

5 November 2024

**Statement of the treaty body Chairs on the biennial GA Resolution on the treaty body system**

We, the Chairs of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, are urging Member States of the United Nations to take decisive steps to strengthen the human rights treaty system through the biennial GA Resolution on the treaty body system, which is currently being negotiated by Member States in New York.

The human rights treaty bodies are facing fundamental challenges that undermine the delivery of their all-important mandates to support the implementation of international human rights law. As the workload of treaty bodies has continued to grow exponentially, resource constraints have become increasingly acute, leading to delays and backlogs that undermine the accessibility and impact of the system, as detailed in the new SG report to the General Assembly.

Determined to improve the system, the Chairs have been working on the treaty body strengthening process, in line with the 2014 General Assembly Resolution 68/268. The chairs have agreed on a concrete roadmap, that would shift treaty bodies from this untenable situation to a path that would ensure a sustainable system that can pursue its human rights tasks with efficiency and results.

The key elements of the shift are:

1. Eight-year predictable cycle, with follow-up reviews in between, incorporating a simplified reporting procedure as the default approach for all committees with periodic reporting, and a similar schedule for the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture, adapted for their specific mandates
2. Enhanced harmonization of working methods, with the support of a new advisory mechanism
3. Digital shift with modern IT tools that facilitate the treaty bodies’ work and the engagement of States and others with treaty bodies

We are keen to start implementing these measures as soon as possible, knowing that they would yield major benefits for States Parties and rights holders alike. But to do so, we now need Member States’ support, including in terms of RB resources. It is therefore imperative that the new biennial GA Resolution endorse these key recommendations of the Chairs, including the eight-year predictable cycle.

While the situation of treaty bodies is critical, it must be addressed urgently through decisive action. We therefore invite all Member States to join us in building a stronger, better human rights treaty body system, reminding them of their responsibility to uphold their commitments to international human rights by supporting the treaty body strengthening process.