**Information note on human rights treaty bodies summer sessions**

GENEVA (15 May 2020) The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has determined that it will not be possible to conduct in-person meetings of Human Rights Treaty Bodies in Geneva and New York, including the annual meeting of the Treaty Body Chairs, until the end of August. The Office has taken the decision in response to continuing travel restrictions, and the limitations on the size of gatherings and meetings during COVID-19.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the secretariat of all human rights treaty bodies, reiterates the importance of maintaining the human rights treaties norms and standards, particularly in the current pandemic and its aftermath. The Office will continue its support for the work of the human rights treaty bodies to safeguard the basic rights of everyone, in particular the most vulnerable. This applies to all aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic and related public policies, now and in the post COVID-19 period.

Committees will continue to monitor the implementation of the human rights treaties and carry on their work through virtual means over appropriate information technology platforms. Unless otherwise informed, preparations and submission of all due reports and information should continue as scheduled. Member States, stakeholders, including civil society, national human rights institutions, and national preventive mechanisms, will be informed on how the Committees plan to implement their mandates.

The following scheduled sessions are affected by the latest arrangements:

* Chairs of Human Rights Treaty Bodies meeting, scheduled for 1-5 June in New York headquarters of the United Nations.
* Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, scheduled for 15-19 June in Geneva
* Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, scheduled for 17 June-17 July in Geneva
* Human Rights Committee, scheduled for 22 June-24 July in Geneva
* Committee against Torture, scheduled for 13-24 July in Geneva
* Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, scheduled for 5-27 August in Geneva
* Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, scheduled for 17 August-18 September in Geneva

Guidance for States and other stakeholders by the Treaty Bodies on the COVID-19 pandemic is accessible at this link:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/COVID-19-and-TreatyBodies.aspx>

The Treaty Bodies will continue undertaking their work in the absence of in-person meetings to the extent possible. Please visit the webpage of the respective Committee for specific updates.

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