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Seventy-ninth session

Items 71 (a) and 124 of the provisional agenda[[1]](#footnote-2)\*

Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Status of the human rights treaty body system

Report of the Secretary-General

Supplementary information: 23 statistical annexes

Annexes to the Secretary-General’s report on the status of the human rights treaty body system (A/79/XXX)

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List of abbreviations

International human rights treaties

ICERD International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial   
Discrimination

ICCPR International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICCPR-OP1 Optional Protocol to ICCPR

ICCPR-OP2 Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty

ICESCR International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ICESCR-OP Optional Protocol to ICESCR

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against  
Women

CEDAW-OP Optional Protocol to CEDAW

CAT Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading   
Treatment or Punishment

OP-CAT Optional Protocol to CAT

CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child

CRC-OPAC Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict

CRC-OPSC Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child   
pornography

CRC-OPIC Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure

ICRMW International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant  
Workers and Members of Their Families

CRPD Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

CRPD-OP Optional Protocol to CRPD

ICPPED International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced  
Disappearance

Human rights treaty bodies

CERD [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx)

CCPR [Human Rights Committee](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx)

CESCR [Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cescr/pages/cescrindex.aspx)

CEDAW [Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx)

CAT [Committee against Torture](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cat/pages/catindex.aspx)

SPT Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

CRC Committee on the Rights of the Child

CMW Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and  
Members of Their Families

CRPD [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx)

CED [Committee on Enforced Disappearances](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/CEDIndex.aspx)

Other abbreviations

SP State party

SRP Simplified reporting procedure

COBs Concluding observations

GC General Comment

Annex I

Human rights treaty actions (ratifications and accessions) as at 31 December 2023

The total number of ratifications of and accessions to the human rights treaties and protocols was 2,356 as at 31 December 2023, compared with 2,298 as at 31 December 2019, representing a 1.5 % increase. Since General Assembly resolution 68/268 was adopted, there has been a 13.8% increase in ratifications/accessions (2,049 ratifications/accessions on 31 December 2013 and 2,356 ratifications/accessions on 31 December 2023).

Table 1 includes the information reflected in the annex of the four previous biennial reports submitted by the Secretary-General as mandated by resolution 68/268 as well as updated figures as at 31 December 2023 reflected in column (c).

Chart 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty* | ***No of States Parties on 31 December 2013*** | ***No of States Parties on 31 December 2015*** | ***No of States parties on 31 December 2017*** | ***No. of States parties on 31 December 2018*** | ***No. of States parties on 31 December 2019*** | ***No. of States parties on 31 December 2020*** | ***No. of States parties on 31 December 2021*** | ***No. of States parties on 31 December 2022*** | ***No. of States parties on*** | ***Change in No. of States parties from 2021–2023*** | ***Percentage change in No. of States parties from 2021–2023*** | ***Change in No. of States parties from 2013–2023*** | ***Percentage change of States parties from 2013–2023*** |
| ***(A/71/118, annex I)*** | ***(A/71/118, annex I)*** | ***(A/73/309, Annex I)*** |  | ***(A/74/643, Annex I)*** |  | ***(A/77/279, Annex I)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***(a)*** |  |  |  |  |  | ***(b)*** |  | ***(c)*** | ***D=(c)-(b)*** | ***E=D/(b)*** | ***F=(c)-(a)*** | ***G=F/(a)*** |
| ICERD | 176 | 177 | 179 | 179 | 182 | 182 | 182 | 182 | 182 | 0 | 0 % | 6 | 3.41% |
| ICCPR | 167 | 168 | 169 | 172 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 0 | 0 % | 6 | 3.59% |
| ICCPR-OP1 | 115 | 115 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 116 | 117 | 117 | 1 | 0.86% | 2 | 1.74% |
| ICCPR-OP2 | 78 | 81 | 85 | 86 | 88 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 90 | 1 | 1.12% | 12 | 15.39% |
| ICESCR | 161 | 164 | 166 | 169 | 170 | 171 | 171 | 171 | 171 | 0 | 0 % | 10 | 6.21% |
| ICESCR-OP | 11 | 21 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 29 | 2 | 7.4% | 18 | 61.11% |
| CEDAW | 187 | 189 | 189 | 189 | 189 | 189 | 189 | 189 | 189 | 0 | 0 % | 2 | 1.07% |
| CEDAW-OP | 104 | 106 | 109 | 109 | 113 | 114 | 114 | 115 | 115 | 1 | 0.87% | 11 | 10.58% |
| CAT | 154 | 158 | 162 | 165 | 169 | 171 | 173 | 173 | 173 | 0 | 0 % | 19 | 12.34% |
| OP-CAT | 70 | 80 | 87 | 88 | 90 | 90 | 91 | 91 | 93 | 2 | 2.2% | 23 | 32.86% |
| CRC | 193 | 196 | 196 | 196 | 196 | 196 | 196 | 196 | 196 | 0 | 0 % | 3 | 1.55% |
| CRC-OPAC | 152 | 162 | 167 | 168 | 170 | 170 | 172 | 172 | 173 | 1 | 0.58% | 21 | 13.81% |
| CRC-OPSC | 166 | 171 | 175 | 176 | 177 | 177 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 0 | 0 % | 12 | 7.23% |
| CRC-OPIC | 9 | 22 | 38 | 43 | 47 | 47 | 49 | 51 | 52 | 3 | 6.12% | 43 | 477.78% |
| ICRMW | 47 | 48 | 51 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 56 | 58 | 59 | 3 | 5.36% | 12 | 25.53% |
| CRPD | 139 | 160 | 175 | 177 | 181 | 182 | 184 | 185 | 189 | 5 | 2.72% | 50 | 35.97% |
| CRPD-OP | 79 | 88 | 92 | 94 | 96 | 97 | 100 | 103 | 105 | 5 | 5% | 26 | 32.91% |
| ICPPED | 41 | 51 | 58 | 59 | 62 | 63 | 65 | 69 | 72 | 7 | 10.77% | 31 | 75.61% |
| **Total** | **2049** | **2157** | **2236** | **2264** | **2298** | **2309** | **2325** | **2340** | **2356** | 31 | 1.33% | 307 | 14.98% |

**Table 1**

Annex II

Reporting compliance by States parties as at 31 December 2023

States parties have an obligation to report under the nine international human rights treaties and two optional protocols. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance does not provide for periodic reports, however, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances may, pursuant to article 29 (4) of the Convention, request States parties to provide additional information on the implementation of the Convention. Reporting periodicities vary by treaty (table 1).

Table 1: Reporting periodicity, by treaty

| *Treaty* | *Initial report due (following the entry into force of the treaty for the State party concerned) within:* | *Periodic reports due thereafter every:* |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination | 1 year | 2 years |
| International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | 2 years | 5 years |
| International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | 1 year | 8 years |
| Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women | 1 year | 4 years |
| Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment | 1 year | 4 years |
| Convention on the Rights of the Child | 2 years | 5 years |
| Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography | 2 years | With the next report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child; or 5 years, if the State party has ratified the Optional Protocol only |
| Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict | 2 years | With the next report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child; or 5 years, if the State party has ratified the Optional Protocol only |
| International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families | 1 year | 5 years |
| Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | 2 years | 4 years |
| International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance | 2 years | As requested by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (art. 29 (4) of the Convention) |

As at 31 December 2023, 54 of the 197[[2]](#footnote-3) States parties (27.4 percent) had no overdue reports under the relevant international human rights treaties and protocols. There were 54 States parties (approximately 27 percent) with no overdue reports. Compared to the previous reporting period, this represents a significant improvement of reporting compliance by States parties (30 States parties/15 percent of States parties as at 31 December 2021).

As at 31 December 2023, 143 States parties (72.6 percent) had 483 reports overdue, 208 initial and 275 periodic, over a time period ranging from 1-2 years for initial reports and 2 to 7 years pursuant to the relevant human rights treaty or optional protocol or as requested by the Committee for periodic reports during the relevant period of 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2023. Compared to the previous reporting period, 169 States parties (86 percent) had 591 reports overdue, 226 initial and 365 periodic, as at 31 December 2021.

Overdue reports are initial or periodic reports or, in the case of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, reports on additional information, that are due, but have not been received by the Committee concerned, by 31 December 2023. Such reports, however, that were indeed received by the Committee concerned but not within the established deadline are not considered as overdue reports for the purposes of the present report, since they are merely delayed reports (see tables 2 and 3 below disaggregating by initial and periodic reports).

Table 2: States parties with overdue initial reports as at 31 December 2023

83 States parties have overdue initial reports.

| *No of reports* | |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
| 1 | 28 States parties had 1 overdue initial report |
| 2 | 21 States parties had 2 overdue initial reports |
| 3 | 16 States parties had 3 overdue initial reports |
| 4 | 8 States parties had 4 overdue initial reports |
| 5 | 5 States parties had 5 overdue initial reports |
| 6 | 2 States parties had 6 overdue initial reports |
| 7 | 3 States party had 7 overdue initial reports |

Table 3: States parties with overdue periodic reports as at 31 December 2023

126 State parties has overdue periodic reports.

| *No of reports* | |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
| 1 | 39 States parties had 1 overdue periodic report |
| 2 | 43 States parties had 2 overdue periodic reports |
| 3 | 34 States parties had 3 overdue periodic reports |
| 4 | 6 States parties had 4 overdue periodic report |
| 5 | 1 States parties had 5 overdue periodic reports |
| 6 | 2 State party had 6 overdue periodic reports |
| 7 | 1 State party had 7 overdue periodic report |

Chart 1: No. of States parties with overdue reports (number of initial and periodic reports), as at 31 December 2023

Table 4: Overdue reports, by treaty, as at 31 December 2023

A breakdown of the overdue reports by treaty (table 4) demonstrates that the number of reports overdue (initial and periodic reports/requests for additional information combined) ranged from 8 for the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to 84 for the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

| *Treaty* | *Number of States parties* | *Number of overdue initial reports* | *Number of overdue periodic reports or requests for additional information* | *Total number of overdue reports* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ICERD | 182 | 15 | 69 | 84 |
| ICCPR | 173 | 6 | 14 | 20 |
| ICESCR | 171 | 26 | 55 | 81 |
| CEDAW | 189 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| CAT | 173 | 29 | 52 | 81 |
| CRC | 196 | 0 | 62 | 62 |
| CRC-OPAC | 173 | 36 | N/A | 36 |
| CRC-OPSC | 178 | 48 | N/A | 48 |
| ICRMW | 59 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| CRPD | 189 | 36 | 5 | 41 |
| ICPPED | 72 | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| **Total\*** | **1755** | **208** | **275** | **(27%) 483** |

\* Several Committees have adopted the simplified reporting procedure leading to the adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting as the default reporting procedure with the possibility for States parties to opt out and resort to the traditional reporting procedures. Other Committees have designed the simplified reporting procedure on an opt-in basis. Following a piloting phase where the simplified reporting procedure was applied on a voluntary basis, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights decided, in 2020, to introduce the simplified reporting procedure as the standard procedure, using an opt-out model, once the predictable schedule of reviews was in place and the resources were available to do so. Following the introduction of the simplified reporting procedure States parties whose reports were due may have received a new due date, bringing the numbers of pending reports down. Under the simplified reporting procedure, the response of the State party to the list of issues prior to reporting constitutes the State party report. The simplified reporting procedure does not apply to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, given that this treaty body does not have a reporting procedure (see also annex XV).

Chart 2: Overdue reports by treaty, as at 31 December 2023

Chart 3: Overdue reports 2014-2023

Information taken from the twenty-sixth report on the annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies ([A/69/285](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=A%2F69%2F285&Lang=en)), 2015 (first Secretary-General’s report on the status of the treaty body system, A/71/118), 2017 (second Secretary-General’s report, A/73/309), 2019 (third Secretary-General’s report, A/74/643), and 2021 (fourth Secretary-General’s report, A/77/279) and data as at 31 December 2023.

Table 5: Overdue initial reports, by length of time and treaty, as at 31 December 2023

When disaggregating overdue initial reports by length of time and treaty (table 5), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography counted the largest number of non-reporting States parties (48 initial reports overdue), followed by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (36 initial reports overdue, respectively). Six treaties counted more than 10 States parties whose initial report was more than 10 years overdue (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty* | *Number of overdue initial reports* | *Length of time* | | |
| *Number of overdue reports less than five years* | *Number of overdue reports between 5 and 10 years* | *Number of overdue reports for more than 10 years* |
|
|
| ICERD | 15 | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| ICCPR | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| ICESCR | 26 | 6 | 2 | 18 |
| CEDAW | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CAT | 29 | 10 | 7 | 12 |
| CRC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CRC-OPAC | 36 | 0 | 14 | 22 |
| CRC-OPSC | 48 | 2 | 11 | 50 |
| ICRMW | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| CRPD | 36 | 7 | 19 | 10 |
| ICPPED | 9 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| **Total** | **208** | **35** | **60** | **128** |

Table 6: Overdue periodic reports, by length of time and treaty, as at 31 December 2023

When disaggregating overdue periodic reports by length of time and treaty (table 6), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child had the largest number of periodic reports overdue (69 and 62 respectively). The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had the largest number of periodic reports that were more than 10 years overdue (36 and 14 respectively).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty* | *Number of overdue periodic reports* | *Length of time* | | |
| *Number of overdue reports less than five years* | *Number of overdue reports between 5 and 10 years* | *Number of overdue reports for more than 10 years* |
|
|
| ICERD | 69 | 18 | 15 | 36 |
| ICCPR | 14 | 13 | 0 | 1 |
| ICESCR | 55 | 27 | 14 | 14 |
| CEDAW | 8 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| CAT | 52 | 28 | 22 | 2 |
| CRC | 62 | 44 | 10 | 8 |
| ICRMW | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| CRPD | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| ICPPED | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **275** | **152** | **62** | **61** |

Further information on the reporting status of States parties as at 31 December 2023, including on reporting compliance by regional groups of the United Nations, can be found in this note: [HRI/MC/2024/3](https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?j=G2405348&t=doc).

**Annex III**

State party reporting as at 31 December 2023

Nine treaty bodies review State party reports. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture does not receive State party reports. The General Assembly, in resolution 68/268, considered the average number of State party reports received annually by each treaty body examining State party reports during the period 2009–2012, and thereafter on the basis of the four preceding years for which data are available, as a parameter to identify the meeting time required to review reports (paragraph 26 (a)). The Assembly also decided that the amount of meeting time allocated will be reviewed biennially on the basis of actual reporting during the previous four years (paragraph 27). For the purpose of the present report, the new reference period is 2020–2023.

From 1 January to 31 December 2023, 97 reports had been received by the Committees with reporting procedures. The average number of reports received in 2020-2023 was 115.6 per year, compared to the average of 135.2 reports received in 2018-2021, representing a decrease of 14.5 percent.

Table 1: State party reports received

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *State party reports received* | *2016* | *2017* | *2018* | *2019* | *No. of State party reports received in 2016–2019* | *Average No. of State party reports received in 2016–2019* | *2020* | *2021* | *No. of State party reports received in 2018–2021* | *Average No. of State party reports received in 2018–2021* | *Percentage change in average 2016–2019 and 2018-2021* | *2022* | *2023* | *No. of State party reports received in 2020–2023* | *Average No. of State party reports received in 2020–2023* | *Percentage change in average 2018–2021 and 2020-2023* |
| *Treaty body* | *(a)* | *(b)* | *(c)* | *(d)* | *A=*  *(a)+(b)+*  *(c)+(d)* | *B=A/4* | *(e)* | *(f)* | *C=*  *(c)+(d)+*  *(e)+(f)* | *D=C/4* | *E=(D-B)/B* | *(g)* | *(h)* | *(i)*  *F=*  *(e)+(f)+*  *(g)+(h)* | *(j)*  *G=F/4* | *(k)*  *H=(G-D)/D* |
| CERD | 19 | 22 | 19 | 22 | 82 | 20.5 | 17 | 20 | 78 | 19.5 | -5.13% | 13 | 13 | 63 | 15.8 | -18.97% |
| CCPR | 17 | 13 | 10 | 18 | 58 | 14.5 | 19 | 12 | 59 | 14.8 | 2.07% | 10 | 8 | 49 | 12.3 | -16.89% |
| CESCR | 9 | 13 | 10 | 19 | 51 | 12.8 | 14 | 13 | 56 | 14 | 9.38% | 11 | 12 | 50 | 12.5 | -10.71% |
| CEDAW | 20 | 21 | 18 | 15 | 74 | 18.5 | 26 | 19 | 78 | 19.5 | 5.4% | 16 | 19 | 80 | 20 | 2.56% |
| CAT | 19 | 14 | 21 | 23 | 77 | 19.3 | 17 | 12 | 73 | 18.3 | -5.18% | 16 | 10 | 55 | 13.8 | -24.59% |
| CRC Convention | 19 | 16 | 23 | 21 | 79 | 19.8 | 17 | 15 | 76 | 19 | -4.04% | 13 | 12 | 57 | 14.3 | -24.74% |
| CRC-OPAC | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 2.8 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | -64.43% | 1 | 2 | 7 | 1.8 | 80% |
| CRC-OPSC | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 3.5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1.8 | -48.57% | 3 | 2 | 8 | 2 | -11.11% |
| CMW | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 6.3 | 3 | 0 | 16 | 4 | -36.51% | 6 | 6 | 15 | 3.8 | -5% |
| CRPD | 7 | 8 | 22 | 19 | 56 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 61 | 15.3 | 9.29% | 12 | 8 | 40 | 10 | -34.64% |
| CED | 4 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 3.5 | 11 | 12 | 32 | 8 | 128.57% | 9 | 5 | 37 | 9.3 | 16.25% |
| **Total** | **137** | **118** | **135** | **151** | **541** | **135.3** | **138** | **116** | **540** | **135.2** | -**0.83%** | **110** | **97** | **461** | **115.6** | -14.5% |

Chart 1: Total State party reports received from 2012 to 31 December 2023

Chart 2: State party reports received for each Committee from 2012 to 31 December 2023

Annex IV

State party reviews per year and per week as at 31 December 2023

Nine treaty bodies review State party reports and adopt concluding observations. To determine the meeting time needs of the treaty bodies, the General Assembly, in resolution 68/268, took an assumed attainable rate of review of 2.5 State party reports per week and 5 State party reports under the optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[[3]](#footnote-4) as a parameter (paragraph 26(a)).

The Committees reviewed a total of 133 States parties in 2022, and a total of 139 States parties in 2023. They also adopted 112 lists of issues and lists of issues prior to reporting in 2022, and 101 lists of issues and lists of issues prior to reporting in 2023.

The Committees reviewed on average 2.35 reports per week in 2022-2023, slightly below the target of 2.5 reports per week. Using the rate of 5 State party reviews per week under the Optional Protocols to the Convention of the Rights of the Child under the formula in Assembly resolution 68/268 as actual figures were not available, the Committee on the Rights of the Child met the target during this period.

The following table 1 reflects figures since 2014 as well as updated figures until 31 December 2023.

Table 1: No. of State party (SP) reviews per year and per week from 2014 to 31 December 2023

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty body* | *2014* | | *2015* | *2016* | *2017* | *2018* | *2019* | *2020\** | *2021\** | *2022* | | *2023* | | *Average No. of State party reviews in 2022 and 2023* | *No. of weeks dedicated to State party reviews in 2022 (in-person & hybrid meetings\*\*)* | *No. of weeks dedicated to State party reviews in 2023 (in-person and hybrid meetings\*\*)* | *Average No. of weeks dedicated to State party reviews in 2022 and 2023* | *No. of weeks dedicated to State party reviews in 2022 and 2023 data from Annex XVII, A/73/309, column (a))\*\*\*\** | *No. of State partys reviewed per week (i.e. divide average number of State party reviews in 2022 and 2023 with actual meeting weeks) for 9 treaties* | *No. of SPs reviewed per week (i.e. divide average number of State party reviews in 2022 and 2023 with meeting weeks) for the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child\*\*\** | |
|  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | *(a)* | *(b)* | | *C= (a)+(b)* | | *(d)* | *(e)* | *D=(d+e)/2* |  | *E=C/D* | |  |
|  |  | | */2* | |  |
| CERD | | 15 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 17 | 0 | 8 | 17 | 18 | | 17.5 | | 7 | 7.3 | 7.15 | 7.3 | 2.44 | |  |
| CCPR | | 18 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 16 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 17 | 19 | | 18 | | 5.7 | 8.2 | 6.95 | 6.1 | 2.59 | |  |
| CESCR | | 20 | 17 | 17 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 12 | | 12 | | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 2.22 | |  |
| CEDAW | | 25 | 27 | 27 | 28 | 24 | 22 | 8 | 11 | 24 | 27 | | 25.5 | | 14 | 11.5 | 12.75 | 11.4 | 2 | |  |
| CAT | | 16 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 0 | 8 | 16 | 16 | | 16 | | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.4 | 2.42 | |  |
| CRC Convention | | 16 | 25 | 27 | 21 | 17 | 17 | 9 | 9 | 22 | 19 | | 20.5 | | 8.9 | 8.4\*\*\* | 8.65 | 9.2 | 2.37 | |  |
| CRC-OPAC | | 10 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | 0.5 | | 0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0 |  | | 5 |
| CRC-OPSC | | 8 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | 1 | | 0 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0 |  | | 5 |
| CMW | | 6 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 7 | | 6.5 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2.3 | 3.25 | |  |
| CRPD | | 9 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 0 | 3 | 14 | 14 | | 14 | | 6.6 | 7.1 | 6.85 | 6.7 | 2.04 | |  |
| CED | | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | | 4.5 | | 2 | 2.95 | 2.48 | 1.9 | 1.81 | |  |
| **Total** | | **147** | **175** | **166** | **158** | **140** | **133** | **28** | **59** | **133** | **139** | | **136** | | **58.2** | **60.05** | **59.13** | **57** |  | |  |
| **Average** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  | |  |  |  |  | **2.35** | | **5** |

\* *Nota bene*: In 2020-2021, the work of the treaty bodies was severely disrupted due to COVID-19.

\*\* *Nota bene*: Hybrid meetings with States parties for the purpose of State party reviews could last for only two hours instead of the usual three hours. In most cases the Committees had to schedule their hybrid interactive dialogues with the States parties concerned over three meetings instead of two accordingly. In some cases the interactive dialogues took place over two meetings only (four hours in total).

\*\*\* *Nota bene:* The actual No. of weeks was 9. The weeks dedicated to State party reviews for CRC-OPAC and CRC-OPSC was deducted on the basis of a rate of 5 State party reviews per week under the Optional Protocols to the Convention of the Rights of the Child under the formula in GA res. 68/268 as actual figures were not available.

\*\*\*\* *Nota bene:* Since the General Assembly has not granted the required staffing resources in full to support the respective increases in the assessed meeting time of the Committees and due to repeated liquidity crises and resulting recruitment freezes, among other factors, the planning of the meetings of the treaty body system has been based on the assessed meeting time in the second report of the Secretary-General ([A/73/309](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n18/252/07/pdf/n1825207.pdf?token=qqsoLagJhwFe5xKQOU&fe=true), annex XVII), which provided a more realistic picture of the work based on actual staff resources.

Annex V

State party reports pending review as at 31 December 2023

The number of reports pending review, commonly referred to as the backlog, reflects the number of reports that have been received and are awaiting consideration by the relevant Committee. The backlog as at 31 December 2023 was 373, representing a decrease of 15.4 percent, compared with the backlog of 441 as at 31 December 2021. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has the largest number of States party reports pending reviews, namely 59 under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 8 under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and 11 under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, followed by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with 68 State party reports pending review as at 31 December 2023. Taking the average number of reports reviewed by Committees in 2022-2023 as a basis, which was 136 (Annex IV, Table 1 above), the Committees would, with their current working methods, need approximately 2.74 years to clear the backlog, if they were not to consider any new State party reports received (373 reports pending review / average of 136 reviews per year = 2,74 years). Taking the average meeting time allotted per year for the Committees for State party reviews under the resource formula of resolution 68/268 for 2026 and 2027 (Annexes XXI and XXII below) as a basis (and leaving aside the fact that the meeting time entitlements are not matched by the required professional staff support), the Committees would need approximately 2.56 years to clear the backlog of pending reviews of State party reports: 54.1 weeks per year of meeting time for reviews + 5 percent margin meeting time under paragraph 26 (c) of res. 68/268 = 56.8 weeks. An assumed rate of 2.5 State party reports (354) per week + 5 per week under the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (19) under paragraph 26 (a) of res. 68/268 = 141.6 + 3.8 weeks = 145.4 weeks. 145.4 weeks / 56.8 weeks = 2.56 years.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty body* | *No. of State party reports pending review as at 31 December 2013* | *No. of State party reports pending review as at 31 December 2015 (1st SG report -A/71/118)* | *No. of State party reports pending review as at 31 December 2017 (2nd SG report A/73/309)* | *No. of State party reports pending review as at 31 October 2019 (3rd SG report-A/74/643)* | *No. of State party reports pending review as at 31 December 2021 (4th SG report-A/77/279)* | *No. of State party reports pending review as at 31 December 2023* | *Change in No. of State party reports pending review 2021- 2023* | *Percentage change State party reports pending review 2021- 2023* |
| CERD | 35 | 17 | 24 | 17 | 56 | 46 | -10 | -17.86% |
| CCPR | 28 | 26 | 21 | 15 | 47 | 27 | -20 | -42.55% |
| CESCR | 39 | 20 | 17 | 14 | 39 | 38 | -1 | -2.56% |
| CEDAW | 42 | 44 | 35 | 23 | 59 | 44 | -15 | -25.42% |
| CAT | 22 | 22 | 24 | 16 | 56 | 49 | -7 | -12.5% |
| CRC Convention | 44 | 42 | 36 | 49 | 65 | 59 | -6 | -9.23% |
| CRC-OPAC | 22 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 33.33% |
| CRC-OPSC | 17 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 2 | 22.22% |
| CMW | 8 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 3 | -4 | -57.14% |
| CRPD | 39 | 52 | 47 | 30 | 76 | 68 | -8 | -10.52% |
| CED | 8 | 13 | 8 | 5 | 21 | 20 | -1 | -4.76% |
| **Total** | 304 | 258 | 230 | 183 | 441 | 373 | -68 | -15.42% |

Chart 1: State party reports pending review for each Committee in 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 & 31 December 2023

Table 2

Annex VI

Individual communications registered as at 31 December 2023

From 1 January to December 2023, 408 new individual communications had been registered by the Committees with individual communications procedures, which is the highest number since the adoption of resolution 68/268, considering that 252 cases registered separately in 2019 were subsequently grouped into a single case. For the present report, the reference period used was 2022-2023. The average number of individual communications registered was 391 by all Committees. This represents an increase of 9.38 percent compared to the average of 357.5 received in 2020-2021.

Chart 1: Newly registered individual communications

In 2019, 252 individual communications registered separately were subsequently grouped into a single case.

Table 1: New individual communications registered during the relevant year as at 31 December 2023

| *No. of communications registered* | *2012* | *2013* | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* | *2017* | *2018* | *2019* | *2020* | *2021* | *2022* | *2023* | *Annual average in 2020-2021* | *Annual average in 2022-2023* | *Percentage change in annual average in 2020-2021 and 2022-2023* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Treaty body |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e)  A= (a)+(b)/2 | (f)  B= (c)+(d)/2 | (g)  C=(B-A)/A |
| CERD | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4.5 | 4 | -11.11% |
| CCPR | 102 | 93 | 191 | 196 | 211 | 168 | 190 | 413\* | 170 | 211 | 210 | 268 | 190.5 | 239 | 25.46% |
| CESCR | N/A | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 67 | 84 | 26 | 50 | 47 | 43 | 38 | 45 | 18.42% |
| CEDAW | 11 | 16 | 15 | 18 | 13 | 13 | 16 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 19 | 12.5 | 18 | 44% |
| CAT | 48 | 45 | 68 | 76 | 69 | 65 | 49 | 68 | 72 | 69 | 50 | 39 | 70.5 | 44.5 | -36.87% |
| CRC | N/A | N/A | 1 | 1 | 6 | 31 | 30 | 40 | 25 | 36 | 38 | 30 | 30.5 | 34 | 11.46% |
| CRPD | 3 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 6 | -40% |
| CED | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0.5 | -50% |
| **Total** | **167** | **167** | **288** | **307** | **314** | **288** | **370** | **640** | **317** | **398** | **374** | **408** | **357.5** | **391** | **9.38%** |

\* In 2019, 252 individual communications received and registered separately were joined.

Annex VII

Final decisions on communications adopted as at 31 December 2023

Eight of ten treaty bodies can receive individual complaints (IC) and adopt decisions or views. To determine the meeting time needs of the treaty bodies, the General Assembly, in resolution 68/268, took 1.3 hours of meeting time as the assumed rate of examination per communication (paragraph 26 (b)).

In terms of workload, the Committees adopted on average 288 final decisions in 2022-2023, over an average period of 10.5 weeks per year, namely 27.43 per week, which is above the target of 23.08 individual communications adopted per week (30 hours of meeting time per week / 1.3 hours per communication = 23.08). Compared to 2020-2021, when the Committees adopted on average 276.5 final decisions per year this represents an increase of 4.16 percent owing to streamlined working methods.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *No. of final decisions\* on IC adopted in 2015* | *No. of final decisions\* on IC adopted in 2016* | *No. of final decisions\*on IC adopted in 2017* | *No. of final decisions\*on IC adopted in 2018* | *No. of final decisions\*on IC adopted in 2019* | *No. of final decisions\*on IC adopted in 2020* | *No. of final decisions\* on IC adopted in 2021* | *No. of final decisions\* on IC adopted in 2022* | *No. of final decisions\* on IC adopted as at 31 December 2023* | *Average number of final decisions adopted in 2020-2021* | *Average number of final decisions adopted in 2022-2023* |
| *Treaty body* |  |  |  |  |  | *A* | *B* | *C* | *D* | *E= (A+B)/2* | *F=*  *(C+D)/2* |
| CERD | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3.5 |
| CCPR | 101 | 109 | 131 | 101 | 134 | 156 | 132 | 175 | 164 | 144 | 169.5 |
| CESCR | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 21 | 13 | 35 | 15 | 15 | 24 | 15 |
| CEDAW | 9 | 12 | 13 | 18 | 19 | 16 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 11 |
| CAT | 65 | 53 | 65 | 68 | 63 | 24 | 98 | 56 | 55 | 61 | 55.5 |
| CRC | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 15 | 20 | 32 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 24.5 |
| CRPD | 3 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 8.5 |
| CED | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| **Total decisions** | **183** | **186** | **222** | **209** | **268** | **239** | **314** | **294** | **282** | **276.5** | **288** |

\* Includes communications that were discontinued as cases have become moot.

*Nota bene*: In 2020-2021, the work of the treaty bodies was severely impeded due to COVID-19.

Annex VIII

Communications pending review (‘living cases’) as at 31 December 2023

The number of communications that have been registered and are pending drafting for examination by the relevant Committees, also referred to as ‘living cases’, was 1,913 as at 31 December 2023, representing an increase of 10.96 percent compared to 1,724 as at 31 December 2021.[[4]](#footnote-5) On average, the Committees adopted 288 decisions per year in 2022-2023, meaning that with the current staff resources, the Committees would need approximately 6.64 years to clear the backlog, without considering any new individual communications registered (1,913 individual communications pending review / average of 288 decisions per year = 6.64 years). On 31 December 2023, out of the 1,913 individual communications pending, 685 communications had passed the stage of written observations between the parties and were ready for a decision to be prepared and examined by the respective Committees, compared to 420 communications on 31 December 2021. As at 31 December 2023, there was an additional backlog of 261 pre-screened individual cases that were pending registration, and 39 communications that were approved for registration by Committees and pending processing and notification to the parties.

Efforts by OHCHR continued during the reporting period to strengthen workflow management of individual communications, including through the establishment of a dedicated intake team to review incoming communications and to support the Committees through the first-level legal assessment to facilitate their decision-making by granting or denying requests for interim measures for complainants and/or registering them as new cases. Efforts also continued regarding the harmonisation of working methods to deal with individual communications and important progress was achieved in the areas of interim and protection measures, third-party interventions, oral hearings and friendly settlements.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty body* | *No. of living cases[[5]](#footnote-6) as at 31 December 2015* | *No. of living cases December as at 31 December 2016* | *No. of living cases December as at 31 December 2017* | *No. of living cases December as at 31 December 2018* | *No. of living cases December as at 31 December 2019\** | *No. of living cases December as at 31 December 2020* | *No. of living cases as at 31 December 2021*  *(a)* | *No. of living cases as at 31 December 2022* | *No. of living cases as at 31 December 2023*  *(b)* | *Change in percentage No. of living cases from 2021 to 2023*  *(c) = [(b) – (a)]/(a)* |
| CERD | 4 | 5 | 6 | 13 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 17 | 20 | 11.11% |
| CCPR | 536 | 645 | 693 | 829 | 1040 | 1135 | 1160 | 1188 | 1294 | 11.55% |
| CESCR | 10 | 10 | 8 | 96 | 133 | 151 | 162 | 194 | 222 | 37.08% |
| CEDAW | 40 | 43 | 44 | 46 | 61 | 37 | 40 | 46 | 53 | 32.5% |
| CAT | 150 | 170 | 168 | 182 | 197 | 238 | 214 | 201 | 185 | -13.55% |
| CRC | 1 | 6 | 35 | 66 | 87 | 80 | 85 | 94 | 100 | 17.64% |
| CRPD | 27 | 27 | 22 | 36 | 46 | 43 | 43 | 43 | 37 | -13.95% |
| CED | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| **Total** | **769** | **906** | **977** | **1268** | **1580** | **1700** | **1724** | **1785** | **1913** | **10.96%** |

\* In 2019, 252 individual communications received and registered separately were joined in 2019.

Chart 1: Living cases as at 31 December 2023

Data as at 31 December 2023, Petitions Section of the Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR

Please note that ‘living cases’ refers to registered cases that are in the case management phase and those that are ready to be drafted and subsequently examined by the Committees.

Annex IX

Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) has a mandate to carry out visits to places where people are deprived of their liberty, as per article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), and to provide technical assistance and advice in relation to the national preventive mechanisms (NPMs) to be established or designated by each State party. States parties to the OPCAT have an obligation to allow visits by the SPT.

Table 1

|  | *2014* | *2015* | *2016* | *2017* | *2018* | *2019* | *2020* | *2021* | *2022* | *2023* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. of visits | 7 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 |
| Reports to State parties or National Preventive Mechanisms | 8 | 10 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 10 |
| Weeks of session | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3\* | 3\* | 4 | 4 |

*Nota bene*: In 2020-2021 the visits were severely interrupted due to COVID-19.

\* Due to COVID-19, the SPT was only able to meet one week in person and two weeks remotely in 2020 and in 2021.

Annex X

Committee on Enforced Disappearances: Urgent actions as at 31 December 2023

The Committee on Enforced Disappearances has the authority to receive requests for urgent actions from relatives of a person who has disappeared, their representative or any person with a legitimate interest, for the person to be sought and found. The Committee may request the State party to provide, within specified time limits, information on the situation of the persons sought, on the measures taken to search for him or her, and to investigate the alleged disappearance. The Committee may also request the State party to adopt interim measures.

From 1 January to 31 December 2023, the Committee registered a total of 123 new urgent actions, reaching a total of 1,683 registered urgent action cases. The Committee welcomes that out of these cases, a cumulative total of 494 cases have been closed following the location of the disappeared persons, including 438 alive. 192 urgent action cases had been suspended at that time for lack of reply from the authors. 997 urgent actions therefore remained under consideration, as at 31 December 2023, compared with 906 as at 31 December 2021, which represents an increase of 10 percent of the Committee’s workload over the covered period. 583 of these urgent action cases related to disappearances that occurred simultaneously or in a same context, so they were gathered in 77 groups, with each group of cases addressed together. Taking this data into account, 997 cases were active as at 31 December 2023, including 296 that were ready for follow-up. This constitutes the backlog of the Committee as it relates to urgent actions as of this date.

Activities to support the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on urgent actions require year-round support since they are not restricted to any particular time, such as treaty body sessions, but depend on the date of receipt of urgent action requests and of the related follow-up information from the States concerned and the authors. As the aim of the urgent action procedure is to locate the disappeared persons alive, the staff in charge of the procedure need to be on call and respond within a very short time when informed of a disappearance, and to analyse the follow-up information to provide States parties with timely detailed recommendations on the related search and investigation processes.

Through the urgent actions procedure, the Committee can request concerned States parties to take immediate action to search for a disappeared person and investigate his or her disappearance. Victims frequently highlight the importance of the support received from the Committee through this procedure in the search for their disappeared loved ones. The handling of urgent actions is time-sensitive and requires continuous support from the secretariat: delays in replying to an urgent action request or following up on the information provided by the State party and authors of the request imply a risk of causing irreparable harm to the victim(s) and put in question the legitimacy and effectiveness of the procedure and the Committee’s work.

Under this procedure, the Committee also frequently requests interim measures to prevent irreparable harm to relatives or representatives of the disappeared person or any other person taking part in the search process against threats, intimidations, or reprisals, such as protection of life, or to protect pieces of evidence related to the search and investigation processes. As at 31 December 2023, interim measures were granted in 26 percent of the registered urgent actions. Similarly, case management is continuous and requires analysing sensitive information that often includes serious allegations related to State’s responsibility, including that of high-level authorities, and confidential data that can put the disappeared persons and their families and relatives at risk.

A resource gap analysis for the work involved in carrying out the steps in the urgent actions procedure was set out in annex XXV of the fourth report ([A/77/279](https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?j=N2245532&t=doc), [annex XXV](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/treaty-bodies/2022-09-01/A.77.279-Annex.docx)). Prior to the adoption of General Assembly resolution [68/268](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/68/268), the Committee had registered ten urgent actions between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2013. At the time, it was estimated that the available resources were sufficient to provide the necessary professional support for their processing. Consequently, urgent actions were not included in the adopted resource formula of General Assembly resolution 68/268. Since then, the number of registered urgent actions has significantly increased, reaching in total 1,683 as at 31 December 2023.

Since most of the work to support the urgent actions procedure is undertaken intersessionally, the human resources required for this procedure should not be calculated on the basis of the Committee’s meeting time, but rather on the time required to process an urgent action case. It is therefore proposed to add the following elements to the resource formula based on the average number of days required per urgent action multiplied by the number of urgent actions dealt with annually, divided by the average working year for a P-3 or GS staff member (44 weeks): a professional staff on average needs one work day for a registration note, and two work days for a follow up note of “fully active cases”. It should be noted that the urgent action cases that are “suspended” for lack of information from the parties are still considered as “living cases”. The Committee is currently analysing options to cover this aspect of the procedure in compliance with article 30, paragraph 4, of the Convention, which might have some impact on the Secretariat workload and should be taken into account in the future.

The average actual time required for urgent actions at the level of 2023 numbers therefore is 2,117 work days (1 work day each for the registration of 123 new urgent actions in 2023 + [997 urgent actions under consideration x 2 work days for follow up]) / year or 423.4 work weeks / year of professional staff, which corresponds to 9.6 staff at the P level (in contrast to the one P-2 staff currently assigned to the procedure under the supervision of the CED Secretary, who is also in charge of the supervision and implementation of all other mandated activities of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances except individual communications).

A general service staff requires four hours per case per year, including the creation of electronic files, transmittal of letters both at the registration and follow-up phases of the procedure. The average actual time required for urgent actions as at 31 December 2023 therefore is 4,480 hours ([997 + 123] x 4) / year or 560 work days of administrative support, corresponding to 112 work weeks of administrative support, corresponding to 2,5 GS staff (as opposed to 1 GS staff currently assigned who is also in charge of the management of the other CED mandated activities).

Chart 1: Registered urgent actions by year

Annex XI

Inquiries and country visits as at 31 December 2023

Five Committees (CAT, CEDAW, CESCR, CRC, CRPD) have a mandate to conduct inquiries when they receive reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations by a State party of rights set forth in the respective treaty, if the State party has recognized the competence of the Committee under the specific provision. Whenever the Committee considers it of relevance and the State party so accepts, the inquiry can be carried out through a visit. In all cases, once the Committee is satisfied that the information complies with the set criteria, it will invite the State party to submit its observations and consider other relevant information and then decide to designate one or more of its members to conduct the inquiry or visit. The outcome of these procedures is a report to the State party, with specific recommendations on the issue at stake.

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has not had any experience with inquiries as the acceptance rate by States parties of the procedure is extremely low; only five States parties have accepted the procedure as at 28 August 2024.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child is currently working on four inquiries. One State party denied the Committee a visit. In the absence of consent from the State party, the Committee decided to proceed with the inquiry with the technological means available, and conducted an inquiry via video conferencing, which took place from 27 October 2022 to 28 February 2023 and included online meetings with the State party. At its ninety-fifth session, the Committee adopted its report on this inquiry. For the second State, the Committee carried out a visit from 16 to 20 October 2023. For the third State, the visit to the State party had to be postponed to 2024, including due to the liquidity crisis.

The Committee against Torture’s annual report for 2023 and 2024 (A/79/44) contains a summary account of the results of the proceedings of an inquiry conducted over that time.

The Committee on Enforced Disappearances can request a country visit to any State party to the Convention whenever it receives reliable information indicating that this State is seriously violating the Convention on Enforced Disappearances. It carried out a visit to Iraq in November 2022 and adopted the corresponding public report. The Committee also followed-up on the implementation of its recommendations contained in its report on its November 2021 visit to Mexico through meetings and capacity-building activities with State authorities, victims and civil society organizations, and during its interactive dialogue with the State party in September 2023. Burkina Faso and Colombia have accepted visit requests by the Committee, the visit to the latter State party being planned for November 2024. It has also requested a visit to Honduras.

The visits of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances have yielded important results, allowing the Committee to identify the main characteristics of the disappearances and enforced disappearances in the States concerned, as well as the challenges faced by the national authorities, victims, civil society and other stakeholders. The Committee’s reports contain specific recommendations that have been qualified as a roadmap by stakeholders as it relates to the measures that State authorities should take to search for disappeared people, investigate their disappearance, fight against impunity and prevent disappearances. Each visit is held during two weeks by three members of the Committee, with the support of members of the Secretariat, namely the same team (1 P4, 2 P3, 1 P2 and 2 GS) that is in charge of the organization of sessions, State party reviews, the promotion of the ratification of the Convention and the daily registration, management and follow-up to urgent actions.

In 2022-2023, three out of the six Committees with a mandate to carry out inquiries or visits had examined twelve requests since the previous reference period of 2019-2021 and carried out four visits.

All mandated activities are part of the core work of the Committees aimed at promoting substantive compliance with the treaties and limiting the scale of or preventing imminent harm from victims of (serious) human rights violations. It is often as a result of regular follow-up and the in-depth review of particular situations enabled in inquiries and country visits that meaningful measures are taken.

Through its early warning and urgent action procedure, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination addresses unfolding situations that carry a risk of imminent harm and acts to prevent or limit the scale or number of serious violations of the Convention, while the life-saving urgent actions procedure of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances enables it to act immediately on cases of alleged enforced disappearances, where time is of the essence to locate the disappeared persons alive.

Table 1

|  | *No. of requests for inquiries/ country visits received in 2019* | *No. of requests for inquiries/ country visits received in 2020* | *No. of requests for inquiries/ country visits received in 2021* | *No. of requests for inquiries/ country visits received in 2022* | *No. of requests for inquiries/ country visits received in 2023* |  |  | *No. of inquiries conducted without a visit in 2019 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of inquiries conducted without a visit in 2020 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of inquiries conducted without a visit in 2021 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of inquiries conducted without a visit in 2022 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of inquiries conducted without a visit in 2023 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of country visits/ inquiries conducted with a visit in 2019 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of country visits/ inquiries conducted with a visit in 2020 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of country visits/ inquiries conducted with a visit in 2021 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of country visits/ inquiries conducted with a visit in 2022 (date of issuance of report)* | *No. of country visits/ inquiries conducted with a visit in 2023 (date of issuance of report)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty body* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CESCR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CEDAW | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |  |  | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CAT | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 2 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CRC | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| CRPD | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CED | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |  |  | 0 | N/A | N/A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| **Total** (6 TBs**)** | **5** | **4** | **7** | **5** | **7** |  |  | **1** | **0** | **0** | **1** | **2** | **2** | **0** | **2** | **2** | **2** |

Annex XII

Capacity-building programme

Between January 2015 and 31 December 2023, the treaty body capacity-building programme of OHCHR contributed to 48 new treaty ratifications and 147 submissions of outstanding State party reports, responses to lists of issues and lists of issues prior to reporting, as well as common core documents. The capacity-building programme encouraged and assisted 66 States to establish new or strengthened National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up. To date, the programme supported 1,151 activities, with over 24,000 participants representing 175 States. An average of 34 percent of women participated in these activities.

In addition, the capacity-building programme issued eight publications: a Practical Guide and a Study on National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up in 2016; a training package on treaty reporting, containing a Treaty Reporting Manual, a Trainers Guide and a corresponding online training in 2018; a Practical Guide on National Mechanisms for Prevention of Torture in 2018; a Training Guide on Reporting under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2020; a Training Guide on Reporting under the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2022; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol: Handbook for Parliamentarians in 2023; and Implementing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – the Role of Independent Monitoring Frameworks in 2023.

The capacity-building programme manages the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, which awards grants to support torture prevention efforts at the national level following a visit by the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture. The programme continues to invest in and promote the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) and the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD).

The UHRI is a public online database which compiles over 220,000 country-specific recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms in a user-friendly manner which are tagged against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This facilitates human rights analysis by all stakeholders, including to identify who may be at risk of being left behind as well as mapping systematic, recurring and unresolved issues, which may impede on the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The UHRI, fully redesigned in 2021, features new functionalities introduced in the last two years, including the incorporation of the recommendations of country mandates of Special Procedures. UHRI receives about 40,000 views every year.

The NRTD is a digital tool that allows State to track the implementation of the recommendations received from the human rights mechanisms and supports the coordination, consultation and information management functions of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up. A fully redesigned version has been launched in 2022 and has since been rolled out in a number of countries.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Treaty/Committee** | **Number of ratifications following TBCBP advocacy** | **Number of outstanding reports submitted with support from TBCBP** | **Number of constructive dialogues held after capacity building at national level** |
| **ICESCR** | 4 | 16 | 4 |
| **ICCPR** | 2  (+2 ICCPR-OP1 +2 ICCPR-OP2+2 lifting of reservations) | 12 | 12 |
| **CAT** | 4 (+2 OPCAT) | 16 | 3 |
| **CRPD** | 11 (+4 CRPD-OP) | 13 | 4 |
| **CMW** | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| **CERD** | 2 | 12 | 4 |
| **CRC** | 2 CRC-OPIC  1 CRC-OPAC  1 CRC-OPSC (+2 CRC lifting of reservations) | 17  +1 CRC-OPSC | 10 |
| **CEDAW** | / (+2 CEDAW-OP) | 27 | 20 |
| **CED** | 5 | 6 | / |
| **Common core documents** | N/A | 3 | N/A |

Annex XIII

Accessibility, reasonable accommodation and 5th language of interpretation

In April 2019, as the result of a process launched by the Secretary-General in April 2018 to strengthen system-wide accessibility and mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities, the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) was adopted to reaffirm that the full and complete realization of the human rights of all persons with disabilities is an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Strategy includes an accountability framework which includes a specific Indicator 6.1 on accessibility and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities at conferences and events.

In May 2023, the Office of Human Resources/Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance published Reasonable Accommodation Guidelines which provides a framework for the implementation of reasonable accommodation across the United Nations Secretariat. They outline the main phases of the reasonable accommodation process, providing guidance to event organizers at the Secretariat on accommodation for persons with disabilities participating in meetings, conferences and services at the Secretariat premises.

Section AC, the first section of the historic Palais des Nations buildings under renovation at United Nations Headquarters in Geneva, was reopened in May 2023 and is fully operational. All of Section AC’s conference rooms have features that make the rooms more accessible, including podiums accessible for wheelchair users, tables that have been adjusted to allow easier access to wheelchair users, and delegate consoles that can be moved closer to the delegate to enable better access to the microphone. All delegate consoles have Braille and each conference room is equipped with an automatic door, enabling better access to persons with reduced mobility.

Annex XIV

Remote connections related to State party reviews (annual) as at 31 December 2023

Paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 mandates theprovision of, at the request of a State party, the opportunity for members of its official delegation not present at the meeting to participate in the consideration of the report of that State party by means of videoconference in order to facilitate wider participation in the dialogue with the Committees. State party delegations indeed have the possibility of participating remotely in the consideration of their reports. This is also done to improve the accessibility and visibility of the treaty bodies and to enhance States parties’ engagement with the work of the treaty bodies.

Table 1 - Hybrid meetings by Committees in 2022 and 2023

| *Committee* | *Meetings with States parties in 2022* | *Meetings with other stakeholders in 2022* | *Total in 2022* | *Meetings with States parties in 2023* | *Meetings with other stakeholders in 2023* | *Total in 2023* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CERD | 4 | 25 | 29 | 2 |  | 2 |
| CESCR | 21 | 3 | 24 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| CCPR | 12 | 4 | 16 | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| CEDAW | 28 | 18 | 36 | 44 | 0 | 44 |
| CAT | 2 | 13 | 15 | 2 | 29 | 31 |
| CRC | 10 | 7 | 17 | 12 | 34 | 46 |
| CMW | 9 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| CRPD | 18 | 14 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CED |  | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 12 |
| SPT |  |  | 13 |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  | **194** |  |  | **170** |

Chart 1

Annex XV

Simplified reporting procedure (SRP)

Paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 encouraged the treaty bodies to offer the simplified reporting procedure to States parties for consideration and to set a limit on the number of questions (in the list of issues prior to reporting). Paragraph 2 of the resolution encouraged States parties to avail themselves of the simplified reporting procedure. The modalities of the simplified reporting procedure in the various treaty bodies are described in the table below, which reflects the situation on 31 December 2023.[[6]](#footnote-7) The simplified reporting procedure does not apply to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances because the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance does not provide for periodicity of reports. Nonetheless, after a five-year delay, the Committee may decide to review a State party in the absence of a ‑report.[[7]](#footnote-8) The simplified reporting procedure does not apply to the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, given that this treaty body does not have a reporting procedure.

At their thirty-fourthannual meeting, held from 30 May to 3 June 2022 in New York, the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies concluded: “While the simplified reporting procedure will be the default procedure for all Committees, except the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, which do not have this process, the States parties can choose to opt for the traditional reporting procedure;…” ([A/77/228](https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?j=N2259899&t=doc), para. 55, No. 1 (d)).

At their thirty-fifth annual meeting, held in New York from 29 May to 2 June 2023, the treaty body Chairs reaffirmed the default character of the simplified reporting procedure for all treaty bodies with a periodic reporting procedure and that it apply to both – initial and periodic – States parties’ reports: “The Chairs reaffirm that the generalization of the simplified reporting procedure, with the help of digital tools, will shorten the currently prevailing long duration between the submission of a State party report and its review by the Committee and that the simplified reporting procedure will assist States parties in the preparation and submission of more focused reports. The Chairs concluded that the simplified reporting procedure will become the default procedure for all Committees for both - initial and periodic - reports, with the possibility for the States parties to opt out, except for the Committee on Enforced Disappearance that, for the time being, only applies its procedure of an examination of a State party in the absence of a report for those whose initial reports are due for five years or more and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, which does not have such a procedure.” ([A/78/354](https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?j=N2326835&t=doc), para. 87).

At their thirty-sixth annual meeting in New York (24-28 June 2024), the Chairs concluded that, subject to the availability of resources and in view of the discrepancies in the time required for the preparation and adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting by the respective Committees, the simplified reporting procedure will become the default procedure with the possibility for States parties to opt out for all Committees with a periodic reporting cycle for both, initial and periodic, reports. More detailed information on the status of the simplified reporting procedure as applied by the respective treaty bodies can be found in [HRI/MC/2024/3, paras. 6-15](https://documents.un.org/api/symbol/access?j=G2405348&t=doc).

**Table 1**

| *Treaty body* | *Procedure applied* | *Offers the SRP for* | *Limits to the No. of questions in the list of issues prior to reporting* | *No. of States parties that have opted in/opted out* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CERD | opt-in | all reports | Yes (25) | 16 (opt-in) |
| CCPR | opt-out | all reports | Yes (25) | 8 (opt-out) |
| CESCR[[8]](#footnote-9) | currently not in force | currently not in force | Yes (25) | 8 (opt-out) |
| CEDAW | opt-out | all reports | Yes (25) | 13 (opt-out) |
| CAT | opt-in | all reports | Yes[[9]](#footnote-10) | 170 (opt-in) |
| CRC | opt-out | all reports | Yes (30) | 13 (opt-out) |
| CMW | opt-out | all reports | Yes | 5 (opt-out) |
| CRPD | opt-in | periodic reports only[[10]](#footnote-11) | Yes (30) | 41 (opt-in) |
| CED | The SRP does not apply. Nonetheless, after a five-year delay, the Committee can decide to review a State party in the absence of a report. | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |

Annex XVI

Constructive dialogue

Paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 encouraged the treaty bodies to collaborate towards the elaboration of an aligned methodology for their constructive dialogue with the States parties. At their 26th meeting, the Chairs made a series of proposals ([A/69/285](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F69%2F285&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), paragraphs 94–100) and invited the treaty bodies to adopt a guidance note for States parties on the constructive dialogue ([A/69/285](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F69%2F285&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), annex I), while underlining the need for each treaty body to have flexibility in conducting the dialogue. At their 31st meeting, the Chairs concluded that “[a]ll treaty bodies have agreed to follow the same general format for the consideration of reports during their Geneva sessions, that is, 6 hours in total, distributed over two sessions within a 24-hour period. In addition, written replies could be provided by the State concerned within 48 hours of the conclusion of the oral dialogue, if needed and appropriate” ([A/74/256](http://undocs.org/en/A/74/256), annex III).

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture is not included in this annex, given that this treaty body does not have a reporting procedure.

The table below reflects the approach by the Committees to constructive dialogues as at 31 December 2023.

Table 1

|  | *Usually holds dialogue over two consecutive working days (A/68/285, para. 96)* | *Dialogue as of 2nd State party report focuses on priority issues (as opposed to covering all articles under Convention)*  *(A/69/285, para. 100)* | *Has adopted/endorsed the Guidance Note for States parties on the constructive dialogue (A/69/285,  annex I)* | *Has posted the Guidance Note on its webpage or shares it with States parties in advance of the dialogue* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty body* | *(a)* | *(b)* | *(c)* | *(d)* |
| CERD | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| CCPR | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| CESCR | Yes | No [[11]](#footnote-12) | Yes | Yes |
| CEDAW | Yes | No [[12]](#footnote-13) | Yes | Yes |
| CAT | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| CRC | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| CMW | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| CRPD | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| CED | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **Total** | **9 (100%)** | **7 (78%)** | **9 (100%)** | **9 (100%)** |

Annex XVII

Concluding observations (COBs)

Paragraph 6 of resolution 68/268 encouraged the treaty bodies to adopt short, focused and concrete concluding observations, reflecting the dialogue with the State party, and to develop common guidelines for the elaboration of such concluding observations. At their 26th meeting, the Chairs made a series of proposals to the treaty bodies in this regard ([A/69/285](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F69%2F285&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), paragraphs 102–106) and invited them to adopt a framework for concluding observations, while underlining the need for each treaty be able to apply the framework flexibly ([A/69/285](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F69%2F285&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), annex II). At their 35th meeting the Chairs concluded: “In order to increase the reader-friendliness of concluding observations, which positively influence the ability of States to implement the recommendations of the human rights treaty bodies, the Chairs conclude to develop aligned guidelines and a common template for concluding observations that would harmonize all aspects possible, while reflecting the specificities of each human rights treaty.”

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture is not included in Table 1 below, given that this treaty body does not adopt concluding observations.

The table below reflects the approach by the Committees to concluding observations as at 31 December 2023.

**Table 1**

| *Treaty body* | *Average length of concluding observations in 2023, in printed pages  (330 words per page)*  *(a)* | *Has adopted/endorsed the framework for concluding observations*  *(b)* |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CERD | 8 | Yes |
| CCPR | 8 | Yes |
| CESCR | 10 | Yes |
| CEDAW | 9 | Yes |
| CAT | 10 | Yes |
| CRC | 17 | Yes |
| CMW | 10 | Yes |
| CRPD | 10 | Yes |
| CED | 7 | Yes |
| **Total** |  | **9 (100%)** |
| **Average** (9 TBs) | **10 pages (3,300 words)** |  |

Annex XVIII

General comments and general recommendations

Paragraph 14 of resolution 68/268 encouraged the treaty bodies to develop an aligned consultation process for the elaboration of general comments and general recommendations. At their 27th meeting, the Chairs endorsed a common methodology for the elaboration of general comments and general recommendations and recommended their generalization among all treaty bodies that issue general comments and general recommendations ([A/70/302](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F70%2F302&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False), paragraph 91).

Table 1 below reflects the situation with respect to general comments (GC)/general recommendations (GR) as at 31 December 2023.

**Table 1**

|  | *No. of general comments and general recommendations adopted since the establishment of the treaty body* | *No. of general comments and general recommendations under development* | *Has already adopted/endorsed the elements for the elaboration of, and consultation on, general comments and general recommendations endorsed by the Chairs in June 2015 (*[*A/70/302*](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F70%2F302&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)*, para. 91)* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Treaty body* | *(a)* | *(b)* | *(c)* |
| CERD | 36 | 2[[13]](#footnote-14) | Yes |
| CCPR | 37 | 0 | Yes |
| CESCR | 26 | 1[[14]](#footnote-15) | Yes |
| CEDAW | 39 | 1[[15]](#footnote-16) | Yes |
| CAT | 4 | 0 | Yes |
| CRC | 26 | 1[[16]](#footnote-17) | Yes |
| CMW | 5 | 2[[17]](#footnote-18) | Yes |
| CRPD | 8 | 1[[18]](#footnote-19) | Yes |
| CED | 1 | 0 | Yes |
| SPT | 0 | 1[[19]](#footnote-20) | Yes |
| **Total** | **182** | **9** | **10 (100%)** |
| **Average** (10 TBs) | 20.22 | 0.9 |  |

Annex XIX

Gender composition of treaty bodies as at 1 January 2024

Paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 encouraged States parties to give due consideration, during the election of treaty body experts, to equitable geographic distribution, representation of different forms of civilization and legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the treaty bodies.

On 1 January 2024, out of 172 treaty body members, a total of 51.16 percent were women, however, broken down by Committee the average women membership was only 47.51 percent. Without CEDAW, the total representation of women in the membership of the treaty bodies would be 44.3 percent, and in proportion by each Committee except for CEDAW 42.16 percent.

Table 1

| *Treaty body* | *No. of treaty body members* | *No. of members who are women* | *No. of members who are men* | *Percentage of members who are women* | *Percentage of members who are men* |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CERD | 18 | 8 | 10 | 44.44% | 55.58% |
| CCPR | 18 | 7 | 11 | 38.89% | 61.11% |
| CESCR | 18 | 6 | 12 | 33.33% | 66.67% |
| CEDAW | 23 | 22 | 1 | 95.65% | 4.35% |
| CAT | 10 | 2 | 8 | 20% | 80% |
| CRC | 18 | 12 | 6 | 66.67% | 33.33% |
| CMW | 14 | 4 | 10 | 28.57% | 71.43% |
| CRPD | 18 | 10 | 8 | 55.56% | 44.44% |
| CED | 10 | 4 | 6 | 40% | 60% |
| SPT | 25 | 13 | 12 | 52% | 48% |
| **Total** | **172** | **88** | **84** | **47.51%** | **52.49%** |

Annex XX

Meeting time in 2022-2023

In paragraph 26 of its resolution 68/268, the General Assembly decided that the allocation of meeting time to the treaty bodies will be identified by: (a) the number of weeks that each treaty body requires to review the reports of States parties it can expect annually, using the average number of reports received per Committee during the previous four years on the basis of an assumed attainable rate of review of at least 2.5 reports per week and, where relevant, at least 5 reports per week under the Optional Protocols to the human rights treaties; (b) an allocation of additional meeting time to those committees dealing with individual communications, on the basis of each such communication requiring 1.3 hours of meeting time for review and the average number of such communications received per year by those Committees; (c) a further allocation of two weeks of meeting time per Committee to allow for mandated activities; (d) an additional margin of 5 percent to prevent the recurrence of backlogs; and (e) an adequate allocation of financial and human resources to those treaty bodies whose main mandated role is to carry out field visits.

The General Assembly further decided that the amount of meeting time allocated will be reviewed biennially and will be amended at the request of the Secretary-General in line with established budgetary procedures. The meeting time allocation will be based on actual reporting and individual communications considered and taking into account the increased capacity of States parties to submit reports, as well as increased ratifications of the various instruments (GA res. 68/268, paras. 27 and 28).

At the end of 2020, the General Assembly granted additional meeting time to treaty bodies for 2021 in its budget resolution. This was done on the basis of the assessed meeting time of a total of 101.6 weeks, in accordance with the Secretary-General’s third report on the status of the human rights treaty body system (A/74/643), as compared to 91 weeks in 2020 (A/73/309). However, the General Assembly did not approve a corresponding increase in requested staff resources.

Therefore, in 2022-2023, the treaty body system, like in 2020-2021, planned on using the assessed meeting time in the second Secretary-General’s report (A/73/309, Annex XVII) as a more realistic basis with a view to actual staff resources available (57 weeks for review of States parties, 16 weeks for review of individual communications, and 18 weeks for other mandated activities, for a total of 91 weeks), and eventually, in 2022, OHCHR, could support 86.53 weeks of actual meeting time and 88.27 weeks in 2023 to take account of the staffing gaps identified by the Secretary-General in his third and fourth reports on the status of the human rights treaty body system [(A/74/643](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRTD/Pages/3rdBiennialReportbySG.aspx), para. 49, and A/77/279, para. 46).

The Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture met for four weeks each and the treaty body Chairs for their annual meetings of one week each in 2022-2023 as assessed and planned.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Actual No. of weeks for State party reviews in 2022 in person and remote, including pre-sessional Working Groups* | *Actual No. of weeks for State party reviews in 2023 in person and remote, including pre-sessional Working Groups* | *Actual No. of weeks for individual communications in 2022 per GA res. 68/268, including Working Groups on Communications* | *Actual No. of weeks for individual communications in 2023 per GA res. 68/268, including Working Groups on Communications* | *No. of weeks for other mandated activities in 2022 & 2023 each per GA res. 68/268, including Working Groups on Inquiries* | *Actual No. of weeks for SPT and Chairs’ annual meetings in 2022 & 2023 each in person and remote* | *Actual No. of weeks of meeting time in 2022 (with SPT and Chairs’ annual meeting) in person and remote* | *Actual No. of weeks of meeting time in 2023 (with SPT and Chairs’ annual meeting) in person and remote* | *Total meeting time entitlement in 2022 & 2023, in weeks (with SPT and Chairs’ annual meeting)*  *as per Annex XVII of A/73/309 column (d)\*\** |
| *Treaty body* | *(a)* | *(b)* | *(c)* | *(d)* | *(e)* | *(f)* | *(g)=(a)+(c)+(e)+(f)* | *(h)=(b)+(d)+(e)+(f)* |  |
| CERD | 7 | 7.3 | 0.17 | 0.13 | 2 |  | 9.17 | 9.43 | 9.4 |
| CCPR\* | 5.7 | 6.15 | 7.58 | 7.15 | 2 |  | 15.28 | 15.3 | 19.1 |
| CESCR | 5.4 | 5.4 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 2 |  | 8.05 | 8.05 | 8 |
| CEDAW | 11.57 | 11.5 | 0.43 | 0.52 | 2 |  | 14 | 14.02 | 14 |
| CAT | 6.6 | 6.6 | 2.43 | 2.38 | 2 |  | 11.03 | 10.98 | 11.3 |
| CRC  *includes the Convention, CRC-OPAC and CRC-OPSC* | 8.9 | 9 | 1.1 | 1.04 | 2 |  | 12 | 12.04 | 12 |
| CMW | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |  | 4 | 4 | 4.3 |
| CRPD | 6.6 | 7.1 | 0.4 | 0.35 | 2 |  | 9 | 9.45 | 8.9 |
| CED | 2 | 2.95 | 0 | 0.05 | 2 |  | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| **Total (nine treaty bodies)** | **55.77** | **58** | **12.76** | **12.27** | **18** |  | **86.53** | **88.27** | **91** |
| SPT |  |  |  |  |  | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Chairs |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| **Total (10 treaty bodies + Chairs’ annual meeting)** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **91.53** | **93.27** | **96** |

\* CCPR was allocated 11 weeks each for review of individual communications, but the Secretariat was only able to plan for 8 weeks each and eventually support 7.35 weeks in 2022-2023.

\*\* Since the General Assembly has not granted the required staffing resources in full to support the respective increases in the assessed meeting time of the Committees and due to repeated liquidity crises and resulting recruitment freezes, among other factors, the planning of the meetings of the treaty body system has been based on the assessed meeting time in the second report of the Secretary-General ([A/73/309](https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n18/252/07/pdf/n1825207.pdf?token=qqsoLagJhwFe5xKQOU&fe=true), annex XVII), which provided a more realistic picture of the work based on actual staff resources.

Annex XXI

Core meeting time requirements per year in 2026 and 2027 (ongoing workload, no consideration of backlog) according to res. 68/268

For ease of reference, the meeting time needed to enable the treaty bodies to address the expected ongoing workload is denominated ‘core’ meeting time. It does not include the meeting time to address the backlog (margin meeting time) referred to in paragraph 26 (c) of resolution 68/268. The core meeting time constitutes the baseline for the calculation of the margin meeting time for the backlog.

The following parameters are applied to determine the core meeting time needs for 2026, in accordance with resolution 68/268 (paragraphs 26 (a) and (b)):

1. The average number of State party reports received per year in the previous four years (2020–2023);

2. An assumed rate of 2.5 State party reviews per week (five under CRC-OPAC and CRC-OPSC);

3. The average number of individual communications registered per year (2022-2023);

4. A rate of 1.3 hours of meeting time to examine one communication;

5. Two weeks of standard meeting time per treaty body for other mandated activities;

6. The non-reduction of the number of weeks allocated to a treaty body on a permanent basis prior to the adoption of resolution 68/268 (paragraph 27).

Thus calculated, the core meeting time needs of the treaty body system in 2026 and 2027 are 86.43 weeks per year. This excludes the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the mandated annual treaty body Chairs meeting, since no periodic State party reports are reviewed or individual communications examined during their meetings.

Table 1: Core meeting time requirements per year in 2026 and 2027 (ongoing workload, no consideration of backlog) according to res. 68/268

|  | *No. of weeks of core meeting time entitlement in 2015 (excludes 15% margin) – (data from A/68/779– annex I, column (i)) as per para. 27 of GA res. 68/268)* | *Average No. of State party reports received per year (2020-2023 is the new reference period) – (data from annex III, column (j))* | *Average No. of individual communications registered per year (2022–2023 is the new reference period) – (data from annex VI, column (f))* | *No. of weeks per year required to review average No. of State party reports (at 2.5 reviews per week for treaties and 5 reviews per week for OPs-CRC) in 2026-2027 according to GA res. 68/268* | *No. of weeks per year required to examine average No. of individual communication registered (at rate of 1.3 hours per communication) in 2026-2027 according to GA res. 68/268* | *No. of weeks per year required for (other) mandated activities in 2026-2027 according to GA res. 68/268* | *No. of core meeting weeks per year required in 2026-2027 according to GA res. 68/268* |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |
|  |
| *Treaty body* | *A* | *B* | *C* | *D* | *E* | *F* | *G=D+E+F\*\** | *H (Must not be below the number of weeks in column (a) according to GA res. 68/268)* |
|  |
| CERD | 6 | 15.8 | 4 | 6.32 | 0.17 | 2 | 8.49 | **8.49** |
| CCPR | 12 | 12.3 | 239 | 4.92 | 10.36 | 2 | 17.28 | **17.28** |
| CESCR | 8 | 12.5 | 45 | 5 | 1.95 | 2 | 8.95 | **8.95** |
| CEDAW | 14 | 20 | 18 | 8 | 0.78 | 2 | *10.78* | **14** |
| CAT | 6 | 13.8 | 44.5 | 5.52 | 1.93 | 2 | 9.45 | **9.45** |
| CRC | 12 |  | 34 |  | 1.47 |  | *9.95* | **12** |
| *includes CRC Convention* |  | 14.3 |  | 5.72 |  | 2 |  |  |
| *includes CRC-OPAC* |  | 1.8 |  | 0.36 |  |  |  |  |
| *includes CRC-OPSC* |  | 2 |  | 0.4 |  |  |  |  |
| CMW | 3 | 3.8 | n/a | 1.52 | n/a | 2 | 3.52 | **3.52** |
| CRPD | 7 | 10 | 6 | 4 | 0.26 | 2 | *6.26* | **7** |
| CED | 4 | 9.3 | 0.5 | 3.72 | 0.02 | 2 | 5.74 | **5.74** |
| **Total** | **72** | **115.6** | **391** | **45.48** | **16.94\*** | **18** | **80.42** | **86.43** |

\* In the past, the Secretariat could only support 10.5 weeks of meeting time/year for individual communications based on available resources and actual capacity.

\*\* Figures in *italics* are below the number of weeks of core meeting time entitlements in 2015 in column (a) as defined by paragraph 27 of GA res. 68/268.

Annex XXII

Total and new meeting time requirements per year in 2026 and 2027 (core and margin meeting time) according to GA res. 68/268

Annex XXI yielded an annual core meeting time of 86.43 weeks per year for the treaty bodies in 2026 and 2027, as the meeting time allocation for 2026 and 2027 based on the resource formula of General Assembly resolution 68/268 were below the number of weeks allocated to a treaty body on a permanent basis prior to the adoption of the resolution (80.42 weeks), excluding the additional five percent margin to prevent the recurrence of backlogs pursuant to paragraph 26 (c) resolution 68/268. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the mandated annual treaty body Chairs’ meeting are not included, since they do not review periodic State party reports nor do they examine individual communications during their meetings.

Pursuant to paragraph 26 (c) of resolution 68/268, a margin of five percent additional meeting time (5% of 86.43 weeks = 4.32 weeks) is to be applied to the core meeting time at the beginning of each biennium. The margin meeting time is allocated among the treaty bodies in function of the expected workload.

**Table 1**

| *Total and new meeting time requirements per year in 2026 and 2027 (core and margin meeting time)*  *according to GA res. 68/268* | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | | |
|  | *No. of weeks of assessed meeting time in 2020, includes 5% margin (data from Annex XVI, column (d), A/73/309)* | *No. of weeks of core meeting time required per year in 2026 and 2027 (no margin) – (data from annex XXI, column (H)) according to GA res. 68/268* | *No of weeks of margin meeting time required per year in 2026 and 2027 (= 5% of 86.43 weeks of core meeting time, excluding SPT and Chairs’ meeting = 4.32 weeks) according to GA res. 68/268* | *Total No. of weeks of meeting time required per year in 2026 and 2027 (core + 5 % margin) according to GA res. 68/268* | *No. of new weeks required per year in 2026 and 2027 as compared to assessed meeting time in 2020* |
| *Treaty body* | *(a)* | *(b)* | *(c)* | *(d)= (b)+(c)* | *(e)= (d) - (a)* |
| CERD | 9.4 | 8.49 |  |  |  |
| CCPR | 19.2 | 17.28 |  |  |  |
| CESCR | 8 | 8.95 |  |  |  |
| CEDAW | 14 | 14 |  |  |  |
| CAT | 11.3 | 9.45 |  |  |  |
| CRC | 12 | 12 |  |  |  |
| CMW | 4.3 | 3.52 |  |  |  |
| CRPD | 8.8 | 7 |  |  |  |
| CED | 4 | 5.74 |  |  |  |
| Total | 91 | 86.43 | 4.32\* | 90.75\* | -0.25\* |

\* The margin meeting time of 5% will be allocated at the beginning of the biennium 2026/2027 taking into account the backlog of the Committees concerned and available resources at the time.

Annex XXIII

Annual meeting time in 2026 and 2027 by type of activity according to res. 68/268

Annex XXII yielded a total meeting time 90.75 weeks needed by the treaty bodies per year in 2026 and 2027, according to the resource formula of GA resolution 68/268,. The meeting time thus obtained is broken down by type of activity: State party reviews, communications, and (other) mandated activities, since the type of activity has implications with respect to documentation and staffing requirements. One week of meeting time to review State party reports, for example, requires 15 weeks of professional staff support and 4 weeks of general service staff support, whereas one week of communications requires 70 weeks of professional staff time (leaving aside the increase of 50% proposed in para. 65 of the report) and 4 weeks of general service staff support. In relation to the two additional weeks for other mandated activities, one week of meeting time for other mandated activities was calculated on the basis of 15 weeks of professional staff support (leaving aside that this staff time is insufficient as outlined in the report) and 4 weeks of general service staff support.

Within the total meeting time of 90.75 weeks (which takes into account that the CEDAW, CRC, and CRPD must not be below the meeting time entitlements in 2015 as per para. 27 of GA res. 68/268), commercially rounded 55.8 weeks will be devoted to State party reviews, 17 weeks to the review of individual communications and 18 weeks for other mandated activities, as mandated by paragraph 26 (b) of resolution 68/268. The 5% margin will be allocated at the beginning of the biennium 2026/2027 taking into account the backlog of the Committees concerned and available resources at the time. This represents an estimated 52.2 posts at the P-3 level and 8.3 General Service (Other level) posts.

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the mandated annual treaty body Chairs’ meeting are not included, since no periodic State party reports are reviewed or individual communications examined during their meetings.

**Table 1: Annual meeting time in 2026 and 2027 by type of activity according to GA res. 68/268**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Annual meeting time in 2026-2027 by type of activity** | | | | |
|  | *No. of weeks per year for SP reviews in 2026-2027 (data from annex XXI, column D + 4.32 weeks margin (annex XXII, column (c))* | *No. of weeks per year for individual communication in 2026-2027 (data from annex XXI, column E)* | *No. of weeks per year for other mandated activities in 2026-2027* | *Total No. of weeks of annual meeting time in 2026-2027* |
| *Treaty body* | *(a)* | *(b)* | *(c)* | *(d)* |
| CERD | 6.32 | 0.17 | 2 | **8.49** |
| CCPR | 4.92 | 10.36 | 2 | **17.28** |
| CESCR | 5 | 1.95 | 2 | **8.95** |
| CEDAW\* | 8 + 3.22 | 0.78 | 2 | **14\*** |
| CAT | 5.52 | 1.93 | 2 | **9.45** |
| CRC\*\* | 2.05 | 1.47 | 2 | **12\*\*** |
| includes Convention | 5.72 |  |  |  |
| includes CRC-OPAC | 0.36 |  |  |  |
| includes CRC-OPSC | 0.4 |  |  |  |
| CMW | 1.52 |  | 2 | **3.52** |
| CRPD\*\*\* | 4 + 0.74 | 0.26 | 2 | **7\*\*\*** |
| CED | 3.72 | 0.02 | 2 | **5.74** |
| 5% margin | 4.32 |  |  | **4.32** |
| **Total** | **55.81** | **16.94\*\*\*\*** | **18** | **90.75** |

*Nota bene*: The margin meeting time of 5% to reduce backlog is 4.32 weeks in addition to 86.43 weeks. The margin meeting time will be allocated at the beginning of the biennium 2026/2027 taking into account the backlog of the Committees concerned and available resources at the time.

\* CEDAW meeting time totals 10.78 weeks and has been brought up to 14 weeks so that it is not reduced below the entitlement prior to GA res. 68/268. Additional 3.22 weeks will be allocated to State party reviews.

\*\* CRC meeting time totals 9.95 weeks and has been brought up to 12 weeks so that it is not reduced below the entitlement prior to GA res. 68/268. Additional 2.05 weeks will be allocated to State party reviews and reviews under the Optional Protocols of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

\*\*\* CRPD meeting time totals 6.26 weeks and has been brought up to 7 weeks so that it is not reduced below the entitlement prior to GA res. 68/268. Additional 0.74 weeks will be allocated to State party reviews.

\*\*\*\* In the past, the Secretariat could only support 10.5 weeks of meeting time/year for individual communications based on available resources and actual capacity.

1. \* [A/79/150](https://undocs.org/en/A/77/150) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. The European Union, as a party to (only) the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, has submitted initial and periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and had no overdue reports as at 31 December 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. As the custodian of two Optional Protocols with reporting requirements, the Committee on the Rights of the Child examines three types of State party reports. Since the consideration of reports submitted under the Optional Protocols is more limited in scope, more reports can be examined per week. Following the initial State party review, periodic reports to the Committee under the Optional Protocols are incorporated within the periodic reports of the State party under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Please note that ‘living cases’ refers to registered cases that are in the case management phase and those that are ready to be drafted and subsequently examined by the Committees. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Please note that ‘living cases’ refers to registered cases that are in the case management phase and those that are ready to be drafted and subsequently examined by the Committees. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/simplified-reporting-procedure> . [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. CED has begun to request additional information from States parties under article 29 (4) of the Convention in 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Following a piloting phase where the simplified reporting procedure was applied on a voluntary basis, CESCR decided, in 2020, to introduce the simplified reporting procedure as the standard procedure, using an opt-out model, once the predictable schedule of reviews was in place and the resources were available to do so. CESCR currently does not offer the simplified reporting procedure. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. CAT does not limit the number of questions in their lists of issues prior to reporting, however, the number of words (approximately 4,000). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. [CRPD/C/10/2](http://undocs.org/en/CRPD/C/10/2), annex IV, para. 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. CESCR reviews State party compliance with all articles of the Convention. In doing so, it may grant more attention to some issues than others. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. CEDAW reviews State party compliance with all articles of the Convention. In doing so, it may grant more attention to some issues than others. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Draft GC No. 37 on Racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health; draft joint GC/GR Nos. 7/38 on Obligations of States parties on public policies for addressing and eradicating xenophobia and its impact on the rights of migrants, their families, and other non-citizens affected by racial discrimination (jointly with CMW). [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. Draft GC No. 27 on economic, social and cultural rights and sustainable development. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. Draft GR No. 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. Draft GC No. 26 on children’s rights to access to justice and effective remedies. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. Draft GC No. 6 on the convergence of the Convention and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; draft joint GC/GR Nos. 7/38 on Obligations of States parties on public policies for addressing and eradicating xenophobia and its impact on the rights of migrants, their families, and other non-citizens affected by racial discrimination (jointly with CERD). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. Draft GC No. 9 on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. Draft GC No. 1 on article 4 of the Optional Protocol (places of deprivation of liberty). [↑](#footnote-ref-20)