

Guidelines to follow-up on concluding observations and recommendations

Introduction

At its 64th session, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (the Committee) amended its rules of procedure relevant to follow-up activities in adopting a second paragraph to rule 65. The paragraph provides for the appointment of a coordinator in order to further the implementation of rule 65, paragraph 1. At its 65th session, the Committee appointed a Follow-up Coordinator and an alternate. The mandate of the Coordinator and the alternate took effect as from the 65th session.

The following guidelines are intended to assist States parties in their efforts to implement and follow up on the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee.

1. Dissemination of the concluding observations

The Committee encourages the State party to disseminate the concluding observations as widely as possible. It is recommended that the concluding observations and recommendations be translated into local languages and in particular languages of concerned minorities to facilitate their participation in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (the Convention) and the concluding observations of the Committee .

2. Coordination of implementation efforts and designation of a focal point/liaison person

The Committee acknowledges that its concluding observations touch on a wide range of issues and that their implementation will involve the active engagement and commitment of various ministries, departments and other stakeholders. There may consequently be a need to establish or strengthen existing mechanisms within the State party for the effective coordination of all activities related to the implementation of the Convention.

The State party is invited to designate a representative to act as focal point and who would be in charge of liaising with the Follow-up Coordinator or the alternate. This would greatly facilitate the task of the coordinator and communication between the State party and the Committee.

3. Regular reporting on progress

The State party is required to submit comprehensive reports on the general fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention on a regular basis. The periodic reports should contain information on measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee, as requested in the reporting guidelines of the Committee. In addition, the Committee may, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1 of the Convention, request information from the State party at any time and may, in its concluding observations, request States to provide information within a year on follow-up to some of its recommendations. The Committee would welcome receiving information between the regular reporting sessions on concrete steps taken by the State party to implement these recommendations.

4. Cooperation with national human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations

The Committee invites the State party to involve national human rights institutions, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders in the process of implementation of the Convention and of its concluding observations. This can be done by convening roundtables and workshops on a regular basis with the aim of assessing the progress in the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations.

5. Concluding observation and recommendations and national action plans.

In the Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, States were called upon to elaborate action plans in order to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In States where such plans or human rights plans of action have been developed, the concluding observations and recommendations can serve as key qualitative and quantitative indicators of progress made in the implementation of the Convention. In this way the concluding observations and recommendations become an integrated part of domestic human rights strategies.

6. Assistance to follow-up activities

The Follow-up Coordinator or in his/her place the alternate is available to meet with representatives of the State party to discuss the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations.

The State party may request technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to assist in the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations.