



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS  
TREATY BODIES**

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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5 May 2026

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 117<sup>th</sup> session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Turkmenistan, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 74 (ex-rule 65 (1)) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10 (a) (National Human Rights Action Plan), 12 (national human rights institution), and 30 (freedom of movement) of the Concluding Observations [CERD/C/TKM/CO/12-13](#) adopted following the consideration of the State Party's combined 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> periodic reports at its 110<sup>th</sup> session, held in August 2023.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State Party and would like to draw the State Party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State Party on these issues be included in its next periodic report.

**Paragraph 10 (a) of the Concluding Observations**

While taking note that the National Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2021–2025 aimed at establishing a systematic approach to ensure compliance with the country's international human rights obligations, it regrets the lack of information on the measures taken by the State Party to amend the aforementioned Action Plan and to add a specific section to address issues of racial discrimination, as recommended by the Committee.

H.E. Mr. Resul Nazarov  
Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan  
to the United Nations Office  
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e-mail: office@turkmenistanmission.ch

Nevertheless, the Committee takes note with interest the information provided by the State Party that the national action plan for the subsequent period will be developed taking into consideration the assessment of the outcomes of the 2021–2025 action plan, as well as the Committee's concluding observations.

The Committee considers the response to this recommendation partially satisfactory. It requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, detailed information on the inclusion of a specific section on prevention and elimination of racial discrimination in its next national human rights action plan. It also requests the State Party to include information on the measures adopted to engage with civil society actors and representatives of groups protected by the Convention in the development and implementation of such action plan, in particular with regard to racial discrimination issues.

### **Paragraph 12 of the Concluding Observations**

The Committee welcomes the accreditation with B status of the Office of the Authorized Representative for Human Rights (Ombudsman) by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in October 2024. It takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the approval of the Strategic Plan of the Office of the Ombudsman for the period 2024-2028. It also takes note that, in 2024, two new departments were set up in the Office of the Ombudsman, one for the protection of women's and children's rights and one for the protection of human rights in the private sector.

Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the measures adopted by the State Party to ensure the allocation of adequate financial and human resources to the Office of the Ombudsman to enable the fulfilment of its mandate in strict conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). It also regrets the absence of information on steps taken to allow the staff of the Office of the Ombudsman to participate in preventive visits to places of detention. It further regrets the lack of sufficient information on the measures adopted by the State Party to strengthen the cooperation of the Office of the Ombudsman with civil society and international organizations, as well as on its involvement in the reporting process of United Nations human rights mechanisms.

The Committee considers the response to this recommendation unsatisfactory and requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation. It also requests the State Party to include information on the measures adopted to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsman fully complies with the Paris Principles.

### **Paragraph 30 of the Concluding Observations**

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party that freedom of movement and freedom to choose one's place of residence are guaranteed by the Constitution and that under the Migration Act, every citizen has the right to leave and enter Turkmenistan. It also takes note



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of the efforts deployed to end statelessness and that, pursuant to a presidential decree issued on 20 September 2024, 1,146 persons who are members of 29 different ethnic groups permanently residing in Turkmenistan, became citizens of the country.

However, the Committee regrets the lack of sufficient information on the measures adopted by the State party to ensure that restrictions on freedom of movement conform to the strict tests of necessity and proportionality, are decided upon only by the competent authorities in accordance with the law, and do not discriminate on grounds of racial background, nationality, ethnicity or refugee status. In this regard, it remains concerned about the compulsory residence registration system (*propiska*), which restricts freedom of movement, in particular for refugees and stateless persons, and about allegations of arbitrary travel bans imposed on leaders of national or ethnic minorities, human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers and students.

The Committee considers the response to this recommendation unsatisfactory and requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Turkmenistan, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gün Kut'.

Gün Kut  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination