

*Monitoring Mechanism of the Council of Europe
Convention on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence*

PO 842066

Strasbourg, 25 April 2025

Convocation to the 18th meeting of the COMMITTEE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION

The Secretariat of the Council of Europe has the honour to convene the **18th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention** as follows:

Opening of the 18th CoP meeting	<i>5 June 2025 at 15:00</i>
Closing of the 18th CoP meeting	<i>6 June 2025 at 16:30</i>
Place	Palais de l'Europe, Room 1, Council of Europe, Strasbourg
Deadline for confirmation of participation	<i>Monday, 12 May 2025</i> <u>(conventionviolence@coe.int)</u>
Subjects to be covered	Please see attached draft meeting agenda
Restricted website	<u>www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/home</u>
Secretariat contact	Johanna NELLES Joanna SZELEZNIAK E-mail: <u>conventionviolence@coe.int</u>

1. Composition of the Committee

A. Members:

The Committee is composed of representatives from 39 Parties to the Istanbul Convention.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each Party. Permanent Representations which have not yet done so are kindly invited to inform the Secretariat of the national expert appointed as member of the Committee of the Parties to the Istanbul Convention.

Each member of the committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

B. Participants:

- a) The following may appoint representatives to participate in the meetings of the Committee without the right to vote:
- i) the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
 - ii) the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
 - iii) the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
 - iv) the European Court of Human Rights;
 - v) the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
 - vi) the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe;
 - vii) any other Council of Europe body invited to do so by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe after consulting the Committee.

Where applicable, the defrayal of expenses of these participants shall be governed by the rules or terms of reference of the institutions and bodies listed above.

- b) The following may appoint representatives to participate in the meetings of the Committee without the right to vote or the defrayal of expenses:
- i) States which have signed but not yet ratified the Convention;
 - ii) States which have ratified or acceded to the Convention but for which it has not yet entered into force;
 - iii) States invited to accede to the Convention;

C. Observers

- a) The Committee may authorise States other than those mentioned in Rule 2 of the present rules to send representatives as observers to its meetings on an ad hoc basis.
- b) The Committee may authorise intergovernmental organisations to send representatives as observers to its meetings on an ad hoc basis, in particular:

- i) the United Nations;
 - ii) the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE);
 - iii) the International Organisation for Migration (IOM);
 - iv) the Organisation of American States (OAS);
 - v) other intergovernmental organisations and any other entity authorised to participate in meetings of steering and ad hoc committees by virtue of a resolution or decision of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.
- c) The Committee may authorise representatives of civil society, in particular non-governmental organisations active in combating violence against women and domestic violence, to send representatives as observers to its meetings on an ad hoc basis.
- d) Observers shall have no right to vote or to the defrayal of expenses.

2. Working methods

- **Plenary meetings:** 39 members, 2 meetings in 2025, 1 day.

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Whenever appropriate, it will prioritise environmentally sound working methods, such as virtual meetings facilitated by information technology and written consultations.

3. General requirements for members

Parties to the Convention shall endeavor to nominate, as their representatives, experts of the highest possible rank in the field of preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and with knowledge of the Convention.

When appointing persons, the governments should take account of Recommendation No [R \(81\) 6](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the participation of women and men in an equitable proportion in committees and other bodies set up in the Council of Europe. It is recalled in this connection that governments may send, at their own expense, one or more additional persons to attend Council of Europe committees.

Governments are invited to communicate as soon as possible, and before **12 May 2025** the name, position, address, telephone number, e-mail address and working language (English/French) of the person(s) appointed to attend the meeting to the Secretariat responsible for administrative issues concerning the meeting: Joanna.SZELEZNIAK@coe.int.

Members are kindly requested to have with them a passport or identity card and this letter of invitation.

An insurance policy taken out by the Council of Europe with the insurers AIG EUROPE (Policy

number 9.502.001) covers risks related to official journeys such as medical expenses for illness, accident and medical repatriation for persons up to their 80th birthday. The following help line AIG EUROPE Assistance 24 Hours can be called in case of need: +32 2 739 9990/+32 2 739 9991.

Where necessary the authorities of member States are invited to grant any visas that may be necessary to the holder of this invitation letter as soon as possible. Please contact the Secretariat if signed personal convocation letter is required.

4. General requirements for participants and observers

Participants and observers are invited to communicate to the Secretariat as soon as possible, and before **12 May 2025** the name, position, address, telephone number, e-mail address and working language (English/French) of the person(s) who will attend the meeting: [conventionviolence@coe.int]. For in-person attendance, a passport or identity card and this letter of invitation is required.

5. Privacy notice

Members, participants and observers are informed that they have access to the privacy notice describing the Organisation's data protection policy ([link](#)).

6. Documents for the meeting

Together with this convocation all meeting documents are being made available on the Committee's [restricted website](#) with the exception of the implementation reports by Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands and Serbia which the committee is invited to take note of at its 18th meeting. These documents will be made available shortly before the meeting.



Johanna NELLES

Executive Secretary of the monitoring mechanism of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

Encls:

- Draft agenda of the 18th meeting
- Rules concerning the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses

Cc: Permanent Representations