



Centre for Civil and Political Rights

2017-18

annual report



Annual Report **2017-18**

Centre for Civil and Political Rights

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table of contents

<i>Vision and Mission</i>	ii
<i>A word from the president and the director</i>	iii
CCPR-Centre in 2017 - on a map	1
CCPR-Centre in 2017 - at a glance	3
State Parties to ICCPR in 2017 - at a glance	5
Human Rights Committee in 2017 - at a glance	6
How we work	7
1. Advocating for the universal ratification of the ICCPR	7
2. Supporting civil society to engage with the Human Rights Committee at the early stages of the review process	9
3. Ensuring the participation of civil society in the Human Rights Committee sessions	11
4. Facilitating space for dialogue to implement the Human Rights Committee's recommendations at the national level	13
5. Mainstreaming the Human Rights Committee's recommendations through engagement with other UN mechanisms	15
Looking ahead: our projects for 2018	18
2017 accounts	19
Our staff	20
Our board	21
Our advisory board	22

vision and 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.

a word from the president and the director

2017 was certainly a crucial year for the Centre for Civil and Political Rights. Our regular activities substantially developed with **training provided all over the world for 180 CSO's representatives and support for the engagement of 188 human rights defenders at the sessions of the UN Human Rights Committee (HR Committee)**. Beside our regular activities ensuring that the concerns of the Civil Society are at the heart of the work of the HR Committee, we developed several initiatives to **reinforce the impact of advocacy efforts** and our long-term engagement with our national partners.

Efforts occurred at the national level with a **comprehensive follow-up agenda** to ensure that there was a full implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). This includes **new tools for NGOs to elaborate plans of action** for an effective monitoring of the HR Committee's recommendations as well the specific indicators to monitor the progress made by the State Parties.

In addition, we have reinforced and streamlined **spaces for dialogue** between the authorities and civil society in **Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan and Jamaica** aiming at facilitating an ongoing exchange on the measures taken to implement the recommendation of the HR Committee.

Efforts were made at the United Nations level with **new strategies to develop our advocacy work** in a comprehensive manner to ensure that the concerns of the HR Committee are systematically addressed by the other UN human rights bodies, including the UPR process. This approach, which is unique, reinforces the impact of the advocacy work of the human rights defenders, showing very interesting results on **Rwanda, Uzbekistan, Ghana and Burkina Faso** where concerns of the HR Committee were addressed before the other UN Treaty Bodies and in the UPR.

It is with this global approach in mind that we have joined our force with other NGOs to **create "TB-Net"**, a platform devoted to improve the cooperation among NGOs engaging with the UN Treaty Bodies.

Finally, one should mention our longstanding efforts **toward the universal ratification of ICCPR**. In **Myanmar**, we have engaged significantly with the Government and Parliament and suggested concrete steps leading to the ICCPR ratification.

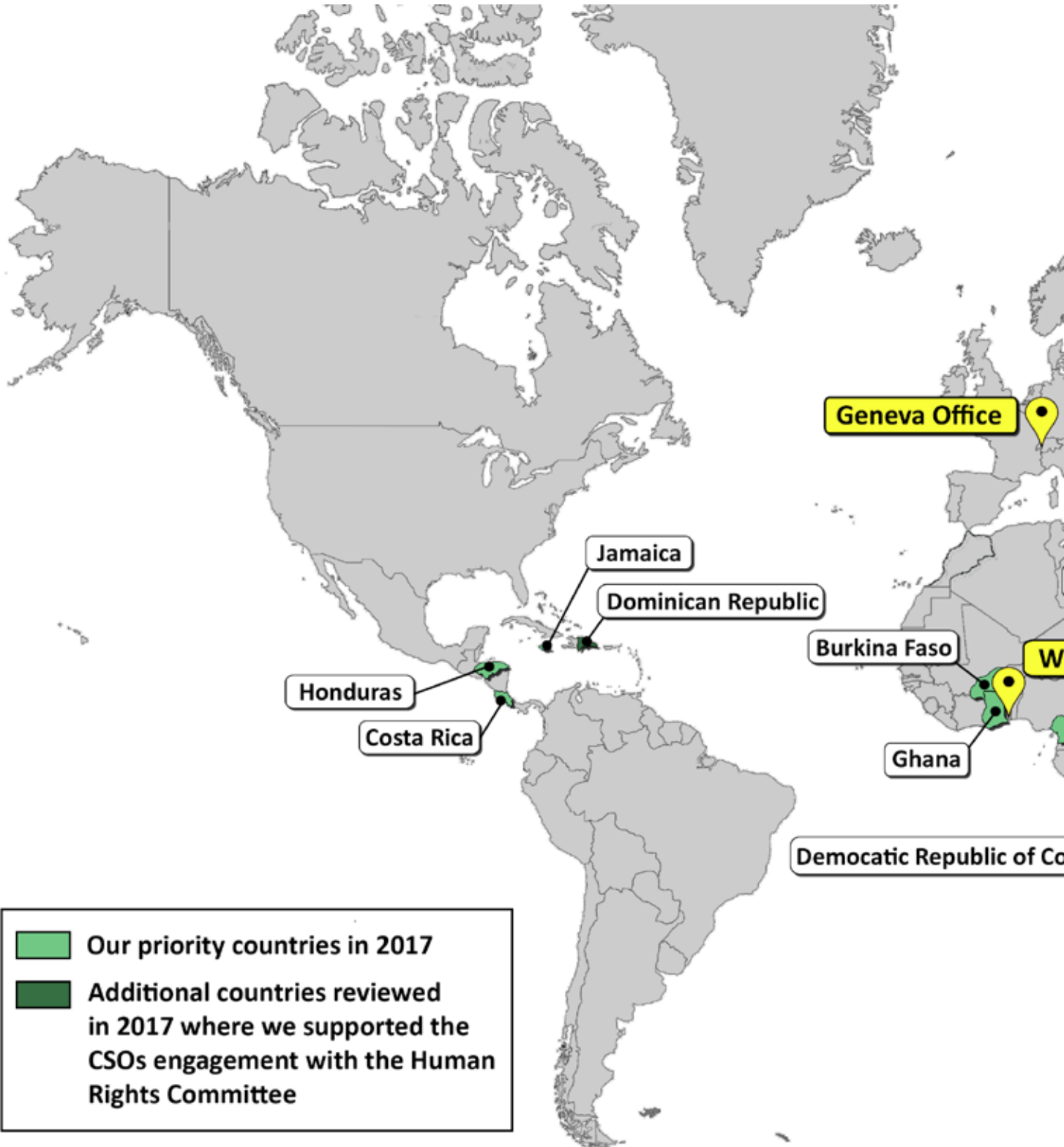
We will **streamline these new approaches** and fully incorporate them in our **2018-2022 strategies** that will be adopted by the General Assembly later this year. We will then be **better equipped to fully support national partners** and engage in genuine way **with all national stakeholders** to promote the full implementation of ICCPR.

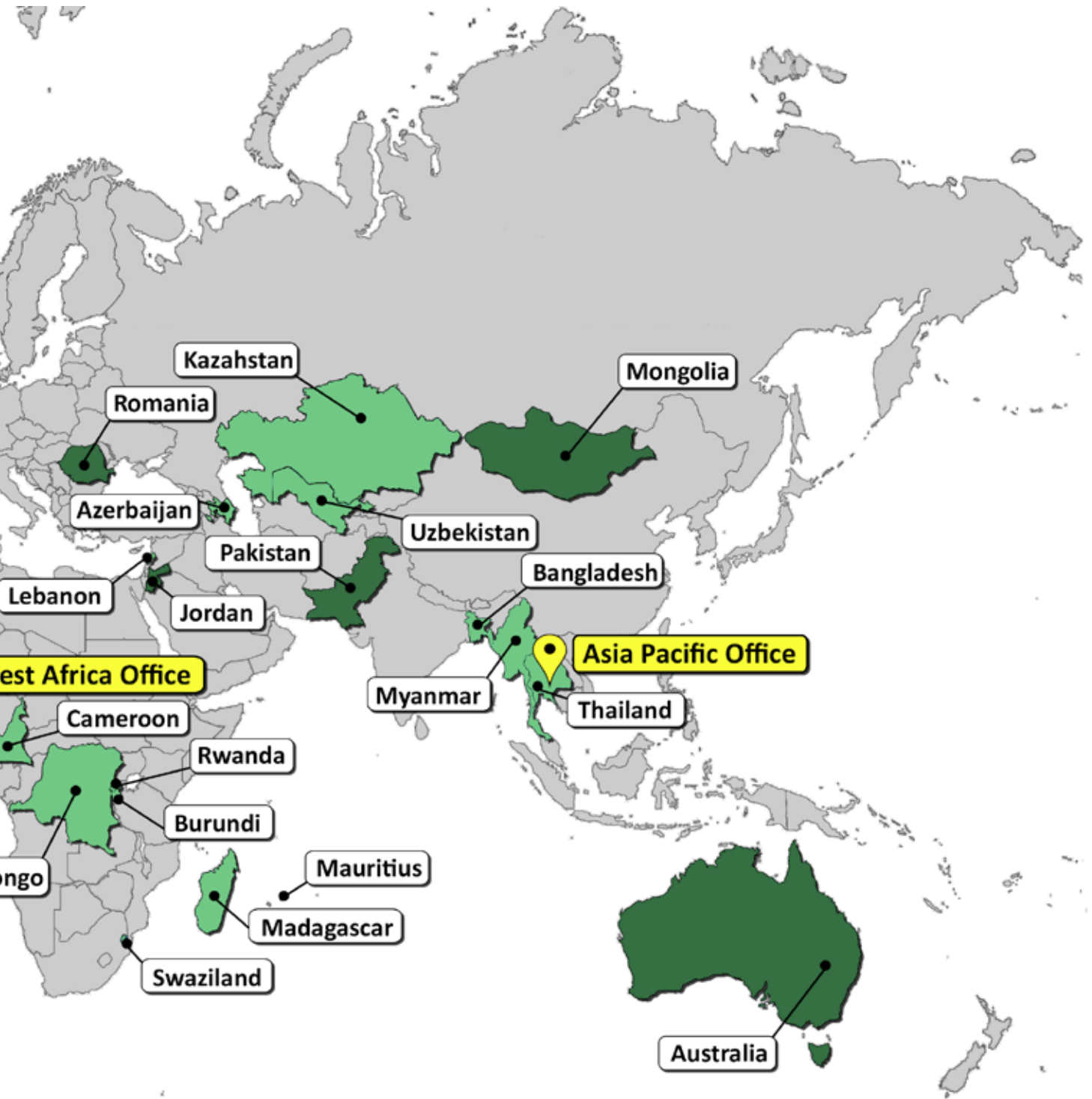
Finally, we would like to thank all those who have supported our work over the past year. In particular, we welcome the generous support of the Centre's donors without which none of this work would be possible.

Victor Rodriguez Rescia
President

Patrick Mutzenberg
Director

CCPR-Centre in 2017 - on a map





CCPR-Centre in 2017 - at a glance



3023

people reached

(+1017 in 2017)

through 7 newsletters

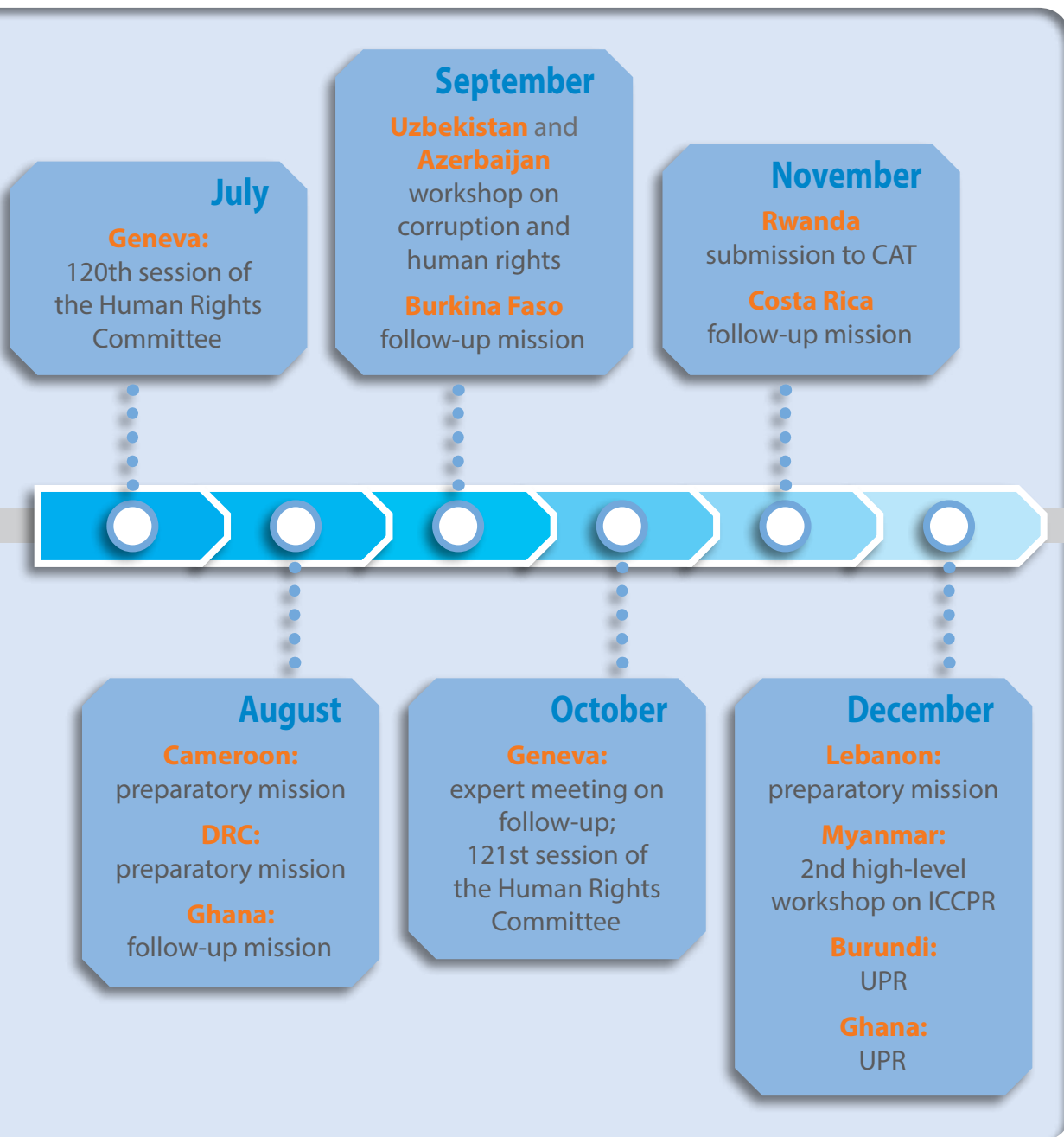


3368

likes on facebook

(+756 in 2017)

78 posts reaching 16436 people



3685 twitter followers
 (+253 in 2017)

1321 retweets
 (+279 in 2017)

675 likes 104 replies 467 tweets sent out

State Parties to ICCPR in 2017 - at a **glance**

170 State parties

6 Signatories

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

22 States 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)

1 new ratifications in **2017**

Sao Tome and Principe (January 2017)

ICCPR - OP 1
Individual Communications

116 State parties

3 Signatories

78 States not party

1 new ratification in 2017:

Sao Tome and Principe
(March 2017)

ICCPR - OP 2
Abolition of Death Penalty

85 State parties

2 Signatories

110 States not party

2 new ratifications in 2017:

Sao Tome and Principe
(January 2017)
Madagascar
(September 2017)

Human Rights Committee in 2017 - at a glance

19 States parties reviewed

119th session
(6 - 29 March):

Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Serbia, Thailand, Turkmenistan

120th session
(3 - 28 July):

Honduras, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mongolia, Pakistan, Switzerland

121st session
(16 Oct - 10 Nov):

Australia, Cameroon, DRC, Dominican Republic, Jordan, Mauritius, Romania

21 State parties followed-up

119th session:

Chad, Chile, Georgia, Indonesia, Ireland, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Sudan

120th session:

Cote d'Ivoire, Iceland, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Japan, Mauritania, Nepal, Sri Lanka

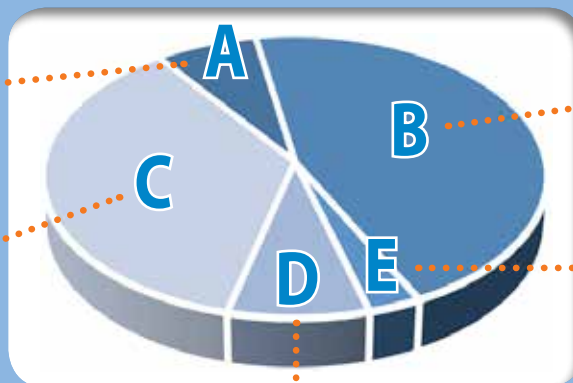
121st session:

France, Malawi, Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

Follow-up Grades given to the State parties

7 largely satisfactory

35 not satisfactory



44 partially satisfactory

3 contrary / rejective action

8 no cooperation

(Chad, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Nepal, Sri Lanka)

88 individual communications considered

44 violation

13 no violation

22 inadmissible

9 discontinued

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. Advocating for the universal ratification of the ICCPR

our **impact in 2017** ▶▶▶

Several stakeholders in Myanmar deepened their knowledge on the ICCPR and analyzed their domestic legal framework in comparison to the provisions of the Covenant.

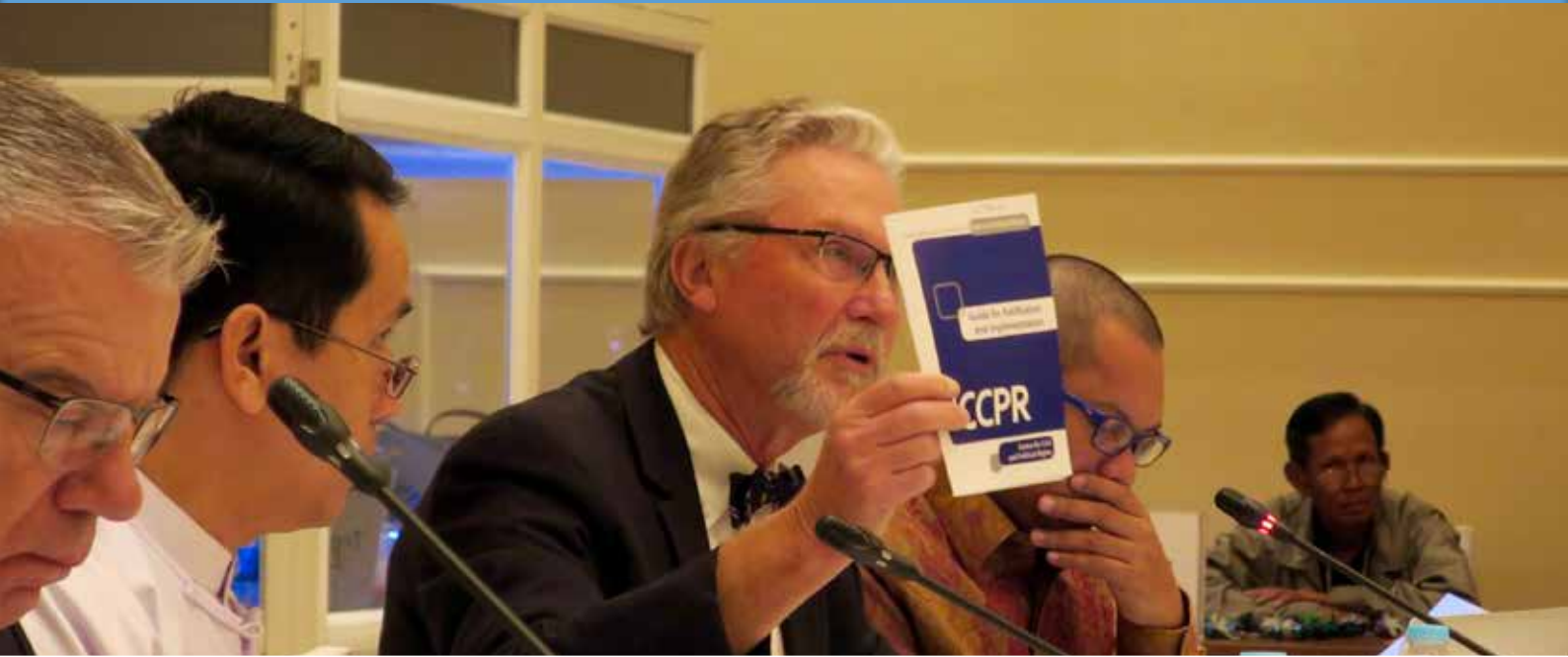
Myanmar is one of the 22 States in the world that have not yet signed and ratified the ICCPR. Becoming a party to the ICCPR, could be, in this context, a big step forward to more effectively promote and protect the civil and political rights of individuals, bring justice to victims and address the root 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, three visits were carried out. In February, a CCPR-Centre **delegation together with Judge Krister Thelin, a former member of the Human Rights Committee** met with relevant national agencies and different stakeholders, including the delegation of the European Union as well as civil society organisations.

In June, a **workshop was organized for civil society** to deepen their understanding of specific provisions of the ICCPR and to analyze the current domestic legal framework.

Lastly, in December the CCPR-Centre gathered **50 representatives** of diverse State Ministries, Parliamentarians, Supreme Court, National Human Rights Commission and scholars. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed Myanmar's desire and eagerness to become a State party of the ICCPR.



Top: *Judge Krister Thelin*, former member of Human Rights Committee, at the 2nd workshop in December 2017 in Myanmar with representatives of diverse State bodies.
Bottom: *participants of the 2nd workshop*, which provided an unique opportunity for interaction with experts from the Committee, Indonesia and Thailand.

2. 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 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 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.

our impact in 2017 ▶▶▶

8 national consultations in Swaziland, Madagascar, Honduras, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Cameroon & DRC

179 HRDs trained on the ICCPR and strategic advocacy in: Swaziland (40), Madagascar (29), Honduras (38), Bangladesh (15), Lebanon (14), Cameroon (29) & DRC (29)

177 NGOs worked in coalition to submit reports to the Committee in: Swaziland (7), Madagascar (14), Honduras (56), Bangladesh (15), Cameroon (14) & DRC (40)

Our impact in Lebanon

Lebanon's implementation of the ICCPR will be examined by the Human Rights Committee in March 2018 in Geneva. The last review of Lebanon by the Committee dates back to twenty years ago, making 2018 a unique opportunity to assess the main challenges regarding civil and political rights in the country.

In this context, **CCPR-Centre together with its local partner, ALEF, organised a national consultation** on the implementation of the ICCPR in Lebanon.

Among others, these **areas of concern** were highlighted by civil society representatives during the national consultation:

- Discrimination of women and LGBTI persons in law and in practice
- Restrictions to freedom of assembly and association as civil society organisations often do not get permission to carry out a peaceful demonstration or other public events and do not obtain the permits to register their organisations.
- Inhumane conditions of detention, including overcrowding
- Lack of independence of the judiciary

Representatives of the national NGOs will attend the Human Rights Committee review of Lebanon in March 2018.

our impact in 2017 ▶▶▶

mainstreaming regional coordination

The national consultation also served as a space to share experiences with representatives of the Jordanian Coalition Against Torture (JoCAT), who recently participated in the Human Rights Committee review of Jordan. Both the NGOs from Lebanon and from Jordan have similar concerns, for example about discrimination against women and freedom of expression. This exchange proved very useful to the Lebanese civil society because JoCAT was able to give very concrete examples and straightforward explanations based on their recent experience.



George Ghali, from ALEF, leading the discussion of the thematic groups in a national CSO consultation on the implementation of the ICCPR in Lebanon. The main outcome was a CSO report on Lebanon which was submitted to the Human Rights Committee addressing the main concerns on civil and political rights.

3. Ensuring the participation of civil society in the Human Rights Committee sessions

The Centre supports the direct participation of civil society in the Human Rights Committee sessions by inviting civil society representatives of target countries to **attend the sessions** in Geneva, and 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.

our impact in 2017 ▶▶▶

188 HRDs supported to engage with the Committee through country briefings

12 HRDs from: Swaziland, Madagascar, Honduras, Bangladesh, Cameroon and Democratic Republic of Congo sponsored by CCPR-Centre to attend the Committee sessions

Our impact in Swaziland

Swaziland was reviewed by the Human Rights Committee in July 2017 in absence of the State's report. **Main concerns** were the monarchical traditions, the dual legal system of common law and customary law and the freedom of association since political parties are banned in Swaziland.

The Committee members were also concerned about **other issues**: women experience discrimination when it comes to property rights, polygamy, and marital rape. Abortion is strictly prohibited in Swaziland. The broad powers of the King are problematic concerning the appointment of public officials and members of the judiciary, which are often relatives of the King.

Thanks to CCPR-Centre's work in Swaziland, together with its national partner COSPE and its regional partner SALC, civil society was able to participate at this review. Additionally, the State delegation was encouraged to engage with the Human Rights Committee even in the absence of report, which was highly appreciated by Committee members.



Top left: *Andrea Meraz, Programme Manager of CCPR-Centre, at the national consultation with Swazi NGOs; Top right: NGOs brainstorming on advocacy strategies for the implementation of the ICCPR in Swaziland; Bottom: Participants at the national consultation to prepare a report in reply to the List of Issues of Swaziland*

4. Facilitating space for dialogue to implement the Human Rights Committee's recommendations at the 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.

our impact in 2017 ▶▶▶

8 follow-up missions in: Ghana (1), Jamaica (1), Costa Rica (1), Burkina Faso (2) & Kazakhstan (2)

69 advocacy meetings with high-level authorities at the national level in: Ghana (16), Jamaica (5), Costa Rica (13), Burkina Faso (21) & Kazakhstan (14)

Our impact in Kazakhstan

The CCPR-Centre organized a follow-up mission in Astana in April 2017, jointly with its national partner Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law (KIBHR), an NGO based in Almaty with several regional branches.

The objective of the follow-up mission was to ensure that the recommendations of the Committee were widely known by the different stakeholders, as well as to engage in a dialogue with the national authorities on their implementation. Specific attention was given to the recommendations selected for the follow-up procedure, namely:

- Accountability for human rights violations in connection with Zhanaozen events
- Torture and ill-treatment
- Freedom of association and participation in public life

The delegation of the mission was composed of Kote Vardzelashvili, former Member of the HR Committee and Patrick Mutzenberg, Director of the CCPR-Centre, who were able to meet several key State representatives, including the Ombudsman, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and the Head of Department of Criminal Police. They also met with 25 NGO representatives from all the country. This meeting allowed genuine discussions on the main concerns of NGOs related to the implementation of the recommendations in Kazakhstan and initiate the drafting process of the NGO follow up report that was submitted to the Human Rights Committee.



Kote Vardzelashvili, former member of the Human Rights Committee, Yevgeniy Zhovtis, Director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law (KIBHR) and Patrick Mutzenberg, Director of CCPR-Centre during a meeting with representatives of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan to discuss the implementation of the Human Rights Committee recommendations, in particular those on torture, accountability for human rights violations, freedom of association and participation in public life.

5. Mainstreaming the Human Rights Committee's recommendations through engagement with other UN mechanisms

In addition to the activities mentioned above, the Centre engages with other UN bodies, such as the Human Rights Council (through the UPR), 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.

our impact in 2017 ▶▶▶

7 NGO submissions to other UN bodies on: Azerbaijan (1 submission to the UPR), Burundi (1 submission to the UPR), Ghana (1 submission to the UPR), Rwanda (1 submission to CAT and 1 to CEDAW), Togo (1 follow-up submission to the UPR) and Uzbekistan (1 submission to the UPR)

Our impact in Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan

The Centre organized a workshop in Geneva on Human Rights and Corruption in September 2017. We invited civil society representatives from Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan to support them in submitting a thematic report to the UPR. Both countries will undergo the UPR in May 2018.

In view of the submission of a report, we analyzed how the UPR process has addressed the issue of corruption in the past. This research proved useful when establishing an advocacy strategy for the future. The representatives also met with Ana Maria Rodriguez from the Colombian Commission of Jurists, who was able to share her advocacy experience for the UPR of Colombia. The representatives also met with Matthew Jones, from the Human Rights House Foundation, who shared his experience as International Advocacy Officer. Afterwards, both the Uzbek and Azerbaijani NGOs submitted a report for the upcoming UPR.



Participants from Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan at the workshop on Corruption and Human Rights organised by the CCPR-Centre in Geneva to prepare a thematic report and an advocacy strategy for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

A Year in Review

The Centre published '**A Year in Review**', an analysis of the main issues emerging from the Concluding Observations and views adopted in 2016.

The purpose of this report was to provide a clear understanding of the **jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee for the year 2016** (sessions 116, 117 and 118). The report aims to present the jurisprudence developed by the Committee through a thematic lens, but also contains an analysis of the findings of other UN Treaty Bodies, namely the **CERD, CRPD, CMW and CRC**. This approach allows to compare the relevant Committee's interpretations on specific issues.

It was the second time that this research had been carried out in collaboration with the Law Clinic of the LL.M. in International Law at the Graduate Institute of Geneva. The inclusion of the analysis emanating from the other UN Treaty Bodies was possible thanks to the close partnership with TB-Net, the NGO platform working on the UN Treaty Bodies.

The UN Human Rights Committee A Year in Review 2016



looking ahead: our projects for 2018

2018 is an exciting year for the CCPR-Centre as we will continue to develop our skills and expertise on ICCPR thematic issues. We will continue **to work on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of civil and political rights**, with the objective to ensure that this issue is comprehensively and systematically addressed by the UN human rights mechanisms.

To this end, the Centre will organise a **high-level international conference on human rights and corruption**, to get a complete overview of the UNTB's practice regarding the issue of corruption and identify gaps in the way the corruption is addressed. The conference will be followed by an **expert consultation** to address the gaps and strengthen the participation of the anti-corruption groups within the UN mechanisms. This consultation, organised together with the Geneva Academy and OHCHR, will provide the substantive base for a **practical user-friendly guide for anti-corruption practitioners**, which explores how a human rights-based approach and the human rights system can be used to strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

The Centre will also 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 **Algeria, Angola, Lebanon, Liberia, Tajikistan** and **Vietnam**, 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 **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Honduras, Rwanda, Swaziland** to advocate for the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. To this end, together with our local partners, the Centre is developing new tools such as posters, videos and brochures on the priority recommendations in order to widely disseminate the Committee's concerns and recommendations. The Centre will continue to organise high-level follow-up visits with Committee members to the above-mentioned countries and identify key thematic issues to be addressed more in depth in each of the countries.

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 **Uzbekistan** and **Azerbaijan**.

In 2018, the CCPR-Centre will **work closely with the members of TB-Net**, including by contributing to a **transparent and effective election process** as well as to strengthen the quality, independence and diversity of the Treaty Bodies.

The project to assist the national efforts for **ICCPR ratification by Myanmar** will continue in 2018 and will hopefully be further developed in other regions of the world.

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

2017 accounts

In 2017, the Centre for Civil and Political Rights reported a total income of CHF 599'950.- which is an increase of 5% compared to 2016 (CHF 570'804.-). In 2016, the Centre continued to save 1% of the total of funding received to improve its reserves which are now of CHF 24'746.-.

The number of donors was similar in 2016 and 2017 with several donors providing support for multi-years projects. The main challenge for the Centre is to secure and increase core funding in order to carry out activities in countries where no related projects exist.

Income and costs statement for the year 2017

1st January - 31st December, in CHF

(This is an extract of the audited financial statements for the 2017.

A full version is available upon request at pmutzenberg@ccprcentre.org)

INCOME

Etat de Genève	136'482
MFA Switzerland	132'325
Open Society Foundations	71'138
Ville de Genève	65'000
MFA UK (FCO)	62'655
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	50'000
MFA Belgium	41'617
The Carter Center	19'009
OI Francophonie	13'096
MFA Canada	7'072
Own Income	1'556

Total 599'950

LIABILITIES & RESERVES

Liabilities

Current liabilities	0
Deferred Grants	160'624
Total Liabilities	160'624

Reserves

Reserves funds	24'746
Balance brought forward	8'786
Income (deficit) for the year	2'765
Total Reserves	36'297

Total 196'921

COSTS

Human resources	276'145
Honorarium for national NGOs	25'545
Translation & Interpreters	907
Interns stipends	5'401
Travels for national consultations and participation of HRDs to HR Committee	61'654
Perdiem for national consultations and HRDs participation to HR Committee	41'902
National consultations (Phase I)	18'092
National consultations (Phase II) and follow up activities	15'437
Office rent and maintenance	30'072
Projects Management	6'479
IT and webcast	872
Bank fees and changes fees	1'393
Reserve funds	5'603
Total of costs	489'502
Net movement in funds	110'448

Total 599'950

ASSETS

Cash	1'495
CCP	177'884
Debtors	1'101
Grant Receivable	16'441

Total 196'921

our staff

Geneva Office

Patrick Mutzenberg

Director

Andrea Meraz

Programme Manager

Lazarie Eeckeloo

Legal Researcher

Laure Kialanda

Administrative and Financial Officer (until July 2017)

Asia Pacific Office

Daisuke Shirane

Coordinator

West Africa Office

André Afanou

Coordinator

Webmaster and IT Support

Haewen Fortunato

Codex Design

Interns

Thais Penalber

Komla Bassah

Sanjna Dhawan

Deepsha Dipan Dhal

Somil Kumar

Jannat Majeed

our board

Víctor Rodríguez Rescia (President)

Former Member of the HR Committee and SPT

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

Rafendi Djamin

Senior Adviser Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) - Indonesia

Camilla Lissa Asano

Coordinator of the Foreign Policy and Human Rights Program at Conectas Human Rights – Brazil

Victoria Kuhn

Lawyer, Special Procedures Branch Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Philippe Tremblay

Senior Legal Advisor, Lawyers without Borders Canada

Marina Narvaez

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

Chantal Mutamuriza

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

Asger Kjaerum

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

our advisory board

Sihem Bensedrine

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

Rafael Rivas Posada

*Professor,
Former Member (President) of the UN Human Rights Committee*

Sarah Joseph

*Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law
– Monash University (Melbourne) – Australia*

Jakob Th. Moller

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

Krister Thelin

*Judge,
Former Member of the UN Human Rights Committee*





CCPR
Centre for Civil and Political Rights