

1st WORLD CONGRESS ON ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES (WCED)

15-16 January 2025, Geneva, Switzerland

Time for collective action

Enforced disappearance remains widespread across the world, with devastating repercussions on entire societies. Following decades of mobilization to prevent and eliminate this heinous human rights violation, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (the Convention) was adopted in 2006 thanks to the tireless efforts of States, associations of victims, human rights non-governmental organizations and experts.

Over the past 15 years, the number of States parties to the Convention has increased from 20 to 76. However, universal ratification and implementation is far from achieved and enforced disappearance is far from being eradicated.

It is time to join forces and intensify efforts in the global fight against enforced disappearance.

Objectives

Nearly 20 years after the adoption of the Convention, the World Congress aims to create an opportunity for concrete and ambitious commitments to eradicate enforced disappearance everywhere in the world, putting victims' voices and rights at the core of the strategy. To this end, the World Congress aims to:

- Raise awareness on what enforced disappearance is, its extent and impact worldwide
- Put families and civil society back at the center of joint efforts
- Promote intergovernmental dialogue, exchanges of experiences and good practices
- Present an action plan for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance and encourage concerned actors to submit pledges
- Initiate a process of direct cooperation and coordination between the various actors.

Expected results

- The international community is further mobilized to protect all persons from enforced disappearance
- Actors engaged in the global fight against enforced disappearance submit pledges related to the proposed Action Plan
- All concerned actors are better connected to foster synergies against enforced disappearance.

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Lasting positive impact

The multi-actor dialogue and exchange process initiated with the World Congress aims at achieving a lasting positive impact on the protection of all persons from enforced disappearance.

Follow-up activities may include:

- Enhanced technical assistance to States and CSOs on ratification and implementation of the Convention;
- Organization of events to address issues of common interest related to the fight against enforced disappearances;
- Strengthened capacity-building to ensure participation of families and victims' associations in relevant international and national processes (submission of reports and cases to the relevant human rights mechanisms, participation in ratification campaign, drafting of legislation, establishment or strengthening of search mechanisms and forensic processes, etc).

Co-organizers

The World Congress is co-organized by CEDI, a multi-actor organization created to facilitate new synergies to fight against enforced disappearance, the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Inclusive consultation process

Relevant actors were able to contribute directly to the World Congress through a broad consultation process.

The WCED [provisional programme](#) and [proposal for an Action Plan](#) are based on consultations held with relevant actors in all regions between May and September 2024.

Participation

The World Congress aims to bring together actors involved in the fight against enforced disappearance, including:

- High-level State representatives;
- Relevant international and regional mechanisms (including the UN CED, WGEID, other relevant UN mechanisms; regional human rights bodies);
- International criminal tribunals;
- International organizations (ICRC, ICMP, IOM);
- Families, victims and their organizations from all regions;
- Human rights NGOs working on enforced disappearances;
- National Human Rights Institutions;
- Other key actors and experts.

Date and venue

The World Congress will take place on 15 and 16 January 2025 in Geneva (Switzerland), at the [CICG](#).

This is a public event, and participation is free of charge.

Contact and information

Contact: wced@cedi193.org

Information: <https://www.edworldcongress.org/>

Registration is necessary to attend the World Congress in person and online.

REGISTER: <https://www.edworldcongress.org/register>