

HE Jürg Lauber and Omar Hilale
Co-facilitators of the process of the consideration of the state of the UN human rights treaty bodies system
Geneva
Switzerland
treatybodies@gmail.com

6 July 2020

Submission concerning the process of the consideration of the state of the UN human rights treaty bodies system: Opportunity of reviews in countries or in regions

As current treaty body members, we wish to support the idea that the United Nations human rights treaty bodies will on occasion perform certain functions such as the review of State reports in countries or in regions, and not only in Geneva. As you know, this is also part of the vision articulated by the chairs of the treaty bodies.

In short, it is our contention the possibility that the treaty bodies will on occasion meet outside the UN headquarters presents an opportunity to give the treaty system greater visibility and to foster a stronger sense of universal ownership of the system over time, also in the South, and as such to strengthen the system and to contribute towards its long-term sustainability and impact.

A link to one proposal for such a system is provided [here](#), also providing further links to the experience of two of the regional human rights mechanisms (the African and the Inter-Americans systems) with such meetings outside the headquarters.

The main point of this submission is not, however, to endorse a specific approach, but rather to recommend that the outcome document of the state of the UN treaty bodies system process should recognize the positive role that such meetings can play, but leave the exact modalities of such a system open to evolution over time.

One option may be that all members of treaty bodies attend such sessions, while a more limited approach may be that only some members attend, for example as part of a focused review. However, it is difficult to predict the optimal arrangement, and this may change over time. The current global situation at the moment is certainly not conducive to any system that entails global travelling, but in a year the situation may be very different. A flexible approach is thus

required, which allows for some experimentation. Our proposal is to leave the door open and to recognize the positive role that such meeting can potentially play.

The people whose names are listed below, though members of the different treaty bodies, are supporting the idea in their individual capacities. No attempt was made to reach all treaty body members: Those who signed up heard about this initiative by word of mouth and agreed to have their names added.

With highest consideration,

Sincerely,

Danlami Umaru Basharu, Nigeria (Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities)

Álvaro Botero Navaro, Colombia (Committee on Migrant Workers)

Christopher Arif Bulkan, Guyana (Human Rights Committee)

Olivier de Frouville, France (Committee on Enforced Disappearances)

Malcolm Evans, United Kingdom (Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture)

Ahmed Amin Fathallah, Egypt (Human Rights Committee)

Nahla Haidar, Lebanon (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women)

Christof Heyns, South Africa (Human Rights Committee)

Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, Hungary (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)

Zdzislaw Kedzia, Poland (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

Sandra Liebenberg, South Africa (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

Benyam David Mezmur, Ethiopia (Committee on the Rights of the Child)

Jens Modvig, Denmark (Committee Against Torture)

Duncan Muhumza Laki, Uganda (Human Rights Committee)

Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón, Colombia (Committee Against Torture)

José Angel Rodríguez Reyes, Venezuela (Committee on the Rights of the Child)

Yuval Shany, Israel (Human Rights Committee)

Ann Marie Skelton, South Africa (Committee on the Rights of the Child)

Hélène Tigroudja, France (Human Rights Committee)

Faith Dikeledi Pansy Tlakula, South Africa, (Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)

Rodrigo Uprimny, Colombia (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)

Carmen Rosa Villa Quintana, Peru (Committee on Enforced Disappearances)