

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

Date: 19 December 2016  
AI Index Number: IOR 40/5392/2016

### **Conference of States Parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance confirms the important role of the Committee against Enforced Disappearances**

Amnesty International commends the Conference of States Parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (the Convention) on its decision to continue the functioning of the Committee against Enforced Disappearances.

The Convention is the first universal human rights treaty to define enforced disappearance. The Committee has exercised an important role in the fight against impunity for enforced disappearances, the promotion of safeguards against the crime and to enforce the right to reparation for its victims. It has a number of tools at its disposal, including the consideration of States Parties' reports, urgent actions and individual communications. The Committee can also request to carry out a visit to a State Party where it has received information that serious violations of the provisions of the Convention are taking place. If enforced disappearances are taking place in a widespread or systematic manner, it may bring the matter to the attention of the General Assembly.

Amnesty International calls on those States which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so promptly and to recognize the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of victims or other States Parties.

Today the States Parties to the Convention have taken an important stand in the fight against enforced disappearance. As the Convention receives more ratifications and accessions, and is better known, including to civil society, stronger resources will need to be allocated to allow it to fulfil the important mandate set out in the Convention. Amnesty International calls for full funding and cooperation with the Committee as it continues its crucial work.

### **Background**

Today's Conference of States parties was held in compliance with article 27 of the Convention which mandated an evaluation of the functioning of the Committee and to decide whether its competences should be transferred to another body.

/End.