigeria, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Tunisia under the Convention on the Rights of the Child; Argentina, Belgium, Colombia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Japan, Serbia under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children (OPSC); and Argentina, Colombia, Japan, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC).

What can you do?

Information on NGO participation can be found in 'A Guide For Non-Governmental Organizations Reporting to the Committee on The Rights of the Child' available at: <http://www.crin.org/docs/Reporting%20Guide%202006%20English.pdf>.

If you are interested in submitting information for upcoming examinations (for the list of countries, please see: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/sessions.htm>) you can contact the NGO Group on the CRC for advice: <http://www.childrightsnet.org>

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

What's coming up?

On 12-30 July 2010, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will examine the following States during its 46th session in New York: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, and Turkey and consider an 'exceptional report' on India.

What can you do?

If you are working on discrimination on any of the countries above you can submit information to the Committee by 28 June at cedaw@ohchr.org.

Detailed information regarding the submission of information by NGOs can be found at: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/NGO_Participation.final.pdf.

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

What's coming up?

On 2-27 August 2010, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will hold its 77th session and examine the reports of Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Uzbekistan.

The Committee will hold an open meeting with NGOs to discuss their participation in the Committee's work. The meeting is likely to take place on 2 August. Please check the Committee's programme of work for the session for the exact date: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/cerds77.htm>

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.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

What's coming up?

On 12-30 July 2010, the Human Rights Committee will examine the following States during its 99th session in Geneva: Cameroon, Colombia, Estonia and Israel.

Country Report Task Forces will develop and adopt list of issues on reports submitted by Ethiopia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Slovakia, and Togo, which will be examined in 2011.

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 examinations and to assist it in drafting the lists of issues. Information on Cameroon, Colombia, Estonia and Israel should be sent by 1 June to the Secretariat of the Committee: Ms Nathalie Prouvez, nprouvez@ohchr.ch

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

What's coming up?

The UPR will review the following States during its 9th session from 30 November to 11 December 2010: Liberia, Malawi, Mongolia, Panama, Maldives, Andorra, Bulgaria, Honduras, United States, Marshall Islands, Croatia, Jamaica, Libya, Micronesia, Lebanon, and Mauritania.

What can you do?

You can submit information for the stakeholder summaries on the countries that will be examined at the UPR's 10th session (January 2011). Your submission should follow these guidelines:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/TechnicalGuideEN.pdf>

The deadline is 5 July 2010 for submissions on Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal.

The deadline is 12 July 2010 for submissions on Oman, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Australia, Austria, Estonia and Georgia.

Your submission should be sent to: uprsubmissions@ohchr.org.

MEETINGS

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 14TH SESSION

What's coming up?

The Council will hold its 14th session from 31 May to 18 June. The Council will hear an update from the High Commissioner for Human Rights and hold interactive dialogues with a number of its special procedures, including on education, on trafficking, on summary executions, on independence of judges and lawyers, on migrants, on transnational corporations, on violence against women, on the right to health, on effects of foreign debt, on extreme poverty, on freedom of expression, on cultural rights, on racism, and on the human rights situation in the Sudan, and in Haiti.

What can you do?

If you work with an ECOSOC accredited NGO you can submit written statements to the Council and make oral statements under all agenda items. More information about NGO participation is available at

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/ngo.htm>

NGO INPUT INTO 2010 HIGH LEVEL SUMMIT ON MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS)

What's coming up?

On 14-15 June 2010, the General Assembly will hold 'informal interactive hearings' with NGOs, civil society organisations and the private sector in New York. These are part of the preparatory process for the high-level summit on the Millennium Development Goals that will take place in the General Assembly on 20-22 September 2010.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES

What's coming up?

The 17th Annual Meeting of special procedures will take place in Geneva from 28 June to 2 July. More information about the meeting will become available here: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/meeting.htm>

INTER-COMMITTEE MEETING AND MEETING OF TREATY BODY CHAIRPERSONS

What's coming up?

The 11th Inter-Committee meeting (28-30 June) and 22nd meeting of Chairpersons (1-2 July) will take place in Geneva at the end of June.

The annual Meeting of Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies provides an opportunity to discuss the work of the nine treaty bodies and consider ways to enhance the effectiveness of the treaty body system as a whole. More information on the meeting will be made available here: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/icm-mc/documents/11.htm>

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>

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

What's coming up?

On 13 May the General Assembly will elect 14 members of the Human Rights Council. Currently, the number of candidates is the same as the number of vacant seats for all regional groups. Information about the candidates and their pledges are available at: <http://www.un.org/ga/64/elections/hrc/index.shtml>.

What can you do?

You can press your Government to run for election to the Council and to present voluntary pledges in accordance with 8 of General Assembly *Resolution 60/251*.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATE HOLDERS

What's coming up?

At the June session of the Human Rights Council (31 May-18 June) the President of the Council will appoint new mandate holders to the following mandates: Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on the right to education; Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi; Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self determination (Member from the Group of Asian States); Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States). The Consultative Group will present a list of recommended candidates to the President at least one month before the beginning of the June session. The recommendations of the Consultative Group will be made available on the HRC Extranet: <http://portal.ohchr.org/portal/page/portal/HRCExtranet>

In September the President will appoint new mandate holders to serve as the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons and as the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

More information about the qualifications required and the process is available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/nominations.htm>

What can you do?

For the mandates to be appointed in June, you can submit your views on the candidates shortlisted by the Consultative Group to the President at hrcpresidency1@ohchr.org.

Candidatures for the mandates to be filled in September can be submitted to the Secretariat at the following address: hrcspecialprocedures@ohchr.org or HRC Secretariat, c/o Fei Xing (Mailing address: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Room PW 4-072, Palais des Nations, 8-14 avenue de la Paix, CH-1211, Geneva 10; Tel: +41 (0)22 917 9604; Fax: +41 (0)22 917 9008). The deadline for submission of candidatures is 25 June.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDIES AND REPORTS

STUDY ON CHILDREN AND MIGRATION

What's coming up?

The Human Rights Council has requested OHCHR to prepare 'a study on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration' (Resolution 12/6).

What can you do?

You can submit information for the study by 1 May 2010 at registry@ohchr.org, to the attention of Ms Pia Oberoi or by fax to +41 22 917 90 08.

REPORT ON ELIMINATION OF RACISM

What's coming up?

The General Assembly *Resolution 64/148* entitled 'Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action' requests the Secretary-General to submit a report with recommendations on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. The link to the resolution is <http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/alldocs.aspx>

What can you do?

You can send contributions to this report by 28 May 2010 in electronic format to Ms Barbara Paoletti: bpaoletti@ohchr.org. Contributions should not exceed five pages and focus on measures taken to implement the above-mentioned resolution.

ISHR ACTIVITIES:

TREATY BODY AND UPR COURSE

2 - 14 MAY 2010
Focusing on national implementation of international recommendations.

NGO FORUM @ AFRICAN COMMISSION

9 - 12 MAY 2010

REGIONAL MEETINGS:

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

12 - 28 MAY 2010
Banjul, the Gambia.

UN MEETINGS:

CAT

26 APRIL 2010 - 14 MAY 2010
Austria, Cameroon, France, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic

CMW

26 APRIL 2010 - 7 MAY 2010
Algeria

UPR

3 - 14 MAY 2010
Kyrgyzstan, Kiribati, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Spain, Lesotho, Kenya, Armenia, Guinea-Bissau, Sweden, Grenada, Turkey, Guyana, Haiti, Kuwait, Belarus

CESCR

3 - 21 MAY 2010
Algeria, Colombia, Mauritius, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL MEETING

20 MAY 2010

CESCR PRE-SESSIONAL WG

24 - 28 MAY 2010
Sri Lanka, Yemen, Russian Federation, Turkey, Republic of Moldova, Mali

CRC

24 MAY 2010 - 11 JUNE 2010
Argentina, Belgium, Grenada, Guatemala, Japan, Nigeria, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia
OPSC: Belgium, Colombia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Japan, Serbia
OPAC: Argentina, Colombia, Japan, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

31 MAY 2010 - 18 JUNE 2010

ANNUAL MEETING OF CHAIRS OF TREATY BODIES AND INTER COMMITTEE MEETING

28 JUNE 2010 - 2 JULY 2010

ANNUAL MEETING OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES

28 JUNE 2010 - 2 JULY 2010

CEDAW (NYC)

12 - 30 JULY 2010
Albania, Argentina, Australia, Central African Republic, Fiji, Grenada, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Turkey

OPCAT

21 - 25 JUNE 2010

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ORGANISATIONAL SESSION

21 JUNE 2010

EXPERT MECHANISM ON RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

12 - 16 JULY 2010

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

12 - 30 JULY 2010
Cameroon, Colombia, Estonia, Israel Task Forces: Ethiopia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Slovakia, Togo

MAY 2010

JUNE 2010

JULY 2010