



International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 116th session

Geneva, 17 November–5 December 2025

Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted
by States Parties under article 9 of the Convention

List of themes in relation to the combined thirteenth to fifteenth periodic reports of Maldives

Note by the Country Rapporteur

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided at its seventy-sixth session¹ that the Country Rapporteur would send to the State Party concerned a short list of themes with a view to guiding and focusing the dialogue between the State Party's delegation and the Committee during the consideration of the State Party's report. The present document contains a list of such themes. It is not an exhaustive list; other issues may also be raised in the course of the dialogue. No written replies are required.

Statistics

2. Updated statistics, derived from the 2022 census, on the demographic composition of the population, including ethnic minorities and non-citizens, such as asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless persons and migrants, as well as corresponding statistics on the prison population. Updated statistics on the socioeconomic situation of the various groups residing in the State Party's jurisdiction that provide an empirical basis for assessing their enjoyment of the rights to work, social security, housing, food, water and sanitation, health, education and participation in political and public life, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnic or national origin, migration status and other relevant factors.

The Convention in domestic law and the legal, institutional and policy framework for its implementation (arts. 1 and 2)

3. Steps taken to incorporate the provisions of the Convention into domestic law and examples of case law in which domestic courts have invoked or applied the Convention. Information on measures taken to ensure that interpretation and application of the Constitution, in particular article 9 (d), which links citizenship to a religious requirement, is consistent with the State Party's obligations under the Convention.

4. Progress towards the drafting and adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that conforms with the provisions of the Convention and addresses direct, indirect and multiple forms of discrimination, including on grounds prohibited under article 1, as well as religion, gender identity and sexual orientation.

5. Measures taken to strengthen the mandate of the Human Rights Commission of Maldives and bring it into full compliance with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). Steps taken

¹ [A/65/18](#), para. 85.



to ensure that no one is excluded from being appointed as a member of the Human Rights Commission on the grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin. Information on the mandate of the Human Rights Commission to carry out investigations and monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty.

6. Practical outcomes of the National Task Force on Issues related to Migrant Workers. Progress towards adopting action plans or other special measures to prevent and combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

7. Information on the impact of climate change, tourism and development projects on marginalized communities, particularly non-citizens, and on measures to mitigate their impact and ensure the access of victims to justice and remedies. Measures adopted to guarantee that responses to climate-induced displacement prevent discrimination against marginalized groups and preserve cultural identity and community cohesion.

Racist hate speech and hate crimes (arts. 2, 4 and 6)

8. Measures taken to ensure compliance and harmonization of the State Party's legislation with article 4 of the Convention, including steps to address racist hate speech and incitement to hatred in public and political discourse, on the Internet and on social media. Information on measures to address hate crimes against non-Muslim individuals, to establish accountability frameworks to sanction hate speech by public officials, and to prevent discrimination and xenophobia against foreign nationals, including Indians, notably in the context of the "India Out" campaign.

9. Updated statistics, disaggregated by grounds for discrimination, on complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions under section 124 (a) of the Penal Code relating to racist hate speech and hate crimes. Information on the outcomes of criminal investigations conducted by the Maldives Police Service and on investigations carried out by the Human Rights Commission of Maldives in cases of racist hate speech and hate crimes.

Situation of migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons (arts. 2, 5 and 6)

10. Information on the legislative and policy framework concerning migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons, including the steps to establish an asylum system and to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, and on measures to ensure their rights to just and favourable conditions of work, housing, health, education and participation in cultural life. Information on efforts to promote the integration of migrant workers and their families into community life, including through language training and equal access to public services in both urban and outer island settings. Measures to prevent statelessness and to ensure that all children born in Maldives, including those of undocumented migrant workers, are registered at birth without discrimination.

11. Measures to ensure the effective protection of migrant workers, notably women migrant workers in domestic work and care work, from harassment, violence and exploitation by employers, and to facilitate the lodging of complaints by victims, including updated statistics on inspections carried out, violations identified, sanctions imposed and remedies provided through the enforcement of the Employment Act, the Regulation on Employment Agencies and the Regulation on Employment for Foreigners in Maldives. Measures taken or envisaged to guarantee the exercise by migrant workers of the right to freedom of assembly and association.

12. Concrete measures taken: (a) to make use of detention only as a last resort and apply alternatives to detention; (b) to ensure that migrant workers are afforded, in law and in practice, all fundamental legal safeguards from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty; (c) to address the discriminatory conditions in places of deprivation of liberty to which migrants are reportedly subjected; and (d) to separate migrants awaiting deportation or legalization from convicted prisoners. Measures taken to prevent refoulement and collective expulsions from being carried out without adequate assessment of protection needs and to prohibit the deportation of foreigners based on religion.

13. Information on the implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act and the National Anti-Human Trafficking Action Plan. Additional information on any other

measures taken to combat trafficking in persons, including through international cooperation, and to strengthen the mechanisms for the identification, protection and referral of victims to appropriate services. Updated statistics on the number of investigations, convictions, sanctions imposed on the perpetrators and remedies provided to the victims in cases of trafficking in persons.

Situation of human rights defenders (arts. 5 and 6)

14. Measures taken to protect human rights defenders, particularly those addressing racism, xenophobia and religious intolerance, and to ensure an enabling environment for their work.

Access to justice (art. 6)

15. Steps taken to guarantee and enhance access to justice and legal aid for non-citizens, particularly migrant workers, including measures to overcome language barriers and to raise awareness of their rights, complaint mechanisms and remedies for racial discrimination. Steps taken to combat racist attitudes and racial discrimination within the judicial system, including efforts to incorporate a gender and intercultural perspective.

16. Measures taken to ensure that the police and other law enforcement officers do not engage in racial discrimination, including racially motivated violence and practices that amount to racial profiling, including in the context of migration control and counter-terrorism initiatives. Measures taken to ensure fundamental legal safeguards for terrorism suspects, particularly when suspects are of foreign descent or foreign nationals.

Combating racial stereotypes (art. 7)

17. Information on measures to promote human rights education, in particular efforts to combat racial discrimination through school curricula, university programmes and teacher training, including measures taken in the media, including online platforms. Updated information on the impact of measures to raise awareness among the public, civil servants, law enforcement officers and the judicial authorities of the importance of religious and cultural diversity and tolerance.

18. Measures to promote knowledge and awareness of the cultural heritage, linguistic identities, history and contribution to Maldivian society of the various communities in the State Party, including migrant groups and other non-citizens.
