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**Sharing experiences and providing input  
to the World Congress against Enforced Disappearances**

**Online regional consultations with CSOs from Africa  
Thursday 16 May**

The Gambia	10:00-13:00 GMT
Benin, Chad, UK	11:00-14:00 WAT
South Africa, Geneva	12:00-15:00 SAST/CEST
Kenya	13:00-16:00 EAT

*With translation in English and French*

One of the objectives of the multi-actor [World Congress on Enforced Disappearances to be held from 14 to 16 January 2025 in Geneva](#) is to put families and CSOs back at the centre of the joint efforts for the ratification and implementation of the Convention.

To facilitate their contribution to the World Congress, CEDI, in partnership with OHCHR, is organising a series of online regional consultations with families of the disappeared, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions, in May-June 2024. A questionnaire has been shared through networks in the regions prior to the consultations. The responses inform the consultations.

In parallel, preparatory regional consultations will be held amongst States parties and non-parties to the Convention with the similar objective to inform the preparation of the World Congress.

[Online consultations](#) with CSOs are being organised in the following regions:

Asia on 3 May 2024, 10:00-13:00 CEST

Africa on 16 May 2024, 12:00-15:00 CEST

Middle East and North Africa on 31 May 2024, 10:00-13:00 CEST

Europe on 14 June 2024, 10:00-13:00 CEST

Latin America and Caribbean on 27 June, 16:00-19:00 CEST

### **Objectives**

- Provide a space for victims, their families, civil society organizations, and national human rights institutions to share practices, stories and challenges in the fight against enforced disappearances, including ratification and implementation of the Convention;
- Identify the key priorities they would like to be addressed at the World Congress;
- Discuss the way victims, including families, CSOs and national human rights institutions could be further involved in the campaign for the ratification and implementation of the Convention;
- Discuss their contribution to the World Congress and gather concrete proposals for way forward (how to encourage their participation, how their work could be better supported and strengthened, which thematic issues should be addressed as a matter of priority, through which activities, etc.)

### **Results**

- CEDI will prepare a report on the consultations that will be shared with participants and actors involved in the World Congress and published on the WCED website ([www.edworldcongress.org](http://www.edworldcongress.org))
- The ideas and priorities shared by victims, families, CSOs and NHRIs will inform the organisation of the World Congress.

### **How to contribute**

All victims, CSOs and NHRIs from the region are invited to [register](#) to attend online.

Due to time constraints, only a limited number of participants will be able to take the floor.

All victims, CSOs and NHRIs who wish to provide their input are invited to **send written contributions by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024** via the [website](#) or at [wced@cedi193.org](mailto:wced@cedi193.org). Contributions will be reflected in the report on the regional consultation.

Written contributions should address the objectives of the regional consultations: share practices, stories and challenges in the fight against enforced disappearances, including ratification and implementation of the Convention. Please send us your suggestions about issues to address, lessons learned and practices that could be shared, topics for roundtables, workshops, and other parallel events that could be organized during the World Congress.

## Draft Programme

### **Welcome and presentation of the World Congress**

#### ***Bienvenu et présentation du Congrès mondial***

Claire Callejon, CEDI Project Manager

### **Presentation of ratification and implementation status of the Convention in the region**

#### ***Présentation de la situation de la ratification et de la mise en œuvre de la Convention dans la région***

Ms. Charlotte Campo, Human Rights Officer, OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa

### **Session 1: Ratification and implementation of the Convention: best practices and challenges**

#### ***Ratification et mise en oeuvre de la Convention : meilleures pratiques et difficultés***

Facilitated by Mr. Fidelis Edge Kanyongolo, Member of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances

- The Gambia

Ms. Isatou Jammeh, Programs Officer, Gambia Center for Victims of Human Rights Violations

[The participation of victim-led organizations in the domestication of the Convention and Missing Task Force](#)

[La participation des organisations de familles dans la domestication de la Convention et la Tas Force sur les personnes disparues](#)

Ms. Sirra Ndow, Gambia Country Representative African Network against Extrajudicial Killings and Enforced Disappearances (ANEKED)

[The involvement of families and the importance of memorialization](#)

[L'implication des familles et l'importance de la mémorialisation](#)

Mr. Emmanuel Joof, Chairperson of the Gambian National Human Rights Commission

[Lessons learned from the domestication of the Convention](#)

[Les leçons tirées de la domestication de la Convention](#)

- Sudan

Ms. Hala Al-Karib, Regional Coordinator, Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) Network

[Challenges in reporting cases of enforced disappearance of women and in supporting families](#)

[Les difficultés pour rapporter les cas de disparition forcée de femmes et pour soutenir les familles](#)

- Benin

Mr. Ralmeg Gandaho, President of Changement Social Bénin (in French)

[The contribution of civil society to the domestication of the Convention](#)

[La contribution de la société civile à la domestication de la Convention](#)

## **Session 2: Perspectives from other countries: main challenges, lessons learned and why ratification of the Convention is necessary**

Facilitated by Ms. Aua Baldé, Chair-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

- Kenya

Mr. Demas Kiprono, Acting Executive Director and Mr. Wallace M Nderu, Programme Officer, International Commission of Jurists Kenya

[Criminalization of enforced disappearance: why ratification of the Convention is necessary](#)

*La criminalisation de la disparition forcée : pourquoi la ratification de la Convention est nécessaire*

- Eritrea

Mr. Ismail Moussa and Mr. Mukhtar Ghebirrebbi, Eritrean Coordination for Human Rights

[The impact of enforced disappearance on survivors and families and specific support needed](#)

*L'impact de la disparition forcée sur les survivant.e.s et les familles et le soutien spécifique nécessaire*

- South Africa

Ms. Annah Moyo-Kupeta, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR)

[Providing psychosocial support to victims and capacity-building trainings to State and non-State actors: best practices and lessons learned](#)

*Soutien psychosocial apporté aux victimes et formations de renforcement des capacités des acteurs étatiques et non-étatiques*

- DR Congo (South Kivu)

Mr. Jean-Jacques Nganya, Director and Co-Founder of Pax Christi Uvira asbl

[Documentation of cases: challenges and what would be needed to overcome them](#)

*La documentation de cas: difficultés et comment les surmonter*

- Chad

Chadian Association for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights?

### **Conclusions**

Ms. Isatou Jammeh, Programs Officer, Gambia Center for Victims of Human Rights Violations and CEDI Advisory Board Member

[Summary of lessons learned and best practices](#)

*Résumé des leçons apprises et meilleures pratiques*

[Suggested priorities and issues to be discussed at the World Congress](#)

*Priorités et sujets suggérés pour le Congrès mondial*