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**Information note by the OHCHR Human Rights Treaty Body Branch**

**Achievements of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies in 2022**

The Human Rights Treaty Bodies made important achievements in 2022, despite a challenging working environment, including a transition from the COVID-19 working conditions to the “new normal”. The treaty bodies continued to be faced with an increasing substantive workload, which demonstrates their important role in the international human rights system. For instance, 414 State party reports were pending review as of 30 November 2022 and 1012 urgent actions were open at that moment. Further, 1744 registered individual communications were ready to be examined, with an additional 299 unregistered communications pending pre-screening analysis and registration. To ensure the protection of rights holders, treaty body members worked during formal sessions in Geneva – collectively amounting to 26 sessions of a total of 92 weeks and 4 days in 2022, and during countless hours of intersessional work.

In this demanding environment, the treaty bodies achieved the following in 2022:

* The treaty bodies prepared and adopted 133 concluding observations, following constructive dialogues with States parties and exchanges with UN agencies, NHRIs and NGOs. The SPT undertook eight country visits since the beginning of the year, including a recent visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina from 11 to 17 December.
* 320 new individual communication cases met prima facie admissibility requirements and were registered by the treaty bodies between 1 January and 1 December 2022. Throughout the year, 285 views on individual communications were adopted.
* The CED Committee sent 95 urgent action requests to the States parties in 2022. Between 1 January and 15 December 2022, it also sent 60 follow-up notes on urgent actions, including case-specific recommendations related to the search and investigation of the disappeared persons.
* In addition, the treaty bodies worked on and finalized general comments and recommendations, including the [CESCR General comment No. 26 (2022) on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/ec12gc26-general-comment-no-26-2022-land-and), the [CEDAW General recommendation No.39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-recommendation-no39-2022-rights-indigeneous), and the [CRPD General comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/crpdcgc8-general-comment-no-8-2022-right-persons).
* They also conducted thematic debates and country inquiries, worked on thematic and country-specific human rights concerns through dedicated working groups and issued statements and press releases on their jurisprudence and imminent human rights concerns. Overall, this year, 168 media statements, press releases and media advisories were published on the work of the treaty bodies.
* One of the main accomplishments of the treaty bodies were the conclusions of the 34th Chairs’ meeting in May/June 2022. This landmark outcome is a culmination of a ten-years journey started by Navy Pillay’s report of June 2012 (A/66/860), the Inter-Governmental Working Group (A/68/832) and the historic GA resolution 68/268 of April 2014. The Chairs’ conclusions provide a roadmap to achieve a better functioning treaty body system. Their central feature is the introduction of a predictable review cycle, composed of full reviews of each State Party every eight years with follow-up reviews in-between. The conclusions facilitate compliance by State parties with their reporting obligations, predictability for all stakeholders and reduction of unnecessary duplication, while enhancing useful complementarities. The conclusions improve cost-effectiveness and the overall efficiency and impact of the treaty body system, including through an increased reliance on modern IT solutions. The Chairs’ outcome was echoed by the 4th biennial report of the Secretary-General on the status of the human rights treaty body system of August 2022 ([A/77/279](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.undocs.org%2FHome%2FMobile%3FFinalSymbol%3DA%252F77%252F279%26Language%3DE%26DeviceType%3DDesktop%26LangRequested%3DFalse&data=05%7C01%7Cbritta.nicolmann%40un.org%7C7f72a3b729144639002408dae9a45ed5%7C0f9e35db544f4f60bdcc5ea416e6dc70%7C0%7C0%7C638079189418438421%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=e1%2FzeI%2Bf0W7jS6pbAO3XkAe50ZydaMPizLeSCItGFbY%3D&reserved=0)). Further, the General Assembly adopted on 15 December 2022 the biennial resolution on the human rights treaty body system ([A/RES/77/210](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.undocs.org%2FHome%2FMobile%3FFinalSymbol%3DA%252FRES%252F77%252F210%26Language%3DE%26DeviceType%3DDesktop%26LangRequested%3DFalse&data=05%7C01%7Cbritta.nicolmann%40un.org%7C7f72a3b729144639002408dae9a45ed5%7C0f9e35db544f4f60bdcc5ea416e6dc70%7C0%7C0%7C638079189418438421%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=f0cfvILvwKuSeHs2Fjd%2BJxc8uztBau1FZ2Y1TtzmeNE%3D&reserved=0)). It contains positive language on the outcome of the 34th treaty body Chairs’ meeting, including on the potential of the digital uplift.

Complementing the work of the treaty bodies, the Human Rights Treaties Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights also facilitated the following results:

* 47,000 victims of torture in 79 countries received direct assistance and rehabilitation from the UN Fund for Victims of Torture this year. Additionally, 17,000 victims of modern slavery in 30 countries received direct assistance and rehabilitation from the UN Fund for Victims of Modern Slavery.
* OHCHR’s Treaty Body Capacity Building Programme (TBCBP) provided support to States parties and other stakeholders to strengthen their engagement with the treaty body system. In 2022, TBCBP organized 134 capacity-building activities worldwide, in which 9,369 persons participated. In total, 95 activities were carried out either completely online or in a hybrid manner, in many cases due to COVID-19 related restrictions. Of the 134 activities, 70 involved State representatives, 41 involved members of the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up, 69 involved civil society, 25 involved the United Nations Country Team and eight the Resident Coordinator’s Office. Further, ten activities involved members of Parliaments, six involved regional organizations and four national preventive mechanisms.

Finally, this year, elections for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Human Rights Committee and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture took place in 2022. Thirty members of these Committees, including the Chairs of the Human Rights Committee and of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Ms. Photini Pazartzis and Ms. Gladys Acosta Vargas, finished their mandates end of this year (or at the end of the first Committee session in 2023). They all shaped the trajectories of their respective Committees, contributing to positive impacts on the lives of rights holders and to the evolving jurisprudence of the treaty bodies and helping to strengthen the system as a whole.