



Engagement of the European Union and its member States with UN Human Rights Mechanisms

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Introduction

The 1945 United Nations Charter proclaims that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. In this context, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, spells out the fundamental rights and freedoms that all human beings should enjoy. Its provisions have been developed in international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

This document outlines past and forthcoming engagement of the European Union and the member States of the European Union with the three United Nations human rights mechanisms which oversee the implementation of the international human rights treaties. At the outset, it explains these mechanisms and outlines which international human rights treaties have been ratified by the European Union and its member States before going into the details of the European Union's and each member States engagement with them.



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights laid the groundwork for the human rights architecture that is nowadays composed of the main human rights mechanisms overseeing implementation of the international human rights treaties in the 193 member States of the United Nations:

The Human Rights Treaty Bodies

Committees of independent experts that monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties. These Treaty Bodies usually meet in Geneva, Switzerland, and are supported by the Human Rights Treaties Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The Treaty Bodies perform a number of functions in accordance with the provisions of the treaties that established them.

Treaty Bodies thematic focus and working methods all differ slightly, but in general, they:

- Consider States parties' reports;
- Consider individual complaints;
- Conduct country inquiries;
- Adopt **general comments** and organize thematic discussions to interpret the provisions of their treaty or treaties;
- Attend the annual meeting of Chairpersons; and
- Contribute to the treaty body strengthening process.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique mechanism of the Human Rights Council that calls for each UN Member State to undergo a peer review of its human rights records every 4.5 years. Established in March 2006 by the UN General Assembly in resolution 60/251, the UPR is designed to prompt, support, and expand the promotion and protection of human rights in every country.

The UPR provides each State the opportunity to regularly:

- Report on the actions it has taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights.
- Receive recommendations informed by multi-stakeholder input and pre-session reports from UN Member States for continuous improvement.

Since the first periodic review in 2008, all 193 UN Member States have been reviewed three times. The fourth cycle of review began in November 2022, at the 41st session of the UPR Working Group.

The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

The term 'Special Procedures' refers to independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic (e.g., the freedom of expression or the right to food) or country-specific perspective.

The system of Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. As of January 2025, there are 46 thematic and 14 country mandates. With the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), special procedures:

- Undertake country visits
- Act on individual cases of reported violations and concerns of a broader nature by sending communications to States and others
- Contribute to the development of international human rights standards, and
- Engage in advocacy, raise public awareness, and provide advice for technical cooperation.

In conclusion, these human rights mechanisms have different mandates, procedures and activities, which in turn shape the ways in which (i) States in their capacity as duty-bearers, (ii) individuals as the rightsholders, (iii) other national or international stakeholders (NHRIs, CSOs etc.), and (iv) the United Nations Country Teams (UNCT), engage with them.

Some mechanisms conduct country visits or inquiries to monitor specific human rights issues; others consider complaints by individuals who allege that their rights have been violated by a State; and almost all of them have an established reporting procedure for assessing the progress of States in meeting their human rights obligations.

Independently of their functions, **all three mechanisms generate recommendations** to the States with the aim of contributing to short-term and long-term changes in legal and policy frameworks to improve human rights protection.

All recommendations addressed to European Union (EU) member States through the UPR, by Treaty Bodies or by Special Procedure mandate-holders are available on the OHCHR [Universal Human Rights Index](#). This database can be searched by country, human rights theme, SDG, affected group and by human rights mechanism.

National mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up

In order to effectively implement the recommendations they receive, some EU member States have established a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRF) to facilitate implementation of recommendations from Treaty Bodies, the UPR and Special Procedures.

NMIRFs are Government structures mandated to coordinate the preparation of reports to, and engage with, international and regional human rights mechanisms and to facilitate national follow-up and implementation of human rights treaty law obligations and the recommendations emanating from those mechanisms.

The establishment of NMIRFs was a key recommendation of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' report on treaty body strengthening in 2012 ([A/66/860](#)), paving the way for GA resolution 68/268 on "Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system".

This resolution recognizes the need for improved coordination of reporting at the national level (para.20) and the importance of exchanging on best practices.

More information can be found at: [NMIRF Hub](#) | [OHCHR Knowledge Gateway](#).

RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

The European Union and its member States are parties* to various human rights treaties adopted under the auspices of the United Nations.

There are 9 core international human rights instruments. These treaties cover a wide range of issues such as civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. Below is a list of key United Nations human rights treaties and the status of their ratification or accession by EU member States.

<p>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2) 	<p>Ratified by all EU member States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified by all EU member States
<p>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)</p>	<p>Ratified by all EU member States</p>
<p>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)</p>	<p>Ratified by all EU member States</p>
<p>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)</p>	<p>Ratified by all EU member States</p>
<p>Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) 	<p>Ratified by all EU member States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified by most EU member States
<p>Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC) • Optional protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC) 	<p>Ratified by all EU member States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratified by all EU member States • Ratified by most EU member States
<p>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW)</p>	<p>Not ratified by any EU member States</p>
<p>International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)</p>	<p>Ratified or acceded to by 19 EU member States</p>
<p>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)</p>	<p>Ratified by all EU member States and by the European Union</p>

*Additional information regarding the status of ratification and/or accession of the human rights treaties may be found in the table at the end of this document.

Some of these treaties are supplemented by optional protocols establishing individual complaints procedure. The level of ratification varies from one optional protocol* to the other:

Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OP-ICCPR)	Ratified by all EU member States.
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR)	Ratified by all EU member States
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (OP-CEDAW)	Ratified by most EU member States
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OP-CRPD)	Ratified by 22 EU member States
<u>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure</u> (OP-CRC)	Ratified by 15 EU member States

In addition, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances may receive and consider individual complaints or communications from individuals if States parties have made the necessary declaration under relevant provisions of the Convention, namely:

• Article 14 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	23 EU member States have made a declaration under this provision
<u>Article 22 of the Convention</u> against Torture (CAT)	23 EU member States have made a declaration under this provision
Article 31 of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)	14 EU member States have made a declaration under this provision.

1. Art.s 14 & 22: Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czechia; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden.

2. Art. 31: Austria; Belgium; Croatia; Czechia; France; Germany; Italy; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Netherlands; Portugal; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain.

*Additional information regarding state accession and /or ratification (as pertaining to member states of the EU) may be found in the table at the end of this document.

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Treaty Bodies

The EU and its member States report regularly to human rights treaty bodies on the measures they have adopted relating to the rights described in the Convention, and on the progress the State has made in upholding them.

Special Procedures

The EU and its member States support the work of special procedures and engage in international fora to strengthen their functioning and impact.

All EU member States have issued standing invitation to all thematic special procedures, announcing that they will always accept requests for visits from all special procedures mandate holders.

UPR

The EU and its member States are strongly committed to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism and to the effective implementation of UPR recommendations. During the previous three cycles, all EU member States actively participated in the UPR mechanism, contributing to its success.

18 EU member States have already undergone their review during the fourth cycle, currently underway, while the remaining 9 member States will be reviewed before the end of the cycle. So far, EU member States have received **more than 17,000 recommendations**.

In the last 5 years, the EU and its member States welcomed 37 independent experts on a country visit. Some visits are still pending. For additional information, see the [special procedures country visit database](#).

The EU and its member States also engage with special procedures through the communication procedures by responding to individual communications addressed to them. In the last 5 years, the EU, its member States and other actors received and addressed more than 350 cases of alleged human rights violations sent by thematic and country mandates. For additional information, see the [special procedures communication database](#).



European Union

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic report of the European Union (2025)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Concluding observations on the initial report of the European Union (2015)

Universal Periodic Review

The European Union is not subject to the UPR

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- SR on minorities (2026)
- SR on disabilities (2023)
- SR extreme poverty (2021)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Not applicable

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: None

Austria

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee against Torture - [Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Austria \(2024\)](#)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - [Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Austria \(2023\)](#)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - [Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Austria \(2020\)](#)

Universal Periodic Review

Austria has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 51, in January of 2026 where it received 292 recommendations from 103 States.

Universal Periodic Review - [Austria](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- WG on mercenaries (2018)
- IE on older persons (2015)
- SR on Iran (2014)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CESCR – 80th Session (28 Sep 2026 - 16 Oct 2026) [dates to be confirmed]

Universal Periodic Review

Austria will next be reviewed during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Belgium

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on Enforced Disappearances - [Concluding observations on the additional information submitted by Belgium under article 29 \(4\) of the Convention \(2025\)](#)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - [Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Belgium \(2024\)](#)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Belgium \(2022\)](#)

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - [Concluding observations on the combined twentieth to twenty-second periodic reports of Belgium \(2021\)](#)

Universal Periodic Review

Belgium has undergone three cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was reviewed by UPR WG 38, in May of 2021. It received 308 recommendations and it supported 251 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 48, in September 2021 (an increase of 35.67 per cent with respect to the 2nd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Belgium](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement (2025)
- WG on people of African Descent (2019)
- SR on human rights and counter terrorism (2018)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CCPR – 145th Session (28 – 19 March 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Belgium will be reviewed by UPR WG 52, in May 2026.

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Bulgaria

Croatia

TIMELINE - PAST

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Rights of the Child - [Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Bulgaria](#) (2024)

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - [Concluding observations on the combined twenty-third to twenty-fifth periodic reports of Bulgaria](#) (2023)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Bulgaria](#) (2020)

Universal Periodic Review

Bulgaria has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 50, in November 2025. Bulgaria received 256 recommendations made by 88 States.

Universal Periodic Review - [Bulgaria](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- SR on violence against women and girls (2019)
- SR on sale of children (2019)
- IE on minorities (2011)

Treaty bodies

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - [Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Croatia](#) (2025)

Human Rights Committee - [Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Croatia](#) (2024)

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - [Concluding observations on the combined ninth to fourteenth periodic reports of Croatia](#) (2023)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Croatia](#) (2015)

Universal Periodic Review

Croatia has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 50, in November 2025. Croatia received 216 recommendations made by 74 States.

Universal Periodic Review - [Croatia](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2003

Last three visits:

- IE on international solidarity (2023)
- SR on truth (2021)
- SR on health (2016)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Bulgaria will next be reviewed during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Croatia will next be reviewed during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Cyprus

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Cyprus (2024)

Human Rights Committee - Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Cyprus (2023)

Committee against Torture - Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Cyprus (2019)

Universal Periodic Review

Cyprus has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was reviewed by UPR WG 46, in April of 2024. It received 236 recommendations and it supported 199 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 57, in September 2024 (an increase of 22.1 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - Cyprus

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- WG on mercenaries (2025)
- WG on disappearances (2022)
- SR on cultural rights (2016)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CRPD 34th session (9 - 27 March 2026)
- CERD 117th session (13 Apr 2026 - 01 May 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Cyprus will next be reviewed during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Czechia

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on Enforced Disappearances - Concluding observations on the report submitted by Czechia under article 29 (1) of the Convention (2022)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Czechia (2021)

Human Rights Committee - Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Czechia (2019)

Universal Periodic Review

Czechia has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 42, in January of 2023. It received 242 recommendations and it supported 207 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 53, in July 2023 (an increase of 16,292 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - Czechia

Special procedures

Last visits:

- SR on sale of children (1996)
- SR on racism (1999)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CEDAW 92nd Session (02 Feb 2026 - 20 Feb 2026)
- CCPR – 145th Session (28 – 19 March 2026)
- CRPD 35th Session (09 Aug 2026 - 28 Aug 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Czechia will next be reviewed during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Denmark

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Denmark (2024)

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Concluding observations on the combined twenty-second to twenty-fourth periodic reports of Denmark (2022)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of Denmark (2021)

Universal Periodic Review

Denmark has undergone three cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was reviewed by UPR WG 38, in May of 2021. It received 288 recommendations and it supported 202 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 48, in September 2021 (an increase of 65.57 per cent with respect to the 2nd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Denmark](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

Last three visits:

- IE on international solidarity (2024)
- SR on Indigenous Peoples (2023)
- SR on toxics and human rights (2017)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CED – 30th session (09 Mar 2026 - 19 Mar 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Denmark will be reviewed by UPR WG 52, in April-May 2026.

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

NATIONAL MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION, REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP

Interministerial Human Rights Committee (IHRC), established in December 2014 by a government decision.

The IHRC meets four to five times per year. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the chair and serves as a secretariat of the IHRC. The Ministries of Justice, Finance, Interior and Social Affairs, and Immigration and Integration were originally the permanent members of the IHRC, while the participation of other ministries in meetings was ad hoc, depending on the substance discussed. However, in practice all ministries participate in almost every meeting and now all ministries are considered members of the IHRC. The mandate of the IHRC is to coordinate the national reporting and follow-up to the UN, as well as the work in the UN Human Rights Council. Engagement with other supranational human rights bodies, in particular follow-up to decisions by the European Court of Human Rights, are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

The IHRC coordinates national reporting and tracks follow up, and each line ministry is responsible for the implementation of human rights within their own field. The mandate of the IHRC does not include engagement and follow-up to UN individual communications procedures, which are dealt with by the relevant line ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The IHRC has also been used as a forum to consult ministries ahead of the resolutions negotiated at the UN level. This is reportedly appreciated by line ministries who can input to UN normative developments, and not just be solicited when the government is held accountable for the implementation of international norms.

Denmark is a member of the 'Group of Friends of NMIRFs of the UN Human Rights Council' – although this task is coordinated by the Danish Permanent Representation in Geneva rather than by the IHRC itself.

Estonia

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Estonia](#) (2024)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - [Concluding observations on the initial report of Estonia](#) (2021)

Human Rights Committee - [Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Estonia](#) (2019)

Universal Periodic Review

Estonia has undergone three cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 38, in May of 2021. It received 274 recommendations and it supported 192 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 48, in September 2021 (an increase of 35.21 per cent with respect to the 2nd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Estonia](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

In the last five years, Estonia has not received any visit by special procedures mandate holders.

- SR on sale of children (2008)
- SR on racism (2007)
- SR on Belarus (2005)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CESCR – 80th session (28 Sep 2026 - 16 Oct 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Estonia will be reviewed by UPR WG 52, in April-May 2026.

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Finland

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - [Concluding observations on the initial report of Finland](#) (2025)

Committee against Torture - [Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Finland](#) (2024)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - [Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Finland](#) (2023)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - [Concluding observations on the report submitted by Finland under article 12 \(1\) of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography](#) (2023)

Universal Periodic Review

Finland has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 41, in November of 2022. It received 229 recommendations and it supported 168 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 52, in March 2023 (an increase of 40 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Finland](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

Last three visits:

- SR on truth (2024)
- SR on education (2023)
- IE on older persons (2021)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Finland will be reviewed next during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

France

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee against Torture - [Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of France](#) (2025)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - [Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of France](#) (2023)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of France](#) (2023)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - [Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of France](#) (2023)

Universal Periodic Review

France has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 43, in May 2023. It received 355 recommendations, and it supported 274 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 54, in September 2023 (an increase of 14 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [France](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- SR on rights to water and sanitation (2020)
- SR housing (2019)
- SR on human rights and counter terrorism (2018)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

France will be reviewed next during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Germany

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - [Concluding observations on the combined twenty-third to twenty-sixth reports of Germany](#) (2023)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - [Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Germany](#) (2023)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of Germany](#) (2023)

Universal Periodic Review

Germany has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 44, in November of 2023. It received 346 recommendations and it supported 283 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 55, in March 2024 (an increase of 35 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Germany](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

In the last five years, Germany received five visits by special procedures mandate holders:

- SR on freedom of expression (Jan 2026)
- SR on development (November 2025)
- SR on sale of children (2024)
- SR on human rights and counter terrorism (2023)
- SR on cultural rights (2022)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Germany will be reviewed next during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visit: None

Greece

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Concluding observations on the combined twenty-third and twenty-fourth periodic reports of Greece (2024)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - Concluding observations on the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Greece (2024)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Concluding observations on the initial report of Greece (2019)

Committee against Torture - Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Greece (2019)

Universal Periodic Review

Greece has undergone three cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 39, in November of 2021. It received 239 recommendations and it supported 216 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 49, in March 2022 (an increase of 2 4.9 % with respect to the 2nd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Greece](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- WG on mercenaries (2022)
- SR on HR defenders (2022)
- WG on arbitrary detention (2019)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Greece will be reviewed by UPR WG 53, in October-November 2026.

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Hungary

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of Hungary (2023)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Hungary (2020)

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Concluding observations on the combined eighteenth to twenty-fifth periodic reports of Hungary (2019)

Universal Periodic Review

Hungary has undergone three cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 39, in November of 2021. It received 267 recommendations and it supported 131 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 49, in March 2022 (a decrease of 30.7 per cent with respect to the 2nd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Hungary](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- SR on education (March 2025)
- SR on freedom of religion (2024)
- SR on freedom of expression (2021)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CCPR – 145th Session (28 – 19 March 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Hungary will be reviewed by UPR WG 53, in October-November 2026.

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Ireland

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Ireland (2025)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Ireland (2024)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Ireland (2023)

Human Rights Committee - Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Ireland (2023)

Universal Periodic Review

Ireland has undergone three cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 39, in November of 2021. It received 260 recommendations and it supported 221 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 49, in March 2022 (an increase of 26 per cent with respect to the 2nd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Ireland](#)

Special Procedures

Last three visits:

- SR on Environment ([February 2026](#))
- SR on sale of children (2018)
- SR on HR defenders (2012)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CRPD - 34th session (09 Mar 2026 - 27 Mar 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Ireland will be reviewed by UPR WG 53, in October-November 2026.

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none



Italy

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Italy \(2024\)](#)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Italy (2022)

Committee on Enforced Disappearances - [Concluding observations on the report submitted by Italy under article 29 \(1\) of the Convention \(2019\)](#)

Universal Periodic Review

Italy has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 48, in January 2025.

Universal Periodic Review - [Italy](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality (2024)
- SR on toxics and human rights (2021)
- WG on business and human rights (2021)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CAT - 84th session (13 Apr 2026 - 01 May 2026) [to be confirmed]
- CED – 31st session (14 Sep 2026 - 24 Sep 2026) [to be confirmed]

Universal Periodic Review

Italy will be reviewed next during the fifth cycle of UPR (2027-2032)

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

NATIONAL MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION, REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP

Italy's standing national mechanism is the Interministerial Committee for Human Rights (in Italian, Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani), established by Ministerial Decree and housed within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CIDU coordinates Italy's engagement with international and regional human rights mechanisms and includes representatives from nearly all ministries, local governments, and statistical bodies.

Institutional setup and mandates

The CIDU was established by Ministerial Decree No. 519/1978 and integrated by Ministerial Decree No. 2000/517/2013 within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation adopted on 5 September 2013.

Composition

CIDU's members are appointed from their respective Administrations or bodies, at the highest level (by the Minister or his/her Chef of Cabinet or by the Secretary-General or General Directors). CIDU gathers representatives from: Presidency of the Council of Ministers; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Health; Ministry on Economic Development; Ministry of Defence; Ministry on Environment; Ministry on Agriculture; Ministry on Cultural Heritage; National Office against Racial Discrimination; Superior Council of the Judiciary (CSM); National Office of Statistics (ISTAT); Carabinieri Corps; Revenue Guards Corps (Guardia di Finanza); National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI); Union of Italian Provinces (UPI); Conference of Regions and Autonomous Provinces; Italian Society for International Organizations (SIOI)); CREA; CNEL; Italian Commission-UNESCO.

Secretariat

CIDU has a permanent Secretariat. The CIDU Secretariat includes a Secretary-General, who is an external figure appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and human rights consultants recruited among lawyers and university professors with a sound experience in Human Rights. Finally, three eminent personalities from the academic and scientific world, appointed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, are also members of CIDU.

Mandate

CIDU ensures the coordination of the Italian government action with regard to its obligations under international human rights agreements, and in particular the Conventions to which Italy is a party. Within the United Nations framework, CIDU engages with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Committees (Treaty Bodies) established under the various Conventions, as well as the Human Rights Council mechanisms, including Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review.

At a regional level, CIDU interacts with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), based in Vienna, and the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), based in Strasbourg. In these two institutions, CIDU's President acts as National Liaison Officer (NLO). Within the Council of Europe, CIDU engages also with the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), coordinating the country visits.

Latvia

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Human Rights Committee - [Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Latvia](#) (2025)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - [Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Latvia](#) (2021)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of Latvia](#) (2020)

Committee against Torture - [Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Latvia](#) (2019)

Universal Periodic Review

Latvia has undergone three cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 38, in May of 2021. It received 244 recommendations and it supported 145 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 48, in September 2021 (an increase of 14.17 per cent with respect to the 2nd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Latvia](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

Last three visits:

- IE on foreign debt (2012)
- SR on sale of children (2008)
- SR on racism (2007)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CRPD - 22nd Pre-sessional Working Group (28 Aug 2026 - 31 Aug 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Latvia will be reviewed by UPR WG 52, in April-May 2026.

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

FREEDOM,
EQUALITY
AND JUSTICE
FOR ALL

Lithuania

Luxembourg

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Lithuania (2024)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Lithuania (2023)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Lithuania (2019)

Universal Periodic Review

Lithuania has undergone three cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 40, in January of 2022. It received 232 recommendations and it supported 214 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 50, in July 2022 (an increase of 39.9 per cent with respect to the 2nd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Lithuania](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

Last visits:

- Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (2024)
- SR on privacy (2022)
- SR on racism (2007)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CEDAW 92nd Session (02 Feb 2026 - 20 Feb 2026)
- CESCR – 79th session (09 Feb 2026 - 25 Feb 2026)
- CRPD 35th Session (09 Aug 2026 - 28 Aug 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Lithuania will be reviewed by UPR WG 54, in January-February 2027.

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Luxembourg (2025)

Committee against Torture - Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Luxembourg (2024)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Luxembourg (2022)

Human Rights Committee - Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Luxembourg (2022)

Universal Periodic Review

Luxembourg has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 43, in May 2023. It received 254 recommendations and it supported 232 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 54, in September 2023 (an increase of 71 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Luxembourg](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

In the last five years, Luxembourg received two visits by special procedures mandate holders:

- SR on health (2023)
- WG on business and human rights (2022)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CRPD 34th Session (09 Mar 2026 - 27 Mar 2026)
- CAT 84th Session (13 Apr 2026 - 01 May 2026) [tbc]

Universal Periodic Review

Luxembourg will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Malta

Netherlands

TIMELINE - PAST

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on Enforced Disappearances - Concluding observations on the report submitted by Malta under article 29 (1) of the Convention (2025)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the combined third to sixth periodic reports of Malta (2019)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Concluding observations on the initial report of Malta (2018)

Universal Periodic Review

Malta has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 45, in January 2024. It received 232 recommendations and it supported 181 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 56, in July 2024 (an increase of 48,4 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Malta](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

Last three visits:

- WG on discrimination against women and girls (2023)
- WG on arbitrary detention (2015)
- SR on migrants (2014)

Treaty bodies

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2025)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Concluding observations on the initial report of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2024)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2022)

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Concluding observations on the combined twenty-second to twenty-fourth periodic reports of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2021)

Universal Periodic Review

The Netherlands has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 41, in November of 2022. It received 254 recommendations and it supported 165 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 52, in March 2023 (an increase of 58.65 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Netherlands](#)

Special procedures

Standing invitation to all thematic special procedures: March 2001

Last three visits:

- SR on housing (2023)
- SR on racism (2019)
- SR on freedom of religion (2019)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Malta will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CEDAW 92nd Session (02 Feb 2026 - 20 Feb 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Netherlands will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Poland

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Poland (2024)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Poland (2021)

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - Concluding observations on the combined twenty-second to twenty-fourth periodic reports of Poland (2019)

Committee against Torture - Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Poland (2019)

Universal Periodic Review

Poland has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 41, in November of 2022. It received 233 recommendations and it supported 89 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 52, in March 2023 (a decrease of 38.19 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Poland](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- IE on SOGI (2024)
- SR on violence against women and girls (2023)
- SR on migrants (2022)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Poland will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits:

- SR on independence of judges (May 2026)



Portugal

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - [Concluding observations on the combined eighteenth and nineteenth periodic reports of Portugal](#) (2023)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - [Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Portugal](#) (2023)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the tenth periodic report of Portugal](#) (2022)

Universal Periodic Review

Portugal has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 47, in November 2024.

Universal Periodic Review - [Portugal](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- IE on albinism (2025)
- SR on environment (2022)
- WG on people of African Descent (2021)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CESCR – 80th session (28 Sep 2026 - 16 Oct 2026) [to be confirmed]

Universal Periodic Review

Portugal will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up

Portuguese National Human Rights Committee (Interministerial coordination body)

Standing NMIRF with Budget, secretariat. Enlarged mandate. In terms of membership having the NHRI as an observer is a good practice.

NATIONAL MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION, REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP

Portugal has a permanent standing national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, entitled the National Human Rights Committee (Comissão Nacional para os Direitos Humanos). All information on the Committee can be found on its [website](#).

Institutional setup and mandates

The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) was established by [Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 27/2010](#).

It is composed of representatives from 18 government areas, each of which nominates a focal point and a deputy focal point. There is, however, flexibility to add extra contact points. The NHRC also includes 4 permanent observers:

- Parliament
- the Public Prosecutor's Office
- the Ombudsperson
- the National Association of Portuguese Municipalities.

The President of the NHRC is the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation while the Vice-President is the Deputy Director-General for Foreign Policy, responsible for multilateral affairs.

Secretariat

The Human Rights Unit (which is part of the Department for Multilateral Political Organizations at the Directorate-General for Foreign Policy of Portugal's Ministry for Foreign Affairs) serves as the Executive Secretariat of the NHRC. The Unit is headed by a career diplomat and is currently composed of five desk officers as well as an intern. Two of these desk officers hold responsibility for the Committee's Executive Secretariat, including managing daily communications via the Secretariat's email inbox.

Mandate

The law which created the NHRC provides it with seven tasks:

1. guaranteeing interministerial coordination to define Portugal's positions in multilateral human rights fora and to ensure the fulfilling of its international human rights obligations;
2. monitoring the implementation of Portugal's international human rights obligations by line ministries;
3. proposing the adoption of internal measures (whether of a legislative or non-legislative nature) to comply with Portugal's international human rights obligations;
4. ensuring the timely submission of reports to multilateral human rights mechanisms;
5. proposing Portugal's ratification of international human rights instruments;
6. promoting and disseminating good practices, both those developed in Portugal and those observed internationally, with a view to their potential adaptation or implementation at the national level;
7. promoting the dissemination of knowledge and initiatives on human rights, including studies and events.

As such, this broad mandate allows the NHRC to engage with all international human rights monitoring mechanisms, both at the UN level (Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, Universal Periodic, Human Rights Council, etc.) and at the regional level (namely the Council of Europe).

Romania

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the combined six and seventh periodic reports of Romania (2025)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Romania (2024)

Committee against Torture - Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Romania (2023)

Universal Periodic Review

Romania has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 43, in May 2023. It received 251 recommendations and it supported 208 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 54, in September 2023 (an increase of 24 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Romania](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- WG on discrimination against women and girls (2020)
- SR on extreme poverty (2015)
- SR on independence of judges (2011)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

- CAT - 84th session (13 Apr 2026 - 01 May 2026) [to be confirmed]
- CRPD - 22nd Pre-sessional Working Group (28 Aug 2026 - 31 Aug 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Romania will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Slovakia

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Rights of the Child - Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Slovakia (2025)

Committee against Torture - Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Slovakia (2023)

Committee against Torture - Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Slovakia (2023).

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Slovakia (2023)

Universal Periodic Review

Slovakia has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 46, in May of 2024. It received 242 recommendations and it supported 192 recommendations at the adoption of its UPR outcome at Human Rights Council 57, in September 2024 (an increase of 9.1 per cent with respect to the 3rd cycle).

Universal Periodic Review - [Slovakia](#)

Special procedures

Slovakia received a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers in 2000.

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CCPR 145 Session (02 Mar 2026 - 19 Mar 2026)
- CAT 84th session (13 Apr 2026 - 01 May 2026)
- CRPD 35th Session (09 Aug 2026 - 28 Aug 2026)
- CESC – 80th session (28 Sep 2026 - 16 Oct 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Slovakia will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Slovenia

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee against Torture - [Concluding observations on the fourth periodic report of Slovenia](#) (2023)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Slovenia](#) (2023)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - [Concluding observations on the initial report of Slovenia](#) (2018)

Universal Periodic Review

Slovenia has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 48, in January 2025.

Universal Periodic Review - [Slovenia](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- SR on environment (2022)
- SR on minority issues (2018)
- IE on older persons (2014)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CERD 117th session (13 Apr 2026 - 01 May 2026) [dates tbc]
- CRC 101st Session (01 Sep 2026 - 30 Sep 2026)

Universal Periodic Review

Slovenia will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

NATIONAL MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION, REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP

Slovenia's National Mechanism for Implementation, Reporting and Follow-up (NMIRF) is the Inter-departmental Commission on Human Rights (ICHR), composed of representatives from government ministries, statistical and law enforcement bodies, civil society, and academia. It coordinates reporting to international human rights mechanisms and monitors implementation of obligations.

Institutional setup

The Inter-departmental Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) was established by a Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia No. 01201-2/2013/4, which was amended by Decisions No. 01201-2/2013/10, No. 01201-1/2015/3 and No. 01201-4/2024/3. These are not available in English.

The Inter-departmental Commission on Human Rights (ICHR) includes representatives from the following ministries and departments: Office of the Prime Minister; All line ministries; National Statistical Office; Police; Office for National Minorities; Office for the Support and Integration of Migrants; Civil society and academia.

Secretariat

There is no permanent secretariat. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs nominates the president and secretary and coordinates the work.

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs nominates the president and secretary of the ICHR and furthermore organizes and coordinates its work. The relevant line ministries draft reports and follow up on recommendations but these are debated and confirmed by the ICHR prior to being adopted by the Government.

Mandate

The Terms of Reference were defined in the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia No. 01201-2/2013/4, which established the ICHR. These are as follows:

The ICHR coordinates reporting to ratified international instruments for the protection of human rights and freedoms, reporting based on other mechanisms, and monitors the implementation of accepted obligations in the field of human rights.

The ICHR cooperates with the representatives of other institutions and civil society and, if necessary, invites them to its meetings.

Every second year, the ICHR reports on its work to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and, if necessary, proposes relevant decisions to it for adoption.

Spain

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Human Rights Committee - [Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Spain \(2025\)](#)

Committee against Torture - [Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Spain \(2023\)](#)

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - [Concluding observations on the ninth periodic report of Spain \(2023\)](#)

Committee on Enforced Disappearances - [Concluding observations on the additional information submitted by Spain under article 29 \(4\) of the Convention \(2021\)](#)

Universal Periodic Review

Spain has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 48, in May 2025. It received 324 recommendations made by 120 States.

Universal Periodic Review - [Spain](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- SR on extreme poverty (2020)
- SR on minority issues (2019)
- WG on people of African Descent (2018)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

Forthcoming reviews:

- CRC 100th Session (12 Jan 2026 - 30 Jan 2026)
- CAT 84th session (13 Apr 2026 - 01 May 2026) [to be confirmed]
- CERD 118th session (10 Aug 2026 - 28 Aug 2026) [to be confirmed]

Universal Periodic Review

Spain will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

Sweden

TIMELINE - PAST

Treaty bodies

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - [Concluding observations on the combined twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth periodic reports of Sweden \(2025\)](#)

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - [Concluding observations on the combined second and third periodic reports of Sweden \(2024\)](#)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - [Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Sweden \(2024\)](#)

Committee on the Rights of the Child - [Concluding observations on the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Sweden \(2023\)](#)

Universal Periodic Review

Sweden has undergone four cycles under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

It was last reviewed by UPR WG 49, in May 2025. It received 315 recommendations from 101 States.

Universal Periodic Review - [Sweden](#)

Special procedures

Last three visits:

- SR on truth (2024)
- SR on freedom of religion (2023)
- Expert Mechanism on Racial Justice and Equality (2022)

TIMELINE - FUTURE

Treaty bodies

No reviews foreseen for 2026

Universal Periodic Review

Sweden will be reviewed next during the fifth UPR cycles (2027-2032).

Special procedures

Forthcoming visits: none

EU State accession and /or ratification

Convention	Optional Protocol	Status	States yet to Accede or Ratify
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)		Ratified by all EU member States.	
	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OP-ICCPR)	Ratified by all EU member States.	
	Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2)	Status: Ratified by all EU member States.	
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)		Status: Ratified by all EU member States.	
	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR)	Ratified by 9 EU member States	Belgium; Finland; France; Germany; Italy; Luxembourg; Portugal; Slovakia; Spain.
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)		Status: Ratified by all EU member States.	
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)		Status: Ratified by all EU member States.	
	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (OP-CEDAW)	Ratified by most EU member States	
Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)		Status: Ratified by all EU member States.	
	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT)	Ratified by most EU member States	Belgium and Ireland have signed, but not yet ratified
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)		Ratified by all EU member States	
	Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC)	Ratified by all EU member States	
	Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OP-CRC-SC)	Ratified by most EU member States	Ireland has signed, but not yet ratified
	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC)	Ratified by 15 EU member States	Belgium; Croatia; Cyprus; Czechia; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Ireland; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Portugal; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain.
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW)		Not ratified by any EU member States	
International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)		Ratified or acceded to by 19 EU member States	Austria; Belgium; Croatia; Czechia; Denmark; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Italy; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; Poland (accession); Portugal; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain. Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and Sweden have signed, but not yet ratified, the Convention, while Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have taken no action to become party to it.
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)		Ratified by all EU member States and by the European Union	The CRPD was the first international human rights treaty that was open to the participation of signatory regional integration organisations by virtue of article 43 of the Convention.
	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OP-CRPD)	Ratified by 22 EU member States.	Austria; Belgium; Croatia; Cyprus; Czechia; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Italy; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Portugal; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden.

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UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS

Regional Office Europe