

# Centre for Civil and Political Rights

Annual Report  
2016-2017



Making Civil and Political  
Rights a Reality

# Our Vision & Mission

The CCPR-Centre envisions the full and universal realisation of the rights proclaimed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its two Optional Protocols.

The CCPR-Centre aims to fulfil that vision by facilitating the application of the ICCPR and promoting the implementation of Human Rights Committee recommendations, mainly through engaging with national NGOs and strengthening the Committee itself.

We believe that making the most of the reporting, review and follow-up cycle of the Human Rights Committee is one of the best ways to achieve our vision.

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# Message from the President & the Director



**Rafael Rivas Posada**  
President



**Patrick Mutzenberg**  
Director

Since its creation in 2008, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights has played a critical role in strengthening civil society engagement with the UN Human Rights Committee. Hundreds of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) participated in Committee sessions and raised their voices to sound the alert about violations of civil and political rights around the world. The Committee reiterated on numerous occasions how the work of HRDs is crucial to help it fulfil its mandate, and the importance of the Centre's role in supporting HRD's engagement with the Committee.

The Centre also plays an innovative and leading role to ensure that the Committee's recommendations are genuinely taken into consideration by the national authorities. Over the years, the Centre has initiated dozens of follow-up missions, creating strong and long-term links between members of the Committee and the national authorities. This approach, praised by both the authorities and the experts, has enabled the findings of the Committee to become deeply rooted at the local level.

Our method, based on an inclusive approach of working with all interested CSOs and long term engagement at the national level, was further developed in 2016 through new activities. Crucial work was initiated to strengthen efforts toward universal ratification of the ICCPR. Long-term engagement with the Government and the CSOs of Myanmar will hopefully lead to the country ratifying the treaty in the near future. Similar engagement is planned in the future with other countries, in particular in the Asia-Pacific region.

This year, new and innovative initiatives were also taken to improve the follow-up to the Committee's recommendations. These included the emergence of a process of dialogue between the authorities and the other stakeholders, and also ensuring regular meetings to monitor the measures taken to implement the Committee's recommendations. In the same context, the Centre was proud to organise its second regional conference gathering together more than 35 participants (Government, Parliamentarians, NHRI and CSOs) from West Africa to discuss the follow up process for Committee recommendations.

In a complicated international context, where human rights standards are increasingly being challenged, the United Nations Treaty Bodies remain the cornerstone of the system of protection of human rights. HRDs often take risks to monitor human rights violations and testify before the Committees. The Centre is strongly committed to supporting HRDs working in difficult situations and has developed specific actions to facilitate their work and their engagement with the Treaty Bodies. This is the case, for example, with our long-term engagement with CSOs in Burundi, Uzbekistan and Bangladesh.

We would like to warmly thank our partners and supporters, who have enabled us to strengthen CSOs in their efforts to change the situation on the ground and promote the full implementation of the ICCPR. In these tumultuous times, our commitment to make civil and political rights a reality for everyone is more important than ever.

**Rafael Rivas Posada**

President

**Patrick Mutzenberg**

Director

# State Parties to the ICCPR

## 169 State Parties

### 6 Signatories:

- China, (since 1998)
- Comoros (since 2008)
- Cuba (since 2008)
- Nauru (since 2001)
- Palau (since 2011)
- St Lucia (since 2011)

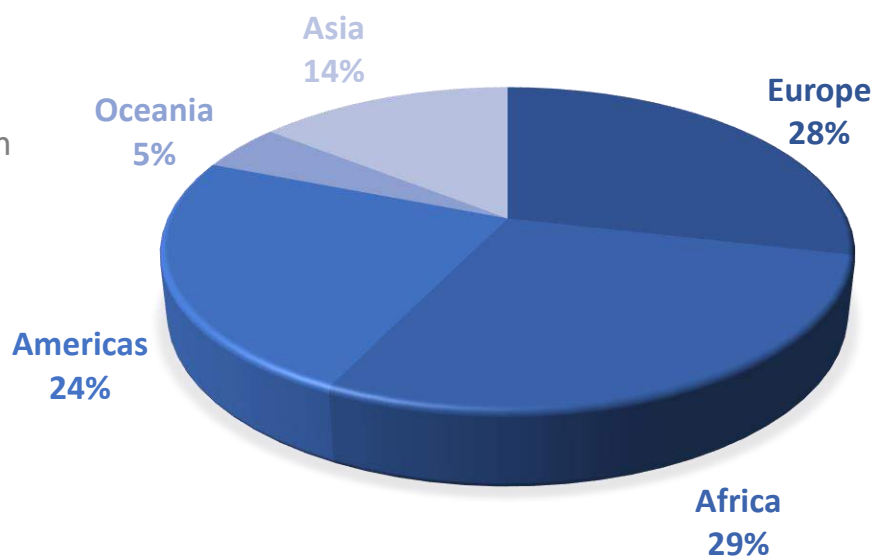
### 22 Not Party:

- Antigua
- Bhutan
- Brunei Darussalam
- Cook Islands
- Fiji
- Holy See
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Micronesia
- Niue
- Qatar
- Solomon Islands
- South Sudan
- St Kitts and Nevis
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Oman
- United Arab Emirates

## No new ratifications in 2016

**58** state parties still have reservations to the ICCPR:  
Italy declared they were withdrawing their reservations in the 119th session

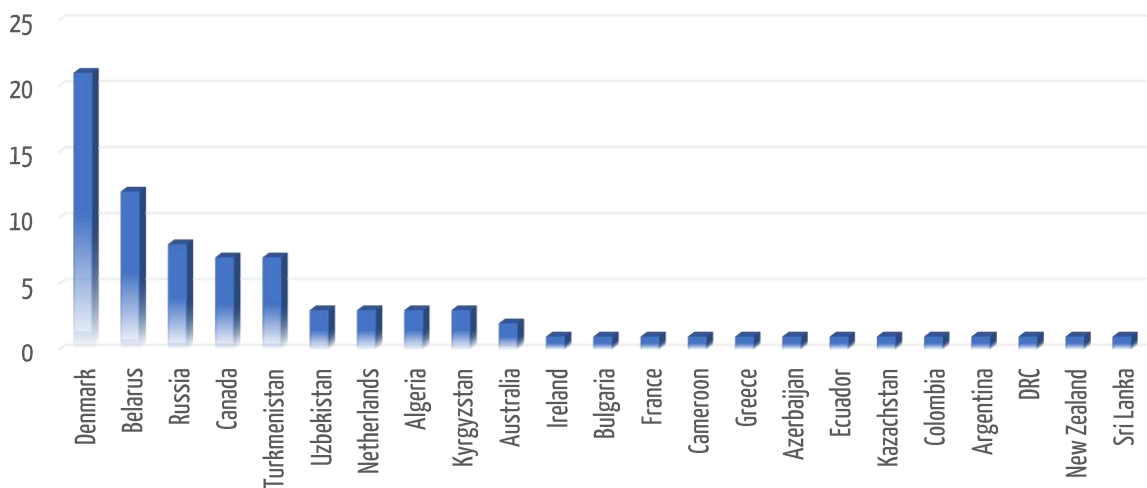
### 21 STATES REVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2016



# State Parties to the First Optional Protocol to ICCPR on individual complaints

- **116** State Parties
- **78** Not Party
- **3** Signatories
- **No** new ratifications in 2016

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNICATIONS ADOPTED IN 2016 (BY COUNTRY)



NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNICATIONS ADOPTED IN 2016 (BY OUTCOME)



# State Parties to the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR on the abolition of death penalty

- **84** State Parties
- **2** Signatories
- **111** Not Party
- **2** New ratifications in 2016:
  - Togo**  
14 September 2016
  - Dominican Republic**  
21 September 2016



## Interview with Chair of the Human Rights Committee (2015- 2016) Fabian Salvioli

**CCPR Centre: Fabian Salvioli, you chaired the Human Rights Committee for two years (2015-2016). What were the Committee's main achievements during this period?**

Fabian Salvioli: The Human Rights Committee achieved several important things during these two years. It significantly reduced the backlog of State Reports pending review by the Committee and exceeded the goal set by the UN General Assembly in terms of number of reports to be examined per year. I was also very proud to see that our procedure of review in absence of reports led to positive cooperation with several States which were not complying with their reporting obligations.

The Committee also redoubled its efforts to reduce the number of individual communications awaiting decisions, so that now the delays in the consideration of these cases are mainly due to the lack of human resources of the Secretariat. Finally, good progress was made regarding the draft of the general comment on the right to life.

A number of working methods documents were approved, including a new system for assessing the level of implementation of the concluding observations and opinions of the Committee. We also worked on a draft methods document on possible hearings for individual cases, another on reparations and a third aimed at giving more publicity to cases pending before the Committee.

Also under my presidency, the "San José Guidelines" were adopted by the Committee, which deal with reprisals for persons cooperating with treaty bodies, and guidelines for the elaboration of general comments.

We have developed a deeper relationship with other treaty bodies: we continued to meet periodically with CEDAW and CAT, and for the first time we jointly met with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We also engaged with the European Court of Human Rights and with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.



**CCPR Centre: The Human Rights Committee is also experiencing several challenges in fulfilling its mandate, in particular regarding the budget available to the Committee...**

Fabian Salvioli: It is true that the main challenge has been the lack of resources. This lack of funds prevents us from having a regular budget set aside for webcasting public meetings. In addition, several States are questioning our working methods and proceedings, which may undermine our work. These difficulties were raised on several occasions, including at the State Parties meetings and before the Third Committee of the General Assembly. Internally, the main challenge has been to maintain the quality of the Committee's work in the face of great pressure to reduce the backlog of State reports and individual cases.

**CCPR Centre: The need to reinforce the visibility of the Committee at the national level has been underlined several times during the past two years. What would you suggest needs to be done to achieve this and to develop further ties with national stakeholders?**

Fabian Salvioli: This topic is of particular interest to me. During the past year, I have deepened my relationship with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) including through participating in its annual meeting in Geneva. As Chairman of the UN Treaty Bodies' Chairpersons Meeting in June 2016, I shared with my colleagues a proposal that would reinforce our cooperation with the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI), and civil society. NHRIs and NGOs are indeed key players in the implementation of the ICCPR at the national level. The Committee will also need to develop strategies for working together with parliaments and national courts in the future.

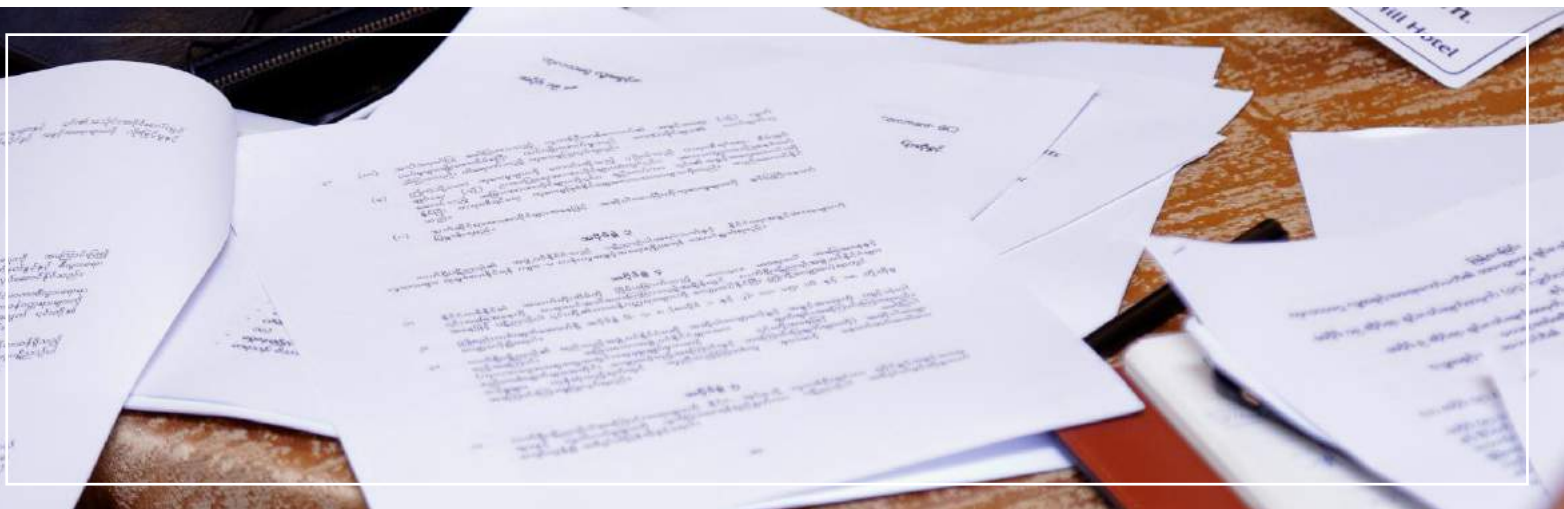
**CCPR Centre: Could you tell us about the main development in the jurisprudence of the Committee in the past two years?**

Fabian Salvioli: The Committee has advanced its jurisprudence on conscientious objection and improved its approach to enforced disappearances, including enforced disappearances of short duration (secret detentions). Progress was made in considering the interdependence and indivisibility of human rights to resolve cases of non-refoulement (in the Jasin case) as well as regarding the application of a gender perspective to very restrictive legislation on abortion (in the Mellet case). In addition, measures of reparation were more clearly identified in our views.

**CCPR Centre: Regarding reparations, the Committee adopted a crucial document that set out the guidelines on reparations...**

Fabian Salvioli: It is indeed a very important document that provides guidelines on reparations in order to improve the quality our recommendations in cases where we find violations. The guidelines will help to better orient States in the implementation of comprehensive reparation measures for victims or their families. I feel these guidelines, as well as the Committee's decision that non reporting states can be reviewed in public meetings in absence of a report (approved in 2011), are the most important contributions I have made to the Committee during the past eight years as a member, and the last two as president.

# How we work



The CCPR-Centre supports the engagement of civil society and other relevant national stakeholders, including national authorities, National Human Rights Institutions, National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up, judicial institutions and Parliamentarians, to enhance the implementation of the ICCPR at the national level.

# 1

## PHASE

### SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE AT THE EARLY STAGES OF THE REVIEW PROCESS

Within the year prior to the review of a State party by the UN Human Rights Committee, the CCPR-Centre facilitates civil society national consultations in target countries to identify the main challenges faced by the country that fall under the scope of the ICCPR. These consultations represent an opportunity to build or strengthen coalitions, to engage with the UN Human Rights Committee and to develop a civil society advocacy strategy. The Centre also accompanies and provides legal and technical assistance to civil society in preparing a written report to be submitted to the Committee to contribute to the review of a State party.

# Key figures



**5** national consultations in Rwanda, Namibia, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Jamaica



**116** HRDs trained on the ICCPR and strategic advocacy



**45** NGOs submitted reports to the Committee



PHASE

## ENSURING THE DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE SESSIONS

The Centre supports the direct participation of civil society in Human Rights Committee sessions, notably by: 1) inviting civil society representatives of target countries to attend the sessions in Geneva, and 2) facilitating formal and informal briefings between the Human Rights Committee members and human rights defenders for all countries under review. The Centre plays an important role in preparing NGOs for these briefings and coordinating their participation to ensure optimal use of the available time. This process serves to streamline NGO concerns and clearly highlight the key human rights issues for each country under review.

# Key figures



**285** HRDs supported to engage with the Committee



**12** HRDs sponsored by the CCPR-Centre to attend Committee sessions



## PHASE

# FACILITATING SPACES FOR DIALOGUE TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL

The CCPR-Centre contributes to the implementation of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations through follow-up activities, including country visits with Human Rights Committee members and meetings with high-level authorities and other relevant stakeholders to encourage them to take steps towards the full implementation of recommendations. The Centre also supports civil society to develop action plans for monitoring the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and to produce assessment notes and evaluations on the progress made by States. Since 2016, the Centre has also facilitated spaces for dialogue between NMRF, NHRIs and civil society in several countries.

## MAINSTREAMING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER UN MECHANISMS

In addition to the activities in the 3 phases mentioned above, the Centre engages with other UN bodies, such as the Human Rights Council, the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee Against Torture (CAT). The objective of this engagement is to ensure that the Human Rights Committee's recommendations are taken into consideration by these UN bodies when reviewing the target countries.

## Key figures



**4** follow-up missions in Benin, Haiti, Namibia and Rwanda



**4** Follow-up reports submitted



**16** advocacy meetings with high-level authorities at the national level



**5** NGO submissions to other UN bodies

## ANALYSING AND DISSEMINATING THE WORK OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

We also undertake research on topics related to the Human Rights Council's work, reviews of jurisprudence, and follow-up of individual cases. In this regard, the CCPR-Centre maintains the largest online database of summary records of Human Rights Committee's views on individual communications.

The Centre is also actively engaged on social media, including Twitter with more than 3,000 followers, and Facebook with more than 2,500 likes. Newsletters are also released following each Committee's session highlighting the main developments and providing an overview of the dialogue between Government delegations and the Human Rights Committee, including the main points of concern, the recommendations selected for the follow-up procedure and key deadlines for the next reporting cycle.

### Key figures



**3432** followers on Twitter and 1042 retweets



**2612** likes on Facebook, 85 Facebook posts, reaching up to 1900 people

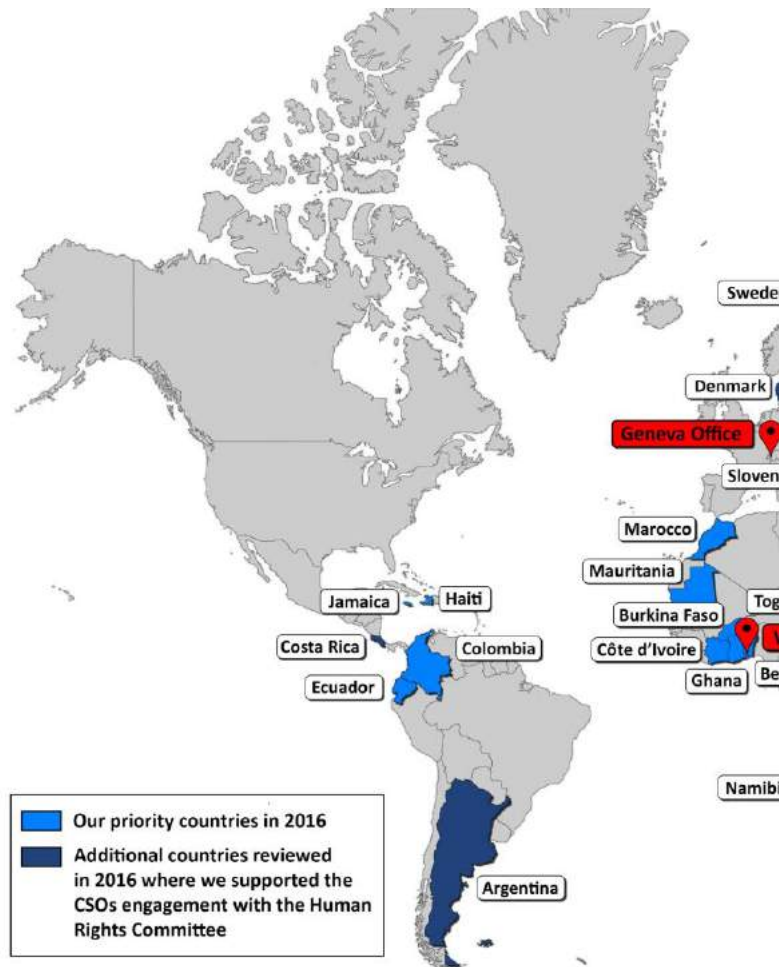


**1600** Number of visits to the website per month



**6** newsletters sent to 2006 people

# Our work in 2016



January

February

March

April

May

June

**Rwanda** National Consultation prior to the review by the Committee

**Benin:** Follow-up consultation and UPR strategy on civil and political rights

**Namibia** National Consultation prior to the review by the Committee

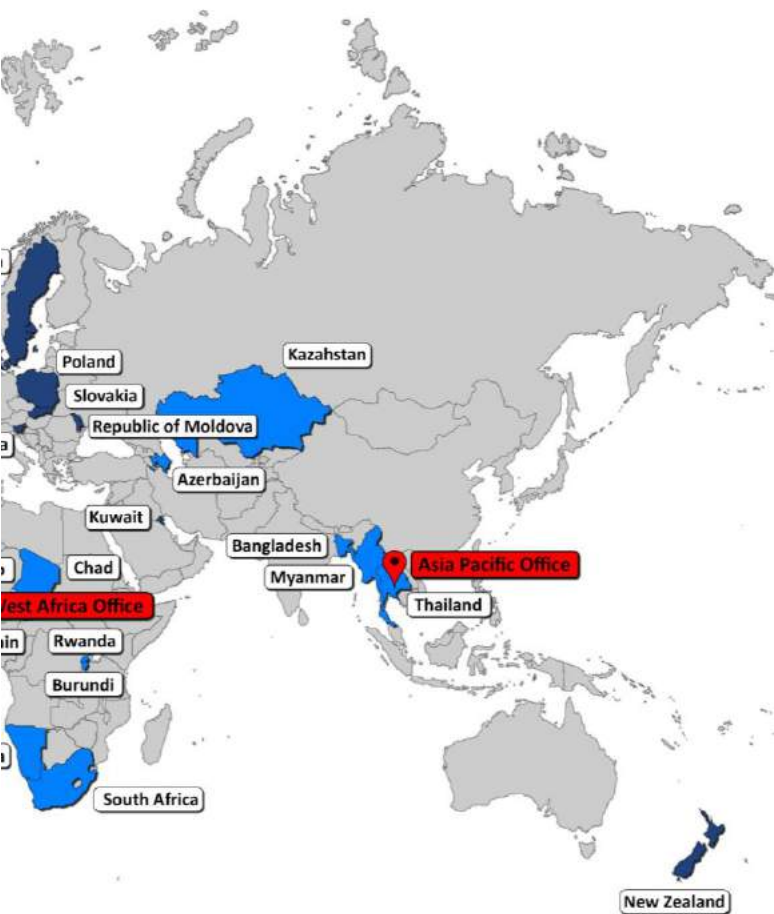
**Geneva** 116th session of the Committee

**Ghana** National Consultation prior to the review by the Committee

**Burkina Faso** National Consultation prior to the review by the Committee

**Burundi** National training on new reporting technologies (ELMO)

**Rwanda** Follow-up consultation  
**Haiti** Follow-up consultation and UPR strategy on civil and political rights



July

August

September

October

November

December

**Geneva** 117th session of the Committee  
**Burundi** Consultation with HRDs in exile prior to the special session of the Committee against Torture (consultation held in Rwanda)  
**Myanmar** Preparatory Mission on ICCPR ratification  
**Ireland** Expert meeting on the UN Treaty Bodies strengthening process

**Namibia** National follow-up mission with a member of the Committee

**Jamaica** National Consultation prior to the review by the Committee  
**Benin** National follow-up mission with a member of the Committee  
**Togo** Regional Conference on ICCPR implementation with representatives from Government, MPs, NHRIs, and NGOs

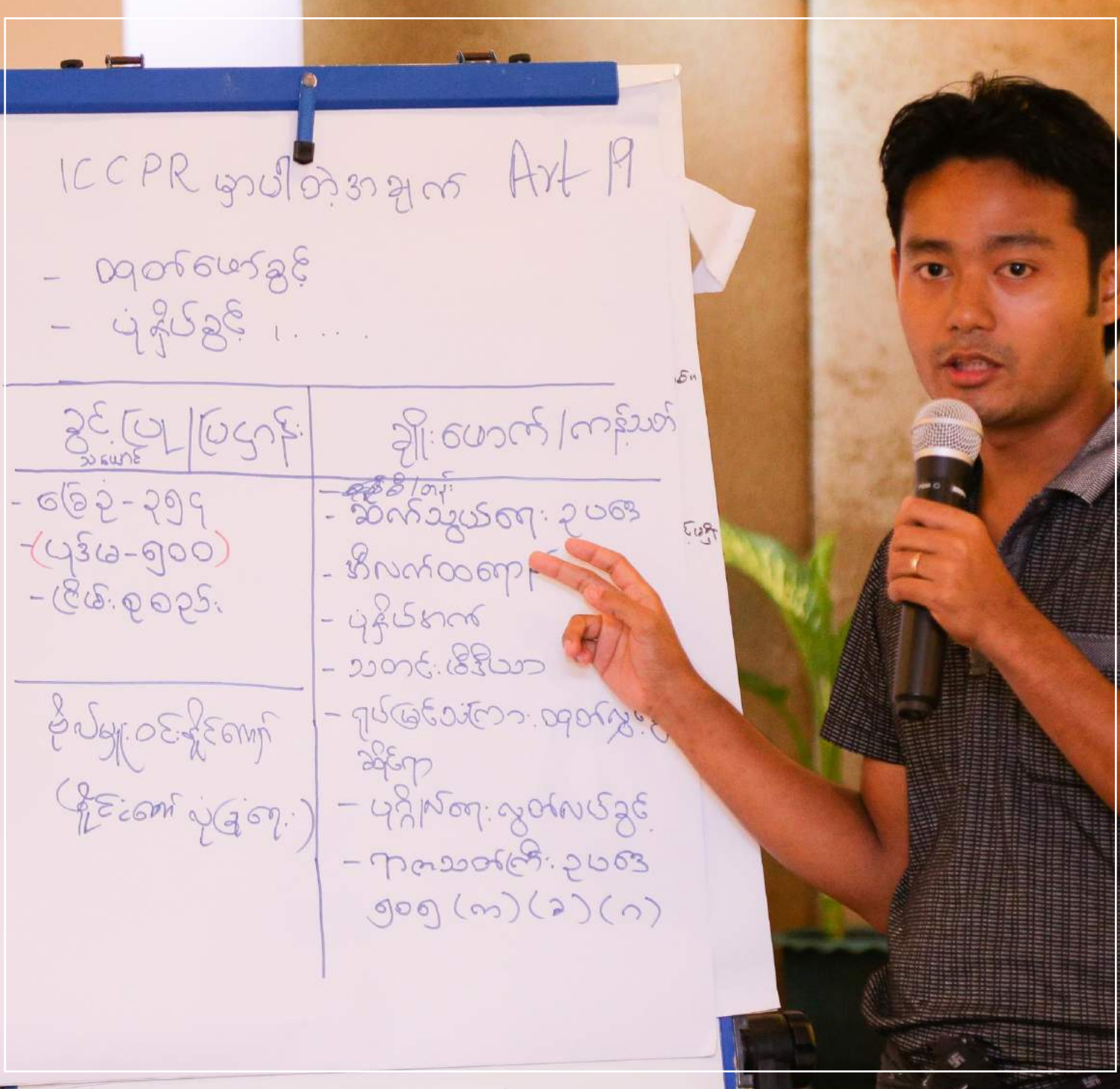
**Geneva** 118th session of the Committee

**Burundi** National training on new reporting technologies (ELMO)  
**Myanmar** Meeting with national authorities on ICCPR ratification  
**France** International Conference on the 50th anniversary of the Covenants with the University of Panthéon-Assas (Paris II)

**Thailand** National Consultation on UPR and ICCPR review



# Our Priorities in Asia





# Bangladesh



Since the submission of the first State report of Bangladesh in June 2015 with almost 14 years delay, the CCPR-Centre has been providing information and assistance to various stakeholders, especially local and national CSOs. A workshop was organised with Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) in Dhaka in October 2015 to prepare a joint CSO report. In its List of Issues (LOI), the Committee took up a broad range of concerns raised by the CSOs from Bangladesh.

In March 2016, the CCPR-Centre, together with its national partners, produced a translation of the LOI in Bengali language and disseminated it amongst stakeholders.

At the same time, the Centre continued providing legal and technical assistance to CSO partners in the country in order to prepare for the Committee's review of Bangladesh scheduled for March 2017. Much attention was given to ensuring the security of the CSOs and individual HRDs involved due to the worsening situation of freedom of expression, association, assembly and religion in the country and the continuous incidents of killing and enforced disappearance of HRDs as well as tightened restriction on the activities of CSOs working in the field of human rights.

A workshop is planned for January 2017 by the Centre and coalition of individual CSOs and HRDs from the local and national level to finalise a joint report for the review.

## Key figures



**2** national consultations organised with the NGOs



**1** NGOs report submitted to the Committee



**2** HRDs attended the session in Geneva (session of March 2017)

# Myanmar



Myanmar is one of the 22 States in the world that have not yet signed and ratified the ICCPR. Becoming a party to the ICCPR could be, in this context, a big step forward to more effectively promote and protect the civil and political rights of individuals, bring justice to victims and address the root causes of many human rights issues in the country.

In order to enhance the domestic processes and assist national efforts to join the ICCPR, the CCPR-Centre launched a 2-year project in June 2016. As part of this project, two preparatory visits were carried out in July and November 2016 to assess current prospects for ICCPR ratification by Myanmar and to identify the main challenges faced by key actors in this regard. During these visits, meetings were held with relevant State actors, in particular representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office of Attorney General, National Human Rights Commission and civil society.

A workshop was organised in November 2016 in Yangon attended by more than 50 CSO representatives and individual HRDs from Yangon and other parts of Myanmar including Mandalay, Ngaphe, Bago and Chauk (Magway Region) to provide basic information about the ICCPR as well as to discuss benefits of ICCPR ratification for State and non-State actors.

The Centre and the Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated to plan two workshops with relevant national authorities during the Centre's high-level visits with a former member of the Committee in February and December 2017.

## Key figures



**1** Workshop on  
the ICCPR with  
**25** state actors



**2** Workshops  
with CSOs and  
lawyers



**1** Public event on  
the ICCPR held in  
Yangon

# Thailand

Since its accession to the ICCPR in 1996, Thailand has submitted two State reports, both significantly overdue. Their second review is scheduled to take place in March 2017 and the Centre has been working ahead of the review to ensure that NGOs are able to engage with the Committee and provide information on the main pressing human rights issues. Key issues included the constitutional and legal framework as well as the state of emergency, torture, freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, trafficking and the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples.

Restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly have severely affect the work of NGOs at the national level. HR organisations and individual HRDs, in particular those active on civil and political rights, see their work limited and face reprisals. It is therefore crucial for the Centre to continue its work during and after the 2017 review, through effective cooperation with HRDs in the country.



## Key figures



**3** NGO consultations  
Held



**10** Worksheets for  
NGOS



**35** HRDs Trained



# Our Priorities in Africa





# Benin



Since 2014, the Centre has developed a long-term cooperation with local HRDs in Benin, and in particular with its national partner Changement Social Benin. Through its regional office in Togo, the Centre continued to develop activities that focus on implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Human Rights Committee in 2015.

A NGO consultation was organised with the support of the Centre in January 2016 in Cotonou. This consultation was crucial to developing an advocacy plan of action to better monitor the implementation of the 2015 recommendations, particularly important as the UPR of Benin is scheduled to take place in 2017. NGOs successfully ensured that the Committee's key recommendations were systematically included in their UPR advocacy strategies.

In September 2016, for the first time ever, the CCPR-Centre organised a high-level mission composed of members of two different committees, namely the Human Rights Committee and the Committee of the Rights of the Child. This mission was organised in close cooperation with Franciscans International and enabled a focused dialogue with the authorities on child rights issues addressed by both committees. The follow-up mission was also crucial to discuss with the Government and Parliamentarians the urgent recommendations from the Human Rights Committee, namely:

- The establishment of a National Commission on Human Rights
- The abolition of the death penalty and respect for the right to life
- The criminalisation of torture in domestic law and the effective establishment of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture

Thanks to an efficient advocacy effort, NGOs were able to report several areas of progress in the implementation of the recommendations, in particular regarding the establishment of a National Commission on Human Rights and improvements in conditions in detention facilities.

## Key figures



**100%** of Committee priority recommendations based on NGO concerns



**4'000** posters raising awareness about the Committee's recommendations produced



**21** HRDs trained on strategic UPR advocacy



**37** NGOs involved in the raising awareness process





## Interview with Director of Changement Social Bénin **Ralmeg Gandaho**

**“The support given by the Centre is fundamental to our work”**

**CCPR Centre: As a human rights defender, you participated in the examination of Benin before the Human Rights Committee in October 2015. What advocacy work did you undertake and what was its impact?**

Ralmeg Gandaho: The wide range of topics addressed by the ICCPR has led us - almost naturally - to develop synergies between the different NGOs specialised in civil and political rights. These synergies enabled us to respond to all the concerns of the Human Rights Committee and to provide a very comprehensive NGO coalition report. This report was very well received by the Committee, which referred to it many times during the dialogue with the Beninese authorities. The Committee's recommendations are undoubtedly directly related to our concerns.

The support given to us by the Centre for Civil and Political Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is fundamental to us. It is through this support that we have been able to coordinate and prepare a report that meets the requirements of the Human Rights Committee.

**CCPR Centre: In addition to the priority recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee as part of its follow-up procedure, what other areas of concern do you also consider as priorities upon which you would like to focus your advocacy?**

Ralmeg Gandaho: After discussion and exchange between NGOs, we decided to concentrate our advocacy efforts on the independence of the judiciary. We also considered it important to develop our advocacy on access to birth registration, which was a concern raised by the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Finally, the third recommendation upon which we will focus our work is gender equality, particularly in public affairs.

# Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso was reviewed by the Committee for the first time ever in June 2016. Prior to the review, the CCPR-Centre worked in partnership with a national coalition of organisations working on civil and political rights led by our partner the Centre d'Information et de Formation sur les Droits Humains en Afrique (CIFDHA). The main activities conducted in Burkina Faso in 2016 were related to preparation for the review.

A National consultation took place in April 2016 in Ouagadougou where 30 HRDs, media and government institutions were brought together. This consultation identified the main challenges that Burkina Faso faces regarding the implementation of the ICCPR. These included, among others, abolition of death penalty, extra-judicial killings conducted by the “koglweogo” militia, prevention of torture and its criminalization in the penal code, and reinforcement of the national human rights commission.

These points were raised in a report submitted by the National Coalition on civil and political rights, led by the CIFDHA.

The Centre facilitated the participation of two HRDs in the Committee's July 2016 session. Both took active part in the formal and informal briefings and attended the dialogue between the State Delegation and the Committee. After the review, the Committee's recommendations were widely disseminated by the CIFDHA, who also organised several media activities to inform the public about the outcomes of the review and the Committee's recommendations. Television news channels such as Burkina.Info and Impact TV as well as radio Jeunesse transmitted special programs dedicated to the concerns of the Committee.

The Centre continues to work with CIFDHA on implementation of the Committee's recommendations in the country. It is expected that a follow-up visit with a Committee member will take place in 2017 as well as follow-up advocacy work linked to the upcoming UPR of Burkina Faso.

## Key figures



**1** report submitted on behalf of 6 NGOs



**30** HRDs attended the ICCPR national consultation



**63%** of the Committee recommendations on issues addressed in NGO reports



**2** HRDs attended the session in Geneva

# Burundi



The working environment for human rights defenders in Burundi worsened during 2016. Many HRDs based in Burundi were forced to flee the country, including several of the CCPR-Centre's civil society partners, notably ACAT-Burundi, FORSC, FOCODE and the League Iteka. Moreover, these organisations have been suspended by the Burundian authorities. In this context, the Centre conducted activities with the NGOs that remained in Burundi, and strengthened its support to NGOs in exile. HRDs reinforced their advocacy engagement at the UN level and were closely involved in the work of the UN human rights mechanisms including CEDAW Review (October 2016) and CAT Special review (July 2016).

On both occasions, the Centre facilitated the visit of human rights defenders from Burundi to the meetings in Geneva. In their reports (confidential and public) to the CEDAW and the CAT, NGOs documented various post-electoral human rights violations. To prepare for these reviews, the Centre co-facilitated a mission to Kigali in May 2016 with the objective of offering adequate support to Burundian HRDs in exile and co-sponsored the participation of six human rights defenders in the CAT's session and one human rights defender in the CEDAW's session.



In September 2016, the Centre together with FIACAT and OMCT, supported the participation of Me Armel Niyongere at the presentation of the report of the independent experts during the 33rd session of the Human Rights Council. This unique opportunity resulted in a strong message from civil society on the serious violations of human rights in Burundi.

In addition, the CCPR-Centre organised two workshops on new technologies for documenting human rights violations (May and November 2016). They were addressed to NGOs from Burundi and covered information on the UN mechanisms and the use of the ELMO platform. The ELMO platform is a new system that allows human rights defenders to report live on human rights violation via an online database stored outside of the country. Both workshops were organised with the Carter Center in Entebbe, Uganda.

## Key figures



**59** HRDs attending the UPR / UNTB workshop



**140** observers trained to document human rights violations in Burundi



**2** reports submitted to CAT and **2** reports submitted to CEDAW



**5** HRDs participated to the CAT and CEDAW sessions



## Interview with Lawyer and Director of SOS torture

### Me Armel Niyongere

#### “The United Nations is our last resort before plunging into chaos”

Interview with Me Armel Niyongere, Lawyer and Director of SOS torture, on the human rights situation in Burundi

**CCPR Centre: Human rights violations are more and more prevalent in Burundi. The majority of human rights defenders who denounced these violations were forced to flee the country in order to continue their work. Could you provide us with more detail on the situation?**

Armel Niyongere: After demonstrations by the Burundian population challenging the third presidential term of Pierre Nkurunziza in 2015, a violent repression took place against opponents, human rights defenders and journalists. This forced us to flee and to settle in neighbouring countries. But we have organized ourselves to continue monitoring human rights violations in Burundi through clandestine observers. They provide us with crucial information which we include in the publication of our weekly reports on human rights violations in Burundi. They often risk their lives to carry out this work.

**CCPR Centre: Given the complexity of the situation in Burundi, it has become impossible to develop a genuine dialogue with the authorities and to advocate for the respect of human rights at the national level. What new strategies have you developed to raise awareness and have an impact on the situation in Burundi?**

Armel Niyongere: Our main objective is now to develop strategic advocacy with the international community, particularly at the United Nations, in order to alert them to the disastrous situation in Burundi. The United Nations, and in particular human rights mechanisms, are our last chance to stop these violations and to ensure that such acts do

not go unpunished. We urge the United Nations to implement the Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions, and in particular those related to the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi. It is a long-term task, especially since the government is not cooperating with this newly established body.

**CCPR Centre: What do you see as the role of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights with whom you have collaborated for many years? What is importance of the links between international NGO based in Geneva like us and NGOs in the field?**

Armel Niyongere: The Centre's assistance is very valuable and has become even more fundamental since the beginning of the crisis. It is a key player that helps up to document the rights violations and to transmit this information to the international community, including the United Nations. In addition, the Centre is also an essential actor in our efforts to try to renew the dialogue between the national authorities and the various components of civil society.

**CCPR Centre: What is the next key step in your fight to denounce human rights violations in Burundi?**

Armel Niyongere: The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Burundi – a major milestone - will take place in 2018. It will be a fundamental avenue to denounce the serious violations committed by the authorities. Our organisation, with the support of the Centre, will be very involved in disseminating information to the members of the Human Rights Council, showing how the situation in Burundi has deteriorated over the last four years.

# Ghana



After joining the ICCPR in 2000, Ghana was reviewed for the first time ever by the Human Rights Committee in July 2016. The CCPR-Centre, together with its Ghanaian partner, the Human Rights Advocacy Centre, started preparations for the review in 2015 to maximise the impact of this process.

In 2016, the Centre co-organised and facilitated a series of NGO consultations on the implementation of the ICCPR by Ghana. The Centre also supported the participation of three national NGO representatives from Ghana in the Human Rights Committee's session in July in Geneva.

Some positive steps were recognised during the review. in particular:

- The Government recognised that the LGBT community should be protected against discrimination and stigmatization. However, the Committee was concerned that homosexuality remains criminalised in the Criminal Code of Ghana.



- Concerning the issue of the so-called “witch camps” - where women suspected of witchcraft in Ghana are sent - the State informed the Committee that six witch camps were closed in 2016, and women from these camps were provided with basic services such as health care and food.
- Female genital mutilation has decreased and now affects less than 3% of the female population of the country, and trokosi (ritual servitude) is now considered a crime by Ghanaian legislation.

Some concerns raised by the Committee, included:

- The stigmatization and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, which strongly contributes to severe deficiencies in mental health care facilities in the State party.
- The very high rate of overcrowding and poor conditions in prisons, including the lack of segregation of detainees from convicted criminals, of juveniles from other prisoners and of men from women, as well as unsanitary conditions and inadequate provision of basic services and facilities and the lack of a regular and independent system for monitoring places of detention.

Follow-up activities, including a visit from a Committee member to the country, are expected to take place in 2017 to pursue efforts towards implementation of the Committee’s recommendations in the country.

## Key figures



**100%** priority recommendations based on NGO concerns.



**3** HRDs supported to attend the session



**22** HRDs attended the ICCPR national consultation



**1** report submitted to the Committee on behalf of 12 NGOs

# Namibia



Throughout 2016 the Centre worked closely with Namibian civil society organisations and the Government in relation to the second periodic review of the State by the Human Rights Committee. A National NGO consultation on the implementation of the ICCPR in Namibia organised together with the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC) and Namibian NGO Forum Trust (NANGOF Trust) took place in February 2016.

Two representatives from the NGO community engaged with the Committee at the review of Namibia (March 2016). They presented their reports and briefed the Committee on their main areas of concerns. In August the Centre organised a follow-up mission in which two members of the Committee participated.

The Namibian government demonstrated openness during all the stages of our work and willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue. In Windhoek, the CCPR-Centre's Delegation met with a wide range of stakeholders in charge of the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, including the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare, the Minister of Health, the Ombudsman, and the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs.

“Civil society pressure, and follow-up visits organized by the CCPR Centre, can help immensely to ensure that the Committee’s recommendations are known and addressed within the government, picked up by the media, and to generally help create incentives for the government to prioritize implementation.”

**Sarah Cleveland, Human Rights Committee member**

As part of the effort to increase the linkage between the various Treaty Bodies, the Centre was also involved in the review of Namibia by the Committee against Torture (November). It highlighted the main subjects of concern to the Human Rights Committee as well as relevant information compiled during the following follow-up mission.

The State is expected to submit its follow-up report in 2017 on the measures taken regarding the selected recommendations.

## Key figures



**78%** of the Committee recommendations based on our NGO report and 100% priority recommendations based on NGO concerns.



**2** HRDs supported to attend the session



**7** HRDs attended the ICCPR national consultation



**1** report submitted to the Committee on behalf of 24 NGOs



## Interview with Human Rights Committee member **Sarah Cleveland**

**“Namibia was a classic situation where the follow-up mission was indispensable”.**

Interview with Sarah Cleveland, Human Rights Committee member on the follow-up activities held in Namibia

**What are the main challenges in the implementation of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations at the national level and how can follow-up missions address them?**

Implementation always confronts problems of government inertia and intransigence. To ensure that recommendations are implemented, we need to better capture the positive political will that exists within governments to pursue reform, and to create that political will where it does not exist.

We have a basic problem with lack of awareness of the Committee’s recommendations. There are things that the Committee can and should do to improve the visibility of its recommendations, but we can’t do everything. States are supposed to widely disseminate the Committee’s recommendations – this means posting them on accessible websites (in relevant languages), distributing them to relevant government offices in a way that will ensure that they are noticed, and convening intra-governmental conversations to address and implement them. Civil society pressure, and follow-up visits organized by the CCPR Centre, can help immensely to ensure that the Committee’s recommendations are known and addressed within the government, picked up by the media, and to generally help create incentives for the government to prioritize implementation.

## **What was the impact of the follow-up mission you did in Namibia?**

Namibia was a classic situation where the follow-up mission was indispensable. The mission was held about five months after the Committee's recommendations were adopted, but there was very little awareness of the recommendations within the government, the media, or the general public. On the follow-up mission, we explained the recommendations and the Committee's follow-up process to civil society groups, numerous government departments, and the media. The visit forced a very active conversation within the government about the recommendations that the Committee had designated for near-term follow-up – ranging from violence against women, to non-discrimination, to improving protections against torture and it helped to empower and engage various voices supporting reform inside and outside the government. Namibia essentially discovered the Committee's recommendations as a result of the follow-up visit.

## **How can NGO reports contribute to the Committee's assessment on the measures taken by the State under the follow-up procedure?**

The Committee does not have official ways to independently get information, so we are very dependent on information that is provided by states and civil society. During the reporting process, we often receive quite robust information from civil society, which is extremely helpful. However, we rarely receive input from NGOs in the follow-up reporting process, which is very unfortunate. Under the Committee's follow-up process, the State party is asked to report back to the Committee in one year regarding the measures it has taken to implement certain specific recommendations. States generally do submit follow-up reports, but those reports will not necessarily give the Committee a full picture of the situation. For example, the State may say that it adopted a domestic law prohibiting torture, or trained police regarding domestic violence, but not provide any specifics that allow the Committee to assess how meaningful the action is, or whether it actually implements our recommendations. For that, we need input from civil society. This is not a heavy burden – the NGO submission often can be a paragraph, or a page or two. But NGO input is vital to our ability to accurately assess the State party's actions. And since we give State parties a letter grade on how well they have done, accuracy and a full understanding of their actions in the follow-up process is very important.



# Rwanda



In March 2016, the Human Rights Committee considered the fourth periodic report of Rwanda on the implementation of the ICCPR.

In this context, the CCPR-Centre collaborated in 2016 with the League of Human Rights in the Great Lakes Region (LDGL), to prepare for the ICCPR review. A National consultation was organised in partnership with the Rwandan Association for the Promotion and Consolidation of Human Rights (ARPCDH), in Kigali in January 2016. It was attended by 20 defenders with the aim of discussing the major challenges to the implementation of the Covenant in Rwanda. The discussions served as a basis for the elaboration of the civil society report, which was submitted to the Committee in February.

The Centre also supported two civil society representatives from Rwanda to attend the Committee's session in March. As a result of this review, civil society concerns were taken up by the Committee and some were selected for follow-up, including those requesting the State to take measures to (1) combat gender-based violence, including conjugal rape, (2) prevent, investigate and sanction torture and ill-treatment, (3) address overcrowding in detention facilities and prisons and improve conditions of detention, and (4) guarantee freedom of expression especially for journalists, politicians and human rights defenders. On the fourth issue, the Committee requested the State party in particular to take measures to guarantee freedom of expression; refrain from prosecuting politicians, journalists and human rights defenders, and take immediate action to investigate attacks against them and to provide them with effective protection.

The CCPR-Centre visited Rwanda in June to disseminate the recommendations and, to assist civil society with a view to preparing a Plan of Action for monitoring the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. However, the attacks against the NGO community, and in particular against our partner, the LDGL, hindered the continuation of the planned activities. Given the current restrictions on the working space for Rwandan human rights defenders, the CCPR-Centre is reframing its activities to adapt them to the new realities and in order to continue supporting the work of human rights defenders in the country. A follow-up mission is scheduled to take place in 2017.

## Key figures



**76%** of NGO's concerns reflected in the Committee's recommendations and 100% priority recommendations based on NGO concerns.



**2** HRD's supported to attend the session



**22** HRDs attended the ICCPR national consultation



**1** report submitted to the Committee on behalf of national NGOs

# Our Priorities in the Americas

ICCPR

Convention by countries  
to provide + protect  
civil + political rights  
⇒ CCPR

ICCPR  
Is responsible  
for monitoring  
implementation of  
the Convention

Monitoring of  
countries' Human  
Rights Records  
through periodic  
reporting

Learn that how  
are international  
human rights studies

Advocating for  
human Rights

The ICCPR  
and monitor the  
rights of people  
- Civil society  
countries who  
- Comm. that  
in these laws



# Haiti



The CCPR-Centre has been closely working with NGOs from Haiti. Our partnership started in 2013 focusing on the facilitation of NGO engagement during the early stages of the Human Rights Committee's review of Haiti, which took place in October 2014. Following the review, the CCPR-Centre together with a coalition of Haitian NGOs has advocated for the implementation of the Committee's recommendations at the national level by conducting follow-up missions.

With the Centre's support, both the State and NGOs have effectively engaged with the Committee's follow-up procedure regarding three priority recommendations. In reviewing progress, the Committee heavily relied on the information provided by the NGOs.

In 2016, the CCPR-Centre's work with Haitian civil society organisations included support to engage with the UPR process. The Centre co-organised and facilitated a consultation in Port-au-Prince in June and supported the participation of two human rights defenders from Haiti in the UPR pre-sessions organised by UPR-Info in October in Geneva. The topics raised on this occasion focused on:

- The adoption of new electoral legislation and the need to prevent and sanction any type of violence in relation to elections.
- Overcrowding and poor prison conditions in part due to prolonged preventive detention - 89% of detainees are in preventive detention.
- The need to ensure the functioning of the Supreme Court- half of its members have yet to be appointed
- The need to comprehensively address the issue of children living in the streets
- The lack of effective measures to promote women’s participation in the public life

It is important to highlight that these issues, which were also addressed by the Human Rights Committee in 2014 during its review of Haiti, were taken up in the UPR recommendations in 2016. This reflects the importance of using different UN mechanisms to reinforce the recommendations for better protection of human rights in Haiti.

**"Using the UPR to reinforce the implementation of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations in Haiti was a unique opportunity to strengthen the advocacy at a national level"**

**Antonal Mortime, Défenseurs Plus**

## Key figures



**67** HRDs and journalists trained



**2** HRDs supported to attend the UPR pre-session



**1** Follow-up report submitted to the Committee



**1** report submitted to the UPR on the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations

# Jamaica



The CCPR Centre supported Jamaicans for Justice who, together with a coalition of Jamaican NGOs, led several activities to prepare for the fourth review of Jamaica by the Human Rights Committee, which took place in October 2016.

The civil society advocacy strategy focused on five main challenges regarding the implementation of the ICCPR in the country, namely:

- National Human Rights Institution: Jamaica has not established a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.
- Persons with disabilities: Jamaica has not taken steps to adequately promote the full and meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities in all areas of life, including publishing and publicising the Disabilities Act (2014) and implementation of its policies in this regard.
- Gender discrimination and violence against women: The Sexual Offences Act provides limited protection to women who experience sexual violence and the national mechanism for rights promotion is still generally weak and only marginally effective including on this issue.

- Discrimination against people living with HIV persists in Jamaica, largely due to the absence of any meaningful legal protection to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of health status, or assure equal treatment and access to various spheres of public life, including employment and health services.
- Sexual and reproductive rights, maternal mortality and abortion: There is no legislation in Jamaica which allows women to access safe termination of pregnancy services or which tackles the provision of sexual and reproductive health and rights information, services and commodities.

Two Jamaican HRDs participated in the Committee’s session in Geneva to raise civil society's main concerns and to brief Committee members on Jamaica's human rights situation. The impact of the NGO advocacy led to impressive results, as 83% of NGO’s concerns were reflected in the Committee’s recommendations.

A wide range of follow-up activities regarding the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations are being organised at the national level, including a media campaign, trainings for the judiciary and advocacy meetings with high-level authorities and Parliamentarians. A follow-up visit is scheduled for 2017 with Margo Waterval, Human Rights Committee member.

**“Human rights commitments must result in tangible improvements at the national level and we will work to ensure that the Government implements its recommendations”**

**Rodje Malcolm, Jamaicans for Justice**

## Key figures



**83%** of NGO’s concerns reflected in the recommendations and 100% priority recommendations based on NGO concerns.



**3** HRDs supported to attend the session



**1** report submitted to the Committee on behalf of 5 NGOs





## Interview with Advocacy Manager, Jamaican For Justice (JFJ)

### Rodje Malcolm

**“Our media campaign helped raise the visibility of a number of human rights issues, and increased the government’s attention”**

**CCPR-Centre: Could you describe the media campaign developed by JFJ for the review of Jamaica by the Human Rights Committee and the dissemination of the Committee's recommendations?**

Rodje Malcolm: The media campaign involved a pre-review press briefing at which we explained the review, allowed different activists working on key areas to speak about the various issues under review to allow media diverse options for reporting, and then distributed 2-page issue-specific briefs on key points, the government's position, and the civil society position. Following this, we live tweeted the review, and organized radio interviews after the first day while in Geneva. Once the Concluding Observations came out, we staged a press conference focused on priorities moving forward. Finally, we released graphic versions of key recommendations online and staged a twitter chat.

**CCPR-Centre: What was the impact of the media campaign?**

The media campaign helped raise the visibility of a number of issues, and increased the government's attention to the review locally. Because members of the media requested comments from some officials, they were forced to pay attention to the review. Moreover, a few journalists in stories around human rights issues, started making references to the ICCPR or the Human Rights Committee recommendations, which helps organically normalize human rights discourse.

**CCPR-Centre: What advice would you give to NGOs for improving their media outreach?**

Put the issues and those impacted first. Chose a set of important local issues and communicate the review process through issues that already resonate with the media, instead of focusing on the mechanism. The story is not the review, but the everyday human rights issues that the review helps us address.



# Regional Conference for West Africa on the Implementation of the ICCPR (September 2016)



The CCPR-Centre's second regional conference on the implementation of the Human Rights Committee's recommendations took place from 13 to 15 September 2016 in Togo. It was organised in partnership with OHCHR - Regional Office for West Africa.

This regional conference brought together representatives of governments, Parliamentarians, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and members of civil society from six West African countries: Togo, Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania and Chad.

One of the main contributions of this conference was to facilitate a space for dialogue between authorities, parliamentarians, NHRIs and NGOs at both the regional and national levels:

- At the regional level: the conference enabled participants from different countries in the region to meet and exchange good practices regarding national mechanism for reporting and follow-up and to share ideas for improving these mechanisms.
- At national level: each country group, composed of government representatives, parliamentarians, NHRIs and civil society, was able to discuss the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and the measures necessary to put them into practice. The adoption of a joint action plan (Government / Parliament / NHRIs / NGOs) allowed for a synergy between the various national actors.

**"Civil society is an important partner of Governments in implementing the recommendations. Burkina Faso is an example of this."**

### **Urban Yameogo - NGO CIFDHA - Burkina Faso**

All the participants unanimously recognised that there should be strengthened spaces for consultations among the authorities, Parliamentarians, NHRIs and civil society. It is for these national groups to continue working together on the action plans developed during this conference. The CCPR-Centre's Office for Central and West Africa will be responsible for coordinating these actions and ensuring that the dynamism initiated in Togo can be sustained.

Similar regional conferences are planned for Asia and Latin America in 2017 and 2018.

# Implementation of the Recommendations of the Human Rights Committee

The Human Rights Committee uses a grading system to assess how well the State parties perform in implementing the key recommendations selected for the follow-up procedure. The CCPR-Centre encourages NGOs to take part in the follow-up process, including by providing them with information on how to prepare and submit follow-up reports to be considered by the Committee.

19 States were assessed by the Committee in 2016 within the follow-up procedure, of which European states were the majority (36,7%). Of the 19, three received the highest grade A, namely: Angola for adopting a new law on birth registration, Germany for amending a bill to include the rights of detainees and extending the suspension of transfers of refugees to Greece, and the Czech Republic for organising an awareness raising campaign and training for judges.

The grade that was adopted the most in 2016, was B2 with 34,9%. Grade B1 was adopted in 13% of the cases. Combined together, grades A, B1 and B2 represent 52% of all grades adopted by the Committee in 2016, a small majority. Unfortunately, grades C1 and C2 were adopted quite often this year, namely in 35,6% of cases.

It is noteworthy that two States took measures going against the recommendations, resulting in E grades. Japan has gone against the recommendation of the Committee concerning the abolition of the death penalty. Also in Asia, Macao refused to adopt universal, equal suffrage and to withdraw its reservations to the Covenant.

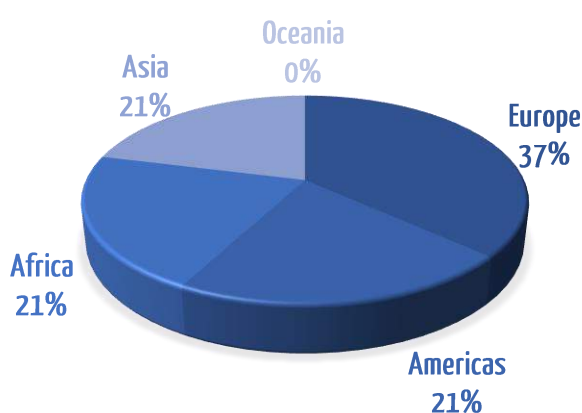
Sixteen States did not cooperate with the Committee in relation to the follow-up procedure. The Committee still awaits replies from Mozambique, Bolivia, USA, Dominican Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, San Marino, Venezuela, Benin, Burundi, Sudan, Chad, Sierra Leone, Peru, Philippines, Maldives and Iran.

The Committee modified the grading system in October 2016. In the new system, only five possible grades can be adopted. It will be used for the first time during the 119th session in March 2017.

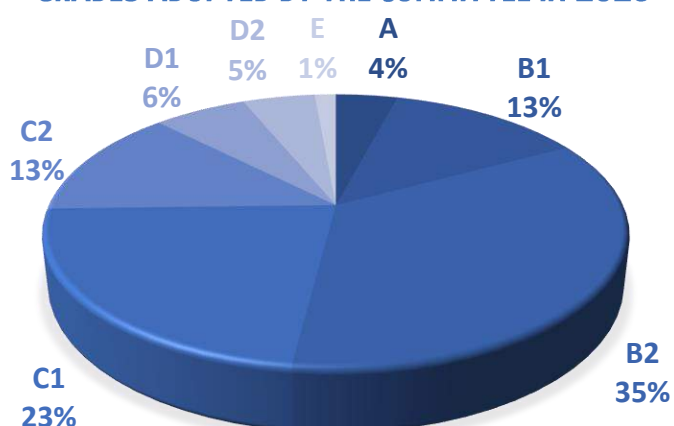
# Assessment of Replies According to the Grading System of the Human Rights Committee (2016)

Reply/action satisfactory	
<b>A</b>	Reply/action largely satisfactory
Reply/action partially satisfactory	
<b>B</b>	Additional information or action remains necessary
Reply/action not satisfactory	
<b>C</b>	Response received but actions or information not relevant or do not implement the recommendation
No cooperation with the Committee	
<b>D</b>	No follow-up report received after reminder(s)
The measures taken are contrary to the recommendations of the Committee	
<b>E</b>	The reply indicates that the measures taken go against the recommendations of the Committee

## COUNTRIES FOLLOWED-UP BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2016 PER REGION



## GRADES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 2016





# Monitoring the Elections of the Members of Human Rights Committee



The CCPR-Centre is committed to monitoring the elections of the Human Rights Committee to ensure that the process is transparent and that candidates have “recognized competence” as prescribed in the article 28 of the Covenant. To this end, the Centre launched a consultation with dozens of NGOs from Indonesia, Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Chad, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Kenya and Mongolia to identify potential candidates for the Committee’s 2016 Elections.

Four candidates were identified and subsequently endorsed by the State Parties. These candidates originated from geographical regions under-represented in the Committee, namely Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, the Centre issued a questionnaire with three others international NGOs involved in the elections of members of UN Treaty Bodies: Child Rights Connect, IWRAW-Asia Pacific and the International Disability Alliance. This questionnaire was sent to all the candidates nominated for the Treaty Bodies’ elections scheduled in June 2016.

The response rate was more than 60% and several candidates appreciated this initiative launched by the NGOs. All the responses were posted on a website dedicated to the UN Treaty Bodies’ Elections ([untbelections.org](http://untbelections.org)) and widely disseminated to the UN Missions in New York few weeks before the elections.



# Looking Ahead: Our Projects for 2017



In 2017, the CCPR-Centre will continue supporting HRDs to engage with the Human Rights Committee through all stages of the review process. In particular, we will work with HRDs in Bangladesh, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Honduras, Madagascar and Swaziland, by supporting them to hold national consultations on the implementation of the ICCPR in their countries, to submit coalition reports to the Committee, to attend and directly participate at the Committee's sessions in Geneva, and to follow-up on the implementation of the Concluding Observations at a domestic level.

We will also strengthen the follow-up phase in Ecuador, Ghana, Jamaica, Kazakhstan and Rwanda to advocate for the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. To this end, together with our local partners, we will continue to disseminate the Committee's recommendations at the national level; organise high-level follow-up visits with Committee members to these countries; create spaces for dialogue between CSOs, national authorities and NHRIs; and submit updated information to the Human Rights Committee on the implementation of recommendations selected for the follow-up procedure.

We will continue to advocate for the implementation of the Committee's recommendations through other UN mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review in order to strengthen the links between the different UN mechanisms. In particular, this will include work in Burundi, Ecuador and Ghana.

In 2017, the CCPR-Centre will work closely with the INGOs who play a key role in coordinating the participation of HRDs at the treaty body sessions. This will facilitate the engagement of HRDs in sessions when a State party is being reviewed by more than one treaty body in a short period of time. It will also serve as a platform to share best practices from the NGOs working on a daily basis with the treaty bodies and look for possible avenues for the harmonisation of procedures. In the long term, it is hoped that this will result in a better and more coordinated approach towards the strengthening of the UN treaty bodies.

The CCPR-Centre will also improve its role in supporting the participation of HRDs at the Human Rights Committee's sessions for all the countries under review in 2017, particularly by launching an online platform for use by all HRDs attending the Committee's sessions in Geneva. This platform will provide relevant information for civil society participants and enable efficient coordination of CSOs at the briefings with Committee members.

The two-year project to assist the national efforts for ICCPR ratification by Myanmar will continue in 2017 and we look forward to doing similar work in other Asia Pacific countries such as Fiji.

Finally, the CCPR-Centre will continue updating the largest online database of summary records of Human Rights Committee views on individual communications and disseminating the Committee's work through its periodic newsletters and social media.

# 2016 Accounts

In 2016, the Centre for civil and political rights reported a total income of CHF 570'804.-. This is a significant increase compared to the CHF 475'000.- secured for 2015. Expenses also increased to CHF 576'269.- with a net loss of CHF 5'465.-. In 2016, the Centre continued to save 1% of the total of funding received to improve its reserves which are now of CHF 19'142.-

The number of donors is higher than in 2015, although most of the funding is earmarked and restricted to the projects. This remains a challenge for the Centre which sometimes faces difficulties carrying out activities that are crucial but not specifically related to projects

Profit and expenditure (CHF)	
(1st January 2016 to 31st December 2016)	
<b>PROFITS</b>	
The Carter Center	125 439 CHF
Etat de Genève	66 352 CHF
MFA Switzerland	58 330 CHF
MFA Germany	53 533 CHF
MFA Denmark	51 155 CHF
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	50 000 CHF
Ville de Genève	44 374 CHF
DDC	26 225 CHF
MFA UK (FCO)	24 240 CHF
OI Francophonie	17 509 CHF
Loterie Romande	16 468 CHF
Open Society Foundations	9 543 CHF
MFA Belgium	2 600 CHF
Own income	24 336 CHF
<b>Total</b>	<b>570 804 CHF</b>

EXPENDITURE	
Human resources	278 850 CHF
Honorarium for NGOs	53 947 CHF
Translation & Interpreters	269 CHF
Interns stipends	2 840 CHF
Travels for national consultations and participation of HRDs to HRCttee	72 270 CHF
Visas	1 983 CHF
Perdiem for national consultations / conferences and HRDs participation to HRCttee	57 769 CHF
National consultations (Phase I)	44 256 CHF
National consultations (Phase III) and follow up activities	18 096 CHF
Office rent and maintenance (including regional offices)	28 884 CHF
Projects Management	7 647 CHF
IT and webcast	3 496 CHF
Bank fees and changes fees	1 161 CHF
Reserve funds	4 801 CHF
<b>Total</b>	<b>576 269 CHF</b>
<b>Net loss</b>	<b>5 465 CHF</b>



# Staff and interns

## Geneva Headquarters



Patrick Mutzenberg  
Director



Vincent Ploton  
Head of External  
Relations  
(until July 2016)



Andrea Meraz  
Programme Manager



Laure Kialanda  
Administrative and  
Financial Officer  
(from October 2016)

## Asia Regional Office



Daisuke Shirane  
Coordinator

## West Africa & Central Africa Regional Office



André Afanou  
Coordinator

## Webmaster and IT support

Haewen Fortunato  
Codex Design

## Interns

- Emile Kinley-Gauthier
- Mélanie Sanzari
- Aurélien Godefroy
- Marie Levy
- Lamees Aldiebi
- Sophia Lane

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## **Rafael Rivas Posada (President)**

Mr. Rafael Rivas Posada - President  
Professor, Former Member (President) of the UN Human Rights Committee

## **Hassan Shire (Vice President)**

Chairperson of the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), a regional Human Rights Defenders Network based in Uganda

## **Florian Irminger (Treasurer)**

Head of Advocacy, Human Rights House Foundation

## **Camila Lissa Asano**

Coordinator Foreign Policy Conectas Direitos Humanos – Brazil

## **Sihem Bensedrine**

Journalist, Human Rights Activist and President of the Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie;, Tunisian NGO

## **Rafendi Djamin**

Member of the ASEAN Inter Governmental Commission on Human Rights

## **Sarah Joseph**

Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law – Faculty of Law of Melbourne – Australia

## **Asger Kjaerum**

Director of Advocacy  
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)

## **Victoria Kuhn**

Lawyer, Human Rights Officer, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

## **Jakob Th. Moller**

Former Chief of the Communications Branch of the OHCHR and Former Judge at the Human Rights Chamber for Bosnia and Herzegovina

## **Chantal Mutamuriza**

Human Rights Observer, African Union

## **Marina Narvaez**

Lawyer, Human Rights Officer, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

## **Philippe Tremblay**

Senior Legal Advisor, Lawyers Without Borders Canada





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