### Chapter IV - Treaty Bodies (10/01/2012)

<table>
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<td>32</td>
<td>The Committee on Enforced Disappearances may also undertake urgent action.</td>
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</table>
| 35   | Footnote 9: Ratification of and accession to human rights treaties by States has increased significantly in recent years. By 06 January 2012, there were: 167 States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; 160 to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; 175 to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; 187 to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; 149 to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; 193 to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; 45 to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and 109 to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.  
  
  Footnote 10: By 06 January 2012, there were 30 States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The Convention entered into force on 23 December 2010. |
| 36   | Committees consist of 10 to 25 independent experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights.  
  
  All human rights treaty bodies are serviced by the Human Rights Treaties Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).  
  
  On 19 December 2011, the UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications Procedure.  
  
  Footnote 12: By 06 January 2012, there were: 114 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; 73 to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; 5 to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; 103 to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; 143 to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict; 151 to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; 61 to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and 65 to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.  
  
| 37   | The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 2008, and will allow for individual complaints once it has entered into force. |
| 40   | The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopts the so-called list of themes for which no response is required.  
  
  The Committee against Torture, Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Migrant Workers have introduced an optional reporting procedure which consists of the preparation and adoption of a list of issues transmitted to the State party prior to the submission of their
The respective periodic report (known as list of issues prior to reporting - LOIPR). The State party's response to the list of issues thereby constitutes its report under the respective instruments.

43  The Committee on Enforced Disappearances is empowered to urgently bring to the attention of the General Assembly information indicating that the practice of enforced disappearances is widespread or systematic in a State party.

72  As of 1 January 2011, the Committee’s membership has increased to 18.

The Committee meets in Geneva and holds sessions in April and September.