
TREATY BODIES

Participating in Treaty Body Sessions

This document provides guidance on how to more effectively participate in Treaty Body sessions.

Attending Treaty Body sessions in Geneva enables you to brief Committee members during both formal and informal meetings, and to observe the discussion, which includes issues raised, the government's replies and the recommendations made by the Treaty Body.

Some tips on participating in Treaty Body sessions:

- NGOs cannot speak or take the floor during the interactive dialogue between the Treaty Body and the State party. Nonetheless, all Treaty Bodies have dedicated slots in the agenda of the Treaty Body session for NGO inputs ahead of state review sessions, and some may do for the adoption of the List of Issues (LOIs) and List of Issues Priori to Reporting (LOIPR) as well. You can also interact with Treaty Body members prior to and outside the session.
- All Treaty Body reviews of State parties are public, and are available via the [UNTV webcast](#) (live and for replay).

NGO Interaction

- There are also several informal avenues for NGO interaction with the members of the Treaty Bodies. You may hold informal meetings with Committee members during or prior to the main sessions, in addition to interacting through parallel events, other NGO meetings, or simply in the corridors around where the Treaty Body sessions are held. Committee members are usually approachable and welcome opportunities to share information and ideas with NGO representatives.

Briefings prior to and during the session

- You can participate in briefings that take place before or during the Treaty Body sessions. These briefings may either be informal or part of the Treaty Bodies' formal sessions. For example, the CRC has dedicated pre-sessions for interaction with children's rights organisations ahead of the reviews.
 - All of the Treaty Bodies allow for NGO representatives to brief Treaty Body members orally during their formal sessions, some of them in private sessions with interpretation (CCPR and CAT) while such sessions are public for others (CEDAW).
 - In the case of some Treaty Bodies, NGOs can also request OHCHR to hold 'lunchtime' briefings, which Treaty Body members are invited to attend, prior to the review. As the lunchtime slot is
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considered to be outside the formal working period of the Treaty Bodies, it is up to Committee members to decide if they want to attend, and interpretation is not provided. Arrangements can sometimes be made for NGO representatives to participate in these informal briefings remotely if they cannot participate in person. Arrangements can be made for such briefings to take place in a discreet manner when there are security concerns. In this case, only a handful of Treaty Body members (usually the rapporteur or country task force) are aware of the NGO briefing and of the identity of the briefer.

TREATY BODY	PERIODIC REVIEWS – OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE DURING TREATY BODY SESSIONS
CERD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs may brief the Committee at meetings held on the first day of each week of the session • NGOs may organise lunchtime briefings on States being reviewed, immediately prior to the review commencing in the afternoon
CESCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral briefing during the first day of the pre-sessional working group (for LOI/LOIPR), by NGOs that have submitted written information • Afternoon of the first day of session is devoted to NGO oral briefings from those that have submitted written information (for reviews) • NGOs that have submitted written information may organise informal lunchtime briefings the day before the review
HR Ctte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral briefings for half an hour per State, on the first day of each week of the session • NGOs may organise lunchtime briefings on States being reviewed, immediately prior to the review commencing in the afternoon
CEDAW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral briefing by NGOs during the pre-sessional working group (for LOI/LOIPR) during the first day • Oral briefings on the first day of each week of the session (for reviews) • Informal briefings may be organised by contacting the Secretariat
CAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral briefings for one hour per State, on the day prior to the state review • Private NGO briefings of the Committee can be convened for NGOs that have submitted written information
CRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs who submit information are invited to participate in the pre-sessional working group, which unlike other Committees is not dedicated to the adoption of LOI/LOIPR but to interaction between non state actors and the Committee
CRPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral briefings usually on the first day of each week of the session • NGOs may organise informal ‘coffee’ and ‘lunchtime’ briefings or side events
CMW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral briefings on the first day of the session • NGOs may organise one-hour informal lunchtime briefings
CED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral briefings normally a day or two before the State review • NGOs may organise informal briefings the day before or the day of the review