

# THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM



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# GHRP FRIDAYS

## Predictable review schedule

Friday 26 November 2021, 2.30 – 4.00 pm CET

Geneva Academy, Villa Moynier, 120B rue de Lausanne, Geneva  
and ZOOM

## Topic: Predictable Review Schedule

A major issue for visibility of the UN Treaty Body system, the coherence of its output and encouragement for timely and full cooperation is the current irregular and incoherent schedule of reviews across the system.

Suggestions for a master calendar have been made and turned down for various reasons while the problem only aggravated. In the lead-up to the 2020 Treaty Body Review by the UN General Assembly, submissions on behalf of 48 States addressed the development of a coordinated, fixed and multiyear calendar for all of the Committees, stating that it would provide valuable assistance to States parties in engaging effectively with the treaty body system. The 'master calendar' should be coordinated across all Committees and include the due dates for States parties' reports and appearance dates. Greater coordination within the treaty body system in relation to scheduling appearances could also assist States parties by ensuring, where possible, appearances before different treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review mechanism do not overlap. Such a 'master calendar' would ensure States parties do not duplicate reporting and briefing processes. The current uncoordinated process can make domestic planning and engagement difficult. Reducing the reporting burden and making the reporting systems simpler, more efficient and focused would support States parties to focus on follow-up and implementation.

A push for a comprehensive fixed calendar by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights brings new dynamics into the discussion. Similar developments of independent fixed calendars are being considered also by other Treaty Bodies. Yet, the COVID situation has undone some of the recent achievements and aggravated the backlog already present in the system. This GHRP Friday will discuss calendars in place and possibilities to synchronize reporting schedules of all Treaty Bodies, moving thus towards a 100% reporting compliance rate, enhanced visibility and meaningful possibilities for follow-up and mutual reinforcement.

## Program

### 2.30 pm **Opening of the session**

Felix Kirchmeier, Executive Director, Geneva Human Rights Platform

### 2.40 pm **Presentations on recent developments**

Photini Pazartzis, Chairperson, Human Rights Committee

Ludovic Hennebel, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Ricardo Kellman, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Barbados to the UN in Geneva

Simon Walker, Chief of Section, Treaty Body Branch, OHCHR

Patrick Mutzenberg, Director, CCPR Centre

### 3.20 pm **Open Discussion**

### 4.00 pm **End of the Meeting**

## Background / Concept

Completing the 2020 Treaty Body Review by the General Assembly, the report of the co-facilitators, Morocco and Switzerland, has been submitted and noted by the General Assembly (A/75/601). Treaty Bodies have responded to the issues raised in various forms, most recently via the [report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Chairpersons](#) (A/76/254), or, individually, e.g. via the [CRPD position paper](#).

States have also voiced their views and expectations, as e.g. via a [joint letter](#) to the TB Chairs' 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Yet, the important proposals resulting from the 2020 review process still remain to be implemented. Those proposals include the establishment of predictable review calendars on new timelines, the introduction of focused reviews in the reporting cycle, harmonization of working methods, transparency in the nomination process for membership and the digital shift, including inter-sessional work online, and questions around remuneration of online work. Aside of budgetary considerations, implementation will depend on political will and collaboration of all actors involved, and their openness to test new way of working.

This new GHRP Friday event series will provide a space for discussions among diplomats, Treaty Body members, OHCHR staff and civil society on the results of the review and practical ways to implement change.

## Modalities for Participation

This event will be held in hybrid format, with participation in presence at Villa Moynier in Geneva and online on the platform Zoom. Meetings will be open to the diplomatic community, Treaty Body members, OHCHR staff and representatives of civil society. Persons interested in participating at Villa Moynier need to register beforehand, due to the limited spaces available.

## Registration

### Online

[Register here](#) to follow this event online. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### In Geneva

[Register here](#) to follow this event at the Geneva Academy headquarters Villa Moynier.

Due to sanitary measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the Scientific Colloquium will be limited to those who have a valid Swiss COVID Certificate; an EU Digital COVID Certificate; or a paper or digital document proving that s.he has been tested negative following a rapid antigen test or a PCR one conducted within 48 hours and 72 hours respectively prior to the start of the event.