

THE DUBLIN 2 OUTCOME DOCUMENT IN 15 POINTS

The “Dublin process” was initiated by the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2009 to encourage all stakeholders in the treaty monitoring process to provide suggestions for strengthening the treaty body system. The Dublin Statement, adopted in November 2009, paved the way for consultations among states parties, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics and UN agencies. The outcomes from these consultations are available at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/English/bodies/HRTD/index.htm>.

In November 2011, a group of treaty body experts and other stakeholders convened for a second time in Dublin to elaborate an Outcome Document that drew together the main recommendations arising from the process so far. The Outcome Document was signed by the treaty body experts present and endorsed by other participants and contains recommendations for action by treaty bodies, states, NHRIs, NGOs and the UN. These have been summarized by Amnesty International, as follows:

1. Treaty bodies play a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights at the national level. However the treaty body system would benefit from measures to render it more efficient and effective, robust, sustainable and accessible. Enhancing the treaty body system must result in **strengthening the capacity of rights holders** to enjoy their human rights.
2. States are encouraged to **ratify** without limiting reservations all international human rights treaties, and to accept communications and inquiry procedures. States should regularly review their reservations with a view to their withdrawal.
3. Guarantees for independence, expertise, competence and availability should be strengthened in the context of **elections of treaty body members**. States should ensure that candidates are nominated through an open and transparent selection process at the national level and refrain from nominating those serving as government officials or occupying positions giving rise to a conflict of interest or otherwise interfere with the tasks of treaty bodies. New treaty body members should receive a thorough induction or orientation. All members should be limited to serving for two terms.
4. **Coherence between the treaty bodies** can add to their effectiveness and efficiency and enable stakeholders to contribute to the work of the treaty body system.
5. As regards **collaboration with other human rights mechanisms**, the treaty bodies should work closely with special procedures of the Human Rights Council, particularly in respect of follow up to and implementation of Concluding Observations, reference to and follow up of views. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) can also help to facilitate follow up including through UN country teams and OHCHR field offices. Treaty bodies should engage closely with regional mechanisms.
6. **States should disseminate all proceedings and outputs of treaty bodies**, including translations in the official languages of the state and through follow up meetings with civil

society. To increase broad awareness of the treaty bodies, all stakeholders should engage in dedicated outreach and communication strategies.

7. Resources permitting, some treaty body **sessions should be held in different regions**. OHCHR should reach out to and engage NGOs in the treaty body process. All public meetings of treaty bodies should be webcast. National stakeholders should have the opportunity to provide oral briefings to the treaty bodies through video conferencing in addition to briefings in person. OHCHR should develop a reporting calendar and handbooks for all stakeholders covering all forms of engagement.

8. Any **reprisal** against persons, their families or organizations for engaging with treaty bodies constitutes a human rights violation and treaty bodies should take urgent measures in such cases, in collaboration with the reprisal victim concerned.* States should prevent any form of reprisals. Where they occur they should be investigated and those found responsible should be punished. Victims of acts of reprisal should receive appropriate redress.

9. There needs to be a comprehensive costing of the treaty body system followed by an adequate **allocation of resources** proportionate to the actual workload faced by each treaty body. This allocation should be regularly assessed to take into account the expansion of the system.

10. States should submit their **reports** in full and on time. Treaty bodies should consider the situation in states parties including in the absence of a report. The reporting cycle should focus on key strategic priorities. New innovations such as the list of issues prior to reporting are important and should be encouraged, and alternatives to traditional reporting methods should be considered while maintaining the good practices established to date.

11. States should provide quality, precise and focused information and should be represented by well-informed and high level expert delegations for the dialogue with the treaty bodies. **National frameworks** for consultations should be established and should involve all stakeholders to provide opportunities to present inputs to the consultative process. The national frameworks should be used as a platform for the development of national action plans.

12. **NGOs and other national stakeholders should strengthen their participation** in the treaty body system including by submitting reliable information highlighting issues of concern and actively participating in the treaty bodies' activities.

13. **The review of individual communications** is a core function. Measures should be taken by OHCHR and the treaty bodies to increase transparency and accessibility of the procedure and to publicize treaty bodies' views on cases. States should take steps to facilitate access to such procedures and establish a fund to assist authors of communications to present communications. They should ensure widespread dissemination of jurisprudence and respect interim measures. NGOs should submit amicus curiae as appropriate, raise awareness of communications procedures and support their use by victims.

14. Follow up to concluding observations and views is integral to the reporting and individual communications procedures, and each treaty body should adopt a follow up procedure. States should ensure they have an effective system for implementation of international human rights obligations and should consider developing consolidated plans of action. States are encouraged to develop a chart of UN recommendations to track implementation.

15. General comments/recommendations provide essential guidance on the scope of obligations under the human rights treaties. Treaty bodies should adopt general comments/recommendations that are consistent with evolving human rights standards and revise existing general comments/recommendations accordingly. Treaty bodies that have not yet done so should adopt procedures that enable consideration of suggestions by stakeholders.

* the clarification that victims of reprisals should be consulted by the treaty bodies before any action is taken in respect of their case is not reflected in the Dublin 2 Outcome Document.

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