The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as an instrument for change

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Session outline

- Treaty-body monitoring, reporting & follow-up
- The role of NGOs and why does it matter
- How the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has been addressing the human rights of older persons
- Existing resources on engaging with the Committee and other UN human rights mechanisms
Reminder - What is a treaty body? (video)
Exercise – The treaty reporting process
Reporting cycle

1. State party prepares and submits its report
2. The Committee presents list of issues to the State party
3. State party submits written replies to list of issues
4. Constructive dialogue between the Committee and State party delegation during session of the Committee
5. The Committee issues its concluding observations on the report, including recommendations
6. Follow-up and implementation of the Committee's recommendations

How do the Treaty Bodies review a STATE PARTY?
At what stage(s) can you engage with the Committee?
NGOs can engage with the Committee...

Prior to Review

- Submit own reports (i.e. parallel reports) to the Committee prior to adoption of List of Issues and/or prior to the examination of the State party report.

During Review

- Attend the Committee’s plenary sessions as observers
- Brief Committee members, either during formal or informal meetings
  (To address the Committee during its meeting time and/or to arrange a lunchtime briefing, contact the Secretariat latest 4 weeks prior to the session.)

Following Review

- Advocate for, track and monitor implementation of the concluding observations (COBs)
- Interact and cooperate between NHRI and civil society (public reporting)
Treaty reporting cycle with stakeholders
The simplified reporting procedure (5 EU countries)

1. The Committee sends a list of issues prior to reporting (LOIFR) to the State party.

2. Replies to the LOIFR constitute the State party report.

3. Constructive dialogue between the Committee and State party delegation during session of the Committee.

4. The Committee issues its concluding observations on the report, including recommendations.

5. Follow-up and implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

How do the Treaty Bodies review a STATE PARTY?
Discussion - Why does your participation matter?

- Stimulation of national dialogue and “buy-in”
- Providing the perspective from your organisation
- Enhancing the Committee’s recognition of older persons’ concerns and priorities
- Ensuring more pertinent recommendations to the States

⇒ Reporting should ultimately benefit rights holders, you, at the national level. Protection
Universal Human Rights Index - worldwide “Older Persons” entries – total 853

Treaty bodies:
- CEDAW: 319
- CESCR: 137
- Others: 18

Special Procedures:
- 105

UPR:
- 174
Universal Human Rights Index
CESCR - EU countries - “Older Persons” entries


- **21 Observations and 21 Recommendations**


- [https://uhri.ohchr.org/search/results#](https://uhri.ohchr.org/search/results#)
Discussion - Follow-up methods and activities

- Compiling and clustering recommendations by themes or responsible institutions, can help prioritization and serve as a basis for developing a monitoring and follow-up plan

- Monitoring implementation – Indicators. Social Watch & Center for Economic and Social Rights.

- Seizing momentum – media attention, high-level visits, new govt interlocutors, other upcoming reviews

- Creating and working with coalitions – enhanced scope and skills, mutually supportive, increased influence

- Partnering – also with the State

- Dissemination and awareness raising

- Advocacy (legal and policy reforms, resources, others)

- Capacity building
Parallel reports to CESC - Key guidance

✓ Reports in **English, French or Spanish**, preferably in the language of State report. Very useful if report and/or summary translated into **English**. No translation by UN Secretariat.

✓ **Joint submissions** very welcome.

✓ **For PSWG**: preferably 10 weeks and latest 8 weeks before the beginning of the PSWG.

✓ **For Session**: preferably 6 weeks and latest 3 weeks before the beginning of the session.

✓ Transmitted **electronically** in word format to **cescr@ohchr.org** (paper copies no longer distributed)

✓ As **specific, reliable, objective and concise** as possible. **Max. 10 pages (15 p. for coalition submissions).**
OHCHR tools to support civil society engagement with UN human rights mechanisms

Live Webcasting of sessions at [http://webtv.un.org/](http://webtv.un.org/), combined with possibly a panel discussion between State and civil society


All TB documentation available
- Per country, all treaties, all sessions [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/countries.aspx](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/countries.aspx)
Thank you!

- For more information, reach out to the UN Human Rights Civil Society Unit
  - Email - civilsociety@ohchr.org