

Upcoming opportunities for NGO Engagement with the UN from October 2016

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There are a number of upcoming opportunities for civil society groups to engage with the UN human rights systems.



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The 8th session of the Social Forum of the Human Rights Council will be held from 3 to 5 October 2016. Information about the Forum is available [here](#).

The organisational session of the Human Rights Council will be held on 5 December 2016. Information can be found [here](#).

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW FORUM

The 1st session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law will be held on 21 November to 22 November 2016.

MINORITY ISSUES FORUM

The 9th session of the Forum on Minority Issues will be held from 24 to 25 November 2016. Information about the Forum is available [here](#).

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

The 5th [United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights](#) will be held from 14 to 16 November 2016. Information about the Forum is available [here](#).

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

The 26th Universal Periodic Review will take place from [31 October to 11 November 2016](#), in which the following States will be reviewed: Togo, the Syrian Arab republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Iceland, Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Uganda, Timor Leste, Republic of Moldova, Haiti, and South Sudan. Information on NGO participation is available [here](#). General information about the Universal Periodic Review is available [here](#).

TREATY BODIES

The 75th pre-sessional Working Group of the Committee of the Rights of the Child will be held from [3 October to 7 October 2016](#), in which the following state reports will be considered: Bhutan, Cameroon, Lebanon, Mongolia and Romania. The pre-sessional Working Group will also consider the reports submitted by Bhutan, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America under article 12(1) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. It will also consider the State reports submitted by Bhutan and the United States of America on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

The 59th session of the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights will be held on [19 September to 7 October 2016](#). The Committee will consider the following State reports: Costa Rica, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Philippines, Poland, and Tunisia. The Programme of work is available [here](#), and the information note for civil society is available [here](#). The 58th pre-session Working Group will be held on 10 October to 14 October 2016.

The 11th session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances will be held from [3 to 14 October 2016](#). The Committee will analyse the following State reports: Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Colombia. It will also consider the list of issues of the following State parties: Cuba, Ecuador, and Senegal. The Programme of work is available [here](#), and the information note for NGOs is available [here](#).

The 118th session of the Human Rights Committee will be held from [17 October to 4 November 2016](#), in which the following country reports will be analysed: Azerbaijan, Colombia, Jamaica, Morocco, Poland, Republic of Moldova, and Slovakia. The Country Report Task Forces of the Committee will also consider and adopt list of issues on the following countries: Honduras, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mongolia, and Pakistan. The Task Forces will also adopt the list of issues prior to reporting of the following countries: Paraguay and Togo. Finally, the Committee will consider individual complaints regarding Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation. The programme of work is available [here](#), and the information note for NGOs is available [here](#).

The 8th session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards will be held from 17 to 28 October 2016. Information about the Committee and its previous sessions are available [here](#).

The 65th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be held from [24 October to 18 November 2016](#), in which the following State parties' country reports will be considered: Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Burundi, Canada, Estonia, Honduras, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. The programme of work is available [here](#), and the information note for NGOs is available [here](#). The 77th session of the pre-sessional Working Group of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be held from 21 to 25 November 2016.

The 6th session of the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture – Meeting of the State Parties will be held on 27 October 2016. Information about the Sub-Committee is available [here](#).

The 59th session of the Committee against Torture will be held from [7 November to 7 December 2016](#), in which the following State reports will be considered: Armenia, Capo Verde, Ecuador, Finland, Monaco, Namibia, Sri Lanka, and Turkmenistan. The Committee will also consider the list of issues prior to reporting of the following countries: Australia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Montenegro, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United States of America.

The 30th session of the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture will be held from 14 to 18 November. Information on the Sub-Committee can be found [here](#).

The 91st session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will be held from [21 November to 9 December 2016](#), in which the following State Reports will be considered: Argentina, Italy, Portugal, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Uruguay. The information note for NGOs is available [here](#).

WORKING GROUPS

The 14th session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and programme of Action will be held from 3 to 14 October 2016. Information on the Working Group and its previous sessions are available [here](#).

The 17th session of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice will be held from 10 to 14 October 2016. Information on the Working Group is available [here](#).

The 2nd session of the Open-ended intergovernmental Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights will be held from [24 to 28 October 2016](#). The deadline for written contribution from relevant stakeholders is [1 September 2016](#). More information on the Working Group is available [here](#).

The 77th session of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention will be held from 21 to 25 November 2016. Information on the Working Group is available [here](#).

The 29th session of the Working Group in the use of mercenaries will be held from 28 November to 2 December 2016. Information on the Working Group is available [here](#).

The 19th session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent will be held from 28 November to 2 December 2016. Information on the Working Group is available [here](#).

The 5th session of the Working Group on regulatory framework of activities of private military and security companies will be held from 12 to 16 December 2016. Information on the Working Group is available [here](#).

WORKSHOP

The [International Workshop on enhancing cooperation between United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms](#) will be held on 4 October to 5 October 2016.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The 44th session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture will be held from 3 to 7 October 2016.

The 43rd session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights will be held from 31 October to 2 November 2016. Information on the Board is available [here](#).

The 21st session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery will be held from 28 November to 2 December 2016. Information can be found [here](#).

COUNTRY VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Serbia	Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (and Kosovo), from 3 October 2016 to 14 October 2016
Australia	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, from 4 October 2016 to 18 October 2016
Sri Lanka	Special Rapporteur on minority issues, from 10 October 2016 to 20 October 2016
Turkey	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, from 10 October 2016 to 14 October 2016
Madagascar	Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, from 24 October 2016 to 28 October 2016
United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, from 31 October 2016 to 11 November 2016
Guatemala	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, from 21 November 2016 to 25 November 2016
United States of America	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, from 5 December 2016 to 16 December 2016

Find more information on these visits [here](#). To find out how you can support the visits, please contact respective mandate-holders via their email address, as listed in the [directory](#).

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