

THE GENEVA
HUMAN RIGHTS
PLATFORM



Misión Permanente de Costa Rica
ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas
Ginebra



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and
Development Cooperation



MISION PERMANENTE DEL URUGUAY
ANTE NACIONES UNIDAS



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès de l'Office des Nations
Unies et des autres organisations internationales à Genève

Canada

GHRP FRIDAYS

Harmonized COVID Working Methods

Friday 12 November 2021, 2.30 – 4.00 pm CET

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

Click [here](#) to register

A project of the:

**GENEVA
ACADEMY**

Académie de droit international
humanitaire et de droits humains
Academy of International
Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

The Geneva Academy, a Joint Centre of



Topic: Harmonized COVID Working Methods

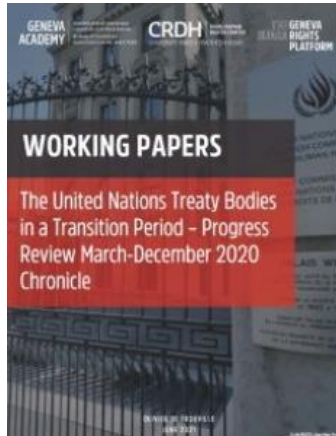
The exceptional situation during the COVID 19 pandemic forced Treaty Bodies, as everyone else, to find temporary solutions to continue their work in absence of face-to-face meetings and travel. The inter-committee Working Group on COVID 19 and initiatives by individual committees have produced food for thought on ways for Treaty Bodies to work online. Discussions and COVID-induced practice have also shown challenges and shortcomings. Different time-zones, the digital gap and the lack of regulations regarding DSA for online sessions, just to name a few of those.

This GHRP Friday will allow TB members to report back on their experiences and to discuss lessons for a post-COVID setting. What elements of online work could be taken over into regular TB work? What was the experience of states engaging with TBs during the online sessions? What were the most prominent constraints? And how about access for civil society – did it grow due to wider reach or shrink due to less options?

Programme

- 2.30 pm Opening of the session
 Felix Kirchmeier, Executive Director, Geneva Human Rights Platform
- 2.40 pm Presentations on recent developments
 Olivier de Frouville, Vice-Chair, CED and Member of the GHRP Advisory Board
 Alvaro Botero, CMW and Chair of the Inter-committee WG on COVID (tbc)
 Tom Neijens, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN in Geneva
 Elena Kountouri-Tapiero, Secretary of the TB Chairs meeting, OHCHR
 Christen Broeker, Deputy Director, Jakob Blaustein Institute (tbc)
- 3.20 pm Open Discussion
- 4.00 pm End of the Meeting

Documentation



The United Nations Treaty Bodies in a Transition Period – Progress Review March-December 2020 Chronicle; June 2021, Olivier de Frouville [Download](#)

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 33rd 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' 33rd 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

<https://geneva-academy-ch.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcod-gsqT4jH9B1yFv6vtt7trJjhouZC0hg>