



WCED Pledges

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1 Armenia

Mr. Hayk Sargsyan, Head of the Humanitarian Issues Division in the Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

Armenia is committed to:

1. Further strengthening victim support, by:
 - Improving access to socio-economic, psychological, legal assistance for families of the disappeared; including offering specialized psychological support to address trauma and implementing socio-economic programs to alleviate financial hardships;
 - To ensure these efforts remain effective, establishing mechanisms to monitor and adapt these support measures to evolving needs.
2. Creating a national register of disappeared persons, by:
 - Developing a transparent and accessible database to document cases of missing and disappeared persons, to serve as a vital resource for families and investigators. The database will be developed in consultations with families and civil society, ensuring inclusivity, accuracy while maintaining strict data privacy restrictions.
3. Enhancing regional and international cooperation, by:
 - Engaging with regional and global actors to streamline search efforts, share best practices and strengthen forensic capacities;
 - Initiating joint training programs for law enforcement and forensic experts;
 - Participating in international information sharing mechanisms.

Armenia remains steadfast in its commitment to international cooperation and belief that States must rise above political differences to address the plight of the disappeared. Through collaboration and mutual understanding, we can honor the memories of the disappeared and provide justice and closure to their families.

2 Belgium

H.E Mr. Christophe Payot, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations Office and specialized institutions in Geneva

Belgium pledges to:

1. Advocate for non-States parties to ratify the Convention, for example by organizing bilateral and regional encounters to explain the benefits of becoming a State party and address misconceptions, and recommending that non States parties ratify the Convention in the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)



- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: It refers to activity 5: Raising awareness, training and education about enforced disappearances and existing mechanisms
 - Resource implications: Pledge will be fulfilled with the resources that the Belgian MFA has at its disposal
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Number of UPR recommendations made on this topic
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 1/01/2027
2. Use the diplomatic tools at its disposal, including interventions during UPR sessions, thematic debate's and others, to convince other States to recognize the competence of the committee to examine communications
- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: It refers to activity 5: Raising awareness, training and education about enforced disappearances and existing mechanisms
 - Resource implications: Pledge will be fulfilled with the resources that the Belgian MFA has at its disposal
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Number of interventions
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 1/01/2027
3. Within the coming 18 months, to organize an event where best practices can be exchanged in relation to the ratification of the Convention
- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: It refers to activity 5: Raising awareness, training and education about enforced disappearances and existing mechanisms
 - Resource implications: The resources at the disposal of the MFA to organise events.
 - Indicators used to measure progress: An event is organised by Belgium on this subject
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 31/08/2026

3 Brazil

H.E Mr. Tovar Da Silva Nunes, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Brazil pledges to:

1. Send to the Brazilian Congress the proposal of the recognition of the competence of the Committee against Enforced Disappearances to examine individual and inter-State communications (articles 31 and 32 of the Convention)
 - Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: The pledge refers to Activities 1.2 of the proposed Action Plan
 - Resource implications: n/a



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- Indicators used to measure progress: Recognition proposal submitted to Congress
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 20/12/2026
2. Develop a human remains identification protocol to address mass graves and build capacities of relevant officials on the matter.
- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: The pledge refers to activities 2.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, and 5.10 of the proposed Action Plan
 - Resource implications: Relevant and specialized professionals and government funds
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Protocol developed and capacity building initiatives implemented
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 20/12/2026
3. Ensure the issuance of accurate death certificates for victims of forced disappearance during the military dictatorship, specifying the accurate cause of death, and provide these certificates to the victims' families.
- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: The pledge refers to activities 7.1, 7.2, and 7.9 of the proposed Action Plan
 - Resource implications: Relevant and specialized professionals and government funds
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Increase the annual number of accurate death certificates delivered to the families.
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 20/12/2026

4 Chile

H.E Ms. Claudia Fuentes Julio, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

Original version (Spanish)

Es un honor representar a Chile en este Congreso, a efectos de reafirmar el compromiso de mi país en la lucha contra las desapariciones forzadas, un tema sensible y de suma importancia para el pueblo chileno.

Es por eso, que el día de hoy tengo el honor de presentar dos compromisos específicos y concretos a nombre de Chile:

1. Primero, seguiremos avanzando en la implementación del Plan Nacional de búsqueda de Verdad y Justicia, asegurando la participación de los familiares y la sociedad en su conjunto en este proceso. Esta es una política pública permanente que tiene por objetivo esclarecer las circunstancias de desaparición o muerte y destino final de las víctimas, en el marco de la dictadura civil militar ocurrida en Chile entre 1973 y 1990.
2. Segundo, y con el objetivo de avanzar en la incorporación de los estándares de la Convención Internacional para la Protección de todas las Personas contra las Desapariciones Forzadas, continuaremos impulsando dos proyectos de ley. El primero, que “introduce la calificación jurídica de ausente por desaparición forzada y crea un



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registro especial”, y que busca dar cumplimiento a las obligaciones de reconocimiento y reparación de las víctimas. El segundo, el proyecto de ley que “modifica el código penal, tipificando el delito de desaparición forzada de personas”, que tipifica este delito en tiempos de normalidad institucional, llenando así un sensible vacío en nuestra legislación, toda vez que dicho delito sólo está sancionado en la actualidad como un crimen de lesa humanidad. En ambos casos, el Poder Ejecutivo ejercerá su rol de co-legislador para impulsar estos proyectos.

Para finalizar, me gustaría señalar que Chile reafirma su compromiso permanente con la protección y promoción de los derechos humanos y reafirma su voluntad de continuar trabajando por la verdad, justicia, reparación y garantizar la no repetición de las desapariciones forzadas.

English translation

It is an honor to represent Chile at this Congress, in order to reaffirm my country's commitment to the fight against enforced disappearances, a sensitive issue of utmost importance for the Chilean people.

That is why today I have the honor of presenting two specific and concrete commitments on behalf of Chile:

1. First, we will continue to make progress in the implementation of the National Plan for the Search for Truth and Justice, ensuring the participation of family members and society as a whole in this process. This is an ongoing public policy that aims to clarify the circumstances of the disappearance or death and final fate of the victims, within the framework of the civil-military dictatorship that took place in Chile between 1973 and 1990.
2. Secondly, and with the aim of advancing in the incorporation of the standards of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, we will continue to promote two bills. The first, which “introduces the legal classification of absence due to enforced disappearance and creates a special register”, and which seeks to fulfill the obligations of recognition and reparation of the victims. The second is the bill that “amends the penal code, classifying the crime of forced disappearance of persons”, which classifies this crime in times of institutional normality, thus filling a significant gap in our legislation, since this crime is currently only sanctioned as a crime against humanity. In both cases, the Executive Power will exercise its role as co-legislator to promote these projects.

To conclude, I would like to point out that Chile reaffirms its permanent commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and reaffirms its willingness to continue working for truth, justice, reparation and to guarantee the non-repetition of forced disappearances.



5 Colombia

H.E Mr. Gustavo Gallón, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Original version (Spanish)

Colombia se compromete a:

1. Fortalecer la capacidad institucional y la asignación de los recursos necesarios y suficientes para la búsqueda de personas dadas por desaparecidas.
2. Garantizar que la perspectiva de género y el enfoque diferencial de las poblaciones en situación de vulnerabilidad se integren plenamente en los planes, políticas, estrategias y acciones relacionados con la prevención y la protección frente a las desapariciones forzadas.
3. Fortalecer el registro nacional de personas desaparecidas, y avanzar en el eventual establecimiento de bases de datos regionales e internacionales interconectadas de estadísticas verificables sobre el número de personas desaparecidas forzosamente.
4. Apoyar, consultar e involucrar a la sociedad civil (especialmente a las víctimas, sus familias y sus representantes) durante los procesos de búsqueda e investigación, incluidos los procesos de investigación forense, y así continuar con el fortalecimiento de la articulación y coordinación con las entidades competentes.
5. Reforzar la cooperación interinstitucional y los intercambios de aprendizaje con otros Estados para compartir buenas prácticas en relación con la ratificación y aplicación de la Convención Internacional para la Protección de todas las Personas contra las Desapariciones Forzadas y otros instrumentos y normas relacionados con las desapariciones forzadas.
6. Apoyar los mecanismos regionales e internacionales encargados de combatir las desapariciones forzadas y atender sus recomendaciones.
7. Mejorar la coordinación y la cooperación a nivel regional e internacional en relación con las capacidades forenses, la búsqueda de personas desaparecidas, los procedimientos penales y el apoyo psicológico a las víctimas.

Adicionalmente, continuaremos explorando otros compromisos que debamos asumir.

Es nuestro deber como Estados, como representantes de gobierno, pero también como seres humanos, hacer todo lo que sea posible para que ni una sola persona, ni una sola familia, tenga que volver a enfrentar los horrores de la desaparición forzada.

English translation

Colombia pledges to:

1. Strengthen institutional capacity and the allocation of the necessary and sufficient resources to search for persons reported missing.



2. Ensure that a gender perspective and a distinct approach to vulnerable populations are fully integrated into plans, policies, strategies and actions related to the prevention and protection from enforced disappearances.
3. Strengthen the national registry of missing persons, and progress towards the potential establishment of interconnected regional and international databases of verifiable statistics on the number of forcibly disappeared persons.
4. Support, consult and involve civil society (especially victims, their families and their representatives) during search and investigation processes, including forensic investigation processes, and thus continue to strengthen articulation and coordination with the competent entities.
5. Strengthen inter-institutional cooperation and learning exchanges with other States to share good practices in relation to the ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and other instruments and norms related to enforced disappearances.
6. Support regional and international mechanisms responsible for combating enforced disappearances and address their recommendations.
7. Improve coordination and cooperation at the regional and international levels in relation to forensic capabilities, the search for missing persons, criminal procedures and psychological support for victims.

In addition, we will continue to explore other commitments we may need to make.

It is our duty as States, as government representatives, but also as human beings, to do everything possible so that not a single person, not a single family, will ever again have to face the horrors of enforced disappearance.

6 Croatia

H.E Ms. Andrea Javor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Croatia pledges to:

1. Keep determining the fate of the remaining 1782 missing persons from the Homeland war a priority in the years to come in order to reveal the truth about their fate, fulfilling its key humanitarian and human rights obligation
 - Activities of the proposed Action plan to which the pledge refers to: Strengthening search processes and empowering victims
 - Indicators: The Ministry of Veterans' Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, more precisely the Directorate for Detained and Missing Persons and the Sector for Tracing Persons Detained and Missing in the Homeland War will continue measuring progress in number of missing persons cases resolved
 - Resources: State budget resources



2. Share its experience and the so-called Croatian model of searching for disappeared persons as an example of good practices
 - Activities of the proposed Action plan to which the pledge refers to: Raising awareness, training and education about enforced disappearances and existing mechanisms
 - Indicators: The Ministry of Veterans' Affairs of the Republic of Croatia will keep track of the list of countries that have asked to learn more about Croatian model of searching for disappeared persons
 - Resources: To be determined in the future, based on the requests received

7 France

Ms. Isabelle Rome, Ambassador at large for Human Rights for France

Original version (French)

1. Premièrement, la France renforcera son action diplomatique en faveur de l'universalisation de la Convention internationale pour la protection de toutes les personnes contre les disparitions forcées, en ciblant les efforts, au niveau régional, sur les pays membres du Conseil de l'Europe qui ne l'ont pas ratifiée. Durant l'été 2024, la France, avec l'Argentine a lancé une nouvelle campagne de démarches bilatérales conjointes auprès de 125 pays ; cinq nouveaux pays sont devenus États parties en 2024. La France poursuivra sa mobilisation dans les années à venir avec l'Argentine et ses partenaires.
2. Deuxièmement, l'exigence de justice est au cœur du combat contre les disparitions forcées. Lutter contre les disparitions forcées, c'est lutter contre l'impunité du temps qui passe, nous disait Louis Joinet. Dans cet esprit, la France soutiendra les mécanismes régionaux et internationaux en la matière. La place des victimes au sein de ces mécanismes est fondamentale, c'est la raison pour laquelle la France soutiendra la création et le renforcement réseaux de solidarité dirigés par les victimes.
3. Troisièmement, pour que justice soit rendue de manière systématique et efficace, la formation au traitement judiciaire des disparitions forcées est essentielle ; celle des acteurs de la chaîne pénale et celle des représentants du secteur des médias. La France s'engage à mettre la formation au centre de ses programmes de coopération bilatérale en la matière avec des pays clés : sur la question du traitement judiciaire des disparitions forcées, auprès des acteurs de la chaîne pénale (officiers de police judiciaire, juges, avocats, agents pénitentiaires et directeurs de prison, magistrats), mais aussi auprès de représentants du secteur des médias (presse, radio, télévision, blogueur) sur la définition de la disparition forcée, les obligations juridiques des États et les conséquences multiples pour les familles de disparitions forcées.
4. Quatrièmement, notre engagement en doit pas se limiter aux acteurs de la lutte contre les disparitions forcées. La sensibilisation de la société entière est un élément de la prise de conscience collective. Dans cet objectif, la France s'engage à mobiliser son réseau diplomatique et consulaire partout dans le monde pour organiser des événements mémoriels, artistiques, culturels et de coopération technique sur ce sujet.



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5. Cinquièmement, cette sensibilisation passe par la communication, grâce aux outils numériques, afin de toucher le public le plus large possible ; par exemple à l'occasion de la Journée internationale sur la vérité et de la Journée consacrée aux victimes de disparition forcée.
6. Sixièmement, pour que le combat contre les disparitions forcées se poursuive, un travail doit être fait auprès de la jeunesse. La France s'engage, conformément à l'article 24 de la Convention, à soutenir la création d'un réseau mondial de la jeunesse contre les disparitions forcées, de façon à ce que les organisations de jeunes puissent prendre part à cette cause et fassent entendre leur voix.

Au-delà du respect de ces engagements et de leur concrétisation, la France met tout en œuvre pour mettre fin à ce crime en tout lieu, et apporter une réponse aux victimes et à leurs proches. Leur quête de justice et de vérité est la nôtre.

English translation

1. Firstly, France will step up its diplomatic action in favor of the universalization of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, targeting efforts at regional level on the Council of Europe Member States who have not ratified it. In the summer of 2024, France, together with Argentina, launched a new campaign of joint bilateral approaches to 125 countries; five new countries became States Parties in 2024. France will continue to work with Argentina and its partners in the years ahead.
2. Secondly, justice is at the heart of the fight against enforced disappearances. To fight against enforced disappearances is to fight against the impunity of the passage of time, as Louis Joinet once said. With this in mind, France will support regional and international mechanisms in this area. The place of victims within these mechanisms is fundamental, which is why France will support the creation and strengthening of victim-led solidarity networks.
3. Thirdly, for justice to be rendered systematically and effectively, training in the judicial handling of enforced disappearances is essential, both for those involved in the criminal justice system and for representatives of the media. France is committed to putting training at the heart of its bilateral cooperation programs in this area with key countries: for those involved in the criminal justice system (judicial police officers, judges, lawyers, prison officers and directors, magistrates), but also for representatives of the media sector (press, radio, television, bloggers) on the definition of enforced disappearance, the legal obligations of States and the multiple consequences for families of enforced disappearances.
4. Fourthly, our commitment must not be limited to those involved in the fight against enforced disappearances. Raising the awareness of society as a whole is a key element in raising collective consciousness. With this in mind, France is committed to mobilizing its diplomatic and consular network worldwide to organize memorial, artistic, cultural and technical cooperation events on this subject.



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5. Fifthly, this awareness-raising effort involves communication, using digital tools, to reach the widest possible audience; for example, on the occasion of the International Day of Truth and the Day Dedicated to Victims of Enforced Disappearance.
6. Sixthly, if the fight against enforced disappearances is to continue, we need to work with young people. In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, France commits to support the creation of a global youth network against enforced disappearances, so that youth organizations can take part in this cause and make their voices heard.

In addition to respecting these commitments and putting them into practice, France is doing its utmost to put an end to this crime everywhere, and to provide a response to the victims and their families. Their quest for justice and truth is ours.

Ms. Salina Grenet-Catalano, Director of Global Affairs of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

Original version (French)

Nos échanges de ces derniers jours ont souligné la nécessité de renforcer la coordination entre les acteurs, et ce, dans toutes les régions du monde. En Afrique, où les disparitions forcées sont sous-documentées, le commissaire Sow l'a rappelé, il est urgent de soutenir la structuration des associations locales en un réseau régional capable de porter haut la voix des victimes et de leurs proches. La France entend contribuer à cet effort. La lutte contre l'impunité est cruciale. Pour que justice soit rendue, les officiers de police judiciaires et les magistrats enquêteurs doivent être formés aux disparitions forcées. La France veillera à faire progresser ces formations.

Nous devons aussi compter sur la jeunesse, cruciale pour dynamiser les efforts collectifs et assurer leur pérennité. La France soutiendra à ce titre la création d'un réseau mondial des jeunes contre les disparitions forcées, afin d'offrir une plateforme pour échanger, unir leurs actions et promouvoir des initiatives innovantes.

Nos Instituts français et nos postes diplomatiques joueront un rôle clé dans la sensibilisation à cette cause. En organisant des événements sur les disparitions forcées, par exemple en Colombie, en Irak, en Côte d'Ivoire, ou encore au Bangladesh, notamment lors des Journées internationales des victimes des disparitions forcées le 30 août et pour le droit à la vérité le 24 mars, nous espérons toucher un large public et contribuer à une prise de conscience globale.

Ce Congrès est un appel à l'action et une occasion unique d'envoyer un signal clair : notre détermination commune à mettre fin à ces crimes à l'échelle globale.



English translation

Our discussions over the last few days have underlined the need to strengthen coordination between the various stakeholders, in all regions of the world. In Africa, where enforced disappearances are under-documented, as Commissioner Sow reminded us, there is an urgent need to support the structuring of local associations into a regional network capable of raising the voices of victims and their families. France intends to contribute to this effort. The fight against impunity is crucial. To ensure that justice is done, judicial police officers and investigating magistrates must be trained in dealing with enforced disappearances. France will ensure that this training progresses.

We must also rely on young people, who are crucial to energizing collective efforts and ensuring their sustainability. To this end, France will support the creation of a global network of young people against enforced disappearances, to provide a platform for exchange, unite their actions and promote innovative initiatives.

Our French Institutes and diplomatic posts will play a key role in raising awareness of this cause. By organizing events on enforced disappearances, for example in Colombia, Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire and Bangladesh, notably during the International Days of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on 30 August and for the Right to the Truth on 24 March, we hope to reach a wide audience and contribute to raising global awareness.

This Congress is a call to action and a unique opportunity to send a clear signal: our shared determination to put an end to these crimes on a global scale.

8 The Gambia

Ms. Bafou Jeng, Human Rights Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of The Gambia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

The Gambia presents the following commitments:

1. Adoption of Comprehensive Legislation

The Gambia commits to enacting legislation that criminalizes enforced disappearance as a distinct offense. This legislation will align with the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and incorporate key elements such as victim support, prevention mechanisms, and accountability measures. Through this legislative action, The Gambia seeks to foster a justice system that holds perpetrators accountable while ensuring remedies for victims.

- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: This refers to activities 1.3.1 and 5.5, emphasizing the creation of comprehensive legislation that criminalizes enforced disappearance and aligns with international standards.
- Indicators used to measure progress: Enactment of the legislation and its dissemination



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- Resource implications: The Republic of The Gambia is committed to mobilizing the necessary resources to implement its pledge to combat enforced disappearances effectively. This mobilization will include financial, technical, institutional, and collaborative resources, ensuring a sustainable and comprehensive approach.
- Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 30/03/2026

2. Development of a National Action Plan

To further operationalize its commitments under the Convention, The Gambia will develop a National Action Plan that includes consultations with civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and victims' groups. This action plan will outline specific steps for domestication and implementation, ensuring transparency and inclusivity.

- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: This relates to activity 1.3, focusing on the full domestication of the Convention through a structured framework, including consultations with stakeholders.
- Indicators used to measure progress: Submission of State Periodic reports to the Committee against Enforced Disappearances
- Resource implications: The Republic of The Gambia is committed to mobilizing the necessary resources to implement its pledge to combat enforced disappearances effectively. This mobilization will include financial, technical, institutional, and collaborative resources, ensuring a sustainable and comprehensive approach.
- Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 30/03/2026

3. Empowering Victims and Their Families

The Gambia places the rights and well-being of victims at the core of its initiatives. To this end, we pledge to establish and sustain programs offering legal assistance, psychological counseling, and socio-economic support to victims and their families. By ensuring access to justice and effective remedies, The Gambia seeks to empower victims and address the multi-dimensional impacts of enforced disappearance.

- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: This corresponds to activities 3.6, 3.7, and 3.11, aiming to establish support programs for victims, ensure access to justice, and create a welfare fund for rehabilitation and reparation.
- Indicators used to measure progress: Development and implementation of victim support frameworks
- Resource implications: The Republic of The Gambia is committed to mobilizing the necessary resources to implement its pledge to combat enforced disappearances effectively. This mobilization will include financial, technical, institutional, and collaborative resources, ensuring a sustainable and comprehensive approach.
- Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 30/03/2026

4. Awareness and Capacity-Building



Recognizing the importance of education and training, The Gambia will implement national awareness campaigns targeting law enforcement, judicial actors, and the general public. Training initiatives will focus on preventing enforced disappearances, enhancing investigative capacities, and promoting a culture of accountability and human rights.

- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: This aligns with activities 5.1, 5.2, and 5.12, focusing on education campaigns and capacity-building for judiciary and law enforcement.
- Indicators used to measure progress: Number of awareness and training sessions conducted annually
- Resource implications: The Republic of The Gambia is committed to mobilizing the necessary resources to implement its pledge to combat enforced disappearances effectively. This mobilization will include financial, technical, institutional, and collaborative resources, ensuring a sustainable and comprehensive approach.
- Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 30/03/2026

9 Germany

H.E Ms. Nikola Gilhoff, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargée d'affaires a.i. of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Germany is committed to the global fight against enforced disappearance and ratified the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance in 2009.

Even before Germany had ratified the Convention, enforced disappearance was punishable under German criminal law, albeit under several different norms.

The Federal Government has since considered the recommendation of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to create a single unified penal norm, and in the context of a recent reform of the German Code of Crimes against International Law, took the opportunity to introduce such a unified norm.

A new section – § 234 b – was added to the German Criminal Code. This provision contains a definition in line with the Convention and thus follows the recommendation of the Committee.

At the same time, the relevant provision on crimes against humanity in the Code of Crimes against International Law was amended to better reflect the wording of the Rome Statute.

Both amendments came into effect on 3 August 2024.

Furthermore, Germany is committed to ending impunity for the most serious international crimes and aims to bring perpetrators to justice – either in international fora or before the German courts.

The Federal Prosecutor General has initiated, inter alia, so-called “structural investigations” into possible crimes against humanity in Syria (since 2011) and Ukraine (since March 2022). In both cases, this includes possible crimes of enforced disappearance.



Against this background, Germany pledges to continue to promote the ratification of the Convention and to share its experiences and good practices with the authorities of other current or potential parties to the Convention; to commemorate, as it has done in previous years, the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances on 30 August; and to continue to support regional and international mechanisms mandated to combat enforced disappearance, such as the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, both politically and financially.

10 Luxembourg

Mr. Luc Dockendorf, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Luxembourg commits to:

1. Continue to support the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic (IIMP) which was established by the General Assembly on 29 June 2023 in response to the urgent calls for action from family members of Syria's many thousands of missing persons to determine their fate and whereabouts. The resolution was presented by a cross-regional core group led by Luxembourg. Luxembourg will continue to advocate for the consultation and involvement of civil society, including victims, their families and their representatives in relevant processes and efforts and for the integration of a gender-based perspective.
 - Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: 8.7
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Systematic consultation of the victims, their families, and their representatives by the IIMP. Inclusion of a gender-based perspective in all actions of the IIMP.
 - Resource implications: There are no financial implications foreseen for the IIMP (at this stage), but there is a strong mobilization of the Luxembourg teams in Geneva and New York from an advocacy perspective to systematically raise the 2 cases in multilateral fora.
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 1/01/2027
2. Continue to support to the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children that was established on 2 February 2024 in Kyiv to coordinate efforts to address the issue of the crimes of unlawful deportation and forced transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation. Luxembourg, as a member of the coalition, will continue to advocate for the safe return of Ukrainian children to their families, through awareness raising in international fora and meetings, information-sharing and coordinated joint efforts will all members of the coalition. Luxembourg also pledges to bring those responsible for organizing the abduction and deportation of children to justice in compliance with international law. This support was already translated through past financial contributions to the ICC Prosecutor's Office for its investigations in Ukraine which



also cover displaced children. In addition, Luxembourg is a strong supporter of the launch of an OSCE 'Moscow mechanism' on the issue of deported children.

- Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: 8.7
- Indicators used to measure progress: High-level diplomatic engagement and awareness raising efforts in multilateral fora and bilateral meetings to advance the release of Ukrainian children. Information sharing of relevant data, case details and intelligence between Ukrainian authorities and partner States to enhance collective understanding and response mechanisms regarding the unlawful deportation and forced displacement of Ukrainian children. Coordination of joint efforts to synchronize the expertise and financial resources partner States to support the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children's work.
- Resource implications: Luxembourg teams will continue to stay extremely mobilized in all multilateral for a to advocate for the safe return of Ukrainian children.
- Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 1/01/2017

11 Mauritania

H.E. Mr. Sid'Ahmed Benane, Commissioner for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Civil Society Relations of Mauritania

Mauritania commits to:

1. 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.
 - Indicators used to measure progress: laws, policies, actions related to the Convention
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 31 December 2028
2. Set up public policies and campaigns to counter social stigma and discrimination.
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Number of campaigns organized and beneficiaries
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 31 December 2026
3. Build and strengthen the capacities of relevant officials by organizing specific trainings on enforced disappearance and relevant instruments and mechanisms.
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Number of training sessions organized, and people involved
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 31 December 2026



4. Adopt legislation to make enforced disappearance a separate offence; making a clear distinction from other concepts such as abduction, kidnapping, disappearance and missing person.
 - Indicators used to measure progress: References of the Law enacted, and the Official Journal where it's published in
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 31 December 2027

12 Morocco

Mme Fatima Barkan, Secrétaire Générale de la Délégation Interministérielle aux Droits de l'Homme

Morocco announces two major commitments:

1. Organize a regional symposium in Morocco to exchange experiences and good practices regarding the ratification of the Convention and the implementation of its provisions. This symposium will provide an exchange platform to discuss of the challenges and identify concrete solutions to strengthen regional and international cooperation in this field.
 - Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: Point 3. Advocate for non State parties to ratify the Convention
 - Resource implications: Governmental resources
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Program, States participating, etc.
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 20/04/2025
2. Include enforced disappearance in criminal legislation as an independent crime and grave violation of human rights, in compliance with the Convention's dispositions. The legislative reform, currently underway, shows the willingness of Morocco to reinforce its legal arsenal to fight effectively against this scourge.
 - Activities of the proposed Action Plan to which the pledge refers: 3. Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks
 - Resource implications: Parliament resources
 - Indicators used to measure progress: Legislative process
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 20/04/2025

Through these commitments, we affirm our determination to actively contribute to the eradication of enforced disappearance in Morocco.

13 Mexico

H.E Mr. Fernando Espinosa Olivera, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Original version (Spanish)

México comparte los siguientes compromisos nacionales:



1. Implementar una Estrategia Nacional de Identificación Humana, mediante el uso de herramientas tecnológicas.
 - Implicancias de recursos: Se contará con apoyo técnico para el debido procesamiento de la información, facilitando el cruce de diferentes bases de datos involucradas en procesos de búsqueda e identificación humana. Se fomentará el uso de instrumentos tecnológicos disponibles para la búsqueda y la identificación de personas con vida y búsqueda forense.
 - Plazo previsto en el que se realizará el compromiso: 30/06/2025
2. Armonizar el marco jurídico federal para optimizar la capacidad de vinculación interinstitucional.
 - Implicancias de recursos: Reuniones de trabajo con los integrantes del Sistema Nacional de Búsqueda y equipos de trabajo específicos para el desarrollo.
 - Plazo previsto en el que se realizará el compromiso: 15/01/2026
3. Garantizar la participación de las familias en los procesos institucionales de búsqueda con mecanismos de seguridad.
 - Implicancias de recursos: La coordinación interinstitucional de la Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda de Personas, las Comisiones Locales, la Fiscalía General de la República, las fiscalías especializadas de las entidades federativas con Guardia Nacional, SEDENA, Marina y policías estatales.
 - Plazo previsto en el que se realizará el compromiso: 30/06/2025
4. Capacitar y certificar al personal de la Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda de Personas y de las comisiones locales para garantizar el cumplimiento de los protocolos de búsqueda.
 - Implicancias de recursos: La Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda de Personas generará el Estándar de Capacitación institucional sobre primer contacto en procesos de búsqueda, así como el programa nacional de capacitación y certificación permanente para servidores públicos de la CNB y Comisiones Locales.
 - Plazo previsto en el que se realizará el compromiso: 31/12/2025

English translation

Mexico shares the following national pledges:

1. Implement a National Strategy for Human Identification, through the use of technological tools.
 - Resource implications: Technical support will be provided for the proper processing of information, facilitating the cross-referencing of different databases involved in human search and identification processes. The active use of technological tools available for the search and identification of persons and forensic search will be encouraged.
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 30/06/2025



2. Harmonize the federal legal framework to optimize the capacity for inter-institutional linkage.
 - Resource implications: Working meetings with members of the National Search System and specific work teams.
 - Expected time frame in which the pledge will be made: 01/15/2026.

3. Guarantee the participation of families in institutional search processes, in cooperation with security mechanisms.
 - Resource implications: Inter-institutional coordination of the National Commission for the Search for Persons, the Local Commissions, the Attorney General's Office, the Specialized Prosecutors' offices in the States with the National Guard, SEDENA, the Navy and State police.
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 30/06/2025.

4. Train and certify the personnel of the National Commission for the Search for Persons and the local commissions to guarantee compliance with search protocols.
 - Resource implications: The National Commission for the Search for Persons will develop the Institutional Training Standard on First Contact in search processes, as well as the national training and permanent certification program for public servants of the CNB and Local Commissions.
 - Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: 12/31/2025.

14 Poland

Ms. Maria Ejchart, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Poland

The Congress provides a new forum to discuss the current challenges facing countries to intensify efforts to prevent, stop and repress enforced disappearances. Ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to inform you that, since 30 December 2024, Poland has been the 77th State party to the United Nations International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

The history of ratification is long, dating back to June 2013 when Poland signed the Convention. The beginning of the ratification process was one of the first decisions of the new government in the end of 2023. The process has now been successfully completed and Polish Parliament decided to finally finalize ratification. Moreover, Poland has recognized the Committee's jurisdiction under articles 31 and 32 of the Convention to receive and consider complaints from individuals claiming to be victims of State violence, and inter-State complaints.

Polish law is generally consistent with the Convention. However, being bound by it will trigger an obligation to penalize enforced disappearances as a separate offense and to criminalize an act or omission of a superior who, even unintentionally, allows subordinates to commit



enforced disappearance. We do already work on a relevant draft. We assume that all necessary legal steps in this regard will be taken by the end of 2025.

The Polish government will soon submit to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances a report on the measures taken to fulfill the obligations arising from the Convention and will await for the Committee's comments and remarks. We declare our willingness to fully cooperate with the Committee.

Even if there are no recent indications of the existence of enforced disappearances in Poland, acceding to the Convention made significant sense. Indeed, the greater the number of States that accede to such core human rights conventions, the stronger the international consensus confirming the incompatibility of the practice in question with the basic principle of law recognized by the international community. This can contribute to increasing pressure in holding States and human rights violators accountable. The problem of enforced disappearances unfortunately remains a big challenge for the international community, including across Eastern Europe and the Middle East, especially in the situations of armed conflicts.

Therefore, the National Prosecutors Office intends to organize consultations for prosecutors conducting criminal proceedings in cases of international crimes in Ukraine, also with the participation of representatives of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

We know that human rights defenders are often victims of enforced disappearance. Poland is actively promoting the role of human rights defenders and the need to protect them. This aspect will be one of the main topics of interest for Poland during its ongoing presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Poland undertakes to provide other States who are not a party of the Convention with any assistance in carrying out its ratification process by strengthening international cooperation. We are ready to share good practices with regards to implementation of the Convention and other instruments and standards regarding enforced disappearances.

The activities I mentioned are Polish pledges, to demonstrate our commitment to the global fight against enforced disappearances and readiness to take action.

15 Sudan

H.E Mr. Hassan Hamid Hassan Hamid, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sudan to the United Nations and International Organizations in Geneva

Sudan pledges to:

- Continue seeking more coordination between national legislation and international legislation;
- Cooperate with families of victims of enforced disappearances;
- Facilitate access to justice;



- Raise awareness on the topic of enforced disappearances and enhance training and capacity building of legal professionals dealing with this challenges;
- Reinforce all implementation mechanisms (e.g. the guidelines that were addressed to the General Prosecutors to take into consideration all claims of enforced disappearances);
- Strengthen cooperation with other countries regarding the implementation of the Convention.

16 Uruguay

Ms. Florencia Dudok, Head of International Affairs and Communication of the Secretariat of Human Rights for the Recent Past of Uruguay

Original version (Spanish)

Compromisos 1 y 2

Con respecto a los Pledges, desde la Secretaría de Derechos Humanos para el Pasado Reciente de la Presidencia de la República Oriental del Uruguay (SDHPR) mencionar que Uruguay ya ha ratificado la Convención para la Protección de todas las personas contra las desapariciones forzadas, cumpliendo así con los compromisos número 1 y 2.

Compromiso 3

El Estado Uruguayo ya reconoce las competencia del Comité Contra las Desapariciones Forzadas (CED), en julio del 2022 se recibió la visita del Grupo de Trabajo de este Comité, y en setiembre del mismo año se recibió la recomendación a agilizar el proceso de digitalización e indexación de todos los archivos documentales, en cumplimiento con esta recomendación la SDHPR, realizó la contratación de tres licenciados en archivología para reforzar el equipo y acelerar el proceso.

- Indicadores para medir el progreso: Cantidad de archivos digitalizados e indexados.
- Implicancias de recursos: El Estado se compromete a asignar sus recursos humanos y de otro tipo (ejemplo: infraestructura), para garantizar el cumplimiento del objetivo general. Se compromete a mantener la contratación de los técnicos de archivo para así continuar con las tareas que se vienen realizando.
- Plazo previsto para cumplir el compromiso: El compromiso no tiene fecha límite ya que el archivo de la SDHPR es un archivo vivo, el mismo está en continuo crecimiento incorporando nueva documentación.

Compromiso 4

El Estado/Actor se compromete a: Asignar fondos para proyectos, iniciativas y actividades académicas relacionadas con las desapariciones forzadas.

- Implicancias de recursos: El Estado/Actor se a emplear sus recursos humanos y de otro tipo para garantizar el cumplimiento del objetivo general. Este objetivo se trata de que se lleve a cabo la realización de cursos, seminarios, ciclo de talleres sobre la temática de Memoria Verdad y Justicia tanto para funcionarios públicos a través de



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la Escuela Nacional de Administración Pública (ENAP), como también a Jueces (Recomendación recibida por el EPU, que continua pendiente por parte de la SDHPR), a funcionarios diplomáticos y al público en general, este último sería a través de ciclos de talleres que se realizarán tanto en la capital del país, como en el interior para poder cubrir todo el territorio nacional e incluir los diferentes públicos.

- Plazo previsto para cumplir el compromiso: la fecha límite sería el 30/12/2029.

English translation

Commitments 1 and 2

With regard to the Pledges, the Secretariat of Human Rights for the Recent Past of the Presidency of the Republic of Uruguay (SDHPR) mentions that Uruguay has already ratified the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, thus complying with commitments number 1 and 2.

Commitment 3

The Uruguayan State already recognizes the competence of the Committee Against Enforced Disappearances (CED). In July 2022 the Working Group of this Committee visited the country, and in September of the same year a recommendation was received to expedite the process of digitization and indexing of all documentary archives. In compliance with this recommendation, the SDHPR hired three archive specialists to strengthen the team and accelerate the process.

- Indicators to measure progress: Number of files digitized and indexed.
- Resource implications: The State commits to allocate its human and other resources (e.g. infrastructure) to ensure compliance with the general objective. It commits to maintain the hiring of archival technicians in order to continue with the tasks that are being carried out.
- Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: The commitment has no deadline since the SDHPR's archive is a living archive, which is constantly growing and incorporating new documentation.

Commitment 4

The State/Actor commits to allocate funds for projects, initiatives, and academic activities related to enforced disappearances.

- Resource implications: The State/Actor commits to use its human and other resources to ensure the fulfilment of the overall objective. This objective is to carry out courses, seminars, cycle of workshops on the theme of Memory, Truth and Justice for public officials through the National School of Public Administration (ENAP), as well as for Judges (Recommendation received by the UPR, which is still pending from the SDHPR), diplomatic officials and the general public, the latter through cycles of workshops to be held both in the capital of the country and in the interior in order to cover the entire national territory and include different audiences.



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- Expected timeframe within which the pledge will be realized: the deadline would be 30/12/2029.