



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 tenth periodic report of Gabon*

1. The Committee considered the tenth periodic report of Gabon¹ at its 3151st and 3152nd meetings,² held on 30 April and 1 May 2025. At its 3161st meeting, held on 7 May 2025, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the tenth periodic report of the State Party, notwithstanding the delay of 25 years in its submission. It also welcomes the constructive dialogue with the State Party's high-level delegation and thanks the delegation for the information provided during the consideration of the report and the supplementary responses provided after the dialogue.

B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the State Party's ratification of, or accession to, the following international instruments:

(a) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on 26 June 2014;

(b) The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, on 2 April 2014;

(c) The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on 1 April 2014;

(d) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, on 25 September 2012;

(e) The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, on 19 January 2011;

(f) The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, on 22 September 2010;

(g) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, on 21 September 2010;

(h) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on 1 October 2007;

* Adopted by the Committee at its 115th session (22 April–9 May 2025).

¹ CERD/C/GAB/10.

² See CERD/C/SR.3151 and CERD/C/SR.3152.



(i) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, on 1 October 2007;

(j) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, on 5 November 2004;

(k) The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, on 8 September 2000.

4. The Committee also welcomes the following legislative, institutional and policy measures taken by the State Party:

(a) Organic Act No. 001/2025 of 19 January 2025 on the Electoral Code;

(b) Referendum Act No. 002-R/2024 of 19 December 2024 on the Constitution;

(c) Act No. 023/2024 of 21 November 2024 restructuring the National Human Rights Commission;

(d) Act No. 006/2021 of 6 September 2021 on the elimination of violence against women;

(e) Act No. 006/2020 of 30 June 2020 amending Act No. 042/2018 of 5 July 2019 on the Criminal Code;

(f) Act No. 028/2016 of 6 February 2017 on the Social Protection Code;

(g) Act No. 37/98 of 20 July 1999 on the Nationality Code;

(h) Decree No. 000102/PR/MHLCCL of 15 January 2007 on the establishment and organization of the National Committee for the Drafting of Human Rights Reports;

(i) Decree No. 000103/PR/MHLCCL of 15 January 2007 instituting National Human Rights Day;

(j) The establishment, in 2024, of the National Commission to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons;

(k) The National Strategy to Promote Women's Rights and Reduce Gender Inequality (Gabon Égalité), adopted in 2020;

(l) The Indigenous Peoples Development Plan, adopted in 2005.

C. Concerns and recommendations

Statistics

5. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party according to which the general population census that was begun in 2023 should yield data disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic or national origin and language spoken, among other variables. However, it regrets the lack of statistics on the ethnic composition of the State Party's population and the socioeconomic situation of the various groups that make it up, which limits the State Party's ability to analyse the situation of these groups, including any progress made towards the full enjoyment of the rights provided for in the Convention (arts. 1 and 2).

6. **Recalling its previous concluding observations,³ the Committee recommends that the State Party collect and publish reliable statistics on socioeconomic indicators, disaggregated by ethnic or national origin and language spoken, in order to provide an adequate empirical basis for assessing policies and measures aimed at ensuring the enjoyment of all the rights protected under the Convention by all the groups living in its territory, in conditions of equality. It reminds the State Party of its general recommendations No. 4 (1973) concerning reporting by States Parties under article 1 of the Convention, No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention and No. 24 (1999) concerning article 1 of the**

³ CERD/C/304/Add.58, paras. 8 and 13.

Convention, as well as paragraphs 10–12 of its reporting guidelines for the preparation of reports relating specifically to the Convention.⁴

Domestic application of the Convention

7. The Committee notes that, in the State Party's legal system, ratified international instruments, including the Convention, take precedence over domestic law. However, it regrets the lack of detailed information on cases in which the Convention's provisions have been invoked or directly applied by domestic courts (art. 2).

8. **The Committee recommends that the State Party strengthen its efforts to provide regular training, in particular to judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officials and lawyers, on the provisions of the Convention, to enable them to invoke and apply them in relevant cases. It also recommends that the State Party conduct public campaigns, particularly among the groups most vulnerable to racial discrimination, to raise awareness of the provisions of the Convention and available remedies. It requests that the State Party include in its next periodic report specific examples of the application of the Convention by national courts.**

Legislation against racial discrimination

9. The Committee notes that the principles of non-discrimination and equality before the law are enshrined in the Constitution, and also takes note of the existence of various laws providing for the implementation of the various principles and rights contained in the Convention. However, it remains concerned that the national legislative framework does not contain a definition of racial discrimination that is fully aligned with article 1 of the Convention and that expressly covers all prohibited grounds of discrimination and direct and indirect racial discrimination in the public and private spheres. In addition, it is concerned that there is no legislative provision explicitly prohibiting racial profiling and the practice of discriminatory stops by law enforcement officers (arts. 1 and 2).

10. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 14 (1993) on article 1 (1) of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State Party adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation containing a clear definition of racial discrimination, including direct, indirect, multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and covering all fields of law in the public and private domains and all prohibited grounds of discrimination addressed in article 1 (1) of the Convention. It also recommends that the State Party include in its legislation an explicit prohibition on racial profiling and on the practice of discriminatory stops by law enforcement officers, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 36 (2020) on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials.**

Institutional framework

11. The Committee welcomes the adoption, on 21 November 2024, of Act No. 023/2024 restructuring the National Human Rights Commission, which strengthened the mandate of the Commission established in 2006, and the significant increase in the budget allocated to it since 2016. However, it notes with regret that the mandate of the Commission does not explicitly include the fight against racial discrimination, which could limit its work in this area, all the more so in the absence of specific legislation and public policies against this type of discrimination in the State Party (arts. 1 and 2).

12. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 17 (1993) on the establishment of national institutions to facilitate the implementation of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State Party adopt the necessary measures, including legislative measures, to ensure that the prevention of and fight against racial discrimination are expressly included in the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission. It also recommends that the State Party continue to allocate adequate human, financial and technical resources to this institution to enable it to carry out its mandates effectively, and that it strengthen training for the Commission's officials on the Convention and**

⁴ CERD/C/2007/1.

the fight against racial discrimination. The Committee encourages the State Party to continue its efforts to ensure that the Commission is in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) with a view to facilitating its timely accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

National action plan against racial discrimination

13. While taking note of the information provided by the State Party on the steps taken since 2023 to adopt a national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, the Committee regrets that such a plan has not yet been drawn up and adopted (art. 2).

14. **The Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Expedite the process of drawing up and adopting a national action plan to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, within a clear time frame;**

(b) **Ensure the active and full participation of the groups most at risk of racial discrimination, including Indigenous Peoples, ethnic minorities and non-citizens such as migrant workers, asylum-seekers and refugees, in the development of the aforementioned plan and in the monitoring and evaluation of the progress made and final outcome of the plan;**

(c) **Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the plan and allocate adequate human, financial and technical resources for its effective implementation.**

Implementation of article 4 of the Convention

15. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party on measures taken to ensure the conformity of domestic law with the provisions of article 4 of the Convention, including the ongoing revision of the Criminal Code. However, it remains concerned that the national legislative framework, including the Criminal Code, does not fully cover all the grounds of discrimination referred to in article 1 of the Convention, nor all the commitments undertaken by the State Party under article 4 of the Convention (art. 4).

16. **Recalling its previous concluding observations,⁵ the Committee recommends that the State Party review its legislation, including the Criminal Code, to ensure that all actions described in article 4 of the Convention are prohibited and criminalized. The Committee draws the attention of the State Party to its general recommendations No. 1 (1972), No. 7 (1985), No. 8 (1990) and No. 15 (1993) on article 4 of the Convention, according to which all the requirements of article 4 are of a mandatory character.**

Racist hate speech

17. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party on existing legislative measures developed in recent years to prevent and combat racist hate speech, such as Act No. 019/2016 of 9 August 2016 establishing the Media Code and Act No. 027/2023 of 12 July 2023 regulating cybersecurity and the fight against cybercrime, and of the “Gabon against Hate” digital campaign launched in December 2023. It is nevertheless concerned about reports of increasing racial and xenophobic hate speech, including on the Internet and social media, particularly towards migrants and Gabonese citizens of foreign origin. It is also concerned about the absence of data disaggregated by ethnic and national origin, without which it is impossible to fully know the extent of the problem of racist and xenophobic hate speech (arts. 2 and 4).

⁵ [CERD/C/304/Add.58](#), paras. 9 and 14.

18. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Take the necessary steps to prevent, condemn and combat hate speech directed at the groups most exposed to racial discrimination, including on the Internet and social media, facilitate the reporting of racist hate speech and ensure that perpetrators are duly prosecuted and punished and that victims have access to effective remedies and adequate reparation;**

(b) **Expedite the process of adopting the national action plan for preventing and responding to hate speech and incitement to violence;**

(c) **Step up its efforts to curb the spread of racist and xenophobic hate speech on the Internet and social media, in close cooperation with Internet service providers, social media platforms and the groups most affected by racist and xenophobic hate speech;**

(d) **Strengthen training programmes for police officers, prosecutors, judges and other law enforcement officials, including on methods for identifying and recording instances of racist hate speech, investigating such offences and prosecuting perpetrators;**

(e) **Continue and strengthen public awareness campaigns aimed, on the one hand, at eliminating prejudice and stigmatization of the groups most exposed to racial discrimination and, on the other hand, at promoting respect for diversity and the elimination of racial discrimination, including racist and xenophobic hate speech;**

(f) **Collect and publish reliable and comprehensive statistics, disaggregated by the ethnic or national origin of victims, on reports of racist hate speech, prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators and reparation awarded to victims.**

Human rights defenders and civil society organizations

19. The Committee notes that the Constitution of 2024 recognizes that civil society is an expression of pluralist democracy and that it contributes to democratic, economic, social, religious, environmental and cultural development. Nevertheless, it remains concerned about reports that human rights and environmental defenders, particularly women, farmers and members of Indigenous Peoples fighting deforestation, often face abuse and reprisals (art. 5).

20. **The Committee recommends that the State Party take measures to ensure that civil society organizations and human rights defenders, including those working on the rights of ethnic minorities, Indigenous Peoples and migrants, are able to carry out their work effectively and without fear of reprisals. It also recommends that it expedite the process of adopting the bill on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders.**

Combating racial discrimination and structural inequalities

21. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State Party to combat discrimination and inequalities, such as the Citizenship and Social Protection Programme, the Equal Opportunities Programme and the outpatient care programme. However, it notes with concern that some communities, particularly ethnic minorities and Indigenous Peoples such as the Baka, Babongo, Bakoya, Baghame, Barimba, Akoula and Akwoa, face multiple forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination, which are reflected in high levels of poverty and social exclusion, particularly in rural and remote areas. It is also concerned about the impact of discrimination on the effective enjoyment of the rights established in article 5 of the Convention, mainly the right to participate in government and in the conduct of public affairs, and economic, social and cultural rights, in particular access to employment, healthcare and education (arts. 2 and 5).

22. **Recalling its previous concluding observations⁶ and in the light of its general recommendation No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures in the Convention, the Committee urges the State Party to adopt the necessary measures, including special measures and affirmative action, to eliminate the discrimination and**

⁶ Ibid., paras. 10 and 15.

inequalities faced by Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities, including indirect discrimination, and all obstacles preventing them from fully enjoying their rights on an equal footing, in accordance with articles 1 (4), 2 (2) and 5 of the Convention. It recalls that, in line with the above-mentioned general recommendation, States Parties are responsible for ensuring that these special measures are applied throughout their territory and are designed and implemented following consultation with the communities concerned and with their active participation. The Committee also recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Redouble efforts to reduce structural inequalities and poverty affecting Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities, particularly in rural and remote areas;
- (b) Strengthen the Citizenship and Social Protection Programme and measures to facilitate access by members of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities and non-citizens to civil status documents, including in relation to birth registration, particularly in rural and remote areas, by raising awareness among these groups of the importance of registration and ensuring that all provisions relating to the issuance of identity documents are applied in a non-discriminatory manner, prioritizing disadvantaged groups;
- (c) Adopt effective measures to ensure the full participation of members of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities, including women, in public affairs and to promote their participation in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors;
- (d) Take further measures to combat racial discrimination in employment and workplace abuse and labour exploitation affecting members of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities in particular, and to facilitate such persons' access to the formal sector of the economy and to just and favourable conditions of work;
- (e) Redouble efforts to ensure that members of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities have equal access to high-quality and culturally appropriate health services;
- (f) Adopt additional measures to combat discrimination and inequalities in the education sector that affect members of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities and to ensure the availability, accessibility and high quality of education at all levels for children in these communities, including by strengthening education in minority and Indigenous Peoples' languages.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples

23. The Committee notes the steps taken by the State Party to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It is nevertheless concerned about the lack of legal recognition of Indigenous Peoples and of a specific legislative framework for the promotion and protection of their rights, including the right to collective ownership of lands traditionally occupied by Indigenous Peoples and the right to consultation aimed at obtaining their free, prior and informed consent. The Committee is also concerned about reports of the displacement of Indigenous Peoples without their free, prior and informed consent and about the detrimental effects of infrastructure projects and the exploitation of natural resources, such as mining and logging, on Indigenous Peoples' ecosystems, territories, resources and traditional ways of life (art. 5).

24. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and recalling the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

- (a) Take all necessary measures to ensure non-discrimination against Indigenous Peoples and their recognition and legal protection, including through the adoption of a specific law to promote and protect their rights;
- (b) Adopt a law governing consultation procedures aimed at obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples in respect of projects affecting their environmental ecosystem and way of life, establish appropriate mechanisms for carrying out such consultations and ensure the effective participation of Indigenous

Peoples in the development of such a law and the setting up of the aforementioned consultation mechanisms;

(c) **Revise the legislative framework for land ownership with a view to ensuring the protection of the right of Indigenous Peoples to own, use, develop and control their lands, territories and resources, while ensuring their effective and meaningful participation in the review process;**

(d) **Adopt measures to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are consulted on any legislative or administrative measures or infrastructure or natural resource development projects that might affect their lands, territories or resources;**

(e) **Take measures to ensure access by Indigenous Peoples to effective remedies when their rights are violated and provide them with just compensation, including when the lands, territories and resources that they have traditionally owned or used have been confiscated, occupied or used without their free, prior and informed consent or have been damaged;**

(f) **Take steps to ensure that Indigenous Peoples removed from their villages in Bakoumba and resettled elsewhere without their free, prior and informed consent receive just and fair compensation and benefit from suitable resettlement and living conditions.**

Citizens of foreign origin

25. While taking note of the information provided by the State Party concerning the naturalization of the Gabonese Hausa, the Committee is concerned about reports of a rise in hate speech against Gabonese citizens of foreign origin and the Gabonese Hausa and of discriminatory treatment in some cases, including reports that such persons' passports have been withheld by migration authorities on their return from travel, that they have been able to reclaim them only by presenting documents proving Gabonese nationality and that they have experienced difficulties obtaining passports and other identity documents. Furthermore, it notes with concern that implementation of the policy of "Gabonization" of jobs may in fact lead to discriminatory practices against Gabonese citizens of foreign origin, based on national origin, race, colour or religion (art. 5).

26. **The Committee recommends that the State Party take the necessary measures to prevent, eradicate and punish hate speech against Gabonese citizens of foreign origin and the Gabonese Hausa and discriminatory treatment of them, including by the migration authorities. It also recommends that it ensure that implementation of the policy of "Gabonization" of jobs does not result in hiring or firing practices that discriminate against Gabonese citizens of foreign origin.**

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

27. The Committee is concerned about the provisions of Act No. 05/86 of 17 June 1986 establishing the rules for the entry and stay of foreign nationals in Gabon, which criminalize irregular migration. While taking note of the information provided by the State Party concerning measures taken to promote the integration of non-citizens and regularize the status of migrants, it regrets the lack of sufficient information, including statistics, on the results and impact of these measures, in particular on the progress made in improving the socioeconomic situation of non-citizens. The Committee is concerned about reports that asylum-seekers do not have access to healthcare services while awaiting a decision on their refugee status. It also notes with concern that migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers have been subjected to prejudice, stereotyping and xenophobic and racist acts. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about reports that migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers have been the target of racketeering and discriminatory stops carried out by law enforcement officers (arts. 2 and 5).

28. In the light of its general recommendation No. 30 (2024) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Revise Act No. 05/86 and ensure that it complies with the State Party's international obligations, in particular by repealing the current provisions criminalizing irregular migration;

(b) Adopt additional measures to facilitate the integration of non-citizens, including the adoption of a national action plan, and develop a system of indicators to assess the impact of its public policies and other measures, in particular with regard to the effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;

(c) Take the necessary measures to guarantee, in law and in practice, access to primary healthcare services for asylum-seekers awaiting a final decision on their refugee status;

(d) Step up efforts to prevent and combat prejudice, stereotyping, xenophobia and racial discrimination against migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, including by conducting awareness-raising, information and education campaigns and by strongly condemning all expressions of xenophobia or racism, including by the public authorities;

(e) Ensure that all acts of racial or xenophobic discrimination against non-citizens, including racketeering and discriminatory stops carried out by law enforcement agencies, are investigated and prosecuted, that the perpetrators are punished and that victims receive adequate redress.

Combating trafficking in persons

29. The Committee takes note of the measures adopted by the State Party to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, such as Decree No. 0133/PR/MJGS of 27 March 2024 on the establishment, powers, organization and operation of the National Commission to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons in Gabon and Act No. 006/2020 of 30 June 2020 amending Act No. 042/2018 of 5 July 2019 on the Criminal Code, in particular the provisions relating to trafficking in human beings. However, it notes with concern the persistence of trafficking in persons, particularly for the purposes of labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and begging, which disproportionately affects migrant children. It is concerned about the lack of detailed information on the measures adopted to improve identification of victims of trafficking among migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and on assistance and rehabilitation services provided to them. The Committee also regrets the lack of information on complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and punishments related to trafficking in persons and the redress provided to victims of trafficking (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

30. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Strengthen its legislative and institutional framework and public policies against trafficking in persons, including by bringing the provisions of the Criminal Code prohibiting trafficking in persons into line with international standards, expediting the adoption of the draft strategy and national action plan for preventing and combating trafficking in persons for the period 2025–2029 and allocating adequate human, financial and technical resources to the National Commission to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons to enable it to carry out its mandate effectively;

(b) Intensify its efforts to investigate all allegations of trafficking in persons, prosecute the perpetrators of such acts and punish those found guilty appropriately, while facilitating the reporting of trafficking and ensuring victims' access to effective remedies;

(c) Enhance early identification procedures for trafficking victims, including migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and establish a comprehensive referral system to ensure access to appropriate support services, with targeted measures to protect the most vulnerable, especially migrant children;

(d) **Strengthen protection and assistance measures for victims and ensure that they have effective access to appropriate legal, medical and psychological assistance and social services;**

(e) **Continue its efforts to train police officers, border guards, immigration officers, judges, prosecutors and labour inspectors to ensure the effective application of national anti-trafficking legislation.**

Legal and institutional framework concerning asylum

31. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party concerning the legal framework relating to asylum, in particular Act No. 05/98 of 5 March 1996 on the status of refugees in Gabon and its implementing decrees. Nevertheless, it is concerned about reports of a lack of standard operating procedures for determining refugee status and identifying persons arriving at borders who are in need of international protection. It also regrets the lack of sufficient information on the measures taken to strengthen the functioning of the National Commission for Refugees (arts. 1, 2 and 5).

32. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee recommends that the State Party establish and apply standardized procedures for refugee status determination and for the rapid identification of persons in need of international protection upon their arrival at land or sea borders. It also recommends that the State Party adopt measures to strengthen the functioning of the National Commission for Refugees, including the collection and management of data on asylum-seekers and refugees, and that it allocate adequate human, financial and technical resources to enable the Commission to carry out its mandate effectively.**

Statelessness

33. While noting the State Party's efforts to prevent statelessness, the Committee regrets the lack of detailed information on the institutional framework to prevent and eradicate it. It is concerned about the absence of a national action plan to reduce and prevent statelessness (art. 5).

34. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee recommends that the State Party establish a national mechanism on statelessness with a clear legal framework and mandate that enable it to function effectively. It also recommends that the State Party adopt a national action plan to reduce and prevent statelessness, including measures to identify and protect stateless migrants and stateless persons arriving in the context of mixed movements of people, and allocate sufficient resources to ensure its effective implementation. It further recommends that the State Party accelerate the process of accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

Complaints concerning racial discrimination and access to justice

35. While noting the information provided by the State Party about the scarcity of complaints of racial discrimination, the Committee is concerned about the absence of a system for recording and collecting data on incidents of racial discrimination, and regrets the lack of detailed information on complaints of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and related offences brought before the courts or other national institutions and on the outcome of investigations, the prosecutions brought, the penalties imposed and the reparation awarded to victims. The Committee also regrets that the State Party does not apply the principle of reversal of the burden of proof in matters of racial discrimination (arts. 5 and 6).

36. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, the Committee reminds the State Party that the absence or small number of complaints or legal actions brought by victims of racial discrimination may reveal that there is a lack of specific relevant legislation, that victims have inadequate information concerning their rights, fear social censure or reprisals, or fear the cost and complexity**

of the judicial process, that there is a lack of trust in the police and judicial authorities, or that the authorities are insufficiently alert to or aware of offences involving racism. Recalling its previous concluding observations,⁷ the Committee urges the State Party:

- (a) To ensure that the legislative framework for combating racial discrimination contains appropriate provisions, take necessary measures to facilitate the reporting of cases and ensure that all victims of racial discrimination have access to effective remedies and adequate redress;
- (b) To intensify public information campaigns on the rights enshrined in the Convention and on judicial and non-judicial remedies available with respect to those rights, targeting in particular the groups most exposed to racial discrimination, including Indigenous Peoples, ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers;
- (c) To redouble efforts to ensure that victims of racial discrimination have effective access to interpretation services and free legal aid services, and allocate sufficient human and financial resources to such services;
- (d) To strengthen the training of law enforcement officials to enable them to deal effectively with cases of racial discrimination;
- (e) To adopt the necessary measures, including legislative measures, to ensure the application of the principle of reversal of the burden of proof in favour of victims of racial discrimination;
- (f) To set up a mechanism to collect statistics on complaints of racial discrimination and racially motivated offences, disaggregated by the ethnic or national origin of the victims, and on the prosecution and conviction of perpetrators and the reparation awarded to victims.

Human rights education to combat racial discrimination

37. The Committee welcomes the fact that school curricula in the State Party contain a section on human rights education from the primary level onwards, including as part of civic education. However, it regrets the lack of detailed information on specific training in school curricula and vocational training programmes, including those for judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement officers, relating to the Convention's provisions and the fight against racial discrimination, racism and xenophobia. It also regrets the lack of sufficient information on the teaching of national languages, including Baka and Koya, on the inclusion of the history and culture of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities in textbooks and curricula at all levels and on education about the history of the slave trade and its consequences. The Committee is concerned about the abandonment of the initiative to introduce human rights teaching at university level. It is also concerned about the persistence of racist and xenophobic stereotypes and speech aimed at members of certain communities, in particular citizens of foreign origin and migrants, including on the Internet and social media. Lastly, it is concerned about the lack of information on the dissemination of the culture and traditions of different ethnic groups through the media (art. 7).

38. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Continue its efforts to raise public awareness and knowledge of the importance of cultural diversity, understanding and tolerance;
- (b) Intensify its efforts in the field of human rights education, ensuring that school, university and vocational training programmes, including for judges, prosecutors and other law enforcement personnel, include systematic and continuous training in human rights, the provisions of the Convention and the fight against racial discrimination, racism and xenophobia;
- (c) Include the history and culture of Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities and the history of the slave trade and its consequences in educational

⁷ Ibid., paras. 11 and 16.

programmes, promote research on these subjects and include information on measures adopted in this regard in its next periodic report;

(d) Increase the teaching of national languages, including Baka and Koya, at all levels of education and increase the representation and dissemination of the culture and traditions of other ethnic groups through the media.

D. Other recommendations

Ratification of other treaties

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

Amendment to article 8 of the Convention

40. 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.

Declaration under article 14 of the Convention

41. The Committee encourages the State Party to make the optional declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual communications.

Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

42. 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

43. The General Assembly, in its resolution 79/193, proclaimed the period 2025–2034 the Second International Decade for People of African Descent. It also decided to extend the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade, adopted in resolution 69/16, with a view to ensuring continuing efforts to promote respect for, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent. In view of these developments, the Committee recommends that the State Party implement the programme of activities in collaboration with people of African descent and include in its next periodic report information on the specific measures taken in this regard, bearing in mind the Committee's general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent.

Consultations with civil society

44. 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

45. The Committee recommends that the State Party's reports be made readily available 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 and publicized on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, Integration and the Diaspora in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

Common core document

46. The Committee encourages the State Party to update its common core document, which dates to 1998, 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 2006.⁸ 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.

Paragraphs of particular importance

47. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State Party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 8 (Domestic application of the Convention), 10 (Legislation against racial discrimination) and 24 (a) and (b) (Rights of Indigenous Peoples) above and requests the State Party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.

Follow-up to concluding observations

48. 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 22 (b) (Combating racial discrimination and structural inequalities) and 24 (f) (Rights of Indigenous Peoples) above.

Preparation of the next periodic report

49. The Committee recommends that the State Party submit its combined eleventh to thirteenth periodic reports, as a single document, by 30 March 2030, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session⁹ 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.

⁸ [HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6](#), chap. I.

⁹ [CERD/C/2007/1](#).