



United Nations

Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances

**Twenty-fifth session
(11–29 September 2023)**

**Twenty-sixth session
(19 February–1 March 2024)**

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[9 July 2024]

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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 15 June 2024, there were 75 States parties and 98 signatory States to the Convention. Of the 75 States parties to the Convention, 29 had declared that they recognized the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual communications (art. 31), and 28 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.¹

B. Meetings and sessions

3. The present annual report covers the period from 1 April 2023 to 15 June 2024, during which the Committee held its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions.

1. Twenty-fifth session

4. The Committee held its twenty-fifth session from 11 to 29 September 2023. It held 30 plenary meetings, and 14 further meetings outside of official meeting hours. The agenda (CED/C/25/1) was adopted by the Committee at its 442nd meeting. The twenty-fifth session was opened by the Chief of the Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

5. The Chief of the Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section stated that over the past year, Committee members had carried out commendable work, often involving personal hardship, to accompany States, victims and other civil society actors, and national human rights institutions in their fight to prevent and eradicate enforced disappearances. The Committee had strengthened its coordination and interaction with partners, for example through the issuance on 30 August 2023, the International Day for the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, of a joint statement in which the Committee and others called on all States to urgently provide effective access to justice for victims of enforced disappearance.² Similarly, the Committee had prepared its first general comment – on enforced disappearance in the context of migration – in an open and collaborative manner.

6. In March 2022, the Committee had adopted the report on its visit to Mexico,³ and in March 2023, the report on its visit to Iraq.⁴ Both reports shed light on the extent of the challenges faced in those countries with regard to disappearances, including enforced disappearances, and had been welcomed as reference documents and guiding tools on the measures that should be taken to prevent and eradicate enforced disappearances. The implementation of those recommendations was now a priority. In a statement made on 9 August, upon the conclusion of his visit to Iraq, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had urged Iraq to implement the Committee's recommendations. He had stressed the importance of passing a law on enforced disappearance that was in line with international human rights standards. The Chief of the Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section noted that the Committee had already taken steps to support that

¹ https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-16&chapter=4&clang=_en.

² See <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/disappearances/statements/20230829-statement-IntDayDisappearances-ced-wgeid-EN.pdf>.

³ [CED/C/MEX/VR/1 \(Findings\)](#) and [CED/C/MEX/VR/1 \(Recommendations\)](#).

⁴ [CED/C/IRQ/VR/1 \(Findings\)](#) and [CED/C/IRQ/VR/1 \(Recommendations\)](#).

process, including through an online event with the parliament of Iraq held on 23 August 2023. Follow-up and interaction with State authorities were necessary, with the ongoing support of the Committee. The procedure to review reports containing additional information was aimed at facilitating such follow-up and interaction. That dynamic and flexible procedure made it possible for the Committee to focus its attention and resources on the most pressing situations. The informative and educational value of a public review should not be underestimated. States should also acknowledge the value of the urgent action procedure. Since the Committee's twenty-fourth session, 54 new requests for urgent actions had been registered. A total of 916 requests remained open. Regarding the closed cases, 484 disappeared persons had been located; 438 of those persons had been found alive. Despite the continued efforts through the treaty body strengthening process, an imbalance persisted between existing resources and the needs of treaty bodies' work. The staffing shortage had a significant impact on the Committee's work, and had a detrimental effect on the staff. It was essential to join together in making the limitations of the system visible.

7. In her opening statement, the Chair of the Committee, Carmen Rosa Villa Quintana, welcomed new Committee member Fidelis Kanyongolo and welcomed back re-elected members Olivier de Frouville, Matar Diop and Barbara Lochbihler. The Chair stated that she was beginning the new mandate with renewed commitment. Referring to the upcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, she recalled that 72 States had ratified the Convention, and welcomed the recent ratification by Maldives. Achieving universal ratification – key to efforts to prevent and eradicate enforced disappearances – remained a priority. In the light of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it was the right time to complete the treaty body strengthening process. At the thirty-fourth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, the Committee had presented two papers highlighting the particularities of its mandate, notably on the procedure for the submission of additional information and on the urgent action procedure. That input had been incorporated into the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their thirty-fourth annual meeting,⁵ which was submitted to the General Assembly, and the particulars identified must be considered. It was urgent that the Committee be provided with additional resources to cover its mandated activities, including those under the urgent action procedure. The support of the Secretariat was crucial to the success and relevance of that procedure, which saved lives. Delays in interventions had a negative impact on the effectiveness and credibility of the procedure. The members of the secretariat team were simply overstretched and working at the limits of their capacity, beyond their working hours. States should make the necessary adjustments to the existing allocations contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 and provide the Committee with the necessary resources and meeting time.

8. During its twenty-fifth session, the Committee co-hosted an event to mark the first anniversary of the joint statement on illegal intercountry adoption, issued by the Committee itself, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Illegal adoptions occurred through a wide variety of illegal or illicit practices, such as the abduction and sale of and trafficking in children, coercion and lack of proper consent, which could amount to enforced disappearance. Speakers included representatives of France and Ukraine, United Nations experts, victims (adopted children and biological parents) and representatives of civil society organizations. The testimonies and interventions highlighted the worldwide dimension of the issue and included examples related to 10 States.⁶

⁵ A/77/228.

⁶ See <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k16/k16z33p1uc>.

2. Twenty-sixth session

9. The Committee held its twenty-sixth session from 19 February to 1 March 2024. It held 20 plenary meetings, and 10 further meetings outside of official meeting hours. The agenda (CED/C/26/1) was adopted by the Committee at its 472nd meeting. The twenty-sixth session was opened by the Chief of the Rule of Law and Democracy Section of OHCHR.

10. The Chief of the Rule of Law and Democracy Section underlined the importance of strengthening collaboration with treaty bodies. The Section had recently been working with committees on the human rights dimensions of drug policy, digital technology and issues related to armed conflict. Many of the issues addressed by the Section were of interest for the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and projects related to enforced disappearances were ongoing. The Section also prepared the annual report of the Secretary-General on missing persons, which drew on, among others, the work of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. Furthermore, it had coordinated, across OHCHR, the monthly thematic spotlight for August, on justice, as part of the celebrations for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Committee had contributed to the spotlight on justice through its issuance, with other mechanisms, of the joint statement on access to justice for all victims of enforced disappearances. The Committee was meeting in a world that was even more insecure than it was when the Committee had met in 2023, which required the strengthening of the rules and standards comprising international law. In that context, the pledges to ratify the Convention made during the high-level event commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, held in December, were particularly welcome. The World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, to be held in January 2025, would provide a welcome opportunity to move towards universal ratification. The ongoing discussions around a possible convention on crimes against humanity provided another opportunity to strengthen international protection against enforced disappearances. They should result in a resolution for consideration by the General Assembly in the following October, filling a significant gap in the current international framework.

11. Regarding the strengthening of treaty bodies, the Chief of the Rule of Law and Democracy Section referred to the working paper on treaty body strengthening, presented in 2023; the conclusions drawn at the thirty-fifth meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies; and the informal briefing that the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights on the treaty body strengthening process had held in November 2023, which 118 States and many treaty body experts had attended. The views expressed by States during the informal briefing had indicated support for a predictable calendar of State party reviews, the harmonization of working methods and the increased use of digital tools. Still, the budgetary constraints facing the United Nations, coupled with a prolonged liquidity crisis, were having an adverse impact on the proper functioning of the treaty body system and the entire United Nations human rights programme. The crisis risked further increasing the backlog of the treaty bodies. Decisions taken by States in 2024 would determine the future of the treaty body system. The process would culminate in the adoption of the biennial resolution of the General Assembly in December 2024 on treaty body strengthening; the Chief expressed hope that a robust budget allowing the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the other committees to fulfil their mandates would be adopted as well.

12. Effective from January 2024, the United Nations Office at Geneva had ceased servicing hybrid meetings. That affected all meetings taking place at the United Nations Office at Geneva, except for mandated hybrid meetings, namely dialogues with States. Unfortunately, and despite all the lessons learned from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) period, no other treaty body meetings would be serviced in hybrid mode. Looking ahead to 2024, the shared strategic goal was to mobilize support from States for the strengthening and further harmonization of the work of the treaty bodies.

13. In his opening statement, the Chair of the Committee noted that, as at the day the session had opened, the Committee had registered 1,734 cases under the urgent action procedure, mainly related to disappearances in Iraq and Mexico, but also in 30 other countries around the world. Under the individual communications procedure, the Committee had one case pending. States must be encouraged to formulate declarations with a view to accepting the article 31 procedure.

14. The Committee would address the ongoing process of strengthening the treaty bodies. An informal meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies would be held during the first week of the session; Ms. Kolaković-Bojović would attend. The ongoing process was crucial for the future of the United Nations human rights protection system. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the core international human rights treaties recognized a set of fundamental and universal legal standards that served as guarantees for justice and peace in the world. Committees must therefore function optimally, particularly during a time when intolerance and hatred of others were resurfacing and the “scourge of war”, far from having been eliminated as envisioned by the authors of the Charter of the United Nations, was claiming thousands of victims every day.

15. Minimum resources were necessary to allow the Committee to fulfil its mandate. The Committee was particularly concerned about the recent announcements concerning the liquidity crisis facing the United Nations and its impact on the human rights programme. The Committee was also very concerned about the decision by the United Nations Office at Geneva to stop authorizing the holding of hybrid meetings with victims, civil society organizations and other stakeholders in the field. Whatever the cause, the decision represented a major step backwards for the human rights system, which must be open to the participation of civil society and victims throughout the world. That was particularly true for the issue of enforced disappearances. The Committee hoped that a solution could quickly be found to that serious problem.

16. In the current times of peril, the horror of enforced disappearance continued to spread. Protection mechanisms were of major importance in combating the use of that practice of terror. The Convention was the cornerstone of that global fight. Becoming a party to the Convention was the best way to defend that collective interest. The Committee, together with other partners, was committed to a strategy of general mobilization, a major stage of which would be the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances. The goals of the World Congress included promoting exchanges of experience and good practices of States relating to the ratification and implementation of the Convention; initiating a process of cooperation among stakeholders to identify and implement concerted related strategies; and returning the role of victims and civil society organizations to the core of related processes. The victims were the driving force behind the Committee’s action and their voices must be shared and heard.

C. Membership and attendance

17. All the members attended the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions of the Committee. A list of the current members, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is available on the Committee’s webpage.⁷

18. At the twenty-fifth session, at its 445th meeting, the Committee elected Mr. de Frouville as Chair of the Committee. It also elected to the Bureau Juan Pablo Albán-Alencastro (rapporteur) and Matar Diop, Milica Kolaković-Bojović and Horacio Ravenna (Vice-Chairs).

D. Decisions of the Committee

19. At its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions, the Committee adopted the following documents:

- (a) Lists of issues regarding five States parties (chap. VII);
- (b) Concluding observations regarding seven States parties (chaps. IV and V);
- (c) General comment No.⁹1 (2023) on enforced disappearance in the context of migration;
- (d) Two reports on requests for urgent action (chap. X).

⁷ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/membership>.

20. The Committee decided that at its twenty-seventh session, it would consider the reports submitted by Norway, Morocco and Ukraine under article 29 (1), and adopt lists of issues in the absence of a report for Lesotho, Seychelles and Togo. As Togo submitted its report on 6 June 2024, the Committee therefore decided that it would adopt, at its twenty-eighth session, a list of issues for Togo.

E. Adoption of the annual report

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

Chapter II Methods of work

22. During its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions, the Committee used English, French and Spanish as working languages.

23. 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) Progress of preparations relating to the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances;
- (d) Launch of the publication *Becoming a Party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance: Practical Guide*;
- (e) Resources allocated to the Committee;
- (f) Project to draft a joint statement on so-called "short-term enforced disappearance";
- (g) Project regarding women and enforced disappearances;
- (h) Strategy for follow-up to general comment No. 1 (2023) on enforced disappearance in the context of migration;
- (i) Visit to Colombia;
- (j) Follow-up activities related to the reports on the visits to Mexico and to Iraq;
- (k) Coordination with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and other special procedures, other treaty bodies and regional mechanisms;
- (l) Treaty body review process.

24. At its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions, the Committee considered and adopted a comprehensive revision of its rules of procedure⁸ to clarify the procedures of the Committee, notably in relation to the review of additional information submitted by States parties, under article 29 (4) of the Convention; the urgent action procedure, under article 30; and country visits, under article 33. It also clarified the procedures relating to general comments and reprisals.

⁸ CED/C/1/Rev.2.

Chapter III

Relations with stakeholders

A. Interaction with other human rights mechanisms

25. The Committee enjoyed ongoing cooperation with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. 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 also held joint training sessions and meetings with States and civil society actors. The Working Group is an active partner in preparations for the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances.

26. Throughout the reporting period, members of the Committee and its secretariat held meetings with members of all regional and international human rights mechanisms in order to inform them about the upcoming World Congress, inviting them to support and take part in the project.

27. On 30 August 2023, on the occasion of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances and highlighting the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 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 (Chairperson of the Commission's Working Group on the Death Penalty and Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings in Africa) and representatives of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights released a joint statement,⁹ inviting all States to reinvigorate access to justice at the national level and to finance and support Sustainable Development Goal 16 globally and recalling that the inextricable link between justice and truth is critical in cases of enforced disappearance.

28. For the preparation of its first general comment, the Committee ensured a thorough consultation process with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and all regional and international human rights mechanisms. The Working Group, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights also participated in the launch of the general comment.

29. Similar consultations were initiated for the preparation of the joint statement of the Committee and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on so-called "short term enforced disappearance".

B. Interaction with Member States

30. On 27 September 2023, the Committee held a public meeting with Member States, which was attended by 11 States: Argentina, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Iraq, Israel, Panama, Peru, Spain, Thailand, the United States of America and Zambia. During the meeting, Iraq, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Zambia, Panama and Honduras made statements.

31. The representative of Iraq called for States to ratify the Convention, and reaffirmed the State's commitment to fulfil its duties under the Convention, but asked for more flexible and transparent cooperation. Everyone wanted to know the fate of disappeared persons; putting pressure on the States was not helping. Iraq had taken positive steps in adapting its legislation to the Convention, and had strongly supported the Committee's visit in November 2022.

32. The representative of Argentina stated that the country continued to make efforts to uncover the truth about enforced disappearances of the past. Argentina and France encouraged all States to ratify the Convention. In March 2023, Argentina had participated in an interactive dialogue with the Committee, for the review of the State's additional

⁹ See <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/disappearances/statements/20230829-statement-IntDayDisappearances-ced-wgeid-EN.pdf>.

information. A large delegation had participated. The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage had opened the ESMA Museum and Site of Memory, thereby highlighting the importance of ensuring that the violations of human rights that had occurred in Argentina would not be forgotten.

33. The representative of Azerbaijan reiterated the State's commitment to the Convention. Azerbaijan was one of the main sponsors of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on missing persons. Close to 4,000 citizens of Azerbaijan were victims of enforced disappearance during the war in the 1990s, and their whereabouts remained unknown. Exhumations of burial sites had been carried out. DNA samples of the relatives of disappeared persons had been taken to facilitate identification. Judicial proceedings were ongoing.

34. The representative of Ecuador welcomed the work of the Committee, including its joint activities with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the adoption of general comment No. 1 (2023) on enforced disappearance in the context of migration. The representative of Ecuador encouraged States to ratify the Convention and to accept the Committee's competence to examine individual complaints. Ecuador had an organic law on enforced disappearances, and measures had been taken to improve the support provided to victims. The State party invited all actors to make the best use of new technologies in a responsible way in order to search for disappeared persons.

35. The representative of Zambia thanked the Committee for its work. The Committee had adopted, at its twenty-fourth session, concluding observations in the absence of a report from Zambia. To promote access to justice, legal aid had been extended in Zambia to all members of the public, empowering all citizens in need with legal representation. The transposition of the Convention into domestic law was ongoing, because the issue of enforced disappearance had not been prevalent in the country.

36. The representative of Panama thanked the Committee for inviting all Member States to the meeting. Such spaces were important to give everyone a better understanding of the mechanisms and the action taken. Panama had pushed for the universalization of the Convention in the context of the universal periodic review. It had presented its report under article 29 (1) to the Committee in September 2021. A constructive exchange had taken place. Panama was working to send its follow-up report as soon as possible. Significant efforts were being made to synchronize session calendars and avoid overlap and accumulation of reviews. The representative of Panama suggested that the calendar of the Human Rights Council also be considered.

37. The representative of Honduras underlined that enforced disappearances had been a blight on the country for four decades. Enforced disappearance had been classified as a criminal offence in the 1980s. Many Hondurans had disappeared along migration routes. In 2007 and 2013, Honduras had adopted national policies to strengthen the protection services provided by its consular network, and a law to protect the rights of Honduran migrants. A protocol to improve search procedures was being developed. The Public Prosecution Service had submitted a bill to create a forensic laboratory that would oversee the national DNA databases.

38. Over the reporting period, the Chair of the Committee had bilateral meetings in Geneva and New York with more than 25 Member States, to report on the activities of the Committee, to discuss the ratification of the Convention and to invite them to support and take part in the 2025 World Congress.

C. Interaction with United Nations entities

39. 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, most relevant OHCHR field presences and other United Nations entities submitted written contributions

and briefed the Committee. The Committee and OHCHR field presences also continued to cooperate to raise awareness about enforced disappearances and the Convention and to promote ratification of the Convention. OHCHR offices in Bangkok, Beirut, Brussels, Dakar and Mexico took part in the regional consultations for the organization of the 2025 World Congress on Enforced Disappearances.

40. In consultation with the secretariat of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) established standard mechanisms and formats to guide the submission of contributions by field presences. Over the reporting period, such contributions were received on the majority of reviewed States.

41. At the twenty-sixth session, the Committee had a meeting with representatives of IOM to identify and discuss possible strategies to promote the implementation of the Committee's general comment No. 1 (2023) on enforced disappearance in the context of migration. An online follow-up meeting was held in March 2024 and it was agreed that a webinar on the general comment would be organized with IOM.

42. In December 2023, the Committee participated in a joint meeting of treaty bodies with the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations in the context of the commemorations of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87). It made a presentation on the importance of article 24 (7) of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which guarantees the right to form and participate freely in organizations and associations concerned with attempting to establish the circumstances of enforced disappearances and the fate of disappeared persons and to assist victims of enforced disappearance.

D. Interaction with victims and other civil society actors

43. The Committee has continued to maintain its database of stakeholders – comprising more than 1,400 persons – to which it sends its newsletter with information on upcoming events and adopted decisions.¹⁰

44. The Committee heard testimonies of victims of enforced disappearance at its twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions, under the agenda item for paying tribute to victims of enforced disappearance. In September 2023, the Committee heard the testimony of Asma Abdulraheem Mohamed Othmane, the sister of Mohamed Abdulraheem Mohamed Othmane, disappeared since August 2023 in the Sudan. She expressed the despair she felt because she had not received information as to the fate and whereabouts of her brother. She highlighted that her brother's case was only one of thousands in the current context of the State party, and called upon national and international actors to take action and support the relatives of disappeared persons. At the closing of the session, Alejandra Díaz and Zahara Gómez presented *Recetario para la Memoria*, a photographic and literary project that puts a face to victims of enforced disappearance and remembers their presence in the daily life of their relatives and loved ones through their favourite recipes. During the twenty-sixth session, the Committee heard the testimony of Andrea Torres Bautista, from Colombia. She described the role played by the Fundación Nydia Erika Bautista, created by her family, in supporting victims of enforced disappearance. She also spoke about the bill (since adopted, on 4 April 2024) on recognizing and protecting the work and rights of women searching for victims of enforced disappearance, the drafting of which the foundation had promoted. Ms. Villa Quintana highlighted the importance of the draft law as a positive example for the world.

45. On 27 September 2023, the Committee held its annual private meeting with civil society representatives, which was attended by representatives of 14 organizations. The following topics were discussed: the joint project of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on

¹⁰ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/newsletters>.

so-called “short-term enforced disappearance”; the monthly thematic spotlight for August, on justice, as part of the Human Rights 75 initiative; ongoing or future projects of civil society partners related to enforced disappearance; plans to promote the ratification of the Convention; enforced disappearance and non-State actors; and ways to strengthen the interaction and synergy of the Committee with its partners.

46. It has been a long-standing practice of the Committee to allow remote participation during private 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.

E. Interaction with national human rights institutions

47. 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.

48. On 26 September 2023, the Committee held its annual private meeting with national human rights institutions, which was attended by representatives of four institutions. Bilateral meetings were held with representatives of seven national human rights institutions during the reporting period.

49. In March and May 2024, respectively, the Committee’s secretariat and the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section of OHCHR jointly organized four webinars for national human rights institutions, in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, on the ways national human rights institutions could contribute to the work of the Committee and to the 2025 World Congress on Enforced Disappearances; and a side event, held in the margins of the annual conference of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, on the upcoming World Congress.

F. Interaction with other stakeholders

50. The Committee continued its interaction and coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross. The two entities shared information about their activities and projects and consulted on specific issues related to their respective mandates, in the context of calls for input and during private meetings.

51. During the twenty-fifth session, the Committee met with the International Commission on Missing Persons to exchange information on their current activities, and to identify and discuss operational gaps and possibilities for joint actions.

52. The Committee participated in the workstream to prepare, pursuant to paragraph 76 of the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum, actionable recommendations on strengthening cooperation on missing migrants and providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress. Additionally, the Committee took part in the Global Forum on Migration and Development to promote general comment No. 1 (2023).

Chapter IV

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

53. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee considered the reports of Mauritania (CED/C/MRT/1) and Nigeria (CED/C/NGA/1), and adopted concluding observations thereon (CED/C/MRT/CO/1 and CED/C/NGA/CO/1). A six-hour dialogue was held with the delegation of Mauritania. The dialogue with delegation of Nigeria was limited to one hour at the request of the representative of the State party, as it had not been possible to ensure the presence of a full delegation.

54. At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee considered the report of Cambodia (CED/C/KHM/1) and adopted concluding observations thereon (CED/C/KHM/CO/1). A six-hour dialogue was held.

Chapter V

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

55. Over the reporting period, the Committee received additional information from Colombia ([CED/C/COL/AI/2](#)) and Lithuania ([CED/C/LTU/AI/1](#)).

56. In February 2024, the Committee sent reminders to States parties whose reports were overdue, extending the deadlines for submission. Reminders were sent to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cuba, Paraguay, Senegal and Tunisia.

57. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee held interactive dialogues for its consideration of the additional information submitted by the Kingdom of the Netherlands ([CED/C/NLD/AI/1](#) and [CED/C/NLD/AI/1/Add.1](#)) and Mexico ([CED/C/MEX/AI/2](#)).

58. During a hybrid six-hour dialogue with the delegation of Mexico, the Committee focused on the following themes: national policy to prevent and eradicate enforced disappearances; investigation and justice; searches and effective coordination; and identification and handover of the remains of deceased persons.

59. For the review of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Committee focused on the following themes: Harmonization of national legislation with the Convention; prosecution, investigation and cooperation in relation to enforced disappearance; and prevention of enforced disappearance.

60. For both States parties, the Committee adopted concluding observations. In the concluding observations for the Kingdom of the Netherlands ([CED/C/NLD/OAI/1](#)), the Committee requested the State party to submit, within three years, specific and updated information on the implementation of all the recommendations made, and any other new information on the fulfilment of the obligations contained in the Convention. In the concluding observations for Mexico ([CED/C/MEX/OAI/2](#)), the Committee requested the State party to submit, within three years, additional, specific and updated information on the follow-up given to all the recommendations made in the concluding observations.

61. At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee held interactive dialogues for its consideration of the additional information submitted by Burkina Faso ([CED/C/BFA/AI/1](#)) and Honduras ([CED/C/HND/AI/1](#)).

62. During the six-hour dialogue with the delegation of Burkina Faso, the Committee focused on the following themes: searches and investigations into disappearances; characteristics of disappearances, including enforced disappearances, in the country; and reparations, support for victims and protection of their rights.

63. During the three-hour dialogue with the delegation of Honduras, the Committee focused on the following themes: legislative harmonization and institutional framework; disappearances in the context of migration; and investigations and searches.

64. The Committee adopted concluding observations on the additional information ([CED/C/BFA/OAI/1](#) and [CED/C/HND/OAI/1](#)). In its concluding observations for Burkina Faso, the Committee requested the State party to submit, within one year, for review in 2026, specific and updated information on the follow-up given to the recommendations made in the concluding observations, and any other information that the State party considered relevant in the light of the Convention. In its concluding observations for Honduras, the Committee requested the State party to submit, within one year, specific and updated information on the follow-up given to the recommendations made in the concluding observations, and any other information that the State party considered relevant in the light of the Convention.

Chapter VI

Follow-up to concluding observations

65. As reflected in rule 51 of the Committee's rules of procedure, the procedure of follow-up to concluding observations has been merged with the procedure of review of additional information. Panama submitted its follow-up report on 12 June 2024 (initially due in September 2022), and is the last State party for which the follow-up to concluding observations procedure remains pending.

Chapter VII

Adoption of lists of issues

66. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee adopted lists of issues on Samoa ([CED/C/WSM/Q/1](#)) and Sri Lanka ([CED/C/LKA/Q/1](#)) and a list of issues in the absence of the report of the Central African Republic ([CED/C/CAF/QAR/1](#)).

67. At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee adopted a list of issues on Malawi ([CED/C/MWI/Q/1](#)) and a list of issues in the absence of the report of Belize ([CED/C/BLZ/QAR/1](#)).

68. In February 2024, the Committee sent reminders to States parties whose replies to lists of issues were overdue. Reminders were sent to Benin, the Gambia and Norway.

Chapter VIII

Reporting under the Convention

69. During the reporting period, five States parties submitted reports under article 29 (1) of the Convention, namely: Croatia (CED/C/HRV/1) and Luxembourg (CED/C/LUX/1), in May 2024; Malawi (CED/C/MWI/1), in November 2023; Sri Lanka (CED/C/LKA/1), in August 2023; and Togo (CED/C/TGO/1), in June 2024. A full list of the States parties and the status of their reports is included in the annex to the present report.

70. In February 2024, the Committee sent reminders to States parties whose reports were overdue, extending the deadlines for submission. A first reminder was sent to Slovenia and the Sudan, a second reminder was sent to Oman, a third reminder was sent to Dominica and Fiji, fifth and sixth reminders were sent to Seychelles and a seventh reminder was sent to Lesotho and Togo.

71. At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee noted that, despite the reminders sent, the reports of Dominica, Fiji, Lesotho, Oman, Seychelles, Slovenia, the Sudan and Togo under article 29 (1) of the Convention had still not been submitted (the report of Togo was later submitted, see paragraphs 20 and 69 above). The Committee also noted that the additional information that it had requested from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Paraguay and Tunisia under article 29 (4) of the Convention was overdue. The Committee sent reminders to those State parties.

Chapter IX

Reprisals

72. During the reporting period, the Committee's rapporteur on reprisals did not receive any allegations of reprisals for cooperation or attempted cooperation with the Committee relating to the consideration of State party reports or additional information. However, the Committee was frequently seized of allegations of reprisals in the context of its urgent action procedure. Such cases involve threats and retaliation against the relatives of disappeared persons or their representatives, aimed at dissuading them from pursuing their actions to search for their loved ones.

73. In 26.2 per cent of the cases that are currently open, the Committee has requested the States parties concerned to take interim measures of protection. The Committee requested the State authorities to ensure that those interim measures were taken in consultation with the persons requiring protection and that they were subject to review. If the disappeared person is located, the urgent action case is closed, in accordance with article 30 (4) of the Convention, but is transmitted to the Committee's rapporteur on reprisals for follow-up to the interim measures that had been adopted, whenever those measures remain necessary.

Chapter X

Urgent action procedure under article 30 of the Convention

A. Requests for urgent action received and registered

74. Effective 1 October 2023, the responsibility for receiving and registering urgent action requests addressed to the Committee was transferred from the OHCHR Petitions Section to the Civil, Political, Economic, Social, Cultural Rights and Urgent Actions Section (secretariat of the Committee). All correspondence related to urgent actions must now be sent to the following email address: ohchr-ced-ua@un.org.

75. As at 15 June 2024, the Committee had registered 1,853 requests for urgent action, of which 1,806 were original requests and the remainder were parallel registrations (see tables 1 and 2 below). This represents an increase of 14.6 per cent in registered urgent actions since the end of the period covered in the previous report of the Committee to the General Assembly. During the period under review, the Committee adopted two reports on requests for urgent action ([CED/C/25/2](#) and [CED/C/26/2](#)).

Table 1
Urgent action requests registered, as at 15 June 2024, by State party and by year

State party	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 ^a	Total
Argentina	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	4
Armenia	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Brazil	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Burkina Faso	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	1	3
Cambodia	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	4
Colombia	–	1	1	3	4	3	9	3	2	153	–	4	49 ^b	232
Croatia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Cuba	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	–	188	–	–	1	193
Ecuador	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Gabon	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8	–	8
Honduras	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	9	2	–	7	3	35
Iraq	–	–	5	42	22	43	55	226	103	41	42	8	11	598
Japan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 ^b	–	1
Kazakhstan	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Lithuania	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	2
Mali	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	11	–	–	–	12
Mauritania	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Mexico	5	4	43	166	58	31	42	10	57	60	52	90 ^b	46	664
Morocco	–	–	–	–	1	2	–	–	–	2	2 ^b	–	–	7
Niger	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Oman	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 ^b	–	–	–	1
Paraguay	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Peru	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	–	1	–	–	15
Sri Lanka	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2
Slovakia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Sudan	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	5	7

<i>State party</i>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 ^a	<i>Total</i>
Togo	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	–	–	–	–	3
Tunisia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Ukraine	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	3
Total	5	5	51	211	85	86	123	248	192	459	101	121	119	1 806

^a As at 15 June 2024.

^b Urgent actions subject to parallel registration on the basis of the principle of international legal assistance.

Table 2

Parallel registrations on the basis of the principle of international legal assistance (arts. 14 and 15 of the Convention), by State party and by year

<i>State party</i>	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 ^a	<i>Total</i>
Costa Rica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	46	46
Ecuador	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3
France	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1
Peru	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2
Spain	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	5
Sri Lanka	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Total	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	3	52	58

^a As at 15 June 2024.

76. Between 1 October 2023 (date of the transfer of the procedure to the secretariat of the Committee) and 15 June 2024, the Committee sent 83 notes relating to registered requests for urgent action, in order to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and to make new recommendations to States parties concerned. As at 15 June 2024, the Committee had a backlog of 297 urgent actions ready for follow-up.

B. Developments

77. As at 15 June 2024, the Committee had closed urgent action cases concerning 459 persons, and discontinued cases concerning 43 persons. The Committee also suspended 264 urgent action cases in which the authors did not reply to the requests for information despite reminders. For such cases, the Committee follows up on the evolution of the case with the States parties concerned in compliance with article 30 (4) of the Convention, and reactivates the full follow-up procedure upon receipt of the required information. The Committee welcomes the fact that 502 disappeared persons on whose behalf an urgent action was opened have been located to date, and that 452 of them were located alive.

78. The Committee has maintained contact with States parties and with the authors of requests for urgent action, and has worked in cooperation with various partners, including OHCHR and United Nations field presences, to clarify situations, verify some submitted information and seek additional data.

1. Cooperation of authors of urgent actions and States parties with the Committee

79. The Committee underscores the central role of the authors of urgent actions in ensuring the efficiency of the procedure. If at some point they are no longer able to reply, they should inform the Committee, so that the different available options can be considered. Otherwise, the case is suspended until the requested information is submitted.

80. In accordance with article 30 (3) of the Convention, where requested, States parties have the obligation to inform the Committee, within a specified period, of measures taken to locate and protect the person concerned. During the reporting period, most States parties

concerned replied to the requests for urgent action. If a State party does not provide information after three reminders, the Committee informs the State that its lack of cooperation will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

81. As at 15 June 2024, States parties had submitted replies regarding 194 of the urgent actions for which a final reminder had been sent. Nonetheless, the Committee underlines that it was still awaiting a response from the States parties concerned regarding 200 requests for urgent action, including 173 related to Iraq (see table 3).

Table 3

Number of urgent actions for which the final reminder sent to the concerned States party has expired, as at 15 June 2024

<i>State party</i>	<i>Number</i>
Cambodia	1
Iraq	173
Mexico	18
Sudan	7
Ukraine	1
Total	200

82. The Committee is particularly concerned about situations in which States have not provided any information since the registration of the urgent action concerned. This significantly affects the efficiency of the procedure and constitutes a violation of States parties' obligations under article 30 of the Convention.

2. Lessons learned and jurisprudence established over the reporting period

83. Lessons learned were shared by the Committee to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the urgent action procedure.

(a) Need for detailed information from States parties as to actions taken

84. The Committee bases its concerns and recommendations on a wide range of confidential sources, with the aim of providing specific information to support the States parties concerned in their efforts to search for disappeared persons.

85. The Committee remains particularly concerned about the replies received from Iraq: all reproduce one or a combination of points, without providing information on the steps taken to search for the disappeared persons and investigate the alleged disappearances. In those cases, the Committee reminded the State party that its failure to act and to provide specific information was not in compliance with the Convention.

(b) Need to adopt strategies suited to each case, and promotion of systematic coordination between institutions in charge of searches and investigations

86. In all notes on registration, the Committee invited the States parties concerned to establish without delay a comprehensive strategy that included an action plan and a timeline for the immediate search for the disappeared persons and for the exhaustive and impartial investigation of their alleged disappearance. This strategy must consider all the available information, including the context in which the disappearance took place, and must be established in full compliance with the Convention, and in the light of the Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons. Nonetheless, the Committee remains concerned about the prevailing failure by States parties to take action in this regard.

87. Such a trend is illustrated by two common characteristics of most of the replies of the States parties:

(a) The competent authorities usually report on isolated and uncoordinated action for search and investigation, without referring to any action to promote inter-institutional cooperation and sharing of information;

(b) The information available often reveals failures by the same authorities to share the information and evidence that they have obtained in fulfilling their respective mandates.

88. These practices lead in some instances to a duplication of activities and information gaps that result in the stagnation of the processes or in unnecessary delays in locating the disappeared persons and identifying the perpetrators. In such instances, the Committee consistently reminds the States concerned of their obligation to promote inter-institutional coordination as one of the components of their obligation to search for disappeared persons and investigate their disappearance.

(c) Need to take into account all hypotheses of investigation

89. The Committee raised concerns that some of the disappearances brought to its attention were not being investigated as possible enforced disappearances. In most urgent action cases, the information provided does not demonstrate that all hypotheses have been considered in the development of the search and investigation strategy. The nature of the crime usually means that hardly any information is available as to the perpetrators and their potential links with State agents. However, all hypothesis must be envisaged and all the information available must be thoroughly explored.

90. The Committee expressed concern regarding allegations received that, in many instances, the hypothesis of enforced disappearance was discounted, even when the relatives of the victims requested the prosecution of the crime as such, with authorities choosing to use another criminal offence. Another trend observed was not to assign the case to the investigative authorities in charge of the investigation of disappearances, thereby limiting the capacity of the authorities to search and investigate in compliance with national and international standards. During the reporting period, such patterns were observed in Colombia, Iraq, Japan and Mexico.

(d) Request to carry out specific actions for searches and investigations, including the collection and analysis of genetic samples

91. Whenever the Committee received reliable information relevant for a search and investigation, it shared it with the States parties concerned and invited them to ensure that the strategy and plan of action for the search and investigation included specific investigative steps, such as:

(a) Visiting identified places of deprivation of liberty;

(b) Protecting and analysing pieces of evidence;

(c) Interviewing witnesses and potential perpetrators.

92. The Committee received several allegations that the competent national authorities did not proceed with the forensic analysis of available genetic samples and did not take the relevant DNA samples that could have been of relevance to identify the disappeared person. In such cases, the Committee invited the States concerned to protect available genetic samples, collect related DNA and carry out cross-checks with relevant databases of national authorities, such as places of deprivation of liberty, hospitals and forensic services, including when the family of the disappeared person was located abroad. Such recommendations were made to Argentina, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Honduras, Japan, Mexico, Morocco and Peru.

(e) Need to search and investigate, whatever the circumstances and profile of the victim

93. In accordance with article 1 of the Convention, no exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other

public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance. Under this principle, States parties must search for the disappeared person and investigate the disappearance, regardless of the person's ethnic, religious or national origin, the profile and national origin of the alleged perpetrators, and the location and circumstances of the disappearances.

94. While the Committee acknowledges the difficult situation faced by the authorities of countries currently in a state of war or internal conflict, it recalls the obligations of the States parties concerned to search for the disappeared individuals, to investigate their disappearance and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

95. The Committee is particularly concerned about various trends observed in urgent actions related to Iraq that seem to reflect justify the non-development of search and investigation activities on the basis of: the existence of an arrest warrant under the Anti-Terrorism Law; the fact that the person is condemned to the death penalty; the argument that the relatives of the disappeared person have not reported the case to all the authorities of the State party; a determination that the identity document provided is not of sufficient quality.

96. When the State questions the legitimacy of the urgent action request by asserting that the victims have not provided proof that they reported the disappearance to the competent national authorities, the Committee recalls that the Convention does not impose any specific requirements as to which authority a complaint alleging an enforced disappearance should be directed. Under article 12 of the Convention, the competent authorities of the State party, where there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person has been subjected to enforced disappearance, should undertake an investigation even if there has been no formal complaint. Additionally, victims do not bear the burden of proof for any complaint submitted, much less should they be required to provide certified copies of such submissions, as such evidence is often solely in the hands of State authorities.

(f) Need to promote a differential approach in all search and investigation processes and to take into account the work of human rights defenders and political activists when carrying out contextual analyses and designing search strategies

97. In all cases involving women, children, persons with disabilities, members of Indigenous Peoples or other ethnic or cultural groups, and LGBTIQ+ persons, the Committee recalls that States parties' authorities must, as a matter of importance, adopt a differential approach whenever they carry out search and investigation activities and assist victims. During the reporting period, urgent actions were registered on behalf of 45 women and 23 children or adolescents.

98. The Committee also reminded States parties of the need to consider the political activities of the disappeared person whenever those activities are of relevance. When human rights defenders, their representatives or the victims' counsel requested protection measures in such cases, the Committee requested the States parties concerned to ensure that the beneficiaries' work and activities were considered in the risk assessment and identification of appropriate protection measures.

(g) Need to ensure an immediate visit to places of deprivation of liberty and check relevant databases

99. The authors of urgent action requests frequently share allegations indicating that the disappeared person might be detained in specific places of deprivation of liberty. In such cases, the Committee shares all the available information with the State party, requesting it to verify the information.

100. When no details are available regarding the name of the place of deprivation of liberty, the Committee recommends that the State check whether the disappeared persons are in one of the places of deprivation of liberty where they could be.

101. In cases related to Iraq, the Committee reiterated its recommendation contained in its visit report that the State party look into potential cases of detention through the immediate establishment of an independent task force in charge of systematically cross-checking the

registers of all places of deprivation of liberty, regardless of the institution to which they belong, with the names of all detainees¹¹ and of disappeared people, including that of the disappeared person on whose behalf the urgent action has been registered.

(h) Need to promote international mutual legal assistance

102. The need to promote international mutual legal assistance between States concerned has been highlighted in various urgent actions. Since 2012, 50 urgent actions have been registered for more than one State party; in those cases, the Committee considered that a State party to the Convention could be supported by relevant authorities in other States in the search and location of disappeared persons on whose behalf an urgent action has been registered. The Committee makes such registration decisions on the basis of the nationality of the disappeared person, the place where the alleged disappearance started, and/or the location of related pieces of evidence on the national territory of a State party.

103. Where an urgent action request refers to various countries, including some that are not parties to the Convention, the Committee has invited the States parties concerned to consider the possibility of developing mechanisms of mutual assistance with those countries.

(i) Participation of the relatives of disappeared persons and access to information

104. In all notes of registration of urgent actions, the Committee requests the State party concerned:

(a) To establish and implement a clear and official mechanism to inform the relatives and representatives of disappeared persons about the actions taken to search for them and investigate their alleged disappearance, the progress made and the challenges faced;

(b) To allow the full participation of the relatives and representatives of disappeared persons in the search process and in the investigation of the alleged disappearance, and to provide them with direct access to the information available on the evolution and results of the ongoing investigation;

105. When the relatives of the disappeared persons live in a country other than the one in which the disappearance allegedly occurred, the Committee has requested States parties concerned to ensure that such mechanisms are also accessible to those relatives.

(j) Reprisals and interim measures

106. The Committee is concerned at allegations regarding reprisals, 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. In 278 of the currently open cases (representing 26.2 per cent of open cases), the Committee requested the States parties concerned to take interim measures of protection to preserve the lives and integrity of the authors of the requests and allow them to pursue their search activities without being subjected to violence, intimidation or harassment. Those cases concern 222 persons reported as disappeared in Mexico, 20 in Iraq, 13 in Honduras, 8 in Gabon, 6 in Colombia, 1 in Argentina, 1 in Armenia, 1 in Brazil, 1 in Burkina Faso, 1 in Cambodia, 1 in Croatia, 1 in Morocco and 1 in Paraguay, and 1 in a case related to Spain. The Committee also requested the States parties concerned to ensure that such measures were taken in consultation with the persons requiring protection and were subject to review at their request. Protection measures were also requested for the protection of pieces of evidence.

(k) Specific requests by States parties related to the closure of an urgent action

107. During the reporting period, the Committee received a request from Mexico to close urgent action request 225/2015, as the case of Ivette Melissa Flores Román had also been examined by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.¹² The Committee reminded the State party that individual complaints and urgent actions were not procedures of international investigation or settlement of the same nature, and that the

¹¹ CED/C/IRQ/VR/1 (Recommendations), para. 67.

¹² CEDAW/C/83/D/153/2020.

adoption of a decision by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was therefore not a criterion for closing or suspending an urgent action request. Under article 30 (4) of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Committee should continue its efforts to work with the State party concerned for as long as the fate of the person sought remained unresolved.

Chapter XI

Communications procedure under article 31 of the Convention

108. Over the reporting period, the Committee registered one new individual communication.

109. Another communication is currently pending and is scheduled to be examined at the Committee's twenty-seventh session.

Chapter XII

Visits under article 33 of the Convention

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

111. In March 2024, Colombia informed the Committee that it would receive a visit of the Committee under article 33. The visit will take place from 25 November to 6 December 2024.

Chapter XIII

General comments

112. After a wide-ranging consultation process, the Committee, at its twenty-fifth session, adopted and launched general comment No. 1 (2023) on enforced disappearance in the context of migration. Thousands of migrants disappear every year while trying to reach other countries. Rigid migration policies involving pushbacks, expulsions and detentions increase risks for enforced disappearances. The general comment will serve to assist States in identifying and addressing their obligations arising from the Convention with respect to those situations. The official launch¹³ included a message from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and statements from academics, States (Mexico and Morocco), United Nations experts and civil society actors. Together, they identified existing and future projects to promote the implementation of the general comment.

113. As part of the revision of its rules of procedure, the Committee included new paragraphs that specify the procedure for drafting and adopting general comments.

¹³ See <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1f/k1fas16u7p>.

Chapter XIV

Other projects and activities undertaken by members of the Committee intersessionally

114. Committee members participated in a wide range of intersessional activities to promote the Convention and the Committee's work.¹⁴

¹⁴ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/activities>.

Annex

States parties to the Convention as at 15 June 2024 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	-
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	-
Denmark	13 Jan. 2022	12 Feb. 2022	12 Feb. 2024	-
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	-
Finland*	24 Mar. 2023	23 Apr. 2023	23 Apr. 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	-

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.