

Adequacy of reports:

15. Adopt general guidelines for reporting.

Information gathering:

16. Develop a data base of NGOs at the national and international level; inform them of submissions of state reports; provide copies of state reports; indicate a willingness to receive written information; inform them of the timetable of consideration of the list of issues to be asked of the state party and the oral dialogue; provide guidelines for NGO reporting.
17. Invite representatives of specialized agencies to attend pre-sessional meetings. Formulate guidelines for their contributions.
18. Produce a schedule for the consideration of reports at least one year in advance.
19. Consider the possibility of identifying specific areas of concern which should be addressed in a report in lieu of comprehensive reports on compliance with the treaty. Apply flexibility in the range and nature of questions to be addressed to states parties.
20. Schedule the pre-sessional working group at the end of the previous session, or sufficiently far in advance of the dialogue to enable the identification of issues on which they require further information.
21. Invite NGOs to attend the pre-sessional working group and present country-specific information directly related to the treaty on states scheduled to appear at the forthcoming session.
22. Require written responses from states parties to the list of issues in advance of the dialogue.
23. Reconsider the practice of requesting exceptional reports, which open the treaty bodies to charges of abuse for political bias or discriminatory and unjustified selection of targeted states, have been applied without clear guidelines on their use, are of questionable value in crisis situations, do not serve a significant preventive function, and are a comparatively poor allocation of treaty body resources in view of the activities and capacities of other UN bodies in these circumstances.