Model pledges

States

Cities

Local and regional governments

*All participants – including States, CSOs, international and regional organizations and mechanisms, national human rights institutions, academic institutions, experts and other professionals – are encouraged to register pledges to demonstrate their commitment to the global fight against enforced disappearance and readiness to take action.*

*Pledges will also allow to make and measure progress towards the goal of eliminating enforced disappearance everywhere in the world.*

*Pledges’ content should fulfil the following criteria:*

* *Pursue the overall goal i.e. the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance;*
* *Be developed in consultation with stakeholders, especially victims;*
* *Be action-oriented and outline concrete actions;*
* *State clear, measurable commitment(s);*
* *Provide a timeframe.*

*To facilitate the drafting process, these model pledges have been provided by the WCED team. Pledging entities are invited to pick the elements that best correspond to their situation and adapt the model texts to their individual priorities and contexts.*

*The list is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. Please feel free to use it as guide.*

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# Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks to fight against impunity and ensure accountability

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Sign the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

*The pledge refers to activity 1.1 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Ratify the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

*The pledge refers to activity 1.1 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Recognize the competence of the Committee against Enforced Disappearances to examine individual and inter-State communications (articles 31 and 32 of the Convention).

*The pledge refers to activities 1.2 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Consult and involve civil society, including victims and their families, and the NHRI in processes related to the ratification and domestication of the Convention.

*The pledge refers to activity 5.11 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Develop a plan to implement the Convention, including taking concrete measures to ensure that the appropriate legal framework, policies and practices for the prohibition and criminalization of enforced disappearances and the protection of the rights of victims, are in place.

*The pledge refers to activity 1.3 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Adopt legislation to make enforced disappearance a separate offence; making a clear distinction from other concepts such as abduction, kidnapping, disappearance and missing person.

*The pledge refers to activities 1.3.1 and 5.5 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Adopt legislation to recognize the status of “disappeared person” and provide family members with a “certificate of absence".

*The pledge refers to activity 1.3.2 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Strengthen the legal framework at domestic level by adopting legislation focused on the protection of family members, human rights defenders, civil society actors, journalists and anyone working on the issue of enforced disappearances, whenever relevant.

*The pledge refers to activities 4.1, and 4.3 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Establish strong safeguards and mechanisms to protect victims (including family members) and those who assist them (including witnesses in relevant processes) from reprisals.
* Ensure that actions that criminalize, intimidate persecute or stigmatize disappeared persons, their families or the people that support them are investigated and that the perpetrators are punished.
* Support the mandate of international mechanisms set up to protect against reprisals.

*The pledge refers to activities 4.2 and 4.5 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Establish a nationwide register of disappeared persons, accessible to all relevant stakeholders.
* Establish and/or contribute to regional and international interconnected databases of verifiable statistics on the number of forcibly disappeared persons.

*The pledge refers to activities 2.6 and 2.7 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Allocate the means necessary to ensure efficient search processes.

*The pledge refers to activity 2.5 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

# Empowering victims

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Ensure that a gender-based perspective and the rights of persons in vulnerable situations are fully integrated in actions and strategies related to the prevention of and protection from enforced disappearance.

*The pledge refers to activities 3.2 and 3.3 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Consult and involve civil society (including victims, their families and their representatives) in relevant processes and efforts.

*The pledge refers to activity 5.11 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Support, consult and involve civil society (notably victims, their families and their representatives) during search and investigation processes, including forensic investigation processes.

*The pledge refers to activities 2.1, 2.4 and 3.1 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Provide, facilitate access to and/or strengthen legal support to victims; and promote access to legal remedies at the national, regional and international levels.

*The pledge refers to activity 3.6 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Ensure that all persons deprived of liberty have access to a lawyer from the first moment after arrest.

*The pledge refers to activity 4.4 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Provide adequate socio-economic and psychosocial support to victims that takes into account the specificity of human rights violations related to enforced disappearances; and its disproportionate impact on women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

*The pledge refers to activity 3.7 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Establish and implement programmes of integral reparations for victims and their families – including fair and adequate compensation, restitution, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

*The pledge refers to activity 7.3 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institutions commits to:

* Support the creation of a welfare fund for the rehabilitation, reparation and redress of victims and their families.

*The pledge refers to activities 3.11 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institutions commits to:

* Support the creation and/or strengthening of national victim-led solidarity networks.
* Support the creation of a permanent platform for victims’ families and NGOs to exchange experiences, receive psychological and legal support.
* Support the creation of a solidarity fund for family member to travel, meet and support each other.

*The pledge refers to activities 3.4, 3.5, 3.12 and 8.5 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Take concrete action to emphasize the importance of acknowledging the past and recognizing past injustices.
* Take concrete action to emphasize the importance of sharing and storytelling, which are key to healing but also to non-recurrence.

*The pledge refers to activities 7.1 and 7.2 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Commemorate the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims on 24 March.
* Commemorate the International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances on 30 August.

*The pledge refers to activities 3.13 and 3.14 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Provide public support to victims; and set up public policies and campaigns to counter social stigma and discrimination.

*The pledge refers to activity 3.8 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Name streets, schools, public spaces after disappeared persons and “champions” of the fight against enforced disappearances.
* Preserve memory by turning places of detention into museums or other memory places.

*The pledge refers to activities 7.5 and 7.6 of the proposed Action Plan..*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

# Raising awareness, training and education about enforced disappearances and existing mechanisms

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Build and strengthen the capacities of relevant officials by organizing specific trainings on enforced disappearance and relevant instruments and mechanisms.

*The pledge refers to activities 5.1 and 5.2 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Build and strengthen the capacities of the judiciary by organizing specific training of judges, lawyers and law enforcement officials on the crime of enforced disappearances, related forensics and relevant instruments and mechanisms.

*The pledge refers to activities 2.2, 5.2 and 5.12 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Raise awareness in schools and universities by including in university curricula the teaching and dissemination of, and research into, topics related to the disappearance of persons, from a multidisciplinary standpoint, that includes an accurate account of violations that occurred.

*The pledge refers to activities 5.14 and 7.7 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Support artistic and cultural initiatives to inspire action.

*The pledge refers to activities 5.17 and 7.8 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Provide family members, journalists and researchers with unimpeded access to information, including archives.

*The pledge refers to activities 2.8 and 7.4 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Disseminate publicly the outcome of inquiries performed by truth commissions, where relevant.

*The pledge refers to activity 7.9 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

# Enhancing cooperation and partnership

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Provide other States with technical assistance to address misconceptions about and promote ratification and implementation of the Convention and all other instruments and standards related to enforced disappearances.
* Strengthen intergovernmental cooperation and learning exchanges with other States to share good practices in relation to the ratification and implementation of the Convention and other instruments and standards related to enforced disappearances.

*The pledge refers to activities 5.5, 5.9, 5.10, 8.1 and 8.2 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Support regional and international mechanisms mandated to combat enforced disappearances.

*The pledge refers to activity 8.7 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Enhance coordination and cooperation at the regional and international levels in connection with forensic capacities, the search of disappeared persons and criminal proceedings.
* Enhance international cooperation to assist victims of enforced disappearances.

*The pledge refers to activities 1.4, 1.5, 2.3 and 2.9 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Support the creation and/or strengthening of regional and international victim-led solidarity networks.

*The pledge refers to activity 8.4 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY

Pledge number

The State/institution commits to:

* Support the creation of a global alliance of young people against enforced disappearances.

*The pledge refers to activities 6.2 and 8.6 of the proposed Action Plan.*

**Indicators for measuring progress**: [if applicable]

**Resource implications**: The State/institution will determine the resources that may be required to carry out this pledge based on the objectives they set and the actions they choose to take in their specific context.

**Expected deadline within which the pledge will be realized**: DD/MM/YYYY