



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

Online regional consultations with CSOs from Asia

Friday 3 May

Bangkok, Thailand	15:00-18:00 ICT
Kathmandu, Nepal	13:45-16:45 NPT
Dhaka, Bangladesh	14:00-17:00 BST
Manila, Philippines	16:00-19:00 PHST
Seoul, South Korea	17:00-20:00 KST
Geneva, Switzerland	10:00-13:00 CEST

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)
- 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 1st July 2024** via the [website](#) or at 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.

Programme

Welcome and opening *5 mins*

[Claire Callejon, CEDI Project Manager](#)

Presentation of the WCED *10 mins*

[Barbara Lochbihler, Member of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances](#)

Presentation of ratification and implementation status of the Convention in the region *10 mins*

[Arnaud Chaltin, OHCHR South-East Asia Regional Office](#)

Session 1. Ratification and implementation of the Convention: best practices and challenges *70 mins*

[Facilitator: Angkhana Neelapaijit, Member of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances](#)

- Promotion of the Convention: regional trends

[Jose Marie “Joey” Faustino, Secretary-General of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances \(AFAD\)](#)

From States parties:

- Sri Lanka: the role of families in promoting implementation of the Convention

[Brito Fernando, Chair of Families of the Disappeared, FOD \(AFAD\)](#)

- South Korea: legislative advocacy of implementation bill – what lessons can be learned?

[Pillkyu Hwang, Executive Director of GongGam Human Rights Law Foundation, South Korea](#)

- The Maldives: remaining obstacles to implementation and what would be needed to overcome them.

Shahindha Ismail, Founder and Executive Director of the Maldivian Democracy Network (FIDH, Forum Asia) and Moosa Rilwan, brother of forcibly disappeared journalist

From States that have pledged to ratify the Convention

- Indonesia: advocacy for ratification of the Convention. Where we stand and what would be needed for the pledge to be fulfilled?

Dimas Bagus Arya, Coordinator of KontraS (AFAD), Indonesia

- Thailand: the Prevention and Suppression of Torture and Enforced Disappearance Act: major provisions and challenges in its implementation

Phattranit Yaodam, Policy Advocacy Advisor, Amnesty International Thailand

Session 2. Perspectives from other countries: main challenges, lessons learned and why ratification of the Convention is necessary 70 mins

Facilitator: Mary Aileen Bacalso, ICAED Honorary President and CEDI Advisory Board Member

- Nepal

Victim-led initiative and organisation as children of disappeared parents

- Swastika Mali, Advocacy Forum

Transitional justice, ED development and advocating for the ratification of the Convention

- Mandira Sharma, ICJ Senior International Legal Adviser, Asia and Pacific Office and CEDI Advisory Board Member

- The Philippines

- Edita Tronqued-Burgos, Ed. D., Chairperson- Free Jonas Burgos Movement; Secretary-ICAED; Council at Large- Karapatan Alliance for the Advancement of Rights

- Louie Crismo, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance FIND (AFAD, FIDH, ICAED)

- Bangladesh

Sazzad Hussain, Programme Coordinator, Odhikar (AFAD, FIDH, ICAED)

- Pakistan

- Farhatullah Babar, Council Member, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

- Amina Masood Janjua, Wife of the Enforced Disappeared-Masood Janjua, chair Defence of Human Rights Pakistan, (EC- AFAD, Forum- ASIA, ICAED)

- Timor-Leste

Jhano Araujo, Director, Asosiasaun HAK (AFAD), Timor-Leste

Conclusions

Claire Callejon, CEDI

Summary of lessons learned, best practices and challenges

Suggested priorities and issues to be discussed at the World Congress