



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Concluding observations on the combined twenty-third to twenty-fifth periodic reports of Bulgaria*

1. The Committee considered the combined twenty-third to twenty-fifth periodic reports of Bulgaria,¹ submitted in one document, at its 3033rd and 3034th meetings,² held on 28 and 29 November 2023. At its 3045th meeting, held on 6 December 2023, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined twenty-third to twenty-fifth periodic reports of the State party. It also welcomes the open, candid and constructive dialogue with the State party's delegation, which it thanks for the information provided during the consideration of the report and after the dialogue.

B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the following legislative and policy measures taken by the State party:

(a) The amendment to the Penal Code in 2023, which provides for the introduction of racist and xenophobic motives as constituent elements in other criminal provisions;

(b) The amendment to the Legal Aid Act in 2022, the scope of application of which was extended to cover persons seeking or receiving international protection and temporary asylum-seekers;

(c) The amendment to the Radio and Television Act in 2020, which introduced stricter measures against the use of hate speech and prohibits incitement to violence, hatred or acts of terrorism in audiovisual media services;

(d) The adoption of the National Action Plan to Combat Antisemitism (2023–2027);

(e) The adoption of the National Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the Roma (2021–2030).

* Adopted by the Committee at its 111th session (20 November–8 December 2023).

¹ CERD/C/BGR/23-25.

² CERD/C/SR.3033 and CERD/C/SR.3034.



C. Concerns and recommendations

Statistics

4. The Committee notes the explanation provided by the State party's delegation that the National Statistical Institute collects data disaggregated by ethnicity, region and mother tongue language on the basis of self-identification and voluntary disclosure. However, the Committee is concerned about the lack of up-to-date statistics and socioeconomic indicators disaggregated by sex and age, which would enable it to properly assess the extent to which different ethnic groups, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons enjoy the rights under the Convention. It is also concerned that the lack of statistics may limit the State party's ability to analyse the situation of those groups, including their socioeconomic status, and evaluate any progress in the implementation of targeted policies and programmes. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of statistics on the ethnic composition of the prison population (arts. 1 and 2).

5. Recalling its general recommendation No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention and its guidelines for reporting under the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party produce statistics, disaggregated by sex and age, on the socioeconomic situation of ethnic groups and foreign nationals, including migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, in particular their access to education, employment, health care and housing, and on their participation in public and political life with a view to creating an empirical basis for assessing the equal enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party collect and publish statistics on the ethnic composition of the prison population.

Implementation of anti-discrimination provisions

6. While noting the amendments to the Penal Code in 2023, as well as the amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure in 2023, aimed at improving the criminal law provisions on hate speech and hate crime, the Committee is concerned that the Penal Code does not distinguish between crimes motivated by hooliganism and those motivated by racism or xenophobia, and that penalties are not commensurate with the gravity of the offences. The Committee is also concerned about reports indicating persistent shortcomings in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system in dealing with cases of racial discrimination, including insufficient investigations and prosecutions by law enforcement bodies and the judiciary, and the lack of public awareness of the rights and remedies available. The Committee is further concerned about reports of discriminatory practices in the criminal justice system, which significantly hamper access to justice by Roma and non-citizens and result in violations of their right to due process and an adequate defence (art. 2).

7. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Amend the Penal Code to ensure that offences and crimes motivated by racism and xenophobia are separate and distinct from the offence of hooliganism and provide for adequate and appropriate penalties;**

(b) **Intensify its efforts to address the shortcomings in dealing with complaints of racial discrimination, including by ensuring that prompt, thorough and impartial investigations are carried out into all racist incidents and those responsible are prosecuted and punished with adequate penalties, and provide fair and adequate reparation to victims;**

(c) **Carry out public awareness campaigns, in particular among Roma and non-citizens, on the rights under the Convention, on remedies available and on how to file complaints about acts of racial discrimination;**

(d) **Intensify its efforts to ensure access to justice for Roma and non-citizens and guarantee their right to due process and an adequate defence, including by ensuring access to qualified lawyers with knowledge of their languages and interpreters to enable them to understand judicial proceedings.**

National action plan against racism

8. While noting various measures taken by the State party to combat prejudice and promote understanding and tolerance, the Committee is, however, concerned about the absence of a national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance (arts. 2 and 7).

9. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. The Committee also recommends that the State party include the structural dimension of racial discrimination in that action plan, set measurable goals and deadlines for its implementation and allocate sufficient resources for its effective implementation.**

Institutional framework

10. The Committee welcomes the reaccreditation of the Ombudsman with category A status by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. It also notes the increase in the number of complaints received by the Ombudsman between 2017 and 2019. However, the Committee is concerned about the low number of complaints in relation to racial or ethnic discrimination, which might indicate a lack of awareness of the mandate of the Ombudsman. While noting that the Commission for Protection against Discrimination is a quasi-judicial body in the State party, the Committee is concerned about its limited independence and the lack of clear and explicit functional immunity for its members (art. 2).

11. **The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to raise awareness about the mandate, competences and work carried out by the Ombudsman, including the possibility of receiving complaints about racial and ethnic discrimination, and provide the Ombudsman with the necessary resources to discharge its role efficiently. The Committee also recommends that the State party strengthen the independence of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, including by guaranteeing in law and in practice the functional immunity of its members.**

Racist hate speech and hate crimes

12. While welcoming measures implemented by the State party to address racist hate speech and hate crimes, including amendments to the Radio and Television Act, the Committee is concerned about the persistence of racist hate speech and hate crimes in the State party, including in the media and on the Internet, in particular:

(a) That sanctions handed down by the Council for Electronic Media in relation to hate speech disseminated through media channels are not commensurate with the gravity of the offences and do not have a deterrent effect, and the lack of information on cases investigated by the Council and the outcome of these investigations;

(b) Racist hate speech by political party representatives and other public figures, particularly during election campaigns, as well as reports of lenient judgments by the courts against politicians and other public figures in cases of incitement to hatred and discrimination against minorities and migrants;

(c) Underreporting of racist hate crimes, the investigations carried out, the prosecution and conviction of perpetrators and penalties imposed on them, and the protection and reparation measures afforded (arts. 2, 4 and 6).

13. **Recalling its general recommendations No. 7 (1985) relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention, No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention, No. 15 (1993) on article 4 of the Convention and No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt effective measures to prevent and combat racist hate speech and incitement to racist violence and intensify its efforts to monitor and address the spread of racist hate speech in the media and on the Internet, in close cooperation with media outlets, Internet service providers, social media platforms and members of groups vulnerable to racist hate speech;**

(b) **Take all measures necessary to ensure that the Council for Electronic Media can carry out its mandate effectively and independently and ensure that all cases of racist hate speech in the media are investigated and that appropriate penalties are imposed on those responsible;**

(c) **Firmly condemn any expression of racist hate speech by politicians or public figures, especially during election campaigns, and ensure that such acts are investigated and adequately sanctioned;**

(d) **Intensify efforts to give full effect to the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in *Budinova and Chaprazov v. Bulgaria* and *Behar and Gutman v. Bulgaria*, concerning hate speech against Roma and Jews by one of the leaders of the United Patriots coalition;**

(e) **Conduct studies to determine the reasons for the underreporting of racist hate speech and hate crimes and take effective measures to facilitate and encourage their reporting, including when they occur on the Internet and social media platforms;**

(f) **Ensure that all complaints of racist hate speech and hate crimes are thoroughly, effectively and impartially investigated and prosecuted, that perpetrators are duly punished and that victims are provided with effective remedies and adequate reparation;**

(g) **Assess and strengthen its system for collecting data on complaints of racist hate speech and racially motivated crimes, prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed and include relevant statistics in its next periodic report.**

Racial profiling and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials

14. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party's delegation. However, the Committee is deeply concerned about the reported persistence of deaths in custody, acts of torture, ill-treatment, abuse of authority, racial profiling and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials during detention and inside police stations against individuals and groups, including ethnic minorities and migrants, in particular Roma. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of a clear prohibition of racial profiling in the legislative framework on law enforcement. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of information provided on the complaints relating to racial profiling and racially motivated police violence. Moreover, it is concerned about reports of inadequate investigations into those cases and that impunity for abuse by law enforcement officials continues to be widespread (art. 4).

15. **Recalling its general recommendations No. 13 (1993) on the training of law enforcement officials in the protection of human rights and No. 36 (2020) on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt and effectively implement laws that define and prohibit racial profiling and racially motivated police violence, and adopt policies to counter racial profiling, including by providing intensive training on human rights to law enforcement officials in order to guarantee that, in the course of their duties, they respect and protect the fundamental rights of all persons without discrimination on the grounds of race, colour or ethnic or national origin;**

(b) **Ensure that all allegations of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials are promptly and effectively investigated, that the alleged perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions;**

(c) **Ensure that victims of racial profiling by law enforcement officials have access to effective remedies and adequate compensation, and are protected against reprisals for reporting such cases;**

(d) **Establish comprehensive data-collection mechanisms to monitor all incidents of racial profiling and report on their outcome.**

Racism in sport

16. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to combat racism, racist hate speech and hate crimes in sport. However, it is concerned about the persistence of acts of racism and discrimination, as well as racist speech and violence in sport, in particular in football (arts. 4, 5, 6 and 7).

17. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt adequate measures to prevent and combat racism and racial discrimination, hatred and violence in sport, in particular football.

Participation in political and public life

18. The Committee is concerned about the reported limited political participation and representation of minorities in the National Assembly and in public office, particularly Roma minorities, and about the absence of available data on the representation of ethnic and minority groups in political and public life, including in the National Assembly, public office, as well as in judicial bodies and the public administration. It is also concerned that the Electoral Code does not allow electoral campaigns to be conducted in languages other than Bulgarian, which creates difficulties for the representation of non-Bulgarian-speaking minorities (art. 5).

19. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to promote fair and equitable representation of minority groups in political and public affairs, including through the establishment of special measures, such as quotas, where appropriate. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next periodic report information in that regard, including in relation to judicial bodies and the public administration. The Committee also recommends that the State party review its Electoral Code with a view to addressing all obstacles to participation in political life by ensuring adequate representation of ethnic minorities groups, including by removing language barriers.

Economic, social and cultural rights of ethnic minorities

20. The Committee takes note of the information provided in the State party's report on programmes and strategies aimed at improving the access of ethnic minorities to education, employment, housing and health-care services. However, the Committee is concerned about the persistent discrimination and marginalization of minorities in various areas of life, which impede their full integration into society. The Committee is particularly concerned about:

(a) The high rate of unemployment among ethnic minorities, which is more than twice as high, particularly among Roma and Turks, compared with the general population. It is also concerned about the limited outreach by the National Employment Agency to minorities and marginalized groups on the important requirement to register with the Agency as a precondition for many social benefits;

(b) Reports that ethnic minorities are mostly concentrated in the informal economy, with poor working conditions, such as salaries below the minimum wage and lack of labour protection or access to social security and health insurance;

(c) Reports of barriers to using and studying in minority languages, including curricula that have not been adapted to children whose mother tongue is not Bulgarian, which may have a discriminatory impact on persons belonging to minority groups with respect to their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;

(d) The limited steps taken to preserve, protect and promote minority languages and cultures, and reports of minority languages at risk of disappearance (art. 5).

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Intensify efforts to ensure that persons belonging to ethnic minorities enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights on an equal footing with the rest of the population, particularly with regard to the rights to education, employment, housing and health-care services, while taking into account the specific needs of their cultural and linguistic diversity;**

(b) **Increase its efforts to reduce unemployment among ethnic minorities and improve their access to decent work, paying particular attention to persons belonging to Roma and Turkish communities;**

(c) **Take all measures necessary to ensure that workers from minority groups in the informal economy are adequately protected under labour laws;**

(d) **Carry out outreach campaigns to make sure that minority groups are aware of their economic, social and cultural rights, particularly labour rights, and know how to gain access to services provided by the National Employment Agency;**

(e) **Consider revising its language policies and laws in the area of education in order to promote the teaching of minority languages to ensure that such policies and laws do not negatively affect the educational performance of children belonging to minority groups;**

(f) **Adopt the measures necessary to reduce the constraints faced by minorities with regard to use of their minority languages before State authorities and courts of law in areas in which linguistic minority groups reside traditionally or in substantial numbers;**

(g) **Preserve, protect and promote minority languages and cultures as part of cultural diversity and heritage.**

Macedonian and Pomak minorities

22. The Committee takes note of the explanation provided by the State party's delegation that all its citizens, including those belonging to Macedonian or Pomak minorities, have the right to self-identification. However, the Committee is concerned about reports that members of the Macedonian minority are banned from the free exercise of the right to freedom of assembly and association. The Committee regrets the persisting obstacles and burdensome requirements for the registration of civil society organizations and the reported refusal of the Registry Agency and courts to register Macedonian associations, based on their Macedonian self-identification (arts. 2, 5 and 7).

23. **The Committee recommends that the State party consider all possible means for guaranteeing the effective enjoyment by persons belonging to ethnic minorities, including Macedonian and Pomak minority groups, of their human rights, including through the implementation of the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in relation to the right to freedom of expression and association.³ The Committee also recommends that the State party eliminate all barriers to the registration of minority associations and take measures to encourage their activities and collaborate with them.**

Roma

24. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party to improve the situation of Roma communities, including by adopting the National Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the Roma (2021–2030) and its National Action Plan for the period from 2022 to 2023. However, the Committee is concerned about the persistent and widespread structural discrimination against Roma communities, which continue to face social exclusion and marginalization preventing them from fully enjoying all their rights under the Convention. The Committee is particularly concerned about:

(a) The inability of a large number of Roma to obtain identity documents, due to challenges or obstacles in legalizing their houses and registering their place of residence, which has led to the denial of certain rights, such as access to education, work, health care, voting and free movement, and which hinders the registration of marriages and births;

³ See the observations of the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee submitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in relation to the United Macedonian Organisation Ilinden group of cases. Available at <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000101680ac8c42>.

(b) The lack of genuine solutions to address the deficit of adequate housing for members of Roma communities, as they remain in informal settlements and substandard living conditions with no proper infrastructure, security of tenure and access to basic services, as well as suffering from de facto segregation in housing;

(c) Reports of house demolitions and forced evictions of Roma communities, without the provision of adequate alternative housing or compensation for their members who are affected, many of whom have become homeless as a result;

(d) The shortage of social housing and persistent barriers faced by Roma in gaining access to social housing, particularly due to the introduction by local authorities of restrictive criteria to assess social housing and housing benefits, from which a large number of Roma are excluded;

(e) Low rates of enrolment and attendance at schools and high dropout rates, particularly at the secondary level, among Roma children, and widespread, systemic discrimination and de facto segregation affecting Roma children in the education system;

(f) Persistent disparities in educational participation between Roma children residing in rural areas and the wider population, particularly with regard to their low rate of enrolment in kindergartens and preschools in rural areas;

(g) The high number of Roma who are unemployed, the high proportion of Roma in informal employment and poor quality jobs, and the extreme income gap between Roma and the rest of the population (arts. 2 and 5).

25. Recalling its previous concluding observations and its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take the measures necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategy for Equality, Inclusion and Participation of the Roma (2021–2030), including the allocation of sufficient financial and technical resources and the establishment of a monitoring mechanism;

(b) Expedite the adoption of the necessary amendments to the Civil Registration Act to address the administrative shortcomings of the civil registry system with a view to remove legal and other barriers in obtaining identity cards and provide durable solutions to ensure that persons without identity documents can enjoy their basic rights under article 5 of the Convention;

(c) Provide genuine solutions for housing problems, including by improving the infrastructure and basic services available in Roma settlements, and adopt appropriate and effective measures to end de facto segregation in housing;

(d) Take measures to prevent forced evictions and house demolitions of Roma, ensure that evictions do not result in people becoming homeless, including by providing security of tenure to Roma communities and legalizing informal settlements, and, when such evictions are absolutely necessary, ensure that the families and individuals affected are provided with adequate alternative housing and compensation;

(e) Expeditiously adopt a social housing policy to ensure the prioritization of the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups, particularly Roma who lack access to adequate housing and basic facilities and amenities, and allocate sufficient resources for the effective implementation of such a policy;

(f) Take all measures necessary to address the root causes of discrimination and segregation of Roma children in the education system and ensure that they receive inclusive and quality education by taking effective measures, including special measures, with a view to increasing their preschool enrolment, enhancing rates of school attendance and completion and improving their educational achievements, particularly in rural areas;

(g) Take all measures necessary to progressively end unemployment among Roma, reduce the extent of informal employment and improve their working

conditions, in particular eliminate the income gap in relation to the rest of the population.

Effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on Roma

26. The Committee is concerned about the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the existing precarious economic and social conditions of Roma, and reports that Roma faced significant intolerance and discrimination during the pandemic. In particular, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports that a relatively small proportion of Roma have been vaccinated against COVID-19;

(b) The disproportionate negative effect on learning among Roma children during the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of school closures and online learning schemes, in which a large number of Roma children could not participate due to lack of access to the Internet in their communities;

(c) The insufficient measures taken to address job loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately affected Roma, including the incomes of those working in informal employment (arts. 2 and 5).

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Ensure that any measures and restrictions imposed due to emergency situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic are applied in a non-discriminatory manner;**

(b) **Extend its measures to mitigate the health-related consequences of COVID-19 on Roma, including by facilitating universal and equitable access to testing, treatment and vaccination;**

(c) **Take the measures necessary to compensate for the loss of learning opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalized children as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent further disruption to education;**

(d) **Take targeted measures to support Roma who lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic to re-enter the workforce.**

Situation of non-citizens, including migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons

28. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party in relation to migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, including the adoption of the National Strategy on Migration (2021–2025) and the legislative amendment to the Asylum and Refugees Act in 2020, which provides for legal representation by the National Office for Legal Aid for unaccompanied minors throughout the international protection procedure. The Committee is, however, concerned about:

(a) The absence of a comprehensive integration programme for migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, as well as a lack of data on the impact and results of the implementation of the National Strategy on Migration, Asylum and Integration for 2015–2020, and the persistent difficulties in their access to basic services, including education, employment, housing, social assistance, health care and psychological assistance;

(b) Reports of persistent xenophobia and racial discrimination against migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons;

(c) Reports of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, resulting in injuries and bodily harm;

(d) Reports of constraints in access to the territory by asylum-seekers, resulting in systematic pushbacks and violence, in violation of the principle of non-refoulement; and of nationals of certain countries, including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Morocco and Tunisia, being rejected without due process;

(e) Reports of asylum-seekers and migrants, including children and persons in vulnerable situations, being left near the borders of Bulgaria in dire conditions, without being offered access to asylum procedures or emergency assistance, such as the provision of food, water and shelter;

(f) Reports of a persistent lack of prompt identification procedures and qualified interpreters, including at the 24-hour police detention facilities, and of vulnerable persons not being promptly identified, including unaccompanied children who face the risk of entering the country and being identified as “accompanied” and therefore placed in detention centres;

(g) The practice of mandatory and immediate detention of asylum-seekers and undocumented migrants, restrictions on their freedom of movement outside their detention centres and persistent overcrowding and unsatisfactory detention conditions in reception centres, including unsanitary conditions and inadequate access to water and health-care services;

(h) The insufficient capacity of the safe zones to accommodate unaccompanied children, resulting in accommodation in mixed dormitories in reception centres without adequate protection or access to adaptation and rehabilitation activities, including language learning, which results in limited access to education;

(i) The high risk of trafficking and related violations among migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and the lack of information on the measures adopted to improve the identification of victims of trafficking among migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers and on the assistance and rehabilitation services provided to them (art. 5).

29. **The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary measures:**

(a) **To establish a functional local integration mechanism for migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in areas such as education, employment, housing, social assistance and health-care services, and adopt and implement in that regard a national strategy and action plan, which should include benchmarks, indicators of progress and a time frame for monitoring implementation;**

(b) **To prevent and address all forms of discrimination and xenophobia against migrants, refugees, stateless persons and asylum-seekers, ensure that law enforcement officials act in accordance with the Convention and international standards when forcibly removing foreigners, including by monitoring their activities and investigating, prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators of human rights abuses with appropriate penalties, and ensure access to effective remedies and reparations for victims;**

(c) **To ensure that the principle of non-refoulement is strictly respected in practice, that all asylum-seekers and migrants are protected against pushbacks at the border, that they have access to information on asylum procedures and to legal aid and that they have the right to apply for asylum and be assessed on an individual basis, without discrimination;**

(d) **To enhance training for the border police and immigration personnel to ensure full respect for the principle of non-refoulement and the rights of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants under the Convention and other international standards;**

(e) **To put in place procedures to permit the rapid and appropriate identification of persons in vulnerable situations, improve the procedure for the identification and registration of unaccompanied children and ensure that staff are trained to conduct identification and referral procedures in a sensitive manner;**

(f) **To ensure that immigration detention is applied only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period, after an assessment of its legality, necessity and proportionality on a case-by-case basis, and that those detained in reception centres are provided with legal safeguards and have access to legal counsel, as well as interpretation services, particularly in police detention facilities;**

(g) To strengthen its efforts to ensure, in cooperation with its regional and international partners, decent living conditions in all reception and detention centres for migrants and asylum-seekers, by providing adequate health-care services, water and sanitary conditions, as well as by providing sufficient human, technical and financial resources to increase the capacity and improve the conditions of government-run reception centres to accommodate migrant and asylum-seeking children, including unaccompanied children, and ensure that the services provided by the reception centres are child-friendly and age-appropriate;

(h) To strengthen the procedures for the early identification of victims of trafficking among migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers and their referral to appropriate services for their assistance and rehabilitation.

D. Other recommendations

Ratification of other treaties

30. Bearing in mind the indivisibility of all human rights, the Committee encourages the State party to consider ratifying those international human rights treaties that it has not yet ratified, in particular treaties with provisions that have direct relevance to communities that may be subjected to racial discrimination, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization.

Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

31. In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on the follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, the Committee recommends that, when implementing the Convention in its domestic legal order, the State party give effect to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, taking into account the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva in April 2009. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next periodic report specific information on action plans and other measures taken to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national level.

International Decade for People of African Descent

32. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/237, in which the Assembly proclaimed 2015–2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, and Assembly resolution 69/16 on the programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade, the Committee recommends that the State party prepare and implement a suitable programme of measures and policies. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next report precise information on the concrete measures adopted in that framework, taking into account its general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent.

Consultations with civil society

33. The Committee recommends that the State party continue consulting and increasing its dialogue with civil society organizations working in the area of human rights protection, in particular those working to combat racial discrimination, in connection with the preparation of the next periodic report and in follow-up to the present concluding observations.

Dissemination of information

34. The Committee recommends that the State party's reports be made readily available and accessible to the public at the time of their submission and that the concluding observations of the Committee with respect to those reports be similarly publicized on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

Common core document

35. The Committee encourages the State party to update its common core document, which dates to 2015, in accordance with the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, in particular those on the common core document, as adopted at the fifth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies held in June 2006.⁴ In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 42,400 words for such documents.

Follow-up to the present concluding observations

36. In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 of its rules of procedure, the Committee requests the State party to provide, within one year of the adoption of the present concluding observations, information on its implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 7 (b)–(d) (implementation of anti-discrimination provisions) and 11 (institutional framework) above.

Paragraphs of particular importance

37. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 7 (a) (implementation of anti-discrimination provisions), 13 (racist hate speech and hate crimes) and 15 (racial profiling and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials) above and requests the State party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.

Preparation of the next periodic report

38. The Committee recommends that the State party submit its combined twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh periodic reports, as a single document, by 4 January 2027, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session⁵ and addressing all the points raised in the present concluding observations. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 21,200 words for periodic reports.

⁴ HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I.

⁵ CERD/C/2007/1.