



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 twelfth to fourteenth periodic reports of the Republic of Moldova*

1. The Committee considered the combined twelfth to fourteenth periodic reports of the Republic of Moldova,¹ submitted in one document, at its 3065th and 3066th meetings,² held on 18 and 19 April 2024. At its 3074th meeting, held on 25 April 2024, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined twelfth to fourteenth periodic reports of the Republic of Moldova. It also welcomes the constructive dialogue with the State party's delegation and thanks the delegation for the information provided during the consideration of the report and the supplementary responses provided after the dialogue.

B. Factors and difficulties impeding the implementation of the Convention

3. The Committee notes that the State party does not exercise effective control over the Transnistria region, which impedes the application of the Convention in this region.

C. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the adoption by the State party of the following legislative, institutional and policy measures:

(a) Parliamentary Decision No. 64 of 11 February 2019 establishing the National Human Rights Council as a national mechanism to coordinate the preparation and implementation of human rights policies and to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the international human rights treaties ratified by the State party;

(b) Act No. 111 of 21 April 2022 amending provisions of the Criminal Code and the Contravention Code to prohibit hate speech, hate crimes, violence and incitement to racial discrimination and to establish racist motives as aggravating circumstances;

(c) Government Decision No. 576 of 3 August 2022 on the Programme to Support the Ethnic Roma Population (2022–2025);

(d) Act No. 2 of February 2023 amending provisions of the Equality Act (No. 121 of 2021) by expanding the list of grounds on which discrimination is prohibited, strengthening the capacity of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and

* Adopted by the Committee at its 112th session (8–26 April 2024).

¹ CERD/C/MDA/12-14.

² See CERD/C/SR.3065 and CERD/C/SR.3066.



Ensuring Equality (the Equality Council) and improving the procedure for considering complaints;

(e) Government Decision No. 169 of 20 April 2023 on the 2023–2025 action plan for the implementation of the Strategy on Strengthening Inter-Ethnic Relations in the Republic of Moldova for the period 2017–2027;

(f) Government Decision No. 164 of 6 March 2024 on the national action plan on human rights (2024–2027).

D. Concerns and recommendations

Statistics

5. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the delegation on the statistics on ethnic groups and non-citizens in the State party based on the census of 2014. It also takes note of the information provided by the delegation that the population census is being conducted between April and July 2024, based on the principle of self-identification. Nevertheless, the Committee expresses concern about the lack of updated and comprehensive statistics on the demographic composition of the population, disaggregated by ethnic or national origin, and the lack of information on the socioeconomic situation of ethnic minority groups, particularly Roma, and of non-citizens, which limits the Committee's ability to properly assess the situation of such groups and any progress achieved by implementing targeted policies and programmes. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of statistics on the ethnic composition of the prison population (arts. 1, 2 and 5).

6. **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,³ the Committee recommends that the State party collect and provide to the Committee comprehensive and disaggregated statistics on the demographic composition of the population, while respecting the principle of self-identification in the 2024 population census, together with statistics on the socioeconomic situation of ethnic minority groups, including Roma, and of non-citizens such as refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and stateless persons, and on their access to education, employment, health care and housing 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.**

Convention in the domestic legal order

7. The Committee notes that, pursuant to article 4 of the Constitution, ratified international treaties are part of the domestic legal order and take precedence over national legislation. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on cases in which the provisions of the Convention were invoked before or applied by domestic courts. The Committee also regrets the lack of information on the implementation of its opinion adopted by the Committee concerning communication No. 60/2016 (arts. 2, 5, 6 and 14).⁴

8. **The Committee recommends that the State party conduct systematic training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns, in particular for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement officials, to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are invoked when relevant by and before domestic courts. It requests the State party to include in its next periodic report specific examples of the application of the Convention by domestic courts.**

National human rights institution

9. The Committee welcomes the fact that the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions reaccredited the Office of the People's Advocate of Moldova (Ombudsman) with

³ CERD/C/2007/1.

⁴ CERD/C/103/D/60/2016.

A status in October 2023. It notes with concern the adoption in February 2023 of amendments to Act No. 52 of 2014 on the Office of the People's Advocate, which, while increasing the number of staff posts from 65 to 72, remove the requirement for Parliament to approve the initiation of criminal proceedings against the Ombudsman in cases of flagrant money laundering offences, offences relating to inappropriate performance in the public sector and illicit enrichment offences. The Committee regrets the lack of information on measures taken to implement and address the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance, particularly to review the amendment to the legal framework to grant the Ombudsman functional immunity from prosecution for official acts performed in good faith and to provide sufficient resources to ensure that the Office of the People's Advocate can effectively carry out its mandate in full. It is also concerned about the inadequate allocation of financial resources to the Office of the People's Advocate. The salaries of its employees remain low compared to other posts in the public sector, despite the recent raise in salaries, and the number of staff employed is low in practice. The Office of the People's Advocate does not own the premises it is occupying (art. 2).

10. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to strengthen the independence of the Office of the People's Advocate of Moldova and enable it to carry out its mandate fully, effectively and independently, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). To that end, it recommends that the State party adopt effective measures, particularly legal measures, to implement the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, including to grant the Ombudsman full functional immunity for official acts performed in good faith and to allocate the Office sufficient financial, human and technical resources by increasing the salaries of its staff and providing it with premises.

Policy framework

11. The Committee notes the adoption of the 2023–2025 action plan for the implementation of the Strategy on Strengthening Inter-Ethnic Relations in the Republic of Moldova for the period 2017–2027 and the national action plan on human rights (2024–2027). However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of the low level of implementation of activities relating to the situation of ethnic minorities under the national action plan on human rights (2018–2022) and the action plan for the implementation of the Strategy on Strengthening Inter-Ethnic Relations for the period 2017–2020, owing to the insufficient allocation of resources and the lack of clear indicators to monitor and evaluate the impact of activities implemented to improve the situation of ethnic minorities;

(b) The lack of information on the allocation of sufficient resources to ensure the effective implementation of the 2023–2025 action plan and the national action plan on human rights (2024–2027).

12. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of the 2023–2025 action plan for the implementation of the Strategy on Strengthening Inter-Ethnic Relations and the national action plan on human rights (2024–2027), including by allocating adequate human, financial and technical resources for their implementation and by identifying the appropriate institution to ensure the funding, the monitoring of each action and the evaluation of the outcomes.

Institutional framework

13. The Committee notes that, following the administrative reform in 2018, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research assumed responsibility for developing policies concerning inter-ethnic relations, whereas the Agency for Inter-Ethnic Relations is responsible for their implementation. It also notes the establishment in 2019 of the National Human Rights Council as a national mechanism to coordinate the preparation and implementation of human rights policies and the establishment of five specialized commissions under the Council to coordinate and monitor the implementation of ratified

international human rights treaties by the State party. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of information on the activities of National Human Rights Council and reports on the inadequate resources allocated to the specialized commissions to carry out their mandates;

(b) The lack of information on a specialized mechanism or entity to monitor and evaluate the policy frameworks relating to combating racial discrimination and advancing the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minority groups;

(c) The limited participation of and consultation with civil society organizations working on the rights of ethnic minority groups and the fact that only accredited civil society organizations are allowed to participate in the meetings and activities of the Coordination Council of the Agency for Inter-Ethnic Relations.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Strengthen the National Human Rights Council and its specialized commissions, including by allocating adequate human, financial and technical resources to them to enable them to carry out their mandates and activities effectively;**

(b) **Adopt measures to ensure the effective monitoring and evaluation of policies relating to the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minority groups;**

(c) **Adopt measures to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of and consultation with civil society organizations working on the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minority groups, particularly in relation to the development, monitoring and implementation of policies.**

Equality Council

15. The Committee notes the adoption of Act No. 2 of 2 February 2023 amending provisions of Act No. 121/2012, the Equality Act, expanding the list of grounds on which discrimination is prohibited, introducing the concepts of continuing and prolonged discrimination, strengthening the capacity of the Equality Council by adding 13 staff posts and facilitating the procedure for considering complaints of discrimination. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The fact that the Equality Council's mandate is restricted to issuing decisions after considering complaints of racial discrimination and that it does not have the authority to impose sanctions or submit complaints to the Constitutional Court;

(b) Reports of the low implementation rate of the Equality Council's decisions relating to combating racial discrimination owing to the fact that the authorities regularly appeal against these decisions;

(c) Reports of the scarce financial resources allocated to the Equality Council and the low salaries paid to Council staff compared to similar posts in the public sector, which have a negative impact on the ability of the Council to carry out its mandate effectively.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Review the legal framework on the Equality Council with a view to strengthening and expanding its mandate in relation to combating racial discrimination in accordance with article 1 of the Convention, particularly to consider allowing it to impose sanctions, submit complaints before the Constitutional Court and ensure the effective implementation of its decisions;**

(b) **Ensure the effective and meaningful participation of and consultation with civil society organizations working on the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minority groups in the review process on the mandate of the Equality Council;**

(c) **Allocate adequate financial resources to enable the Equality Council to carry out all its functions effectively.**

Racist hate speech and hate crimes

17. The Committee welcomes the information on the adoption of Act No. 111 of 21 April 2022 amending provisions of the Criminal Code and the Contravention Code to prohibit hate speech, incitement to racial discrimination, hate crimes and violence under article 346 of the Criminal Code, to prohibit incitement to racial discrimination under article 701 of the Contravention Code and to establish racist motives as aggravating circumstances. It also notes the information provided by the delegation on the adoption in August 2018 of internal guidelines for law enforcement officials on the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The fact that the legislative framework does not contain provisions that expressly criminalize racist hate speech and hate crimes in accordance with article 4 of the Convention, such as all dissemination of ideas based on racial or ethnic superiority or hatred by whatever means, incitement to contempt or discrimination, and does not include all the grounds of discrimination recognized in article 1 of the Convention, particularly descent;

(b) Reports of the spread of racial discrimination, racist hate speech, hate crimes and the dissemination of negative stereotypes of members of ethnic minority groups, particularly Roma;

(c) The low level of reporting of acts of racial discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes and the frequent failure to adequately recognize and investigate hate crimes, which are often categorized as misdemeanours rather than initiating criminal procedures. Only 11 hate motivated crimes were investigated and prosecuted by the courts between 2022 and 2023, notwithstanding the training targeting the judiciary and law enforcement officials on racist hate speech and hate crimes;

(d) Reports of the use of racist hate speech by politicians, particularly at the local level;

(e) The lack of information on measures to monitor the spread of hate speech in the media, on the Internet and in social media, notwithstanding the mandate of the Audiovisual Council and the adoption in 2023 of the methodology for monitoring hate speech in audiovisual media content;

(f) The lack of detailed and disaggregated information on complaints and cases of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes, investigations and prosecutions carried out and sanctions imposed on perpetrators.

18. The Committee draws the State party's attention to its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, and recalls that an absence of complaints and legal actions relating to racial discrimination may reveal a lack of suitable legislation, poor awareness of the legal remedies available, a lack of trust in the judicial system, a fear of reprisals or a lack of will on the part of the authorities to prosecute the perpetrators of such acts. While recalling its general recommendations No. 7 (1985) relating to the implementation of article 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) Review its legislative framework, particularly the Criminal Code, to explicitly criminalize racist hate speech and hate crimes in line with article 4 of the Convention and to include all grounds of discrimination recognized in article 1 of the Convention;

(b) Strengthen its efforts to combat racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes targeting members of ethnic minority groups, including Roma, including by ensuring the effective implementation of its legislative framework;

(c) Condemn any form of hate speech, distance itself from racist hate speech expressed by politicians and public figures and ensure that such acts are investigated and appropriately sanctioned;

(d) **Strengthen the Audiovisual Council and adopt measures to monitor and address the spread of racist hate speech in the media, on the Internet and in social media, in close cooperation with media outlets, Internet service providers and social media platforms;**

(e) **Collect detailed data on the number and types of complaints of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes, the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions, and the compensation provided to victims, disaggregated by the age, gender and ethnic and national origin of the victims, and include such data in its next periodic report;**

(f) **Conduct systematic and specialized training programmes for police officers, prosecutors and other law enforcement officials on the identification and registration of incidents of racist hate speech and hate crimes;**

(g) **Adopt measures to assess the systems for reporting and registering complaints of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes to examine and ensure their availability and accessibility to those who are vulnerable to racial discrimination and undertake public education campaigns on the rights enshrined in the Convention and on how to file complaints of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes.**

Racial profiling

19. The Committee is concerned about the lack of prohibition of racial profiling in the legislative framework on law enforcement. It is also concerned about the lack of detailed information on measures taken to combat racial profiling and racially motivated police violence, in the light of reports of racial profiling by the police of members of ethnic minority groups, including Roma, and non-citizens (art. 4).

20. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 36 (2020) on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Develop and adopt legislation and other forms of regulation that explicitly prohibit and prevent racial profiling by law enforcement officials during police stops, identity checks and other police operations, as well as racially motivated violence and excessive use of force;**

(b) **Establish an independent monitoring body with the competence to receive complaints of racial profiling and racially motivated police violence, with safe and accessible reporting channels for victims, and to conduct thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of racial profiling and racially motivated police violence;**

(c) **Collect and include in its next periodic report data on complaints of racial profiling and racially motivated police violence, on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions imposed, and on reparations provided to victims.**

Situation of ethnic minority groups

21. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the delegation on the implementation of the Strategy on Strengthening Inter-Ethnic Relations. It also notes that Russian is considered to be the inter-ethnic language of communication of the ethnic minority groups in the State party. However, the Committee is concerned at:

(a) The low level of representation of members of ethnic minority groups, including Roma, in Parliament and the lack of detailed information on the representation of members of ethnic minority groups, particularly women, at the central and local levels in the public sector, the judiciary, law enforcement and in decision-making and high-ranking positions;

(b) Reports that members of ethnic minority groups face discrimination in accessing employment, participating in elections, obtaining public information and accessing justice owing to restrictions imposed on using, and the refusal of public authorities to use,

Russian, despite the protection granted for the use of Russian and other languages pursuant to article 13 of the Constitution and the guarantee, contained in article 12 of the Act on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and the Legal Status of their Organizations, that Russian may be used to communicate with public institutions and submit complaints;

(c) Reports of the lack of progress in ensuring that members of ethnic minority groups can access education in their mother tongue, the low qualification level of qualified teachers and the inadequate resources allocated to schools where mother-tongue education is offered.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt measures to ensure the fair and equitable representation of ethnic minority groups, including women, at the central and local levels in the public sector, elected bodies and in decision-making and high-ranking positions;**

(b) **Adopt measures to ensure the access of members of ethnic minority groups to education, employment and health care and to ensure the use and protection of the languages used by ethnic minority groups, particularly Russian as an inter-ethnic communication language, in accordance with article 13 of the Constitution and article 12 of the Act on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National Minorities and the Legal Status of their Organizations, including special measures addressing intersectional inequalities among the members of ethnic minority groups and removing the structural barriers faced by members of ethnic minority groups;**

(c) **Strengthen access to mother-tongue education in schools for children belonging to ethnic minority groups, reduce the rate of illiteracy among adults belonging to ethnic minority groups and increase the human, technical and financial resources allocated to quality instruction in the languages of ethnic minorities.**

Situation of Roma

23. The Committee takes note of the information on the adoption and implementation of the Programme to Support the Ethnic Roma Population (2022–2025). Nevertheless, the Committee notes with concern that members of Roma communities continue to face discrimination in accessing health care, housing, education and employment. In particular, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The inadequate resources allocated for the implementation of the Programme and reports that the Programme does not cover all the recommendations made by international and regional human rights mechanisms to improve the situation of Roma communities;

(b) The delay of nearly two years after the adoption of the Programme to Support the Ethnic Roma Population in setting up the multi-stakeholder working group composed of representatives of the central authority and civil society organizations to monitor the implementation of the Programme, pursuant to Government Decision No. 1749 of 16 December 2023;

(c) The low attendance rate and the high dropout rate at all levels of education among Roma children, particularly girls, and the fact that only one Roma teacher has been recruited in the State party's public schools;

(d) The limited access of Roma to health-care services and the lower rates of Roma covered by the compulsory health insurance scheme compared to other ethnic minorities;

(e) The high rate of unemployment among Roma and the low enrolment rate of Roma with the National Employment Agency;

(f) The fact that seven Roma mediator posts remain vacant, despite the Committee's previous recommendation to fill these vacancies, and reports that Roma mediators face challenges in carrying out their functions owing to a lack of cooperation from the local authorities and the fact that they are poorly paid;

(g) The limited cooperation at the local and central levels reported by civil society organizations working on the rights of Roma and the exclusion of some of these organizations from consultation processes on the implementation of activities.

24. Recalling its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Effectively implement the Programme to Support the Ethnic Roma Population (2022–2025), including by allocating it sufficient human, financial and technical resources and by strengthening the relevant monitoring and coordinating mechanisms, such as the multi-stakeholder working group;**

(b) **Strengthen efforts to ensure that Roma children have access to quality and inclusive education, with a view to increasing school enrolment rates and decreasing school dropout rates, including by conducting awareness-raising campaigns aimed at Roma children and young people and their families on the importance of education and by recruiting Roma teachers;**

(c) **Increase efforts to ensure that Roma, in particular women and children, have access to gender responsive and culturally sensitive adequate health care and vaccination, including by conducting targeted awareness-raising campaigns with information about available health services and the requirements for compulsory health insurance coverage;**

(d) **Adopt effective measures to ensure that Roma have access to employment opportunities, including to improve their vocational qualifications, to combat discrimination in the field of employment and to increase their enrolment at the National Employment Agency, and provide targeted training to that end;**

(e) **Adopt measures to strengthen the Roma community mediator service, including by allocating it sufficient budget resources, increasing mediators' salaries, promoting gender balance and ensuring the cooperation of the central and local authorities, and ensure that all Roma mediator posts are filled;**

(f) **Review the existing mechanisms for coordination and consultation with Roma in order to strengthen them and ensure effective and meaningful consultation with civil society organizations working on the rights of Roma.**

Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

25. The Committee takes note of the information on the legislative framework on refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly article 19 of the Constitution and Act No. 270/2008 on asylum, as well as the statistics provided during the dialogue on non-citizens. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of discrimination in access to international protection against refugees and asylum-seekers who are not Ukrainian nationals and cases of expulsions and pushbacks of such persons;

(b) Reports of deportations, extraditions and forcible returns of migrants and asylum-seekers in need of international protection, in violation of the principle of non-refoulement.

26. Recalling its general recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt effective measures to eliminate discrimination against refugees and asylum-seekers, regardless of their national or ethnic origin, refrain from conducting collective expulsions and pushbacks, and provide access to its territory for persons in need of international protection;**

(b) **Refrain from deporting, returning or extraditing any individuals, regardless of their status, respecting the principle of non-refoulement when there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be at risk of irreparable harm upon return on account of torture, ill-treatment or other serious violations of human rights;**

(c) Conduct investigations into cases of deportation, extradition, forcible return, collective expulsion and pushback of migrants and asylum-seekers by law enforcement officials.

27. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the delegation on the adoption of Decision No. 21/2023 granting temporary protection to Ukrainian refugees in the State party. However, the Committee is concerned that Ukrainian refugees belonging to Roma communities are subjected to discrimination in accessing education, housing and health care. In particular, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports of the low level of enrolment in schools of Ukrainian refugee children belonging to Roma communities owing to the prejudice against them and the lack of education available in their mother tongue;

(b) Reports that Ukrainian refugees belonging to Roma communities continue to be subjected to segregation in refugee accommodation centres and discrimination in accessing housing outside the centres.

28. The Committee recommends that the State party implement its legislative and policy frameworks, particularly Act No. 270/2008 on asylum and Decision No. 21/2023, to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have effective access to health care, education, housing and employment without discrimination. It also recommends that the State party:

(a) **Ensure the access of Ukrainian refugee children belonging to Roma communities to quality and inclusive education in their mother tongue, with a view to increasing school enrolment rates;**

(b) **End the de facto segregation in refugee accommodation centres and adopt measures to eliminate racial discrimination against Roma in accessing housing outside the centres, including by conducting public education campaigns on the rights enshrined in the Convention and on how to file complaints of racial discrimination.**

Stateless persons

29. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the delegation during the dialogue on the amendment of Act No. 1024 of 2000 on citizenship to prevent statelessness at birth by expanding the categories of children who can acquire Moldovan citizenship at birth. It notes that the authorities are currently examining nearly 330 applications. While taking note of the information on the legal framework on statelessness, the Committee is concerned about the lack of a policy framework on combating statelessness.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to resolve the remaining statelessness cases, including by developing and adopting a policy framework on combating statelessness to enable all stateless persons, without discrimination, to have their status ascertained and to obtain identity documents.

Training, education and other measures to combat prejudice and intolerance

31. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the delegation that the promotion of understanding and tolerance is integrated into the school curricula. However, the Committee notes with concern the lack of information on measures, including systematic awareness-raising campaigns targeting the general public, to combat racial discrimination, prejudice and intolerance, and the incorporation of human rights principles into university programmes. While welcoming the information on the establishment in March 2024 of working groups for the development of curricula with the participation of representatives of ethnic minority groups, the Committee is concerned about reports that school textbooks continue to marginalize the history of ethnic minority groups (art. 7).

32. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to raise public awareness of the importance of ethnic and cultural diversity and the fight against racial discrimination, and to integrate these concepts at all levels of the education system in order to promote substantive inter-ethnic friendship and solidarity. It also recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure that history is taught in a

way that prevents the marginalization of ethnic minority groups, including by strengthening the working groups for the development of curricula to enable them to carry out their mandate effectively.

E. Other recommendations

Ratification of other treaties

33. 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.

Amendment to article 8 of the Convention

34. The Committee recommends that the State party accept the amendment to article 8 (6) of the Convention adopted on 15 January 1992 at the fourteenth meeting of States parties to the Convention and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111.

Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

35. In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on 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

36. 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 International Decade, and considering that the International Decade is in its final year, the Committee requests the State party to include in its next periodic report information on the outcome of the measures taken to implement the programme of activities and on the sustainable measures and policies put in place in collaboration with people of African descent and their organizations, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent.

Consultations with civil society

37. 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

38. 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

made available to all government bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Convention, including at the municipal level, in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

Common core document

39. The Committee encourages the State party to update its common core document, which dates to September 2011, 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 2006.⁵ 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

40. 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 24 (c) and (e) (situation of Roma) and 30 (stateless persons) above.

Paragraphs of particular importance

41. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 18 (racist hate speech and hate crimes), 22 (situation of ethnic minority groups), 24 (situation of Roma) and 28 (migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers) 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

42. The Committee recommends that the State party submit its combined fifteenth to eighteenth periodic reports, as a single document, by 25 February 2028, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session⁶ 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.

⁵ HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I.

⁶ CERD/C/2007/1.