

Distr.: General  
7 March 2016

Original: English

**ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION**

---

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**  
Sixty-third session

**Concluding observations on the combined seventh and eighth  
periodic reports of Iceland\***

1. The Committee considered the combined seventh and eight periodic reports of Iceland (CEDAW/C/ISL/7-8) at its 1376 and 1378 meetings (see CEDAW/C/SR.1376 and 1378), on 17 February 2016. The Committee's list of issues and questions is contained in CEDAW/C/ISL/Q/7-8 and the responses of the Government of Iceland are contained in CEDAW/C/ISL//Q/Add.1.

**A. Introduction**

2. The Committee appreciates that the State party submitted its combined seventh and eight periodic reports. It also appreciates the State party's written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by its pre-session working group. It welcomes the oral presentation of the delegation and the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed by the Committee during the dialogue.

3. The Committee commends the State party's delegation which was headed by the Ambassador on Human Rights of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Her Excellency Ms. Gréta Gunnarsdóttir. The delegation also included representatives from the Ministry of Welfare and of the Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

**B. Positive Aspects**

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2008 of the State party's fifth and sixth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ICE/5 and 6), in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of:

(a) The Law on public financing No. 123/2015, incorporating gender-responsive budgeting;

(b) The Gender Equality Law No.10/2008 and its amendments (Laws No. 62/2014 and 79/2015), which includes a new definition of direct and indirect discrimination;

---

\* Adopted by the Committee at its sixty-third session (15 February-4 March 2016).

- (c) The National Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (2013-2016), in 2013;
- (d) The Equal Pay Standard, in 2012;
- (e) The Plan of Action on Gender Equality Regarding Wages, in 2012;
- (f) The Exclusion Orders and Ejections Law No. 85/2011;
- (g) Law No. 72/2011, which amends the Penal Code by increasing the maximum penalty for the crime of human trafficking; and
- (h) Law No. 13/2010 amending the Public Limited Companies Law and the Private Limited Companies Law by requiring gender quotas on their boards.

5. The Committee welcomes the fact that, in the period since the consideration of the previous report, the State party has ratified or acceded to the following international instruments:

- (a) The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC-OPSC), in 2014;
- (b) The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), in 2010; and
- (c) The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2010.

## C. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

### Parliament

6. **The Committee stresses the crucial role of the legislative power in ensuring the full implementation of the Convention (see the statement by the Committee on its relationship with parliamentarians, adopted at the forty-fifth session, in 2010). It invites the Parliament, in line with its mandate, to take necessary steps regarding the implementation of the present concluding observations between now and the next reporting period under the Convention.**

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

7. The Committee notes the public commemoration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in the State party. However, the Committee is concerned that there is a general lack of awareness of the Convention and its Optional Protocol in the State party, in particular among Government officials, the judiciary and other law enforcement officials, as well as a lack of adjudicated cases by the courts, including of the Supreme Court, referring to the Convention. It is also concerned that women themselves are not aware of their rights under the Convention and of the individual communications and inquiry procedures under the Optional Protocol, and thus lack the necessary information to claim their rights. This may be due to the non incorporation of the Convention in the leaf order.

8. **The Committee calls on the State party to:**

- (a) **Take the necessary steps to ensure the adequate public dissemination of the Convention, the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations among all stakeholders, including Government ministries, parliamentarians, the judiciary and law enforcement officers;**

**(b) Include the Convention, and its general recommendations in judicial training programmes; and**

**(c) Intensify efforts to raise awareness among women on their rights under the Convention and on the individual communications and inquiry procedures under the Optional Protocol.**

#### **Legislative framework**

9. The Committee notes that the State party ratified the Convention in 1985 and the Optional Protocol in 2001, although the Convention has still not been incorporated in all aspects into national legislation. It further notes with concern that the EU Discrimination Directives 2000/78/EU and 2000/43/EU have still not been implemented by the State party by adopting a comprehensive anti-discrimination law.

**10. The Committee recommends that the State party fully incorporates the Convention and makes it an integral part of the national legislation without delay. It also recommends that the State party adopts a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, covering all grounds, as mentioned in EU Discrimination Directives 2000/78/EU and 2000/43/EU.**

#### **National machinery for the advancement of women and gender mainstreaming**

11. The Committee welcomes the amendment of the Gender Equality Act by introducing a new definition of direct and indirect discrimination in line with Article 2 of the Convention and takes note of the work of the Gender Equality Forum in preparing a new Plan of Action on Gender Equality. However, the Committee notes with concern the delay since December 2014 in adopting this new action plan. It also notes with concern that the Centre for Gender Equality, tasked with administering the Gender Equality Act, lacks adequate human and financial resources and is remotely located. The Committee is further concerned that there are no full time gender focal points working on gender mainstreaming in government institutions and that gender-responsive budgeting is not systematically implemented in all programming relevant for achieving de facto equality of women.

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

**(a) Complete the preparation of and adopt without delay the new Plan of Action on Gender Equality with an adequate budget for gender equality focal points in all relevant government institutions and ensure gender mainstreaming throughout all government institutions;**

**(b) Provide the Centre for Gender Equality with adequate human and financial resources and consider relocating it to the capital to make it more accessible; and**

**(c) Systematically implement gender-responsive budgeting in all programming relevant for achieving de facto equality of women and men.**

#### **National Human Rights Institution**

13. The Committee notes that the State party is considering establishing a national human rights institution comprehensively covering all human rights issues, including women's rights. However, it is concerned that there is no timeline for its establishment.

**14. The Committee recommends that the State party establish without delay the planned independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and**

**protection of human rights (Paris Principles; General Assembly resolution 48/134, Annex), with a broad mandate to promote and protect women's rights and gender equality.**

#### **Temporary Special Measures**

15. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The limited use of temporary special measures to accelerate substantive equality of women and men, in particular as regards women's representation in decision-making positions at the local level, academia, and in the justice, foreign policy, private and law enforcement sectors; and

(b) The increasing use of gender-neutral policies in the State party that could unintentionally result in an increase of substantive inequality between women and men.

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

(a) **Evaluate the impact of existing measures, including through the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data, and adopt temporary special measures, in line with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's General Recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to accelerate the achievement of substantive gender equality in all areas under the Convention in which women continue to be disadvantaged and underrepresented; and**

(b) **Comprehensively address the gender-neutral approach in legislation and policy-making, with emphasis on the potentially negative implications of gender-neutral policy for public funding programmes specifically for women.**

#### **Stereotypes and harmful practices**

17. The Committee is concerned about the continuing existence of stereotypes concerning the roles of men and women in the family and society that have a negative impact on women's position and opportunities, particularly in education and on the labour market.

18. **The Committee recommends that the State party enhance awareness raising through the media and implement measures to eliminate stereotypes and structural barriers that might deter boy's and girl's enrolment in non-traditional educational and occupational choices, women's advancement in academia, on the labour market, in family and the society.**

#### **Violence against women**

19. The Committee notes with concern that the number of cases of violence against women is increasing. The Committee welcomes the cooperation between the police, social services, child, social and health services as well as the establishment of the new National Prosecution Authority in charge of sexual offence cases and of the Committee tasked to consider proposals on improvements in the handling of rape cases. The Committee also notes that the State party intends to amend the Penal Code to specifically criminalize domestic violence and to ratify and fully implement the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). The Committee further welcomes the new rules, procedures and assessment risk tool issued by the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police in March 2015 for cases of domestic violence. The Committee is however concerned about:

(a) The high number of discontinuances in criminal proceedings for charges of violence against women, particular rape and sexual violence, by the State Prosecutor and the low number of convictions;

(b) The lack of a legal analysis of the high number of acquittals in sexual violence cases;

(c) The absence of a national action plan against sexual and domestic violence that would take into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women and women with disabilities; and

(d) The absence of legislation specifically criminalizing psychological violence and on-line harassment and stalking.

20. **The Committee calls on the State party to:**

**(a) Ratify the Istanbul Convention and incorporate it into national legislation to strengthen the legal protection of women from domestic and other forms of violence;**

**(b) Step up its efforts to prosecute and convict perpetrators of rape and sexual violence against women and analyse and address the causes for the high number of acquittals in sexual violence cases;**

**(c) Adopt without delay a national plan against sexual and domestic violence that takes into account the specific needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women and women with disabilities and provide adequate human and financial support to expand to all police districts the Reykjavik Metropolitan Police intersectional approach to combat domestic violence; and**

**(d) Amend the Penal Code to specifically criminalize on-line harassment and psychological violence against women.**

21. The Committee welcomes the signing of the agreement between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing and the Women's Refuge in December 2014, providing for emergency shelter, and the recruitment of two psychologists providing assistance to women victims of violence. The Committee emphasises the need for shelters in addition to the system of enacted by the Exclusion Orders and Ejections Law No. 85/2011. The Committee nevertheless remains concerned that:

(a) There is only one women shelter located in Reykjavik, which is not easily accessible by women living outside of the capital and women with disabilities;

(b) The number of services, several of which have been established and are operated by non-governmental organisations, is insufficient and the service providers are inadequately funded to meet the needs of women victims of violence;

(c) There are only two hospitals in the country which provide specialised treatment and services for women victims of sexual violence; and

(d) There is very limited support for women victims of violence in rural areas, in particular with regard to access to health and psycho-social services.

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

**(a) In addition to the Exclusion Orders and Ejections Law No. 85/2011 ensure that a sufficient number of shelters with qualified personnel and adequate financial resources is available to women victims of violence, including migrant women, rural women and women with disabilities;**

**(b) Open rape crisis centres, walk-in centres and 24-hour free-of-charge helplines that provide assistance to women victims of violence, including migrant women and women with disabilities; and**

**(c) Ensure that medical and psychosocial services are available to women victims of violence in rural areas and that non-governmental organisations providing such services outside the capital receive adequate funding.**

#### **Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

23. The Committee notes the adoption of the 2013-2016 National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings as well as the legislative changes prohibiting strip clubs. The Committee further notes that the implementation of the legislative changes requires adequate time, money and well-trained human resources. The Committee also notes the amendment of the Penal code (Law 19/1940 by Law 54/2009) decriminalising the selling of sex and criminalizing the purchase of sexual services and the clients. The Committee remains concerned at:

(a) The lack of funding for the implementation of the 2013-2016 National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings, particularly for the police to investigate cases of human trafficking;

(b) The lack of prosecutions or inconsistent rate of convictions for trafficking related crimes and the lack of data for 2015;

(c) The lack of sex-disaggregated information on the number of persons trafficked for purposes of forced labour;

(d) The disproportionately high number of migrant women working in “champagne clubs”.

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

**(a) Ensure the funding to effectively implement the existing legislation and the Action Plan against trafficking in human beings, including the prosecution and adequate punishment of perpetrators as well as the early referral of victims of trafficking to protection and assistance services;**

**(b) Strengthen the protection and assistance provided to victims of trafficking for sexual purposes;**

**(c) Collect data on and analyse the extent of human trafficking in the State party;**

**(d) Analyse the root causes for the disproportionately high number of migrant women engaged in “champagne clubs” with a view to addressing their specific needs and vulnerabilities;**

**(e) Offer exit programmes to women wishing to leave prostitution, including migrant women.**

#### **Participation in political and public life**

25. The Committee commends the State party for the high percentage of women in Parliament (43 per cent) and welcomes that the Ministry of Interior has taken measures to increase women’s representation in the police force. The Committee is nevertheless concerned about the very low number of women police officers, women’s underrepresentation on the Supreme Court and in decision-making positions in the foreign service (ambassadors) and in local governments.

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

(a) **Take prompt targeted measures, including temporary special measures, with clear timeframes in line with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's General Recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to rapidly increase women's representation in the police force, on the Supreme Court and in decision-making positions in the foreign service (ambassadors);**

(b) **Take measures, including temporary special measures, to increase women's participation in political and public life, especially in legislative and executive bodies at the municipal level, such as financial incentives for political parties to include an equal number of women and men in their electoral lists or a zipper system for the appointment of women and men to public offices.**

### **Education**

27. The Committee welcomes that equality has been one of the pillars in the 2011 National Curricula and that the State party intends to prepare an action plan on ways of reducing gender-stereotyped educational and vocational choices. The Committee also notes the establishment of the feminist clubs and individual teachers' initiatives to offer gender courses at the secondary level of education. The Committee nevertheless remains concerned about the continued prevalence of stereotypical educational choices by women and girls as well as by men and boys, resulting in underrepresentation of women and girls in fields of study that are traditionally dominated by men. It is also concerned about limited space given to women in history books used at school, girls' limited participation in sports education and the reportedly higher drop-out rate among migrant girls.

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

(a) **Consider establishing mandatory age-appropriate women's human rights education, including sexual and reproductive rights, at the primary and secondary levels;**

(b) **Intensify its efforts aimed at diversifying academic and vocational choices for women and girls and men and boys, and take further measures to encourage women and men to choose non-traditional fields of education and career paths;**

(c) **Further promote and facilitate the upward mobility of women in academic careers, including through special temporary measures;**

(d) **Review history books used at school to ensure that women's historical roles and contributions are adequately reflected;**

(e) **Take measures to make sports education more attractive and culturally appropriate for girls and promote women's and girls' participation in sports clubs;**

(f) **Provide information on access by migrant girls to primary and secondary education and take measures to support their integration into the school system, including by providing language classes, if needed.**

### **Employment**

29. The Committee commends the State party on the development of the Equal Pay Management Standard and on the extension of the mandate of the Action Group on Equal Pay until the end of 2016 as well as on its efforts to reduce the gender pay gap and the introduction of quotas for women's equal representation on governmental committees and on the boards of Public Limited Companies and the Private Limited Companies. The Committee nevertheless remains concerned at:

(a) The persistent gender wage gap that over the past years has remained at 7-18% and the limited scope of application of The Act on Equal Status and Equal Rights of Women and Men, Article 19, which provides that the equal pay principle only applies to women and men working for “the same employer”;

(b) Persistent horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market and women’s concentration in part-time work mainly due to family obligations, which adversely affects their career development and their social and pension benefits;

(c) The lack of adequate human and financial resources enabling the Centre for Gender Equality to effectively monitor the compliance by companies with the provisions of the Gender Equality Act;

(d) The lack of women on the boards of companies with 49 or less employees; and

(e) The high number of reports of police officers having been sexually harassed in the workplace.

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

**(a) Continue its efforts to fully implement the Equal Pay Management Standard and further amend the legislation in order for the equal pay principle to apply in accordance with the Convention’s article 11.1 (d) without the limitation to “the same employer”;**

**(b) Continue its efforts to eradicate the gender wage gap by taking proactive measures to eliminate occupational segregation, including by facilitating women’s transition from part-time to full-time employment and creating more opportunities for women to gain access to full-time employment, as well as by strengthening measures to overcome wage discrimination against women;**

**(c) Provide adequate funding to the Centre for Gender Equality to enable it to monitor compliance by companies with the provisions of the Gender Equality Act;**

**(d) Develop and implement a plan of action to diversify occupational choices by women and men;**

**(e) Consider applying gender quotas on the boards of companies with 49 or less employees; and**

**(f) Take measures to protect women police officers from sexual harassment at work.**

31. The Committee notes that the Action Group on Equal Pay has been asked to submit a plan of action on the reconciliation of family and work life and that the draft Family Policy for 2015-2020 envisages measures to balance parents’ work and family life. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The lack of guaranteed childcare for children aged 9 months to 2 years;

(b) The lowering of the ceiling for the Parental Leave Fund, which resulted in a decrease of the parental leave days taken by fathers between 2008 and 2012.

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

**(a) Take measures to reduce the gap between the end of the parental leave and the minimum age of eligibility for guaranteed childcare by extending parental leave from 9 to 12 months, accepting children into playschools directly after the end of parental leave, and by providing adequate human and financial resources to the municipalities to enable them to meet the demand for places in playschools; and**

**(b) Provide adequate funding for the Parental Leave Fund and raise the amount of maximum disbursements from the Fund.**

33. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts aimed at improving the position of single parents, including through the payment of income-related child benefits. The Committee nevertheless remains concerned that women account for the large majority of single parents and often suffer from economic difficulties.

**34. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt targeted measures to facilitate access by single mothers to the labour market and support them in having a better balance between family and working life.**

#### **Health**

35. The Committee notes that the State party legalised abortion in 1975 (Act no. 25, 1975, Article 11). It is, however, concerned that some health and social workers who implement aspects of the law such as counselling do so in a way which women who seek abortion experience as judgmental and humiliating.

**36. The Committee recommends that the State party institutionalize gender sensitive training programmes for health and social workers to enable them carry out their responsibilities under the law in a way that does not discourage women who seek abortion. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that all women, including young women and rural women, have access to modern contraceptives and information about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning, to avoid unwanted pregnancies.**

37. The Committee regrets the lack of information on alcohol addiction, and the lack of any study on the mental health issues and the scope and causes of suicide among women in the State party.

**38. The Committee recommends that the State party collect data and provide in its next periodic report information on alcohol addiction, suicide and mental health issues among women in the State party.**

#### **Economic and social benefits**

39. The Committee is concerned that the funding for female artists in film and music industry remains low and that the majority of the boards of associations and regulatory bodies responsible for funding, are composed of men.

**40. The Committee recommends that the State party reviews its regulations on government funding bodies for culture, and explore options to make sure that public funds for culture are equally divided between women and men.**

41. The Committee is concerned about women's further role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related climate change issues.

**42. The Committee recommends that the State Party continue to strengthen women's role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related climate change issues.**

#### **Disadvantaged groups of women**

##### *Migrant women*

43. The Committee is concerned about the difficulties encountered by migrant women in employment and health care and about their exposure to violence. The Committee notes

that the Multicultural Centre provides migrant women with various types of information, including on new forms of family and divorce procedures, and that the Icelandic Human Rights Centre provides legal counselling to migrant women. The Committee is also concerned that the Multicultural and Information Centre is located outside the capital and not easily accessible. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of disaggregated data and studies on the status of migrant women in the State party who may encounter difficulties in gaining access to social and protection services because of fear of losing their residence permit or of being deported if they are in irregular situation.

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

- (a) Collect disaggregated data and conduct comprehensive studies on migrant women's access to employment, health care and on the forms of violence that they may experience, identify gaps and establish policies addressing intersecting forms of discrimination against migrant women;**
- (b) Provide adequate funding for the Multicultural and Information Centre and increase accessibility to its services; and**
- (c) Develop targeted programmes and strategies to increase the awareness of migrant women on their rights, free legal aid and effective remedies if their rights have been violated.**

*Rural women, women with disabilities and women in prison*

45. The Committee is concerned that:

- (a) Rural women have limited access to social and protection services and shelter, including those related to domestic violence, due to poor road infrastructure compounded by weather difficulties in the winter;
- (b) Women with disabilities have limited access to services and shelter for women, which lacks infrastructure for physical access;
- (c) The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders ('the Bangkok Rules') are not fully implemented in the State party and that prison facilities lack appropriate spaces for women and family meetings; and
- (d) There is a lack of disaggregated data and studies on rural women, women with disabilities and women in prison's social and protection gaps and the intersecting forms of discrimination they face.

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

- (a) Take all necessary measures to improve access to social, protection services and shelter for rural women, by improving the infrastructure and providing these services also in the remote rural areas;**
- (b) Make services and shelter for women accessible to women with disabilities in accordance with their special needs;**
- (c) Fully implement the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders ('the Bangkok Rules') and provide spaces in prison appropriate for women and family meetings; and**
- (d) Collect disaggregated data and conduct comprehensive studies on rural women, women with disabilities and women in prison's access to employment, health care and on forms of violence that they may experience, with a view to identifying gaps and establishing policies addressing intersecting forms of discrimination.**

### **Marriage and family relations**

47. The Committee is concerned that the roles and division of work in the family is still determined by traditional practices, particularly in the rural areas, whereby women are considered to be the prime caregivers. The Committee is also concerned that some media contribute to the traditional division of roles in the family between men and women.

48. **The Committee recommends that the State party engage with the media with the aim of eliminating stereotypical presentation of women, especially when it affects their role in the family.**

49. The Committee is concerned that the State party's matrimonial property regime of deferred community property may not adequately address gender-based economic disparities between spouses resulting from traditional work and family-life patterns that often lead to men benefiting from an enhancement of their human capital and greater earning potential, whereas women often experience the reverse. However, neither existing legislation nor case law or pensions regulations address the questions of how personal goodwill, future earning capacity or increased human capital should be distributed in redressing possible gender-based economic disparities between spouses. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of mechanisms to prevent the concealment of assets prior to divorce. The Committee is further concerned that owing to inconsistent case law the economic rights of women living in de facto relationships are only partially protected.

50. **The Committee recommends that the State party conduct research on the economic consequences of divorce on both spouses, taking into account the length of the marriage and the number of children, and to adopt such legal measures as may be necessary to redress economic disparities between men and women upon the dissolution of marriage, including, in particular, recognizing all career-related assets (i.e. earning potential, personal goodwill and enhanced human capital) to be part of the marital assets to be distributed between the spouses upon divorce or taken into account in the award of post-divorce periodic payments. The Committee further recommends that the State Party adopt the legal measures necessary to prevent concealment of matrimonial property. The Committee further urges the State party to adopt the legal measures necessary to guarantee women living in de facto relationships economic protection by recognizing their rights to the property accumulated during the relationship, in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 29 on article 16 of the Convention (economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution).**

### **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

51. **The Committee calls upon the State party to utilize the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in its efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention.**

### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

52. **The Committee calls for the realization of substantive gender equality, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, throughout the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

### **Dissemination**

53. **The Committee recalls the obligation of the State party to systematically and continuously implement the provisions of the Convention. It urges the State party to give priority attention to the implementation of the present concluding observations and recommendations between now and the submission of the next periodic report. The Committee therefore requests the timely dissemination of the concluding**

observations, in the official language(s) of the State party, to the relevant state institutions at all levels (national, regional, local), in particular to the Government, the ministries, the Parliament and to the judiciary, to enable their full implementation. It encourages the State party to collaborate with all stakeholders concerned, such as employers' associations, trade unions, human rights and women's organisations, universities and research institutions, media, etc. It further recommends that its concluding observations be disseminated in an appropriate form at the local community level, to enable their implementation. In addition, the Committee requests the State party to continue to disseminate the CEDAW Convention, its Optional Protocol and jurisprudence, and the Committee's General Recommendations to all stakeholders.

#### **Ratification of other treaties**

54. The Committee notes that the adherence of the State party to the nine major international human rights instruments<sup>1</sup> 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 consider ratifying the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which it is not yet a party.

#### **Follow-up to concluding observations**

55. The Committee requests the State party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 20 (c) and 26 (a) above.

#### **Preparation of the next report**

56. The Committee invites the State party to submit its ninth and tenth periodic report in March 2020.

57. 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/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1).

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.