

## Committee against Torture

### Concluding observations on the seventh periodic report of Portugal

1. The Committee against Torture considered the seventh periodic report of Portugal (CAT/C/PRT/7) at its 1796<sup>th</sup> and 1799<sup>th</sup> meetings (see CAT/C/SR.1796 and 1799), held on 19 and 20 November 2019, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 1813<sup>rd</sup> and 1814<sup>th</sup> meetings, held on 2 December 2019 (CAT/C/SR.1813 and 1814).

#### A. Introduction

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for accepting the simplified reporting procedure, as this allows for a more focused dialogue between the State party and the Committee. It regrets, however, that the report was six months late.

3. The Committee appreciates having had the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue with the State party's delegation, and the responses provided to the questions and concerns raised during the consideration of the report.

#### B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the State party's ratification of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, on 27 January 2014.

5. The Committee also welcomes the State party's initiatives to revise its legislation in areas of relevance to the Convention, including:

(a) The criminalization in 2015 of female genital mutilation and forced marriage under Law 83/2015;

(b) The enactment in 2015 of Act No. 130/2015 on the Victims' Statute, which amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and aims to strengthen the protection of the rights of victims and their relatives;

(c) The enactment in 2015 of Act No. 142/2015, which amends Act No. 147/99 on the Protection of Children and Young People Act;

(d) The enactment in 2017 of a new anti-discrimination law, Law No. 93/2017;

(e) The enactment in 2017 of Law No. 94/2017, which regulates house arrest under electronic monitoring and abolishes the weekend detention regime;

(f) The enactment in 2018 of Law No. 38/2018 on the right to self-determination of gender identity and gender expression and the protection of the sex characteristics.

6. The Committee commends the State party's initiatives to amend its policies and procedures in order to afford greater protection of human rights and to apply the Convention, in particular:

(a) The adoption of the National Strategy for Equality and Non-discrimination, on 8 March 2018, which includes an action plan to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence (2018-2021);

(b) The adoption of the Third and Fourth National Plans to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for the periods 2014-2017 and 2018-2021, respectively;

(c) The adoption of the Strategy for the Restructuring and Rehabilitation of the Network of Penitentiary Establishments (2017-2027);

(d) The launch of the III Programme of Action for the Prevention and Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (2014-2017);

7. The Committee appreciates that the State party maintains a standing invitation to the special procedures mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, which has allowed independent experts to carry out visits to the country during the reporting period.

## C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations

### Pending follow-up issues from the previous reporting cycle

8. In its previous concluding observations (CAT/C/PTR/CO/5-6, para. 24), the Committee requested the State party to provide follow-up information on the steps it had taken to implement the Committee's recommendations relating to fundamental legal safeguards (paras. 8 (b) and (c)); prompt, effective and impartial investigations (paras. 9 (a) and (c)); domestic violence (para. 17); and, ill-treatment of Roma and other minorities (para. 18). While noting with appreciation the replies submitted by the State party on 4 December 2014 and 27 January 2017 under the follow-up procedure (CAT/C/PRT/CO/5-6/Add.2 and Add.3) and referring to the letter dated 29 August 2019 from the Committee's Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, the Committee finds that the recommendations in paragraphs 8 (b)(c) and 9 (a)(c) of its previous concluding observations have not been implemented (see paras. 13 and 19, respectively, of the present document) and that the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the previous concluding observations have been partially implemented (see paras. 41 and 17, respectively, of the present document).

### Definition and criminalization of torture

9. While noting the delegation's assertion that discrimination may constitute an aggravating circumstance under the State party's criminal legislation, the Committee remains concerned that article 243 of the Criminal Code, which defines torture, still does not mention acts of torture based on discrimination of any kind among the purposes for inflicting torture, as outlined in article 1 of the Convention (arts. 1 and 4).

**10. The Committee reiterates the recommendation contained in its previous concluding observations (see CAT/C/PRT/CO/5-6, para. 7) that the State party should bring the content of article 243 of the Criminal Code into line with article 1 of the Convention by explicitly identifying discrimination of any kind among the purposes for inflicting torture. In this regard, the Committee draws the State party's attention to the working definition of ill-treatment adopted by the General Inspectorate of Home Affairs and the Committee's general comment No. 2 (2007) on the implementation of article 2, in which it is stated that serious discrepancies between the Convention's definition and that incorporated into domestic law create actual or potential loopholes for impunity.**

### **Statute of limitations**

11. The Committee is concerned that the crime of torture is subject to a statute of limitations of 10 years, while the limitation period for aggravated torture is 15 years. Only acts of torture that amount to a crime against humanity are not time-barred from prosecution.

**12. The State party should ensure that the offence of torture is not subject to any statute of limitations, in order to preclude any risk of impunity in relation to the investigation of acts of torture and the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators.**

### **Fundamental legal safeguards**

13. The Committee regrets not having received comprehensive information on the results of monitoring activities conducted to ensure compliance in practice with fundamental legal safeguards or whether any sanctions have been imposed in case they are not complied with. In that respect, it has been reported that detainees continue to have difficulties in gaining access to an ex officio lawyer prior to the detention hearing. While taking note of the content of Recommendation IG-2/2014, of 9 May 2014, of the General Inspectorate of Home Affairs (IGAI), as well as of assurances given by the State party Delegation during the dialogue, the Committee reiterates its concern that the Code of Criminal Procedure still does not explicitly guarantee that the time spent in custody for identification purposes – up to six hours – is counted toward the period of 48 hours within which a detained person must be brought before a judge. Lastly, the Committee notes with concern that only a few police stations are currently equipped with closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras (art. 2).

**14. The State party should ensure that all persons who are arrested or detained are afforded in practice all fundamental safeguards against torture from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty, including the rights to be assisted by a lawyer and to be brought before a judge without delay. In particular, the State party should:**

**(a) Amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to guarantee that the time spent in custody for identification purposes is considered part of the 48-hour period within which a detained person must be brought before a judge;**

**(b) Guarantee access to an ex officio lawyer, including during the investigation and interrogation stages;**

**(c) Continue to install video surveillance equipment in all areas of custody facilities where detainees may be present, except in cases in which detainees' rights to privacy or to confidential communication with their lawyer or doctor may be violated. Such recordings should be kept in secure facilities, regularly reviewed by internal and external monitoring bodies and made available to investigators, detainees and lawyers.**

### **National preventive mechanism**

15. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a specific budget for the work of the *Provedor de Justiça* (Ombudsperson) as the national preventive mechanism (NPM) under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and the absence of a multidisciplinary team of full-time staff assigned exclusively to NPM related tasks and activities. It also remains concerned by reported difficulties the NPM has had in accessing non-traditional places of deprivation of liberty, such as psychiatric institutions and social institutions, especially privately run ones (see CAT/OP/PRT/1, para. 24) (art. 2).

**16. The State party should ensure the operational autonomy of the national preventive mechanism and provide it with the necessary earmarked financial and personnel resources for the performance of the work, in accordance with articles 18 (1) and (3) of the Optional Protocol (see also CAT/OP/12/5, paras. 11-12). Pursuant to article 20 (c) of the Optional Protocol, the State party should grant the national preventive mechanism access to all places of detention and their installations and facilities, as defined in article 4 of the Optional Protocol.**

### **Excessive use of force, including racially motivated violence**

17. The Committee is concerned at allegations of excessive use of force and other police abuse, in particular against persons belonging to certain racial and ethnic groups. In that regard, the Committee notes that in May 2019 eight Public Security Police (PSP) officers were found guilty of counterfeiting and aggravated ill-treatment, and three of them were also convicted of aggravated kidnapping, against six black young men in February 2015 in Cova da Moura district in Amadora, Lisbon. Only one defendant was sentenced to 18 months in prison, while the seven others received suspended sentences, and the victims were granted compensations ranging from € 7,500 to €10,000, although an appeal is pending. The Committee notes with concern that the investigative judge in this case rejected the Public Prosecutor's request that the officers be suspended pending trial, and that all charges of torture and racist motivation were dismissed by the court (art. 2, 12-13 and 16).

#### **18. The State party should:**

**(a) Ensure that all allegations of excessive use of force and racially motivated misconduct by the police are investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially, and that perpetrators are duly tried and, if found guilty, punished in a manner commensurate with the gravity of their acts;**

**(b) Increase the efforts to systematically provide training to all law enforcement officers on the use of force, taking into account the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.**

### **Prompt, thorough and impartial investigations**

19. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not furnished complete information on the number of complaints of torture or ill-treatment, including excessive use of force, or on the corresponding investigations and prosecutions during the reporting period. According to the limited additional information provided by the delegation, between January 2018 and October 2019 the Inspectorate General of Home Affairs (IGAI) registered 1,715 administrative proceedings, including 544 cases of ill-treatment (*'ofensas integridade física'*), and directly carried out 30 investigations and 43 disciplinary proceedings. However, the Committee has not received comprehensive information about the disciplinary and/or criminal sanctions imposed on the offenders, nor an indication whether the alleged perpetrators of those acts have been removed from public service pending the outcome of the investigation of the complaints (arts. 2, 12, 13 and 16).

#### **20. The State party should:**

**(a) Ensure that all complaints of torture and ill-treatment are promptly investigated in an impartial manner by an independent body, that there is no institutional or hierarchical relationship between that body's investigators and the suspected perpetrators of such acts;**

**(b) Ensure that the authorities launch investigations whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture or ill-treatment has been committed;**

**(c) Ensure that, in cases of alleged torture or ill-treatment, suspected perpetrators are suspended from duty immediately for the duration of the investigation, particularly when there is a risk that they might otherwise be in a position to repeat the alleged act, commit reprisals against the alleged victim or obstruct the investigation;**

**(d) Compile and publish comprehensive disaggregated statistical information relevant to all complaints and reports received of torture or ill-treatment, including information on whether such complaints led to investigations and, if so, by which authority, whether the investigation resulted in the imposition of disciplinary measures and/or prosecutions and whether the victims obtained redress in a manner that will enable the State party to provide such information to the Committee and other relevant monitors in the future.**

### **Conditions of detention**

21. The Committee is concerned about poor conditions of detention in multiple places of deprivation of liberty, including prisons and police stations. While appreciating the measures taken by the State party to reduce prison overcrowding, such as the planned construction of two new prisons, as well as the efforts made to limit the use of pretrial detention, the Committee notes with concern the high occupancy rates in some penitentiary establishments. Furthermore, the shortage of prison staff, including health care personnel, despite efforts to augment them, and the deficiencies in the mental health care services remain serious problems in the prison system (art. 11 and 16).

#### **22. The State party should:**

**(a) Continue its efforts to improve conditions of detention and seek to eliminate overcrowding of penitentiary institutions and other detention facilities, including through the application of non-custodial measures. In that connection, the Committee draws the State party's attention to the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);**

**(b) Recruit and train a sufficient number of prison personnel to ensure the adequate treatment of detainees;**

**(c) Ensure the allocation of the necessary human and material resources for the proper medical and health care of prisoners, in accordance with rules 24 to 35 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules).**

### **Juvenile justice**

23. While appreciating the measures taken by the State party to improve conditions of detention in the national network of educational guardianship centres, including the facilitation of contact between detained juveniles and their relatives, and by putting an end to strip-searches, haircutting and confiscation of personal clothes, the Committee remains concerned at the absence of therapeutic units and specialized staff in these establishments. In that regard, the Committee welcomes the assurances provided by the delegation that public funding has already been budgeted for that purpose. The Committee is also concerned at reports indicating that the strict separation of minors from adults in detention facilities is not always guaranteed (arts. 11 and 16).

#### **24. The State party should:**

**(a) Complete the establishment of therapeutic units in all juvenile detention centres;**

**(b) Take appropriate action to ensure the separation of adults and minors in detention facilities.**

### **Solitary confinement**

25. While taking note of the information provided by the State party's delegation that an internal recommendation was made that correctional services adhere to the 15 day-limit on solitary confinement set by the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Committee is concerned that applicable regulations still allow for solitary confinement of up to 21 consecutive days as a disciplinary measures, or 30 days when it concerns several serious offences that have taken place at the same time (see articles 105 and 113.3 of Act No. 115/2009). Moreover, solitary confinement continues to be applied to individuals under the age of 18 years old (arts. 11 and 16).

#### **26. Recalling the Committee's previous recommendation (see CAT/C/PRT/CO/5-6, para. 12) that the State party should:**

**(a) Bring its legislation and practice on solitary confinement into line with international standards, particularly rules 43 to 46 of the Nelson Mandela Rules;**

**(b) Observe the prohibition on imposing solitary confinement and similar measures to minors (see rule 67 of the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty and rule 45 (2) of the Nelson Mandela Rules).**

#### **Deaths in custody**

27. According to the scant official data available, between January 2017 and October 2019 there were 177 deaths of persons deprived of liberty, including 35 cases of suicide, in the penitentiary institutions. The Committee regrets that the State party did not submit complete statistical information for the entire period under review, disaggregated by place of detention, sex, age and ethnicity or nationality of the deceased, and cause of death (arts. 2, 11 and 16).

**28. The State party should:**

**(a) Compile and provide to the Committee detailed information on the cases of death in custody and the causes of those deaths;**

**(b) Ensure that all instances of death in custody are promptly and impartially investigated by an independent entity and, where appropriate, apply the corresponding sanctions;**

**(c) Review the effectiveness of strategies and programmes for the prevention of suicide and self-harm. It should also assess and evaluate the existing programmes for the prevention, detection and treatment of chronic, degenerative and infectious diseases in prisons.**

#### **Electrical discharge weapons**

29. While commending the State party for banning the use of electric discharge weapons (tasers) in prisons, and welcoming assurances that only specially trained personnel bears such weapons and every instance of their use is recorded, the Committee nonetheless regrets the absence of information on incidents relating to the potential misuse of such devices by law enforcement officials, and on the outcomes of any investigations into those cases (arts. 2, 12-13 and 16).

**30. The Committee reiterates the recommendation contained in its previous concluding observations (CAT/C/PRT/CO/5-6, para. 15) that the State party should monitor and supervise the use of electric discharge weapons, ensuring its use is strictly compliant with the principles of necessity, proportionality, advance warning (where feasible) and precaution. It should also ensure that all alleged instances of excessive use of force occurred as a result of the misuse of electric discharge weapons are investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially.**

#### **Redress**

31. While noting the State party's assertion that its legislation provides for redress for victims of torture and ill-treatment, the Committee regrets that the delegation did not provide specific information on redress, including compensation measures ordered by the courts or other State bodies and actually provided to the victims of torture or their families, since the consideration of the previous periodic report. It also notes with concern that the State party has presented no information on reparation programmes or on measures taken to support and facilitate the work of non-governmental organizations that seek to provide rehabilitation to victims of torture and ill-treatment (art. 14).

**32. The State party should ensure that all victims of torture and ill-treatment obtain redress, including an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation and the means for as full a rehabilitation as possible. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to general comment No. 3 (2012) on article 14 of the Convention, in which the Committee explains the content and scope of the obligations of States parties to provide full redress to victims of torture. The State party should compile and provide to the Committee information on redress and on compensation measures, including means of rehabilitation, ordered by the courts or other State bodies and actually provided to victims of torture or ill-treatment.**

### **Confessions under torture and ill-treatment**

33. While taking note of the guarantees set forth in article 32.8 of the Constitution and 126 of the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding the inadmissibility of evidence obtained by torture, coercion and infringement of personal physical or moral integrity, the Committee regrets that the State party has not provided it with examples of cases dismissed by the courts because of the submission of evidence or testimony obtained by means of torture or ill-treatment (art. 15).

#### **34. The State party should:**

**(a) Take effective steps to ensure in practice that confessions obtained under torture or ill-treatment are ruled inadmissible and investigated;**

**(b) Expand specialized training programmes for both judges and prosecutors so as to ensure their ability to effectively identify torture and ill-treatment and investigate all allegations of such acts;**

**(c) Develop training modules for the police and other law enforcement officers on non-coercive interviewing and investigation techniques;**

**(d) Provide the Committee with information on any cases in which confessions were deemed inadmissible on the grounds that they had been obtained through torture or ill-treatment, and indicate whether any officials have been prosecuted and punished for extracting such confessions.**

### **Psychiatric institutions**

35. As the delegation acknowledged, there are logistic problems in the State party's psychiatric forensic units. The Committee therefore appreciates the efforts made by the State party to open new units, recruit additional staff and develop a 'step-down' model of care. It also notes that the State party is currently reviewing its rules on the use of restraints in psychiatric establishments in light of the recommendations made by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (see doc. CPT/Inf (2018) 6) (arts. 11 and 16).

#### **36. The State party should:**

**(a) Ensure that involuntary psychiatric hospitalization is strictly necessary and proportionate and is applied as a measure of last resort and under the effective supervision and independent monitoring of judicial organs;**

**(b) Guarantee legal safeguards for persons hospitalized involuntarily in psychiatric institutions;**

**(c) Ensure that there are sufficient funded mental health services in the community;**

**(d) Ensure that means of restraint are used only as a last resort to prevent the risk of harm to the individual or others and only when all other reasonable options would fail to satisfactorily contain the risk.**

### **Asylum system and non-refoulement**

37. The Committee takes note of the data provided by the delegation on the number of asylum applications received since 2016 and the corresponding recognition rates, which apparently increased from 25.19 per cent in 2016 to 54.32 per cent in 2019. It also takes note of the information provided by the delegation on the number of persons returned between 2016 and 2018, a figure of 1,045 including deportees and returnees, although it does not indicate whether any appeals were lodged or their outcomes. The Committee is concerned that Portugal failed to meet its commitment to relocate 4,274 asylum seekers from Italy and Greece under an EU relocation programme, since the State party only accepted 1,552 asylum seekers between 2015 and 2017 under the said programme. The Committee further regrets that the State party has not provide complete information on the procedures in place for the timely identification of victims of torture among asylum seekers (art. 3).

**38. The State party should:**

**(a) Ensure that, in practice, no one may be expelled, returned or extradited to another State where there are substantive grounds for believing that he or she would run a personal, foreseeable risk of being subjected to torture and ill-treatment;**

**(b) Ensure that procedural safeguards against refoulement are in place and that effective remedies with respect to refoulement claims in removal proceedings are available, including reviews of rejections by an independent judicial body, in particular on appeal;**

**(c) Take measures to increase reception capacity and enable the relocation of pending relocation requests;**

**(d) Ensure the establishment of effective mechanisms to promptly identify victims of torture among asylum seekers.**

**Immigration detention**

39. The Committee notes with concern reports of excessive retention of asylum seekers, including immigration detention orders being issued without individualized assessment or consideration of alternative measures. Pre-removal and transit facilities at airports are reported not to be equipped for extended retention, especially for children, families with children and prospective mothers. Also of concern is the entrance fee to the airport terminal charged by a private company which impedes access to individuals held in detention facilities at airports for lawyers and medics (arts. 2 and 11).

**40. The State party should:**

**(a) Refrain from retaining asylum seekers and irregular migrants for prolonged periods, use retention as a measure of last resort and only for as short a period as possible, by ensuring individualized assessments, and promote the application of non-custodial measures;**

**(b) Ensure that children and families with children are not retained solely because of their immigration status;**

**(c) Take the necessary measures to ensure appropriate reception conditions for asylum seekers and irregular migrants, and strengthen its efforts to ensure adequate living conditions in all immigration centres;**

**(d) Guarantee that detained asylum seekers and irregular migrants have unhindered and prompt and adequate access to counsel, including legal aid services;**

**Sexual and gender-based violence**

41. The Committee is concerned at reports of lenient sentences imposed on perpetrators of acts of gender-based violence. In that connection, it takes note of the disciplinary proceedings opened against judges in this respect during the period under review. The Committee regrets that the State party has not provided complete information on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed in cases of gender-based violence against women and children, including domestic violence, since the adoption of the previous concluding observations. Regarding female genital mutilation, the Committee notes with concern that, according to the information provided by the delegation, there were no criminal complaints for this crime during the period 2017-2018, while 117 possible cases ("situations") were flagged between January 2018 and September 2019 (arts. 2 and 16).

**42. The State party should:**

**(a) Ensure that all cases of gender-based violence, especially those involving actions or omissions by State authorities or other entities engage the international responsibility of the State party under the Convention, are thoroughly investigated, that the alleged perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished appropriately, and that the victims or their families receive redress, including adequate compensation;**

**(b) Provide mandatory training on the prosecution of gender-based violence to all justice officials and law enforcement personnel and continue awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women;**

**(c) Compile and provide to the Committee statistical data, disaggregated by the age and ethnicity or nationality of the victim, on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences recorded in cases of gender-based violence, as well as on the measures adopted to ensure that victims have access to effective remedies and reparation;**

**(d) Review the effectiveness of preventive and protection measures in place for children at risk of female genital mutilation in the State party.**

#### **Trafficking in persons**

43. While valuing the efforts by the State party to combat human trafficking during the period under review, the Committee remains concerned by reports that law enforcement officers are not adequately trained in identifying victims of trafficking and of delays in the issuance of temporary residence permits for victims (arts. 2 and 16).

**44. The State party should:**

**(a) Intensify its efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, including by putting in place effective procedures for the identification and referral of victims among vulnerable groups, such as asylum seekers and irregular migrants;**

**(b) Improve the training of law enforcement officers and other first respondents by including statutory training on the identification of potential victims of human trafficking;**

**(c) Ensure access to adequate protection and support for all victims of trafficking, including temporary residence permits, irrespective of their ability to cooperate in the legal proceedings against traffickers.**

#### **Training**

45. While acknowledging the efforts by the State party to develop and implement human rights training programmes for law enforcement officials, military personnel, judges and prosecutors, that include modules on the use of coercive measures in prison, the prohibition of discriminatory practices, domestic violence and trafficking in human beings, the Committee is concerned by the absence of specific training on the content of the Convention, and the lack of information on evaluations of the impact of those programmes. The Committee also takes note of the training provided on the identification of victims of torture or ill-treatment to prison health professionals by the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences (art. 10).

**46. The State party should:**

**(a) Further develop mandatory initial and in-service training programmes to ensure that all public officials are well acquainted with the provisions of the Convention, especially the absolute prohibition of torture, and that they are fully aware that violations will not be tolerated and will be investigated and that those responsible will be prosecuted and, on conviction, appropriately punished;**

**(b) Continue to ensure that all relevant staff, including medical personnel, are specifically trained to identify cases of torture and ill-treatment, in accordance with the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Protocol);**

**(c) Develop a methodology for assessing the effectiveness of training programmes in reducing the number of cases of torture and ill-treatment and in ensuring the identification, documentation and investigation of these acts, as well as the prosecution of those responsible.**

#### **Follow-up procedure**

**47. The Committee requests the State party to provide, by 6 December 2020, information on follow-up to the Committee's recommendations on the national preventive mechanism; allegations of excessive use of force, including racially motivated violence; and, conditions of detention (see paras 16, 18 (a) and 22 (a) above). In that context, the State party is invited to inform the Committee about its plans for implementing, within the coming reporting period, some or all of the remaining recommendations of the concluding observations.**

#### **Other issues**

**48. The State party is requested to disseminate widely the report submitted to the Committee and the present concluding observations, in appropriate languages, through official websites, the media and NGOs, and to inform the Committee about its disseminating activities.**

**49. The Committee requests the State party to submit its next periodic report, which will be its eighth, by 6 December 2023. For that purpose, and in view of the fact that the State party has agreed to report to the Committee under the simplified reporting procedure, the Committee will, in due course, transmit to the State party a list of issues prior to reporting. The State party's replies to that list of issues will constitute its eighth periodic report under article 19 of the Convention.**

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