



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
13 March 2013

Original: English

ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Fifty-fourth session

11 February–1 March 2013

Methodology of the follow-up procedure

Reporting on the Committee's follow-up procedure

1. The Rapporteur on follow-up (the Rapporteur) will brief the Committee on the actions taken or proposed at each session of the Committee. This briefing and the content of letters for transmission to States parties will be discussed in a closed meeting of the Committee.
2. The Committee will provide a report on its follow-up activities in its report to the General Assembly on an annual basis.

Action taken in response to States parties replies

3. The Rapporteur will assess, in cooperation with the respective country rapporteur or other members of the Committee, the responses received to determine whether the issues designated by the Committee for follow-up have been adequately addressed by the State party concerned and whether further information is required based on the following categories:

(a) "Implemented" indicates that the State party has fully implemented or has made significant progress in implementing the recommendation made by the Committee; in this case, no additional information is requested from the State party;

(b) "Partially Implemented" indicates that the State party took some steps towards the implementation of the recommendation but needs to take further actions; in this case, the Rapporteur requests additional information on further steps taken by the State party to implement the recommendation, within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report;

(c) "Not Implemented" indicates that the State party has taken no action to implement the recommendation or the action taken has not directly addressed the situation; in this case, the Rapporteur requests information on steps taken to implement the recommendation within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report;

(d) "Lack of sufficient information to make an assessment"; in this case, the Rapporteur requests information on the measures taken to implement the recommendation.

4. Based on recommendations made by the Rapporteur, the Committee will discuss the progress made by States parties on the implementation of the follow-up recommendations and decide what action may be appropriate.

5. The Rapporteur will transmit the Committee's findings by letter to the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned, which will be made public on the Committee's website after being transmitted to the Permanent Mission. The Committee will note in the communications to the State party whether the responses have been received in a timely or untimely manner. The Committee will, in the communications with the State party, select one or more of the actions to take from the following non-exhaustive list of options:

- (a) "No further information or action will be necessary";
- (b) "Requests further information on implementation within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report";
- (c) "Requests further clarification" concerning the issues raised in the follow-up response; or
- (d) "Recommends technical assistance" to be provided by specific United Nations entities.

Reminders

6. The Rapporteur will transmit reminders to States parties after two months of the information being overdue, and again after four months if the information remains overdue. If information is not received within six months of being overdue, the Committee will hold meetings with the respective Permanent Missions in order to sustain dialogue on the issues raised in the follow-up paragraphs. Reminders will be made public. The sending of reminders may be suspended for State parties that are faced with natural disaster, war or such situation that would possibly preclude follow-up activities.

Subsequent periodic report

7. Once the next periodic report of a State party is considered by the Committee, a new cycle for follow-up will commence. It is important that the follow-up from the previous reporting round is systematically integrated as an essential part of the reporting process and that all the information under the procedure is made available in the respective country files. Any outstanding recommendations relating to the follow-up procedure will be addressed during the subsequent constructive dialogue and reflected in the subsequent Concluding Observations.

Role of the Secretariat

9. The Committee Secretariat will assist the Committee and the Rapporteur by undertaking the following tasks:

- (a) Reception of soft copy of State party responses; processing the States parties' replies for editing and translation with relevant symbol numbers immediately after receipt, and, posting follow-up States parties' replies as well as letters by the Rapporteur on the OHCHR/Committee's follow-up website;
- (b) Drafting letters for the Rapporteur;
- (c) Considering ways — together with the Committee and the Rapporteur — to engage with the stakeholders.

Engagement with stakeholders

10. The Committee may engage with stakeholders with regard to the follow-up procedure by inviting national human rights institutions, United Nations country teams, United Nations entities in particular UN Women and NGOs to provide information to the Committee in relation to its follow-up procedure. The Committee, with the assistance of OHCHR, may also engage with United Nations entities on the ground to maximize the implementation of the Concluding Observations through the follow-up mechanism.

11. Information provided by national human rights institutions, United Nations country teams and/or entities and NGOs will be made public following the same rules on submissions provided for the consideration of State party reports and list of issues and questions, that is, United Nations country team and United Nations submissions will always be considered confidential while information from other sources will be considered public or confidential, depending on the will of the organization which makes the submission.
