
Advance unedited versionDistr.: General
7 November 2024

Original: English

Human Rights Committee**Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Greece***

1. The Committee considered the third periodic report of Greece¹ at its 4158th and 4159th meetings,² held on 21 and 22 October 2024. At its 4180th meeting, on 5 November 2024, the Committee adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee is grateful to the State party for having accepted the simplified reporting procedure and for submitting its third periodic report in response to the list of issues prior to reporting prepared under that procedure.³ It expresses appreciation for the opportunity to renew its constructive dialogue with the State party's high-level delegation on the measures taken during the reporting period to implement the provisions of the Covenant. The Committee thanks the State party for the oral responses provided by the delegation and for the supplementary information provided to it in writing.

B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the following legislative, policy and institutional measures taken by the State party:

(a) Law No. 5089/2024 on equality in civil marriage and amendments to other provisions of the civil code;

(b) Law 5078/2023 on reform of professional insurance, rationalization of insurance legislation, pension arrangements, appointing and hiring system for public service educators and other provisions", which grants around 30,000 undocumented migrants the right to a three-year residency permit and the ability to work in Greece;

(c) The adoption of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, in 2023;

(d) The adoption of the National Action Plan for the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, 2022 – 2027;

(e) The adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, in 2022;

* Adopted by the Committee at its 142nd session (14 October – 7 November 2024).

¹ CCPR/CGRC/3.

² CCPR/C/SR.4158 and CCPR/C/SR.4159.

³ CCPR/C/GRC/QPR/3.

(f) The establishment of the Task Force for Ensuring the Protection, Safety and Enhancement of the Status of Journalists and Media Professionals, with the cooperation of the European Commission, in 2022;

(g) Law No. 4960/2022 on national guardianship system and framework for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors and other provisions of competence of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum;

(h) Law No. 4938/2022 on the Code on Organization of Courts and Status of Judicial Officers and other provisions;

(i) The adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan, 2022 – 2025;

(j) The implementation of the National Emergency Response Mechanism for Unaccompanied Minors in Precarious Living Conditions, in 2021;

(k) The adoption of the National Strategy for the Equality of LGBTIQ+ persons, 2021 – 2027;

(l) The adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Social Integration of Roma, 2021 – 2030;

(m) The adoption of the National Action Plan for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2021 – 2027;

(n) The adoption of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality, 2021 – 2025;

(o) The adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan, 2022 – 2025;

(p) The adoption of the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance, 2020 – 2023;

(q) The establishment of the Special Secretariat for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors in 2020;

(r) The adoption of the National Action Plan for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and the protection and rehabilitation of victims, 2019-2023;

(s) Law No. 4604/2019 on promoting substantive gender equality and preventing and combating gender-based violence, aimed at promoting gender equality and addressing issues related to sexual and gender-based violence;

(t) The official launch of the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking (NRM) in 2019, which is coordinated and supervised by the Office of the National Rapporteur (ONR) on trafficking in human beings at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and operated and managed by the National Centre for Social Solidarity (NCSS) of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family; and

(u) Law No 4554/2018 (article 62), outlining the procedure established for the identification of women in labour trafficking identification documents and the registration of the birth of their children.

4. The Committee welcomes the ratification of, or accession to, the following international instruments by the State party:

(a) The International Labour Organization (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), on 12 June 2021; and

(b) The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) in 2018.

C. Principal matters of concern and recommendations

Constitutional and legal framework within which the Covenant is implemented

5. The Committee welcomes the fact that the Greek Constitution provides for the direct applicability of the Covenant within domestic law. The Committee regrets the lack of information regarding cases in domestic courts where the provisions of the Covenant have been invoked or applied. It remains concerned about the lack of a specific procedure or mechanisms for examining and guaranteeing the implementation of the Committee's Views, particularly regarding *Kalamiotis v. Greece*⁴, *Nikolas Katsaris v. Greece*⁵, and *Georgopoulos et al V. Greece*⁶, as well as the fact that the Views have not been published online. While the Committee takes note of the courses provided by the National School of the Judiciary to judges and prosecutors on international human rights law incorporated into its domestic legal instruments, it regrets the lack of information regarding the measures taken to raise awareness of the Covenant and its Optional Protocol among the general public (art. 2).

6. **The State party should take all measures necessary to fully implement the Views adopted by the Committee, through appropriate and effective mechanisms, in accordance with article 2 (2) and (3) of the Covenant. It should also ensure the prompt translation of the Committee's Views into the language used in the State party and posting of them on official websites. The State party should continue to ensure the direct applicability of the Covenant and provide specific training on the Covenant and its Optional Protocol to public officials, including judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, and raise awareness among the general public.**

Anti-corruption measures

7. While welcoming the legislative and institutional measures undertaken by the State party to combat corruption, including Law 5090/2024, which amended the Whistleblower Protection Law 4990/2022, and the establishment of the National Transparency Authority in 2019, which oversees the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2022-2025, the Committee regrets the lack of specific information on the measures taken to guarantee independent and impartial investigations and prosecutions of corruption cases, and on reports of public officials accused of corruption and the proceedings which they may have originated (arts. 2 and 25).

8. **The State party should fully implement the recommendations in the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Bribery in Greece of 2024 and the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) for 2022-2025 and provide sufficient human and financial resources to the National Transparency Authority. The State party should also:**

(a) **Take legislative and institutional measures to guarantee the protection of whistleblowers from reprisals, in law and practice, to ensure the independence, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of all public officials and anti-corruption bodies, including the National Transparency Authority;**

(b) **Guarantee the prompt and timely investigation of all complaints of corruption, including those concerning high-level public officials accused of corruption, and to ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with sanctions appropriate for the seriousness of the offence; and**

(c) **Raise awareness of the economic and social costs of corruption and the mechanisms in place to address it, including the Whistleblower Protection Law.**

Discrimination against Roma

9. While the Committee welcomes the Roma National Strategy and Action Plan for the Social Integration for the Roma, 2021–2030, guided by the principle "for the Roma, with the

⁴ 1486/2006.

⁵ 1558/2007.

⁶ 1799/2008.

Roma”, it remains concerned at the persistent marginalization and discrimination of the Roma, particularly in the area of housing, education and health care and ill-treatment by law enforcement officers (Arts. 2, 26 and 27).

10. **The State party should:**

(a) Redouble its efforts to prevent and eradicate all forms of discrimination and marginalization against the Roma, including in the field of housing, education and health care;

(b) Adopt robust measures to effectively prevent acts of discrimination and impunity, including by providing training and awareness-raising programmes to civil servants, law enforcement bodies, the judiciary, and public prosecutors and promote respect for diversity among the general public;

(c) Conduct thorough, independent, and impartial investigations into all allegations of discrimination and ill-treatment, prosecute perpetrators and if they are convicted punish them with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime and provide victims with full remedy; and

(d) Ensure the effective implementation of the Roma National Strategy and Action Plan for the Social Integration of Roma, 2021–2030, including sufficient human and financial resources, and regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting with meaningful participation of the Roma; and (add disaggregated data language)

Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

11. While the Committee notes that Law 4958/2022 prohibits medical interventions on intersex minors aimed to modify their physical sex characteristics, it remains concerned that intersex people continue to face discrimination from the medical community as well as derogatory speech online. The Committee is also concerned about reports that the Greek healthcare system still uses the WHO's International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10), which refers to 'transsexualism' as a 'gender identity disorder', and does not follow the updated International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11) which refers to 'gender incongruity'. The Committee remains concerned about the multiple barriers resulting from the use of these outdated definitions in all areas of transgender people's lives, including access to healthcare and equal opportunities in the workplace (arts. 2 and 26).

12. **The State party should redouble its efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In particular, the State party should:**

(a) Ensure that violence motivated by the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity are thoroughly investigated, that those responsible are brought to justice and, if convicted, appropriately punished, and that victims have effective access to legal aid and judicial remedies;

(b) Establish accessible mechanisms for victims to file complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and adopt measures to avoid re-victimization, including by providing awareness training programs to law enforcement officials, prosecutors and the judiciary; and

(c) Adhere to ICD-11 by the WHO to ensure that transgender identities are not pathologized and take steps to ensure that all forms of discrimination are eliminated in healthcare, the workplace and other areas.

Violence against women, including domestic violence

13. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party to address violence against women, including the establishment of the Police Domestic Violence Services; the development of a mobile panic button application; and the provision of free legal protection and shelters for victims of domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. However, the Committee remains concerned at the high rates of violence against women, including domestic violence, and, in particular, the persistently high number of femicides, and the low rate of reporting by victims. The Committee is also concerned that the number

of support centres and shelters is insufficient for victims of domestic violence. The Committee further regrets the lack of information on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of cases of violence against women. The Committee notes that Law No.4800/2021 allows perpetrators of domestic violence or sexual offences to retain child custody and unrestricted contact with their children until their conviction by a first instance court. The Committee is concerned that “joint and equal” parental custody of children, especially during lengthy court processes, places victims of domestic abuse and their children directly at risk (arts. 2, 3, 6, 7 and 26).

14. The State party should strengthen its efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women, including domestic violence by:

(a) Ensuring that all cases of violence against women, including domestic violence, are promptly and thoroughly investigated, perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions, and victims have access to effective remedies, comprehensive reparations, and receive, without discrimination, the necessary legal, medical, financial and psychological support;

(b) Expanding the network of support centers and shelters, as well as domestic violence services at police stations and hospitals throughout the country, and improving access to legal representation for victims of violence, including domestic violence;

(c) Ensuring that police officers, prosecutors, and judges continue to receive appropriate trainings that empowers them to deal with cases of violence against women effectively and in a gender-sensitive manner, increase the number of female police officers and guarantee access to specialized units;

(d) Encouraging the reporting of cases of domestic violence against women and girls by raising awareness among the general public about the criminal nature of such acts and combating stereotypes that normalize violence against women and adopting without delay a comprehensive strategy to combat negative gender stereotypes;

(e) Reviewing and considering amending Law No. 4800/2021 to ensure the protection of all victims of domestic violence, including by conducting individualized risk assessments in the determination of custody and visiting rights instead of a joint custody presumption; and

(f) Consider amending the Penal Code to specifically criminalise femicide.

Excessive use of force and ill-treatment

15. The Committee is gravely concerned about reports of the use of excessive and deadly force by the police and other law enforcement officials, particularly against peaceful protesters and journalists, including the deployment of tear gas, chemical irritants, water cannons, and stun grenades, causing serious injuries. While noting that the Ombudsman’s Office is authorized to investigate and file cases against law enforcement officials, the Committee has received reports that the Office does not investigate all allegations of excessive use of force in a timely and effective manner. (arts. 2, 6, and 7).

16. The State party should:

(a) Ensure that all allegations of excessive use of force and ill-treatment by law enforcement officials are promptly and thoroughly investigated by an independent authority; that alleged perpetrators are prosecuted and if found to be responsible are appropriately punished; and victims and/or their families receive adequate compensation;

(b) Provide adequate resources to the Ombudsman’s Office to ensure timely and effective investigations into allegations of excessive use of force by the police and other law enforcement officials; and

(c) Take measures to prevent and eliminate the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, including by enhancing training programs focusing on the Covenant, the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement

Officials, and the United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement, including by de-escalation techniques in order to avoid the use of force by law enforcement officials.

Trafficking in persons

17. The Committee welcomes the measures adopted to combat trafficking in persons, including the adoption of the National Action Plan for Combating Human Trafficking (2019-2023) and its forthcoming update, as well as the establishment of the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking. The Committee is concerned that the information provided by the State party is limited, in particular regarding the implementation of the National Action Plan for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and the protection and rehabilitation of victims, 2019-2023, the capacity and number of shelters for victims of human trafficking, and the number of investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and reparations for the victims of trafficking (2, 8 and 26).

18. The State party should further strengthen its efforts to prevent and combat trafficking including by:

(a) Effectively implementing the National Action Plan for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and the protection and rehabilitation of victims, 2019-2023 and ensuring its effectiveness is assessed periodically;

(b) Increasing the number of shelters for victims of human trafficking throughout the State party and ensuring the provision of adequate and accessible legal, medical and psychosocial assistance in those shelters;

(c) Investigating all cases of trafficking in persons promptly and thoroughly, prosecuting suspected perpetrators and, if convicted, imposing adequate sanctions and ensuring that victims have access to full reparation, including adequate compensation, rehabilitation and reintegration; and

(d) Ensuring that sufficient financial, technical and human resources are allocated to all institutions responsible for preventing, combating and punishing trafficking in persons, as well as to those providing protection and assistance, including civil society organisations.

Treatment of aliens, including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

19. While the Committee appreciates the significant efforts made by the State party to respond to the large influx of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants, it remains gravely concerned about multiple reports of “pushbacks” at Greece’s sea and land borders; in violation of the principle of non-refoulement. In this regard, the Committee is deeply concerned by allegations of excessive use of force, ill-treatment, incommunicado detention, and the lack of procedural and legal guarantees, in the context of pushback operations, as well as the detention of third-country nationals in pre-removal detention centres without any tangible prospect of return. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of systematic investigations into allegations of pushbacks and lack of accountability. The Committee deplores the deaths of hundreds of migrants in the Pylos shipwreck in June 2023.

20. The State party should:

(a) Cease the alleged practice of arbitrary and collective expulsion of aliens, establish effective safeguards to prevent coercion in processes of voluntary return and conduct objective individualized assessments of the level of protection available in “safe third countries”;

(b) Ensure that the principle of non-refoulement principle is protected in law and strictly adhered to in practice, and that all asylum seekers, regardless of their mode of arrival into Greece, have access to fair and efficient asylum status determination procedures and effective protection against non-refoulement;

(c) Ensure that excessive use of force is not applied against migrants and asylum seekers and that all allegations of pushbacks, including excessive use of force and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment against migrants are promptly and

thoroughly investigated, and perpetrators are prosecuted and, if found guilty, punished with appropriate sanctions, with sufficient reparations to the victims;

(d) **Affirm the independence and impartiality of the monitoring mechanisms involved in investigating human rights violations against migrants and asylum seekers at borders, including the National Transparency Authority;**

(e) **Provide effective alternatives to detention of migrants and reduce the length and practice of such detention. It should ensure that detention is used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible period of time, and is reasonable, necessary and proportionate in the light of the individual's circumstances, that it is subject to periodic judicial review, and that asylum seekers and migrants have access to qualified legal aid when the interests of justice so require; and**

(f) **Increase its efforts to ensure that Greek Authorities, including the Hellenic Coast Guard, prioritize the protection of life, particularly during rescue efforts at sea.**

Statelessness

21. The Committee remains concerned about barriers to access to Greek nationality on the basis of birth in the State party, particularly for children born to stateless parents entailing that these may remain stateless. It is also concerned about the lack of laws and procedures in place for determining statelessness in the State party (arts. 2, 24 and 26).

22. The State party should take appropriate measures to ensure that all children born in its territory are registered and receive an official birth certificate. The State party should establish a statelessness determination procedure and consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Conditions of detention

23. While noting the infrastructural upgrades of detention and reception centres, and the assertion by the State party that the main priorities of the migration and asylum policy has been to provide safe and decent housing, food, financial aid, emergency healthcare and psychosocial support to asylum-seekers, the Committee remains concerned about reports of overcrowding, lack and/or deficiencies in health-care services, food and sanitary conditions in reception and detention centres (arts. 7 and 10).

24. The State party should:

(a) **Continue to take efforts to improve conditions of detention so as to ensure full compliance with the Covenant and relevant international human rights standards, including the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), while ensuring that asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants are treated with dignity and humanity. It should also ensure adequate access to food, clean water, sanitation, feminine hygienic products, and health care for persons held in all places of deprivation of liberty;**

(b) **Enhance the measures designed to prevent overcrowding in detention and reception centres, particularly through the wider application of non-custodial measures as an alternative to imprisonment; and**

(c) **Increase its efforts to ensure that persons deprived of liberty are treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person.**

Conditions in psychiatric institutions

25. The Committee is concerned about the living conditions and treatment of persons in psychiatric institutions, including overcrowding, poor quality of care, the use of physical and chemical restraints, and reports of procedures for involuntary commitment being marked by

lengthy delays, a lack of legal counsel, or an insufficient use of professional ethics on the part of medical staff.

26. The State party should, as a matter of urgency, ensure that the treatment of persons in psychiatric institutions is in conformity with the Covenant by:

(a) Improving living conditions and treatment in public care facilities for persons in psychiatric institutions;

(b) Ensuring that any restrictions are legal, necessary and proportionate to the individual circumstances and include guarantees of an effective remedy;

(c) Strengthening independent monitoring of psychiatric institutions and complaints mechanisms, thoroughly investigate allegations of abuse, prosecute those responsible, and if convicted, punished with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime; and

(d) Ensuring access to legal counsel and independent medical professionals of persons with disabilities in any proceedings to safeguard their rights.

Conscientious objection to compulsory military service

27. The Committee remains concerned about: (a) the length of alternative service for conscientious objectors, which is longer than military service; (b) the composition of the Special Committee and its reported military nature, lack of independence and impartiality; and (c) reports indicating discrimination on the basis of different grounds of objection to service⁷ (arts. 14, 18 and 26).

28. The State party should ensure that its legislation, recognizing the right to conscientious objection to military service, encompasses an alternative to military service that is accessible to all conscientious objectors and not punitive or discriminatory in terms of its nature, cost or duration. The State party should also consider placing the assessment of applications for conscientious objector status under the full control of a body independent of the military with sufficient oversight and transparency.

Freedom of expression

29. While the Committee takes note of the adoption of Law No. 5005/2022 on Strengthening of the publicity and transparency of print and electronic media, including the formation of a Special Independent Committee of Deontology in charge of overseeing the compliance of print and online media with journalistic ethics, it remains concerned that the law may be misused to exclude media that are critical of the government from receiving state advertising revenue. It also remains concerned about reports that local officials file strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) to suppress critical news reporting and put financial and psychological pressure on journalists. While noting the adoption of the National Plan for the Management of Public Outdoor Assemblies in January 2021, which authorizes police to demarcate a specific area for voluntary use by journalists during public demonstrations, the Committee is also concerned that it unduly restricts freedom of expression and limits journalist access to critical information about matters of public concern (art.19).

30. The State party should take all the measures necessary to guarantee the full enjoyment by everyone of the right to freedom of expression, in accordance with article 19 of the Covenant and the Committee's general comment No. 34 (2011) on the freedoms of opinion and expression, and that any restrictions comply with the strict requirements of article 19 (3) of the Covenant. In particular, the State party should:

(a) Effectively prevent and combat acts of harassment, intimidation, and violence against journalists and media workers to ensure that they can carry out their work without fear of violence or reprisals;

⁷ CCPR/C/GRC/CO/2, para 37 and CCPR/CO/83/GRC, para.15

(b) Fully implement the April 2022 recommendation of the European Commission concerning the protection of journalists against SLAPPs and revise its national legal framework to protect journalists against retaliatory lawsuits; and

(c) Ensure that Law No. 5005/2022 on Strengthening of the publicity and transparency of print and electronic media does not discriminate against online media.

Human rights defenders

31. The Committee is concerned at reports of an increasingly hostile environment towards human rights defenders, particularly those working with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, including reports of smear campaigns, intimidation, harassment, and threats. The Committee is particularly concerned by the legal harassment and criminal charges against human rights defenders, in particular the travel ban and asset freezing imposed on Mr. Panayote Dimitras from the Greek Helsinki Monitor. In this regard, the Committee regrets the State party did not provide information regarding Mr. Dimitras' case. (arts.19 and 22).

32. The State party should take appropriate measures to ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, and hereto:

(a) Enhance its efforts to combat and prevent all forms of violence and threats against, and the harassment and intimidation of, human rights defenders and other civil society actors, and take all measures necessary to guarantee their effective protection and ensure that they can freely carry out their work without fear of violence or reprisals, including arbitrary detention, travel bans, asset freezing or prosecution;

(b) Ensure that all human rights violations, including harassment and attacks, against human rights defenders are promptly and thoroughly investigated, perpetrators brought to justice, and, if found guilty, duly punished, and victims should receive sufficient reparations; and

(c) Adopt legislation and policies to protect human rights defenders, and to guarantee their rights, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Right of peaceful assembly

33. The Committee is concerned about the installation and use of surveillance systems, and the lack of an effective oversight and objective criterion for identifying the persons and places subjected to surveillance and determining the maximum length of storage of surveillance data. The Committee also notes that Law 4703/2020 provides for an exception of the notification requirements for spontaneous assemblies, but it also notes the vagueness of the conditions of this exception, raising concerns about the suppression of such assemblies. The Committee is also concerned about provisions of Law 4703/2020 that impose financial liability on assembly organizers for any harm suffered or for damages to property by protest participants. It is also concerned about the imposition of blanket bans on peaceful assemblies, which are presumptively disproportionate (art.21).

34. In the light of the Committee's general comment No. 37 (2020) on the right to peaceful assembly, the State party should:

(a) Establish strict safeguards and effective oversight for identifying the individuals and locations subject to surveillance and limit the length of storage of the data;

(b) Amend Law 4703/2020, with a view to ensuring that all individuals fully enjoy their right to freedom of assembly, including the right of spontaneous assembly, and any restrictions imposed are in compliance with the strict requirements of article 21 of the Covenant; and

(c) Ensure that any limitations placed on the right of peaceful assembly are in full compliance with articles 17 and 21 of the Covenant and adhere to the principles of legality, proportionality, and necessity.

Freedom of association

35. The Committee remains concerned about the stringent registration and financial requirements imposed on civil society organizations, in particular those working in the areas of migration, asylum and social integration.⁸ It notes that article 40 of Law 4825/2021 on the deportations and return procedures of third-country nationals, requires organizations and their natural persons to register with the Greek Registries in order to conduct their operations legally (art.22).

36. The State party should take all steps necessary to guarantee, in law and in practice, the effective exercise of the right to freedom of association and to ensure that any restrictions imposed are in strict compliance with article 22 of the Covenant. It should also take appropriate measures to ensure a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations, including by considering reviewing article 40 of Law 4825/2021 on the deportations and return procedures of third-country nationals with a view to removing unduly restrictive requirements regarding their registration and funding.

Rights of minorities

37. While the Committee welcomes the recognition by the State party of the Muslim Minority in the region of Thrace, it is concerned at the insufficient guarantees for the equal and effective enjoyment of one's culture, profession and practice of one's religion and use of one's language by all persons, including those claiming to belong to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities. (art. 27).

38. In line with the Committee's previous recommendation,⁹ the State party should ensure that all persons belonging to ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities, are effectively protected against any form of discrimination and can fully enjoy their rights under the Covenant, including under article 27.

D. Dissemination and follow-up

39. **The State party should widely disseminate the Covenant, the Optional Protocol thereto, its third periodic and the present concluding observations, with a view to raising awareness of the rights enshrined in the Covenant among the judicial, legislative and administrative authorities, civil society and non-governmental organizations operating in the country, and the general public. The State party should ensure that the periodic report and the present concluding observations are translated into the national language of the State party.**

40. **In accordance with rule 75 (1) of the Committee's rules of procedure, the State party is requested to provide, by 8 November 2027, information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in paragraphs 16 (excessive use of force and ill treatment), 20 (treatment of aliens, including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers) and 32 (human rights defenders) above.**

41. **In line with the Committee's predictable review cycle, the State party will receive in 2030, the Committee's list of issues prior to the submission of the report and will be expected to submit within one year its replies, which will constitute its fourth periodic report. The Committee also requests the State party, in preparing the report, to broadly consult civil society and non-governmental organizations operating in the country. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/268, the word limit for the report is 21,200 words. The next constructive dialogue with the State party will take place in Geneva in 2032.**

⁸ Joint Ministerial Decisionno. 10616/2020.

⁹ CCPR/C (GRC/CO/2, para 44).