



# International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

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## Committee on Enforced Disappearances

### Twenty-ninth session

#### Summary record (partial)\* of the 557th meeting\*\*

Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Thursday, 2 October 2025, at 5.30 p.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Albán-Alencastro

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Closure of the session

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\* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.  
\*\* No summary records were issued for the 551st to 556th meetings.

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*The discussion covered in the summary record began at 5.35 p.m.*

### **Closure of the session**

1. **The Chair** invited Ms. Definis to present the Committee's informal report on its activities during the session.
2. **Ms. Definis** (Rapporteur), noting that the Committee's twenty-ninth session had been held in Geneva from 22 September to 2 October 2025, said that the Committee had, as was its practice, paid tribute to the victims of enforced disappearance. In that regard, a video of the first World Congress on Enforced Disappearances, which had taken place in January 2025, had been shown to the Committee. The Committee had recalled the central role of victims in its daily work and had highlighted the importance of their participation in the Congress.
3. During the session, in accordance with rule 19 of the Committee's rules of procedure, solemn declarations had been made by newly elected members Mr. Bambara, Ms. Definis, Mr. Solís González and Mr. de Tarso Vannuchi. Mr. Albán-Alencastro had been congratulated on his re-election and the members of the Bureau for the 2025–2027 term had been elected.
4. The Committee had considered the initial reports submitted by Benin and Sri Lanka under article 29 (1) of the Convention and had held interactive dialogues with the delegations of those two States Parties. The Committee had also considered the additional information report submitted by Montenegro under article 29 (4) of the Convention and had held an interactive dialogue with that State Party. The respective concluding observations would be made public in the coming days.
5. The Committee had adopted lists of issues in relation to reports submitted by Finland, Oman and Slovenia under article 29 (1) of the Convention and lists of themes in relation to the additional information submitted by Iraq and Ecuador under article 29 (4). It had also considered the situation of Mexico under article 34 of the Convention.
6. The Committee had held its annual meetings with Member States and civil society organizations and had adopted its report on requests for urgent action submitted under article 30 of the Convention. A total of 144 persons had been registered as the subject of an urgent action request since March 2025. The Committee had also held its annual meeting with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, at which the Committee and the Working Group had discussed possible joint projects and ways of enhancing the cooperation between them.
7. The Committee had held a discussion on its methods of work, including in connection with the outcome of the thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Chairs of the treaty bodies. It had discussed potential actions to be taken in follow-up to the World Congress on Enforced Disappearances and had made progress towards the adoption of a general comment on women, girls and enforced disappearances. It had also considered draft statements on transnational enforced disappearance and on gender identity, sexual orientation and enforced disappearance and considered what course of action might be taken in relation to those issues.
8. **The Chair** said that, to date, the Committee had registered 2,140 requests for urgent action. As at 16 September 2025, 537 persons who had been the subject of an urgent action request had been located, 420 of them alive. Nineteen such persons had been located since March 2025.
9. The Committee's work on its general comment on women, girls and enforced disappearance, and its draft statements on transnational enforced disappearance and gender identity, sexual orientation and enforced disappearance, ensured that it retained its focus on current challenges. The forums for dialogue that the Committee maintained with States, civil society organizations, victims' groups and United Nations agencies, in particular the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, were essential in strengthening the impact of the Committee's recommendations and ensuring that victims' voices were heard.

10. During the session, the Committee had reflected on the structural crisis facing the United Nations and the human rights treaty bodies. It was regrettable that the Committee's workload was growing while the human and financial resources available to it were increasingly scarce, undermining the effectiveness of the system and the rights of victims who were awaiting answers.

11. After the customary exchange of courtesies, he declared the twenty-ninth session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances closed.

*The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.*