

# The International Human Rights Mechanisms – an introduction

Workshop on Strengthening engagement with the UN  
CRPD Committee, 14 October 2015

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# The United Nations Human Rights System

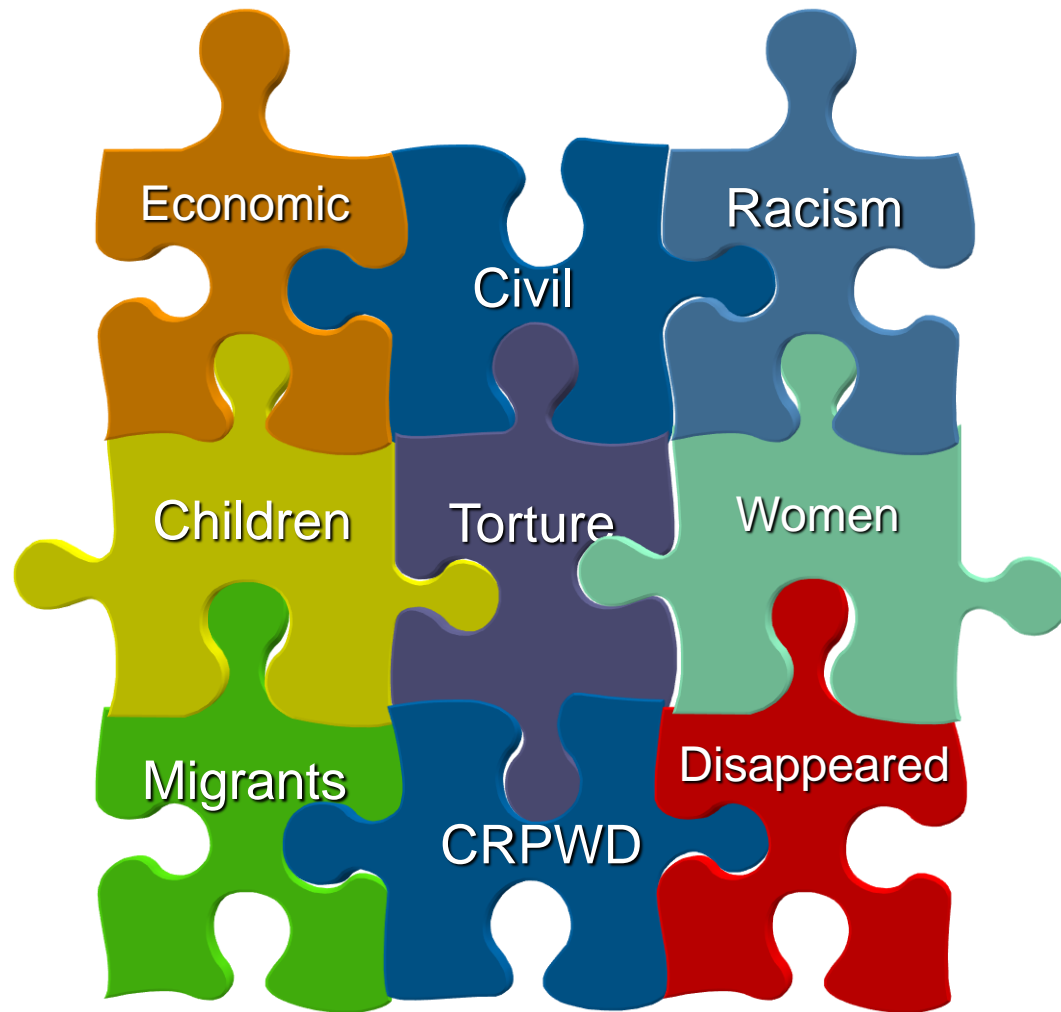
- The United Nations Charter
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Main Human Rights Treaties
- Other Standards



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- 1. Civil and Political Rights**  
1966
- 2. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** 1966
- 3. Racism** 1966
- 4. Women** 1979
- 5. Torture** 1984
- 6. Children** 1989
- 7. Migrants** 1990
- 8. Persons with Disabilities**  
2008
- 9. Enforced Disappearance**  
2006





# International Human Rights Mechanisms

Bodies created under  
the United Nations  
Charter

Bodies created under  
human rights treaties

Human Rights  
Council

**Treaty Bodies**

**Special  
Procedures**

**Universal  
Periodic  
Review**

Commissions  
of Inquiry



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# Treaty Bodies



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# Treaty Bodies

- Created under the respective treaties
- Most consist of 18 experts
- Independent experts serving in their personal capacity
- 4 years
- Fair distribution by region
- Meet in sessions 2 or 3 times per year in Geneva
- OHCHR helps support them

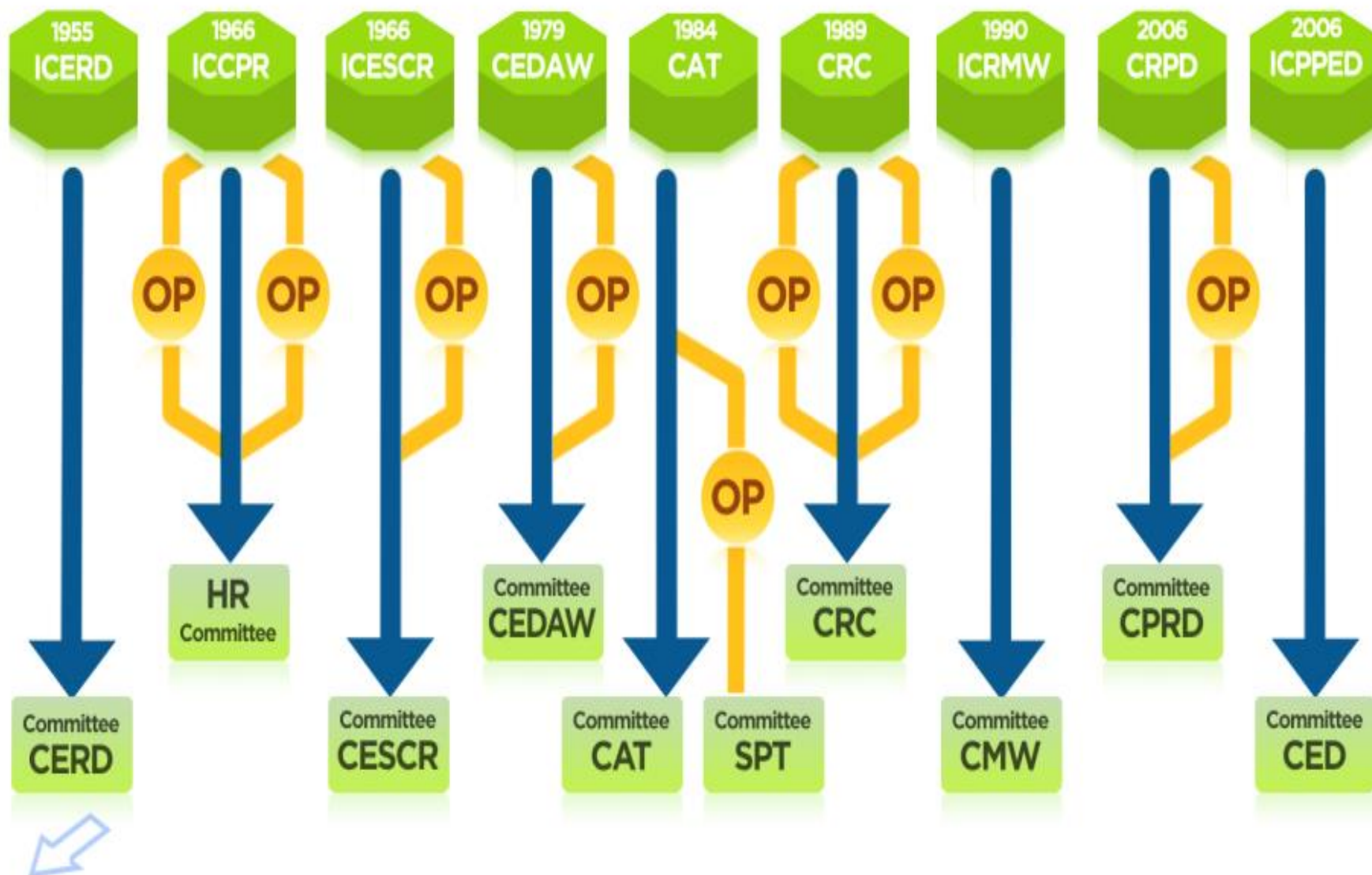


# Main functions

- Monitor if obligations are respected
  - Look at reports
  - Examine individual complaints
  - Inquire into specific human rights situations
- Explain the meaning of rights in the treaties (General Comments)







**[tbinternet.ohchr.org](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org)**



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## Treaty bodies Search

### Filter by State/Entity or Geographic Region

- ☐ Africa
- ☐ Americas
- ☐ Asia Pacific
- ☐ Europe and Central Asia
- ☐ Middle East and North Africa

- ☐ Afghanistan
- ☐ Albania
- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ Andorra
- ☐ Angola
- ☐ Antigua and Barbuda

### Filter by Committee

- ☐ CAT
- ☐ CAT-OP
- ☐ CCPR
- ☐ CED
- ☐ CEDAW
- ☐ CERD

### Filter by Document Type

- ☐ Report
- ☐ Reporting cycle related
- ☐ Session related
- ☐ Other
- ☐ CERD-Early Warning and Urgent Action
- ☐ Jurisprudence

- ☐ (Common) Core Document
- ☐ Addendum
- ☐ Additional Info from State party
- ☐ Advisory visits report (SPT)
- ☐ Annex to Reply to List of Issues
- ☐ Annual/Sessional report

### Filter by Symbol/Dates

Symbol

From Date

To Date

# Special Procedures



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# Special Procedures

- Independent experts. Act in personal capacity
- Individual or Working Group usually composed of five members (one from each region)
- 41 special procedures on different human rights.

# Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Catalina Devandas Aguilar

- Letters
- Press
- Country visits
- Technical help
- Annual reports
- Workshops and meetings



# Role of Civil Society

- Give information and analyse human rights issues
- Submit individual cases to special procedures (communications)
- Support for country visits
- Advocate, share, follow-up on the work in the country
- Invite experts to participate in conferences, workshops



# Universal Periodic Review



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# Universal Periodic Review

- States review each other
- All UN Member States
- Recommendations to States



# Universal Periodic Review, Role of Civil Society

## Step 1: Before the review – Prepare

- Meet with the State
- Prepare written document

# Universal Periodic Review, Role of Civil Society

## Step 2: During the Review

- Can attend session
- Hold side events or discussions to share information
- Meet with other countries in Geneva
- Press conference or press release.
- Organize events in the country



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# Universal Periodic Review, Role of Civil Society

## Step 3: After the Review – Follow up.

- Translate and share recommendations
- organize meetings with the Government
- closely follow the State's implementation of the UPR outcome
- Advocate for the submission of mid-term update report by authorities
- Report on follow-up for next cycle



