Capacity Building and Legal Support
Promoting NGO Engagement
Follow-up and Implementation
Litigation
I was honored to be elected as President of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights at the General Assembly in November 2012. Having benefitted from the Centre’s work as a member and Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, I now look forward to helping to support their activities through my role as President.

I am pleased to introduce this annual report, which reviews the progress and developments in the Centre’s work over the last year.

The Centre has continued its now well-established practice of supporting national NGOs in their engagement with the Human Rights Committee’s state reporting process. Over the last year the Centre supported more NGOs than ever before through its in-country training in preparation for the submission of reports. The Centre’s follow-up missions have routinely been praised by all involved. Over the course of the year variations in the organisation of these missions have been attempted, with some focusing more on dissemination of the Concluding Observations shortly after the review of the State party and others taking place at a later stage and concentrating on the Follow-up to the Concluding Observations.

The Centre has continued to develop its work on Individual Communications over the course of the year. A major step forward was the launch in September 2012 of a new Database of Individual Communications on the Centre’s website.
The database shows the outcome of the case and lists the relevant articles of the ICCPR and related keywords. To date the database includes 756 cases, including all of those adopted since 2008. This database represents an important development in gathering the Committee’s decisions on individual communications in an easily accessible form and should prove an immensely useful tool for lawyers, NGOs, and others.

Another area in which the Centre has developed its work in 2012 is in relation to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The Centre’s efforts in this area have focused on improving the use of the Human Rights Committee’s Concluding Observations in the UPR and, in particular, on drawing attention to the assessments made in the context of the follow-up procedure.

Finally, I wish to thank all those who have supported the work of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights over the past year. In particular I welcome the generous support of the Centre’s donors without which none of this work would be possible. In this context I was very pleased to hear that the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, one of the Centre’s first donors, has agreed to continue funding the Centre for a further three years.

Rafael Rivas Posada
Mission and Objectives

1. Build the capacity of and support NGO coalitions in their activities related to the Human Rights Committee.

2. Promote the role and participation of NGOs in the Human Rights Committee’s reporting procedure.

3. Reinforce the involvement of NGOs in the follow-up to the Concluding Observations.

4. Facilitate the submission of individual complaints by NGOs and improve the follow-up on individual complaints.

The ultimate objective of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre) is the full implementation and respect worldwide of all human rights proclaimed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), ratified by 167 States.

The CCPR-Centre works to facilitate NGO access to the Human Rights Committee and strengthen the role of NGOs in the State reporting process, which requires States parties to submit, on a regular basis, reports to the Committee on the measures taken to implement the obligations enshrined in the ICCPR. The CCPR-Centre works to promote the participation of NGOs in the work of the HR Committee by raising awareness, strengthening the capacity of the NGOs and providing technical and legal support at all stages of the reporting process and the individual complaint procedure.

One of the CCPR-Centre’s priorities is promoting the use of the HR Committee’s follow-up procedure. The CCPR-Centre also aims to ensure that the work of the HR Committee is fully taken into account in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) established by the Human Rights Council.

The CCPR-Centre is based in Geneva (Switzerland) and has focal points in the different regions of the world. The Centre’s General Assembly meets once a year and elects the Bureau members for two years. The Board is composed of renowned Human Rights Defenders from the different regions of the world. Each region has a focal point, which is committed to linking the CCPR-Centre with national civil society organisations, and therefore ensures that key partners are properly identified at the national level.
Effective participation in the HR Committee's reporting process requires NGOs to have detailed knowledge of the ICCPR and the HR Committee's working methods. In 2012, the CCPR-Centre was in contact with more than 50 NGOs in relation to the 13 States reviewed that year and a similar number in the context of the preparation of List of Issues on States which have not yet been reviewed. The Centre aims to provide comprehensive support to these NGOs, to enable them to engage with the HR Committee throughout the State reporting process.

Cape Verde

One representative of the CCPR-Centre travelled to Praia, Cape Verde, to carry out a two-day workshop with attendance of representatives of approximately 20 human rights organisations and other civil society associations on 8-9 February 2012. A presentation was made on the State reporting procedure of the UN Treaty Bodies and on the content of the ICCPR in relation to the List of Issues of Cape Verde. A major highlight of the project was the extensive participation of members of civil society during the workshop that took place in Praia. It was the first time that local civil society had contributed to the State reporting procedure before the HR Committee. It was also the first time that such a large coalition was formed to submit a report before the UN Treaty bodies - 12 local organisations signed the final outcome report, some of them being networks themselves. Many of the participants acknowledged that they were not aware of the reporting procedures before the UN Treaty Bodies, and that the workshop had informed them about this new area for advocacy.
I am so happy to read that all the issues on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity that were presented in the review are included in the Concluding Observations on Philippines.

Ging CRISTOBAL
International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC)

Philippines

A workshop was held in Manila and attended by a dozen NGOs on 30 and 31 August 2012. During this meeting work started on a coalition report on behalf of 21 NGOs, which was finalised and submitted to the HR Committee before the review of the Philippines in October 2012. The programme of the workshop included a session on the provisions of the ICCPR and an overview of the HR Committee’s working methods, as well as the ways the NGOs could interact with the Committee. Another session was devoted to the previous Concluding Observations and the questions suggested by the HR Committee in the List of Issues.

The large coalition built around TFDP and PAHRA is certainly one of the most positive outcomes of the project. Thanks to this coalition of 20 NGOs, most of the questions included in the List of Issues were covered and a comprehensive report was submitted to the HR Committee.

Paraguay

In September 2012 a two-day training workshop was jointly carried out by the CCPR-Centre and OMCT in Asuncion, Paraguay. Ten national NGOs attended the workshop and a representative of the Mexican NGO Network RED TDT was present in order to share experiences from Mexico’s review by the HR Committee.

The major highlight of the project was the good cooperation established between the CCPR-Centre and OMCT in their interaction with the local partner. Both organisations managed to adapt their activities to avoid duplication of resources and increase the impact of the participation of civil society in Paraguay.
II - Promoting NGO engagement with the Human Rights Committee

Supporting the Participation of NGOs in the Committee’s Sessions

Promoting the engagement of NGOs, particularly national NGOs, in the work of the HR Committee remains the priority of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights. It is crucial that NGO representatives attend the HR Committee session. Attending the session gives NGOs an opportunity to meet the HR Committee members in person and share their main points of concern.

In addition to the direct contacts with NGOs, the CCPR-Centre has continued to develop the use of its e-mail Newsletters as a tool for outreach and awareness-raising. In addition to Newsletters before and after each session relating to the State reporting process the CCPR-Centre continued to prepare and send Newsletters on the Individual Communications, both alerts about the decisions and one Newsletter focusing on the implementation of decisions. After the 106th Session the CCPR-Centre also produced for the first time a written overview of the session which aims to provide a quick summary of the session, including both highlights of the State reporting process and developments in the HR Committee's other work.

Webcasting

In 2012, the CCPR-Centre continued its practice of webcasting all the reviews of States by the HR Committee. The webcasts continues to be immensely valuable to national civil society as a means of disseminating the work of the HR Committee and monitoring the information provided and commitments undertaken by the State.

The Icelandic Human Rights Centre (ICEHR) extends its deep gratitude to the Centre for their excellent assistance and guidance, before, during and after the examination of the 5th periodic report of Iceland.

Margrét STEINARSDÓTTIR
Icelandic Human Rights Center
II - Promoting NGO engagement with the Human Rights Committee

We found the information very helpful. In particular the clear instructions made the submission less difficult. This cooperation has made our submission better and more to the point.

Mine YILDIRIM
Freedom of Belief Initiative in Turkey (IOG)

Facilitating the Attendance of National NGOs at the Committee’s Sessions

In 2011, the HR Committee decided to change its practice and hold formal briefings with the NGOs from each State being reviewed. Alongside these formal briefings, the CCPR-Centre has continued to organise and coordinate informal briefings on almost all the countries under review.

The CCPR-Centre has played an important role in preparing the NGOs for these briefings and coordinating their participation to ensure that the best possible use is made of the time available. Over the course of 2012 the Centre experimented and developed a strategy in which the formal briefings allow time for short NGO statements, while the informal briefings are devoted entirely to dialogue around questions raised by the HR Committee members.

The CCPR-Centre also assisted with the organisation of seven informal briefings via videoconference. These briefings enabled NGOs from Afghanistan, Angola, Australia, Hong Kong, Israel, Peru and Ukraine to speak with HR Committee members before the adoption of the List of Issues. The organisation of such briefings is greatly facilitated by the presence of the CCPR-Centre in Geneva to make the necessary arrangements and set up the equipment. They also mean that NGOs and HR Committee members can benefit from a direct engagement without the expense, time and environmental cost of the NGOs travelling to Geneva or New York for the session. In 2012, the CCPR-Centre organised 20 informal briefings as well as the formal briefings on 14 States.
III - Follow-up to the Concluding Observations

In 2012, the CCPR-Centre has continued to refine its system of grading the degree of implementation of the HR Committee's recommendations to ensure that they provide a clear overview and a consistent assessment of the situation.

Follow-up reports

Follow-up reports assess the measures the State party has taken to implement the Concluding Observations selected for the follow-up procedure. **Monitoring the implementation of the HR Committee's Concluding Observations is an essential part of the reporting cycle.** The submission of follow-up reports to the HR Committee serves as a means of focusing attention on this monitoring and provides the national NGOs with a structure for their assessment of progress. In the course of 2012, 8 follow-up reports were submitted with the support of the CCPR-Centre on Belgium, Hungary, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland, Serbia and Togo. The follow-up reports closely follow the new assessment criteria adopted by the HR Committee in its follow-up procedure.

**The new assessment criteria adopted by the HR Committee:**

- **Grade A:** Reply largely satisfactory
- **Grade B1:** Substantive action taken, but additional information required
- **Grade B2:** Initial action taken, but additional information required
- **Grade C1:** Reply received but actions taken do not implement the recommendation
- **Grade C2:** Reply received but not relevant to the recommendation
- **Grade D1:** No reply received within the deadline, or no reply to any specific question in the report
- **Grade D2:** No reply received after reminder(s)
- **Grade E:** The reply indicates that the measures taken go against the recommendations of the Committee.
Follow-up missions

The idea behind the Centre’s work on follow-up, is to shift from reporting on the situation in the State to engaging constructively with the authorities around the implementation of the HR Committee’s recommendations. This work is primarily done through the organisation of follow-up missions carried out by the CCPR-Centre and a member of the HR Committee. These missions include workshops with national NGOs in order to raise awareness of the Concluding Observations.

Togo
A follow-up mission was carried out in Togo in January 2012, during which a roundtable, attended by 10 national NGOs was organized. During the workshop, the participants carried out a detailed analysis of the Concluding Observations selected for the follow-up procedure. This assessment was largely positive, as the State had already taken the initial steps towards implementing several of the recommendations.

Jordan
A follow-up mission was carried out in January 2012 by a representative of the CCPR-Centre and Professor Flinterman, a HR Committee member. A workshop was organised and attended by 25 NGOs. The mission was successful in that the governmental authorities undertook to submit their follow-up report to the HR Committee. The mission also helped to re-start a dialogue around the Committee's recommendations and to focus attention particularly on the three selected for the follow-up process. For the civil society participants, the workshop provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the benefits of working as a coalition and the need for more effects to cooperate at the national level.
Engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

In 2012, the CCPR-Centre decided to increase its engagement with the UPR. The particular focus of this work has been to use information collected during the work on follow-up to the Concluding Observations to draw attention to the implementation of HR Committee recommendations in the context of the UPR.

Burundi

In June 2012, a three-day workshop was organised by the CCPR-Centre and its national partner, FORSC, which was attended by a group of 20 representatives of different human rights organizations in Bujumbura. The main objective of the training was to draft a joint report for the upcoming UPR. The second phase of the project focused on increasing the participation of the coalition of NGOs from Burundi in lobbying activities to ensure that the diplomatic community would raise the issues they had identified as priorities. A briefing for diplomats was organized in Bujumbura before a second advocacy mission took place in Geneva.

Factsheets on Implementation

In addition, the CCPR-Centre began producing one page 'factsheets' summarising the HR Committee's assessment of the recommendations selected for follow-up. These factsheets note any similar recommendations made in the context of the first round of the UPR and explain the importance of the recommendation. In the course of 2012, such factsheets were prepared on: Burundi, Israel, Mali and the United Arab Emirates.
Disseminating the latest Decisions

In 2012, the CCPR-Centre continued its efforts to make the HR Committee's case law more readily accessible. It has continued to summarise the decisions of the HR Committee in English, French, or Spanish depending on the language of the decision and to post these summaries on its website. Following the positive feedback received on the first editions of its e-mail newsletter 'Case Law Digest', the CCPR-Centre has continued to produce such newsletters. The CCPR-Centre has also developed a new online database of cases. This database can be searched by State, article of the ICCPR, keyword, and decision year.

Training on the UN complaints mechanisms

**Uzbekistan**

Carrying on from a project began in 2011, the CCPR-Centre has worked with human rights defenders from Uzbekistan to prepare individual cases for submission to the HR Committee. In September 2012, the Centre organised a 4-day workshop for six human rights defenders in Geneva. In addition to training on the UPR process and how to draft a successful report in that context, the workshop provided a detailed explanation of the complaints mechanism of the HR Committee.
Assessing the implementation of Decisions on individuals complaints

One of the major impulses for this project is an awareness that attention often focuses on the HR Committee’s evolving jurisprudence to the exclusion of considerations of the effectiveness of the decisions for the individual victims. This CCPR-Centre aims to bridge the gap by focusing on implementation and raising awareness about the degree to which the HR Committee’s decisions are or are not being implemented by States.

The CCPR-Centre’s main activity in this area has been producing one-page reports on the implementation of decisions. The objective is to provide both the HR Committee and other interested persons with an analysis, from the point of view of the victim and his or her counsel, of the impact of the HR Committee’s decision on the victim’s situation. The CCPR-Centre has developed a template for these reports, which aims to provide an objective and consistent assessment of the degree of implementation through a grading system, similar to that used for the follow-up to the Concluding Observations. It also gives a clear overview of the major issues of concern and highlights any developments, positive or negative.

In April 2012, the CCPR-Centre issued the first edition of an e-mail Newsletter on the implementation of individual communications. This Newsletter collected the information gathered for the preparation of the follow-up reports.
Looking Forward

Our plans for 2013

In 2013, the CCPR-Centre will focus on ten key countries, providing comprehensive training and support to the national NGOs.

Capacity building

In 2013, the CCPR-Centre will focus on ten key countries, providing comprehensive training and support to the national NGOs. The identification of key countries is subject to the HR Committee agenda and the interest of national NGOs as well as their needs in terms of capacity building. This support provided by NGOs in these countries will include running workshops on the HR Committee and the ICCPR as well as working with national NGOs to prepare and submit alternative reports. The key countries selected for 2013 are:

- Angola (review March 2013)
- Paraguay (review March 2013)
- Indonesia (review July 2013)
- Bolivia (review October 2013)
- Mauritania (review October 2013)
- Belize (in the absence of a report, March 2013)
- Peru (review March 2013)
- Tajikistan (review July 2013)
- Djibouti (review October 2013)
- Mozambique (review October 2013)

From each of these countries, the CCPR-Centre will support the participation of two NGO representatives at the session at which the State report will be examined. They will also benefit from special support in their lobbying activities and other work related to the HR Committee.

Follow-up to the Concluding Observations

The CCPR-Centre will continue to work closely with national NGOs who have engaged with the reporting process to submit follow-up reports one year after the review. The CCPR-Centre hopes to work with national NGOs to submit follow-up reports on all States reviewed by the HR Committee in 2012. In addition, the CCPR-Centre will continue to organise follow-up missions with the participation of members of the HR Committee. In the first part of 2013 the Centre plans to carry out follow-up missions in the Philippines, Cape Verde, Kenya, Guatemala, Colombia and Jamaica. Follow-up missions on States reviewed in 2013 will be carried out later in the year.

Individual Communications

Subject to the availability of funding, the CCPR-Centre will continue and develop its activities relating to Individual Communications in 2013. This will include training national NGOs in the use of the UN Treaty Bodies complaints mechanisms and awareness raising activities.
The CCPR-Centre carried out its activities thanks to its generous and regular donors. **The Australian MFA was a new donor for 2012, supporting the projects on Cape Verde, Paraguay and the Philippines.**

The project on individual communications remains a problem with the CCPR-Centre struggling to fund these activities. The majority of this work has so far been funded from the core budget.
In 2012, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights increased its permanent staff to four persons, all working part-time:

- Patrick Mutzenberg, Director
- Liliana Trillo Diaz, Programme Officer
- Peggy Brett, Programme Officer (from September 2012)
- Haewen Fortunato, Webmaster

The Centre for Civil and Political Rights has benefited from the voluntary work of a number of interns:

- Ana Paola Burgos
- Janay Farmer
- Yuka Hashimoto
- Kai Kan
- Delly Mazawo Sesete
- Ashley Tucker
- Armelle Vessier
- Lavinia Wasserman
• Mr. Rafael Rivas Posada (President), Professor, Former Member (President) of the UN HR Committee
• Ms. Sihem Bensedrine, Journalist, President of the “Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie”, Tunisian NGO
• Ms. Rachel Brett, Representative (Human Rights & Refugees) at the Quaker UN Office in Geneva
• Mr. Rafendi Djamin Member of the ASEAN Inter Governmental Commission on Human Rights
• Mr. Diallo Abdoul Gadiry, Chairman of West Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, based in Guinea-Conakry
• Mr. Florian Irminger (Treasurer), Head of the Geneva office, Human Rights House Foundation
• Pr. Sarah Joseph, Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law - Faculty of Law of Melbourne - Australia
• Mr. Asger Kjaerum, Lawyer, Head of IRCT Geneva Office, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
• Ms. Victoria Kuhn Lawyer, Human Rights Officer at UN OHCHR Office in Geneva
• Mr. Jakob Th. Moller (Judge), Former Chief of the Communications Branch of the OHCHR and Former Judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina
• Ms. Chantal Mutamuriza, Lawyer
• Ms. Lucia Nader (Latin America Region), Political Scientist, Director, at Conectas Direitos Humanos based in Sao Paulo - Brazil
• Ms. Marina Narvaez, Lawyer, Human Rights Officer at UN OHCHR Office in Geneva
• Mr. Hassan Shire (East and Horn of Africa Region), Chairperson of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP),
• Mr. Philippe Tremblay, Lawyer, Legal Affairs Director at Avocats sans Frontières-Canada
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