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Promotion and protection of human rights

Implementation of human rights instruments

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their thirty-sixth annual meeting, held in New York, from 24 to 28 June 2024, pursuant to Assembly resolution [57/202](#).

* [A/79/150](#).



Report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their thirty-sixth annual meeting

Summary

The General Assembly, in its resolution [57/202](#), requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly the reports of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their periodic meetings, convened annually pursuant to Assembly resolution [49/178](#). The present report is of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Chairs of the treaty bodies, which was held in New York from 24 to 28 June 2024. The Chairs focused their discussions on the treaty body strengthening process and the follow-up to the conclusions of their thirty-fifth annual meeting and to the revised working paper on options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies at their thirty-fourth meeting, in June 2022, submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in May 2023 (revised in April 2024). They held meetings with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, as well as Member States, United Nations entities and civil society organizations. The decisions and recommendations of the Chairs are set out in section V of the present report.

I. Introduction

1. The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies was held in New York from 24 to 28 June 2024. The Chairs held 10 formal meetings.
2. The annual meeting is a forum for the Chairs to maintain communication and dialogue with each other on common issues and challenges.¹
3. The Chairs focused their discussions on the treaty body strengthening process and the follow-up to the conclusions of their thirty-fifth meeting² (29 May to 2 June 2023, New York) and to the revised working paper options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies at their thirty-fourth meeting in June 2022,³ submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in May 2023 (revised in April 2024). They also discussed the progress made on the alignment of their working methods and practices and the implementation by the treaty bodies of the Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines ([A/67/222](#), annex I) and of the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals (San José Guidelines) ([HRI/MC/2015/6](#)).
4. In paragraph 38 of its resolution [68/268](#), the General Assembly encouraged the human rights treaty bodies, with a view to accelerating the harmonization of the treaty body system, to continue to enhance the role of their Chairs in relation to procedural matters, including with respect to formulating conclusions on issues related to working methods and procedural matters, promptly generalizing good practices and methodologies among all treaty bodies, ensuring coherence across the treaty bodies and standardizing working methods.
5. The meetings of the Chairs are convened annually pursuant to General Assembly resolution [49/178](#). The previous in-person meeting of the Chairs was held in New York in 2023 pursuant to the Chairs' decision at their twenty-eighth meeting, in the light of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#) and, in particular, of the call by States parties to strengthen interaction between the human rights treaty bodies and States parties.⁴
6. The following documents served as background to the meeting:
 - (a) Provisional agenda and annotations ([HRI/MC/2024/1](#));
 - (b) Note by the Secretariat on practices of the human rights treaty bodies on intimidation and reprisals and issues for further action by the Chairs ([HRI/MC/2024/2](#)), which includes information on the implementation by the treaty bodies of the San José Guidelines, with a particular focus on the period 2023–2024 and on recent developments and good practices;

¹ The meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies was first called for by the General Assembly in 1983 in its resolution 38/117. The Assembly, in its resolution [57/202](#), requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly the reports of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their periodic meetings.

² <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2Fhrbodies%2Ftreaty-bodies%2Fannualmeeting%2F35meeting%2F2023-06-19-Working-paper-implementation-treaty-body-Chairs-conclusions.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>.

³ Available at tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCHAIRPERSONS%2FCWP%2F36%2F36783&Lang=en.

⁴ For further information on the meetings, see www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/annual-meeting-chairpersons-human-rights-treaty-bodies.

- (c) Programme of work;⁵
- (d) Note by the Secretariat on compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations to international human rights treaty bodies (HRI/MC/2024/3, which contains an overview of the reporting compliance by States parties as at 31 December 2023;
- (e) Analytical summary of primary indications of States' preferences on the options contained in the OHCHR working paper based on the discussions at the informal briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for States on 1 November 2023 on the treaty body strengthening process;⁶
- (f) Revised working paper on options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the human rights treaty body Chairs at their thirty-fourth meeting in June 2022.⁷

II. Organization of the meeting

7. The meeting was attended by nine Chairs, as follows: Michal Balcerzak, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; Laura-Maria Craciunean-Tatu, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Fatima Diallo, Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; Olivier de Frouville, Committee on Enforced Disappearances; Claude Heller, Committee against Torture; Suzanne Jabbour, Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; Ana Peláez Narváez, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; Gertrude Oforiwa Fefoame, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and Ann Marie Skelton, Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Human Rights Committee was represented by José Manuel Santos Pais, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

8. At the 1st meeting, on 24 June 2024, Ms. Jabbour was elected by acclamation as Chair of the thirty-sixth meeting, and Mr. de Frouville was elected as Vice-Chair, on the basis of the established principle of rotation.

9. In his opening remarks on behalf of OHCHR, the Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch of OHCHR, Ibrahim Salama, expressed appreciation for the Chairs' conclusions at their thirty-fifth meeting and the progress made at informal meetings of the Chairs in December 2023 and in February 2024. He emphasized the urgency of moving from options to decisions in view of the upcoming biennial General Assembly resolution on the human rights treaty body system, scheduled for adoption in December 2024. For this purpose, OHCHR has prepared an analytical summary of primary indications of States' preferences on the options contained in the OHCHR working paper based on the discussions at the informal briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for States on 1 November 2023 on the treaty body strengthening process and a revised working paper on options and guiding questions (May 2023, revised April 2024) to reflect the views of States as expressed at the informal briefing on 1 November 2023, and the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting. The Office had also prepared internal working papers on the harmonization of working methods.

⁵ www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/treaty-bodies/annualmeeting/36meeting/POW-36th-meeting-chairpersons.docx.

⁶ Available at tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCHAIRPERSONS%2FCWP%2F36%2F36782&Lang=en.

⁷ Available at tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCHAIRPERSONS%2FCWP%2F36%2F36783&Lang=en.

10. With reference to the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights for the treaty body strengthening process, Mr. Salama called on all stakeholders, in particular the Chairs and States, to use the current momentum to bring the process to a successful close. Specifically, he suggested that the Chairs make concrete progress in their work on the harmonization of working methods.

11. The new Chair, Ms. Jabbour, thanked the outgoing Chair, Mr. Heller, for his leadership towards forward-looking Chairs' conclusions in 2023, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for his continued support and the secretariat for the OHCHR working paper (May 2023) and its revised version (April 2024), as a landmark document containing options that were progressively narrowed down. She emphasized the collective responsibility of the Chairs to build on these conclusions and on the OHCHR working paper in this pivotal year of the strengthening process. Ms. Jabbour called on the Chairs to advance the simplification of working methods and to progress on the design of a coordination mechanism, as one of the primary responsibilities of the Chairs, while respecting the specificities of the international human rights treaties. The incoming Chair also noted that the structural problems faced by the treaty body system, including the increasing backlog and the lack of resources despite the constant growth of the system, had been worsened by the liquidity situation of the United Nations. She recalled that the Chairs had expressed great concern in a letter to the President of the General Assembly in February 2024 about the severe impact of the liquidity situation on the efficiency of the treaty body system. Ms. Jabbour hoped that the General Assembly would adopt a robust resolution on the treaty body system in December 2024 with corresponding resources.

12. The treaty body Chairs and Vice-Chair congratulated the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the thirty-sixth meeting.

13. The Chairs adopted the provisional agenda and the revised programme of work for the meeting, as revised (see annex).

III. Summary of the discussions

A. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

14. At meetings from 24 to 27 June 2024, the Chairs held discussions on the follow-up to the conclusions of their thirty-fifth meeting, and had before them the revised working paper (April 2024), the analytical summary of primary indications of States' preferences and the internal working documents, all prepared by OHCHR. The Chairs focused their discussions on those working methods that required fewer or no resource allocations for their harmonization and on the modalities for the Committees' advisory mechanism for harmonization.

15. For related decisions and recommendations, see section V of the present report.

B. Progress made on the alignment of working methods and practices of the treaty bodies

16. On 24 June 2024, the Chairs discussed reporting compliance by States parties, based on the note by the Secretariat on compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations to international human rights treaty bodies ([HRI/MC/2024/3](#)). According to the secretariat, as at 31 December 2023, 54 out of 197 States parties (about 27 per cent) had no overdue reports. However, the number of reports received

decreased in 2023, to 97 reports from 110 in 2022. Overall, 483 reports from 143 States parties were overdue at the end of 2023, mostly from States parties in the African Group (209 reports). By oral update, the secretariat informed the Chairs that, compared with the end of 2023, the number of reports overdue as at 1 June 2024 had increased from 483 to 493. At that time, the treaty bodies had a 50 per cent gender balance in their overall elected membership.

17. The Chairs deliberated on a harmonized approach for the treaty bodies to reach out to non-reporting or late-reporting States parties. In addition, they discussed the desirability of further disaggregating statistical data on the composition of Committees according to factors other than gender.

18. For related decisions and recommendations, see section V of the present report.

C. Intersessional activities

19. On 28 June 2024, the Chairs exchanged on intersessional activities. They emphasized the need for regular exchanges between the Chairs at this critical juncture of the treaty body strengthening process. They also stressed that meetings among Committees, and with regional human rights mechanisms, could lead to important synergies.

20. For related decisions and recommendations, see section V of the present report.

D. Implementation by the human rights treaty bodies of the Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines)

21. The Chairs discussed the implementation of the Addis Ababa guidelines on 24 June 2024. They exchanged on best practices and challenges faced by the treaty bodies. In addition, the Chairs noted the fine balance to be struck between, on the one hand, the necessary participation of Committee members with specific geographical expertise in region-specific or country-specific activities and, on the other hand, potential conflicts of interest owing to the nationality of the member. Lastly, the Chairs discussed their own role in ensuring the implementation of the guidelines.

E. Implementation by the human rights treaty bodies of the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals (San José Guidelines)

22. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris, called, during a meeting with the Chairs on 24 June 2024, for close coordination by the human rights treaty bodies on reprisals and encouraged the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to endorse the San José Guidelines. In her capacity as the Secretary-General's focal point for reprisals, she referred to the global trends of increased self-censorship and physical surveillance and the misuse of laws concerning civil society, counter-terrorism, and national security to deter, obstruct or punish cooperation with the United Nations, as documented in the 2023 report of the Secretary-General ([A/HRC/54/61](#)). She added that she, with her team, was preparing the 2024 report of the Secretary-General on reprisals, gathering and verifying alleged cases and referred to the worrisome trend of self-censorship and increased requests for anonymity with regard to allegations transmitted, which in some cases might prevent their inclusion in the report. The Assistant Secretary-General also referred to examples of good practices put in place by some Member States that help support and

provide protection to human rights defenders at risk, including for their cooperation with the United Nations.

23. The Chairs at their thirty-sixth meeting confirmed that they observed the same trends described by the Assistant Secretary-General, notably when it came to self-censorship by human rights defenders and an increased misuse of national security laws. They also highlighted the challenges posed by civil society organizations that are closely aligned with Governments, as well as the tensions that arise between civil society organizations over divisive issues. The Chairs further stated that the use of new technology increased the spectrum of acts that could amount to intimidation or reprisals. The secretariat referred to the mapping report on reprisals ([HRI/MC/2024/2](#)), prepared for the thirty-sixth meeting.

24. The Assistant Secretary-General stressed that regular exchanges among treaty bodies and a common, regularly updated approach, based on good practices, as well as guidance to new Committee members, were vital. The Assistant Secretary-General recalled the responsibility of Member States to prevent acts of intimidation and reprisals committed by non-State actors. In addition to prevention, she emphasized the importance of follow-up with regard to alleged cases of intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations to ensure that States were held accountable, including through the concluding observations of the treaty bodies and in the context of individual communications.

25. For related decisions and recommendations, see section V of the present report.

IV. Meetings and consultations

A. Meetings with high-level United Nations officials

Meeting with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

26. On 26 June 2024, the Secretary-General, António Guterres, had a meeting with the Chairs. He welcomed the Chairs and emphasized that their work was more relevant than ever, in view of a pushback against the realization of human rights. The Secretary-General added that the United Nations was fully supportive of the human rights treaty bodies and recalled that, in his “Call to Action”,⁸ he called not only for a strengthening of the treaty body system but also for a more sustainable resource allocation.

27. The Chair of the thirty-sixth meeting recognized the voice and convening power of the Secretary-General as being some of the few remaining threads of hope amid a severe crisis of multilateralism, a time of unprecedented pushback against international law and at a critical juncture for the treaty bodies. She also called on the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that cash conservation measures, rendered necessary by the liquidity crisis of the United Nations, were not applied across the board, but preserved the ability of the treaty bodies to fulfil their non-discretionary mandate in implementation of obligations under international law. Lastly, the Chair solicited the Secretary-General to exercise his moral authority and political weight to urge States to act decisively on proposals to strengthen the treaty body system.

28. The Chairs added that the integrity of the treaty body system was at stake, owing to issues such as insufficient meeting time for treaty bodies during their sessions and

⁸ www.un.org/en/content/action-for-human-rights/index.shtml.

the substantial backlog. They also highlighted the importance of ensuring strong references to human rights in the Pact for the Future.

29. The Secretary-General underlined the importance of ensuring that human rights were horizontally mainstreamed in the Pact for the Future and called on the treaty bodies to lend their voice to this key message. In addition, the Secretary-General confirmed his full support and that of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights for the treaty body strengthening process and adequate resourcing of the system.

Meeting with the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

30. On 24 June 2024, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, emphasized the concerted efforts made by the High Commissioner, herself and the Office to reach out to States on the urgency of strengthening the treaty bodies. This was of particular importance in the context of the overall backlash against international law and human rights specifically. The Assistant Secretary-General informed the participants that the liquidity situation of the United Nations remained an obstacle to the effective functioning of the treaty bodies. She underlined the significance of the biennial General Assembly resolution in December 2024 and of the responsibility of the Chairs of the treaty bodies to build consensus on the harmonization of working methods, as a response to a recurring request by States parties.

31. The Chairs thanked the Assistant Secretary-General for sharing her insights into developments in New York regarding the treaty body strengthening process and the liquidity situation. They stressed the technical, rather than political, nature of the treaty body strengthening process and noted that the opportunity of the 2024 biennial General Assembly resolution had to be taken, as momentum had been built up over recent years by the 2020 review process (see [A/75/601](#), annex), the conclusions of the Chairs in 2022 ([A/77/228](#), paras. 55 and 56) and 2023 and the OHCHR working paper (May 2023, revised April 2024). In this regard, the Chairs considered that the harmonization of working methods was an obligation, whereby results had to be achieved. They also emphasized the insufficient level of resources available to treaty bodies, a situation exacerbated by the liquidity issues. In addition, they raised the question of the recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Pact for the Future, the cooperation between the treaty bodies and the Security Council and the progress made on planned international human rights treaties.

32. The Assistant Secretary-General reiterated her support for the treaty body Chairs and the strengthening process. With regard to the backlash against human rights, she noted that it was important for the treaty bodies and the secretariat to address States parties through different forms of engagement, including dialogue and capacity-building. The Assistant Secretary-General also expressed hope that ongoing efforts to mainstream human rights in the Pact for the Future were successful and that the international human rights treaty system would be further reinforced in the future.

B. Consultation with States parties

33. On 27 June 2024, the Chairs held a public consultation with States parties attended by more than 70 delegates, representing Member States and regional groups.

34. At the opening, the Chair of the thirty-sixth meeting indicated that the treaty bodies were at a critical juncture, where the treaty body Chairs had faithfully implemented General Assembly resolution [68/268](#), but where States had a common responsibility to conclude the treaty body strengthening process through a forward-looking General Assembly resolution, based on the Chairs' conclusions and the

revised OHCHR working paper. She underlined that key components of the proposed strengthening efforts, namely, the predictable schedule of reviews and the harmonization of working methods, were already reflected in paragraphs 34 and 38 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 and thus not new. The Chairs had intensified the harmonization of those working methods that did not require additional resources, or only few, and decided to establish a coordination mechanism to help expand harmonization efforts.

35. While States had welcomed the ongoing process in General Assembly resolution 77/210, adopted on 15 December 2022, the Chair emphasized that the treaty body strengthening process had successfully culminated. She noted that any further delay in the process would aggravate the denial of justice and the global human rights situation.

36. Following an introduction by the nine Chairs and one Vice-Chair of the human rights treaty bodies, 21 delegations made interventions: Belarus, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, also on behalf of 12 other Member States (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Dominican Republic), France, Iceland, also on behalf of six other Member States (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden), Islamic Republic of Iran, also on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, Israel, Morocco, Mexico, Peru, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union and the Pacific Community.

37. Several speakers stressed the importance of ensuring the effective functioning of the Committees and supported the implementation of the conclusions of the Chairs of the treaty bodies. A great number of States appreciated the OHCHR working paper and its revised version (April 2024), and selected States took explicit note of the OHCHR analytical summary of primary indications of States' preferences⁹ and of the report of the General Assembly on the process of the consideration of the state of the human rights treaty body system in 2020 (A/75/601). Numerous delegations expressed concerns about the lack of sustainable funding for the treaty bodies. Other challenges raised were the backlog in the review of State party reports and individual communications, the lack of fulfilment by some States of their reporting obligations and the insufficient implementation of Assembly resolution 68/268. While a considerable number of States noted that resolution 68/268 provided an appropriate framework for the strengthening of the treaty body system, some States spoke in favour of using the next biennial General Assembly resolution as a vehicle for strengthening measures.

38. There was broad support for the establishment of a predictable schedule of reviews, with numerous States being in favour of an eight-year cycle. There was also great support among delegations for the harmonization of working methods, with a considerable number of States favourable also to coordination on substance. Selected States saw a particular role for the Chairs or a new coordination mechanism in this regard. Many States proposed the generalization of the simplified reporting procedure, whereas others underlined that the procedure should remain voluntary. Other topics raised in the context of the harmonization of working methods were hybrid constructive dialogues, the participation of civil society representatives and their protection from intimidation and reprisals, multilingualism, respect for the independence of Committee members and the nomination of a diverse membership. Numerous delegations emphasized the considerable potential of digitalization of the work of the treaty bodies. Selected States also recalled the need for the activities of

⁹ Available at tinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCHAIRPERSONS%2FCWP%2F36%2F36782&Lang=en.

the treaty bodies to remain within their mandates and for constructive dialogues and information submitted to the Committees to be objective.

39. The Chairs expressed their gratitude to States and groups of States for their active engagement in the meeting. They recalled the importance of general comments in providing interpretations to the treaties and the responsibility of States in prohibiting reprisals against civil society representatives and in nominating treaty body experts. The Chairs regretted the backlog and the discontinuation of hybrid meetings with stakeholders other than States. They reiterated that the biennial resolution of the General Assembly could bring the required strengthening measures to the treaty body system.

C. Consultation with United Nations entities

40. On 26 June 2024, the Chairs met with representatives of programmes or departments of the following United Nations entities: the International Labour Organization (ILO); OHCHR; the United Nations Development Coordination Office, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); and the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF).

41. The Chair of the thirty-sixth meeting acknowledged their vital roles in the work of the treaty bodies. She expressed hope that the Summit of the Future would provide an opportunity for further streamlining and resourcing of human rights action.

42. The OHCHR office in New York discussed the different mechanisms through which it shared information on the work of the treaty bodies with United Nations agencies. OHCHR, through inter-agency networks, also works to maintain the reference to human rights in the General Assembly resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. The Development Coordination Office underlined that its data collection and learning material reflected the intersectionality of vulnerabilities of different groups of rights holders. UNDP stressed the role of the treaty bodies in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and shared examples of follow-up to treaty body recommendations in its thematic and country-specific work. UN-Women and UNICEF continued their long-standing support for, in particular, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, respectively, throughout the reporting cycle of States parties and in the elaboration of general comments and/or recommendations. Lastly, the representative of ILO recalled the ongoing cooperation between the treaty bodies and the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations.

43. The Chairs thanked the United Nations entities for their continuing cooperation with the Committees on their mandated activities and for mainstreaming human rights in their respective programmes. They also inquired about the activities of United Nations agencies on the implementation of decisions on individual communications, to reinforce the implementation of relevant ILO conventions, as well as in specific thematic areas.

D. Consultation with national human rights institutions and civil society organizations

44. On 27 June 2024, the Chairs met with representatives of civil society organizations.

45. The Chair of the thirty-sixth meeting thanked the participants for their indispensable input to the work of the treaty bodies. She recalled that the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the treaty bodies were focused on the options contained in the OHCHR working paper (revised in April 2024), many of which were aimed at facilitating collaboration with non-State stakeholders. The Chair called on civil society organizations to advocate for a favourable biennial General Assembly resolution. She regretted that, in 2024, civil society representatives were able to attend only in person owing to the unavailability of support for remote participation.

46. The following organizations made interventions on behalf of national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and academia: the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights; and Legal Action Worldwide. In their comments, they addressed the treaty body strengthening process, with a focus on substantive duplications in treaty body recommendations and on proposals on the participation of civil society organizations. Participants noted that a repetition of recommendations of the treaty bodies could have a positive impact and thanked the Chairs for reaffirming the significance of non-governmental organization access to the work of the treaty bodies in their 2023 conclusions. Treaty bodies were encouraged to enhance the protection of the identities of victims in their engagement with the Committees to shield them from any acts of intimidation and reprisals by State perpetrators and from societal prejudices and exclusion. Lastly, they hoped that future meetings would allow for online participation.

47. The Chairs expressed their gratitude to the participants for their substantial support to the Committees. They underlined the importance of a supportive biennial General Assembly resolution on the treaty body system and explained that the harmonization of working methods was the focus of their thirty-sixth meeting. Lastly, the Chairs echoed the concern of the lack of hybrid modalities for the meeting with civil society organizations.

V. Decisions and recommendations

48. On 28 June 2024, the Chairs adopted the decisions and recommendations set out below.

A. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

49. The Chairs agreed unanimously to the conclusions set out below as the main outcome of the thirty-sixth meeting:

Conclusions of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

50. The human rights treaty body system is at a pivotal moment. At this critical juncture, support and decisive action are essential to enhance the efficiency of collective efforts to promote and protect human rights. The parameters for strengthening the treaty bodies were clearly defined by the General Assembly in its landmark resolution [68/268](#) of 2014. However, this has proved insufficient to solve the ongoing systemic crisis. According to the note by the Secretariat ([HRI/MC/2024/3](#)), as at 31 December 2023, 143 States parties out of a total of 197 (72.6 per cent) had a total of 483 reports overdue. Despite this situation of non-compliance by many States parties with their reporting obligations, the backlog of reports to be reviewed as at 31 May 2024 was 493. The highest backlog of States party reports was registered for the Committee on the Rights of the Child, including under the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (78 reports pending review), followed by

the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (68 reports), as at the end of December 2023. It would take the Committee approximately 2.74 years to clear this backlog with their current working methods and secretariat staffing levels. The situation of individual communications was similarly of great concern: the backlog of communications that had been received and were pending review before the Committees was 1,913 as at 31 December 2023, which mean that, at current capacity, the Committees would need approximately 6.65 years to clear the backlog without considering any new individual communications received.

51. It is also worth recalling that the resource formula set out in resolution 68/268 does not sufficiently cover a significant number of mandated activities, such as the pre-registration phase and the full cycle of individual communications or requests for interim measures, which have increased in recent years. Inquiries and country visits, urgent actions of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, inter-State communications of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, as well as its early warning and urgent action procedure, the follow-up procedures of all Committees and general comments are not specifically funded under the formula except based on the two weeks of meeting time per year for other mandated activities for each Committee. In 2021, while the General Assembly granted additional meeting time for treaty bodies in application of resolution 68/268, it did not approve the corresponding increase in requested staff resources, resulting in situations where the treaty bodies were not in a position to use the additional meeting time entitlements.

52. Paragraph 41 of resolution 68/268 provided that the General Assembly would review the situation of the treaty body system at the latest in 2020. In their conclusions adopted at their thirty-first meeting, in June 2019, the Chairs expressed their common vision of the future of the treaty body system, including the idea of a predictable calendar of review. Two co-facilitators were appointed by the President of the General Assembly and submitted their report containing concrete proposals based on broad consultations with Member States and other stakeholders. In its resolution 75/174, the General Assembly took note of the report of the co-facilitators. In the conclusions of their thirty-fourth meeting, in 2022, the Chairs addressed the key recommendations contained in the co-facilitators' report, including by agreeing to establish a predictable eight-year calendar of reviews covering all treaty body reporting procedures and all States parties and requesting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present options for implementation. In May 2023, the Office presented a working paper offering various, technically detailed and comprehensive options and guiding questions on the implementation of the Chairs' conclusions. It was revised in April 2024 to reflect reactions to the working paper, including by States during the informal briefing by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to States on the treaty body strengthening process on 1 November 2023. In the conclusions of their thirty-fifth meeting, the Chairs welcomed the working paper as an important step and a comprehensive, detailed and technical tool to guide the consultations towards the implementation of the Chairs' conclusions, with a view to providing possible elements for the next biennial General Assembly resolution on the human rights treaty body system in December 2024.

53. Four years after the review process under resolution 68/268, the Chairs wish to call on Member States and all stakeholders to support the conclusion of the treaty body strengthening process with the adoption in December 2024 of a conclusive biennial resolution with a corresponding budget and an adjusted resource formula (resolution 68/268, paras. 26 and 27) to implement the predictable schedule of reviews of State party reports by the treaty bodies, as stipulated in resolution 68/268, and the conclusions of the Chairs at their thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth annual meetings, based on the report of the co-facilitators of the 2020 review, as detailed in the OHCHR working paper on options and guiding questions for the

development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the human rights treaty body Chairs at their thirty-fourth meeting in June 2022 (May 2023, revised April 2024). The Chairs believe that the time has come to ensure equal treatment among all States and their full compliance with their reporting obligations to treaty bodies, as stipulated, in 2014, in paragraph 34 of Assembly resolution [68/268](#), in which the Assembly invites the human rights treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner, within their respective mandates, to continue to work to increase coordination and predictability in the reporting process, including through cooperation with States parties, with the aim of achieving a clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States parties.

54. Since January 2024, the United Nations Secretariat has been hit by an unprecedented liquidity crisis, owing to some Member States not paying their assessed contributions to the regular budget in full and/or in time. This has particularly affected the treaty body system. For the first time since the adoption of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#), indeed in their history of more than six decades, the treaty bodies were threatened with the cancellation, for financial reasons, of sessions and country visits to prevent torture. This situation gives Member States the full moral value and political significance to take decisive actions on the treaty body strengthening process.

55. The Chairs warmly welcome their meeting with the Secretary-General during their thirty-sixth session and his support for the treaty bodies, in particular in relation to the human rights treaty body strengthening process with a view to the adoption of the next biennial General Assembly resolution on the human rights treaty body system in December 2024 and to the limitation of the impact of the liquidity crisis of the United Nations Secretariat, to ensure the continued implementation of the international human rights obligations of States. The Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies will support the Secretary-General through advocacy efforts for the full inclusion of all human rights and the strengthening of the international human rights mechanisms in the Pact for the Future.

56. The Chairs further welcome the views of States, United Nations agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations that they have received during the consultations on the treaty body strengthening process.

57. The treaty body Chairs realize the importance of independence and impartiality in the fulfilment of their mandates. In the light of their discussions on the status of observance, within the respective Committees, of the Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines) and in implementation of paragraph 37 of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#), the Chairs have begun to review these guidelines, based on the lessons learned from their implementation by their respective treaty bodies. The Committees also call on States to review the process for the nomination and election of members of treaty bodies, so as to ensure that all candidates fulfil the conditions set out in the respective treaties.

Harmonization of methods of work

58. Committed to the continuing simplification and harmonization of their methods of work towards greater efficiency, transparency and effectiveness of the system for the benefit of States parties and other stakeholders (General Assembly resolution [68/268](#), para. 9), the Chairs conclude the following based on options contained in the OHCHR working paper.

Simplified reporting procedure

59. In order to ensure a harmonized approach to the State party reporting procedure in line with paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 and the consistent implementation by all Committees with a periodic reporting procedure of the conclusions by the Chairs at their thirty-fourth annual meeting to introduce the simplified reporting procedure¹⁰ as the default procedure, with the possibility for States parties to opt out, reconfirmed at their thirty-fifth annual meeting with a clarification that it should apply to both initial and periodic reports, to save resources under the traditional reporting procedure, and to guarantee that the information and data contained in the State party report are still up to date, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) Subject to the availability of resources, in view of the discrepancies in the time required for the preparation and adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting by the respective Committees, the Chairs reiterate their conclusions at their thirty-fourth and thirty-fifth meetings and conclude that the simplified reporting procedure will become the default procedure, with the possibility for States parties to opt out, for all Committees with a periodic reporting cycle for both initial and periodic reports (OHCHR working paper, guiding questions 2.2.1 and 2.2.2);

(b) Lists of themes of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination are transformed into lists of issues prior to reporting (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.2.2);

(c) Lists of issues are discontinued as a standard procedure for those States parties that opt out of the simplified reporting procedure (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.2.2);

(d) At the same time, the constructive dialogue is scheduled within six months of receipt of the State party report when the eight-year predictable schedule of reviews becomes fully operational (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.2.3);

(e) The Committees coordinate to define the same procedures and deadlines regarding the transition to the simplified reporting procedure and to inform States parties, with the support of the secretariat (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.2.1);

(f) A common web page and database on the simplified reporting procedure and other related procedures (such as the review of reports on additional information for the Committee on Enforced Disappearances) are to be kept updated by the secretariat for all treaty bodies to ensure complete and timely information (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 3.1.1).

List of issues prior to reporting as the default

60. In order to fully align the Committees' working methods on lists of issues prior to reporting and lists of issues under exceptional circumstances for the benefit of all stakeholders, while preserving the specificities of each human rights treaty on substantive issues, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) The titles, standard language and the sequencing of standard paragraphs, number of questions, word limits and cross-referencing, inter alia, are harmonized in lists of issues prior to reporting (OHCHR working paper, guiding questions 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3 and 2.3.4);

¹⁰ Numbers refer to annex II to the working paper on options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the treaty body Chairs at their thirty-fourth meeting in June 2022, submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in May 2023 (revised in April 2024).

(b) For lists of issues prior to reporting for initial reports, the following word limits and numbers of questions are agreed (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.3.5):

(i) Word limit of 6,000 words in English; 6,500 in French and Spanish;

(ii) A maximum of 35 questions/paragraphs with 3 sub-questions/subparagraphs;

(c) For lists of issues prior to reporting for periodic reports, the following word limits and numbers of questions are agreed (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.3.6):

(i) Word limit of 4,500 words in English; 5,000 in French and Spanish;

(ii) A maximum of 30 questions/paragraphs with 3 sub-questions/subparagraphs;

(d) Since lists of issues are discontinued, other than in exceptional circumstances, word limits or maximum number of questions depend on the particular State party under review.

State party reports and common core documents

61. In order to ensure time and cost savings for States parties, the treaty body system and the secretariats, to ease the burden for States parties in preparing common core documents and to foster the availability of up-to-date information in the common core documents, the Chairs conclude that the common core document in its present form is to be discontinued and replaced with an accessible common core document uploaded on an online drafting platform, where the document may be updated by the State party on a regular basis and/or whenever there are new developments and data to be added relevant to the review of the State party report before any given Committee (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.4.2).

Constructive dialogues

62. In order to further align the working methods of the Committees for the benefit of States parties and of other stakeholders in the interest of transparency, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) The constructive dialogues will take place over a period of six hours in two different session meetings, either on the same day or on consecutive days, with closed captioning and interpretation into sign language, to allow the Committees and the State party to assess the implementation of the respective human rights treaty (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.5.1);

(b) The constructive dialogues will be preceded by private meetings of the respective Committee with all relevant stakeholders such as United Nations country teams, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental entities, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, national preventive mechanisms and other stakeholders;

(c) States parties may provide further replies in writing to complement their oral replies to those questions that could not be answered immediately during the constructive dialogue with a word limit of 3,000 words, when the Committee requests specific additional information or at the convenience of the State party (official texts, such as legislation, official documents or statistical data are excluded from the word limit) (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.5.3). Additional information in writing from States parties is published on the web page of the Committee, as it forms part of the public dialogue (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.5.5);

(d) In any event, the provision of additional information in writing should be the exception rather than the rule (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.5.4);

(e) A deadline of 48 hours for the submission of such information will be applied during working days to allow for equal treatment of States parties in the Eastern and Western hemispheres and to apply a uniform approach irrespective of whether or not the constructive dialogue ends after the morning or afternoon meetings of the Committees (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.5.3).

Constructive dialogues by videoconference

63. In view of the fact that constructive dialogues via videoconference are mandated in paragraph 23 of General Assembly resolution 68/268 and in view of the significant constraints that small island developing States and the least developed countries face, as well as environmental considerations, and in order to ensure wider outreach, accessibility and efficiency of the constructive dialogues, while preserving the interactive nature of constructive dialogues in person for all other States parties, which should remain the rule, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) Hybrid or online constructive dialogues are undertaken in the case of reviews of small island developing States and the least developed countries upon a request by the State party concerned, which must be submitted as early as possible, with the understanding that the treaty bodies are favourable to such requests, and in “exceptional circumstances” for all other States parties upon their request, which must be submitted as early as possible, and upon decision on a case-by-case basis by the Committee concerned, including through consultations with other treaty bodies as relevant and in close coordination with the secretariat (OHCHR working paper, guiding questions 2.6.1 and 2.6.9);

(b) “Exceptional circumstances” are defined as “cases of force majeure, such as a natural disaster or pandemics, or other exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances or events that may prevent a State party’s delegation from attending the treaty body session specified to examine the State party’s report. Such exceptional circumstances shall be considered to exist where the concerned treaty body concludes, based on its own assessment, that for the reasons invoked by a State party it is, or will be, practically impossible or excessively difficult to send all or some members of the delegation to attend the dialogue in-person”;

(c) In any event, hybrid formats for the constructive dialogues are the preferred option over fully remote participation of the State party’s delegation, i.e. there should be a delegation participating in person in the constructive dialogue, including the permanent representative of the State party, which is able to reply to questions by the respective Committees as far as is possible (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.6.10).

Postponement of constructive dialogues

64. In order to ensure the equal treatment of States parties through common criteria and an aligned approach by all Committees with a periodic reporting cycle for answering requests by States parties for the postponement of reviews, to support consultations among Committees in support of that objective, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) States parties may request in “exceptional circumstances” a postponement of the review of their initial or periodic reports, or of the review of their first report or report on additional information in the case of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.7.1);

(b) “Exceptional circumstances” are defined as “cases of force majeure, such as a natural disaster or pandemics, or other exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances or events that may prevent a State party’s delegation from attending,

in person and remotely, the treaty body session originally specified to examine the State party's report. Such extraordinary circumstances shall be considered to exist where the concerned treaty body concludes, based on its own assessment, that for the reasons invoked by a State party it is, or will be, impossible or unproductive to proceed at the session originally specified to examine the State party's report" (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.7.2);

(c) With the aim of ensuring the regular review of a State party's implementation of international human rights treaties, requests for postponements under "exceptional circumstances" will be limited to one, in principle. Additional requests are considered by the respective Committees at their discretion. Requests for postponements should reach the respective Committees as early as possible. A postponed State party review will be rescheduled at the next possible session, depending on the review schedule of the treaty body and as soon as the situation in the State party allows (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.7.5);

(d) Once the eight-year predictable review cycle is established, the schedule for the remaining States parties will be maintained to the extent possible, even if a dialogue was postponed, in order to ensure the predictability of the schedule and to avoid a knock-on effect (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.7.6).

Review in the absence of a State party report and/or in the absence of a delegation

65. In order to protect the integrity of the eight-year predictable schedule of reviews once it is established and of the treaty body system as a whole, to ensure the equal treatment of States parties through regular reviews of all States parties and to ensure that non-reporting and underreporting States parties are included in the review process, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) The treaty bodies will undertake reviews in the absence of a report and/or in the absence of a delegation in cases where the State party does not cooperate with the respective Committee, or did not request a postponement of the review, or if the justification provided by the State party did not warrant a postponement, e.g. because it did not meet the requirement of "exceptional circumstances" according to the definition established for postponements of dialogues (para. 64 above), including in cases of successive requests for postponements (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.8.1). Reviews in the absence of a delegation should, to the extent possible, follow the same procedure;

(b) Reviews in the absence of a report and/or in the absence of a delegation will be held based on available information and following public and private meetings with United Nations country teams, United Nations agencies, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms, civil society organizations and other stakeholders that are held during the session.

Concluding observations

66. In order to ensure consistency across all treaty bodies and to increase the reader-friendliness of the concluding observations, which positively influences the ability of States parties to implement the treaty bodies' recommendations with the support of relevant stakeholders, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) The treaty bodies will task the secretariat to develop a template with common elements for concluding observations for their consideration and use (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.9.1);

(b) The draft concluding observations will be drafted in one of the working languages of the respective Committees.

Interaction with stakeholders during State party reviews

67. In order to ensure a streamlined and shortened duration of the reporting process, which is more time-efficient for all stakeholders, mainly national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, and ensure that the information provided by States parties and stakeholders is more up to date, leading to better, targeted recommendations by the Committees, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) To harmonize the deadlines for submissions by stakeholders to the treaty bodies as follows (OHCHR guiding questions 2.10.1, 2.10.5 and 2.10.6);

(i) Under the simplified reporting procedure, a first deadline of 12 months prior to the constructive dialogue is to be established to inform the lists of issues prior to reporting, and a second deadline of five months after the deadline for the replies to the lists of issues prior to reporting (and thus one month before the constructive dialogue) to inform the dialogue;

(ii) For reviews of States parties that opted out of the simplified reporting procedure, stakeholders are able to submit information, under a first deadline, within three months after the deadline for the State party report and under a second deadline, within 4.5 months after the deadlines for the replies to the list of issues as far as they are still being prepared under exceptional circumstances (thus one month before the constructive dialogue);

(b) A common word limit for submissions by stakeholders is to be established for all treaty bodies of up to 10,000 words in English and 11,500 words in French or Spanish (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.10.9);

(c) The treaty bodies will develop and use common guidelines for submissions by stakeholders which lay out the purpose, proposed structure, word limit and other requirements (e.g. related to the protection of victims and witnesses of human rights violations); they will task the secretariat to develop such guidelines for their consideration and use (OHCHR working paper, guiding questions 2.10.12 and 2.10.13);

(d) Briefings by stakeholders will take place during the week in which the constructive dialogue is held, as appropriate (OHCHR working paper, guiding questions 2.10.17 and 2.10.18).

General comments and recommendations

68. In view of the endorsement by the Chairs of a common methodology for the elaboration of and consultations on general comments at their twenty-seventh meeting (A/70/302, paras. 90 and 91), and paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 68/268, in which the Assembly encourages the human rights treaty bodies to develop an aligned consultation process for the elaboration of general comments that provides for consultation with States parties in particular and bears in mind the views of stakeholders during the elaboration of new general comments, and, in order to systematize the working methods for the development of general comments and to increase engagement by States parties and stakeholders with the treaty body system, the Chairs conclude that:

(a) All treaty bodies will fully implement the decisions and recommendations on a consultation process in the elaboration of general comments, taken by the Chairs at their twenty-seventh meeting (A/70/302, paras. 90 and 91) (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.13.1);

(b) The treaty bodies will abolish the terminological discrepancy between “general comments” and “general recommendations” that is of a purely technical

nature, without any substantive impact. All treaty bodies will use the term “general comment” (OHCHR working paper, guiding question 2.11.29);

(c) The Committees will explore the development of more joint general comments adopted by two or more Committees to foster the development of joint jurisprudence by the treaty bodies;

(d) The Chairs request that a collaborative online drafting platform and accessible online dashboard be made available as it could enable treaty bodies members and secretariat staff to smoothly contribute to the joint drafting of general comments.

Inquiry procedures

69. In order to align the working methods on inquiry procedures for the benefit of all stakeholders, the Chairs conclude that the treaty bodies will develop and use common guidelines on inquiry and visit procedures, in accordance with the respective human rights treaties and taking as guidance the commonalities between Committees’ practices, as outlined in the background paper for the thirty-fourth meeting of treaty body Chairs ([HRI/MC/2022/CRP.3](#)) and mandate the focal points on working methods of the treaty bodies to develop the guidelines (OHCHR working paper, guiding questions 2.14.1 and 2.14.2), which cover the following areas:

(a) The criteria applied when establishing thresholds for inquiries or country visits, taking into account the different standards contained in the corresponding human rights treaties;

(b) The desirability of publishing inquiry results (in full reports or summary accounts) to ensure a victim-oriented approach and to facilitate implementation of the recommendations;

(c) The extension of existing guidance across treaty bodies according to which the consent should be sought from the source to disclose its identity prior to any engagement with the State party under inquiry or visit;

(d) A common protocol in relation to reprisals in the context of inquiries and country visits;

(e) A procedure for engaging with sources;

(f) Common guidance on follow-up to inquiries and country visits.

Committees’ advisory mechanism for harmonization

70. Building upon the conclusions of their thirty-fifth meeting to establish a Committee coordination mechanism, as a harmonization team, for procedural and substantive coordination among the human rights treaty bodies, and pursuant to paragraph 38 of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#), the Chairs conclude, on the modalities for the Committees’ advisory mechanism for harmonization, that:

(a) In order to preserve the autonomy of the Committees, the advisory mechanism will prepare for decision-making by the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on the harmonization of methods of work and alignment of procedures, sharing of best practices and substantive coordination and advise and provide recommendations to the Chairs accordingly. Coordination by the advisory mechanism will be of a supportive rather than directive nature;

(b) In a flexible, continuing and consultative process the advisory mechanism will periodically set an agenda for consideration of those areas where further harmonization and coordination among the treaty bodies is required, for example, when the eight-year predictable schedule of reviews, including follow-up reviews, is

implemented. This could include the prioritization of the harmonization of working methods and alignment of terminology in a first phase of discharging its mandate before moving to substantive coordination in a second phase;

(c) When considering substantive harmonization issues, the advisory mechanism should take a supportive role in identifying areas of intersectionality, mutual enhancement and possible joint action, thus fostering consistency across treaty bodies, visibility and impact of their outcomes. By focusing on identifying trends and providing information to the Chairs and the Committees, the mechanism could assist in maintaining the integrity and specificities of the mandates of each treaty body while promoting greater coherence in their approaches where beneficial;

(d) The membership of the advisory mechanism should be flexible depending on the thematic area of harmonization and substantive coordination on the agenda; the Committees will decide on the nomination of the member(s) of the advisory mechanism, for example, their focal points on methods of work, or members of the working groups on communications, focal points on reprisals, rapporteurs, etc.; the Committee Chairs may join the meetings of the advisory mechanism; the secretariats of the Committees will participate in the meetings; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights must be involved in the work of the advisory mechanism and consulted on any resource implications of the recommendations of the advisory mechanism to the Chairs;

(e) The advisory mechanism should be allocated adequate secretariat support, and resources to enable it to meet at least once per year virtually or in-person. Communication among the advisory mechanism should be enhanced through the establishment of a secure information-sharing digital platform managed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

B. Progress made on the alignment of working methods and practices of the treaty bodies

71. For their thirty-seventh meeting to be held in 2025, the Chairs requested the secretariat to update the information on the reporting obligations of and compliance by States.

C. Intersessional activities

72. The Chairs underlined the importance of intersessional meetings for continuing their cooperation on the treaty body strengthening process. They requested the secretariat to organize remote meetings and invited all Chairs to explore opportunities for informal, in-person meetings. They also encouraged all Chairs to increase cooperation among the Committees, and to organize meetings with regional human rights mechanisms intersessionally for all Chairs, such as with the European Court of Human Rights, the European Committee of Social Rights, and the African human rights mechanisms.

D. Implementation by the treaty bodies of the Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines)

73. The Chairs encouraged the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to endorse the Addis Ababa guidelines. They also decided that the implementation of the guidelines should remain an agenda item for the thirty-seventh annual meeting of

Chairs. In addition, the Chairs and the secretariat should reflect on a charter of collaboration.

E. Implementation by the human rights treaty bodies of the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals (San José Guidelines)

74. The Chairs called for regular exchanges between the treaty bodies' Rapporteurs and focal points on reprisals. They suggested increasing references to reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations in concluding observations, in particular in follow-up recommendations, as well as in the context of individual communications and to strengthen coordination between the treaty bodies and OHCHR regional and country offices through the OHCHR reprisals team. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is encouraged to endorse the San José Guidelines.

F. Agenda and location of the thirty-seventh meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

75. With the aim of strengthening their interaction with senior United Nations officials and with representatives of States in New York, United Nations agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, including on the treaty body strengthening process, the Chairs recalled their decision at the thirty-fifth meeting to continue to hold their annual meeting in New York.

Annex

Provisional agenda and revised programme of work

Provisional agenda ([HRI/MC/2024/1](#))

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies.
5. Progress made on the alignment of the working methods and practices of the treaty bodies.
6. Intersessional activities, including joint meetings with other mechanisms.
7. Implementation by the treaty bodies of the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals (San José Guidelines).
8. Implementation by the treaty bodies of the guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines).
9. Consultations with States parties, senior United Nations officials, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations.
10. Modalities and organization of future meetings of the Chairs.
11. Miscellaneous.
12. Any other business.
13. Adoption of the conclusions of the thirty-sixth meeting.

Programme of work, as revised

The numbering and full titles of items follow the provisional agenda.

Monday, 24 June 2024

10.00–10.30 a.m. (public)

1. Opening of the meeting by a representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

10.30 a.m.–12.00 p.m. (public)

5. Progress made on the alignment of the working methods and practices of the treaty bodies

12.00–1.00 p.m. (private)

9. Consultations with States parties, senior United Nations officials, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations: consultations with the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ilze Brands Kehris

3.00–4.00 p.m. (private)

8. Implementation by the treaty bodies of the Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines) ([A/67/222](#), annex)

4.00–5.00 p.m. (private)

7. Implementation by the treaty bodies of the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals (San José Guidelines) ([HRI/MC/2024/2](#))

5.00–6.00 p.m. (private)

4. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

Tuesday, 25 June 2024

10.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m. (private)

4. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

3.00–6.00 p.m. (private)

4. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

Wednesday, 26 June 2024

10.00–11.30 a.m. (private)

9. Consultations with States parties, senior United Nations officials, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations: consultation with United Nations agencies

11.30 a.m.–1.00 p.m. (private)

4. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

3.00–3.30 p.m. (private)

4. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

3.30–4.00 p.m. (private)

9. Consultations with States parties, senior United Nations officials, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations: consultations with the Secretary-General, António Guterres

4.00–6.00 p.m. (private)

4. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

Thursday, 27 June 2024

10.00–11.30 a.m. (private)

9. Consultations with States parties, senior United Nations officials, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations: consultation with national human rights institutions and civil society organizations

11.30 a.m.–1.00 p.m. (private)

4. Follow-up to the conclusions of the thirty-fifth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

3.00–6.00 p.m. (public)

9. Consultations with States parties, senior United Nations officials, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations: consultation with States parties

Friday, 28 June 2024

10.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m. (private)

6. Intersessional activities, including joint meetings with other mechanisms
10. Modalities and organization of future meetings of Chairs

3.00–5.30 p.m. (private)

11. Miscellaneous
12. Any other business

5.30–6.00 p.m. (public)

13. Adoption of the conclusions of the thirty-sixth meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies

Closing of the meeting
