

INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURE

Introduction

The follow-up procedure aims at providing assistance to the State parties for the implementation of the Convention. The State party is requested to follow-up on the recommendations that have been selected by the Committee for the follow-up procedure, as indicated in the sub-paragraphs of the Concluding Observations.

I- Criteria for the selection of follow-up recommendations

The Committee identifies up to four sub-paragraphs in its Concluding Observations, requiring the State party concerned to submit follow-up information in relation to these sub-paragraphs within one or two years. The selection of these sub-paragraphs is based on the following criteria: the issues selected for short-term action constitute a major obstacle to women's enjoyment of their human rights and therefore are a major obstacle for the implementation of the Convention as a whole.

II- Terminology for determining the degree of implementation of the recommendations

- “Implemented” indicates that the State party has provided evidence of the full implementation of all actions recommended by the Committee. In this case, the Rapporteur on follow-up requests no additional information from the State party;
- “Substantially implemented” indicates that the State party has provided evidence that it has taken substantial action towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that this action fails to respond fully to the recommendation. In this case, the Rapporteur on follow-up requests no additional information from the State party;
- “Partially Implemented” indicates that the State party took some steps towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that it needs to take further action to implement all measures recommended by the Committee. In this case, the Rapporteur on follow-up requests additional information from the State party, within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report, on further steps taken to implement the recommendation;

- “Not implemented” indicates that the State party has taken no action to implement the recommendation or that the action taken has not directly addressed the situation. In this case, the Rapporteur on follow-up requests information from the State party, within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report, on steps taken to implement the recommendation;
- “Lack of sufficient information to make an assessment” indicates that the State party has provided some information, but that it is insufficient to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented. In this case, the Rapporteur on follow-up requests information from the State party, within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report, on steps taken to implement the recommendation;
- “Information or measures taken are contrary to or reflect rejection of the recommendation” indicates that the State party has taken no steps to implement the recommendation, reinforcing the Committee’s concerns, or that it rejects the recommendations made by the Committee. In this case, the Rapporteur on follow-up indicates that the State party has failed to cooperate with the Committee in respect of the recommendation. The Rapporteur on follow-up thus requests information from the State party, within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report, on steps taken to implement the recommendation.

III- Terminology for determining the quality of the information provided by State parties

- “Satisfactory” indicates that the information received from the State party is thorough and extensive, and that it relates directly to the recommendation;
- “Partially satisfactory” indicates that the information received from the State party is thorough and extensive, but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation;
- “Unsatisfactory” indicates that the information received from the State party is vague and incomplete, and/or that it fails to address the recommendation;
- “No response” indicates that the State party has not addressed the concern or recommendation in the response.

IV- Guidelines on the drafting of follow-up reports by States parties

- The follow-up report shall be concise and shall focus on the recommendations identified by the Committee in the framework of the follow-up procedure;
- The follow-up report shall not exceed a maximum length of 4000 words;
- The State party is requested to provide information on all measures taken subsequent to the issuance of the recommendations that have been selected for the follow-up procedure, specifying the date of adoption and the status of implementation of each of these measures;
- The follow-up report shall be submitted within the deadline stipulated in the Concluding Observations (one or two years);
- The State party is requested to submit the follow-up report in one of the official UN languages;
- The State party shall send an electronic version of its report in Word format to the following email address: cedaw@ohchr.org;
- If the Committee considers that further information is necessary, it will request the State party to provide such information within a new deadline, or to include the additional information in the next periodic report.

V- Guidelines on the submission of follow-up reports by other organizations,

National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs

- The follow-up procedure allows for the consideration of information from other organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs. These submissions shall be as concise as possible and not exceed a maximum length of 3500 words;
- The deadline for the submission of written information by other organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs is one month before the beginning of the session during which the State party's follow-up report is scheduled to be assessed;
- Reports from other organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs shall be transmitted to the Secretariat in electronic version in Word format at the following email address: cedaw@ohchr.org.