



**United Nations**

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

**Nineteenth session  
(7 September–25 November 2020)**

**Twentieth session  
(12 April–7 May 2021)**

**General Assembly  
Official Records  
Seventy-sixth Session  
Supplement No. 56**





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## Chapter I

### Organizational and other matters

#### A. States parties to the Convention

1. As at 12 April 2021, the opening date of the twentieth session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, there were 63 States parties and 98 signatory States to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Of the 63 States parties to the Convention, 23 had declared that they recognized the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual and/or inter-State communications. In accordance with its article 39 (1), the Convention entered into force on 23 December 2010.

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. In accordance with precautionary measures taken in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Committee held its nineteenth session online from 7 September to 25 November 2020. It held 21 plenary meetings. The agenda (CED/C/19/1) was adopted by the Committee at its 316th meeting. The nineteenth session was opened by the Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

4. In his opening statement, the Director noted that despite the particularly challenging context, the Committee had maintained its firm commitment to supporting States and victims in combating enforced disappearance. He particularly welcomed the Committee's readiness to hold the first ever online dialogue with a State party for its consideration of the additional information submitted by Iraq. The Director further welcomed the accession of the newest State party to the Convention – Oman – and referred to the importance of promoting further ratification. He provided an update on the General Assembly's 2020 review under its resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies had made a comprehensive submission to the co-facilitators appointed to oversee the review process, including a specific submission to support the work of the Committee under articles 29 (4) and 30 of the Convention. He looked forward to a positive outcome to that process, in particular through the allocation of sufficient human and financial resources.

5. In his opening statement, the Chair of the Committee stressed that it was a priority for the Committee to resume its activities in person, in particular in the context of dialogues with States. In the meantime, victims of enforced disappearance, States, civil society and all other stakeholders could count on its commitment to pursue all of its activities to the extent possible. He explained the Committee's progress regarding its working methods with respect to article 29 (4) of the Convention. He welcomed the readiness of Iraq to participate in the online dialogue under the additional information procedure, and highlighted the importance of the support of field presences in preparing for the dialogue.

6. The Committee held its twentieth session online from 12 April to 7 May 2021. It held 24 plenary meetings. The agenda (CED/C/20/1) was adopted by the Committee at its 337th meeting. The twentieth session was opened by the Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch of OHCHR. He highlighted that over the previous year of working online, the Committee had done commendable work, often at personal cost to the members, to support States, victims, civil society actors and national human rights institutions in their efforts to eradicate and prevent enforced disappearance. The Committee had continued its work under

<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).

the urgent action procedure, having registered 44 new requests since the nineteenth session, reaching a total of 1,013 requests since 2012. He commended the Committee for its decision to hold its dialogues with States parties remotely in-person meetings remained impossible owing to the pandemic. He described the Committee's efforts to promote universal ratification of the Convention, including a social media campaign in December 2020. He noted with regret that the General Assembly had not approved the requested staff resources to support the increased workload of the treaty bodies, and reaffirmed that OHCHR would continue to do its utmost to ensure adequate support for the Committee.

7. In his opening statement, the Chair of the Committee noted that the current session was the third to be held online, and he reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Committee. He expressed regret that no new States had ratified the Convention since the nineteenth session, and stressed that the Committee and its secretariat remained at the disposal of States wishing to receive information or technical guidance with a view to ratifying the Convention and recognizing the Committee's competence to receive and consider individual and inter-State communications. It was vital for all actors to take action immediately in that respect. He welcomed the steps taken by the Government of the Sudan on 23 February 2021 to approve the ratification of the Convention, noting that the Committee looked forward to the formalization of that important decision with the Secretary-General. He reiterated his call to all States that had not yet done so to formally demonstrate their commitment to the eradication of enforced disappearance by ratifying the Convention.

### C. Membership and attendance

8. One member of the Committee was excused for health reasons during the nineteenth session. All the members attended the twentieth session. A list of the current members, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is available at [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/Membership.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/Membership.aspx).

9. On 16 October 2020, Cheikh Ahmed Tidiane Coulibaly resigned following his appointment as First President of the Supreme Court of Senegal. In accordance with article 26 (5) of the Convention, Matar Diop was appointed as member of the Committee to serve out Mr. Tidiane Coulibaly's term, from 11 December 2020 to 20 June 2023. Mr. Diop made his solemn declaration in writing in order to be able to participate in the Committee's intersessional meetings, and renewed his solemn declaration publicly at the opening of the twentieth session. He also attended an online induction course for new members, held on 2, 3 and 11 February 2021.

### D. Decisions of the Committee

10. At its nineteenth session, the Committee adopted the following documents:

- (a) Lists of issues in relation to the reports submitted by Czechia, Greece and the Niger under article 29 (1) of the Convention, and a list of issues in the absence of the report of Mali;
- (b) Concluding observations on the additional information submitted by Iraq under article 29 (4) of the Convention ([CED/C/IRQ/OAI/1](#));
- (c) A report on requests for urgent action ([CED/C/19/2](#));
- (d) A report on follow-up to concluding observations, containing assessments of the follow-up information submitted by eight States parties ([CED/C/19/4](#));
- (e) Views in *E.L.A. v. France* ([CED/C/19/D/3/2019](#));
- (f) A follow-up progress report on individual communications ([CED/C/19/3](#)), in which it decided to continue the follow-up procedure regarding *Yrusta and Del Valle Yrusta v. Argentina* ([CED/C/10/D/1/2013](#));
- (g) Key guidelines on enforced disappearance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, jointly with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances;

11. Also at its nineteenth session, the Committee decided:

(a) To request the Rapporteur on reprisals to prepare draft guidelines on the management of reprisal allegations received by the Committee, to be adopted at its twentieth session;

(b) To hold online dialogues at its twentieth session for its consideration of the reports submitted by Mongolia and Switzerland under article 29 (1) of the Convention and the additional information submitted by Colombia under article 29 (4) of the Convention, which had been scheduled for the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions but had been postponed because of the prevailing circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

(c) To adopt a list of issues in the absence of the report of Zambia at its twentieth session;

(d) To hold a joint meeting at its twentieth session with the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on the issue of enforced disappearance in the context of migration;

(e) To consider, at its twenty-first session, the additional information submitted by France and Spain under article 29 (4) of the Convention through the modality of a desk review combined with a short dialogue with each State party, and to send a list of questions to the States parties concerned to enable updates and clarifications;

(f) To further develop its working methods, particularly in relation to additional information submitted by States parties under article 29 (4) of the Convention.

12. At its twentieth session, the Committee adopted the following documents:

(a) A list of issues in the absence of the report of Zambia;

(b) Concluding observations on the reports submitted by Mongolia and Switzerland under article 29 (1) of the Convention, and concluding observations on the additional information submitted by Colombia under article 29 (4) of the Convention;

(c) A report on requests for urgent action ([CED/C/20/2](#));

(d) Its annual report to the General Assembly for submission at the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly;

(e) Guidelines to prevent and address intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups cooperating with the Committee ([CED/C/8](#));

(f) A new format for the submission of requests for urgent action to the Committee.

13. Also at its twentieth session, the Committee decided:

(a) To consider, at its twenty-first session, the reports submitted by Brazil and Panama under article 29 (1) of the Convention;

(b) To consider, at its twenty-first session, the additional information submitted by France and Spain under article 29 (4) of the Convention;

(c) To adopt, at its twenty-first session, lists of issues in relation to the reports submitted by Costa Rica, Mali and Mauritania;

(d) To adopt, at its twenty-first session, a report on follow-up to concluding observations;

(e) To adopt, at its twenty-first session, a report on requests for urgent action;

(f) To adopt, at its twenty-first session, a follow-up progress report on individual communications;

(g) To pursue, at its twenty-first session, its discussions on its working methods in relation to its consideration of additional information submitted by States parties under article 29 (4) of the Convention, and organize a one-day retreat for the Committee to that end;

(h) To initiate, at its twenty-first session, a review of its rules of procedure, its internal guidelines for the review of States parties in the absence of a report and its methods of work;

(i) To pursue, at its twenty-first session, its work on enforced disappearance in the context of migration and relating to non-State actors;

(j) To pursue, at its twenty-first session, its activities to promote universal ratification of the Convention, including in follow-up to the actions recommended during a webinar held on 3 March 2021.

## **E. Adoption of the annual report**

14. At the end of its twentieth session, the Committee adopted its tenth report to the General Assembly, on its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, in compliance with article 36 (1) of the Convention. Prior to adoption, the rapporteur of the Committee shared the draft report with the Committee members, who then had one week to make comments and suggestions in writing. All input provided was included in the draft report.

## Chapter II

### Methods of work

15. During its nineteenth session, the Committee used English, French and Spanish as working languages, and Arabic during its dialogue with Iraq and its meetings with civil society representatives and the national human rights institution of Iraq. During its twentieth session, the Committee used English, French and Spanish as working languages.

16. During its nineteenth session, the Committee discussed the following issues:

- (a) The requirements of online sessions in terms of methodology, technical resources and possible agenda;
- (b) Methods of work related to article 29 (4) of the Convention;
- (c) Strategy to increase ratification of the Convention;
- (d) Resources allocated to the Committee;
- (e) Strategies to address enforced disappearance in the context of migration;
- (f) The need to enhance the Committee's interaction with regional human rights mechanisms, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the way forward in that respect;
- (g) Other matters.

17. During its twentieth session, the Committee discussed the following issues:

- (a) Activities of the members of the Committee since the nineteenth session;
- (b) Enforced disappearance in the context of migration;
- (c) Non-State actors;
- (d) Updates and next steps with regard to Committee publications and documents, including a publication for the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and an OHCHR manual on the Committee;
- (e) Coordination of the Committee's review of the ICRC draft guiding principles for the dignified management of the dead in humanitarian emergencies and draft guidelines on coordination and information exchange mechanisms for the search for missing migrants;
- (f) Annual report to the General Assembly;
- (g) Strategy to increase ratification of the Convention;
- (h) Nomination of task forces to refine the procedure related to non-reporting States and to review the Committee's rules of procedure;
- (i) Coordination of joint activities with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances;
- (j) Nomination of thematic rapporteurs for all the issues to be included in the provisional agenda of the twenty-first session;
- (k) Visits to Mexico and Iraq under article 33 of the Convention;
- (l) Other matters.

## **Chapter III**

### **Relations with stakeholders**

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

18. The Committee pursued its cooperation with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, holding two meetings to enhance the coordination of their work. At the Committee's nineteenth session, two joint webinars to mark the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Working Group. On 3 March 2021, they held a joint webinar with the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances to share experiences of action taken to promote the ratification of the Convention and to discuss the way forward in that respect. The Committee and the Working Group adopted joint key guidelines on enforced disappearance in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2</sup> The Committee also held meetings with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, with a view to enhancing cooperation in their work.

#### **B. Interaction with Member States**

19. In accordance with the precautionary measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in view of the tight restrictions imposed on treaty bodies in terms of meeting time with simultaneous interpretation, the Committee has been unable to hold public meetings with Member States over the period under review. The Committee has scheduled such a meeting at its twenty-first session, to be confirmed depending on the evolution of the pandemic and the availability of sufficient meeting time.

20. The Committee did interact directly with some Member States, however, on the occasion of the webinars organized jointly with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and held during its nineteenth session. In the course of the webinars, Argentina, France, Japan and Morocco made statements. Such interaction also took place during the joint webinar held on 3 March 2021, at which panel speakers included high-level State representatives from Argentina, France, Mexico, Norway and the Sudan. The webinar was also attended online by representatives of 26 Member States as participants. Representatives who took the floor all underlined that enforced disappearance remained a worldwide scourge that could amount to a crime against humanity, and that all States had the responsibility to eradicate and prevent it, including through ratification of the Convention. They also insisted on the key role of the action taken to that end by civil society, national human rights institutions and human rights mechanisms. Argentina and France reiterated their commitment to support the ratification of the Convention, including through a third ratification campaign. Norway described its experience of the process of signing and ratifying the Convention, and shared substantive concerns and political challenges in that context. Mexico described the process of ratifying the Convention and of submitting a declaration, on 2 October 2020, in which it recognized the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual communications. The Sudan reported that on 23 February 2021, the Government had approved the ratification of the Convention.

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

21. During its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the Committee held private meetings with the Chief of the OHCHR Human Rights Treaties Branch to discuss the progress of the 2020 review of treaty bodies, past and future meetings of the Chairs of the treaty bodies, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the work of treaty bodies.

22. During its nineteenth session, the Committee cooperated and interacted closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations Investigative Team

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<sup>2</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Disappearances/Guidelines-COVID19-EnforcedDisappearance.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Disappearances/Guidelines-COVID19-EnforcedDisappearance.pdf).

to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant during its consideration of the additional information submitted by Iraq under article 29 (4) of the Convention. During the twentieth session, the Committee interacted directly with the OHCHR Office in Colombia in preparation for its consideration of the additional information submitted by Colombia under article 29 (4) of the Convention.

#### **D. Interaction with victims, non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors**

23. Over the period under review, the Committee has further expanded its database of civil society actors to which it periodically sends information on upcoming events and adopted decisions. At its nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the Committee invited victims of enforced disappearance from the Gambia and Mexico to share their testimony, under the agenda item on paying tribute to victims of enforced disappearance.

24. The Committee received written contributions for both sessions from a wide range of civil society actors. The Committee held private meetings online with the participation of representatives of more than 13 organizations from Iraq, 53 civil society actors from Colombia and 1 non-governmental organization from Switzerland.

25. On 3 March 2021, at the Committee's joint webinar with the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, 7 civil society actors made statements and more than 250 civil society representatives from all regions participated.

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

26. Before the nineteenth and twentieth sessions, the Committee informed the national human rights institutions of the States parties concerned that it would be considering the States parties' reports or adopting lists of issues in relation to or in the absence of their reports. During the nineteenth session, the national human rights institution of Iraq contributed through written input and an oral statement to the Committee. Written contributions were received from the national institutions of Czechia and Greece. During the twentieth session, the national human rights institution of Colombia participated in the dialogue as part of the State party's delegation.

27. At the joint webinar on 3 March 2021, 10 national human rights institutions participated, including one of the Human Rights Ombudspersons of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a speaker.

#### **F. Interaction with other stakeholders**

28. On 21 September 2020, the Committee held an online meeting with representatives of the ICRC missing persons project to exchange information about planned activities and discuss modalities for their interaction.

## **Chapter IV**

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

29. In accordance with precautionary measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in view of the limitations imposed on the Committee in terms of access to the online platform for interpretation, the interactive dialogues scheduled for the nineteenth session for the consideration of the reports of Mongolia ([CED/C/MNG/1](#)) and Switzerland ([CED/C/CHE/1](#)) were postponed to the twentieth session.

30. At its twentieth session, the Committee considered the reports of Mongolia and Switzerland, and adopted concluding observations on those reports ([CED/C/MNG/CO/1](#) and [CED/C/CHE/CO/1](#)). The six-hour dialogues were held online in three slots of two hours, with the active participation of delegates by videoconference.

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## Chapter V

### Adoption of the report on follow-up to concluding observations

31. At its nineteenth session, the Committee adopted its report on follow-up to concluding observations, which reflected the information received by the Committee between its fifteenth and nineteenth sessions concerning the status of implementation of its concluding observations on Albania ([CED/C/ALB/FCO/1](#)), Austria ([CED/C/AUT/FCO/1](#)), Chile ([CED/C/CHL/FCO/1](#)), Gabon ([CED/C/GAB/CO/1/Add.1](#)), Honduras ([CED/C/HND/CO/1/Add.1](#)), Italy ([CED/C/ITA/FCO/1](#)), Japan ([CED/C/JPN/FCO/1](#)), Lithuania ([CED/C/LTU/CO/1/Add.1](#)) and Portugal ([CED/C/PRT/FCO/1](#)) and the assessments and decisions that it adopted at its nineteenth session. The Rapporteurs for follow-up to concluding observations sent letters to each of the States parties concerned, sharing the Committee's recommendations. No information had been received in follow-up to the Committee's concluding observations on Peru ([CED/C/PER/CO/1](#)). The Committee sent reminders to the State party.

## **Chapter VI**

### **Consideration of additional information submitted by States parties under article 29 (4) of the Convention**

32. During the period covered by the present report, the Committee received additional information from Belgium ([CED/C/BEL/AI/1](#)), Germany ([CED/C/DEU/AI/1](#)) and the Netherlands ([CED/C/NLD/AI/1](#)).

33. At its nineteenth session, the Committee held an online interactive dialogue for its consideration of the additional information submitted by Iraq ([CED/C/IRQ/AI/1](#)). It was the first online dialogue ever held by a treaty body.

34. At its twentieth session, the Committee held an online interactive dialogue for its consideration of the additional information submitted by Colombia ([CED/C/COL/AI/1](#)).

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## Chapter VII

### Adoption of lists of issues

35. At its nineteenth session, the Committee adopted the lists of issues on Czechia ([CED/C/CZE/Q/1](#)), Greece ([CED/C/GRC/Q/1](#)) and the Niger ([CED/C/NER/Q/1](#)) and the list of issues in absence of the report of Mali ([CED/C/MLI/QAR/1](#)). Upon receipt of the list of issues in absence of its report, Mali submitted its initial report ([CED/C/MLI/1](#)), which had been overdue since 2012. Pursuant to the Committee's working methods (para. 28), the normal process of consideration of State's report had thus begun. The Committee will adopt a list of issues at its twenty-first session in relation to the report submitted by Mali.

36. At its twentieth session, the Committee adopted the list of issues in the absence of the report of Zambia ([CED/C/ZMB/QAR/1](#)).

## Chapter VIII

### Reporting under the Convention

37. A full list of the States parties and the status of their reports is included in the annex to the present report. Over the reporting period, reports were submitted under article 29 (1) of the Convention by Costa Rica ([CED/C/CRI/1](#)), the Gambia ([CED/C/GMB/1](#)), Mali ([CED/C/MLI/1](#)), Mauritania ([CED/C/MRT/1](#)) and Nigeria ([CED/C/NGA/1](#)).

38. At its twentieth session, the Committee noted that the reports of Belize, Benin, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Malta, Morocco, Samoa, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Togo, Ukraine and Zambia under article 29 (1) of the Convention had still not been submitted. It also noted that the additional information that the Committee had requested from Armenia, Gabon, Paraguay and Serbia under article 29 (4) of the Convention was overdue.

39. In February 2021, a second reminder was sent to Benin, Malawi and Seychelles; a third reminder was sent to the Central African Republic and Sri Lanka; a fourth reminder was sent to Belize, Malta and Ukraine; a fifth reminder was sent to Lesotho and Togo; a sixth reminder was sent to Cambodia and Morocco; and a seventh reminder was sent to Samoa. At the end of the twentieth session, the Chair requested that new reminders be sent to all States parties concerned.

## **Chapter IX**

### **Reprisals**

40. Over the reporting period, the Committee received two allegations of harassment, surveillance and criminalization by State actors of staff members of an organization and a victim's relative in Mexico, following the submission to the Committee of requests for urgent action. In these cases, the Committee requested the State party to take protection measures, and has followed up on the situation of the alleged victims.

41. At its nineteenth session, the Committee requested its Rapporteur on reprisals to prepare draft guidelines on the management of allegations of reprisals submitted to it, to clarify the procedure's scope, the steps involved and the division of responsibilities between the various actors in the treatment of such allegations. At its twentieth session, the Committee adopted its guidelines to prevent and address intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups cooperating with the Committee ([CED/C/8](#)).

## Chapter X

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

#### A. Requests for urgent action received and registered since the establishment of the Committee

42. As at 12 April 2021, the date of the opening of the twentieth session, the Committee had registered a total of 1,013 requests for urgent action since 2012.

43. The table below shows the requests for urgent action that were registered by the Committee from 2012 to 1 April 2021, by year and State party.

#### Urgent action requests registered to 1 April 2021, by year and by State party

Year	Argentina	Armenia	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Brazil	Burkina Faso	Cambodia	Colombia	Cuba	Honduras	Iraq	Kazakhstan	Lithuania	Mali	Mauritania	Mexico	Morocco	Niger	Paraguay	Peru	Sri Lanka	Slovakia	Togo	Tunisia	Total	
2012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
2013	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
2014	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
2015	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	166	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	211
2016	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	58	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85
2017	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	43	2	-	-	1	31	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	86
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1	14	50	-	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	118
2019	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	3	-	226	-	2	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	248
2020	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	9	103	-	-	1	-	57	-	1	-	14	-	1	1	-	-	192
2021 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 013</b>	

<sup>a</sup> To 1 April 2021

#### B. Process after registration of urgent action requests: developments observed since the eighteenth session (to 1 April 2021)

44. The Committee maintains constant contact with States parties through their permanent missions and with the authors of requests for urgent action through notes, letters, meetings and telephone calls. The Committee also relies heavily on the cooperation of OHCHR and United Nations field presences that often relay information between the authors of requests for urgent action (mainly relatives of disappeared persons) and the Committee.

45. The information provided in the context of the urgent action procedure confirms a number of the trends identified in the reports adopted by the Committee at its eleventh to nineteenth sessions ([CED/C/11/3](#), [CED/C/12/2](#), [CED/C/13/3](#), [CED/C/14/2](#), [CED/C/15/3](#), [CED/C/16/3](#), [CED/C/17/2](#) and [CED/C/19/2](#)). Since the eighteenth session, most of the cases with regard to which the Committee has registered requests for urgent action relate to events in Iraq and Mexico. For the period covered by the present report, the Committee wishes to highlight the following trends relating to the States parties concerned.

## 1. General trends

46. During the period under review, the Committee identified the following general issues with respect to the information received in the context of the urgent action procedure:

### (a) No reply from the States parties concerned or the authors of the requests for urgent action

47. Regarding the majority of the requests for urgent action registered to date, the Committee sent reminders to the States parties concerned or the authors for a reply to the Committee's recommendations and requests. According to current practice, up to four reminders are sent to authors and States parties when they fail to respond to the Committee's request for information. States parties usually reply after one, two or three reminders, as has been the case for Cambodia, Colombia, Mexico and Tunisia. When the State party fails to reply after the third reminder, as has been the case for half of the requests for urgent action transmitted to Iraq, a final reminder is sent, noting the lack of compliance by the State party with its obligations under article 30 of the Convention and indicating that the situation may be brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

### (b) Lack of a search and investigation strategy suited to each case

48. In more than 95 per cent of the requests for urgent action registered, the Committee raised its concerns with regard to the failure by the State party authorities to define and implement a strategy for the search for the disappeared persons and the investigation of their disappearance. Despite the efforts observed in some cases, it seems that searches and investigations are usually conducted in an improvised manner that mainly depends on the availability of information and means, rather than on a comprehensive strategy. In its follow-up notes, the Committee therefore reminded the States parties concerned of their obligations under articles 12 and 24 of the Convention. In such cases, it requested the State party to ensure the design and implementation of a strategy for all stages of the search and investigation process in compliance with the principles of due diligence – including the immediacy and exhaustiveness of the ex officio investigation and the competence and independence of the professionals in charge – and with principle 8 of the guiding principles for the search for disappeared persons (CED/C/7, annex). In this way, the strategy adopted must determine the activities and due diligence to be carried out in an integrated manner, and its implementation must entail the means and procedures necessary to locate the disappeared persons and to investigate their disappearance. The Committee also requested the States parties concerned to assess the established strategy periodically. Such recommendations were sent to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and Mexico.

### (c) Lack of coordination between search and investigation

49. A trend involving lack of coordination between search and investigation has been observed in the majority of requests for urgent action registered. Such a lack of coordination is usually due to the failure of the competent State authorities to share the information and evidence that they have obtained in fulfilling their respective mandates, or their failure to do so in a systematic manner. In such cases, the Committee has observed various consequences: in some cases, the authorities in charge of the search and those in charge of the investigation duplicate activities, and in others, the authorities do not have access to information that could be highly relevant in their respective functions. In all circumstances, however, the fragmentation and lack of coordination lead to considerable delays in the procedures.

50. Another form of lack of coordination has been observed in the case of Colombia, where the Commission on the Search for Disappeared Persons has been in charge of coordinating the replies provided by the State party to the requests for urgent action registered. In a number of its replies, the Commission made reference to its mandate to implement the national search plan and to guide the victims of disappearance. The Commission also indicated, however, its inability to reply to the concerns and recommendations of the Committee insofar as "they did not fall within its mandate". The Committee noted the information provided, but also noted with regret that, despite its role in coordinating the implementation of the national search plan, the Commission had not taken into account the relevant information in order to reply to the Committee's concerns and

recommendations relating to issues of relevance to the State party authorities concerned. In this case, and in cases relating to other States parties, such as Brazil and Mexico, the Committee requested the State party to ensure that relevant information relating to searches and investigations was made available to all the authorities involved in the process.

**(d) Challenges observed in cases of disappearance in the context of migration**

51. Currently, 13 of the urgent actions that remain open relate to cases of disappearance in the context of migration between Honduras and the United States of America. The Committee recommended the States parties concerned to adopt search and investigation strategies suited to the specific circumstances of each case, in accordance with principle 9 (2) of the guiding principles for the search for disappeared persons. Under that principle, States that send and receive migrants and refugees should adopt specific search mechanisms that take account of the difficulties associated with migration situations, and should offer guarantees and safe conditions to persons who can give testimony about enforced disappearances linked to migration. The Committee also recalled the obligation of States parties to afford one another the greatest measure of mutual assistance and cooperation, in compliance with article 15 of the Convention, through the development of cooperation agreements and the establishment of competent authorities to enable effective coordination in the search for disappeared persons at each stage of migration. Search authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination should cooperate to ensure the rapid and secure exchange of information and documentation that could help to locate disappeared persons in the country of transit or destination. States parties should ensure that the registration of migrants at border controls includes the individual examination of all applications for entry so as to allow for an effective search in the event of a person's disappearance. The Committee further included recommendations on ensuring that the relatives and representatives of disappeared migrants had the necessary support to gain access to information relevant to their case, and that they could participate in search processes.

**(e) Arbitrary and/or incommunicado detention as the standard context of enforced disappearance**

52. In 12 of the requests for urgent action registered during the reporting period, the disappeared person was located after his or her release from a place of detention not officially recognized (eight cases in Iraq and one in Mexico), or after the authorities of the State party revealed the current location of the disappeared person in a place of detention (three cases in Cuba). The Committee, acting in accordance with article 30 (4) of the Convention, closed these urgent actions and requested the State party to take all measures necessary to investigate the disappearance from the date of arrest to the date of release. In cases where the person remained in detention, the Committee discontinued the urgent action and requested the State party to allow the person on whose behalf the urgent action had been lodged to receive periodic visits and to have contact with the outside world, in compliance with article 17 (2) of the Convention. In that context, the Committee informed the authors of the request for urgent action about the possibility of reporting the case to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

53. The Committee followed the same reasoning and procedure with regard to four requests for urgent action registered in relation to the disappearance of Turkish nationals who had been extradited from Cambodia, Iraq and Kazakhstan, respectively, to Turkey, at the request of the Government of Turkey. In these cases, the authors alleged that the Government of Turkey had succeeded in the forcible return of persons accused of political opposition, who had then been subjected to enforced disappearance and detained incommunicado for days or weeks. Following the identification of the place of detention by the State party concerned, and the confirmation of that information by the authors of the request for urgent action, the Committee closed the relevant urgent actions. In that context, it informed the authors of the request about the possibility of reporting the case to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. In the case relating to Cambodia, the Committee sent the State party a note verbale requesting it to take all measures necessary to search for, locate and protect the disappeared person, a national from Turkey and Mexico. It requested the State party to ensure cooperation and to afford the greatest measure of mutual assistance with Mexico, in compliance with article 15 of the Convention. To facilitate such cooperation, the note verbale

was also shared for information with the authorities of Mexico. The Rapporteurs on urgent action note with satisfaction that Mexico provided a reply to the note verbale, demonstrating its intention to cooperate with the search.

**(f) De facto or de jure archiving of investigations or closure of searches due to lack of a result**

54. The Committee expresses its concern at decisions of competent authorities to abandon searches or investigations in various cases. Cases are usually subject to de facto archiving several years following the disappearance of a person, when the authorities in charge of the search and investigation no longer take any action. In such circumstances, the relatives of the disappeared person become the sole parties responsible for any progress in the case. If they do not take any action, owing to lack of knowledge as to how to proceed or for fear of reprisals, the authorities sometimes accuse them of not having done “what was necessary”. In such cases, the replies sent by the State party tend to repeat the same information, without replying to the concerns expressed and recommendations made by the Committee.

55. Cases are subject to de jure archiving when a formal decision to archive the case is taken by the competent authorities: for example, in one request for urgent action registered with regard to cases in Colombia, the prosecutor decided to archive the case “owing to lack of cause or factual circumstances indicating the commission of a crime, or its possible existence as such”. After being informed about the decision of the prosecutor, the Committee recalled that, in accordance with article 24 (6) of the Convention, the State party has the obligation to pursue an investigation until the fate of the disappeared person has been clarified. The Committee also recalled principle 7 of the guiding principles for the search for disappeared persons, according to which the search for a disappeared person should continue until his or her fate and/or whereabouts have been determined with certainty. The Committee therefore requested the State party to reopen immediately the file corresponding to the case of the disappeared person, to ensure that all activities to search for the disappeared person were conducted in compliance with the recommendations made by the Committee, and to inform the Committee about the action taken to that end.

**(g) Use of forensic evidence and the role of DNA**

56. In the requests for urgent action registered by the Committee, the use of forensic sciences in search and investigation strategies featured in around 65 per cent of cases. In most of them, the role of forensic sciences was at the core of the process. Victims tend to see forensic sciences as the main source of reliable information. Such a view can lead to challenges, depending on the context of the specific urgent action. One key element is the reliability of the authorities in charge of the forensic evidence: if the authorities have the required resources and training, and fulfil their functions in a comprehensive and technical manner and with due diligence, forensic evidence can be considered reliable. In such cases, confidence is established between the authorities and the victims, who are informed about the various actions taken, and about the potential and limits of forensic evidence. Victims are also informed about the measures that they can take should they wish to obtain a second opinion. When, on the contrary, the authorities in charge of forensic evidence do not have the required resources and training and do not fulfil their functions with due diligence, and accountability mechanisms are not available, the reliability of any forensic evidence is frequently questioned and the evidence may be manipulated in searches and investigations. Clear examples can be found in the requests for urgent action relating to cases in Argentina, Cambodia and Mexico, where the authors of the requests alleged that the results of the forensic evidence had been manipulated. The legitimacy of the whole process is brought into question, and victims then face difficulties in obtaining a second opinion, whether in terms of identifying specialists and having them admitted by the competent national authorities or in terms of paying the cost of such intervention.

57. In such circumstances, the difficulty of gaining access to forensic evidence is frequently presented by the authorities as an excuse for not taking any further action. They refer to the cost of obtaining the evidence, the lack of adequate laboratories or trained human resources at the national level, and the resulting need to send the evidence abroad as the main reasons for their incapacity to take further action.

58. In its recommendations in such cases, the Committee has recalled that (a) the development of scientific evidence is an integral part of the strategy for the search for disappeared persons and for the investigation of their disappearance; (b) such evidence is not limited to DNA, and must be handled with due diligence and by competent authorities equipped with the necessary human and material resources; (c) reliable mechanisms of accountability must be established; and (d) where there are questions as to the accuracy of the DNA tests performed, an alternative DNA test should be conducted with the assistance of an independent international non-governmental organization specialized in DNA analysis, in order to ensure that the located remains are properly explored and analysed, in compliance with the relevant international standards. The Committee has also granted interim measures to protect pieces of evidence until the resources necessary have been made available for their analysis.

**(h) Main challenges with regard to the implementation of interim measures requested by the Committee**

59. During the period under review, the Committee was informed that relatives of disappeared persons had been the targets of threats and intimidation after pressing for the investigation of their enforced disappearance. Such threats had the same characteristics as in previous review periods, taking various forms, such as death threats, patrols around people's homes and procedural decisions that affected the protection granted to the persons concerned. In such cases, the Committee requested the State party concerned to take the interim measures necessary to protect the life and safety of the persons affected and to allow them to search for the disappeared persons without being subjected to violence or harassment. The Committee also emphasized the importance of revising protection plans periodically in consultation with their beneficiaries, in order to ensure the suitability of the measures taken and the full confidence of the beneficiaries. Unfortunately, in a number of the requests for urgent action, the authors reported that when the beneficiaries of interim measures had presented the Committee's decision to the competent authorities, they had been informed that such measures had no binding character, or that no action would be taken to implement them. In such circumstances, the Committee reminded the State party concerned that the interim measures prescribed by the Committee were legally binding and imposed an international legal obligation on the State party to comply. The Committee also recalled its own role as the expert body established under the Convention to monitor States parties' implementation of their obligations, and reminded the State party that any failure to implement the interim measures would be incompatible with its obligation to respect in good faith the Committee's urgent action procedure. To date, such notes have been sent to Colombia and Mexico.

**2. Developments relating to Iraq and Mexico**

**(a) Iraq**

60. The Committee remains deeply concerned by the failure of the State party, despite repeated reminders, to reply to the majority of the registered requests for urgent action concerning cases of disappearance reported in its territory. During the period under review, the Committee sent four reminders to the State party, in relation to 272 registered requests for urgent action, despite which no response has been received to date. The Committee has already raised the lack of compliance by Iraq with its obligations under article 30 of the Convention in its past three reports to the General Assembly (A/73/56, A/74/56 and A/75/56). Where the State party submitted replies to the Committee, they followed the same trend observed by the Committee in its previous reports, namely that the State party did not provide any information on action taken to search for disappeared persons or to investigate their alleged enforced disappearance. Furthermore, the State party failed to clarify the procedures available to victims.

61. In several of its replies, the State party, as previously, simply asserted that the alleged victims were affiliated with terrorist groups, without providing any further information about any specific criminal charges brought, proceedings initiated or arrest warrants issued against them. In these cases, the Committee reminded the State party that the duty to search for disappeared persons and to investigate their disappearance applied irrespective of their profile or political affiliation.

62. In its report on requests for urgent action adopted at its nineteenth session, the Committee reported on 28 requests for urgent action with regard to the disappearance of persons who had participated in the protests that had begun in October 2019 in Baghdad, or who had provided some kind of support to participants. The authors of those requests also indicated that, according to witnesses or in view of the context of the disappearances, it was likely that the persons had been disappeared by “militias acting with the authorization, support, acquiescence or approval of the State party” or by “members of pro-Government forces, including State-sponsored militias, or State intelligence services”. The Committee welcomes as a positive development the fact that 12 of these urgent actions have been closed after the persons were located and released. However, as at 1 April 2021, the State party had yet to provide a reply to 13 of those requests.

**(b) Mexico**

63. The Committee welcomes the increase in the number of responses provided by the State party regarding registered requests for urgent action, although reminders were still sent for approximately half of the cases.

64. The Committee was frequently informed of a lack of coordination between federal and state authorities in charge of search and investigation in Mexico, creating obstacles to or even preventing progress. In some cases, the Committee was informed that state authorities had refused to collaborate with federal authorities. In these cases, the Committee sent follow-up notes requesting that the authorities in charge at the various levels of administration clearly define and coordinate their respective functions.

65. In its recommendations to Mexico, the Committee has also highlighted on various occasions the State party’s obligation under the Convention to ensure that victims are periodically informed about the steps taken by the authorities in charge of the search and investigation, and to make them part of the process. During the period under review, progress made remained highly dependent on the initiatives of the relatives of the disappeared persons. The possibility for victims to interact with the State party authorities in charge of the search and investigation was key in several cases to enabling some progress. Nonetheless, authors of requests for urgent action frequently signalled the challenges that they faced to ensure that the authorities took into account with due diligence the information that they provided. They also often expressed regret that on-site investigations and comprehensive analyses of the available evidence were frequently lacking.

66. The Committee is concerned at information that it frequently received alleging that State authorities were directly or indirectly involved in the events surrounding the disappearances and that search and investigation efforts had come to a halt. When the events had occurred several years previously, authors repeatedly pointed to the responsibility of State party authorities in terms of their lack of diligence, considering their inaction to have become an additional factor of responsibility for the alleged enforced disappearance. In such cases, the Committee emphasized to the State party the importance of establishing mechanisms for holding to account the State officials in charge of search and investigation, and requested the State party to investigate allegations that such officials had hindered proceedings.

67. During the period covered by the report on requests for urgent action adopted at its twentieth session, the Committee received 45 requests for urgent action referring to cases of alleged disappearance in the State of Nayarit, with the direct or indirect participation of staff of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Nayarit State. In these requests, it was alleged that the former Prosecutor General of Nayarit, Edgar Veytia, who had been convicted of drug trafficking in the United States of America, maintained links to organized crime and had himself been involved in numerous cases of enforced disappearance and other human rights violations in the state. In some of the requests for urgent action, it was further alleged that current staff members of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for the Investigation of Disappeared Persons of Nayarit State had been involved in the cases of enforced disappearance or had worked closely with Mr. Veytia. In these cases, the Committee requested the State party to take the measures necessary to investigate and punish any activity or intervention by authorities that was aimed at hindering effective search and investigation in the context of enforced disappearance, and, in particular, to investigate staff members of

the Office of the Prosecutor who might have had links with Mr. Veytia in order to determine their possible involvement in the disappearances in question. The Committee further requested the State party to ensure the competence and independence of the Office of the Special Prosecutor.

68. Authors of requests for urgent action also frequently referred to the challenges faced by the relatives of disappeared persons to gain access to the support to which they are entitled. In such cases, the Committee indicated to the State party the measures required depending on the needs of the relatives concerned, regarding, for example, access to food, education, housing or health services. The Committee also recalled the obligation of the competent State party authorities to inform the relatives of the disappeared persons about the content, scope and time frame of the support to which they were entitled from those authorities. The Committee requested the State party to ensure that the beneficiaries' situation and needs were duly taken into account by the Executive Commission for Victim Support when formulating and revising support plans.

### **3. Other States parties**

69. There were too few requests for urgent action relating to other States parties for the Committee to identify any trends. Nevertheless, the Committee wishes to highlight certain elements of some of the requests received.

#### **(a) Burkina Faso**

70. During the reporting period, the Committee registered the first request for urgent action with respect to Burkina Faso. The request concerned the alleged enforced disappearance of a member of the Peul ethnic group after having been arrested by members of the Gendarmerie.

#### **(b) Paraguay**

71. The Committee also registered the first request for urgent action with respect to Paraguay. The request concerned the alleged enforced disappearance of a girl in the context of an operation led by a joint police and military task force set up to combat the Ejército del Pueblo Paraguayo (Paraguayan People's Army), a guerrilla organization.

#### **(c) Peru**

72. The Committee registered 13 requests for urgent action with respect to Peru. The requests concerned the alleged enforced disappearance of participants in protests against the former president that had taken place in Lima in November 2020. These cases were closed after the detainees were located and released.

### **C. Urgent actions discontinued, closed or kept open for the protection of persons for whom interim measures have been taken**

73. In accordance with the criteria adopted in plenary by the Committee at its eighth session:

(a) An urgent action is discontinued when the disappeared person has been located but is still detained; this step is taken because the person in question is particularly vulnerable to being subjected to a further enforced disappearance and to being placed outside the protection of the law;

(b) An urgent action is closed when the disappeared person has been found at liberty or located and released, or has been found dead, provided that the relatives and/or authors do not contest these facts;

(c) An urgent action is kept open when the disappeared person has been located but the persons for whom interim measures have been taken in the context of the urgent action are still under threat; in such cases, the action taken by the Committee is limited to following up on the interim measures.

74. In addition to these criteria, the Committee adopted the following new category of cases at its twentieth session:

(d) An urgent action, and the Committee's follow-up to it, is suspended when the author of the request for urgent action has lost contact with the family members of the disappeared person and can no longer provide follow-up information; a suspended urgent action may be reopened if the author informs the Committee that he or she has resumed contact with the family members.

75. As at 1 April 2021, the Committee had closed 88 urgent action cases, discontinued 15 cases and suspended 96 cases. A total of 813 urgent action cases remained open.

76. In three urgent action cases (two cases relating to Mexico and one case relating to Colombia), it has been determined that the disappeared persons have been found dead but the urgent action cases remain open because the persons for whom interim measures were taken are still under threat.

77. The Committee is particularly satisfied that, as at 1 April 2021, 106 disappeared persons on whose behalf an urgent action request had been registered have been located.

#### **D. Decisions taken by the Committee at its nineteenth and twentieth sessions**

78. The Committee reiterates that, in view of the constant increase in the number of requests for urgent action that have been registered, there is an urgent need for an increase in the number of staff members in the OHCHR secretariat who are dedicated to processing those requests.

79. The Committee increased the size of the working group on urgent actions by one member. The distribution of tasks within the working group remained by working language.

80. The Committee decided to publish its reports on requests for urgent action on the Committee's main web page, in addition to the web page of the relevant session, with a view to increasing their visibility, and, where relevant, to issue press releases on the reports and on the impact of requests for urgent action.

## **Chapter XI**

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

81. No new individual complaints have been registered by the Committee over the period covered by the present report.

82. At its nineteenth session, the Committee examined *E.L.A. v. France* (CED/C/19/D/3/2019). The Committee found that the author's return to Sri Lanka would give rise to a violation by the State party of article 16 of the Convention (non-refoulement). It concluded that the State party authorities had failed to conduct a thorough assessment of the risk of enforced disappearance that the author would face if returned to Sri Lanka, and had failed to take due account of the author's personal circumstances into account, in particular his brother's enforced disappearance and the general context of enforced disappearance in Sri Lanka. The Committee urged the State party to re-examine the author's asylum request and to refrain from deporting him to Sri Lanka while domestic proceedings were pending.

83. Also at its nineteenth session, the Committee adopted its follow-up progress report on individual communications, in which it decided to continue the follow-up procedure regarding *Yrusta and Del Valle Yrusta v. Argentina*.

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## **Chapter XII**

### **Visits under article 33 of the Convention**

84. Over the reporting period, the Committee sent four reminders to Mexico, requesting the formalization of the State party's acceptance of the Committee's request to visit the country, as the State party had announced at various public events. The Committee highlighted its willingness to maintain a fluid, transparent and permanent dialogue with the State party, with a view to cooperating and supporting its efforts to eradicate and prevent enforced disappearance. During the Committee's twentieth session, the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva requested a meeting with the Committee. At the meeting, held on 16 April 2021, the Permanent Representative of Mexico informed the Committee that the State party agreed to a visit in November 2021, if the sanitary conditions so allowed, and that the State party would send a note verbale to formalize the agreement. The Committee welcomed that information, and hopes that the note verbale will be received shortly.

85. During its twentieth session, the Committee decided to confirm its request for a visit to Iraq. A note verbale was sent to the State party, in which the Committee recalled that a written agreement should be provided to enable to Committee to plan the visit. The Committee further decided to embark on the initial phase of the visit process under article 33 for Colombia, and sent a note verbale to inform the State party accordingly.

### **Chapter XIII**

## **Guiding principles for the search for disappeared persons**

86. Over the reporting period, the Committee has made frequent reference to the guiding principles for the search for disappeared persons in the context of its urgent action procedure, and in the concluding observations adopted under articles 29 (1) and 29 (4) of the Convention. During the nineteenth session, the Committee and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances organized two joint webinars on search and investigation of enforced disappearances to mark the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Working Group and the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, at which the guiding principles were presented as a reference document.

87. The guiding principles have given rise to a social media campaign organized by the OHCHR Office in Mexico in Spanish and promoted by the Committee in French and English in the context of events to mark the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. In addition to translations into German and Nepalese, the guiding principles have now also been translated into Serbian.

## Annex

### States parties to the Convention as at 7 May 2021 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>
<b>Albania*</b>	8 Nov. 2007	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	11 Nov. 2015
<b>Argentina*</b>	14 Dec. 2007	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	21 Dec. 2012
<b>Mexico*</b>	18 Mar. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	11 Mar. 2014
<b>Honduras</b>	1 Apr. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	4 Feb. 2016
<b>France*</b>	23 Sept. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	21 Dec. 2012
<b>Senegal</b>	11 Dec. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	28 Apr. 2015
<b>Bolivia (Plurinational State of)</b>	17 Dec. 2008	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	28 Sept. 2018
<b>Cuba</b>	2 Feb. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	24 Apr. 2015
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	27 Feb. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	3 June 2014
<b>Uruguay*</b>	4 Mar. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	4 Sept. 2012
<b>Mali*</b>	1 July 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	5 Nov. 2020
<b>Japan*</b>	23 July 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	22 July 2016
<b>Nigeria</b>	27 July 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	26 Mar. 2021
<b>Spain*</b>	24 Sept. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	26 Dec. 2012
<b>Germany*</b>	24 Sept. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	25 Mar. 2013
<b>Ecuador*</b>	20 Oct. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	5 June 2015
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	3 Dec. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	7 Oct. 2014
<b>Chile*</b>	8 Dec. 2009	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	1 Dec. 2017
<b>Paraguay</b>	3 Aug. 2010	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	28 Aug. 2013
<b>Iraq</b>	23 Nov. 2010	23 Dec. 2010	23 Dec. 2012	26 June 2014
<b>Brazil</b>	29 Nov. 2010	29 Dec. 2010	29 Dec. 2012	30 June 2019
<b>Gabon</b>	19 Jan. 2011	18 Feb. 2011	18 Feb. 2013	10 June 2015
<b>Armenia</b>	24 Jan. 2011	23 Feb. 2011	23 Feb. 2013	14 Oct. 2013
<b>Netherlands*</b>	23 Mar. 2011	22 Apr. 2011	22 Apr. 2013	11 June 2013
<b>Zambia</b>	4 Apr. 2011	4 May 2011	4 May 2013	
<b>Serbia*</b>	18 May 2011	17 June 2011	17 June 2013	30 Dec. 2013
<b>Belgium*</b>	2 June 2011	2 July 2011	2 July 2013	8 July 2013
<b>Panama</b>	24 June 2011	24 July 2011	24 July 2013	30 June 2019
<b>Tunisia</b>	29 June 2011	29 July 2011	29 July 2013	25 Sept. 2014
<b>Montenegro*</b>	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>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	16 Feb. 2012	17 Mar. 2012	17 Mar. 2014	7 May 2020
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina*</b>	30 Mar. 2012	29 Apr. 2012	29 Apr. 2014	26 Jan. 2015
<b>Austria*</b>	7 June 2012	7 July 2012	7 July 2014	31 May 2016
<b>Colombia</b>	11 July 2012	10 Aug. 2012	10 Aug. 2014	17 Dec. 2014
<b>Peru*</b>	26 Sept. 2012	26 Oct. 2012	26 Oct. 2014	8 Aug. 2016
<b>Mauritania</b>	3 Oct. 2012	2 Nov. 2012	2 Nov. 2014	29 Dec. 2020
<b>Samoa</b>	27 Nov. 2012	27 Dec. 2012	27 Dec. 2014	
<b>Morocco</b>	14 May 2013	13 June 2013	13 June 2015	
<b>Cambodia</b>	27 June 2013	27 July 2013	27 July 2015	
<b>Lithuania*</b>	14 Aug. 2013	13 Sept. 2013	13 Sept. 2015	6 Oct. 2015
<b>Lesotho</b>	6 Dec. 2013	5 Jan. 2014	5 Jan. 2016	
<b>Portugal*</b>	27 Jan. 2014	26 Feb. 2014	26 Feb. 2016	22 June 2016
<b>Togo</b>	21 July 2014	20 Aug. 2014	20 Aug. 2016	
<b>Slovakia*</b>	15 Dec. 2014	14 Jan. 2015	14 Jan. 2017	26 Apr. 2018
<b>Mongolia</b>	12 Feb. 2015	14 Mar. 2015	14 Mar. 2017	27 Dec. 2018
<b>Malta</b>	27 Mar. 2015	26 Apr. 2015	26 Apr. 2017	
<b>Greece</b>	9 July 2015	8 Aug. 2015	8 Aug. 2017	1 Feb. 2019
<b>Niger</b>	24 July 2015	23 Aug. 2015	23 Aug. 2017	1 Aug. 2019
<b>Belize</b>	14 Aug. 2015	13 Sept. 2015	13 Sept. 2017	
<b>Ukraine*</b>	14 Aug. 2015	13 Sept. 2015	13 Sept. 2017	
<b>Italy</b>	8 Oct. 2015	7 Nov. 2015	7 Nov. 2017	22 Dec. 2017
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	25 May 2016	24 June 2016	24 June 2018	
<b>Central African Republic</b>	11 Oct. 2016	10 Nov. 2016	10 Nov. 2018	
<b>Switzerland*</b>	2 Dec. 2016	1 Jan. 2017	1 Jan. 2019	21 Dec. 2018
<b>Seychelles</b>	18 Jan. 2017	17 Feb. 2017	17 Feb. 2019	
<b>Czechia*</b>	8 Feb. 2017	10 Mar. 2017	10 Mar. 2019	22 May 2019
<b>Malawi*</b>	14 July 2017	13 Aug. 2017	13 Aug. 2019	
<b>Benin</b>	2 Nov. 2017	2 Dec. 2017	2 Dec. 2019	
<b>Gambia</b>	28 Sept. 2018	28 Oct. 2018	28 Oct. 2020	15 Mar. 2021
<b>Dominica</b>	13 May 2019	12 June 2019	12 June 2021	
<b>Fiji</b>	19 Aug. 2019	18 Sept. 2019	18 Sept. 2021	

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<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>
<b>Norway</b>	22 Aug. 2019	21 Aug. 2019	21 Aug. 2021	
<b>Oman</b>	12 June 2020	12 July 2020	12 July 2022	

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*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).