



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Distr.: General
18 September 2024
English
Original: Spanish

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Concluding observations on the combined twenty-second to twenty-fourth periodic reports of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela*

1. The Committee considered the combined twenty-second to twenty-fourth periodic reports of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,¹ submitted in one document, at its 3081st and 3082nd meetings,² held on 6 and 7 August 2024. At its 3099th and 3100th meetings, held on 19 and 20 August 2024, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined twenty-second to twenty-fourth periodic reports of the State party, submitted in one document. The Committee wishes to express its appreciation for the constructive dialogue held with the State party's delegation and the additional information provided in writing after the dialogue.

3. The Committee notes the State party's claim that the unilateral coercive measures imposed on it hinder its ability to comply with the Convention. However, the Committee recalls that these circumstances should not serve as a justification for non-compliance with the Convention and urges the State party to comply with the Convention and address the challenges facing the country.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the ratification of, or accession to, the following international human rights instruments by the State party:

(a) The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on 10 October 2018;

(b) The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, on 25 October 2016;

(c) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, on 24 September 2013.

5. The Committee welcomes the following legislative, institutional and policy measures taken by the State party:

(a) The reform of the Racial Discrimination Act, in 2021;

* Adopted by the Committee at its 113th session (5–23 August 2024).

¹ CERD/C/VEN/22-24.

² See CERD/C/SR.3081 and CERD/C/SR.3082.



- (b) The completion of the process of establishing and operationalizing the National Institute against Racial Discrimination, in 2014;
- (c) The operationalization of the National Institute of Indigenous Languages;
- (d) The establishment of the People's Government Presidential Council for Indigenous Peoples, in 2014;
- (e) The adoption of the Third Socialist Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the Nation (2019–2025 National Plan), which includes the Sectoral Plan for the Indigenous Peoples and the Sectoral Plan for People of African Descent;
- (f) The adoption of the first National Human Rights Plan 2016–2019.

C. Concerns and recommendations

Cooperation with civil society and human rights defenders

6. The Committee is concerned to have received reports about acts of intimidation and reprisals against representatives of civil society organizations and human rights defenders, which have had a chilling effect on the participation of civil society representatives in meetings with this Committee. In this regard, the Committee welcomes the statement made by the delegation during the dialogue regarding the State party's commitment to continue working with civil society organizations on the understanding that it recognizes and respects their work. However, it is seriously concerned about allegations that Yendri Velásquez was detained for several hours on 3 August 2024 while he was passing through immigration control at the Maiquetía Simón Bolívar International Airport in Caracas to travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to participate in meetings with this Committee in connection with the 113th session. It is also seriously concerned about the cancellation of Mr. Velásquez's passport and those of other human rights defenders. The Committee finds it regrettable that it received no information on these allegations during the dialogue.

7. **The Committee reminds the State party that it strongly condemns all acts of intimidation or reprisals directed at human rights defenders or civil society organizations because they have cooperated with this Committee. The Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Act with due diligence and take effective measures to prevent all acts of bullying, harassment, intimidation and threats directed at human rights defenders and civil society representatives because they have cooperated with this Committee or other regional and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, and thoroughly investigate such allegations;**

(b) **Take the necessary measures to ensure that human rights defenders, in particular civil society leaders, are not arbitrarily subjected to restrictions preventing them from attending and participating in meetings and work carried out by international mechanisms for the protection of human rights and, in particular, this Committee;**

(c) **Send detailed information on the investigations conducted into the allegations of Mr. Velásquez's arbitrary detention and the guarantees of non-repetition established.**

Data collection

8. While the Committee notes the State party's claim that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic prevented it from carrying out the fifteenth national population and housing census, it is concerned about the fact that the last census was conducted in 2011 and that no effective and transparent data collection mechanisms have been designed to provide the State party with reliable and up-to-date information on the demographic composition of the population. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of disaggregated data and socioeconomic indicators that would make it possible to assess the realization and enjoyment

of rights under the Convention by Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and other ethnic groups in the State party.

9. **The Committee urges the State party to continue its efforts to carry out the fifteenth population and housing census in order to collect reliable, up-to-date and complete information on the demographic composition of the Venezuelan population. The Committee also recommends that the State party design effective mechanisms for the systematic collection of data in order to generate statistics and socioeconomic indicators disaggregated by ethnicity, gender, age, region, and urban and rural areas, including the most remote areas, so that it can develop appropriate public policies and programmes for the sectors of the population that are subjected to racial discrimination and assess the implementation of the Convention in relation to the different groups that make up society. The Committee encourages the State party, with the broad and active participation of Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and other ethnic groups and civil society organizations, to review the categories used for self-identification in order to ensure that information on all the ethnic groups in the State party is collected.**

Ombudsman's Office

10. The Committee is concerned that, in 2016, the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions downgraded the Ombudsman's Office of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to B status, mainly owing to the Office's lack of forcefulness in promoting respect for human rights in response to credible allegations of serious human rights abuses, calling into question its independence (art. 2).

11. **The Committee urges the State party to adopt the necessary safeguards to ensure that the Ombudsman's Office can act with full independence in carrying out its mandate to promote and protect human rights and that it fully complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). The Committee recommends that the State party give due consideration to the recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.**

Law on Combating Hate

12. While the Committee notes that the Constitutional Act against Hatred and for Peaceful Coexistence and Tolerance was adopted in 2017 to fulfil the obligation arising from article 4 of the Convention, it is concerned about the lack of precision in the definitions used to classify as offences the actions described in article 4. The Committee is seriously concerned about reports that the aforementioned law is being used as an instrument to restrict freedom of expression and about the number of cases of criminal proceedings initiated in connection with statements criticizing the authorities and defending human rights (arts. 4 and 5).

13. **The Committee urges the State party to make the necessary amendments to the Constitutional Act against Hatred and for Peaceful Coexistence and Tolerance in order to clearly define expressions that constitute incitement to hatred, taking due account of the rights expressly set forth in article 5 of the Convention and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to freedom of expression. Taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party take into account factors such as the content and form of the speech, the socioeconomic context, the status of the speaker, and the scope and objectives of the speech in defining the spread of hatred and incitement to hatred as punishable acts under the law. The Committee reminds the State party that measures to monitor and combat racist speech should not be used as a pretext for curtailing expressions of protest against injustice, social discontent or opposition.**

Structural discrimination

14. The Committee recognizes the efforts made and measures taken by the State party to combat racial discrimination against Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, including the second and third socialist plans for the economic and social development of the

nation. However, it finds it regrettable that it has received no information on the outcome of the implementation of these plans. It is also concerned to note that both Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent continue to be victims of structural discrimination, as reflected in the levels of poverty and social exclusion that they face and in the disproportionate impact that the socioeconomic crisis has had on their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (arts. 2 and 5).

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

(a) **Step up its efforts to eliminate institutional and structural discrimination against Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent by taking affirmative action to eliminate the structural discrimination that they continue to face;**

(b) **Ensure that the plans and public policies adopted to eliminate racial discrimination and other intersectional forms of discrimination are effectively implemented, taking into account inequality gaps and the specific needs of Indigenous People and people of African descent in order to achieve a marked reduction in poverty and levels of inequality that affect them;**

(c) **Ensure that Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent are consulted about, and take part in, the design and implementation of social programmes intended to benefit them;**

(d) **Give consideration to the Committee's general recommendation No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures in the Convention.**

Situation of Indigenous Peoples

16. While noting the efforts made by the State party for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee is concerned about the high rates of school dropout and the lack of qualified teachers in schools, especially in areas largely inhabited by Indigenous Peoples. It is also concerned about the restrictions that Indigenous Peoples face in accessing quality and culturally appropriate health services and the challenges that they face in entering the labour market (arts. 2 and 5).

17. **The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to:**

(a) **Guarantee the availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of education for Indigenous boys and girls, including by promoting initial and in-service training for teachers in order to strengthen intercultural bilingual education;**

(b) **Reduce school dropout and school-year repetition rates among Indigenous boys and girls;**

(c) **Ensure the accessibility, availability, acceptability and quality of health-care services, paying particular attention to the needs, traditions and cultural specificities of Indigenous Peoples, especially those of Indigenous women;**

(d) **Ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to the labour market, without discrimination, and that they benefit from fair and satisfactory working conditions, both in law and in practice.**

Demarcation of Indigenous lands

18. While the Committee takes note of the mechanisms established by the State party to demarcate Indigenous lands and territories, it is concerned about the slowness of processes for demarcating and titling Indigenous lands and about the fact that these processes have been at a standstill since 2016, partly because the regional demarcation commissions and the national commission are not functioning properly. The Committee is concerned about reports that the process of titling the land of the Sanemá and Ye'kwana peoples of the Cauca Basin, which began in 2002, has still not been resolved, despite the fact that the relevant legal requirements have been met. The Committee is concerned about the fact that the failure to demarcate and title Indigenous lands has often been a contributory factor in attacks and illegal invasions by non-Indigenous persons, giving rise to serious conflicts and violence over access to land and natural resources (arts. 2 and 5).

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

(a) **Continue its efforts to demarcate and title Indigenous territories in order to guarantee the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to own, use, develop and exercise control over their lands, territories and resources, in full security, including by implementing the Indigenous Peoples and Communities Act and ensuring the proper functioning of the National Commission on the Demarcation of the Habitat and Lands of Indigenous Peoples and Communities and the regional commissions;**

(b) **Expedite the granting of pending titles and the implementation of pending demarcation procedures, including the procedure for demarcating the lands of the Ye'kwana and Sanemá Indigenous Peoples of the Cauca Basin;**

(c) **Ensure that the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples with respect to their lands and territories are legally recognized and protected, in accordance with international standards.**

Prior consultation

20. The Committee takes note of the statement made by the delegation during the dialogue to the effect that the State party is in the process of drawing up a protocol on free, prior and informed consultation. However, the Committee is concerned to have received reports that legislative or administrative measures that may affect the effective exercise of the rights of Indigenous peoples have been adopted without adequate consultation to obtain their free, prior and informed consent. In particular, it is concerned that extractive projects and activities affecting the lands, territories and resources of Indigenous peoples are carried out without respect for their right to prior consultation and without any social or environmental impact studies being carried out (arts. 2 and 5).

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

(a) **Expedite the development and adoption of a protocol on free, prior and informed consultation with Indigenous Peoples in order to guarantee their right to be consulted with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent to any legislative or administrative measure that may affect their rights;**

(b) **Ensure that this protocol is developed in consultation with Indigenous Peoples and that it respects international standards and takes into account the cultural characteristics and traditions of each people, including those related to decision-making;**

(c) **Guarantee due respect for the right of Indigenous Peoples to be consulted with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent to extractive activities and projects that may affect their territories and natural resources, ensuring that such consultations are conducted in a timely, routine and transparent manner with due representation of the affected peoples;**

(d) **Ensure that, as part of prior consultation processes, impartial independent bodies carry out human rights impact studies that cover the potential social, environmental and cultural effects of economic development and natural resource exploitation projects in Indigenous territories with a view to protecting the traditional ways of life and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples.**

Impact of mining on the territories of Indigenous Peoples

22. The Committee is seriously concerned about the negative impact of mining on natural resources located within the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples, which affects their livelihoods and ways of life. This situation has increased the exposure of Indigenous Peoples and communities to the food crisis, forced displacement and health problems. In this regard, the Committee is seriously concerned about the impact of the national strategic development zone known as Arco Minero del Orinoco, which has resulted in Indigenous territories being militarized and military operations being conducted in these territories without due prior consultation with the affected peoples. The Committee is seriously concerned about human rights abuses and violations perpetrated against Indigenous Peoples by both State actors, including members of the National Armed Forces, and non-State armed groups (arts. 2 and 5).

23. **The Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Define, in consultation with all Indigenous Peoples whose territories and resources are affected, appropriate measures to ensure the protection of their lands, territories and resources so that they can be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development;**

(b) **Take appropriate measures to prevent the forced displacement of Indigenous Peoples from territories that they have traditionally occupied and owned and to mitigate and compensate them for damages or losses caused by activities carried out in their territories;**

(c) **Refrain from deploying military forces and carrying out military operations in Indigenous territories without having previously consulted Indigenous Peoples with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent and, in the event that the use of military forces is absolutely necessary, establish effective accountability mechanisms for possible human rights violations;**

(d) **Thoroughly, impartially and effectively investigate all allegations of abuse and violence committed by military forces or non-State armed groups against Indigenous Peoples and, in particular, against Indigenous women.**

Civil registration

24. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party to ensure that the births of children born in its territory are registered and to implement the “Mission Identity” social programme. Despite the progress made, however, the Committee is concerned that many Indigenous persons, including children, as well as Venezuelan returnees, continue to face obstacles to birth registration procedures and identity documents, which hinders the effective exercise of their rights (arts. 2 and 5).

25. **The Committee recommends that the State party continue its efforts to ensure access to birth registration, including late registration procedures, and facilitate the issuance of identity documents for Indigenous persons, Venezuelans returning from abroad, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, in order to prevent statelessness and ensure such persons’ access to the rights enshrined in the Convention.**

Political participation of Indigenous Peoples

26. The Committee is concerned about reports that the political participation of Indigenous Peoples has been restricted by the State party. The Committee is concerned about the suspension by the Electoral Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of three Indigenous deputies in the state of Amazonas prior to the conclusion of the electoral litigation proceedings initiated against them, preventing them from holding the positions for which they were elected. The Committee is also concerned to note the adoption, in 2020, of the special regulations on the election of Indigenous representatives to the National Assembly, which, according to the information received, restrict the right of Indigenous Peoples to direct and secret voting (arts. 2 and 5).

27. **The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee the full exercise of the political rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the right to participate in elections, to vote and to stand for election on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service. The Committee recommends that the State party conclude the contentious electoral proceedings initiated against the three suspended Indigenous deputies, guaranteeing respect for due process guarantees and granting the respective reparation measures. The Committee urges the State party to repeal all legal provisions that restrict the right to political participation of Indigenous Peoples, including those contained in the special regulations on the election of Indigenous representatives to the National Assembly of 2020.**

Discrimination against people of African descent

28. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to grant greater visibility to people of African descent, including through the adoption of the Sectoral Plan for People of African Descent of the 2019–2025 National Plan. However, it is concerned about the lack of specific information on public policies that the State party is adopting to ensure the exercise and effective enjoyment of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of people of African descent, as well as the outcome of such policies. The Committee is concerned about reports of acts of discrimination and stigmatizing remarks directed at people of African descent, particularly those facing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or socioeconomic status (arts. 1, 2 and 5).

29. **The Committee, drawing on its general recommendations No. 32 (2009) concerning the meaning and scope of special measures in the Convention and No. 34 (2011) concerning racial discrimination against people of African descent, urges the State party to:**

(a) **Step up its efforts to enable the National Council for the Development of Communities of People of African Descent to develop and implement effective public policies that promote equality and the exercise and effective enjoyment of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of people of African descent, taking into account their specific needs;**

(b) **Adopt the necessary special measures to promote the social inclusion and active participation in public and political life of people of African descent, including in decision-making positions;**

(c) **Step up its efforts to eliminate racial discrimination, including intersectional discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status, against people of African descent and ensure that they are protected against all acts of discrimination committed by State agencies, public officials or any other person, group or organization.**

Multiple and intersecting forms of racial discrimination

30. The Committee is concerned about the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination faced by Indigenous women and women of African descent, particularly in connection with their access to employment, education and health services, especially their access to information and services related to sexual and reproductive health (arts. 1, 2 and 5).

31. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, the Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Step up its efforts to combat the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination to which Indigenous women and women of African descent are subjected, including by mainstreaming gender across all policies and strategies on racial discrimination;**

(b) **Take steps to ensure that Indigenous women and women of African descent have access to education, employment and health care, taking into account cultural and linguistic differences;**

(c) **Ensure that Indigenous women and women of African descent have access to culturally appropriate sexual and reproductive health services, and take the necessary steps to distinguish between the prohibition and criminalization of abortion with a view to initiating a constitutional reform process to repeal the criminalization of abortion.**

Violence against Indigenous women and women of African descent

32. The Committee is concerned about the high rates of violence affecting Indigenous women and women of African descent. The Committee is particularly concerned about allegations of sexual violence against Indigenous women and girls, as well as allegations of their being trafficked for the purposes of economic and sexual exploitation, particularly in

mining areas in the states of Amazonas, Bolívar and Zulia, where armed and non-State criminal organizations reportedly operate (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

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

(a) **Strengthen the measures taken to prevent gender-based violence against Indigenous women and girls and women and girls of African descent;**

(b) **Thoroughly investigate all cases of gender-based violence, including cases of sexual violence and exploitation committed against them, and ensure that the perpetrators are duly punished;**

(c) **Ensure that Indigenous women and women of African descent subjected to gender-based violence, violence or sexual exploitation have effective access to justice and effective and culturally appropriate protection mechanisms, as well as reparation measures.**

Situation of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees

34. The Committee is concerned about reports that migrants in irregular situations and asylum-seekers are placed in administrative detention pending deportation without access to legal assistance or a procedure for assessing their right to international protection. The Committee is concerned that administrative, economic and geographic barriers hinder refugees' access to their personal documentation, which prevents them from effectively exercising their human rights (arts. 2 and 5).

35. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that, both in law and in practice, migrants and asylum-seekers have the right to apply for international protection and access to legal assistance so that they can avail themselves of the procedure for determining refugee status. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that migrants and asylum-seekers are placed in administrative detention only as a measure of last resort, in compliance with the principles of necessity and proportionality and the guarantee of due process.**

Access to justice

36. The Committee is concerned about the challenges that Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent continue to face in obtaining access to justice. It is particularly concerned about the following:

(a) The lack of information about the number of complaints of racial discrimination, which could be a sign that cases of racial discrimination remain unreported, owing in part to the low level of trust that victims of racial discrimination have in the relevant authorities;

(b) The lack of an appropriate intercultural perspective within the judicial and prison systems, the limited availability of interpreters, legal counsel and justice operators with knowledge of Indigenous cultures and languages, and the lack of differentiated measures for Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent who are deprived of their liberty;

(c) The limited progress made towards the adoption of the law on special Indigenous courts, as well as the measures taken to recognize and respect the Indigenous justice system in accordance with international human rights law;

(d) Allegations of excessive use of force, arbitrary detention, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and due process violations against members of Indigenous Peoples, particularly acts committed against members of the Yukpa Indigenous People;

(e) Allegations about the lack of transparency, diligence and intercultural relevance of investigations into acts committed against Indigenous Peoples, particularly the case of the murder of four Yanomami Indigenous persons on 20 March 2022 in Parima B (Amazonas state) (art. 2 and 6).

37. **Taking into account its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Take appropriate and effective measures to ensure that all victims of racial discrimination have access to effective legal remedies and adequate reparation, and establish a system for collecting disaggregated data on cases of racial discrimination, including information on measures taken in connection with the administration of justice;**

(b) **Redouble its efforts to incorporate an intercultural perspective into the justice and prison system in order to, inter alia, increase the accessibility and availability of interpreters and legal counsel with knowledge of Indigenous languages and cultures and account for the cultural and religious practices of Indigenous persons and people of African descent who are deprived of their liberty;**

(c) **Ensure the prompt adoption of the law on special Indigenous courts, guaranteeing that its main purpose is to regulate and harmonize the functions, powers and responsibilities of the justice system of the Indigenous Peoples with those of the ordinary justice system and international human rights law;**

(d) **Conduct prompt, thorough and effective investigations, with an intercultural perspective, into violations of the right to life and integrity of the person committed by law enforcement officers or non-State armed groups and all cases of excessive use of force and arbitrary detention committed against Indigenous Peoples or people of African descent, and ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate penalties;**

(e) **Ensure that Indigenous persons and people of African descent who are victims of the excessive use of force, arbitrary detention or other human rights violations by law enforcement officers, including members of the armed forces, have access to effective remedies and adequate compensation and are not subjected to reprisals for reporting such acts;**

(f) **Step up the training of law enforcement officials, prosecutors, lawyers, legal counsel, judges and justice officials to ensure that they can properly review and effectively investigate cases of racial discrimination, and run campaigns to raise rights holders' awareness of their rights, the remedies available and the legal framework providing protection against racial discrimination.**

Situation of human rights defenders

38. The Committee is seriously concerned about allegations that human rights defenders, including leaders and defenders of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, are being subjected to acts of violence, threats and attacks on their lives. In particular, it is concerned that criminal proceedings are sometimes used improperly to persecute defenders of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their territories (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

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

(a) **Put an immediate end to the persecution of human rights defenders, including leaders and defenders of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, and prevent all acts of violence, threats and attacks on their lives and physical integrity;**

(b) **In consultation with human rights defenders, leaders and members of Indigenous and Afrodescendent communities, design and adopt laws, special measures and effective protection strategies for the benefit of human rights defenders, taking into account cultural, regional and gender differences that may affect Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent;**

(c) **Conduct thorough, impartial and effective investigations into all reports of attacks on the lives, physical integrity or freedom of Indigenous leaders and defenders of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, as well as all reports of violence, threats, harassment, intimidation, bullying and defamation targeting such persons;**

(d) **Avoid using criminal law to arbitrarily persecute defenders of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent.**

Combating racial stereotypes

40. The Committee is concerned that, despite the efforts made by the State party, racial stereotypes are still entrenched in Venezuelan society. The Committee finds it regrettable that it has not received specific information on how the history, culture and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent have been included in the curricula of the public education system (art. 7).

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

(a) **Develop and implement, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, guidelines to combat the propagation of racial stereotypes and carry out campaigns to raise the general public's awareness of the negative effects of racial discrimination;**

(b) **Ensure that school curricula, at both the primary and secondary levels, cover the history and culture of the Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent and their contributions to the construction of the State party.**

D. Other recommendations

Ratification of other treaties

42. **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 are directly relevant to communities that may be subjected to racial discrimination, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. The Committee encourages the State party to accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

Amendment to article 8 of the Convention

43. **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 the 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

44. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, the Committee recommends that, in 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

45. **In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/237, in which the Assembly proclaimed 2015–2024 to be the International Decade for People of African Descent, and General Assembly resolution 69/16 on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade, and considering that the 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

46. The Committee recommends that the State party consult and broaden its dialogue with civil society organizations working to protect human rights, 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

47. 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 Committee's concluding observations on those reports be made available to all State bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Convention and published on the website of the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs, in the official languages and other languages that are in common use, as appropriate.

Common core document

48. The Committee encourages the State party to update its common core document, which dates from 5 July 2011, in accordance with the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, in particular the guidelines relating to the preparation of the common core document, as adopted at the fifth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies held in June 2006.³ 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

49. 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 (a) and (c) (cooperation with civil society and human rights defenders), 17 (b) (situation of the Indigenous Peoples) and 21 (a) (prior consultation).

Paragraphs of particular importance

50. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 (Ombudsman's Office), 23 (b) (impact of mining on the territories of Indigenous Peoples) and 39 (situation of human rights defenders) and requests the State party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement these recommendations.

Preparation of the next periodic report

51. The Committee recommends that the State party submit its combined twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth periodic reports, as a single document, by 4 January 2028, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session⁴ 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 established for periodic reports.

³ HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I.

⁴ CERD/C/2007/1.