22 April 2025

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

33rd session (11 to 29 August) &
21st pre-sessional working group (1 to 5 September 2025)

Informative note on the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, independent monitoring mechanisms and national human rights institutions

1. This note provides information on the upcoming 33rd session (11 to 29 August 2025) and 21st Pre-sessional Working Group-PSWG (1-5 September) of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The first part is related to the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society organizations. The second part refers to the participation of Independent Monitoring Mechanisms and National Human Rights Institutions. The third part refers to the session about persons with disabilities affected by conflict in Gaza and the West Bank. The fourth part refers to the venue of the meetings and the accreditation process.

FIRST PART: PARTICIPATION OF ORGANIZATIONS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

2. In accordance with the *Guidelines on the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities and civil society organizations in the work of the Committee*, the Committee invites organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to engage in the review process of the reports of States parties:

A. Participation in private briefings

A.1. Briefings related to initial and periodic reports, which will be considered during the 33rd session.

3. During the **33rd session**, the Committee will hold constructive dialogues and consider the reports of the following six State parties: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Kiribati, Maldives, Mali, and State of Palestine.

4. Stakeholders are invited to participate in private briefings which will be held in-person at Palais des Nations, Conference Room 17, Building E, prior to the dialogue with State parties.

5. The schedule of private in-presence briefings is the following:

- **Democratic People's Republic of Korea:** Monday, 11 August (15:00 to 16:30, local time in Geneva, Switzerland)
- **Kiribati:** Wednesday, 13 August (10:00 to 11:30)
- **State of Palestine:** Wednesday 13 August (11:30. to 13:00 p.m.)
- **Maldives:** Monday, 18 August (15:00 to 16:30)
- **Mali:** Monday, 18 August (16:30 to 18:00)
- **Finland:** Thursday, 21 August (10:00 to 11:30)

A.2. Briefings during the pre-sessional working group

6. During the 21st meeting of the pre-session working group, the following private briefings are scheduled.

- **Ireland,** Monday 1 September (10 :00 to 11 :30)
- **Iceland,** Monday 1 September (11 :30 to 13 :00)
- **Panama,** Monday 1 September (15 :00 to 16 :30)
- **Trinidad and Tobago,** Monday 1 September (16 :30 to 18:00)
- **Cyprus,** Tuesday 2 September (10:00 to 11:30)
- **Latvia,** Tuesday 2 September (11 :30 to 13:00)
- **Luxembourg,** Tuesday 2 September (15 :00 to 16 :30)
- **Colombia,** Tuesday 2 September (16 :30 to 18 :00)

A.3 Speakers at private briefings

7. Interested participants should submit a request to the Secretary of the Committee (jorge.araya@un.org) as earlier as possible and **no later than Friday 4 July 2025. The request should include the name of all speakers wishing to take the floor from the organization requesting participation.**

7.2 Since January 2024, United Nations Conference Service in Geneva (UNOG) discontinued all online and hybrid formats of meetings between the Committee and civil society organizations. All participants shall therefore be present in Geneva for these meetings. On very exceptional and compelling circumstances, pre-recorded video messages (M*aximum 6 minutes-MP4 format with excellent sound quality*) could be accepted. Please contact the Secretary of the Committee.

A.4. Format of country briefings

8. What is the format of the briefings? Speakers will be invited to make country-specific statements. Members of the Committee will then raise questions and speakers will have time to reply to these questions.

***** Please send to the Secretary of the Committee (jorge.araya@un.org) the written copy of your initial speech or statement during the country briefing, two weeks in advance of the briefing. This will facilitate interpretation services during the briefing.***

9. How much speaking time will I get? Organizations willing to make oral statements should coordinate the use of meeting time and the allocation of time slots amongst themselves. If such coordination is not feasible, the Committee Secretariat will allocate time slots after consultation with the Chair of the Committee. Speakers should make short and concise statements to allow for time for the Committee to raise questions.

> ***For OPD coalitions:*** *the average speaking time is 6 MINUTES.*
> ***For single organizations:*** *the average speaking time is 3 MINUTES.*
> *Priority will be given to those applicant organizations that have also submitted written information.*

10. The order of interventions will be:

1. *Coalition of organizations of persons with disabilities.*
2. *Country-based organizations of persons with disabilities.*
3. *International organizations of persons with disabilities.*
4. *Other civil society organizations.*
5. *An independent monitoring mechanism or a national human rights institution.*

A.5 Public constructive dialogues:

11.The Programme of Work contains the time and dates for each review, and it has been posted on the Committee's website. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2795&Lang=en

12. Civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations may observe the dialogue in-person at Palais des Nations. They can also follow all constructive dialogues on the UN Web TV webpage.

B. Written submissions on country situations.

13. Stakeholders are also invited to submit written reports **as soon as possible and before or at the latest by Friday 4 July 2025, for countries to be considered in the 33rd session** via email to jorge.araya@un.org.

14. Submissions to the Pre-session working group should be sent to the Secretary of the Committee no later than **Friday, 20 June 2025**.

15. Submissions should be in text (Word) files and below **10,700 words**. The narrative of written submissions should follow the order of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is expected that written submissions will refer to the progress made so far in the implementation of the Convention, main implementation gaps and areas which require particular attention. It is suggested that written contribution also refer to persons with disabilities who are at disadvantage or are experiencing challenges in the enjoyment of their rights. When possible, references to data and statistics are encouraged. Submissions may also suggest to the Committee recommendations the latter may consider would support better the implementation of the Convention by concerned authorities in the State party.

Please elaborate, for each of the provisions, on the following:

- Legislation and the extent to which is compatible with the Convention.
- Policies and strategies, and the extent to which is compatible with the Convention.
- Practical implementation of the Convention, main implementation gaps and groups of persons with disabilities particularly excluded.
- Budget for the implementation of the Convention.
- Disaggregated data when available.
- Main recommendations to the Committee.

16. The written submissions will be posted on the Committee's website unless the submission clearly indicates that it is confidential. Kindly ensure that your version is final before submitting it, once a submissions has been posted, it will be considered as the final version and no revised versions will be accepted by the Secretariat.

17. Any changes to the programme of work will be communicated at the proper time through informative notes. Additional information on the session can be found on the OHCHR website and the Committee's webpage.

C. Information about organization of thematic side events, not related to country situations.

18. In case organizations plan to hold side events, not related to country situations, please kindly get in contact with the Committee's Secretary at jorge.araya@un.org, no later than **4 July 2025.**

SECOND PART: PARTICIPATION OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND INDEPENDENT MONITORING BODIES

19. According to the Guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee, independent monitoring mechanisms and national human rights institutions are also encouraged to participate in the review process and the adoption of the list of issues.

A. Written Contributions

20. Independent Monitoring Mechanisms and National Human Rights Institutions can submit written contributions on country-specific situations regarding the States parties to be considered during the session and pre-session. Please check the information mentioned in paragraphs thirteen to eighteenth, above, on the length, format, and deadlines for making written contributions.

B. Participation in private briefings

21. Independent monitoring mechanisms and National Human Rights Institutions can participate in private briefings. Please check the above-mentioned information, from paragraphs three to ten, on private briefings.

C. Participation in public dialogues

22. Independent monitoring mechanisms and National Human Rights Institutions with an A status granted by the Global Alliance on NHRIs (GANHRI), can make oral opening (5 minutes) and closing statements (3 minutes) during the dialogue between the Committee and States parties. During the dialogue, they would also be able to address questions posed to them by members of the Committee. Independent monitoring mechanisms and National Human Rights Institutions with an A States, willing to participate in the dialogue are kindly requested to signal it by contacting the Secretariat of the Committee at jorge.araya@un.org as early as possible and no later than **4 July 2025.**

THIRD PART, SESSION ON THE SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

23. On 15 August 2025, from 15:00 to 18:00, local time in Geneva, the Committee will interact with stakeholders in a public session on the situation of persons with disabilities affected by armed conflict in Gaza and the West Bank.

A. written submissions

24. Written submission about the impact of the armed conflict in Gaza and the West Bank on persons with disabilities should be sent to the Secretary of the Committee (Jorge.araya@un.org) no later than **4 July 2025**. They should not exceed 10,700 words

B. Participation in the public session

25. Organizations of persons with Disabilities, Civil society organizations and other stakeholders shall indicate to the Secretary of the Committee no later than **4 July 2025**, their interest in participating in the public session by delivering statements. The interested organizations shall indicate in their expression of interest the name(s) of the speaker(s), and the organization to which they belong. Speaking slots will be allocated by the Secretariat.

FOURTH PART VENUE AND ACCREDITATION PROCESS

A Venue of the meetings

26. The venue of the meetings is Conference Room 17 (Salle XVII), Building E, **Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.**

B. Accreditation process

27. All participants require to register.

- **Please register in the following links:**
  - For the CRPD 33rd Session-Click the link: https://indico.un.org/event/1010243
  - For the 21st Pre-session-Click the link https://indico.un.org/event/1010240

- Registration will open online beginning on **Monday, 2 June 2025**,

- Steps
  - Create an account
  - Once you have created an account, in order to register to the specific meeting (session and pre-session) you can always refer back to the links provided here.

- Once accreditation is approved by the Committee Secretariat, each participant will receive and e-badge in the email address they have indicated in the registration. You will need to download the e-badge in your electronic devise and bring it along with a valid passport or ID card, to go through security procedures at the entrance of the Palais des Nations, at the Portal de Pregny, at 4 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Genève.

28. For Conference participants, **media**, **OPDs** and **NGOs**: To access the premised, you will need to go to **Portal de Pregny,** Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.-Buses: 20, 22, 8 and F