

# THE GENEVA HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM



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# Canada

# GHRP FRIDAYS

## Event series on the outcomes of the 2020 Treaty Body Review

2.30 – 4.00 pm CET, Fridays, October 2021- February 2022

Geneva Academy (Villa Moynier, 120B, Rue de Lausanne,  
Geneva) and ZOOM

A project of the:

**GENEVA  
ACADEMY**

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

The Geneva Academy, a Joint Centre of



## Concept

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

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

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

## Topics 2021

- **Harmonized COVID working methods** (background document: <https://www.geneva-academy.ch/joomlatools-files/docman-files/working-papers/The%20United%20Nations%20Treaty%20Bodies%20in%20a%20Transition%20Period.pdf> )

The inter-committee WG on COVID 19 and initiatives by individual committees have produced food for thought on ways for TBs to work online. Discussions and COVID-induced practice have also shown challenges and shortcomings. Different time-zones, the digital gap and the lack of regulations regarding DSA for online sessions, just to name a few of those.

This GHRP Friday will allow TB members to report back on their experiences and to discuss lessons for a post-Covid setting.

**Date: Friday 12 November 2021, 2.30 – 4.00 pm CET**

**Place: Geneva Academy, Villa Moynier, 120 B, Rue de Lausanne, Geneva**

**Link: ZOOM**

- **Predictable review schedule**

A major issue for visibility of the TB system, coherence of its output and encouragement for timely and full cooperation is the current irregular and incoherent schedule of reviews across the system. Suggestions for a master calendar have been made and turned down for various reasons while the problem only aggravated. A new push for a comprehensive fixed calendar by the Convention bodies brings new dynamics into the discussion.

This GHRP Friday will discuss calendars in place and possibilities to synchronize reporting schedules of all TBs, moving thus towards a 100% reporting compliance rate and meaningful possibilities for follow-up and mutual reinforcement.

**Date: Friday 26 November 2021, 2.30 – 4.00 pm CET**

- **Nominations, elections and membership**

(with the backing of an upcoming Academy working paper)

Transparency is considered a key element in the nomination and election process of TB members. Many states have started inclusive processes of national nominations, NGOs lead a transparency initiative involving all candidates and there are also parallels to be drawn from nomination processes in place for other international judicial or quasi-judicial bodies.

This GHRP Friday will focus on good practices and potential modalities to be introduced globally in the nomination and election process for new TB members.

**Date: Friday 3 December 2021, 2.30 – 4.00 pm CET**

- **Digital shift / Digital Uplift**

Working methods inside the TB system / secretariat are not up to speed with contemporary standards and potentials IT or AI-based solutions can offer. Efforts are underway in specific areas of work, and an office-wide discussion on a digital uplift is taking place.

This GHRP Friday will provide an opportunity to the OHCHR task force on digitalization to share progress and plans.

**Date: Friday 17 December 2021, 2.30 – 4.00 pm CET (alternative: 14 January 2022)**

## Topics 2022

- **Focused review:** models, modalities, concepts and simulations

The idea of focused reviews, to take place in between full reviews, has been welcomed by all stakeholders. They are thought to replace full reviews, focusing on implementation and follow-up of recommendations. Models differ from in-country sessions, reviews in regional hubs or online. This GHRP Friday will allow for an exchange on the various ideas, their differences and implications and for a presentation of the simulation exercises initiated by the GHRP.

- **Case management portal** for individual communications – update on progress

- **Digital tools** available for national-level reporting and follow-up.

## Co-sponsor Group

The GHRP Fridays are organized and hosted by the team of the Geneva Human Rights Platform and co-sponsored by the following Permanent Missions: **Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Morocco, Switzerland, and Uruguay.**

## Modalities for Participation

This event series will be held in the form of hybrid meetings, with participation in presence at Villa Moynier in Geneva and online on the platform Zoom. Meetings will be open to the diplomatic community, Treaty Body members, OHCHR staff and representatives of civil society.