
OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGO ENGAGEMENT

February – July 2013

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>. For an overview of the UN treaty body system and its functions, you can download a free copy of ISHR's Simple Guide to the UN Treaty Bodies at <http://bit.ly/dB7B73>.

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

What's coming up?

From 11 February to 1 March, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will hold its 82nd session. It will examine the reports of Algeria, the Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and Slovakia.

What can you do?

If you want to submit information on any of the states under review, you should send submissions to the Secretariat electronically to cerd@ohchr.org by 31 January. This should include 20 hard copies sent by post to CERD Secretariat, 8 -14 Avenue de la Paix, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. More information on NGO participation can be found at <http://bit.ly/QMtD0L>.

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

What's coming up?

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will hold its 54th session from 11 February to 1 March in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Angola, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Pakistan, the Solomon Islands, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In July, at the 55th session, the Committee will review Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Serbia, and the United Kingdom.

What can you do?

If you are working on discrimination against women in any of the States under review, you can submit information to the Committee in Microsoft Word or pdf format to cedaw@ohchr.org. The deadline for all submissions for the 54th session to reach the Secretariat is 28 January. For more information on submissions see <http://bit.ly/UKVUtc>. At the time of writing, the date of submission for the 55th session has not yet been released; NGOs should visit <http://bit.ly/UnyAB7> for more details. In general, submission deadlines fall around two weeks prior to the Committee meeting.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

What's coming up?

The Human Rights Committee will hold its 107th session from 11 to 28 March in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Angola, Belize (in the absence of a report), China-Macao, China-Hong Kong, Paraguay, and Peru. Lists of issues will be prepared on Bolivia, Djibouti, Czech Republic, Indonesia, Mauritania, Mozambique, Tajikistan, and the United States. The 108th session will be held from 8 to 26 July. The States under review will be Albania, the Czech Republic, Finland, Indonesia, Tajikistan, and Ukraine.

What can you do?

The deadline for submissions on the countries to be examined at the 107th session is 15 February. Further information on submissions and deadlines can be found at <http://bit.ly/UsW6MH>. Submission deadlines for the 108th session have not yet been released. Please see <http://bit.ly/VkZQBo> for further details at a later date.

COMMITTEE ON ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

What's coming up?

The Committee on Enforced Disappearances will hold its 4th session from 8 to 19 April in Geneva. It will examine the report of Uruguay.

What can you do?

If you would like to submit information to the Committee, the deadline for submission is 16 February in electronic form and 29 March in hard copy. Further information can be found at <http://bit.ly/VeO0IL>.

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

What's coming up?

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will hold its 9th session from 15 to 19 April in Geneva. It will examine the report of Paraguay in public session, and will adopt the reports of Australia, Austria and El Salvador in private.

What can you do?

If you work for the rights of persons with disabilities in any of these States, you may submit information for consideration to the Committee. The deadline for both national human rights institutions and NGOs is 15 March. For accessibility purposes the information should be electronically submitted to the Committee secretariat in both PDF and Word 97/2003 formats, by email to: crpd@ohchr.org. Further information on submissions and deadlines can be found at <http://bit.ly/10w2vxc>.

COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT WORKERS

What's coming up?

The Committee on Migrant Workers will hold its 18th session from 15 to 26 April in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Azerbaijan, Colombia and Bolivia.

What can you do?

If you work for the rights of migrants and their families, and would like to submit information to the Committee, the deadline for submissions is the April 1, and should be submitted to cmw@ohchr.org. More information on how to submit reports can be found at <http://bit.ly/UN2CMY>.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

What's coming up?

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) will hold its 16th session from 22 April to 3 May; the countries under review will be Turkmenistan, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Colombia, Uzbekistan, Tuvalu, Germany, Djibouti, Bangladesh, the Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, and Cuba. A timetable can be found at <http://bit.ly/Vlbaoy>.

What can you do?

A list of upcoming examinations and deadlines for the 16th session can be found at <http://bit.ly/cmalyM>. Note: the deadline for 'other stakeholders' to submit written contributions for the 17th Session is early March. Submissions should be sent to upr-submissions@ohchr.org. A timeline for NGO participation in the UPR can be found at <http://bit.ly/x5KUYL>.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

What's coming up?

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights will hold its 50th session from 29 April to 17 May. It will examine the reports of Azerbaijan, Denmark, Iran, Jamaica, Japan, Rwanda, and Togo. The pre-sessional working group, meeting from 20 to 24 May, will prepare the list of questions for Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Norway and Uzbekistan, which will be reviewed at later sessions.

What can you do?

If you work for economic, social and cultural rights in any of these States, you may participate in parts of both the 48th session and the pre-sessional working groups following it. Submissions for these sessions should be sent to cescr@ohchr.org and in hard copy by 15 March. Further information on submissions can be found at <http://bit.ly/105Dtnn>.

COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

What's coming up?

The Committee Against Torture will hold its 50th session from 6 to 31 May in Geneva. It will examine the reports of Bolivia, Estonia, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Mauritania, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

What can you do?

If you work on the issue of torture in any of these States and would like to submit information, this should be done by 22 February. Further information regarding the submission of information can be found at <http://bit.ly/Y767nR>.

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

What's coming up?

The Committee on the Rights of the Child will hold its 63rd session from 27 May to 14 June in Geneva.

What can you do?

The countries to be reviewed have not yet been scheduled. Please continue to check <http://bit.ly/10z1vZb> for more information.

MEETINGS

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

What's coming up?

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee will hold its 10th session from 18 to 22 February in Geneva.

What can you do?

NGOs can submit information to the Committee on any of the studies it is preparing. Information can be submitted to the Committee Secretariat, by emailing hrcadvisorycommittee@ohchr.org, which will ensure it reaches the relevant Committee members. NGOs may also attend the session and make oral statements. Written statements can be submitted two weeks in advance of the opening of the session to hrcngo@ohchr.org. More information about NGO engagement with the Committee can be found at <http://bit.ly/9UJoyG>.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

What's coming up?

The Human Rights Council will hold its 22nd session from 25 February to 22 March. The 23rd session will be held from 27 May to 14 June. A draft programme of work is available at <http://bit.ly/Untw2R>, but be aware that timings of meetings may change closer to the session. More information will be made available in due course, at <http://bit.ly/VkOb5A>.

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. You may register to deliver oral statements under all agenda items. Oral statements may be delivered in person or by recorded video message. The deadline for submitting written statements and requesting a room for a side event is 11 February. Registration to make an oral statement, whether in person or via video-message, opens on 22 February at 2pm. More information about NGO participation and links to relevant forms can be found at <http://bit.ly/HwOGj6>.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

What's coming up?

The Commission on the Status of Women will hold its 57th session from 4 to 15 March in New York. The key themes under discussion will be the elimination of violence against women and girls; the shared responsibility between men and women in the context of caregiving for those suffering from HIV/AIDS; and gender equality issues in the post-2015 development framework.

What can you do?

The deadline for written statement submission has already passed. More information on NGO participation can be found at <http://bit.ly/UnLnTT>.

PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

What's coming up?

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will hold its 12th session from 20 to 31 May in New York. The Forum is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council, with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, education, health and human rights. This year's meeting will focus on reviewing the progress of the Forum and indigenous peoples.

What can you do?

Details for NGO participation have not yet been released. Please see <http://bit.ly/W5XJ2C> to find updates on information submission and registration for attendance.

ECOSOC accreditation

Some forms of formal participation in the work of the UN require NGOs to hold consultative status with ECOSOC. NGOs may apply for ECOSOC consultative status under Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations and ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31. These accredited organisations may participate in meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, including the functional commissions, in accordance with the rules of procedure of those bodies. For more information visit <http://csonet.org>. ■

SPECIAL PROCEDURES' VISITS

- The Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation, Ms Catarina de Albuquerque, will visit Thailand from 31 January to 8 February, and Brazil from 10 to 18 July. See: <http://bit.ly/11x8Qrh>
- The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, Mr Najat Maalla M'jid, will visit the Kyrgyz Republic from 15 to 26 April, and Madagascar from 15 to 26 July. See: <http://bit.ly/Y7wt9f>
- The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, will visit India from 22 April to 1 May. See: <http://bit.ly/vanSjR>
- The Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism, Mr Ben Emerson, will visit Chile from 15 to 31 July (proposed). See: <http://bit.ly/V70apY>

To find out how you can support the visits, please contact the respective mandate-holder at their email, found in the directory, here: <http://bit.ly/12tRe00>

REGIONAL MEETINGS

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

What's coming up?

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) will hold its 147th Period of Sessions from 7 to 22 March 2013 in Washington, D.C. While the session is closed to the public, hearings will take place alongside the session. Any NGO or individual may request a hearing - the majority of which are public and are webcast.

What can you do?

Requests for hearings and working meetings should be addressed to the IACHR and sent by mail: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 1889 F St., N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 20006. Or, by email: cidhoea@oas.org. Or, by fax: (202) 458-3992 (+1 is the country code for the United States).

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

What's coming up?

The African Commission will hold its 53rd ordinary session from 9 to 23 April 2013. A three-day NGO Forum to discuss issues of concern and prepare recommendations for the Commission will take place prior to the session.

What can you do?

All NGOs with observer status with the African Commission are invited to attend the Commission's 53rd session, at their own cost. NGOs without observer status may also attend but do not have speaking rights. More information about registering to attend will be made in due course at www.achpr.org/sessions.

All NGOs are welcome to take part in the NGO Forum. You can find out more and register to participate here: www.acdhrs.org.