



# International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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## Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 113th session

Geneva, 5–23 August 2024

Item 4 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-fourth and twenty-fifth periodic reports of Belarus

#### Note by the Country Rapporteur\*

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided at its seventy-sixth session<sup>1</sup> 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 and 5)

2. Measures taken to improve data collection concerning the enjoyment of Convention rights by members of ethnic minority groups to provide an empirical basis for policies aimed at enhancing the implementation of the Convention.<sup>2</sup>

3. Information about the number and type of cases in which the Convention has been invoked by lawyers and prosecutors and directly applied by judges.<sup>3</sup>

4. Steps taken to enact specific legislation containing a definition of racial discrimination in conformity with article 1 of the Convention and making racial discrimination an offence punishable by law.<sup>4</sup>

5. Steps taken to adopt legislation specifically criminalizing racist hate speech, in accordance with article 4 of the Convention. Comprehensive information about training programmes for police officers, prosecutors and judges on the identification, investigation and prosecution of racially motivated crimes, including hate speech. Statistics on investigations, prosecutions, convictions, sanctions and remedies for acts of hate speech.<sup>5</sup>

\* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.

<sup>1</sup> A/65/18, para. 85.

<sup>2</sup> CERD/C/BLR/CO/20-23, para. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., para. 9.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., para. 11.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., paras. 17 and 18.



6. Measures taken to prohibit direct and indirect racial discrimination in all fields of public life in administrative and civil law.<sup>6</sup>

7. Steps taken to ensure that acts of racial discrimination are investigated, that the perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, sanctioned with appropriate penalties and that victims have access to an adequate remedy. Comprehensive information about criminal offences prosecuted and remedies provided to victims.<sup>7</sup>

8. Steps taken to establish an independent national human rights institution, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).<sup>8</sup>

9. Measures taken to guarantee the independence of the judiciary, including with respect to the appointment, renewal and dismissal of judges and security of tenure, to ensure the proper administration of justice, including in cases related to racial discrimination.<sup>9</sup>

10. Measures taken to combat trafficking in persons, including with regard to prevention and investigation, the prosecution of perpetrators and, if they are convicted, their punishment with appropriate penalties, and the provision of redress to victims.<sup>10</sup>

11. Steps taken to ensure that legislation on terrorism and extremism is not applied in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner that could constitute a violation of the Convention.<sup>11</sup>

#### **Situation of Roma and other minority groups (arts. 1, 2 and 4–7)**

12. Measures taken to combat racial profiling by law enforcement authorities, including information about targeted training programmes, the investigation of allegations of racial profiling, sanctions and remedies. Measures taken to address discrimination in access to education, employment, housing and social and other services. Steps taken to promote freedom of association for minority groups. Information about the prison population, disaggregated by ethnicity and offence.<sup>12</sup>

#### **Situation of non-citizens, including asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants (arts. 2, 5 and 6)**

13. Steps taken to ensure the protection and safety of and provision of assistance to asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in need of international protection, including in the context of international borders. Measures taken to accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.<sup>13</sup>

#### **Human rights training (art. 7)**

14. Comprehensive information on training programmes for law enforcement officers, lawyers, judges, prosecutors and State officials on the Convention.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., para. 11.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., para. 15.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., para. 13.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., para. 22.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., para. 20.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., para. 26.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., para. 24.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., para. 28.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., para. 30.