

ANNEX III**ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING HEARINGS**

Adopted in July 1983, revised in May 2007 and March 2014

I. HEARINGS WITH THE COMMITTEE IN CORPORE:

- (a) Hearings may be held with parliamentary authorities, other competent authorities, the complainant(s), the alleged victim(s), representatives of relevant international and national organizations and experts;

They may be held:

- (i) on the initiative of the Committee itself;
- (ii) at the request of any of the above-mentioned entities or persons.

- (b) The Committee shall seek to organize a hearing of its own volition and accept a request for a hearing whenever it considers this to be useful and appropriate in the examination of a case.
- (c) Requests for a hearing with the Committee shall be made in good time prior to the corresponding session so that the Committee, or its President, may assess the advisability of such a procedure and give its consent.
- (d) In order to ensure the effectiveness of this procedure, the hearing shall be held in such a way as to meet the needs of the Committee. With this in mind:
- w At the opening of the hearing, the President of the Committee may specify to the person(s) concerned the conditions in which he/she/they will be heard and inform him/her/them of the elements of the case on file to which the hearing will relate, if necessary stating the main points requiring clarification;
 - w The time available to a person(s) to make his/her/their preliminary statement shall be established in advance. The person(s) shall then be invited to reply as concisely as possible to specific questions. The Committee may decide that, between the time of the general statement (which will enable it to assess the intentions of the person concerned) and the time devoted to questions, the person(s) concerned shall leave the room to enable the Committee to identify the points requiring clarification; and
 - w The Committee shall decide if it is necessary to ask the person(s) being heard to confirm or clarify in writing certain points of his/her/their statements.
- (e) Hearings shall preferably take place in one of the working languages of the Committee.

II. HEARINGS WITH THE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT OR A DESIGNATED MEMBER(S)

The Committee may decide to designate its President or another member(s) to meet in camera and hear any entities or persons mentioned under I (a).