



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Distr.: General
15 February 2024

Original: English
Arabic, English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

112th session

8–26 April 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States parties under article 9 of the Convention

List of themes in relation to the combined twenty-second and twenty-third periodic reports of Qatar

Note by the Country Rapporteur

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided at its seventy-sixth session¹ that the Country Rapporteur would send to the State party concerned a short list of themes with a view to guiding and focusing the dialogue between the State party's delegation and the Committee during the consideration of the State party's report. The present document contains a list of such themes. It is not an exhaustive list; other issues may also be raised in the course of the dialogue. No written replies are required.

The Convention in domestic law and the institutional and policy framework for its implementation (arts. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7)

2. Information on the ethnic composition of the population of the State party and indicators relating to the socioeconomic situation of the population disaggregated by sex, gender, national and ethnic origin, including migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons.² Measures taken to strengthen the data collection system, including those aimed at incorporating variables related to ethnic and national origin.

3. Information on the status of the Convention in the domestic legal system and on the resolution of conflicts between domestic law and the Convention.³ Information on cases in which the provisions of the Convention have been invoked before the courts of the State party or directly applied by them.⁴ Additional information on training on the Convention provided to law enforcement officials, public defenders, lawyers, judges, justice system officials and other public officials.⁵ Measures to raise awareness among the population of the State party, including non-citizens, of the rights enshrined in the Convention and the complaint mechanisms and judicial and non-judicial remedies available to them.⁶

4. Information on efforts to bring the prohibition on discrimination in article 35 of the Constitution into line with article 1, paragraph 1, of the Convention.⁷ Measures taken to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation containing a clear definition of racial

¹ [A/65/18](#), para. 85.

² [CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21](#), paras. 5 and 6; and [CERD/C/QAT/22-23](#), paras. 43, 44, 45, 48 and 51.

³ [CERD/C/QAT/22-23](#), paras. 10 and 37.

⁴ [CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21](#), paras. 11 and 12; and [CERD/C/QAT/22-23](#), paras. 10 and 37.

⁵ [CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21](#), para. 34; and [CERD/C/QAT/22-23](#), paras. 59, 129, 138 and 139.

⁶ [CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21](#), paras. 11 and 12; and [CERD/C/QAT/22-23](#), paras. 38–40 and 59–64.

⁷ [CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21](#), paras. 7 and 8; and [CERD/C/QAT/22-23](#), paras. 9 and 58.



discrimination, including direct and indirect forms of racial discrimination, covering all fields of law and public life, and all prohibited grounds of discrimination, in accordance with article 1, paragraph 1, of the Convention.⁸

5. Information on the measures taken to ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Committee; to allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to it since the submission of the previous periodic report; and to strengthen its mandate to prevent and combat racial discrimination.⁹ Updated information on individual complaints of racial discrimination submitted to the National Human Rights Committee, including on the grounds of national origin, and on their outcomes.¹⁰

6. Measures adopted to criminalize acts of racial discrimination and the prohibited conduct described in article 4 of the Convention, and to include racist motivation as an aggravating circumstance for offences covered by the Criminal Code.¹¹ Measures taken to prevent and combat racist hate speech, hate crimes and incitement to racial discrimination and xenophobia, including in the media and on the Internet and social media platforms. Measures adopted to facilitate the reporting and investigation of racist hate speech and hate crimes, including the establishment of a data collection system and training for law enforcement officials.

7. Updated information on the adoption of a national action plan for human rights.¹² Measures taken or envisaged to adopt a national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to establish an independent equality body with the mandate to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination. Information on the measures taken and the programme of activities organized in the State party in the framework of the International Decade for People of African Descent and the participation of groups and individuals of African descent in the design and implementation of and follow-up to these initiatives.¹³

8. Measures taken to ensure an open space for human rights defenders, journalists and civil society organizations, including those working to combat racial discrimination and on the rights of migrants, and to remove burdensome registration procedures and limitations on their ability to operate.¹⁴

9. Measures taken or envisaged to amend Nationality Act No. 38 of 2005 in order to allow Qatari women married to non-citizens to transmit their nationality to their children and spouses on an equal footing with Qatari men.¹⁵

Situation of ethnic groups, minorities and non-citizens, including migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons (art. 5)

10. Measures to combat structural and multiple forms of discrimination, including special and affirmative action measures, that affect non-nationals in different aspects of the public and private domains, in particular persons from South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, and to ensure the effective enjoyment of their rights under the Convention without discrimination. Information about the impact of such measures and the participation of people belonging to these groups in their design, implementation and evaluation.

11. Additional information on measures adopted to achieve the full abolition of the sponsorship (*kafalah*) system in law and in practice. Measures taken to guarantee the right of migrant workers to change employer and to eliminate persisting obstacles, such as the continued request by State authorities of a “no objection” certificate by the employer, as well

⁸ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 7 and 8; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 9, 10 and 58.

⁹ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 9 and 10; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, para. 59.

¹⁰ CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 62–64 and 107.

¹¹ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 13 and 14; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, para. 15.

¹² CERD/C/QAT/22-23, para. 139.

¹³ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, para. 37.

¹⁴ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 31 and 32; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 127 and 128.

¹⁵ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 25 and 26; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 113–116.

as retaliatory measures against migrant workers.¹⁶ Measures adopted to eliminate in law and in practice the requirement for all migrant workers to have an employer's exit permit in order to leave the country.¹⁷

12. Additional information on measures adopted to strengthen the protection of migrant workers from abuse and exploitation, in particular to effectively ensure the payment of their wages, the respect of non-discriminatory minimum wages for all migrant workers, and the non-confiscation of their passports.¹⁸ Further information on the full operationalization of the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund and the wage protection system.¹⁹ Further information on measures adopted to guarantee accessible mechanisms for migrant workers, including those employed as security guards, to file complaints when their rights are violated and to ensure protection against reprisals by employers.²⁰

13. Measures adopted to ensure that migrant domestic workers are granted the same legal protection as other workers whose rights are covered under the Labour Code.²¹ Additional information on measures to prevent and combat abusive and exploitative labour practices in relation to domestic workers, such as excessively long workdays, reduction of salaries, which if they do not accept may mean they are threatened by the employer that they will be accused of absconding, which can be sanctioned with deportation, and denial of permission to leave the employer's residence, including measures to facilitate access to effective complaint procedures and strengthening labour inspection mechanisms.²² Specific measures adopted to protect women migrant domestic workers from physical and sexual violence and to ensure that abusive employers are held accountable and punished.²³

14. Additional information on the measures adopted to ensure compliance with occupational health and safety regulations, and to raise awareness among employers and migrant workers on workplace safety and the prevention of occupational accidents, including measures to protect migrant workers from heat stress.²⁴ Measures taken to prevent and investigate work-related deaths and injuries of migrant workers in the construction sector, including infrastructure related to the Fédération Internationale de Football Association World Cup 2022, detailing the number of migrant workers deceased, the investigations conducted and the reparations provided for their families.

15. Measures adopted to guarantee the exercise of the right to freedom of association and assembly for non-citizens, including migrant and domestic workers, notably to form and join trade unions and to participate in peaceful protests and strikes without discrimination and fear of deportation.²⁵

16. Additional information on the measures adopted to ensure that non-citizens, including migrant workers and irregular migrants, have effective access to education, health care, housing, and leisure and culture without discrimination.²⁶ Further information on the measures taken to guarantee the right of migrant workers to family reunification.²⁷ Information on allegations of compulsory medical testing for HIV/AIDS during the visa application process of international students and migrant workers.

¹⁶ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 15 and 16; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 16, 42, 69 (i), 89 and 112.

¹⁷ CERD/C/QAT/22-23, para. 69 (iii).

¹⁸ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 15 and 16; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 42, 69 (ii) and 78–86.

¹⁹ CERD/C/QAT/22-23, para. 69 (iv) and 78–81.

²⁰ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 15 and 16; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 29–32, 60, 62, 79, 80, 84, 85 and 90.

²¹ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 17 and 18; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 69 (i), 92 and 94–97.

²² CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 17 and 18; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 30, 60–62, 69 (i), 85, 92, 94–97 and 101.

²³ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 17 and 18; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 94 and 99–101.

²⁴ CERD/C/QAT/22-23, para. 69 (vi).

²⁵ Ibid., paras. 34, 47, 69 (v) and 127.

²⁶ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 23 and 24; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 12, 17, 18, 25, 26, 36, 49, 52–56, 63, 64 and 108.

²⁷ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, para. 16 (f); and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 87 and 88.

17. Additional information on the measures adopted and envisaged to ensure that naturalized citizens enjoy all human rights without discrimination and on an equal basis with citizens born in the State party, including the right to housing, the right to equal access to public service and the rights to vote and to stand for election.²⁸ Information on any initiatives to revise the legal framework that regulates the acquisition of Qatari nationality and permanent residency in the State party, in particular to reduce the period of residence required.

18. Further information on the measures adopted to amend the provisions of Act No. 11 of 2018 on political asylum that restrict the right of asylum-seekers and refugees to liberty of movement and residence and prohibit them from engaging in political activity. Measures to ensure full respect for the principle of non-refoulement and to guarantee that asylum-seekers are provided with effective legal remedies in relation to their requests for refugee status.²⁹ Statistical data on the number of asylum applications received and the number of people who have been granted refugee status since the entry into force of Act No. 11, disaggregated by sex, age and nationality.

19. Statistical data on the number of stateless persons in the State party and additional information on the measures taken to prevent and reduce statelessness, including adequate legal remedies against deprivation of nationality.³⁰

Access to justice (art. 6)

20. Information on the number and types of complaints of racial discrimination submitted to courts and other national institutions, the results of investigations conducted, penalties imposed and reparations granted to victims. Measures adopted to facilitate the reporting of cases of racial discrimination, including any measures to reverse the burden of proof in favour of the victims. Actions taken to improve access to justice for victims of racial discrimination, including non-citizens, and to prevent and address racist attitudes and racial discrimination in the judicial system.³¹

21. Information on legislative and other measures taken or envisaged to prevent, combat and explicitly prohibit racial profiling, including through the use of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity measures, by law enforcement and other public officials and institutions.

Training, education and other measures to combat prejudice and intolerance (art. 7)

22. Additional information on measures taken to include human rights education, in particular education on the Convention and the fight against racial discrimination and racism, in school curricula and training programmes for teachers and other education professionals in public and private educational institutions.³² Initiatives to address the history of enslavement and its consequences, including in school curricula. Measures to promote knowledge and awareness of the cultural heritage and history of groups belonging to minorities, including non-nationals, and their contribution to Qatari society and culture.

23. Additional information on measures taken to prevent and combat the dissemination of stereotypes, racial prejudice and xenophobia, particularly against non-nationals and migrant workers, including in the media and on social networks.³³ Measures adopted to engage with relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations and academia, on the promotion of understanding and tolerance and on the fight against racial discrimination.

²⁸ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 21 and 22; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 121 and 122.

²⁹ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 29 and 30; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 123–126.

³⁰ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 27 and 28; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 117–120.

³¹ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 11 and 12; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 16, 30–32, 60–64, 85, 90, 101 and 107.

³² CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 33 and 34; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 59 and 129–143.

³³ CERD/C/QAT/CO/17-21, paras. 33 and 34; and CERD/C/QAT/22-23, paras. 59, 130–137 and 140–143.