

Yearbook

of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

2024



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A Message From Our Executive Director



The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) is pleased to present the eighth edition of the Yearbook of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). This annual publication offers both accessible information and insightful analysis of the Committee's work throughout the year.

This latest edition delivers a current and succinct overview of the CESCR's activities during 2024, summarising the outcomes of its seventy-fifth session (held from 12 February to 1 March 2024) and seventy-sixth session (from 9 September to 27 October 2024). The Yearbook is produced annually by GI-ESCR to reflect the importance and impact of the Committee's work and to ensure that this information is accessible to a wide readership.

Throughout the year, the Committee reinforced its dynamic and forward-looking approach to human rights by responding thoughtfully to global challenges and promoting both economic and climate justice. Particularly significant was the Committee's reaffirmation of progressive interpretations of States' obligations in the context of international cooperation and fiscal policies through the reporting procedure that culminated with a Statement that was published in the February session of this year. Stakeholder engagement remained a key part of the Committee's work, as it continued to encourage broad participation and collaboration across various sectors.

Yet, 2024 was also a year that underscored the growing fragility of the United Nations human rights system. The liquidity crisis that affected the UN had a profound impact on the work of treaty bodies, including the CESCR. Severe budgetary constraints led to the suspension of hybrid meeting modalities and the cancellation of pre-session working groups, significantly limiting the Committee's

ability to engage with States parties and civil society, and deepening existing backlogs. These disruptions highlighted the urgent need for sustained and predictable funding for the human rights system as a whole. Ensuring that treaty bodies can fulfil their mandates independently, consistently, and inclusively is indispensable to the protection and realisation of human rights globally.

On behalf of the entire GI-ESCR team, we invite you to explore this new edition of the Yearbook. We welcome your thoughts, suggestions, or words of encouragement—please feel free to reach out to us at info@gi-escr.org.

**Yours sincerely,
Camila Barretto Maia**

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Introduction

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) is the expert human rights body tasked with monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

The ICESCR is a binding treaty which contains the recognition of human rights, such as the right to just and favourable conditions of work, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to education, and the right to take part in cultural life. It entered into force in 1976 and, by 2024, had a total of 172 State Parties. On 5 February 2024, South Sudan acceded to the Covenant.

The Committee has three key functions to monitor State Parties' compliance with their obligations under the Covenant:

Reviewing States Through the Reporting Procedure

The Committee periodically reviews State reports in which parties to the Covenant must detail the measures taken to realise the rights of those within their jurisdiction.

Considering Individual Communications Under the Optional Protocol

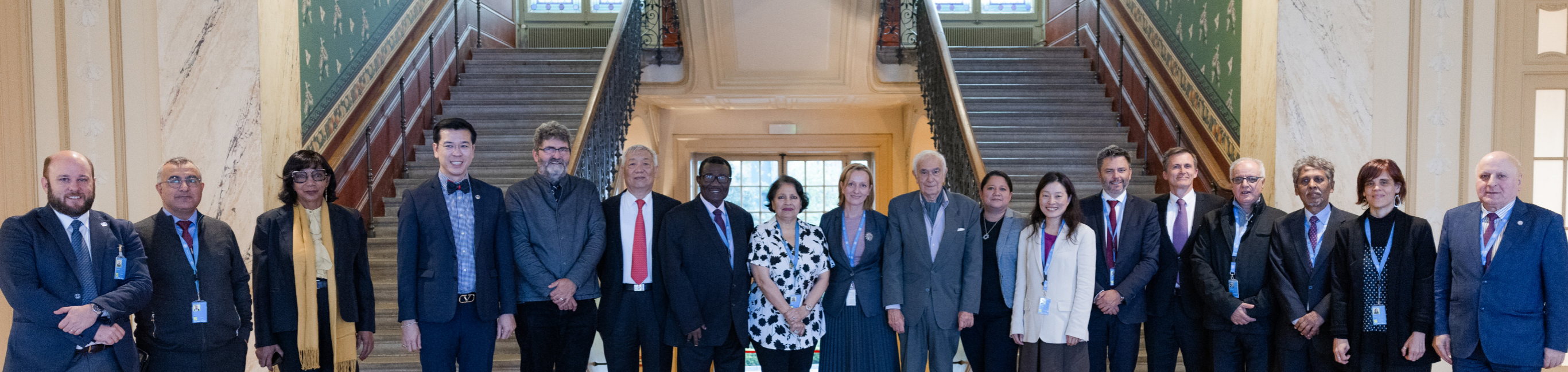
Since the entry into force of an Optional Protocol to the ICESCR (OP) in 2013, the Committee has been empowered to consider complaints brought by individuals who allege that their Covenant rights have been violated by a State party to the OP. There are currently 29 States that are Parties to the OP. In 2024, the Committee welcomed the ratification of the State Party of South Sudan to the OP.

Developing General Comments and Statements and Engaging in Other Thematic Work

The Committee provides authoritative guidance on Covenant rights by drafting General Comments. It also publishes Statements and Open Letters in which it clarifies Covenant obligations and offers States guidance in applying them to pressing issues.












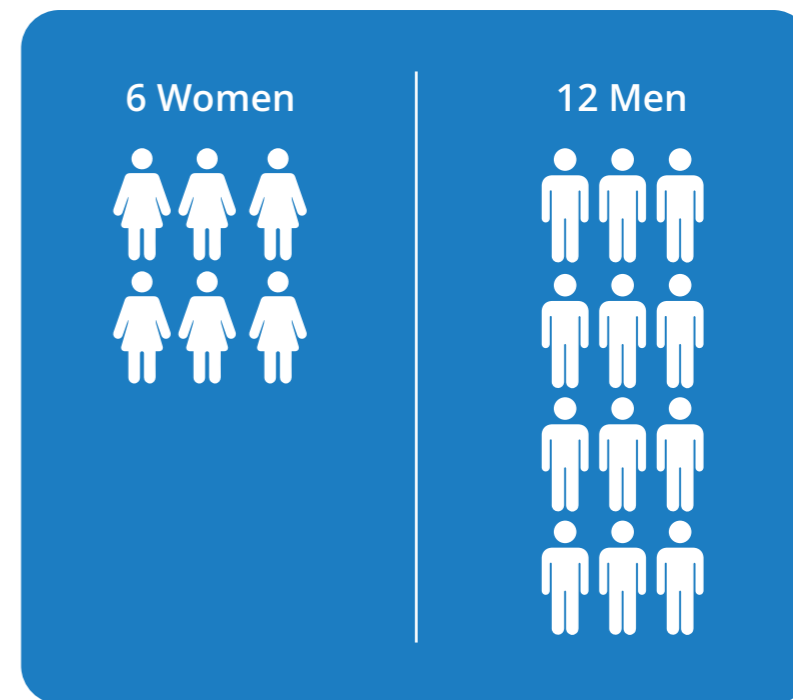
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Members of the CESR in 2024. Note: members are not pictured in the order listed above.

The Committee in 2024

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Mr Aslan Abashidze (Russian Federation) |  Ms Joo-Young Lee (Republic of Korea) |
|  Mr Mohamed Ezzeldin Abdel-Moneim (Egypt) |  Ms Karla Vanessa Lemus De Vásquez (El Salvador) |
|  Mr Mohammed Amarti (Morocco) |  Mr Mikel Mancisidor de la Fuente (Spain) |
|  Mr Nadir Adilov (Azerbaijan) |  Mr Seree Nonthasoot (Thailand) |
|  Mr Asraf Ally Caunhye (Mauritius) |  Ms Lydia Carmelita Ravenberg (Suriname) |
|  Ms Laura-Maria Crăciunean-Tatu (Romania) |  Ms Julieta Rossi (Argentina) |
|  Mr Peters Omologbe Emuze (Nigeria) |  Ms Preeti Saran (India) |
|  Mr Santiago Manuel Fiorio Vaesken (Paraguay) |  Mr Shen Yongxiang (China) |
|  Mr Ludovic Hennebel (Belgium) |  Mr Michael Windfuhr (Germany) |



The Composition of the Committee

The CESCR is composed of a total of 18 independent experts that monitor the implementation of the International Covenant. Members of the CESCR serve in their personal capacity and are elected for four-year terms by States during elections held by ECOSOC every 2 years.

In accordance with Resolution 1985/17 of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the composition of the CESCR must reflect an “equitable geographical distribution”. Therefore, each regional grouping is allocated a quota of seats on the Committee. “African States”, “Asian States”, and “Latin American and the Caribbean States” each have four seats, while “Eastern European States” and “Western Europe and Other States” each have three seats.

Elections took place in 2023 for the seats of three Committee members whose terms were set to finish in December 2023. Of the newly elected Committee members, one was a man (Mr. Santiago Manuel Fiorio Vaesken), and two were women (Ms Julieta Rossi and Ms Joo-Young Lee). Although two of the three recently elected committee members were women, a gender disparity persists within the Committee. The current composition reveals twice as many men as women holding seats on the Committee.

In accordance with rule 14 of its rules of procedure, at the 1st meeting of its seventy-fourth session, on 25 September 2023, the Committee elected the members of its Bureau with their terms extending through 2024, as follows:

- **Chair:** Laura-Maria Crăciunean-Tatu
- **Vice-Chairs:** Peters Sunday Omologbe Emuze, Ludovic Hennebel, Karla Vanessa Lemus de Vásquez and Preeti Saran
- **Rapporteur:** Peters Sunday Omologbe Emuze

The Elections in 2024

In 2024, elections for seats took place on 9 April in New York since the term of service of half of the Members of the Committee was set to expire on 31 December 2024. The election results showed that six new candidates were elected (Mr Lazhari Bouzid, Ms Charafat El Yedri Afailal, Ms Peijie Chen, Mr Rodrigo Uprimny, Ms Laura Elisa Pérez, Mr Giuseppe Palmisano) and four members were re-elected (Mr Seree Nonthasoot, Ms Laura-Maria Crăciunean-Tatu, Mr Nadir Adilov, Mr Michael Windfuhr). The elections led to a positive result, with the allocation of 8 seats to women, decreasing the gender gap within the Committee.

In 2024, the Committee Was Composed of:



The Composition of the Committee



Geographical distribution of Committee members in 2024

State Reporting Procedure

The Committee uses its State reporting procedure to periodically assess the progress that States have made towards realising the rights contained within the Covenant.

STAGE 2: In-Session Dialogue

The Committee then invites a delegation of the reviewed State to Geneva, where it engages in a six-hour constructive dialogue on the State's periodic report. During the dialogue, Committee members comment on the progress made to comply with its obligations under the ICESCR and ask questions to representatives from various ministries.



STAGE 1

STAGE 1: The State Report

Up until 2024, the first stage of the State reporting procedure depended on whether the State under review followed the standard reporting procedure or the simplified reporting procedure. The simplified reporting procedure had been made available to a number of States on a pilot basis.

If a State follows the standard reporting procedure, it must first submit a periodic report to the CESCR. This report should outline all of the

steps that the State has taken to realise Covenant rights.

A pre-sessional working group of the Committee then considers this report and prepares a List of Issues (LOI). Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) and International Organisations can contribute with submissions to influence the definition of the LOI. With the LOI, the Committee requests that the State provide further information that it believes will be necessary for the review. The State then replies to the LOI in a shorter report.



STAGE 2

In the case of the simplified reporting procedure, the reporting process began with a pre-sessional working group of the Committee preparing a List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR). The LOIPR requests information on the issues that the Committee considers necessary to conduct a review of the State's implementation of the Covenant. The State then submits a response to the Committee's questions. The response is treated as its periodic report to the CESCR.

The State then submits a response to the Committee's questions. The response is treated as its periodic report to the CESCR.

State Reporting Procedure

STAGE 3: Concluding Observations

The Committee then proceeds to adopt a set of Concluding Observations (COBs). The COBs consist primarily of concerns that the Committee has identified during the course of the review, as well as recommendations on how the State can improve the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights within its jurisdiction.

STAGE 4: Follow-Up to Concluding Observations

In each set of COBs, the Committee selects up to three recommendations for its follow-up procedure. These are recommendations that “require urgent attention” and “should be attainable within a period of 24 months”.

Within these 24 months, States are expected to submit a report on the steps that they have taken to implement the three recommendations. The Committee then evaluates the State’s action and, for each recommendation, gives a grade of “sufficient progress”, “insufficient progress”, “lack of sufficient information to make an assessment”, or “no response”.

Civil Society Engagement

The Committee receives and considers information from civil society in advance of each stage of the reporting process, including the LOI/LOIPR, the in-session dialogue, and the follow-up to COBs.

These civil society reports – referred to as “shadow” or “parallel” reports – play a vital role in informing the Committee of human rights issues and allowing it to identify important developments. They have been especially crucial for the Simplified Reporting Procedure, as there is no State report to begin with.

Alongside civil society organisations, national human rights institutions and UN agencies can also submit reports to the Committee. Civil society may also deliver formal and informal oral briefings to Committee members.



STAGE 3



STAGE 4

Individual Communications

Under the Optional Protocol (OP) to the ICESCR, the Committee may consider individual complaints that a State Party to the OP has violated human rights recognised in the Covenant.

Communications can also be submitted by groups of individuals, and by third parties on behalf of a victim, individual or group (with their consent).



STAGE 1

STAGE 1: Submission

The individual communication process starts with the submission of a complaint to the Committee. Upon the initial registration of the communication, the Committee may request that the respondent State take interim measures to avoid “possible irreparable damage” occurring before it makes a decision.



STAGE 2

STAGE 2: Admissibility

The Committee begins its consideration of a complaint by assessing its admissibility against criteria contained in Articles 2 and 3 of the OP.

To be admissible: domestic remedies must have been exhausted; the alleged violations must have occurred after the entry into force of the Protocol for the State concerned; the same matter must not have been examined or be under examination by the Committee or another treaty body; the complaint cannot be manifestly ill-founded, insufficiently substantiated, or exclusively based on mass media

reports; and the complaint cannot entail an abuse of rights.

If it does not meet all the criteria, a complaint will be declared inadmissible, and the communication process will end.

Individual Communications



STAGE 3

STAGE 3: Merits

If a communication is admissible, the Committee will proceed to consider it on its merits. At this stage, the Committee must determine whether the actions or omissions of the respondent State can be reasonably justified given their procedural and substantive obligations under the Covenant. The intensity of the Committee's scrutiny will vary depending on the circumstances of each case.

When the Committee engages in close scrutiny, its approach resembles proportionality analysis. Accordingly, when a State has imposed a prima facie restriction on a Covenant right, it may be asked to justify that its actions: are authorised by law, have a legitimate objective, are rationally connected to this objective, are the minimum interference with the right that will achieve the objective, and impose a burden that is not disproportionate to its benefit.



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Individual Communications

Friendly Settlements and Discontinuance Decisions

In accordance with Article 7 of the OP, the Committee can make available its good offices with a view to reaching a friendly settlement of a dispute on the basis of respect for the obligations contained in the Covenant. A settlement will close consideration of the communication.

The Committee may decide to discontinue a communication by ending it before a final determination has been reached. This may occur at the request of the author or State, or simply because the Committee has lost contact with the individual who submitted a communication.



STAGE 4

STAGE 4: Recommendations

If the Committee establishes that the respondent State Party has violated the Covenant, it will make individual recommendations in respect of the author, which are specific to the case at hand (e.g., recommending payment of compensation).

It will also make General Recommendations which are designed to ensure that the respondent State Party removes structural impediments to the realisation of the right in question (for example, it may recommend implementing new legislation).



STAGE 5

STAGE 5: Follow-Up

The OP provides the basis for a follow-up mechanism, according to which State Parties are given six months to submit a report on the measures that they have taken to implement the Committee's recommendations.

The Committee then assesses whether the State has satisfactorily implemented its views. If it determines that they have not done so, it will keep the communication under review and request further action or information.



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Thematic Work

The Thematic Output of the Committee

The CESCR regularly provides analysis and guidance on a range of thematic issues related to economic, social, and cultural rights.

General Comments

General Comments are used to provide policy advice, as well as authoritative interpretations of the normative content of Covenant rights and State obligations.

They are usually formulated following a Day of Discussion with civil society and other stakeholders, who are invited to provide input at various stages in the process.

As of 2024, the Committee has published a total of 26 General Comments. These General Comments have been cited in the jurisprudence of domestic constitutional courts across the globe, as well as by a range of other judicial bodies. The last General Comment published by the Committee was General Comment No.26 on Land and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2022.

Statements

The Committee has also established a practice of adopting Statements in which it sets out Covenant obligations and applies them to issues that it considers to be of importance.

Shorter and more informal than General Comments, Statements afford the Committee a degree of flexibility and allow it to engage with pressing ESC rights developments. As of 27 September 2024, the Committee had adopted 34 statements. During its seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions, the Committee discussed a proposal for a statement on taxation and economic, social, and cultural rights brought before it for consideration. This debate will continue at the 77th Session.

Open Letters

In the past, the Committee has made use of Open Letters as a means of establishing how Covenant obligations relate to policy developments in States that are party to the Covenant. In 2012, for example, the Chair of the Committee wrote an open letter addressing the widespread adoption of austerity measures in the wake of the financial crisis.

State Reporting in 2024

States Reviewed in 2024

The Committee reviewed a total of 13 states in 2024: Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Mauritania, Romania, Sweden, Albania, Cyprus, Honduras, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi and Poland.

Follow-Up in 2024

The Committee published four Follow-up evaluations in 2024, which aim to evaluate whether the relevant Parties had implemented the key recommendations identified in its previous Concluding Observations. These States were Belgium, Kuwait, Azerbaijan and Bolivia.

Overdue Reports and Backlog

The Committee continues to remain seized of the situation of long-overdue initial reports: as of 27 September 2024, 25 States parties had initial reports overdue for submission to the Committee. Of those reports, the following 16 States parties were more than 10 years overdue: Bahamas, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Eritrea, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Somalia and Timor-Leste.

The Commission also noted the situation of long-overdue periodic reports; indeed, as of 27 September 2024, 54 States parties had overdue periodic reports and of those reports, the following 16 States parties were more than 10 years overdue: Afghanistan, Barbados, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Hungary, India, Jordan, Libya, Madagascar, Malta, Nigeria, San Marino, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zambia.

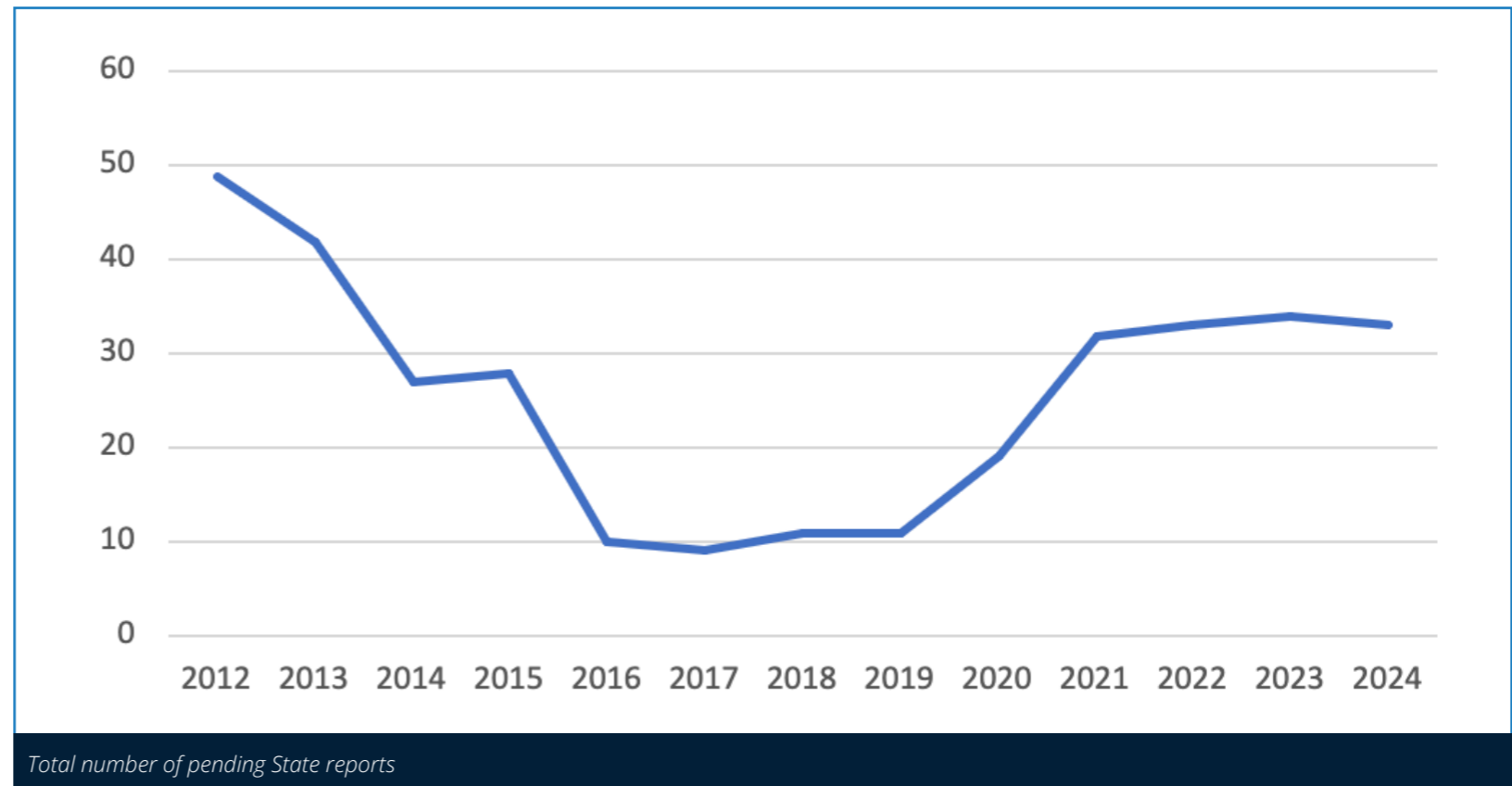
As of 27 September 2024, reports from 33 States parties had been submitted and were pending consideration by the

Committee. The States parties, in the order of receipt of the reports, are: Peru, Rwanda, Philippines, Chile, Croatia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kenya, Russian Federation, Colombia, Zimbabwe, Uruguay, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Georgia, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Angola, Mexico, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Australia, Tunisia, Cabo Verde, Republic of Korea, Germany, Republic of Moldova, Mauritius, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Austria, Eswatini and Canada.

In accordance with rule 58 of its rules of procedure, on 9 September 2024, at the 1st meeting of its seventy-sixth session, the Commission considered the status of the submission of

reports under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant. Between 13 October 2023 and 27 September 2024, the Secretary General informed the Commission about twelve reports submitted from the following State parties (listed in the order of receipt of the reports): Australia, Tunisia, Cabo Verde, Republic of Korea, Germany, Republic of Moldova, Mauritius, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Austria, Eswatini and Canada.

As can be seen from the graph, the Committee is still dealing with the backlog that grew because of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the number of reports pending in 2024 did not increase compared to 2023.



State Reporting in 2024

Reports for Consideration in the Following Sessions

As of 27 September 2024, the closing date of the seventy-sixth session, the Committee had received six reports, which it decided to consider at its seventy-seventh session, held in 2025.

According to Article 16 of the Covenant reports submitted by States parties are, in principle, scheduled for consideration in the order in which they are received by the Secretary-General, which are: Croatia, Kenya, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



2024 Key Themes in Concluding Observations

In its 2024 Concluding Observations, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights consistently identified several cross-cutting themes in its assessments of State party compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). These themes reveal ongoing concerns as well as emerging priorities in the protection and promotion of economic, social, and cultural rights worldwide.

In line with the general structure of the COB, the reports commenced by addressing observations and recommendations concerning the domestic application of the Covenant. A central theme in many Concluding Observations was the persistence of discrimination and the unequal enjoyment of rights by marginalised groups. The Committee drew attention to systemic inequalities faced by women, stateless persons, migrant workers, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities. In particular, the situation of the Bidoon in Kuwait was highlighted as a serious concern, with the Committee noting their ongoing exclusion from basic services and legal recognition. Similarly, persons with disabilities, especially children, continued to encounter barriers to full inclusion, particularly in education systems lacking adequate accommodation.

Labour rights also featured prominently, with the Committee emphasising States' obligations to ensure just and favourable conditions of work. In countries like Azerbaijan, the absence of effective labour inspections raised concerns about the adequacy of mechanisms to monitor and enforce workplace protections. Across several reviews, the Committee underscored the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers to abuse and exploitation, noting that legal frameworks often fail to cover their specific needs or to guarantee redress.

The right to education was another key area of focus. The Committee observed that structural and practical obstacles continued to hinder access to education for children from marginalised communities. In Kuwait, for instance, non-Kuwaiti and stateless children still faced administrative and financial barriers to enrolment. Although some States had taken steps to expand inclusive education, gaps remained in ensuring accessible teaching materials and support for children with disabilities, as reflected in the Committee's comments on Azerbaijan.

Poverty and inequality were recurring concerns. The Committee stressed the inadequacy of national poverty reduction plans that lacked targeted measures for the most vulnerable populations. In Belgium, the absence of detailed assessments of how federal poverty plans addressed the needs of children and marginalised groups made it difficult for the Committee to evaluate their effectiveness. Moreover, while progress was noted in increasing social welfare budgets in some cases, access to quality public services for people living in poverty often remained limited.

The right to adequate housing and protection against forced evictions was one of the most dominant themes in both Concluding Observations and individual communications. The Committee continued to criticise States for carrying out evictions without providing alternative housing or ensuring procedural safeguards. In particular, Italy and Spain were found to have violated their obligations under the Covenant by failing to consider the proportionality of evictions and the specific vulnerabilities of families, including those with young children. These cases reinforced the Committee's stance that evictions should only occur in exceptional circumstances and with full respect for human rights guarantees.

Environmental rights and climate change also emerged as increasingly important aspects of the Committee's work. Several States reported on mitigation efforts, including institutional reforms and afforestation initiatives. Bolivia, for instance, provided data on its climate resilience projects and greenhouse gas tracking. However, the Committee often noted the lack of integration of economic, social, and cultural rights in national climate strategies, and emphasised the importance of consulting Indigenous Peoples on decisions affecting their land and environment.

Another theme gaining prominence was the role of taxation and fiscal policy in realising economic, social, and cultural rights. The Committee recognised the relevance of fiscal justice and highlighted the need for tax systems to be equitable, transparent, and redistributive. The ongoing preparation of a statement on taxation and ESCR reflects the Committee's commitment to further elaborating the obligations of States in this area.

The issue of statelessness also recurred in the Committee's observations, particularly regarding long-term residents denied legal status and basic services. In Kuwait, the continued classification of the Bidoon as "illegal residents" was found to contradict their historical ties to the territory and to constitute a basis for serious rights violations, including lack of access to justice, education, health care, and social protection.

A recurring procedural concern throughout the Committee's observations was the slow or insufficient implementation of previous recommendations. In several follow-up evaluations, the Committee found that States had not provided enough information or had taken only partial steps to address its concerns. This underlined the need for more robust follow-up mechanisms and for

2024 Key Themes in Concluding Observations

States to engage more meaningfully with civil society in implementing and reporting on recommendations.

Taken together, these key themes demonstrate the Committee's sustained attention to the structural and systemic barriers that hinder the full realisation of economic, social, and cultural rights. The 2024 Concluding Observations reflect the Committee's evolving focus on environmental sustainability, fiscal justice, and the protection of marginalised populations, while reaffirming its commitment to strengthening accountability and rights-based approaches in State policy and practice.



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2024 Follow-Up to Concluding Observations

Follow-Up Overview

In 2024, the Committee published a follow-up to the Concluding Observations of two State parties' reports, namely Belgium and Kuwait, during the seventy-fifth session. In the seventy-sixth session, the Commission considered two more State parties' reports, Azerbaijan and Bolivia.

The follow-up assessments evaluate the extent to which the States parties have implemented the key recommendations identified at the conclusion of each State's review during previous sessions.

Belgium

The Committee's assessment of Belgium found that the State party has not provided detailed information on recent measures taken to ensure that all domestic workers, particularly domestic workers not covered by the Act of 3 July 1978, are protected from exploitation and abuse, and enjoy the same conditions as other workers. The Committee emphasises the need for additional information regarding measures taken and their effectiveness in order to adequately prevent and address such cases. Therefore, the Committee concludes that there is a lack of sufficient information to make an assessment. The State Party is requested to provide comprehensive information as to the implementation of the recommendation and the progress made thereby.

Regarding the recommendation concerning poverty reduction, the Committee noted that partial progress had been made as an overall assessment. The Committee is aware of the regional plans adopted for poverty reduction; however, it noticed a lack of detailed information about how the Fourth Federal Poverty Reduction Plan refers to the most marginalised, especially children, which hinders a thorough

assessment of its efficacy. In relation to the minimum income benefits above the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, the Committee welcomed the progress made by the State party; while the State party did not provide information on access to high-quality public services for children living in poverty, even though it mentioned increases in welfare budgets. Therefore, the overall assessment is partial progress; nevertheless, the Committee requested the State party to provide more information on the measures taken to implement its recommendations.

Finally, with regard to the recommendation related to forced evictions, the Committee noted the efforts made by the State party to ensure that evictions are carried out as a last resort in the Flemish Region. Nonetheless, the Committee lamented the limited information on effective measures taken in the other regions of the State party. There had been progress about the creation of residential sites for Roma families in the Flemish Region; however, the implementation of the recommendation requires not only the creation of residential sites in all three regions but also to intensify efforts for the equipment of these sites for Roma families. Although the Committee recognised the efforts made by the State party in the Flemish region, noticing partial progress in this field, it also requested the State party to provide more information on the measures taken and the progress made in other regions of the State party.

Kuwait

Concerning the recommendations made in relation to the status of the Bidoon, the Committee manifested its concern about the fact that the Bidoon, many of whom have lived in Kuwait for generations, continue to be deemed "illegal residents" by the State party. This status does not reflect either their status as stateless persons nor their historical and

traditional ties to Kuwait society and territory. Moreover, the Committee showed concern about the persistence of de jure and de facto discrimination against the Bidoon in the State party, with ongoing difficulties in exercising their human rights. In light of these concerns, the Committee requested additional information on the implementation and impact of measures for a more comprehensive evaluation.

Considering the recommendation that referred to migrant domestic workers, the Committee noted that, despite the efforts made, migrant domestic workers continue to experience structural barriers to reporting violations, widespread abuse, exploitation, and exclusion in labour law. Therefore, the Committee considers the progress made to be insufficient to address the seriousness of the problem and, so, the State party is requested to provide detailed information on measures taken to implement the recommendation and the progress made thereby.

Finally, in relation to the recommendation made about the right to education, the Committee is aware of various legislative, administrative and policy measures adopted. Nonetheless, the Committee is concerned about persistent barriers, both administrative and financial, which continue to be faced by some non-Kuwaiti children and stateless children, including the Bidoon children, hindering their access to education. Consequently, the Committee demanded that the State party provide information on the measures taken to facilitate access to primary education without discrimination for all children.

2024 Follow-Up to Concluding Observations

Azerbaijan

Although the State party adopted the Law of the Development of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises on 2 December 2022, the Committee noted with regret that the State party did not provide detailed information about the steps taken in adopting a binding framework that explicitly requires business entities to exercise human rights due diligence in their domestic and international operations. Therefore, the Committee found it lacked information to make an assessment about the implementation of that recommendation.

Regarding the recommendation related to the right to just and favourable conditions of work, the Committee recognised the State party's efforts to improve labour protection, but also expressed concern over the fact that the State Labour inspection Service does not conduct on-site inspections. In conclusion, the Committee finds partial progress on the issue and requests that the State party provide detailed information in its next report on the measures taken and progress made in addressing these concerns.

Finally, in relation to the right to education, the Committee welcomed the State party's efforts in improving access to education and the establishment of inclusive education initiatives for children with disabilities. However, the Committee showed concern about reports referring to persistent issues with access to and the quality of inclusive education across the country, such as limited accessibility of teaching materials, and a lack of accommodation for children with disabilities. Therefore, the Committee concluded that there has been progress in implementing this recommendation, but the State party had not fully addressed all aspects of the social exclusion of children.

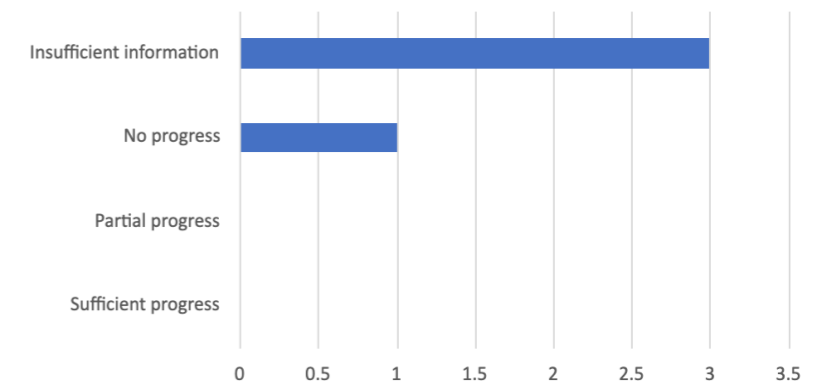
Bolivia

The Committee considered that the progress made by Bolivia related to its recommendation on the protection of defenders was objectively insufficient to address the severity of the issue and requested the State party to provide information on measures taken to prevent attacks against defenders of economic, social, and cultural rights. The Committee's assessment of Bolivia found that the State party had not adopted any legal measures for the protection of human rights defenders or any comprehensive policies to protect defenders of economic, social, and cultural rights. Indeed, the Committee observed that no actions were taken after 2021 to address impunity for attacks against human rights defenders, investigate threats, harassment, and violence, or punish those responsible.

Regarding the recommendation related to measures to tackle climate change, the State party reported several measures taken to strengthen institutional capacities for formulating national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. Moreover, the State party reported on inter-institutional coordination processes for updating and monitoring its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for the period 2021-2030. The State party has also implemented projects that have forested or reforested 1,364.92 hectares in 12 municipalities. Additionally, the follow-up report detailed several programs aimed at reducing climate change risks in vulnerable communities. Consequently, the Committee concluded that the progress made in implementing this recommendation is sufficient.

Finally, in relation to the right to consultation and free, prior, and informed consent, the Committee noted that the State party's follow-up report did not adequately reflect the

measures to strengthen regulations and consult Indigenous Peoples on the creation of a legal, administrative, and public policy framework to ensure the right to consultation and free, prior, and informed consent. The Committee expressed concern over reports of infrastructure and gold mining development projects taking place on Indigenous lands without free, prior, and informed consent, affecting rights such as the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, the right to health, and cultural rights. In conclusion, the Committee observed that no progress had been made in implementing this recommendation.



Results of the Committee's follow-up assessments in 2024

2024 Civil Society Engagement

States Reviewed in 2024

The Committee received a total of 133 NGO reports for the 13 States that were reviewed in 2024. 71 of these reports were for the review, with the remaining 58 for the LOI and 4 for the LOIPR. As we can see from the graph, Indonesia received the most reports (24) and Iraq the least (3).

2024 saw a significant decrease in civil society organisations' participation compared to the last year, 2023. The 75th session had greater participation compared to the 76th session, receiving a total of 73 reports, whereas the 76th session received 60 reports.

Follow-Up in 2024

The Committee considered follow-up reports both at its seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions. The Committee pursued work on follow-up under the guidance of the follow-up rapporteurs, Asraf Ally Caunhye and Santiago Manuel Fiorio Vaesken, as decided at the seventy-fourth session.

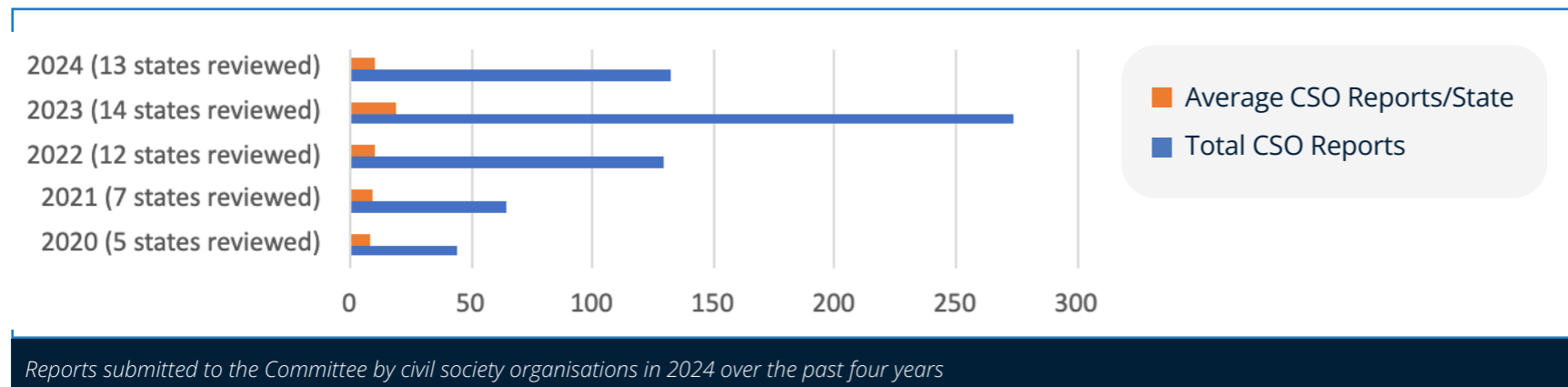
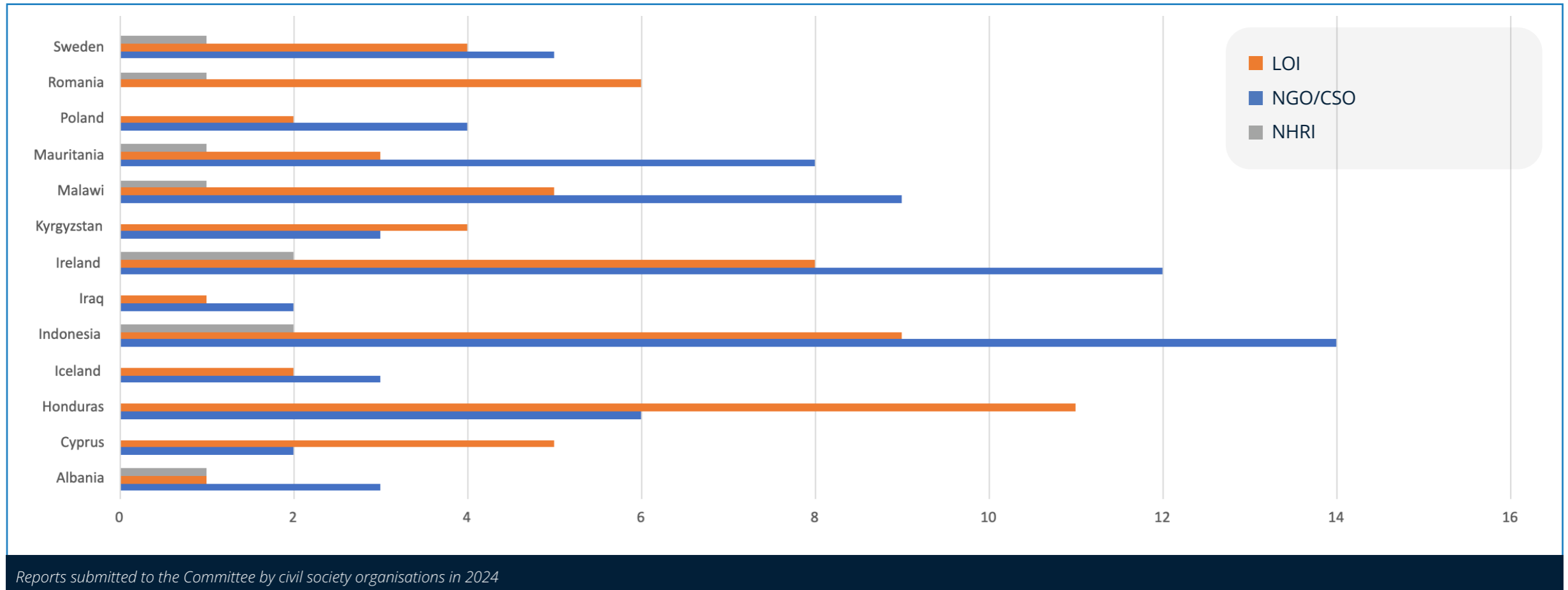
The number of follow-up reports has increased in 2024 from three to four. All four states, with follow-up reviews, received reports from civil society and NHRIs. Overall, in 2024, the follow-up process received a total of 41 NGO reports. At the seventy-fifth session, Belgium and Kuwait received 12 and 6 NGO reports, respectively; at the seventy-sixth session, Azerbaijan received 14 reports, while Bolivia received 9.

This increase in engagement with the follow-up, both by civil society organisations and NHRIs, is particularly important in ensuring the capacity of the Committee to effectively assess whether States have made sufficient progress in the implementation of its recommendations.



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2024 Civil Society Engagement



Individual Communications in 2024

3

Merit Decisions

Saydawi et al v. Italy
El Korrichi v. Spain
Tornensis et al v. Finland

24

Discontinuance Decisions



2024 In Context

Number of Cases Remains Consistent

In 2024, the Committee published a total of 27 decisions, representing a significant increase compared to previous years. The Committee has now published a total of 171 decisions, including:

21 considerations concluded by the adoption of Views, of which:

- **18** cases found a violation of the Covenant and;
- **3** cases found no violation
- **27** inadmissibility decisions
- **123** discontinuance decisions/ withdrawal

Housing Cases Continue to Dominate

For five years now, the influx of cases brought to the Committee has been dominated by disputes under Article 11(1) of the Covenant, namely the right to adequate housing. Indeed, the majority of the submissions considered this year referred to the right to adequate housing as the substantive issue, correlated by the right to health and children's rights. Therefore, this cements the long-term trend towards housing cases forming most of the Committee decisions.

The Majority of Communications Are Addressed to Spain

This year, not all submissions through the individual complaint mechanisms have been directed towards Spain, but the majority of them have.

During its seventy-fifth session (12 February to March 2024), the Committee adopted its Views on the case *Sydawi et al v. Italy*, concerning the eviction of two families from the dwelling they were occupying without alternative housing, finding a violation of the Covenant. The Committee also discontinued 24 communications against Spain, either because the authors had found alternative housing or been granted social housing, or because they had lost interest in the communication.

At its seventy-sixth session (from 9 to 27 September), the Committee adopted its Views on the case *El Korrichi v. Spain*, concerning the eviction of a family from the dwelling they were occupying without a legal title and without alternative housing options, finding a violation of the Covenant.

Finally, at the same session, the Committee discontinued the consideration of 24 individual communications.

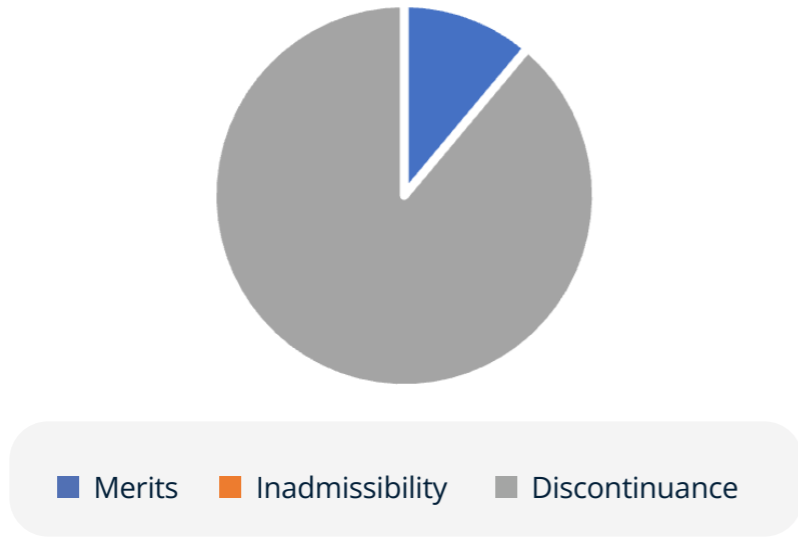
New Substantive Issues Analysed in an Individual Communication

Indigenous Peoples' rights were a key concern in the case *Tornensis et al v. Finland*, where the Committee concluded that the State had failed to protect the cultural rights and traditional livelihoods of the Sami people by allowing mineral exploration on their lands without free, prior, and informed consent. The Committee reiterated that land rights are essential for the survival of Indigenous cultures and that legal frameworks must ensure their participation in all decisions affecting their territories. This decision of the Committee represents the first decision on the issue of cultural rights.



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2024 In Context



	Spain	Ecuador	Portugal	Italy	Luxembourg	Argentina	Belgium	France	Finland
Amount	133	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1

Breakdown of total Committee decisions according to respondent State

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Spain	3	5	5	1	19	12	34	13	15	25
Other	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	2

CESCR decisions each year by respondent State (Spain / Other)

Annual Committee decisions according to type of the decision rendered

Year	Total decisions	Housing	Social security	Health	Conditions of work	Work	Join a trade union	Take part in cultural life
2015	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
2016	6	0	4	1	0	0	0	1
2017	7	3	3	0	1	0	0	0
2018	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
2019	21	19	0	1	0	0	1	0
2020	13	12	0	0	1	0	0	0
2021	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	14	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	15	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	27	26	0	0	0	0	0	1

Annual committee decisions by primary right concerned

The Committee's Backlog

The Committee's backlog remains the same as last year. In 2024, the Committee registered a total of 27 new communications. Given that it also published 27 new decisions, the backlog remains the same as last year.

2024 Merits Decisions

Saydawi et al v. Italy

In September 2021, the authors claimed to be victims of a violation by the State party of their rights under Article 11(1) of the Covenant. The authors were living in a block of five small, “neglected” houses close to the railway line at 37 via Latino Silvio, Rome. These houses were built by the United States Army during the Second World War and were restored and renovated by the authors and their neighbours. The authors noted that they had a considerable emotional attachment to the houses and invested a great deal of work and money in the renovation works.

Although most of the occupants had registered the houses as their place of residence, they never managed to obtain a property title. According to the information available to the residents, the houses are without a formal owner, and the local authorities informally told them that they could remain in the houses even without the possibility of providing them with a formal title.

In October 2008, the authors received a notification from the Italian State railway company (Gruppo Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane) informing them that the company had acquired ownership of the block of houses and would evict the inhabitants, claiming that the houses were in a ruinous state. At a trial before the Civil Court of Rome, started on 27 October 2008, the company requested the eviction of the families and the payment of a fine for the illegal occupation of the houses. On 22 September 2009, the complaint was dismissed and archived by the Civil Court of Rome, since the authors had been living in the houses for a long time before the company had acquired ownership of them.

In 2010, an inspection made by firefighters reached the conclusion that the houses were in a state of disrepair

and that the residents had to be evicted. The inspectors requested the City Council of Rome to provide the families with suitable housing, without any result.

In April 2011, after the notice to vacate the railway company, the authors argued that the good state of the houses and that they had been inhabited for many years, while highlighting that the company had tolerated the use of the houses without requesting any fee or showing any intention of renting them out or using them in any way. In November 2012, the Civil Court of Rome issued a judgement in which it ordered the vacation of the houses and imposed on the residents the obligation to pay a fine and cover legal costs amounting to 37,493.74€. Without any offer for alternative housing, they decided to continue residing in the houses and resumed the renovation works.

In February 2021, the authors were informed they had to vacate their homes after a 2012 Court decision. Although multiple eviction attempts were made by judicial officers, housing activists supported the families, preventing the evictions. One of the authors, Mr Saydawi, who had been living in the house since 2000, faced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic and sought to regularise his housing situation, but his requests were denied.

Mr Farah, another resident, lived in the house with his elderly mother, brother, wife, and children. Despite similar requests for emergency housing, the authorities offered no viable solution, and the family feared eviction would cause irreparable damage, especially affecting the health of his mother and brother, and disrupting the well-being of his children. Both families faced the risk of homelessness without any sustainable alternatives provided by the authorities.

Therefore, the authors argue that Italian authorities have failed to protect their rights under Article 11 of the Covenant, as they were in a vulnerable situation without adequate housing. They criticise the courts for prioritising a railway company's property claim over their right to housing, dignity, and integrity. They also claim that their prolonged housing uncertainty, risk of family separation in emergency shelters, and eviction threats violate Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). They have exhausted all legal remedies, except for one appeal that would have been futile and financially burdensome and emphasised their repeated but unsuccessful requests for social housing.

First, the Committee determines the admissibility of the communication under its rules. The Committee can only consider claims related to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, rendering the authors' claims under Article 17 of ICCPR inadmissible.

The Committee also examines whether domestic remedies were exhausted. While the State argues that they were not, it fails to specify effective and accessible remedies that the authors could have pursued. The authors claim that appealing the eviction order would have been futile and financially burdensome. The Committee finds that the State did not prove the existence of appropriate and effective remedies and thus rules that the case is admissible, proceeding to consider its merits.

The human right to adequate housing is a fundamental right of central importance for the enjoyment of all economic, social, and cultural rights and of other civil and political rights. Indeed, the right to housing should be ensured to all persons irrespective of income or access to economic resources, and States parties have the obligation to take whatever steps are

2024 Merits Decisions

necessary for that purpose. Forced evictions are prima facie incompatible with the Covenant and can be justified only in the most exceptional circumstances. Evictions must meet legal and proportionality requirements, ensuring minimal interference with the right to housing and prioritising general welfare. Authorities should consider alternative solutions, provide procedural protections, and prevent homelessness. Eviction decisions should be reviewed by an independent authority, and legal remedies must be available. Criminalising homelessness is disproportionate and discriminatory.

States must provide alternative housing where possible, especially to families with children, and ensure broader human rights protection. The Committee finds that the eviction's necessity and proportionality were not properly assessed. Authorities failed to consider key factors such as the authors' socioeconomic vulnerability, lack of alternative housing, and impact on families and children. Despite their cooperation and requests for social housing, no suitable alternatives were provided. The eviction, initiated by the State railway company rather than an individual in need, was not justified. The lack of a proper proportionality test led to a violation of the authors' right to housing under Article 11 of the Covenant.

The Committee finds that the eviction of the authors and their families violated their right to housing under article 11(1) of the Covenant. It recommends that the State reassess the authors' housing needs, provide them with adequate housing or compensation, and cover their legal costs.

Additionally, the State must prevent future violations by ensuring eviction decisions consider proportionality, alternative housing, and consultation, especially for

vulnerable groups, it should also improve coordination between courts and social services and implement a comprehensive housing plan for low-income individuals. The State must report back within six months on measures taken and widely publish the Committee's findings.

El Korrichi v. Spain

Since December 2016, the author resided with her then-husband and first child in a residence owned by the Social Housing Agency of the Community of Madrid, after paying 2500 euros to the previous tenant without knowing that he lacked legal title to the property.

On 10 February 2017, the author was notified of a request for voluntary eviction after authorities confirmed the illegal occupation. The author claims she signed the notification without understanding its content of her right to present allegations.

In April 2017, the author applied for social housing. On 12 March 2018, she requested public housing due to special needs from the Transport, Housing, and Infrastructure Council of the Community of Madrid.

After her partner abandoned her in March 2019, the author was alone to take care of her two children, then aged 1 and 4. Although a child support payment of 300 euros was mandated, it was never paid. The author could not enter the labour market due to their youngest child's age and relied on assistance from local charities and municipal social services.

On 19 February 2020, Madrid's Administrative Court No.23 authorised entry into the occupied residence to restore possession to the Community of Madrid.

On 18 May 2020, the author appealed the ruling by arguing violations of her right to adequate housing, her right to judicial protection and the best interests of her children, given the lack of consideration for their ages and vulnerability.

The appeal did not suspend the eviction order against her, and on 17 June 2020, she was notified that the eviction would take place on 1 July 2020.

On 2 July 2020, the Committee registered the communication and requested Spain to suspend the eviction or provide alternative housing in consultation with the author, in accordance with Article 5 of the Optional Protocol.

The Committee found that Spain failed to ensure adequate procedural guarantees and did not provide alternative housing, violating Article 11 of the Covenant. It recommends that the State ensure the author and her children have adequate housing. Additionally, the State must develop comprehensive policies to prevent similar violations, establish monitoring mechanisms to assess the effectiveness of reparative measures and report on implementation within six months.

Regarding this case, the Committee decided that this decision would be the Committee's pilot decision concerning eviction cases in Spain and that all future cases on this issue would follow the approach and refer to this decision.

2024 Merits Decisions

Tornensis et al v. Finland

A group of Sami reindeer herders from Finland, part of the Kova-Labba Siida community, submitted complaints to the Committee, arguing that Finland violated their rights by granting mineral exploration permits on their traditional land without proper impact assessments or obtaining their free, prior, and informed consent. The mineral exploration activities pose a significant threat to their traditional livelihood and cultural heritage. The petitioners claim these actions violate their rights to cultural participation and fair working conditions under the Covenant. They also highlight systemic discrimination, as the Finnish state profits from mining while denying them compensation or legal recourse. The cumulative effects of these interventions increase their workload and disrupt reindeer herding, further threatening their way of life.

The Committee registered their complaints in January and August 2022, requesting Finland to halt mining activities while reviewing the case. Finland later informed the Committee that no exploration activities had begun and would not take place before winter 2023/2024. The Committee decided to assess both the admissibility and merits of the case together.

The Finnish State, through its Forest Agency, owns approximately 90 per cent of the Sami homeland, including their reindeer herding areas. Under the Mining Act, exploration work can proceed with the landowner's consent, and the exploration permit holder is required to compensate the landowners. However, these legal provisions do not fully safeguard Indigenous rights. At the same time, the Sami homeland is experiencing the effects of climate change at a rate more than three times the global average, with extreme snow conditions and frozen pastures already making reindeer herding increasingly challenging.

Any additional disturbances caused by mining operations would only exacerbate these difficulties.

The Sami herders oppose two mining projects that threaten their traditional reindeer herding. In the first case, Finnish authorities granted a mineral exploration permit in 2016 despite strong opposition, with a court's ruling that consultation was sufficient, though the Sami argue it failed to meet Indigenous rights standards. The second case involves a private company's 2022 reservation of 284 square kilometres for battery mineral exploration, approved without any consultation. Both projects endanger crucial winter pastures and disrupt reindeer grazing, exacerbating the challenges posed by climate change. With no legal recourse in Finland, the Sami have turned to international bodies to protect their cultural heritage and way of life.

The Finnish government argues that the Sami herders lack legal standing and that their complaints are premature, as no mining activities have begun. It claims that the Mining Act applies equally to all and is not discriminatory. The government also contends that the Sami have not exhausted domestic legal remedies and that their claims lack sufficient evidence of rights violations. Moreover, the government argues that Sami rights are protected under the Constitution and international law, emphasising that the Mining Act applies equally to all and that reindeer herding must be balanced with other land uses. It highlights ongoing reforms to strengthen consultation obligations and a new Mining Act imposing stricter permit conditions.

The Committee finds the Sami authors' communications admissible, rejecting Finland's objections. It rules that the case is not barred by parallel proceedings before the Committee on the Rights of the Child and that the authors have legal standing as victims. The Committee determines

that domestic remedies were exhausted and acknowledges that the Sami's rights to culture, self-determination, and an adequate standard of living may have been violated due to the lack of free, prior, and informed consent. However, claims related to work and health rights are deemed unsubstantiated and inadmissible.

The Committee reviewed the complaints regarding the Finnish government's approval of mineral exploration and land reservation in Sami reindeer herding territories without proper consultation. Despite opposition from Sami institutions, Finland granted exploration permits and land reservations, arguing that consultations were sufficient under the Mining Act. However, the Committee found that the process failed to ensure the Sami's right to free, prior, and informed consent, impacting their cultural rights and livelihood. The Committee emphasised that Indigenous land rights are crucial for cultural survival and self-determination and concluded that Finland had not adequately protected these rights, leading to discrimination against the Sami.

The Committee found Finland in violation of the Sami people's rights under the Covenant. It is recommended that Finland provide reparations by reviewing the mineral exploration and land reservation decisions through a proper consultation process, including independent impact assessments. It also urged Finland to amend its laws to ensure free, prior, and informed consent, conduct impact assessments, and legally recognise Indigenous land rights. Finland must report back within six months and ensure the decision is widely published and translated, including into Northern Sami.

2024 Discontinuance Decisions

In 2024, the Committee released 24 discontinuance decisions, which represent 88% of all decisions of 2024. All the discontinuance decisions related to cases concerning the right to housing, where Spain was the respondent State.

All of the discontinuance decisions were made because the Committee decided to halt the communication after they had been unable to establish contact with the claimant, and therefore, the lack of contact meant the Committee could no longer proceed with the examination of the cases.



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2024 Follow-Ups to Individual Communications

As of 2024, at its seventy-fifth session, the Committee adopted its follow-up progress report on individual communications. The Committee assessed the State party's compliance with its recommendations concerning the case *Walters v. Belgium*. The Committee considered that some initial action had been taken, but further action and additional information on the measures taken were still needed. Therefore, the Committee continued the follow-up procedure for this communication and invited the State party to provide information on the measures taken in relation to all of its recommendations.



Thematic Work in 2024

Statements and Open Letters

As of 2024, the Committee had adopted a total of 34 statements. Nevertheless, none of these statements were released during 2024. During its seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions, the Committee began discussing a statement on taxation and economic, social, and cultural rights, which will continue at the seventy-seventh Session. The Chair of the Committee had also addressed open letters to States parties to the Covenant on issues of particular interest, such as economic, social, and cultural rights and the economic and financial crisis and related austerity measures.

Day of General Discussion

The Day of general discussion is an important step in the preparation of general comments, as it provides an opportunity for different stakeholders to assist the Committee in its process of preparing the General Comment.

The purpose of such a general discussion is threefold:

- a. It assists the Committee in developing in greater depth its shared understanding of the issue under discussion;
- b. It enables the Committee to encourage inputs into its work from all interested parties; and
- c. It helps the Committee to lay the basis for a future general comment or provides the opportunity to discuss a draft general comment.

The Committee did not hold a day of general discussion in 2024.

General Comments Under Preparation

In 2024, the Committee continued with the consideration of the draft general comment on sustainable development and the Covenant, prepared by the drafting group. It provided Committee members with the opportunity to discuss the draft text in detail and reflect on its scope and format, considering the word limits and other constraints. The Committee agreed to the draft text, as revised, and decided it would be made available publicly for comments and inputs.

At the seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions, the Committee discussed the preparatory work being undertaken on the general comment on the impact of drug policies on economic, social, and cultural rights, following progress reports and updates provided by the lead rapporteur for the general comment, Seree Nonthasoot.

At the seventy-sixth session, Ludovic Hennebel, the lead rapporteur for the future general comment on economic, social, and cultural rights in the context of armed conflict, provided a preliminary report and an update on the preparatory steps taken and meetings held during the intersessional period.



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Working Methods and Procedural Information

A Year Marked By the Liquidity Crisis of the United Nations

2024 proved to be a particularly difficult year for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), as the wider United Nations liquidity crisis materially disrupted its work. In January, the UN Office in Geneva ceased servicing all hybrid or virtual meetings, forcing CESCR and other treaty bodies to hold only in-person sessions. Additionally, the liquidity crisis also implied that pre-sessional working groups were cancelled: notably, the pre-sessional working group that was expected to meet after the seventy-sixth session was entirely called off due to liquidity shortfalls, and its work was postponed to 2025. These measures—cancellation of pre-sessions and loss of hybrid participation—compounded existing backlogs of state reports, individual communications, and follow-up assessments. They also placed severe limits on the ability of stakeholders—including civil society and rights-holders outside Geneva—to engage meaningfully with the Committee's processes.

The Predictable Review Cycle and Simplified Procedure

From the sixty-seventh session onward, the Committee decided to introduce an eight-year predictable review cycle for the review of State party reports, and to generalise the use of the simplified reporting procedure in order to tackle the backlog. This would be subject to additional resources, resulting, in practice, in a third annual session. During its seventy-fourth session, at its meeting with States on 10 October 2023, the Committee provided an overview of the next steps with respect to the treaty body reporting process.

The Committee highlighted that States should continue

to report according to the standard procedure until such a time that a decision was made within the context of the treaty body strengthening process, or additional resources were otherwise provided for the Committee.

However, the prospect of implementing these measures now appears increasingly remote in light of the ongoing liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations. The severe financial constraints that led to the suspension of hybrid modalities and the cancellation of pre-sessional working groups in 2024 have demonstrated the extent to which the Committee's functioning is contingent upon stable institutional support and adequate funding. Without a resolution to the UN's liquidity challenges, the additional resources required to operationalise a third annual session and sustain a predictable eight-year review cycle remain unlikely to materialise, jeopardising the Committee's efforts to address its growing backlog and to ensure the timely, inclusive, and effective monitoring of States parties' obligations under the Covenant.

Follow-Up Procedure

At its seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions, the Committee pursued work on follow-up under the guidance of the follow-up rapporteurs, Mr Asraf Ally Caunhye and Mr Santiago Manuel Fiorio Vaesken, as decided at the seventy-fourth session.

Consultations With Actors and Coordination With Treaty Bodies

The Committee continued to have regular interactions with other UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies to coordinate their work to the greatest extent possible and to draw as widely as it can on available expertise in the fields of its competence.



Working Methods and Procedural Information

On 13 February 2024, an informal exchange with members of the Committee and members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women took place. The discussion was mainly focused on preparatory work for the future general comment on the impact of drug policies as they relate to the Covenant. On 15 February, representatives from the OHCHR's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section presented the High Commissioner's vision and discussed strategies for expanding their work, expressing a strong interest in collaboration with the Committee. This was followed by the Committee's engagement with the ILO's Freedom of Association Branch to discuss issues such as the right to strike. Meetings were held with OHCHR representatives to explore the intersection of taxation and human rights, especially in relation to the UN Framework Convention on Taxation. Finally, on 27 February, the Committee met with secretariats of environmental conventions, focusing on environmental issues as well as child labour and exposure to hazardous substances.

Later in the year, in September, the Committee had an informal exchange with the Committee on the Rights of the Child to discuss drug policies, highlighting the importance of a child rights perspective.

On 16 September, the Committee exchanged views with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Development regarding a draft general comment on economic, social, and cultural rights and sustainable development.

The Committee also met with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to consider stronger inter-regional cooperation and exchanged views on care-related human rights with OHCHR sections focused on gender and disability. On 26 September, members met with the Director of the ILO Research Department to reinforce cooperation,

particularly with the ILO's supervisory mechanisms.

Throughout the Committee's seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions, various UN agencies and bodies followed its work closely, reflecting broad institutional interest in its deliberations and outcomes.

Annual Civil Society Meeting

In February, the Committee held its annual meeting with NGOs, coordinated by the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The annual meeting is a space where the Committee, with representatives of civil society organisations, updates on its work, both substantively and concerning working methods. Additionally, it provides a space for civil society to engage directly with Committee members and raise different issues that need the attention of the Committee.

In 2024, the meeting was significantly affected by the discontinuation of hybrid modalities, which was decided on January. Consequently, many participants could not engage directly with the Committee as planned. Despite these challenges, a wide range of issues were addressed, with both the Committee and NGOs expressing hope for future engagement to allow an interaction as broad as possible with the Committee.



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In addition to the annual Yearbook on the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, GI-ESCR also provides [regular updates from Geneva](#) on significant developments that relate to the field of economic, social and cultural rights.

On GI-ESCR's [CESCR Jurisprudence webpage page](#), you can find a summary of each of the communications that the Committee has decided on, a database with statistics on all of the Committee's decisions, and an analysis of the most significant trends that have emerged from the Committee's jurisprudence.

GI-ESCR also hosts an [Individual Communication Guide](#), which includes a step-by-step explanation of the different stages of the individual communication process and a collection of resources where additional information may be found.

For further information about our work, please consult our website at www.giescr.org. You can also contact GI-ESCR via our website or at info@gi-escr.org.

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This report draws on relevant reports on the website of the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, including its Annual Report of 2024 (E/2025/22 - E/C.12/2024/3).

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