



United Nations

Report of the Committee against Torture

**Eighty-third session
(10–28 November 2025)**

**Eighty-fourth session
(13 April–1 May 2026)**

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures.
Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

Summary

The present annual report covers the period from 3 May 2025 to 1 May 2026, during which the Committee held its eighty-third and eighty-fourth sessions.

As at 1 May 2026, there were 176 States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

During the period under review, the Committee considered, and adopted concluding observations on, eight reports submitted under article 19 of the Convention (see chap. III). At its eighty-third session, it considered the reports of Albania, Argentina, Bahrain and Israel. At its eighty-fourth session, it considered the reports of Gabon, Italy, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

The Committee deeply regrets the fact that some States Parties do not comply with their reporting obligations under article 19 of the Convention. At the time of reporting, there were 25 States Parties with overdue initial reports and 40 States Parties with overdue periodic reports (see chap. II).

The Committee's procedure for following up on concluding observations continued to develop during the reporting period (see chap. IV). The Committee expresses its appreciation to those States Parties that have provided timely and thorough information to the Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations.

The Committee's procedure under article 20 continued during the reporting period (see chap. V).

Under article 22 of the Convention, during the reporting period, the Committee adopted 21 decisions on the merits, declared 10 communications inadmissible and 1 admissible and discontinued the consideration of 9 communications (see chap. VI). A total of 1,336 complaints concerning 47 States Parties have been registered since the entry into force of the Convention, including 75 since the writing of the previous report.

The Committee's workload under article 22 remains significant, with some cases remaining in the backlog of the Committee. As at 1 May 2026, 176 complaints were pending consideration (see chap. VI).

The Committee again notes that some States Parties have failed to implement the decisions adopted on complaints. The Committee has continued to seek to ensure implementation of its decisions through its Rapporteur for follow-up on decisions adopted under article 22 (see chap. VI).

The Committee continued to pay particular attention to reprisals (see chap. I).

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I. Organizational and other matters

A. States Parties to the Convention

1. As at 1 May 2026, the closing date of the eighty-fourth session of the Committee against Torture, there were 176 States Parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.¹
2. The Committee calls upon all States that have not ratified the Convention to do so and calls upon those that are already Parties to accept all the procedures of the Convention in order to enable the Committee to fulfil all aspects of its mandate.
3. All information on the status of the Convention, including declarations under articles 20, 21 and 22 and reservations and objections made by States Parties with respect to the Convention, can be found at <http://treaties.un.org>.

B. Sessions and agendas of the Committee

4. Due to the liquidity situation in relation to the regular budget of the United Nations and the related cash conservation measures, the Committee was able to hold only two sessions since the adoption of its previous annual report. The eighty-third session (2207th to 2235th meetings), initially scheduled for July 2025, was held from 10 to 28 November 2025, and the eighty-fourth session (2236th to 2264th meetings) was held from 13 April to 1 May 2026. In addition, the eighty-third and eighty-fourth sessions of the Committee were each reduced to three weeks, down from the four weeks initially planned. Overall, the Committee lost five weeks of meeting time during the period under review. Sessions were held at the United Nations Office at Geneva.
5. At its 2207th meeting, held on 10 November 2025, the Committee adopted the items listed in the provisional agenda submitted by the Secretary-General ([CAT/C/83/1](#)) as the agenda of its eighty-third session.
6. At its 2236th meeting, held on 13 April 2026, the Committee adopted the items listed in the provisional agenda submitted by the Secretary-General ([CAT/C/84/1](#)) as the agenda of its eighty-fourth session.
7. An account of the deliberations and decisions of the Committee at those two sessions is contained in the relevant summary records ([CAT/C/SR.2207–CAT/C/SR.2264](#)). During the reporting period, the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva was able to produce summary records of only the State Party reviews, the joint meeting with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the opening and closure of the sessions due to a lack of budget and resources. As a result, no summary records were produced for other key public and closed meetings. The fact that for the period under review the United Nations Office at Geneva did not produce summary records for a significant number of Committee's public and private meetings directly affects the institutional memory of the Committee and, more broadly, that of the Organization itself.

C. Membership, officers and mandates

8. Following the twentieth meeting of States Parties to the Convention against Torture, held in Geneva on 1 October 2025, the membership of the Committee changed, as of 1 January 2026.² On 13 April 2026, the Committee re-elected Claude Heller as Chair of the Committee for a period of two years. Peter Vedel Kessing, Liu Huawen and Ana Racu were

¹ See <http://treaties.un.org>.

² See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/meetings/2025/20th-meeting-states-parties-2025-elections-committee-against-torture>.

elected as Vice-Chairs and Abderrazak Rouwane as Rapporteur, for a period of two years. At the end of the eighty-third session, Jorge Contesse was appointed Rapporteur on new complaints and interim measures under article 22 of the Convention, replacing Todd Buchwald, and Mr. Rouwane was designated as the Committee's Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, replacing Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov. At the eighty-fourth session, Maeda Naoko was designated as the Committee's Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, succeeding Mr. Rouwane in that function, and Mr. Kessing was designated as the Committee's rapporteur on reprisals, replacing Ms. Racu in that position. Since then, the Working Group on communications has comprised the following Committee members: Mr. Contesse, Lorena González Pinto, Mr. Kessing, Mr. Liu and Mr. Moulaye Abdallah. The list of members, officers and mandates from 3 May 2025 to 31 December 2025 and the list of members from 1 January 2026 and officers and mandates from 13 April 2026 are contained in the annexes to the present document.

D. Oral report of the Chair to the General Assembly

9. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 77/209 of 15 December 2022, the Chair of the Committee presented the Committee's report (A/80/44) to the Assembly at its eightieth session and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly.³

E. Activities of the Committee in connection with the Optional Protocol to the Convention

10. As at 1 May 2026, there were 96 States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.⁴ As required by the Optional Protocol, on 13 November 2025, a joint meeting was held between the members of the Committee and the members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. The meeting focused on reinforcing cooperation between the two bodies and on discussing challenges related to the implementation of the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto. On 16 April 2026, Elīna Šteinerte, a Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee, presented the nineteenth annual report of the Subcommittee (CAT/C/84/2) to the Committee, in accordance with article 16 (3) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

F. Joint statement on the occasion of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

11. The Committee adopted a joint statement with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to mark the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, which is commemorated on 26 June. In the joint statement, human rights experts from the United Nations anti-torture mechanisms called for more responsible and accountable policing of protests amid serious human rights violations.⁵

G. Participation of non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms and other stakeholders

12. The Committee has long recognized the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and has an established practice consisting in meeting with them in private before the consideration of each State Party report submitted under article 19 of the Convention. The

³ See <https://webtv.un.org/asset/k1z/k1z1unp130>.

⁴ See <http://treaties.un.org>.

⁵ Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/06/protecting-protests-un-anti-torture-mechanisms-call-responsible-and>.

Committee expresses its appreciation to those organizations for their participation in the meetings and is particularly appreciative of the attendance of national NGOs, which provide immediate and direct information both orally and in writing. The Committee conveys special thanks to the World Organisation against Torture for its outstanding role in coordinating, since the Committee's fifty-second session, the input submitted by NGOs relating to the work of the Committee.

13. Similarly, the Committee expresses its appreciation for the work of national human rights institutions and national preventive mechanisms established by States Parties as provided for under the Optional Protocol. Since the fifty-fifth session, those institutions and mechanisms have had the possibility of meeting in closed plenary with the Committee. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the oral and written information that it receives from those bodies and looks forward to continuing to benefit from that information, which has enhanced its understanding of the issues before it. Specifically, at the eighty-third session, the Committee met with representatives of the national preventive mechanism of Argentina and the national human rights institution of Bahrain. At the eighty-fourth session, it met with representatives of the national preventive mechanism of Italy and the national human rights institutions of Tajikistan and Pakistan.

14. The cessation of hybrid meetings from January 2024, except for dialogues with State Party delegations, continued to hinder the Committee's work and limited the participation of civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, national preventive mechanisms, United Nations entities and other stakeholders. These limitations have reduced the engagement of relevant stakeholders with the Committee. Due to the constraints imposed, the programmes of work for the Committee's sessions included only in-person meetings. The Committee requests that all multilingual hybrid meetings be maintained as a feature of an adequately resourced session and calls upon States Parties to support this request.

H. Rapporteur on reprisals

15. During most of the period covered by the present report, Ana Racu continued to serve as the rapporteur on reprisals under articles 19, 20 and 22 (see [CAT/C/55/2](#)). Effective 15 April 2026, this responsibility was assumed by Mr. Kessing. Information on action taken by the rapporteur during the reporting period is available from a dedicated web page.⁶ During the reporting period, the Committee continued to adopt the precautionary measures necessary to protect anyone cooperating with it from reprisals or any other acts of intimidation, in accordance with its usual practice. The response of the Committee to allegations of that kind was the result of a diligent assessment of and deliberations on the specific circumstances of each case, in line with its guidelines on the receipt and handling of allegations of reprisals.

I. Treaty body strengthening process

16. During the period under review, the Committee continued to contribute to efforts aimed at strengthening the treaty body system. In that regard, Erdogan Iscan participated remotely in an informal meeting of the treaty body Chairs and focal points on working methods. The informal meeting, held in Geneva on 5 and 6 December 2025, was organized by the Geneva Human Rights Platform of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with the support of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland. It was aimed at, inter alia, assessing the status of implementation of the conclusions agreed by the Chairs at their thirty-seventh meeting with regard to advancing the harmonization and alignment of working methods across the treaty body system. Despite these ongoing efforts, the Committee considers that the serious shortage of human and financial resources is significantly impairing the ability of treaty bodies to implement their mandates fully and that this trend risks pushing the system to the limits of its operational capacity. It therefore urges Member States to increase the allocation

⁶ See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CAT/Pages/ReprisalLetters.aspx>.

of necessary resources during budget deliberations in order to prevent further reductions that would render the work of the Committee and the other human rights treaty bodies unsustainable.

J. Participation of Committee members in other meetings

17. During the period under consideration, Committee members participated in several events, as follows:

(a) Mr. Heller participated in a webinar, organized by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, on cooperation between national human rights institutions and United Nations anti-torture bodies, including the Committee against Torture, held on 29 May 2025;

(b) Mr. Contesse participated, on behalf of the Committee, in a round-table discussion hosted by the Geneva Human Rights Platform and the Platform of Independent Experts on the Rights of Refugees, held at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights on 23 June 2025;

(c) On 26 June 2025, Mr. Heller participated in the final session of a seminar organized by the World Organisation against Torture, which was held from 23 to 26 June 2025, during the Global Week Against Torture;

(d) Ms. Racu participated online in an international conference entitled “Partnerships in the name of justice: the State and civil society against torture”, organized by Penal Reform International in cooperation with the European Union, held in Astana on 26 June 2025;

(e) Mr. Liu attended the International Symposium on Human Rights Wisdom in Classical Civilization, held in Athens on 26 June 2025, during which he delivered a speech entitled “Opposing torture: a legal and cultural perspective”;

(f) Mr. Kessing participated online in a workshop organized by the Convention against Torture Initiative, held on 3 July 2025, during which he delivered a presentation on the work of the Committee for a delegation from Bhutan;

(g) Ms. Racu participated in a workshop on States’ key obligations under the Convention against Torture, organized by the Convention against Torture Initiative for a delegation from Bhutan, held on 15 and 16 July 2025, during which she delivered a presentation on the core obligations of States Parties under the Convention and shared insights from the Committee’s work and practice;

(h) Mr. Contesse took part in the presentation of the annual report of the national preventive mechanism of Chile, for which he had authored the prologue, in Santiago on 24 July 2025;

(i) Mr. Rouwane designed and delivered two training sessions – one for forensic doctors and one for training trainers – in Morocco in July and November 2025, in the framework of the one-year programme for judges, prosecutors, police officers and prison personnel organized by the public prosecutor’s office of Morocco on the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), as revised. In addition, Mr. Rouwane informed the Committee that the programme had been completed on 11 December 2025, and that a handbook on the implementation of programme had been published;

(j) Ms. Racu took part in a mission to Türkiye organized by the World Organisation against Torture, conducted from 1 to 6 September 2025, during which she co-facilitated a training session on follow-up procedures and the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee against Torture for local NGOs, human rights defenders and lawyers;

(k) Mr. Contesse co-signed a joint press release of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, United Nations special procedure mandate holders and other members of the Platform of Independent Experts on the Rights of Refugees, entitled “States must protect the rights of persons in human mobility”, published on 18 September 2025;

(l) Mr. Contesse participated in a conference on regional trends regarding the prevention of torture, along with participants from the national preventive mechanism of Argentina, the Human Rights Centre of the University of Buenos Aires Law School and the OHCHR Regional Office for South America, held in Buenos Aires on 30 September 2025;

(m) Mr. Vedel Kessing delivered a presentation for European Union legal advisers on the Committee’s monitoring procedures and participated in a discussion on the draft convention on crimes against humanity, during which he offered several comments and suggestions on issues covered by the draft convention; the presentation and discussion took place in Brussels on 1 October 2025;

(n) Mr. Contesse participated in a workshop organized by the Convention against Torture Initiative, entitled “Strengthening safeguards during the initial stages of police detention – best practices from Latin America and the Caribbean”, held in Santiago on 15 and 16 October 2025;

(o) Mr. Liu participated in an international symposium entitled “The United Nations at 80 and the International Protection of Human Rights”, held in Changsha, China, on 18 October 2025, during which he delivered a speech entitled “The development of the UN human rights system from the perspective of the Committee against Torture”;

(p) Todd Buchwald and Ms. Maeda participated, with attendees from relevant Thai ministries and agencies, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, civil society organizations and several United Nations entities, as well as other international experts, in a workshop, held on 31 October 2025, to propose and discuss concrete ways to implement the recommendations contained in the Committee’s concluding observations on the second periodic report of Thailand ([CAT/C/THA/CO/2](#));

(q) Mr. Buchwald participated online in an expert consultation organized by the Bravero Institute for Human Rights to facilitate inputs for a report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief for submission to the Human Rights Council, on how freedom of religion or belief relates to death and honouring the deceased ([A/HRC/61/50](#)); the consultation was held in Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on 6 and 7 November 2025;

(r) Ms. Racu represented the Committee at the second edition of a global student networking event, entitled “Empowering Women in International Law”, organized by the International Association of Women Judges to facilitate exchanges between international legal practitioners and students, held on 17 November 2025, during which she presented the work of the Committee and engaged in discussions on professional pathways in international law;

(s) Mr. Heller participated in a webinar organized by Associazione Antigone on ending solitary confinement and marking the global launch of the International Guiding Statement on Alternatives to Solitary Confinement, held on 11 December 2025, during which he delivered a keynote speech on addressing solitary confinement globally, focusing in particular on the role of the Committee in that regard;

(t) Ms. Racu participated in the Medicalis Congress, an international congress for medical students and young professionals, held from 12 to 15 March 2026 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, where she conducted, alongside other experts, including a member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, a workshop on interpersonal violence, addressing the intersection of medical practice and human rights;

(u) Mr. Liu delivered a lecture, entitled “International law against torture”, at Wuhan University on 3 March 2026;

(v) Mr. Heller participated remotely in a meeting held on 12 March 2026 with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the Board of Trustees of the

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to discuss the topic to be addressed in their joint statement marking the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, which is commemorated on 26 June;

(w) Ms. Racu participated in an international conference on women in law enforcement, focused on roles, development and prospects, organized by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, held in Chisinau on 26–27 March 2026, which brought together representatives from Central and Eastern European countries and from international entities, including the European Union, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Development Programme, and was focused on institutional resilience, gender-sensitive policies and the women, peace and security agenda;

(x) Ms. Racu participated, on behalf of the Committee, in the launch of the results of a project entitled “Women on Both Sides of the Bars: Between Equity and Resilience”, held on 27 March 2026 by the NGO Act for Involvement, which provided a quantitative and qualitative analysis of women in detention and women prison personnel in the Republic of Moldova.

II. Submission of reports by States Parties under article 19 of the Convention

18. Between 3 May 2025 and 1 May 2026, 11 reports from States Parties under article 19 of the Convention were submitted to the Secretary-General. Initial reports were submitted by Eswatini and Liberia. A third periodic report was submitted by Mauritania. Fourth periodic reports were submitted by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Serbia and Tunisia. Fifth periodic reports were submitted by Belgium, Lithuania and Morocco. An eighth periodic report was submitted by Portugal. A ninth periodic report was submitted by Sweden.

19. As at 1 May 2026, the Committee had received a total of 547 reports and had issued 505 concluding observations; there were 25 States Parties with overdue initial reports and 40 States Parties with overdue periodic reports.

20. The Committee welcomes the fact that a high number of States Parties have accepted the simplified reporting procedure, which consists of the preparation and adoption of a list of issues to be transmitted to States Parties prior to the submission of a State Party’s periodic report (known as the list of issues prior to reporting). The procedure is aimed at assisting States Parties to fulfil their reporting obligations, as it strengthens the cooperation between the Committee and States Parties (A/66/44, paras. 28–35). While the Committee understands that, since 2007, the adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting has facilitated the States Parties’ reporting obligations, it nonetheless wishes to emphasize that the procedure of drafting lists of issues prior to reporting has increased its workload substantially, as their preparation requires more work than the lists of issues following the submission of a State Party’s report. That is particularly significant in a Committee with such a small membership.

21. At its eighty-third session, the Committee adopted lists of issues prior to reporting for States Parties that have accepted the simplified reporting procedure and whose next periodic report is due in November 2026: Australia (CAT/C/AUS/QPR/7), Chad (CAT/C/TCD/QPR/3), El Salvador (CAT/C/SLV/QPR/4), Malawi (CAT/C/MWI/QPR/2), Somalia (CAT/C/SOM/QPR/2) and Uganda (CAT/C/UGA/QPR/3). It also adopted a list of issues prior to reporting for Nigeria (CAT/C/NGA/QPR/2), in the light of the State Party’s acceptance of the simplified reporting procedure on 28 January 2025. At its eighty-fourth session, the Committee adopted lists of issues prior to reporting with regard to States Parties that have accepted the simplified reporting procedure and whose next periodic report is due in May or July 2027: Brazil (CAT/C/BRA/QPR/3), Colombia (CAT/C/COL/QPR/7), Kazakhstan (CAT/C/KAZ/QPR/5), Luxembourg (CAT/C/LUX/QPR/9), Slovakia (CAT/C/SVK/QPR/5), New Zealand (CAT/C/NZL/QPR/8), Romania (CAT/C/ROU/QPR/4), Spain (CAT/C/ESP/QPR/8) and Switzerland (CAT/C/CHE/QPR/9). All of the adopted lists of issues prior to reporting were transmitted to the respective States Parties.

22. In the Committee's view, the fact that only 6 States Parties have expressly declined to report under the simplified reporting procedure, while 112 have expressly accepted it, indicates the success of the procedure. The remaining States Parties have not yet responded or have not yet been invited to report under it. In addition, the fact that other treaty bodies have also adopted that procedure indicates its clear added value for the reporting system. Since 2016, a number of States with long-overdue initial reports have been offered the simplified reporting procedure.

23. Updated information relating to the procedure is available from a dedicated web page.⁷

III. Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 19 of the Convention

24. At its eighty-third and eighty-fourth sessions, the Committee considered reports submitted by eight States Parties under article 19 of the Convention.

25. The reports considered by the Committee at its eighty-third session and the concluding observations thereon are available from the Official Document System of the United Nations under the symbols indicated below:

<i>Party</i>	<i>Country rapporteurs</i>	<i>Report</i>	<i>Concluding observations</i>
Albania	Maeda Naoko Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov	Third periodic report (CAT/C/ALB/3)	CAT/C/ALB/CO/3
Argentina	Jorge Contesse Todd Buchwald	Seventh periodic report (CAT/C/ARG/7)	CAT/C/ARG/CO/7
Bahrain	Abderrazak Rouwane Liu Huawen	Fourth periodic report (CAT/C/BHR/4)	CAT/C/BHR/CO/4
Israel	Peter Vedel Kessing Ana Racu	Sixth periodic report (CAT/C/ISR/6)	CAT/C/ISR/CO/6

26. The reports considered by the Committee at its eighty-fourth session and the concluding observations thereon are available from the Official Document System of the United Nations under the symbols indicated below:

<i>Party</i>	<i>Country rapporteurs</i>	<i>Report</i>	<i>Concluding observations</i>
Gabon	Abderrazak Rouwane Jorge Contesse	Second periodic report (CAT/C/GAB/2)	CAT/C/GAB/CO/2
Italy	Claude Heller Erdogan Iscan	Seventh periodic report (CAT/C/ITA/7)	CAT/C/ITA/CO/7
Pakistan	Maeda Naoko Peter Vedel Kessing	Second periodic report (CAT/C/PAK/2)	CAT/C/PAK/CO/2
Tajikistan	Ana Racu Liu Huawen	Fourth periodic report (CAT/C/TJK/4)	CAT/C/TJK/CO/4

27. As at 1 May 2026, 48 initial/periodic reports of States Parties were awaiting consideration. The Committee's backlog in reviewing States Parties' initial and periodic reports was further exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and its impact continues to affect the Committee's work. With the resources available previously, the Committee could carry out a maximum of 16 country reviews per year. However, owing to the financial situation affecting the United Nations Secretariat, the Committee was unable

⁷ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cat/reporting-guidelines>.

to reach the maximum number of concluding observations initially envisaged as expected deliverables during the year under review; this increased the already significant backlog of States Parties' initial and periodic reports awaiting consideration. During the period under review, cancellations of meeting time owing to this financial situation obliged the Committee to postpone eight country reviews.

IV. Follow-up to concluding observations on States Parties' reports

28. During most of the period covered by the present annual report, Mr. Tuzmukhamedov continued to serve as the Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations.⁸ In view of the ending of Mr. Tuzmukhamedov's term on 31 December 2025, Mr. Rouwane was appointed to serve as the new Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations. Thereafter, at the eighty-fourth session, Ms. Maeda was designated as the Committee's Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, succeeding Mr. Rouwane in that function. From May 2003 to the end of the period under review, the Committee reviewed 352 reports from States Parties for which it had identified follow-up recommendations. As at 1 May 2026, 243 follow-up reports had been received by the Committee, for an overall response rate of 69 per cent. The status of the follow-up is compiled in a chart maintained on the web page of the Committee.⁹ Additional information, including submissions from States Parties, communications sent by the Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, State Party responses and reports from national human rights institutions, NGOs and other civil society actors, is posted on that web page.

29. As at 30 May 2026, the following States had not yet supplied follow-up information that had fallen due:¹⁰ Bangladesh (sixty-seventh), Burundi (seventy-eighth), Cabo Verde (fifty-ninth), Chad (seventy-fifth), Congo (fifty-fourth), Djibouti (forty-seventh), Ethiopia (seventy-sixth), Guinea (fifty-second), Holy See (fifty-second), Kiribati (seventy-eighth), Madagascar (forty-seventh), Malawi (seventy-fifth), Mozambique (fifty-first), Nicaragua (seventy-fourth), Romania (seventy-seventh), Rwanda (sixty-second), Seychelles (sixty-fourth), Sierra Leone (fifty-second), Sri Lanka (fifty-ninth), Syrian Arab Republic (forty-eighth), Uganda (seventy-fifth) and United Arab Emirates (seventy-fourth).

30. Under the procedure, the Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations sends reminders, requesting the outstanding information, to each State Party for which follow-up information was due but had not yet been submitted, as appropriate.¹¹

31. Between 3 May 2025 and 1 May 2026, follow-up reports were received from the following States Parties, in order of receipt: North Macedonia (CAT/C/MKD/FCO/4, 7 May 2025), Finland (CAT/C/FIN/FCO/8, 10 May 2025), Austria (CAT/C/AUT/FCO/7, 15 May 2025), Honduras (CAT/C/HND/FCO/3, 15 May 2025), Liechtenstein (CAT/C/LIE/FCO/5, 27 May 2025), Ecuador (CAT/C/ECU/FCO/8, 24 July 2025), Türkiye (CAT/C/TUR/FCO/5/Add.1, 25 July 2025), Republic of Korea (CAT/C/KOR/FCO/6, 28 July 2025), Kuwait (CAT/C/KWT/FCO/4, 13 November 2025), Azerbaijan (CAT/C/AZE/FCO/5, 18 November 2025), Colombia (CAT/C/COL/FCO/6/Add.1, 18 November 2025), Jordan (CAT/C/JOR/FCO/4, 12 January 2026), Spain (CAT/C/ESP/FCO/7, 6 March 2026) and Turkmenistan (CAT/C/TKM/FCO/3, 15 April 2026).

⁸ See the guidelines for follow-up to concluding observations, adopted by the Committee at its fifty-fifth session (CAT/C/55/3).

⁹ Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/FollowUp.aspx?Treaty=CAT&Lang=en. An overview of the follow-up procedure since 2003 can be found on the same web page.

¹⁰ States Parties that did not supply follow-up information before the submission of their next periodic report are not included in the list. States Parties that did not supply follow-up information before the adoption of a list of issues prior to the submission of their next periodic report are also not included in the list.

¹¹ Communications sent by the Rapporteurs for follow-up to concluding observations are available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/FollowUp.aspx?Treaty=CAT&Lang=en.

32. The Rapporteurs for follow-up to concluding observations expressed appreciation for the information provided by those States Parties regarding measures taken to implement their obligations under the Convention. They assessed the responses received as to whether all the issues identified by the Committee for follow-up had been addressed by the State Party and whether the information provided responded to the Committee's concerns and recommendations. The Rapporteurs communicated with States Parties under the follow-up procedure once their report had been received and assessed. Such communications reflected the analysis carried out by the Rapporteurs and specified the pending issues. During the period under review, such communications were sent in letters to Egypt (16 May 2025), Finland (19 August 2025), Liechtenstein (25 August 2025), Honduras (26 August 2025), North Macedonia (28 August 2025), Austria (1 September 2025), Ecuador (29 January 2026), Republic of Korea (3 March 2026), Azerbaijan (9 March 2026), Türkiye (9 March 2026) and Kuwait (27 April 2026).¹²

33. The Rapporteurs for follow-up to concluding observations expressed appreciation for the information submitted by national human rights institutions, human rights NGOs and civil society groups under the follow-up procedure. As at 1 May 2026, the Committee had received follow-up reports from such sources in relation to the reports of the following States Parties: Azerbaijan, Burundi, Chad, Ecuador, Finland (four submissions), Republic of Korea, Thailand and Türkiye (five submissions).¹³

V. Activities of the Committee under article 20 of the Convention

34. The Committee's work under article 20 of the Convention continued during the period under review.

VI. Consideration of complaints under article 22 of the Convention

A. Introduction

35. Under article 22 of the Convention, individuals who claim to be victims of a violation by a State Party of the provisions of the Convention may submit a complaint to the Committee for consideration, subject to the conditions laid down in that article. Seventy-one States Parties to the Convention have declared that they recognize the competence of the Committee to receive and consider complaints under article 22 of the Convention. No complaint may be considered by the Committee if it concerns a State Party to the Convention that has not recognized the Committee's competence under article 22. Under the Convention, States Parties have the possibility to request that the Committee consider the admissibility of a communication separately from its merits. Effective from 8 May 2024, the Committee decided that, for reasons of procedural efficiency and structural resource constraints, it would suspend, until further notice, the possibility for States Parties to make such requests.

36. The function of Rapporteur on new complaints and interim measures, established in accordance with rule 104 (1) of the Committee's rules of procedure, is currently held by Mr. Contesse, who was elected to this role during the eighty-third session of the Committee.

B. Interim measures of protection

37. Complainants frequently request preventive protection, and such requests are processed as a matter of priority due to their nature. Pursuant to rule 114 (1) of its rules of procedure, at any time after the receipt of a complaint, the Committee, acting through its

¹² Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/FollowUp.aspx?Treaty=CAT&Lang=en.

¹³ Ibid.

Rapporteur on new complaints and interim measures, may transmit to the State Party concerned a request to take such interim measures as the Committee considers necessary to avoid irreparable damage to an individual or individuals. The State Party is to be informed that such a request does not imply a determination of the admissibility or the merits of the complaint. During the reporting period, requests for interim measures were granted in 62 cases, out of a total of 75 registered by the Rapporteur on new complaints and interim measures, who regularly monitors the compliance by States Parties with such requests.

C. Progress of work

38. As at 1 May 2026, the Committee had registered, since 1989, 1,336 complaints concerning 47 States Parties. Of those, 458 complaints had been discontinued and 162 had been declared inadmissible. The Committee had adopted final decisions on the merits in 544 complaints and found violations of the Convention in 230 of them. Some 176 complaints were pending consideration. All the Committee's decisions on the merits, those declaring a complaint inadmissible and discontinuance decisions can be found in the treaty body case law database,¹⁴ on the OHCHR website¹⁵ and in the Official Document System of the United Nations.¹⁶

39. At its eighty-third session, the Committee adopted decisions on the merits in respect of 11 communications. In *Bashirahishize et al. v. Burundi* (CAT/C/83/D/1141/2022), the Committee examined allegations of reprisals against four Burundian lawyers for cooperating with the Committee during the review, at its fifty-eighth session (2016), of the special report of Burundi requested under article 19 (1) *in fine* of the Convention.¹⁷ Shortly after the lawyers' participation at the fifty-eighth session, the public prosecutor had sought their disbarment, which had eventually been confirmed by the court. However, the complainants, who had been living abroad, had been denied legal representation in domestic proceedings and had never been formally notified of the decision on the disbarment and thus had not been able to lodge an appeal; later, their property had been seized. The State Party had failed to cooperate throughout the process. The Committee found that, in failing to fulfil its responsibility to refrain from reprisals against individuals who cooperated with the Committee, the State Party had violated article 13 of the Convention, and that the State Party's refusal to engage in the individual complaints procedure amounted to a violation of article 22 (3). It urged Burundi to restore the complainants' law licences and property rights and to provide appropriate redress. In another ground-breaking decision, *A.A. v. Australia* (CAT/C/83/D/1079/2021), the Committee confirmed that the State Party exercised jurisdiction over offshore detention centres in Papua New Guinea, despite their extraterritorial location. The case concerned an Iranian asylum-seeker who, pursuant to the migration policy of Australia, had been transferred to Manus Island, where he had endured harsh conditions, including an attempted killing by a guard and prolonged detention without adequate medical care. The Committee found violations of article 2 (1), read in conjunction with article 1 (1), and of article 16 (1), holding that the State Party's funding, management and contracting of services at Manus Island, together with its policy decision to transfer asylum-seekers there, were sufficient to establish jurisdiction under the Convention. The decision reinforces and aligns treaty body jurisprudence, following the Human Rights Committee's approach in *Nabhari v. Australia* (CCPR/C/142/D/3663/2019) and *M.I. et al. v. Australia* (CCPR/C/142/D/2749/2016), and confirms that effective control establishes jurisdiction under the Convention. The Committee issued press releases on both cases.¹⁸

¹⁴ See <http://juris.ohchr.org/>.

¹⁵ See www.ohchr.org/.

¹⁶ See <https://documents.un.org/>.

¹⁷ CAT/C/BDI/2/Add.1. See also CAT/C/BDI/CO/2/Add.1.

¹⁸ See [https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/12/burundi-disbarring-lawyers-and-appropriating-property-were-reprisals-un#:~:text=The%20Committee%20raised%20concerns%20that,violations%20occur%20in%20the%20future](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/12/burundi-disbarring-lawyers-and-appropriating-property-were-reprisals-un#:~:text=The%20Committee%20raised%20concerns%20that,violations%20occur%20in%20the%20future;); and <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/01/australia-offshore-and-prolonged-detention-exposed-iranian-asylum-seeker>.

40. In *Nikobambereye v. Burundi* (CAT/C/83/D/1026/2020), *Ndabigeze v. Burundi* (CAT/C/83/D/1140/2022) and *Niyonkuru v. Burundi* (CAT/C/83/D/1146/2022), in view of the limited information provided by the State Party, the Committee considered that it had not been established that domestic remedies for complaining about acts of torture and ill-treatment were made available. On the merits, in *Nikobambereye v. Burundi*, the Committee found violations of articles 2 (1) and 11, read in conjunction with article 1, and of article 16 of the Convention, concluding that the treatment inflicted on the complainant amounted to torture, that the State Party had failed to prevent, investigate and remedy the torture, and that the conditions of detention constituted inhuman and degrading treatment. In *Ndabigeze v. Burundi*, the Committee found violations of articles 2 (1) and 12 to 14, read in conjunction with article 1, and of article 16 of the Convention, concluding that the State Party had failed to prevent, investigate and provide redress for the acts of torture suffered by the complainant, including the degrading conditions in which he was transported to hospital. Lastly, in *Niyonkuru v. Burundi*, it concluded that Burundi had violated articles 2 (1) and 11 to 14, read in conjunction with article 1, of the Convention by subjecting the complainant to torture, failing to prevent and investigate the torture, denying the complainant effective safeguards and remedies and failing to provide adequate reparation.

41. The Committee found that the forcible return of the alleged victims would not constitute a violation of article 3 of the Convention by the States Parties concerned in its decisions in *A.R. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1050/2021), *Z v. Sweden* (CAT/C/83/D/1078/2021), *T.J. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1091/2021), *K.S. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1131/2022), *M.N. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1147/2022) and *V.K. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1153/2022).

42. The Committee further found five communications inadmissible. In *Z v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1069/2021) and *K.K. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1155/2022), the Committee found that the complainants had failed to substantiate their claims sufficiently for the purpose of admissibility. In *I.K. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1082/2021), *F.N. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/83/D/1087/2021) and *H.D. v. Germany* (CAT/C/83/D/1121/2022), the Committee found that the complainants had failed to exhaust domestic remedies. In addition, the Committee discussed and adopted an admissibility decision.

43. The Committee discontinued the consideration of four communications: *M.O. v. Russian Federation* (CAT/C/83/D/1029/2020); *L.J. et al. v. Australia* (CAT/C/83/D/1030/2020); *O.C. v. Serbia* (CAT/C/83/D/1128/2022); and *E.P. v. Serbia* (CAT/C/83/D/1130/2022).

44. At its eighty-fourth session, the Committee adopted decisions on the merits in respect of 10 communications. *Dah v. Morocco* (CAT/C/84/D/1135/2022), *Haddi v. Morocco* (CAT/C/84/D/1136/2022), *Sbaï v. Morocco* (CAT/C/84/D/1156/2022) and *Lemjiyed v. Morocco* (CAT/C/84/D/1166/2023) concern events related to the dismantling of the Gdeim Izik camp in Western Sahara in 2010. These decisions add to six similar decisions previously adopted by the Committee, bringing the total to 10 cases arising from the same events, in which all of the complainants were sentenced together in domestic proceedings. In the four cases decided during the eighty-fourth session, the Committee explicitly highlighted the systemic character of the violations, identifying a consistent pattern of arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention, torture or ill-treatment during interrogations and the use of coerced confessions, and characterizing these shortcomings as structural rather than isolated. The Committee issued a press release.¹⁹

45. In *El Hafidi v. Morocco* (CAT/C/84/D/1134/2022), the Committee concluded that the State Party had failed to provide sufficient evidence to effectively refute the complainant's detailed allegations concerning the material conditions of his detention, including inadequate personal space, unsubstantiated access to drinking water, lack of natural light, ventilation and heating, exposure to the smoking of others, and limited access to sanitary facilities. It considered that the cumulative effect of those conditions, aggravated by the prolonged duration of detention, adversely affected the complainant's physical and psychological

¹⁹ Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/05/morocco-gdeim-izik-cases-reveal-torture-coerced-confessions-and-failure>.

well-being, and found that the conditions, taken as a whole, and the absence of a prompt, impartial and effective investigation into those allegations, constituted a violation of article 16, read in conjunction with articles 12 and 13, of the Convention.

46. The Committee found that the forcible return of the alleged victims would not constitute a violation of article 3 of the Convention by the States Parties concerned in its decisions in *R et al. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1127/2022), *A. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1133/2022), *L v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1152/2022), *V.R. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1176/2023) and *T.S. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1189/2023).

47. The Committee further found five communications inadmissible. In *X v. Kingdom of the Netherlands* (CAT/C/84/D/1103/2021), *A.B. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1112/2021), *A v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1149/2022), *S.U. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1162/2022) and *B.J. v. Switzerland* (CAT/C/84/D/1174/2023), the Committee decided that the complainants had failed to substantiate their claims sufficiently for the purpose of admissibility.

48. The Committee discontinued the consideration of five communications: *A.S. v. Serbia* (CAT/C/84/D/1145/2022); *H.H. v. Denmark* (CAT/C/84/D/1150/2022); *D.G. v. Kazakhstan* (CAT/C/84/D/1202/2023); *M.M. v. Australia* (CAT/C/84/D/1225/2024); and *Y.Z. v. Sweden* (CAT/C/84/D/1282/2025).

D. Follow-up activities

49. At its twenty-eighth session in May 2002, the Committee established the function of Rapporteur for follow-up on decisions adopted under article 22, which is currently held by Mr. Liu. At its 527th meeting on 16 May 2002, the Committee decided that the Rapporteur should engage, inter alia, in the following activities: monitoring States parties' compliance with the Committee's decisions by sending notes verbales to request information on measures taken pursuant to the Committee's decisions; recommending to the Committee appropriate action upon receipt of responses from States Parties, in situations of non-response, and upon receipt henceforth of all correspondence from complainants concerning non-implementation of the Committee's decisions; meeting with representatives of the permanent missions of States Parties to encourage compliance and to determine whether advisory services or technical assistance provided by OHCHR might be useful or required; conducting, with the Committee's approval, follow-up visits to States parties; and preparing periodic reports for the Committee on his or her activities.

50. During its eighty-third session, the Committee adopted a follow-up report on decisions relating to communications submitted under article 22 of the Convention (CAT/C/83/2). The Committee decided to close the follow-up dialogue in respect of three decisions relating to communications submitted under article 22 of the Convention, following their full implementation by the States Parties. It also decided to keep the dialogue ongoing in six cases due to lack of implementation or partial implementation of the decisions of the Committee.

VII. Sessions of the Committee in 2026

51. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee is to hold two further regular sessions in 2026. However, due to the current liquidity situation in relation to the regular budget of the United Nations and the associated cash conservation measures, the modalities of treaty body plenary sessions may need to be adjusted.

VIII. Adoption of the annual report of the Committee on its activities

52. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee is required to submit an annual report on its activities to the States Parties and to the General Assembly. Since the Committee holds its last regular session of each calendar year in November, which coincides

with the regular sessions of the General Assembly, it adopts its annual report at the end of its session held in April and May, for transmission to the General Assembly during the same calendar year. Accordingly, the Committee considered and adopted the report on the activities it carried out during the period under review.

Annex I

Membership, officers and mandates from 3 May 2025 to 31 December 2025

<i>Name of member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
Todd Buchwald (Rapporteur on new complaints and interim measures)	United States of America	2025
Jorge Contesse	Chile	2027
Claude Heller (Chair)	Mexico	2027
Erdogan Iscan (Vice-Chair)	Türkiye	2027
Peter Vedel Kessing (Rapporteur)	Denmark	2027
Liu Huawen (Rapporteur for follow-up on decisions adopted under article 22)	China	2025
Maeda Naoko (Vice-Chair)	Japan	2025
Ana Racu (Rapporteur on reprisals)	Republic of Moldova	2027
(Focal point for cooperation with the treaty body capacity-building programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights)		
Abderrazak Rouwane (Vice-Chair)	Morocco	2025
(Focal point for cooperation with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment)		
Bakhtiyar Tuzmukhamedov (Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations)	Russian Federation	2025

Annex II

Membership from 1 January 2026 and officers and mandates from 13 April 2026

<i>Name of member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
Jorge Contesse (Rapporteur on new complaints and interim measures) ^a	Chile	2027
Lorena González Pinto	Guatemala	2029
Claude Heller (Chair)	Mexico	2027
Erdogan Iscan (Focal point for working methods and treaty body strengthening) ^a	Türkiye	2027
Peter Vedel Kessing (Vice-chair) (Rapporteur on reprisals) ^a	Denmark	2027
Liu Huawen (Vice-chair) (Rapporteur for follow-up on decisions adopted under article 22) ^a	China	2029
Maeda Naoko (Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations) ^a	Japan	2029
Moulaye Abdallah Moulaye Abdallah	Mauritania	2029
Ana Racu (Vice-chair) (Focal point for cooperation with the treaty body capacity-building programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) ^a	Republic of Moldova	2027
Abderrazak Rouwane (Rapporteur) (Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations) ^b (Focal point for cooperation with the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) ^a	Morocco	2029

^a Confirmed on 15 April 2026.

^b Until 12 April 2026.