



**United Nations**

# **Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances**

**Twenty-seventh session  
(23 September–4 October 2024)**

**Twenty-eighth session  
(17 March–4 April 2025)**

**General Assembly  
Official Records  
Eightieth Session  
Supplement No. 56**





# **Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances**

**Twenty-seventh session  
(23 September–4 October 2024)**

**Twenty-eighth session  
(17 March–4 April 2025)**



United Nations • New York, 2025

*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures.  
Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[9 July 2025]

## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Organizational and other matters .....	1
A. States Parties to the Convention .....	1
B. Meetings and sessions.....	1
C. Membership and attendance .....	4
D. Decisions .....	4
E. Adoption of the annual report.....	5
II. Methods of work .....	6
III. Relations with stakeholders.....	7
A. Interaction with other human rights mechanisms .....	7
B. Interaction with Member States .....	7
C. Interaction with United Nations entities .....	8
D. Interaction with victims and other civil society actors.....	8
E. Interaction with national human rights institutions.....	9
F. Interaction with other stakeholders.....	10
IV. Adoption of lists of issues .....	11
V. Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 29 (1) of the Convention .....	12
VI. Follow-up to concluding observations .....	13
VII. Consideration of additional information submitted by States Parties under article 29 (3) and (4) of the Convention.....	14
VIII. Reports submitted by States Parties during the reporting period.....	16
IX. Reprisals.....	17
X. Urgent action procedure under article 30 of the Convention .....	18
A. Requests for urgent action received and registered.....	18
B. Registration notes sent by the Committee to States Parties .....	20
C. Interaction with authors of urgent action requests and with States Parties .....	20
D. Trends regarding the urgent action requests registered during the reporting period.....	21
XI. Communications procedure under article 31 of the Convention .....	22
XII. Visits under article 33 of the Convention.....	23
XIII. Procedure under article 34 of the Convention .....	25
XIV. General comments.....	26
XV. Other projects and activities undertaken by members of the Committee intersessionally .....	27
Annex	
States Parties to the Convention as at 6 June 2025 and their reporting status .....	28



## Chapter I

### Organizational and other matters

#### A. States Parties to the Convention

1. The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance entered into force on 23 December 2010, in accordance with its article 39 (1). As at 6 June 2025, there were 77 States Parties and 98 signatory States to the Convention. Of the 77 States Parties to the Convention, 30 had declared that they recognized the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual communications (art. 31), and 30 its competence to receive and consider inter-State communications (art. 32).

2. The updated list of States Parties to the Convention, as well as information on declarations made under articles 31 and 32 and reservations, is available on the website of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat.<sup>1</sup>

#### B. Meetings and sessions

3. The present annual report covers the period from 16 June 2024 until 6 June 2025, during which the Committee held its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions.

##### 1. Twenty-seventh session

4. The Committee held its twenty-seventh session from 23 September to 4 October 2024. It held 20 plenary meetings and 15 additional meetings outside of official meeting hours. The agenda (CED/C/27/1) was adopted by the Committee at its 492nd meeting. The Director of the Human Rights Council and Mechanisms Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in his capacity as representative of the Secretary-General, presented opening remarks.

5. The Director underscored the urgent need to address enforced disappearances, which were on the rise owing to national and international conflicts and increasing polarization. He acknowledged the multiple crises affecting the globe and highlighted the crucial role of human rights mechanisms in promoting and protecting human rights. Treaty bodies were instrumental to that end. Mutual reinforcement and synergy among human rights mechanisms must be strengthened, and the initiatives of the Committee in that direction must be acknowledged. The Committee had collaborated with other bodies and issued joint declarations on issues such as so-called short-term enforced disappearance. On the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the Committee had adopted a joint declaration with various human rights mechanisms, underscoring the importance of reinforcing support for victims and inviting participation in the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances scheduled for January 2025.

6. Efforts, including international cooperation, must be promoted to tackle enforced disappearances and uphold human rights globally. Recent ratifications of the Convention by Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa and Thailand, bringing the total to 76 States Parties, were cause for celebration. The goal remained universal ratification, with hopes that the World Congress would contribute to that objective. OHCHR continued to support efforts to strengthen the treaty body system. The Director noted in particular the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, at which progress had been made in aligning working methods and advocating for resources to implement proposals aimed at strengthening the system.

7. The Director referred to the Committee's agenda and to the 1,893 requests for urgent action registered to date, many of which required follow-up. Encouragingly, 512 urgent

<sup>1</sup> [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=IV-16&chapter=4&clang=\\_en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-16&chapter=4&clang=_en).

actions had been closed following the location of the disappeared persons, with 408 persons found alive.

8. In closing, the Director recalled the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on intimidation and reprisals, emphasizing the need to protect those who cooperated with United Nations mechanisms, and noting that civil society and victims provided essential information to treaty bodies. States must ensure adequate protection against any acts of intimidation or reprisal, acknowledging their vital role in supporting human rights work.

9. In his opening statement, the Chair of the Committee, Olivier de Frouville underscored the worrying context in which the session was starting, marked by multiplying conflicts causing numerous casualties worldwide. Power dynamics were re-emerging in international relations, while internal divisiveness fuelled by hatemongers threatened to lead to the emergence of new conflicts. The devastating effects of climate change were increasingly evident, adding instability through natural disasters. Enforced disappearances were spreading globally. The practice of enforced disappearance was aimed at stripping individuals of their humanity and instilling terror in their communities, leaving families in a torturous uncertainty that permeated society. However, victims and societies demonstrated resilience. Historically, whenever perpetrators sought silence and compliance through enforced disappearances, family members – mostly women – had courageously confronted armed men, demanding answers to the central question: “Where are they?” Their determination had led to the establishment of a crucial international norm: the prohibition of enforced disappearance. Their struggle had also facilitated the adoption of a convention obligating States to take measures nationally and internationally to enforce that prohibition and eradicate enforced disappearances. In pursuit of fulfilling that promise, various actors had united to organize the first World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, scheduled to be held in Geneva on 15 and 16 January 2025. The Chair extended thanks to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for co-organizing the event and committing to speaking at the opening session, and expressed appreciation for the sponsoring States and partners who had made the project a reality. All States and actors willing to act against enforced disappearances, regardless of their Convention status, would be welcome at the Congress, and every contribution would be valued.

10. The fight for human rights relied on robust institutions and procedures. Effective guarantees were crucial, yet the human rights protection system was underfunded. The United Nations human rights programme budget in 2023 was \$459 million, with only \$178 million from the regular United Nations budget, necessitating \$281 million in extrabudgetary resources. Compared to the budgets of major city services or events, the amount was minimal, considering the role of the United Nations in defending human rights globally. Human rights, alongside peace, security and development, was one of the Organization’s core pillars, and thus demanded equal emphasis. The Pact for the Future, adopted by the General Assembly, included action 46, in which the Secretary-General was urged to assess the need for increased, predictable and sustainable funding of the United Nations human rights mechanisms for efficient mandate delivery. That aligned with the call of the treaty bodies for decisive action to implement a predictable review schedule for States’ reports, in order to address the current low compliance and offer long-term savings through extended periodicity and improved coordination.

11. The Chair referred to the conference on illegal international adoptions held in September 2023, at which the Committee had heard from victims. A documentary following one group of those victims in their search for the truth was to premiere in Geneva during the Committee’s session. In closing, the Chair expressed solidarity with all victims of enforced disappearance, including their families, whose voices guided the Committee’s work. Shui-Meng Ng, whose husband, Sombath Somphone, had disappeared in the Laos People’s Democratic Republic, was then given the floor and provided her testimony.

## **2. Twenty-eighth session**

12. The Committee held its twenty-eighth session from 17 March to 4 April 2025. It held 28 plenary meetings and 9 additional meetings outside of official meeting hours. The agenda (CED/C/28/1) was adopted by the Committee at its 512th meeting. The Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch at OHCHR presented opening remarks.



13. In his opening remarks, the Chief emphasized the critical importance of addressing enforced disappearance globally. Acknowledging the challenges posed by that heinous crime, he expressed gratitude to the five Committee members whose terms would end in June 2025 (Juan Pablo Albán-Alencastro, Mohammed Ayat, Suela Janina, Milica Kolaković-Bojović and Horacio Ravenna), highlighting their significant contributions. The Director underscored the need for universal ratification of the Convention, commending Poland for becoming the seventy-seventh State Party. The 2025 World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, held in Geneva in January, was noted as a pivotal event, bringing together over 2,000 participants from 118 countries. Jointly organized by the Committee, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Convention against Enforced Disappearances Initiative and OHCHR, the Congress had resulted in concrete recommendations and had fostered collective action, including pledges from various stakeholders and initiatives to, among other things, create victim-led networks, promote civil society contributions and establish a global youth network against enforced disappearance. Participants at the Congress had also highlighted the vital role of women and families of the disappeared. In that connection, the Committee was pursuing the development of a draft general comment on women and girls and enforced disappearance. During the session, the Committee would consider a concept note that would serve as a basis for consultations to which all interested actors would be invited to contribute.

14. Regarding urgent action requests, the Committee was to review its periodic report related to the trends observed and the development of the Committee's jurisprudence. Since the twenty-seventh session, 120 new requests for urgent action had been registered, reaching 2,013 since 2012. A total of 518 cases had been closed following the location of the disappeared person; 1,495 cases remained active, requiring follow-up. The Director lamented the resource constraints affecting the Committee's ability to handle urgent action requests and ensure their follow-up in a timely manner. The situation was exacerbated by the current liquidity crisis, and was expected to persist. The treaty body strengthening process remained active, with the General Assembly adopting resolution 79/165, in which the Assembly had invited the treaty bodies to continue to improve predictability in the reporting process and to improve their use of digital technology. However, the necessary funds had not been provided. At an informal meeting organized by the Geneva Human Rights Platform, aimed at improving procedural harmonization, developments in the treaty body system had been explored. Interaction with special procedure mandate holders had enriched the discussion, focusing on shared concerns such as expert independence and conflict of interest. Coordination on working methods would continue, especially in preparation for the upcoming meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies.

15. The Chief concluded by affirming the necessity of unwavering commitment and concerted action to eradicate and prevent enforced disappearance. The World Congress demonstrated growing awareness and the formation of a global network. Despite challenges, the Committee's efforts to uncover the whereabouts of disappeared persons and prevent future disappearances were vital. Continued support for those efforts had been pledged and must be promoted.

16. In his opening statement, the Chair of the Committee referred to the tireless work of the secretariat towards ensuring that procedures served human rights in all States Parties to the Convention, despite strict limitations. It was often overlooked that members of treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders were unpaid experts who dedicated time to implementing procedures created by States, and that the day-to-day work was carried out by OHCHR staff. The Chair referred to the deteriorating global human rights situation, the multiplication of conflicts and threats to multilateralism, noting that international law, foundational to global peace and security, was increasingly being challenged by powerful nations that preferred force over legal principles. Human rights were being challenged by a vicious rhetoric in which ideologues manipulated arguments to portray scientific facts as conspiracies, and their false propaganda as truth. They claimed that defending minorities was intolerance, while their hate speech was framed as freedom of expression. Judges were accused of being against the people, and the rule of law against democracy, with claims that international law and justice caused wars, and that military or economic deals were the best means for peace. Human rights defenders were branded as terrorists or enemies of the people. In that context, it was essential to continue gathering and organizing, as had been done during

the first World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, a clear demonstration of the strength and resilience of the global movement against enforced disappearance.

17. The Chair emphasized the commitment of various actors, including families of the disappeared, international non-governmental organizations, regional human rights bodies, and States, particularly those that had publicly made pledges during the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances. Many World Congress participants had expressed their intent to actively contribute to implementing identified priority actions. The World Congress must be seen as an ongoing process; partners should accelerate ratifications of the Convention to achieve near-universal ratification in a reasonable time. The current financial challenges of multilateral organizations, including in the human rights protection system, were of concern and prevented the system from fully responding to the current needs. United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Committee, must be provided with sufficient means to fulfil their mandates efficiently and effectively.

18. The Chair recalled that the Committee did not have a system of periodic reporting. States Parties were required to submit a report within two years of ratification; the submission was followed by a constructive dialogue and the issuance of concluding observations. States Parties were then expected to submit additional information on the implementation of recommendations and on the evolution of the situation related to enforced disappearances when the Committee considered it necessary. That enabled the Committee to focus on priority issues and urgent needs. The Chair closed his intervention citing the author Julio Cortázar, who, referring to the “invisible presence of the thousands of disappeared”, had emphasized at the colloquium on enforced disappearance held in Paris in 1981 that “in this room where they are not, where they are evoked as a theme of work, we must feel them present and close, sitting among us, looking at us, talking to us”.

### **C. Membership and attendance**

19. One member could not attend the twenty-seventh session of the Committee, and two members were absent during the twenty-eighth session. A list of the current members, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is available on the Committee’s webpage.<sup>2</sup>

### **D. Decisions**

20. At its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions, the Committee adopted the following documents:

- (a) Lists of issues regarding three States Parties and two lists of issues in the absence of a report regarding two States Parties (chap. IV);
- (b) Concluding observations regarding 10 States Parties (chaps. V and VII);
- (c) Report on follow-up to concluding observations (chap. VI);
- (d) Report on the visit to Colombia (chap. XII);
- (e) Two reports on requests for urgent action (chap. X);
- (f) Joint statement with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on so-called “short term enforced disappearances”.

21. The Committee decided that at its twenty-ninth session, it would consider the reports submitted by Benin and Sri Lanka, adopt lists of issues for Finland, Oman and Slovenia under article 29 (1), consider the additional information submitted by Montenegro and adopt lists of priority themes for Ecuador and Iraq under article 29 (3) and (4) of the Convention.

---

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/membership>.

**E. Adoption of the annual report**

22. At the end of its twenty-eighth session, the Committee adopted its report to the General Assembly on its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions, in compliance with article 36 (1) of the Convention.

## **Chapter II**

### **Methods of work**

23. During its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions, the Committee used English, French and Spanish as working languages.

24. The Committee discussed the following items related to its methods of work, among others:

- (a) Review of the Committee's rules of procedure;
- (b) Activities of Committee members between sessions;
- (c) Preparation and assessment of the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances;
- (d) Resources allocated to the Committee;
- (e) Coordination with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and other special procedures, other treaty bodies and regional mechanisms;
- (f) Project to draft a general comment on women and enforced disappearance;
- (g) Follow-up to general comment No. 1 (2023) on enforced disappearance in the context of migration;
- (h) The visits to Colombia (2024), Iraq (2022) and Mexico (2021) and planned visits to Burkina Faso and to Honduras;
- (i) Treaty body review process.

25. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee finalized the review of its rules of procedure related to individual complaints, which was aimed at streamlining and harmonizing its procedure with that of other treaty bodies.

## Chapter III

### Relations with stakeholders

#### A. Interaction with other human rights mechanisms

26. The Committee highlights the importance of its ongoing cooperation with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the progress made in that regard. During the period under review, the two mechanisms held three meetings to enhance the coordination of their work and consulted each other on their respective projects. They adopted a joint statement on so-called “short term enforced disappearances” (CED/C/11), held joint training sessions and meetings with States and civil society actors, and coordinated with each other throughout the process of organizing and holding the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances.

27. Throughout the reporting period, members of the Committee and its secretariat held meetings with members of all regional and international human rights mechanisms to strengthen their coordination and synergy.

28. On 30 August 2024, on the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the Committee and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, together with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe and the representatives of Indonesia and Thailand to the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, released a joint statement,<sup>3</sup> calling on all stakeholders to unite in the fight against enforced disappearance and to take part in the upcoming World Congress to work on concrete action plans to end that heinous crime.

29. During the twenty-seventh session, the Committee met with the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Death Penalty, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions and Enforced Disappearances in Africa of the African Commission of Human and Peoples’ Rights, Idrissa Sow, to discuss ways to strengthen the cooperation between the mechanisms and coordinate the Commission’s participation in the World Congress. The Committee also met with Julian Pahlke, the member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe who was the rapporteur for the report entitled “Missing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers – a call to clarify their fate”, to discuss the report and identify strategies of coordination and cooperation related to enforced disappearance in the context of migration.

#### B. Interaction with Member States

30. On 30 September 2024, the Committee held a public meeting with Member States, which was attended by 16 States: Albania, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Iraq, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Panama, Samoa, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka and the United States of America. During the meeting, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Colombia and Iraq made statements.

31. The representative of Colombia noted that the Committee would visit Colombia in November 2024. As a result of the internal conflict, more than 100,000 persons were classified as disappeared for conflict-related reasons. During the visit, the Committee would be able to see the work carried out by the Unit for the Search for Persons Deemed Disappeared in the Context of and Due to the Armed Conflict, the purpose of which was to search for disappeared persons, establish the truth and provide justice for victims and their families. The observations and recommendations that the Committee would make in its visit report would be of vital assistance to Colombia in its efforts to search for the 100,000 persons who remained disappeared.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/disappearances/statements/WGEID-CED-Statement-IntDayDis-29-August-2024-EN.pdf>.

32. The representative of Azerbaijan stated that the country had always been active in drawing global attention to disappeared persons and hostages. Azerbaijan was the main sponsor of the General Assembly biennial resolution on missing persons and the resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women on the release of women and children taken hostage. Azerbaijan had joined the Global Alliance for the Missing in January 2022. In September 2023, Azerbaijan had hosted an international conference on increasing national and global efforts to clarify the fate of missing persons. An outcome document had been adopted, calling for increased national and international efforts to prevent and effectively address disappearances. An international conference on addressing the problem of missing persons by upholding the right of families to know the truth would be held in October 2024 in Azerbaijan, jointly organized with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

33. The representative of Argentina referred to the fourth campaign for the universalization of the Convention, a joint initiative of Argentina and France, States that had played a leading role in drafting the Convention and that were committed to ensuring that the number of States Parties increased as quickly as possible so that the scourge of enforced disappearance could be eradicated. During examinations of States in the context of the universal periodic review, Argentina routinely recommended that all States that had not yet ratified the Convention do so. The World Congress on Enforced Disappearances would provide an excellent opportunity to give greater visibility to enforced disappearances. The commitment of Argentina to the eradication of enforced disappearance was demonstrated by the many bilateral meetings carried out to promote the ratification of the Convention in different parts of the world.

34. The representative of Iraq stated that the forthcoming World Congress on Enforced Disappearances would play a crucial role in strengthening intergovernmental dialogue, facilitating the exchange of best practices and encouraging States to ratify the Convention. Iraq was committed to implementing comprehensive search and investigation procedures to clarify the fate and whereabouts of victims of enforced disappearance. As part of the Government's efforts to eradicate enforced disappearance, the Council of Ministers had adopted, in July 2024, a bill on combating the offence. The bill had been submitted to the Council of Representatives for review and adoption and was currently being considered by the parliament. The bill would undergo a further reading before being put to a vote.

35. During its visit to Colombia, the delegation of the Committee held 55 meetings with members of more than 80 institutions, representing all branches of Government.

36. The Committee imparted more than 15 training courses for authorities of States Parties on the reporting and urgent action procedures.

### **C. Interaction with United Nations entities**

37. The Committee continued its well-established interaction and cooperation with United Nations entities and field presences. Ahead of each session, the Committee's secretariat sent messages to OHCHR desk officers and relevant field presences providing information about the consideration of State Party reports, about issues of interest to the Committee and about ways to contribute to the process. During both sessions, relevant OHCHR field presences and other United Nations entities submitted written contributions and briefed the Committee. The Committee, the OHCHR capacity-building programme and OHCHR field presences continued to cooperate to raise awareness about enforced disappearances and the Convention and to promote ratification of the Convention.

### **D. Interaction with victims and other civil society actors**

38. The Committee has continued to maintain its database of stakeholders – comprising more than 1,500 persons – to which it sends its newsletter with information on upcoming events and adopted decisions.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/newsletters>.

39. The Committee heard testimonies of victims of enforced disappearance at its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions, under the agenda item for paying tribute to victims of enforced disappearance. In September 2024, the Committee heard the testimony of Shui-Meng Ng, who has been a victim of enforced disappearance since the disappearance of her husband, Sombath Somphone, in the Lao People's Democratic Republic in December 2012. Ms. Ng shared the challenges, despairs and hopes that she had to face on a daily basis throughout her fight to search for her husband. In March 2025, the Committee heard the testimony of Obeida Dabbagh, who had initiated his quest for justice and healing more than 10 years ago, when his brother and nephew were disappeared from their home in the Syrian Arab Republic. Following the actions he undertook with his wife and lawyers, a landmark ruling had been adopted by a Paris court in May 2024, sentencing three high-ranking Syrian officials, who had been tried in absentia, to life imprisonment for complicity in imprisonment, torture, enforced disappearance and murder constituting crimes against humanity; the trial was the first in France relating to crimes committed by the regime of Bashar al-Assad.

40. On 30 September 2024, the Committee held its annual public meeting with civil society representatives, which was attended by representatives of 29 organizations. The following topics were discussed: information from the Committee on ongoing projects; the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, in particular regarding how civil society, national human rights institutions and intergovernmental organizations could take part; and the procedure for examining additional information submitted by States Parties under article 29 (4) of the Convention, in particular how and when civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations and national human rights institutions could contribute. The meeting was held in person, but a chatbox was set up for civil society actors wishing to raise questions online. While this modality allowed some additional participation, it remains insufficient.

41. In that connection, the Committee recalls that it has been a long-standing practice of the Committee to allow remote participation during meetings with civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms and other stakeholders, including United Nations entities. The discontinuation, in January 2024, of these hybrid meetings has had a significant impact on the ability of civil society and others to participate in the work of the Committee, and on the Committee with regard to benefiting from important information from stakeholders. The Committee requests that all multilingual hybrid meetings be maintained as a feature of Committee sessions, and properly resourced, and calls upon States Parties to support its request.

42. During the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, held in January 2025, 310 civil society organizations, including 82 victim-led organizations, participated in person, and more than 750 participated online. A total of 25 made pledges, and some have already started to take action to implement the priority actions that were identified during the Congress.

## **E. Interaction with national human rights institutions**

43. The Committee continued its practice of sending, before each session, an information note to national human rights institutions about the modalities and deadlines for providing input. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and national human rights institutions were among the recipients of the Committee's newsletter. Five national human rights institutions submitted written contributions and delivered oral briefings over the reporting period.

44. Six national human rights institutions participated in the Committee's annual meeting with civil society organizations that was held on 30 September 2024. Bilateral meetings were held with representatives of six national human rights institutions during the reporting period.

45. During the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, seven national human rights institutions participated; two made pledges.

**F. Interaction with other stakeholders**

46. The Committee continued its interaction and coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross. The two entities frequently meet to share information about their activities and projects, to provide inputs and to coordinate. During the twenty-seventh session, the Committee met with the International Committee of the Red Cross to exchange information on their current activities, and to follow up on action points identified in previous meetings.

47. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the Global Alliance for the Missing had participated actively in the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances had participated in events organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, such as the Symposium on New Technologies and the Missing, held in June 2025.



## **Chapter IV**

### **Adoption of lists of issues**

48. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee adopted lists of issues in the absence of a report for Lesotho ([CED/C/LSO/QAR/1](#)) and Seychelles ([CED/C/SYC/QAR/1](#)).

49. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee adopted lists of issues for Croatia ([CED/C/HRV/Q/1](#)), Luxembourg ([CED/C/LUX/Q/1](#)) and Togo ([CED/C/TGO/Q/1](#)).

50. In February 2025, the Committee sent reminders to States Parties whose replies to lists of issues were overdue. Reminders were sent to Belize, Benin, Malawi and Samoa.

## **Chapter V**

### **Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 29 (1) of the Convention**

51. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee considered the reports of Morocco ([CED/C/MAR/1](#)), Norway ([CED/C/NOR/1](#)) and Ukraine ([CED/C/UKR/1](#)), and adopted concluding observations thereon ([CED/C/MAR/CO/1](#), [CED/C/NOR/CO/1](#) and [CED/C/UKR/CO/1](#)). A six-hour dialogue was held with each of the three delegations.

52. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee considered the reports of the Central African Republic ([CED/C/CAF/RQAR/1](#)<sup>5</sup>), the Gambia ([CED/C/GMB/1](#)) and Malta ([CED/C/MLT/1](#)), and adopted concluding observations thereon ([CED/C/CAF/CO/1](#), [CED/C/GMB/CO/1](#) and [CED/C/MLT/CO/1](#)). A six-hour dialogue was held with each of the three delegations.

---

<sup>5</sup> The replies of the Central African Republic to the list of issues in the absence of the report was considered to constitute the State Party's initial report submitted under article 29 (1) of the Convention.

## **Chapter VI**

### **Follow-up to concluding observations**

53. The Committee reviewed the information received from Panama on follow-up to the concluding observations on its report submitted under article 29 (1) of the Convention ([CED/C/PAN/FCO/1](#)). It was the last country to which that procedure applied, as the Committee decided to merge the follow-up procedure with that of the review of additional information, with the aim of encouraging follow-up to the measures taken to implement recommendations while focusing on priority issues.

54. In its report on follow-up to concluding observations (CED/C/28/2), the Committee assessed that the measures currently being taken were partially satisfactory or not satisfactory, and that additional information on the related issues was to be submitted in the next submission from the State Party.

## Chapter VII

### Consideration of additional information submitted by States Parties under article 29 (3) and (4) of the Convention

55. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee held interactive dialogues for its consideration of the additional information submitted by Belgium ([CED/C/BEL/AI/1](#)) and Serbia ([CED/C/SRB/AI/1](#)).

56. During the three-hour dialogue with the delegation of Belgium, the Committee focused on the following themes: related legislation; measures taken by the State to protect children and migrants from enforced disappearance; and prevention of enforced disappearance, and victim support.

57. During the three-hour dialogue with the delegation of Serbia, the Committee focused on the following themes: legislative harmonization and institutional framework; prosecution, investigation and cooperation; and search and identification.

58. The Committee adopted concluding observations on the additional information ([CED/C/BEL/OAI/1](#) and [CED/C/SRB/OAI/1](#)). In its concluding observations for Belgium, the Committee noted the introduction of a pilot digital register of persons deprived of liberty, and the steps taken to promote the establishment of a centralized register. It, however, remained concerned that there was no unified register across federal and local police districts. The Committee urged the State Party to expedite the enactment of the draft royal decree on the register of persons deprived of liberty. In addition, the Committee recommended that Belgium undertake an investigation into alleged illegal intercountry adoptions to determine whether some of those adoptions had originated in enforced disappearance, with a view to punishing those responsible.

59. The Committee recommended that Serbia incorporate enforced disappearance into national law as an autonomous offence, revise penalties and statutes of limitations to ensure that they reflected the gravity of the offence, and expand the definition of “victim” to ensure that it included all individuals who had suffered harm as a direct result of enforced disappearance, and full reparation for all such victims. It expressed concern about the refusal of Serbia to extradite citizens sought by judicial authorities in Kosovo<sup>6</sup> and that files and archives requested by actors working on transitional justice remained classified. The Committee recommended that the State Party exert the utmost efforts to overcome the challenges faced at the bilateral and multilateral levels to ensure that all cases of enforced disappearance were addressed without delay, facilitate public access to archives, and resume talks with Kosovo to implement the Declaration on Missing Persons signed in 2023.

60. During the period under review, the Committee issued two stand-alone requests for additional information: for Argentina and for Peru. The request for Argentina related to the adoption of a decree in August 2024 that formalized the repeal of the decree setting out the role of the special unit for the investigation of the disappearance of children as a consequence of State terrorism. The request for Peru related to the adoption, in June 2024, of Act No. 6951/2023-CR, which provided that no one could be prosecuted, convicted or punished for crimes against humanity or war crimes committed before 1 July 2002. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee carried out a desk review of the written replies of Argentina ([CED/C/ARG/RQSA/AI/1](#)) and held a 90-minute dialogue with Peru.

61. In its concluding observations for Argentina ([CED/C/ARG/SA/OAI/1](#)), the Committee recommended that the State Party ensure that the investigations initiated with the support of the special unit continued without interruption, including through the restoration of the unit; that the related documentary archives were fully protected; and that the pending trials began without delay.

<sup>6</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

62. In its concluding observations for Peru ([CED/C/PER/SA/OAI/1](#)), the Committee recommended that the State Party guarantee that its legislative and institutional frameworks were fully aligned with the Convention, that it ensure that when enforced disappearance constituted a crime against humanity that it was not subject to statutory limitations, and that it ensure that investigations of enforced disappearances continued until the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared person had been clarified, given the continuous nature of the crime.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **Reports submitted by States Parties during the reporting period**

63. During the reporting period, five States Parties submitted reports under article 29 (1) of the Convention, namely: Denmark ([CED/C/DNK/1](#)), Finland ([CED/C/FIN/1](#)), Slovenia ([CED/C/SVN/1](#)), Oman ([CED/C/OMN/1](#)), and Republic of Korea ([CED/C/KOR/1](#)). A full list of the States Parties and the status of their reports is included in the annex to the present report.

64. In February 2025, the Committee sent reminders to States Parties whose reports were overdue, extending the deadlines for submission. A first reminder was sent to Cabo Verde, a second reminder was sent to the Sudan, a third reminder was sent to Oman and a fourth reminders were sent to Dominica and Fiji.

65. During the reporting period, seven States Parties submitted additional information under article 29 (4) of the Convention, namely: Austria ([CED/C/AUT/AI/1](#)), Bosnia and Herzegovina ([CED/C/BIH/AI/1](#)), Cuba ([CED/C/CUB/AI/1](#)), France ([CED/C/FRA/AI/2](#)), Iraq ([CED/C/IRQ/AI/2](#)), Italy ([CED/C/ITA/AI/1](#)) and Paraguay ([CED/C/PRY/AI/1](#)).

66. In February 2025, the Committee sent reminders to States Parties whose reports or additional information were overdue, extending the deadlines for submission. Reminders were sent to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Japan, Senegal, Spain and Tunisia.

## Chapter IX

### Reprisals

67. In March 2024, the Committee's rapporteur on reprisals had received an allegation related to cooperation with the Committee in the context of an urgent action request that had been suspended following the location of the disappeared person in Sri Lanka. In view of the situation and the impossibility of engaging in follow-up to the case in the context of the urgent action procedure, the rapporteur on reprisals had decided to address a letter to the State Party, recalling that the Committee had registered a urgent action request concerning the alleged recent disappearance of the individual. In May 2024, the State Party had confirmed to the Committee that the individual was being detained at a specific prison. Upon confirmation that the fate and whereabouts of the individual had been clarified, the Committee had informed the State Party on 4 June 2024 about its decision to discontinue the referenced urgent action request in accordance with article 30 (4) of the Convention.

68. In July 2024, the Committee received allegations that the individual's mother, family and representatives had been subjected to acts of intimidation, surveillance, smear campaigns, threats and harassment, including by officials, owing to their efforts in searching for the individual and investigating his disappearance. The Committee expresses its concern that the submission by the family and representatives of an urgent action request to the Committee and their contributions to the procedure, along with the other activities they had undertaken to search for the individual and investigate his disappearance, may have contributed to the alleged acts of intimidation and reprisals, including by State officials.

69. Recalling article 12 of the Convention, the guidelines to prevent and address intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups cooperating with the Committee, and the Guidelines against Intimidations and Reprisals (the San José Guidelines), the Committee requested the State Party to adopt protection measures in favour of the alleged victims, ensuring differential approaches that took into account their specific needs. The State Party was expected to reply by September 2024 but still has not done so. A reminder was sent.

70. The Committee remains concerned about allegations of reprisals received from authors of requests for urgent action, usually involving threats and retaliation against the relatives of disappeared persons or their representatives, aimed at dissuading them from participating in or promoting search and investigation processes.

71. In the cases currently open, the Committee has requested the States Parties concerned to take measures to protect the family, relatives or representatives of 305 disappeared persons, who represent about 26 per cent of the currently active cases, in order to allow them to pursue their search activities without being subjected to violence, intimidation or harassment, in conformity with the obligations of States Parties under articles 12 and 24 of the Convention and in the light of principle 14 of the Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons. In seven of those cases, it was alleged that the reprisals were linked to submitting a request for urgent action to the Committee. In all of the cases in which the Committee requested the States Parties to take protection measures, it also requested the States Parties concerned to ensure that such measures were taken in consultation with the persons requiring protection and that they were subject to review at the request of those persons.

72. At its twenty-seventh session, the Director of the Human Rights Council and Mechanisms Division of OHCHR, in his capacity as representative of the Secretary-General, recalled the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on intimidation and reprisals. The Secretary-General has recognized that preventing these acts is a priority and a key responsibility, has asked all entities to be vigilant and committed in that area and has noted that civil society and victims provide crucial information and testimony to the treaty bodies. States must ensure adequate protection against any act of intimidation or reprisal against those who cooperate or have cooperated with the United Nations and its mechanisms.

## Chapter X

### Urgent action procedure under article 30 of the Convention

#### A. Requests for urgent action received and registered

73. At its twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions, the Committee adopted periodic reports on urgent actions ([CED/C/27/2](#) and [CED/C/28/3](#)). In the reports, the Committee analysed the trends observed in the reported cases and in the replies of the States Parties concerned, and highlighted developments in the Committee's jurisprudence and practice for the period 27 February 2024 to 28 February 2025. Over that period, the Committee received 329 new requests for urgent action. Of those requests, the Committee decided to register 224; the others did not comply with the registration criteria. In compliance with the principle of complementarity of the mandates of the Committee and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the requests related to States that were not parties to the Convention and those related to disappearances that took place before the entry into force of the Convention were forwarded to the Working Group for its consideration.

74. Of the requests registered as at 28 February 2025, 57 gave rise to parallel registration where, according to the circumstances of the case, judicial assistance and cooperation mechanisms between various States Parties were deemed necessary: to investigate the alleged disappearance; to strengthen the chances of gathering information relevant to the search for the disappeared person, for example information on the place of the crime, the place where pieces of evidence have been located, the nationality of the alleged perpetrators and of the disappeared person and the country of transit; and to assist the victims, including with regard to accessing information and participating in search and investigation processes.<sup>7</sup>

Table 1

**Urgent action requests registered, as at 28 February 2025, by State Party (place of occurrence of the disappearance) and by year**

State party	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 <sup>a</sup>	Total
Argentina	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	4
Armenia	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Brazil	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 <sup>b</sup>	–	3
Burkina Faso	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	1	–	3
Cambodia	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	4
Chile	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Colombia	–	1	1	3	4	3	9	3	2	153	–	4	56 <sup>c</sup>	2	241
Croatia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Cuba	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	188	–	–	2	–	194
Ecuador	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	18	23
Gabon	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	8
Honduras	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	9	2	–	7	3	–	35
Iraq	–	–	5	42	22	43	50	226	103	41	42	10	27	1	612
Japan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 <sup>d</sup>	–	–	1
Kazakhstan	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Lithuania	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Mali	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	11	–	–	–	–	12
Mauritania	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1

<sup>7</sup> See [CED/C/28/3](#), para. 6.



<i>State party</i>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 <sup>a</sup>	<i>Total</i>
Mexico	5	4	43	166	58	31	42	10	57	60	52	86 <sup>d</sup>	100	14 <sup>b</sup>	728
Morocco	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	2	2 <sup>d</sup>	–	–	–	7
Niger	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1 <sup>d</sup>	–	2
Oman	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 <sup>d</sup>	–	–	–	–	1
Paraguay	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Peru	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	–	–	1	–	15
Slovakia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Sri Lanka	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2
Sudan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	12	2	17
Togo	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	3
Tunisia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Ukraine	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1 931</b>

<sup>a</sup> As at 28 February 2025.

<sup>b</sup> Including one subject to parallel registration on the basis of the principle of international legal assistance and cooperation.

<sup>c</sup> Including 49 subject to parallel registration on the basis of the principle of international legal assistance and cooperation.

<sup>d</sup> Subject to parallel registration on the basis of the principle of international legal assistance and cooperation.

75. Over the reporting period, the Committee registered three so-called “short-term enforced disappearances” related to facts occurred in Cuba. Twelve other allegations of such disappearances could not be formally registered because the information about the release of the alleged victim was confirmed before the Committee could take action. Nonetheless, the Committee has kept a register of such allegations, which relate to Cuba, Benin, the Niger and Thailand.

76. As at 28 February 2025, the Committee had a backlog of 671 urgent actions ready for follow-up, either individually or in groups (compared to 307 as at 9 September 2024), including 413 in Spanish (182 notes), 243 in English (36 notes), 14 in Arabic (13 notes) and 1 in French.

77. As at the same date, 518 disappeared persons on whose behalf an urgent action was opened had been located, including 20 between 27 February 2024 and 28 February 2025. The Committee welcomes the fact that 410 disappeared persons have been located alive since the beginning of the implementation of the procedure. The Committee highlights that a large majority of cases in which the disappeared person was located alive correspond to disappearances that took place in the context of protests in Colombia and Cuba. In those cases, the persons were located after they had been deprived of their liberty and their relatives had been denied any information as to their fate and whereabouts for days or weeks, thereby potentially falling within the category of so-called short-term enforced disappearances.

Table 2

**Requests for urgent action that have been closed, following the confirmation of the location of the disappeared person, by State Party, as at 28 February 2025**

	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Discontinued</i>	<i>Total</i>
Argentina	2	–	2
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1	–	1
Burkina Faso	2	–	2
Cambodia	2	–	2
Colombia	160	–	160

	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Discontinued</i>	<i>Total</i>
Cuba	168	25	193
Gabon	6	2	8
Honduras	1	–	1
Iraq	29	12	41
Kazakhstan	2	–	2
Lithuania	2	–	2
Mauritania	–	1	1
Mexico	79	1	80
Morocco	1	3	4
Peru	14	–	14
Sri Lanka	1	1	2
Sudan	1	–	1
Togo	2	–	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>518</b>

## B. Registration notes sent by the Committee to States Parties

78. In order to facilitate the follow-up of requests for urgent action registered by the Committee and the preparation of replies by the State authorities responsible for the processes of searching, investigating, and supporting victims, the Committee adopted a new structure for the registration of urgent actions. The Committee now transmits its recommendations in a table and invites the State Party to describe the actions taken in the column titled “Response of the State Party”. On the basis of the response received and following the analysis of the information gathered in the context of the respective urgent action, the Committee transmits new recommendations and relevant information to support collaboration with the State Party until the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared persons have been clarified.

## C. Interaction with authors of urgent action requests and with States Parties

79. The Committee reiterates the central role of the authors of requests for urgent action in ensuring the efficiency of the procedure. All the information they share with the Committee is duly analysed with the aim of providing detailed recommendations to the State Party. In various cases, this interaction has allowed the Committee to transmit relevant pieces of information and evidence to State authorities. Even though the follow-up to individual cases usually takes much longer than expected because of the insufficient allocation of human resources to the secretariat of the Committee, authors should never hesitate to bring new elements to the Committee’s attention. If such issues are urgent, for example in cases of threats, reprisals or the possible destruction of pieces of evidence, or regarding the availability of key information concerning situations where immediate action is necessary, the authors of the urgent action request should signal this in the title of their message to facilitate a quick intervention.

80. In compliance with article 30 (3) of the Convention, States Parties have the obligation to inform the Committee, within a specified period of time, of measures taken to locate and protect the person on whose behalf an urgent action has been registered and, under article 26 (9), to cooperate with the Committee and assist its members in the fulfilment of their mandate. As in previous reporting periods, most States Parties replied to the requests for urgent action sent by the Committee during the period under review. Nonetheless, the Committee regrets that many of its recommendations have not been implemented, and that some States seem to repeat the same answers for different follow-up notes. The replies received from States Parties reflected the trends that have been maintained through the years (CED/C/27/2, para. 59 ff). The new format of urgent action requests and follow-up is being

used progressively more. Some of the replies received in the new format have been more focused, facilitating follow-up. However, many replies remain very general and do not respond to all of the Committee's recommendations.

81. The Committee is particularly concerned about the cases in which the State Party has not replied. When such a situation occurs, the Committee sends up to three reminders. In the final reminder, it reminds the State Party that if exceptional circumstances prevent it from replying within the indicated deadline, the State Party should inform the Committee, specifying the reasons for the situation and requesting an exceptional extension. The Committee underlines that if no reply is received by the indicated deadline, the Committee will take note of the lack of compliance by the State Party of its obligations under article 30 of the Convention concerning the respective request for urgent action, and will make this situation public, including by bringing it to the attention of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, inviting States to encourage their peers to implement the Committee's recommendations and fulfil their obligation to provide information on the measures taken in that regard.

Table 3

**Number of urgent actions for which the deadline set in the final reminder sent to the State Party concerned has expired, as at 28 February 2025**

<i>State Party</i>	<i>As at 27 February 2024</i>	<i>As at 9 September 2024</i>	<i>As at 28 February 2025</i>
Cambodia	1	2	2
Iraq	198	171	167
Mexico	18	18	18
Sudan	1	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>191</b>

#### **D. Trends regarding the urgent action requests registered during the reporting period**

82. The Committee considers it of the utmost importance to make public the circumstances of the facts put to its consideration, and to make the name of disappeared persons visible and public. The Committee therefore includes descriptions of the facts and the names of the disappeared persons when it has obtained express approval from the authors of the request, if the number of registered urgent actions related to the State Party is not too large to do so. For other cases, the Committee includes a general description of the facts.<sup>8</sup>

83. The majority of the cases registered over the reporting period relate to recent disappearances of men, women and children of all ages in 31 States Parties to the Convention, in circumstances that affect the physical and mental integrity of the disappeared persons and that of their relatives. The list of registered urgent actions is available at the Committee's web page.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> CED/C/28/3, paras. 38–84.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/urgent-actions>.

## **Chapter XI**

### **Communications procedure under article 31 of the Convention**

84. Over the reporting period, the Committee registered no new individual communications.

85. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee adopted Views on the communication *Ramírez Barrios and Ramírez Barrios v. Mexico* (CED/C/28/D/5/2021). The decision was adopted following the usual exchange of written information between the parties, and an oral hearing during which the complainants and the State Party were able to present their arguments and to respond to questions posed by the Committee. This was the first such hearing organized by the Committee under the individual complaints' procedure. The Committee determined that although the perpetrators were non-State actors, the State Party had been aware of the real and imminent risk in the region and had failed to take reasonable steps to prevent the disappearance, to search for the victim and to investigate the events. It found that the State's failure to act, in passively tolerating the disappearance and not responding with due diligence, constituted acquiescence. Therefore, the Committee found that the disappearance of the authors' son, Alexis Marín Ramírez, amounted to enforced disappearance and found multiple violations of articles 1, 2, 12, and 24 of the Convention, in relation to both Mr. Marín Ramírez and Mr. and Ms. Ramírez Barrios.

## Chapter XII

### Visits under article 33 of the Convention

86. The Committee pursued follow-up activities in respect of the reports on its visits to Iraq and Mexico through private meetings with State authorities and other stakeholders.

87. In March 2024, Colombia agreed to the Committee's request for a visit under article 33. The visit took place from 22 November to 5 December 2024. The Committee adopted its visit report at its twenty-eighth session.<sup>10</sup>

88. In the report, the Committee welcomed the cooperation and facilities provided by the State authorities before and during the mission, emphasizing that the visit marked a new milestone in its constructive dialogue with Colombia. It noted that the phenomenon of enforced disappearance in Colombia had not ended with the 2016 peace accords. On the contrary, they continued to occur daily, both within the context of armed conflicts and beyond, affecting various groups across the country, especially in regions under the control of non-State armed groups and criminal organizations.

89. The Committee analysed the patterns of disappearances brought to its attention, expressing particular concern regarding disappearances linked to forced recruitment, particularly those involving children and adolescents, sometimes reportedly with the acquiescence of authorities. It also voiced its concern about the growing number of disappearances linked to trafficking in persons, affecting in particular children, adolescents and women. The Committee was seized of disappearances that had occurred during military counterinsurgency operations, and of acts carried out to eliminate perceived internal "enemies", such as human rights defenders, journalists, social and community leaders and LGBTIQ+ persons. Overall, the Committee assessed that enforced disappearance was and continued to be used as a method of terror to control territories.

90. Another major area of concern was disappearances in the context of migration. According to information provided to the Committee, such disappearances occurred in three areas in particular: the Darién Gap (bordering Panama), Norte de Santander (bordering the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) and San Andrés (a port of departure).

91. The Committee highlighted the lack of reliable data on the number of disappeared persons in the country. Estimates provided to the delegation during the visit varied greatly, ranging from 121,768 to 210,000, while it was known that many cases remained unreported. The absence of a coordinated, standardized registry was a significant obstacle hampering efforts to establish adapted search and investigation strategies and to provide reparation to the families.

92. While underscoring the extent of the current legal framework, the Committee focused on its limited application in practice.

93. To address those challenges, the Committee urged the State Party to strengthen its search, investigation and prosecution mechanisms. It emphasized that authorities had a duty to act immediately once they were aware that a disappearance had occurred, even in the absence of a formal complaint. It stressed the need to ensure that search and identification processes were adequately resourced and adapted to the different contexts in which searches might be carried out, including in water, cemeteries and mass grave sites.

94. With regard to disappearances in the context of migration, the Committee recommended greater coordination between Colombia and neighbouring countries. It highlighted the importance of linking the registers of disappearances with those of migration authorities, and of ensuring that disappeared migrants were systematically searched for and identified.

95. The Committee called on Colombia to guarantee that all victims of enforced disappearances, including the families of disappeared persons, were recognized as victims and that they could access the full range of their rights to truth, justice and reparation. It

<sup>10</sup> [CED/C/COL/VR/1 \(Findings\)](#) and [CED/C/COL/VR/1 \(Recommendations\)](#).

stressed that the existing protocols, including for support and care services, must be implemented to ensure adequate and differentiated responses to the specific needs of victims.

96. The Committee emphasized the urgency of moving beyond reactive measures. It stated that adopting a comprehensive State policy to prevent disappearances was necessary and could not be postponed. The policy must address and combat the causes of disappearances, especially enforced disappearances, with a view to guaranteeing non-repetition, and must be sustainable.

97. The Committee expressed its commitment to pursuing its constructive cooperation with Colombia to help transform the recommendations into meaningful and lasting progress towards the eradication and prevention of enforced disappearances.

## **Chapter XIII**

### **Procedure under article 34 of the Convention**

98. The Committee reviewed requests for the activation of the procedure of article 34 of the Convention, related to Mexico. In accordance with that article, if the Committee receives information which appears to it to contain well-founded indications that enforced disappearance is being practised on a widespread or systematic basis in the territory under the jurisdiction of a State Party, it may, after seeking from the State Party concerned all relevant information on the situation, urgently bring the matter to the attention of the General Assembly, through the Secretary-General. At its twenty-eighth session, the Committee decided to seek information from the State Party on the situation. It decided to transmit its request for information on 20 June 2025 and to invite the State Party to reply before 18 September 2025.

## **Chapter XIV**

### **General comments**

99. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee decided to initiate a project for a draft general comment on women, girls and enforced disappearances. At its twenty-eighth session, the project's rapporteur presented a concept note to the plenary. The Committee decided to open a call for inputs, open to victims, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, States and academics. The call for inputs<sup>11</sup> was made public at the end of the session and would be open until 15 July 2025. Regional consultations will be organized, with the support of OHCHR and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). A first compilation of the contributions received will be presented to the plenary during the twenty-ninth session of the Committee.

---

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2025/call-inputs-women-girls-and-enforced-disappearances-concept-note-ced-general>.



## **Chapter XV**

### **Other projects and activities undertaken by members of the Committee intersessionally**

100. Committee members participated in a wide range of intersessional activities to promote the Convention and the Committee's work. A list of the activities will be available on the Committee's web page.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/activities>.

## Annex

### States Parties to the Convention as at 6 June 2025 and their reporting status

<i>State Party (in order of ratification)</i>	<i>Ratification/accession</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>	<i>Deadline for reporting under art. 29 (1)</i>	<i>Report submitted</i>
Albania*	8 Nov. 2007	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	11 Nov. 2015
Argentina*	14 Dec. 2007	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	21 Dec. 2012
Mexico*	18 Mar. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	11 Mar. 2014
Honduras	1 Apr. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	4 Feb. 2016
France*	23 Sept. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	21 Dec. 2012
Senegal	11 Dec. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	28 Apr. 2015
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	17 Dec. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	28 Sept. 2018
Cuba	2 Feb. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	24 Apr. 2015
Kazakhstan	27 Feb. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	3 June 2014
Uruguay*	4 Mar. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	4 Sept. 2012
Mali*	1 July 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	5 Nov. 2020
Japan*	23 July 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	22 July 2016
Nigeria	27 July 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	26 Mar. 2021
Spain*	24 Sept. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	26 Dec. 2012
Germany*	24 Sept. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	25 Mar. 2013
Ecuador*	20 Oct. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	5 June 2015
Burkina Faso	3 Dec. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	7 Oct. 2014
Chile*	8 Dec. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	1 Dec. 2017
Paraguay	3 Aug. 2010	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	28 Aug. 2013
Iraq	23 Nov. 2010	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	26 June 2014
Brazil	29 Nov. 2010	29 Dec. 2010	29 Dec. 2012	30 June 2019
Gabon	19 Jan. 2011	18 Feb. 2011	18 Feb. 2013	10 June 2015
Armenia	24 Jan. 2011	23 Feb. 2011	23 Feb. 2013	14 Oct. 2013
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)*	23 Mar. 2011	22 Apr. 2011	22 Apr. 2013	11 June 2013
Zambia	4 Apr. 2011	4 May 2011	4 May 2013	-
Serbia*	18 May 2011	17 June 2011	17 June 2013	30 Dec. 2013
Belgium*	2 June 2011	2 July 2011	2 July 2013	8 July 2013
Panama	24 June 2011	24 July 2011	24 July 2013	30 June 2019
Tunisia	29 June 2011	29 July 2011	29 July 2013	25 Sept. 2014
Montenegro*	20 Sept. 2011	20 Oct. 2011	20 Oct. 2013	30 Jan. 2014

<i>State Party (in order of ratification)</i>	<i>Ratification/accession</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>	<i>Deadline for reporting under art. 29 (1)</i>	<i>Report submitted</i>
Costa Rica	16 Feb. 2012	17 Mar. 2012	17 Mar. 2014	7 May 2020
Bosnia and Herzegovina*	30 Mar. 2012	29 Apr. 2012	29 Apr. 2014	26 Jan. 2015
Austria*	7 June 2012	7 July 2012	7 July 2014	31 May 2016
Colombia*	11 July 2012	10 Aug. 2012	10 Aug. 2014	17 Dec. 2014
Peru*	26 Sept. 2012	26 Oct. 2012	26 Oct. 2014	8 Aug. 2016
Mauritania	3 Oct. 2012	2 Nov. 2012	2 Nov. 2014	29 Dec. 2020
Samoa	27 Nov. 2012	27 Dec. 2012	27 Dec. 2014	14 Mar. 2023
Morocco	14 May 2013	13 June 2013	13 June 2015	10 Sept. 2021
Cambodia	27 June 2013	27 July 2013	27 July 2015	15 July 2021
Lithuania*	14 Aug. 2013	13 Sept. 2013	13 Sept. 2015	6 Oct. 2015
Lesotho	6 Dec. 2013	5 Jan. 2014	5 Jan. 2016	-
Portugal*	27 Jan. 2014	26 Feb. 2014	26 Feb. 2016	22 June 2016
Togo	21 July 2014	20 Aug. 2014	20 Aug. 2016	6 June 2024
Slovakia*	15 Dec. 2014	14 Jan. 2015	14 Jan. 2017	26 Apr. 2018
Mongolia	12 Feb. 2015	14 Mar. 2015	14 Mar. 2017	27 Dec. 2018
Malta	27 Mar. 2015	26 Apr. 2015	26 Apr. 2017	21 Mar. 2022
Greece	9 July 2015	8 Aug. 2015	8 Aug. 2017	1 Feb. 2019
Niger	24 July 2015	23 Aug. 2015	23 Aug. 2017	1 Aug. 2019
Belize	14 Aug. 2015	13 Sept. 2015	13 Sept. 2017	-
Ukraine*	14 Aug. 2015	13 Sept. 2015	13 Sept. 2017	3 Aug. 2021
Italy	8 Oct. 2015	7 Nov. 2015	7 Nov. 2017	22 Dec. 2017
Sri Lanka	25 May 2016	24 June 2016	24 June 2018	23 Aug. 2023
Central African Republic	11 Oct. 2016	10 Nov. 2016	10 Nov. 2018	-
Switzerland*	2 Dec. 2016	1 Jan. 2017	1 Jan. 2019	21 Dec. 2018
Seychelles	18 Jan. 2017	17 Feb. 2017	17 Feb. 2019	-
Czechia*	8 Feb. 2017	10 Mar. 2017	10 Mar. 2019	22 May 2019
Malawi*	14 July 2017	13 Aug. 2017	13 Aug. 2019	1 Nov. 2023
Benin	2 Nov. 2017	2 Dec. 2017	2 Dec. 2019	15 Sept. 2021
Gambia	28 Sept. 2018	28 Oct. 2018	28 Oct. 2020	15 Mar. 2021
Dominica	13 May 2019	12 June 2019	12 June 2021	-
Fiji	19 Aug. 2019	18 Sept. 2019	18 Sept. 2021	-
Norway	22 Aug. 2019	21 Aug. 2019	21 Aug. 2021	18 Nov. 2021
Oman	12 June 2020	12 July 2020	12 July 2022	27 March 2025
Sudan	10 Aug. 2021	9 Sept. 2021	9 Sept. 2023	-

<i>State Party (in order of ratification)</i>	<i>Ratification/accession</i>	<i>Entry into force</i>	<i>Deadline for reporting under art. 29 (1)</i>	<i>Report submitted</i>
Slovenia*	15 Dec. 2021	14 Jan. 2022	14 Jan. 2024	19 Dec. 2024
Denmark	13 Jan. 2022	12 Feb. 2022	12 Feb. 2024	3 May 2025
Croatia*	31 Jan. 2022	2 Mar. 2022	2 Mar. 2024	15 May 2024
Luxembourg*	1 Apr. 2022	1 May 2022	1 May 2024	14 May 2024
Cabo Verde	20 Dec. 2022	19 Jan. 2023	19 Jan. 2025	-
Republic of Korea*	4 Jan. 2023	3 Feb. 2023	3 Feb. 2025	21 May 2025
Finland*	24 Mar. 2023	23 Apr. 2023	23 Apr. 2025	23 April 2025
Maldives	31 July 2023	30 Sept. 2023	30 Sept. 2025	-
South Africa	14 May 2024	14 June 2024	14 June 2026	-
Thailand	14 May 2024	14 June 2024	14 June 2026	-
Côte d'Ivoire	6 June 2024	6 July 2024	6 July 2026	-
Bangladesh	30 Aug. 2024	29 Sept. 2024	29 Sept. 2026	-
Poland*	30 Dec. 2024	29 Jan. 2025	29 Jan. 2027	-

*Note:* States Parties marked with an asterisk have made declarations recognizing the competence of the Committee under articles 31 and/or 32 of the Convention. The full text of declarations and reservations made by States Parties is available at [https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg\\_no=IV-16&chapter=4&clang=\\_en](https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-16&chapter=4&clang=_en).