



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the combined initial to fifth periodic reports of San Marino*

1. The Committee considered the combined initial to fifth periodic reports of San Marino ([CEDAW/C/SMR/1-5](#)) at its 2162nd and 2163rd meetings (see [CEDAW/C/SR.2162](#) and [CEDAW/C/SR.2163](#)), held on 25 June 2025.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee appreciates the submission by the State Party of its combined initial to fifth periodic reports, which were prepared in response to the list of issues and questions prior to reporting ([CEDAW/C/SMR/QPR/1-5](#)). It welcomes the oral presentation by the delegation and the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed orally by the Committee during the dialogue.

3. The Committee commends the State Party on its distinguished delegation, which was headed by the Permanent Representative of San Marino to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Marcello Beccari. The delegation also included representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Institutional Affairs and Internal Affairs, the Department of Health and Social Security, the Labour and Active Policies Office, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labour, the San Marino Court, the Gender and Child Abuse Office, the Authority for Equal Opportunities and the Department of Education, who participated remotely, as well as members of the Permanent Mission of San Marino and interpreters.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the entry into force of the Convention for San Marino in 2003 in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of the following:

(a) Delegated Decree No. 161 of 29 October 2024, which amends Law No. 97 of 2008 and the Criminal Code to align with the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and

* Adopted by the Committee at its ninety-first session (16 June–4 July 2025).



strengthen existing measures for the prevention of violence against women and gender-based violence;

(b) Delegated Decree No. 62 of 20 March 2024, which introduces the offence of sexual harassment into the State Party's legislation;

(c) Law No. 40 of 8 March 2023 on information and the media, which includes provisions aimed at combating gender stereotypes in the media;

(d) Law No. 158 of 22 November 2022 on forms of support for single pregnant women and single-parent families in vulnerable socioeconomic situations;

(e) Law No. 147 of 7 September 2022 on voluntary termination of pregnancy, which decriminalizes abortion within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy;

(f) Law No. 147 of 20 November 2018, as amended by Law No. 115 of 24 June 2021, which introduces registered partnerships for both same-sex and heterosexual couples;

(g) Law No. 173 of 26 November 2015 on the equal transmission of the surname to children;

(h) Law No. 97 of 20 June 2008 on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and gender violence.

5. The Committee welcomes the State Party's efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, such as the adoption or signing of the following:

(a) National plan to combat violence against women for 2024–2026;

(b) Multi-year national plan on the elimination of violence and harassment and discrimination in the world of work.

6. The Committee welcomes the fact that, in the period since the entry into force in 2003 of the Convention for San Marino, the State Party has ratified or acceded to the following international treaties:

(a) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, in 2011;

(b) Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, in 2011;

(c) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2008;

(d) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in 2006;

(e) Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), of the International Labour Organization (ILO), in 2022;

(f) Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), of ILO, in 2019;

(g) Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in 2020;

(h) Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention), in 2016.

C. Sustainable Development Goals

7. The Committee welcomes the international support for the Sustainable Development Goals and calls for the realization of de jure (legal) and de facto (substantive) gender equality, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, throughout the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee recalls the importance of Goal 5 and of mainstreaming the principles of equality and non-discrimination throughout all 17 Goals. It urges the State Party to recognize women as the driving force of sustainable development in the State Party and to adopt gender-responsive policies and strategies to that effect.

D. Parliament

8. The Committee stresses the crucial role of the legislative power in ensuring the full implementation of the Convention (see [A/65/38](#), part two, annex VI). It invites the Great and General Council, in line with its mandate, to take the necessary steps regarding the implementation of the present concluding observations between now and the submission of the next periodic report under the Convention.

E. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

Visibility of the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations

9. The Committee notes with concern the limited knowledge and awareness of the Convention among judges, lawyers and the general public, particularly among women themselves, as evidenced by the absence of court decisions making direct reference to the Convention. It is also concerned about the limited participation of civil society organizations throughout the review process of the State Party's combined initial to fifth periodic reports.

10. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Adopt measures to ensure that the Convention is widely known, including by disseminating the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto, the Committee's general recommendations and the present concluding observations promptly and widely among the Administration, the judiciary, law enforcement officials, the San Marino Bar Association, civil society and the public at large;

(b) Raise awareness among women and girls of their rights under the Convention, as well as the legal remedies available to them to claim those rights, both domestically and under the Optional Protocol;

(c) Ensure that the Convention, the Committee's jurisprudence and its general recommendations are made an integral part of systematic capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officials and lawyers, with a view to enabling them to directly apply or invoke the provisions of the Convention in court and administrative proceedings or interpret national legislation in the light of the Convention;

(d) Institutionalize mechanisms to ensure the meaningful and timely participation of civil society organizations in the reporting and follow-up processes under the Convention.

Constitutional and legislative framework and definition of discrimination against women

11. The Committee notes that article 4 of the Declaration of the Citizens' Rights and Fundamental Principles of the San Marino Legal System provides for equality before the law without distinction on the basis of sex, sexual orientation or personal, economic, social, political or religious conditions. However, it is concerned that this provision does not explicitly include internationally recognized grounds of discrimination such as race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, which may limit the protection of women and girls from intersecting forms of discrimination. The Committee also notes with concern the absence of a general anti-discrimination law in the State Party, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender.

12. The Committee recommends that the State Party consider amending article 4 of the Declaration of the Citizens' Rights and Fundamental Principles of the San Marino Legal System to explicitly include race, colour, descent and national or ethnic origin among the prohibited grounds of discrimination in order to strengthen women's and girls' legal protection from intersecting forms of discrimination. It also recommends that the State Party adopt comprehensive civil anti-discrimination legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Access to justice

13. The Committee notes with concern that, beyond remedies in cases of allegations of violence, the State Party has not provided up-to-date information on the general judicial remedies available to women to complain against allegedly discriminatory legal provisions, policies or individual acts, for example in the context of access to public services or to public and private employment or at the workplace.

14. Recalling its general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) **Analyse the ways in which women currently gain access to the judicial system in practice, in case of discrimination complaints in all areas of life, identify possible gaps and obstacles and develop measures to overcome such obstacles;**

(b) **Take measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes for all justice system personnel and law students, to eliminate gender stereotypes and incorporate a gender perspective into all aspects of the justice system;**

(c) **Conduct information and awareness-raising programmes for women about the existence of legal remedies and the availability of support through legal aid services.**

Data collection and analysis

15. The Committee notes that the State Party is taking steps to improve its system of data collection and analysis. However, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of disaggregated data in key areas, including gender-based violence against women, unpaid care and domestic work, and the gender pay gap. This absence hampers a comprehensive assessment of the status of gender equality and the enjoyment of women's rights in the State Party and may hinder the development and implementation of effective policies and initiatives.

16. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated system for the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, migration status and other relevant factors;**
- (b) Address the gap in gender data collection, particularly in areas essential for monitoring progress in implementing the Convention and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (c) Enhance collaboration with civil society organizations and other partners to improve the quality of and access to gender-related data.**

National machinery for the advancement of women

17. The Committee notes the State Party's commitment to promoting gender equality through the strengthening of institutional frameworks, including the establishment of the Authority for Equal Opportunities in 2008 and the Commission for Equal Opportunities in 2004, as well as the plan for the creation of a hub for equal opportunities. However, the Committee notes with concern:

- (a) The absence of a comprehensive national action plan on gender equality which addresses all forms of discrimination, including but not limited to gender-based violence;
- (b) The lack of coordination among various institutional bodies, which may lead to duplication, gaps and ineffective use of resources;
- (c) The limited resources available to the Authority for Equal Opportunities and the Commission for Equal Opportunities, as well as for other initiatives and policies aimed at advancing women's rights.

18. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Consider developing a comprehensive national gender equality action plan with clear objectives, timelines and indicators to guide all efforts towards the advancement of women's rights and mainstream gender equality in all sectors of public and private life;**
- (b) Strengthen coordination among the various bodies within the national machinery for the advancement of women by ensuring a clear division of responsibilities, defining priorities and cooperation areas, and providing these bodies with adequate human, technical and financial resources to promote women's rights and gender equality effectively;**
- (c) Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with measurable indicators to track the progress and impact of initiatives and policies on gender equality, including the work of the Authority for Equal Opportunities and the Commission for Equal Opportunities.**

National human rights institution

19. The Committee welcomes the approval, on 18 March 2024, of a popular petition (*Istanza d'Arengo*) concerning the establishment of an Ombudsperson, as well as the State Party's efforts in drafting a law to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson. However, the Committee remains concerned about the current absence of an independent national human rights institution in the State Party.

20. The Committee recommends that the State Party expedite the adoption and implementation of the draft law establishing the Office of the Ombudsperson to enhance accountability and provide an independent mechanism for addressing

complaints relating to human rights violations. It further recommends that the State Party establish an independent national human rights institution, in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles, annexed to General Assembly resolution 48/134), with a strong mandate to protect and promote women's human rights and gender equality, and consider seeking technical assistance funded by the State Party and advice from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to support that process, as appropriate.

Temporary special measures

21. The Committee notes the provision requiring that no more than two thirds of candidates on electoral lists for the Great and General Council be of the same sex. However, it notes with concern the absence of time-bound and targeted special measures in the State Party to achieve substantive equality of women and men in areas such as political and public life beyond such a minimum quota. The Committee further notes with concern the reluctance expressed by the delegation during the dialogue to consider the adoption of temporary special measures.

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

(a) **Adopt temporary special measures, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, including parity quotas, to accelerate substantive equality of women and men in all areas where women are traditionally underrepresented or disadvantaged, such as political and public life, education, the economy and employment;**

(b) **Promote understanding among State officials, private companies and the general public of the non-discriminatory nature and transformative value of temporary special measures as a tool to advance substantive equality of women and men.**

Stereotypes

23. The Committee notes the efforts made by the State Party in combating stereotypes in the media, including the adoption of the Information and Media Law, and plans for journalist training. However, it notes with concern the lack of systematic evaluation of the impact of these measures and the absence of clear, accessible complaint mechanisms on reporting sexist advertising and gender stereotypes, including those affecting women and girls with disabilities, racialized women, lesbian, bisexual or transgender women, and migrant women.

24. **The Committee recommends that the State Party establish clear procedures for evaluating the impact of measures aimed at addressing gender stereotypes in the media and ensure that accessible, confidential and responsive channels are available for submitting complaints about sexist advertisements and other media content that reinforces gender stereotypes.**

Gender-based violence against women and girls

25. The Committee acknowledges that the State Party has made significant progress in recent years in responding to gender-based violence against women. The regulatory framework has been strengthened, including civil and criminal legislation to address violence. Awareness has been raised around the issue, and data-collection and capacity-building efforts have been made, to ensure a professional response. The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Authority for Equal Opportunities,

with the specific mandate of promoting and coordinating the implementation of national and international standards such as the Istanbul Convention and the recommendations of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. It further notes the adoption of the comprehensive national plan to combat violence against women for 2024–2026 and the establishment of a permanent technical working group under this plan. However, it notes with concern:

- (a) The limitations of the Criminal Code with regard to the explicit sanctioning of psychological violence and the integration of the concept of “absence of consent” as a key element of sexual violence;
- (b) The limited information about the accessibility of support services, including shelters, for women and girls with disabilities, migrant women and women in detention;
- (c) The limited participation of women’s organizations in providing support to women and girls survivors of gender-based violence;
- (d) The lack of impact assessment of interventions targeting men and boys, including perpetrators;
- (e) The limited availability of disaggregated data on the responses by the law enforcement authorities and the support services, including on the reparations provided to survivors of gender-based violence against women.

26. Recalling its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, and target 5.2 of the Sustainable Developments Goals to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

- (a) Consider adapting the provisions of the Criminal Code to the standards of the Istanbul Convention;**
- (b) Allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the comprehensive national plan to combat violence against women for 2024–2026, with the meaningful participation of women’s organizations and disadvantaged groups of women;**
- (c) Ensure that all support services for survivors of gender-based violence, including legal support, social assistance, medical support, shelters and emergency accommodation, are fully accessible to women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, migrant women and women in detention;**
- (d) Create an enabling environment for the establishment and operation of women’s organizations, including through the provision of sustainable funding and by ensuring their participation in coordination mechanisms for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence;**
- (e) Continue to engage with men and boys, and assess the impact of the measures taken in this regard;**
- (f) Collect, analyse and publish disaggregated data from the courts, the police and the social service institutions on the responses provided, including the reparations provided to survivors of gender-based violence, including the number, type and adequacy of reparations;**
- (g) Continue to provide mandatory capacity-building to the judiciary, the police and other law enforcement officers on the relevant criminal law provisions, the applicable procedures and the relevant international standards,**

the issuance and monitoring of protection orders, and other measures to ensure the effective prevention of and protection from gender-based violence against women.

Trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution

27. The Committee welcomes the State Party's efforts to draft a national strategy against trafficking in human beings and an accompanying operational protocol. However, it notes with concern the State Party's assertion that trafficking does not seem to exist in San Marino – since no files have ever been opened in court and no cases have been officially reported – due to its small size and effective law enforcement. This approach may overlook at-risk groups and impede the early identification and referral of trafficking victims to appropriate services, as well as the prompt investigation and prosecution of cases. In this regard, the Committee observes that trafficking in women and girls can occur everywhere, regardless of the size of a country, and can affect both nationals and migrants. The Committee further notes with concern that the criminalization of women in prostitution in the State Party deters them from reporting abuses to the police and seeking health services.

28. Recalling its general recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Expedite the adoption of the national strategy against trafficking in human beings and its operational protocol, ensuring that they include clear objectives, timelines and measurable indicators, and provide adequate human, technical and financial resources for its effective implementation;

(b) Develop and implement standardized procedures for the early identification and referral to appropriate services of victims of trafficking, in particular women and girls, ensuring that these procedures and services are victim-centred and gender-responsive and address linguistic and cultural barriers;

(c) Ensure regular mandatory training on trafficking in human beings for judges, prosecutors, police officers, labour inspectors, border officials and social workers, on gender-sensitive investigation and interviewing methods, as well as early identification and referral to appropriate services of victims of trafficking, and investigate cases effectively;

(d) Launch nationwide awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of trafficking for purposes of labour and sexual exploitation, targeting the general public, employers and women at risk, including migrant women and women in prostitution;

(e) Decriminalize women in prostitution to enable them to report to the police and gain access to support services without fear of prosecution.

Participation in political and public life

29. The Committee notes the increase to 35 per cent of women's representation in the Great and General Council and that one of the two Heads of State of San Marino is a woman. However, it remains concerned that women continue to be underrepresented in the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. It also notes with concern the absence of a strategy with clear timelines and time-bound targeted measures to achieve gender parity in political and public life.

30. In line with its general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems and general

recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, as well as target 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) **Adopt specific and targeted measures, including temporary special measures, such as parity quotas, zipper systems and preferential appointment of women to public office at the national and municipal levels, with a view to achieving gender parity in all areas of political and public life;**

(b) **Review the current one-third minimum quota for female candidates on electoral lists for the Great and General Council to align with the goal of achieving gender parity by 2030;**

(c) **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns for politicians, the media and the general public to promote understanding that the full, equal, free and democratic participation of women on an equal basis with men in political and public life is a requirement for the full realization of the human rights of women in the State Party;**

(d) **Ensure the meaningful participation of civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders in designing and monitoring the implementation of measures aimed at achieving gender parity in political and public life.**

Nationality

31. The Committee welcomes the State Party's efforts to align citizenship rights through maternal and paternal lines and the approval in 2024 of an *Istanza d'Arengo* request to amend Law No. 114 of 30 November 2000 to remove the requirement of renouncing existing citizenship for naturalization. However, it notes with concern:

(a) The absence of disaggregated data on the implementation and impact of new citizenship and naturalization laws and regulations, particularly concerning refugee, asylum-seeking, stateless and migrant women;

(b) That the State Party has not yet ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

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

(a) **Systematically collect, analyse and publish data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and migration status on the acquisition, transmission and renunciation of citizenship;**

(b) **Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

Education

33. The Committee welcomes the State Party's commitment to inclusive education for all, including the adoption of delegated decrees on the inclusion of persons with disabilities and learning difficulties at all levels of education. It further welcomes the various steps taken to raise awareness about gender-based violence and address gender stereotypes as well as cyberbullying at the various levels of the education system. The Committee also notes the provision of financial aid and scholarships to

eliminate economic barriers to girls' and women's access to education. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The absence of sex-disaggregated data, including on women and girls from disadvantaged groups and on access to higher education, impeding assessment of the impact of these measures on women's and girls' access to education;

(b) The lack of a comprehensive approach to human rights education, with clear messages on human dignity, gender equality, non-discrimination and anti-racism;

(c) The lack of information on whether financial aid and scholarships are supporting women and girls effectively in pursuing studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and other male-dominated fields.

34. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) **Systematically collect, analyse and publish disaggregated data, including on women and girls from disadvantaged groups and on access to higher education and scholarships, to inform evidence-based policy and programme development;**

(b) **Develop a strategy on human rights education to address gender equality and non-discrimination, as well as the prevention of violence and cyberbullying at all levels of the education system;**

(c) **Assess and monitor the impact of financial aid and scholarships on women's and girls' participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and other male-dominated fields and adopt targeted measures to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of study and career paths.**

Employment

35. The Committee notes the State Party's efforts to promote gender equality in employment, including measures to promote a work-life balance and women's access to employment. It also notes that San Marino women are entitled to a compulsory maternity leave of 22 weeks, fully paid by the social insurance, and men are entitled to a 10-day paternity leave. However, it notes with concern:

(a) The lack of comprehensive data collection, including of disaggregated data on the gender pay gap and the pension gap, as well as on the use of paternity leave by fathers;

(b) Women's underrepresentation in the private sector and managerial positions and their concentration in part-time and precarious employment, as demonstrated during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, when 95 per cent of employees dismissed were women, as well as gender-based professional segregation in the State Party;

(c) That childcare leave is unpaid under Law No. 129 of 2022;

(d) Insufficient efforts to encourage men to participate equally in caregiving and household responsibilities.

36. In accordance with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) **Systematically collect and analyse disaggregated data on women's and men's employment participation, the gender pay gap, the pension gap, the use of**

parental leave, and other indicators that are crucial for an assessment of women's equal participation in the labour market;

(b) Increase women's equal access to formal employment, including by dismantling stereotypes concerning women's traditional roles through awareness-raising campaigns;

(c) Strengthen initiatives to promote women's employment and equal career development opportunities in both the public and private sectors, including by providing financial incentives to recruit women to leadership positions as a temporary measure;

(d) Conduct follow-up studies to evaluate the effectiveness of labour market reforms aimed at increasing women's equal participation and leadership;

(e) Amend Law No. 129 of 2022 to ensure that childcare leave is subsidized, and strengthen childcare and parental support services;

(f) Increase efforts to encourage fathers to take parental leave and participate equally in caregiving and household responsibilities, including by expanding non-transferable paid paternity leave and through awareness campaigns.

Health

37. The Committee notes with appreciation that San Marino residents benefit from free and universal healthcare. The Committee also welcomes the progress made by the State Party, in particular the adoption in 2022 of the law on voluntary termination of pregnancy, which enjoyed broad political support among San Marino citizens. However, it notes with concern:

(a) The obstacles to healthcare faced by certain disadvantaged groups of women, such as migrant women, women and girls with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and women in prostitution;

(b) The lack of adequate sex education and obstacles to gynaecological and obstetric services due to accessibility barriers and disrespectful treatment of certain patients;

(c) The exceptions in the State Party's legislation to the criminalization of forced sterilization, which allow persons with psychosocial disabilities to be sterilized with the authorization of a doctor or their guardian;

(d) The poor implementation by the Social Security Institute of the procedures established in the law on voluntary termination of pregnancy, the stigma involved and the possibility of conscientious objection by medical personnel;

(e) The absence of a gender perspective and specific care for women victims of gender-based violence and their children in the Public Mental Health Service.

38. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health and target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Take all appropriate measures, including campaigns to dismantle social prejudices among health professionals, to ensure that migrant women, women and girls with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and sex workers have effective access to healthcare and that their needs are adequately met;

(b) **Improve sexual and reproductive health services, ensuring sex education in the school curriculum and access to modern, free or low-cost contraceptives, as well as guaranteeing accessible gynaecological and obstetric care that is fully respectful of human rights, particularly for migrant women, women and girls with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and women in prostitution;**

(c) **Amend its mental health legislation to ensure that no person can be sterilized on the basis of disability, including intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, without their prior, free and informed consent;**

(d) **Urgently implement, through the Social Security Institute, all procedures established in the law on voluntary termination of pregnancy, including ensuring comprehensive information for women on access to legal abortion and post-abortion care and combating stigma and conscientious objection by medical personnel in this regard;**

(e) **Strengthen the capacity and availability of mental health services specifically for women victims of gender-based violence and their children, and integrate a community-based gender and human rights perspective into the Public Mental Health Service.**

Economic empowerment of women and social benefits

39. The Committee welcomes the efforts by the State Party to particularly support single pregnant women and single-parent families in need, and the specific prohibition of discrimination against women regarding access to employment, career advancement, vocational retraining and specialization. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) That unemployed mothers are excluded from family allowances;

(b) That the recent pension reform disadvantages women with children, who often experience interruptions in their contributory periods due to caregiving responsibilities;

(c) The absence of regulatory frameworks, as well as economic and social governance policies, to guide inclusive private sector operations;

(d) The lack of data on women's entrepreneurship, as well as their participation and leadership in sectors such as financial technology (fintech), digital technologies and robotics, as well as in sports.

40. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) **Amend its social legislation and policies to enhance women's access to economic and social benefits;**

(b) **Raise awareness among self-employed women and women working in the informal economy about mandatory registration requirements under the pension and social insurance schemes and ensure that child-raising periods are fully counted towards women's pension benefits;**

(c) **Develop and implement regulatory frameworks, as well as economic and social governance policies, to guide the private sector in operating in an inclusive way and to promote women's economic rights and empowerment;**

(d) **Collect and publish disaggregated data on women's entrepreneurship, their participation and leadership across all economic sectors, including emerging and male-dominated sectors, such as fintech, digital technologies and robotics, and their participation in sports.**

Women facing intersecting forms of discrimination

41. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of information, disaggregated data and targeted policies to address intersecting forms of discrimination against women living in less central or peri-urban areas, women and girls with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and women migrant workers;

(b) That “*badanti*”, female migrant workers employed as carers in the private sector, continue to hold temporary resident permits with limited access to services;

(c) The absence of legal recognition of gender self-identification and same-sex marriages, and the absence of an explicit ban on conversion therapy in the State Party.

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

(a) **Ensure adequate access to education, employment and health services for women living in less central or peri-urban areas, women and girls with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and women migrant workers;**

(b) **Systematically collect data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex status and migration status to assess the situation of women at risk of intersecting forms of discrimination and inform relevant policies;**

(c) **Legally recognize gender self-identification and same-sex marriages, explicitly ban conversion therapy and conduct awareness-raising campaigns on its harms.**

Marriage and family relations

43. The Committee notes the adoption by the State Party of Law. No. 97 of 2008, which allows judges to issue removal or restraining orders in cases of gender-based violence. However, it remains concerned about the lack of a clear legal framework to ensure that domestic and gender-based violence is systematically taken into consideration in legal proceedings concerning custody and visitation rights. The Committee is also concerned about the limited information on monitoring mechanisms for family mediation to ensure that it aligns with the standards under the Convention.

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

(a) **Adopt and apply procedures requiring courts and youth welfare officers to systematically consider domestic and gender-based violence when taking decisions on custody and visitation rights, in order to ensure the best interests and safety of the child;**

(b) **Monitor family mediation procedures to ensure their compliance with standards under the Convention, that is, that they do not replace access to justice, are conducted with free and informed consent and are not applied in contexts of violence.**

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

45. **In view of the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Committee calls upon the State Party to reaffirm its implementation and to re-evaluate the realization of the rights enshrined in the Convention in order to achieve substantive equality between women and men.**

Dissemination

46. The Committee requests the State Party to ensure the timely dissemination of the present concluding observations, in the official languages of the State Party, to the relevant State institutions at all levels (national, regional and local), in particular to the Government, the ministries, the parliament and the judiciary, to enable their full implementation, as well as to civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, to raise full awareness within the State Party.

Ratification of other treaties

47. The Committee notes that the adherence of the State Party to the nine major international human rights instruments¹ and relevant regional instruments would enhance the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects of life. The Committee therefore encourages the State Party to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Follow-up to concluding observations

48. The Committee requests the State Party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 16 and 20 above.

Preparation of the next report

49. The Committee will establish and communicate the due date of the sixth periodic report of the State Party in line with a future clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States Parties (General Assembly resolution [79/165](#), para. 6) and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting, if applicable, for the State Party. The report should cover the entire period up to the time of its submission.

50. The Committee requests the State Party to follow the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents ([HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6](#), chap. I).

¹ The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.