



# International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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## Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

### Concluding observations on the combined ninth to fourteenth periodic reports of Croatia\*

1. The Committee considered the combined ninth to fourteenth periodic reports of Croatia,<sup>1</sup> submitted in one document, at its 2987th and 2988th meetings,<sup>2</sup> held on 9 and 10 August 2023. At its 3006th meeting, held on 23 August 2023, it adopted the present concluding observations.

#### A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined ninth to fourteenth periodic reports of the State party. It also welcomes the constructive dialogue with the State party's delegation, and thanks the delegation for the information provided during the dialogue and for the supplementary responses provided afterwards.

#### B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the ratification by the State party of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, on 31 January 2022.

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

(a) The adoption of the new Criminal Code, in October 2011, and the amendments thereto (Official Gazette No. 125/11, No. 144/12, No. 56/15, No. 61/15, No. 101/17, No. 118/18 and No. 126/2019), prohibiting violation of equality under article 125 and criminalizing public incitement to violence and hatred under article 325;

(b) The adoption of the Free Legal Aid Act, in November 2013, and the amendments thereto (Official Gazette No. 143/13 and No. 98/19), simplifying the procedure of granting primary legal aid and introducing a special type of secondary legal aid that entails exemption from the costs of court proceedings;

(c) The adoption of the Act on International and Temporary Protection, in June 2015, and the amendments thereto (Official Gazette No. 70/15, No. 127/17 and No. 33/23), guaranteeing the right of beneficiaries of international protection to residence, accommodation, family reunification, work, health care and education;

\* Adopted by the Committee at its 110th session (7–31 August 2023).

<sup>1</sup> CERD/C/HRV/9-14.

<sup>2</sup> See CERD/C/SR.2987 and CERD/C/SR.2988.



(d) The adoption of the Act on Housing Care in Assisted Areas, in November 2018, and the amendments thereto (Official Gazette No. 106/18 and No. 98/19), expanding the geographic cover of housing support, particularly for members of the Serb minority group;

(e) The adoption of amendments to the Croatian Citizenship Act in October 2019 (Official Gazette No. 53/91, No. 70/91, No. 28/92, No. 113/93, No. 4/94, No. 130/11, No. 110/15 and No. 102/19), reflecting the principle of the reduction of statelessness and providing for simplified procedure to acquire Croatian citizenship;

(f) The adoption of the revised protocol for procedures in cases of hate crimes, in 2021, on the monitoring of hate crimes and legal procedures, clarifying the mandate of each relevant authority and ensuring data collection on hate crimes, and the establishment of the working group for monitoring hate crimes;

(g) The adoption of the National Roma Inclusion Plan (2021–2027), in June 2021;

(h) The adoption of the Act on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War, in July 2021 (Official Gazette No. 84/21), facilitating the process of determining the status of all civilian victims of war and enabling them to exercise their rights;

(i) The adoption of the National Plan for Protecting and Promoting Human Rights and Combating Discrimination (2023–2027) and its two action plans, in March 2023.

## C. Concerns and recommendations

### Statistics

5. The Committee notes the statistics provided by the State party's delegation during the dialogue on the demographic composition of its population, which included results from the census of the population, households and dwellings conducted in 2021. While noting that the 2021 census allowed information to be gathered on the ethnic composition of society in Croatia, the Committee is concerned about the lack of detailed and comprehensive information on the socioeconomic situation of ethnic and national minority groups, including members of the Roma and Serb minorities, and of non-citizens, such as migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons. This lack limits the Committee's ability to properly assess the situation of such groups, including their socioeconomic status and any progress achieved by implementing targeted policies and programmes. The Committee also notes that it was not possible for respondents to the 2021 census to indicate more than one ethnic affiliation (arts. 1, 2 and 5).

6. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention, and its guidelines for reporting under the Convention,**<sup>3</sup> the Committee recommends that the State party produce disaggregated statistics on the socioeconomic situation of minority groups, including members of the Roma and Serb minorities, and of non-citizens such as refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and stateless persons, and on their access to education, employment, health care and housing with a view to creating an empirical basis for assessing the equal enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party consider allowing the possibility for respondents to indicate multiple ethnic affiliations, in full respect of the principle of self-identification, in its next census.

### Implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Act and other provisions against racial discrimination, and evaluation of policies

7. The Committee notes the information provided on the implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Act, the National Plan for Protecting and Promoting Human Rights and Combating Discrimination (2023–2027) and its two action plans, the National Roma Inclusion Plan (2021–2027) and the Operational Programmes for National Minorities (2021–2024). However, the Committee is concerned about:

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<sup>3</sup> CERD/C/2007/1.

(a) Reports of racial discrimination against members of the Roma and Serb minorities, particularly in employment and education;

(b) The discrepancy between the number of cases of racial discrimination registered officially in accordance with the Anti-Discrimination Act and the much larger number of cases of racial discrimination indicated in surveys of members of ethnic or national minorities and non-citizens;

(c) The insufficient budget allocation to implement strategies and policies on racial discrimination and the reluctance of some local authorities to implement legislative and policy frameworks on racial discrimination (arts. 1, 2 and 5).

**8. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination, including all its intersecting forms, and to address structural discrimination by:**

(a) **Enforcing fully the Anti-Discrimination Act, particularly in employment and education, organizing campaigns to raise awareness among individuals and groups that are most vulnerable to racial discrimination about the legal framework for protection against racial discrimination, and facilitating access to remedies for victims of such discrimination;**

(b) **Ensuring the effective implementation of its policies on combating racial discrimination by allocating adequate resources and ensuring the full implementation of non-discrimination policy and legal frameworks at the local and regional levels.**

#### **Special measures**

9. The Committee notes the information provided on the implementation of article 22 of the Constitutional Act on the Rights of National Minorities, on preferential employment of members of national and ethnic minorities in the public sector. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports that members of the Roma and Serb minority groups remain inadequately represented in law enforcement, public administration and the judiciary;

(b) The lack of information on other special measures taken to address structural discrimination against members of the Roma and Serb minority groups, which disproportionately impedes their enjoyment of the rights protected under the Convention (arts. 1 and 2).

**10. Recalling its previous concluding observations<sup>4</sup> and its general recommendation No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures in the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Conduct a regular assessment of the special measures taken to address inequality with a view to strengthening them, particularly those relating to the inadequate representation of members of the Roma and Serb minorities in the public sector, including in law enforcement, public administration and the judiciary, particularly in senior and decision-making positions;**

(b) **Take the special measures necessary to eliminate the existing structural discrimination that affects members of the Roma and Serb minority groups and remove all obstacles that prevent them from enjoying their economic, social and cultural rights.**

#### **National human rights institution**

11. The Committee welcomes the fact that the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions reaccredited the Office of the Ombudsperson with A status in March 2019. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on measures taken to implement and address the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance, particularly on ensuring broader consultation and the participation of civil society organizations in the selection process of the Ombudsperson, providing sufficient resources

<sup>4</sup> CERD/C/HRV/CO/8.

to ensure that the Office of the Ombudsperson can effectively carry out the full extent of its mandate and limiting the Ombudsperson's term of office to one reappointment (art. 2).

**12. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to strengthen the independence of the Office of the Ombudsperson and enable it to carry out its mandate fully, effectively and independently, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), by taking effective measures, particularly legal measures, to implement the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.**

#### **Racist hate speech and hate crimes**

13. The Committee notes the adoption in October 2011 of the new Criminal Code and its subsequent amendments, in which racial discrimination is prohibited under article 125, public incitement to violence and hatred is criminalized under article 325 and racist, xenophobic and hate motivation is considered an aggravating circumstance under articles 56 and 87. The Committee also notes the adoption in 2021 of the revised protocol for procedures in cases of hate crimes and the establishment of the working group for monitoring hate crimes. It further notes the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Government and Certain High-Ranking Officials and the Code of Ethics for Members of the Croatian Parliament. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports on the prevalence of hate crimes and racist hate speech, and of the dissemination of negative stereotypes against members of the Roma and Serb minority groups and non-citizens, including in the media, on the Internet and in social media;

(b) The use of racist hate speech by politicians, particularly at the regional and local levels, and by influential public figures, and the lack of information on investigations, prosecutions and convictions of politicians and public figures for hate speech;

(c) Reports on the frequent failure to adequately recognize, process and prosecute hate crimes, which are often prosecuted as misdemeanours rather than criminal offences, and on the low rate of application by the courts of provisions on racist motivation as an aggravating circumstance;

(d) Reports on the underreporting of incidents of racist hate speech and hate crimes by members of groups vulnerable to racial discrimination owing to their lack of trust in the available complaints mechanisms and remedies;

(e) The lack of detailed and disaggregated information on complaints or cases involving racial discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech in the State party, on prosecutions and convictions and on sanctions imposed on perpetrators (arts. 4 and 6).

**14. Recalling its general recommendations No. 15 (1993) on article 4 of the Convention and No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Strengthen its efforts to combat racist hate speech and hate crimes directed against Roma communities, members of the Serb minority group and non-citizens by effectively implementing its anti-discrimination legislative framework, particularly the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code and the protocol for procedures in cases of hate crimes;**

(b) **Take measures to monitor and address the spread of racist hate speech in the media, on the Internet and in social media, in close cooperation with media outlets, Internet service providers and social media platforms and members of groups vulnerable to racist hate speech;**

(c) **Firmly condemn any form of hate speech and distance itself from racist hate speech by politicians and public figures, and ensure that hate speech is investigated and appropriately sanctioned;**

(d) **In coordination with the working group for monitoring hate crimes, ensure the collection of detailed data on the number and types of complaints of racial**

discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes, on the number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions, and on compensation provided to victims, disaggregated by the age, gender and ethnic and national origin of the victims, and include those data in its next periodic report;

(e) **Conduct training programmes for police officers, prosecutors and other law enforcement officials on the identification and registration of incidents of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes;**

(f) **Assess the reporting system and complaints channels against racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes to examine and ensure their availability and accessibility to those vulnerable to racial discrimination, particularly members of the Roma and Serb minority groups and non-citizens, and undertake public education campaigns on the rights enshrined in the Convention and on how to file complaints of racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes.**

#### **Racism in sports**

15. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party's delegation on the internal regulatory framework for sport associations on racism in sports. However, the Committee is concerned about reports on cases of racist abuse and hate speech by football fans and the lack of detailed information on investigations, prosecution and sanctioning in such cases (art. 4).

16. **The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to combat racial discrimination and hate speech in sports, particularly in football, and to investigate, prosecute and sanction perpetrators in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act and the Criminal Code.**

#### **Racial profiling and racially motivated police violence**

17. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party's delegation on the Code of Ethics for Police Officers, under which racial discrimination is prohibited, and on the training provided to law enforcement officials on the principles of human rights. However, the Committee is concerned about the lack of a clear prohibition of racial profiling in the legislative framework on law enforcement. It is also concerned about the lack of detailed information on measures taken to combat racial profiling and racially motivated police violence, in the light of reports on racial profiling and racially motivated excessive use of force by the police, particularly against Roma and non-citizens (art. 4).

18. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 36 (2020) on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Develop and adopt legislation and other forms of regulation that explicitly prohibit racial profiling by law enforcement officials during police stops, identity checks and other police operations, and racially motivated violence and excessive use of force, with the effective and meaningful participation of representatives of groups vulnerable to racial discrimination, in particular the Roma and Serb minority groups and non-citizens;**

(b) **Establish an independent monitoring body with the competence to receive complaints of racial profiling and racially motivated police violence, with safe and accessible reporting channels for victims, and to conduct thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of racial profiling and racially motivated police violence;**

(c) **Collect data on complaints of racial profiling and racially motivated police violence, on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions in such cases and on reparations provided to victims, and include them in its next periodic report.**

**Legal aid**

19. The Committee notes the adoption of the Free Legal Aid Act, in November 2013, and the amendments thereto, to simplify the procedure of granting primary legal aid and to introduce secondary legal aid that entails exemption from the costs of courts proceedings. However, the Committee is concerned about reports on shortcomings in the provision of legal aid at the regional and local levels, the long waiting time to obtain legal aid and the insufficient resources available, which prevent full access to justice for victims of racial discrimination (arts. 5 and 6).

**20. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to enhance the provision of legal aid to those vulnerable to racial discrimination, including members of the Roma and Serb ethnic minorities, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, including by allocating adequate financial resources and by ensuring the availability of legal aid at the regional and local levels. It also recommends that the State party raise public awareness about the availability of legal aid services in cases of racial discrimination.**

**Situation of Roma**

21. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party's delegation on the implementation of the National Roma Inclusion Plan (2021–2027). Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) The extreme poverty and substandard living conditions faced by the Roma in segregated neighbourhoods and informal settlements with no proper infrastructure and basic services;

(b) High rates of unemployment among the Roma;

(c) Low attendance rates in secondary schools and high dropout rates at the primary and secondary levels among Roma children;

(d) The persistence of segregated education of Roma children, particularly in Međimurje County;

(e) Practices of house demolition and forced eviction, without the provision of adequate alternative housing or compensation to the Roma individuals and families affected;

(f) The lower percentage of Roma covered by the compulsory health insurance scheme compared with other groups, and limited access among Roma to health-care services (arts. 2 and 5).

**22. Recalling its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Intensify efforts to end extreme poverty among the Roma and provide genuine solutions for housing problems, including by improving infrastructure and basic services available in Roma settlements, with the engagement of the Roma communities;**

(b) **Take measures to improve employment among the Roma, including those aimed at improving the vocational qualification of members of the Roma community and combating discrimination in the field of employment;**

(c) **End the de facto segregation in schools at the regional and local levels and strengthen efforts to ensure access by Roma children to quality and inclusive education, with a view to increasing school enrolment rates and decreasing school dropout rates, including by conducting awareness-raising campaigns aimed at Roma children and young people and their families on the importance of education and by recruiting teachers from Roma communities;**

(d) **End forced eviction of the Roma and demolition of their houses, including by providing security of tenure to Roma communities and legalizing informal settlements, and, when house demolition or forced eviction cannot be avoided, ensure**

that the families and individuals affected are provided with adequate alternative housing and compensation;

(e) **Increase efforts to ensure that the Roma, particularly Roma women, have access to adequate health care, particularly regarding sexual and reproductive health, including by conducting targeted awareness-raising campaigns with information about available health services and the requirements for compulsory health insurance coverage.**

**Prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law**

23. The Committee notes the adoption in 2011 by the Ministry of Justice and Public Administration of the Strategy for the Investigation and Prosecution of War Crimes Committed in the Period 1991–1995, and the establishment, within the county courts and county offices of the State Attorney in Osijek, Rijeka, Split and Zagreb, of specialized departments on the prosecution of war crimes. The Committee also notes the information provided by the State party's delegation on the adoption in July 2021 of the Act on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War, to facilitate the process of determining the status of all civilian victims of war and enable them to exercise their rights, and the statistics on pending cases and judgments handed down. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned that the prosecution by domestic courts of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law has not yet been completed. The Committee is also concerned about reports on:

(a) The overall decrease in the number of investigations and prosecutions since 2013, delays in hearing witnesses and the high number of proceedings conducted in absentia;

(b) The alleged differences in sentencing of persons belonging to the Serb and Croatian ethnic groups who are convicted of serious violations of international humanitarian law, which raise concerns about potential disparities in the justice system;

(c) Instances of the provisions of the Act on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War having been interpreted and implemented in a manner that is discriminatory against members of the Serb ethnic minority group, leading their preclusion from exercising their rights as victims of war;

(d) Cases of glorification of convicted war criminals and denial of their crimes, including by high-ranking officials, the establishment of memorials commemorating war criminals, and the rise in the use of fascist slogans and insignia, such as those of the Ustasha regime, and the lack of detailed information on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions related to such acts (arts. 2, 6 and 7).

24. **Recalling its previous concluding observations,<sup>5</sup> and the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence in his report following the visit to the State party in 2021,<sup>6</sup> the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Accelerate the prosecution of the remaining persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law and ensure that all such cases are effectively investigated and prosecuted, irrespective of the ethnicity of the victims and the perpetrators involved;**

(b) **Take measures to monitor and combat hate speech and incitement to and the promotion of racial hatred and discrimination, including on the Internet and social media and including by its officials and public institutions, targeted at members of the Serb minority, and ensure that such incidents are effectively, thoroughly and impartially investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted and punished with penalties commensurate to the offences;**

<sup>5</sup> CERD/C/HRV/CO/8, para. 15.

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/51/34/Add.1, para. 91.

(c) **Address instances of the glorification of war criminals and the denial of atrocity crimes that have been established by international and domestic courts in full compliance with international standards.**

#### **Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers**

25. The Committee notes the information provided on the adoption of the Foreigners Act, in 2011, and the amendments thereto, and of the Act on International and Temporary Protection, in 2015, and the amendments thereto. However, the Committee is concerned about:

(a) Reports that refugees and asylum-seekers are subjected to racial discrimination, particularly in access to employment;

(b) Reports of cases of expulsions and pushbacks of migrants, and of excessive use of force by law enforcement officials resulting in injuries and bodily harm;

(c) The termination in 2022 of the Croatian language training programmes provided for in the Action Plan for the Integration of Persons Who Have Been Granted International Protection (2017–2019), which targeted refugees and excluded persons who had been granted temporary protection (arts. 2 and 5).

26. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Take measures, including developing and implementing a policy framework, to enhance the full participation and integration of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees into society, including by providing language training, vocational training and employment opportunities;**

(b) **Refrain from conducting collective expulsions and pushbacks, provide access to its territory for persons in need of international protection, respect the principle of non-refoulement and conduct investigations into cases of collective expulsions, pushbacks and excessive use of force and violence by law enforcement officials against migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.**

#### **Stateless persons**

27. The Committee notes the State party's accession to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in September 2011. However, the Committee is concerned about the absence of a dedicated procedure for determining statelessness and about reports that stateless persons face obstacles in gaining access to education and health services, particularly undocumented children, who are enrolled as guest students as they do not have a personal identification number (arts. 2 and 5).

28. **The Committee recommends that the State party establish a dedicated and effective procedure for determining statelessness and take measures to ensure that stateless persons, particularly undocumented children, are able to enjoy their economic and social rights without discrimination, in particular regarding access to health-care services and education, including by providing them with a personal identification number.**

#### **Migrant workers**

29. The Committee is concerned about reports that migrant workers face harsh working conditions, abuse and exploitation and are subjected to discrimination, including regarding recruitment and remuneration. The Committee is also concerned about the barriers faced by migrant workers, particularly undocumented migrants, in gaining access to justice and other forms of remedies (art. 5).

30. **The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to combat abuse and exploitation of migrant workers, including by assessing and reviewing the employment framework on migrant workers to reduce their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation, particularly by their employers. It also recommends that the State party increase monitoring of employers, investigate cases of abuse and exploitation of migrants and prosecute those responsible. It further recommends that the State party**



**conduct awareness-raising campaigns among migrant workers on their rights and on existing remedies.**

#### **Human rights education to combat prejudice and intolerance**

31. The Committee notes the information provided on the Citizenship Education programme, which covers topics on human rights and racial discrimination at certain levels of education. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on measures taken to evaluate and enhance the programme and to promote human rights education, including regarding racial discrimination, in university and teacher-training programmes. It is concerned about lack of information on awareness-raising campaigns targeting the general public, law enforcement officials and members of the judicial authorities on the importance of cultural diversity, tolerance and inter-ethnic understanding (art. 7).

32. **The Committee recommends that the State party review the Citizenship Education programme and ensure that it is provided at all levels of education and that it covers the promotion of understanding and tolerance among nations and ethnic groups. It also recommends that the State party conduct public awareness-raising campaigns, with measurable outcomes, targeting the general public, civil servants, law enforcement officials and members of the judicial authorities on the importance of ethnic and cultural diversity, tolerance and inter-ethnic understanding.**

### **D. Other recommendations**

#### **Ratification of other treaties**

33. **Bearing in mind the indivisibility of all human rights, the Committee encourages the State party to consider ratifying those international human rights treaties that it has not yet ratified, in particular treaties with provisions that have direct relevance to communities that may be subjected to racial discrimination, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization.**

#### **Amendment to article 8 of the Convention**

34. **The Committee recommends that the State party accept the amendment to article 8 (6) of the Convention adopted on 15 January 1992 at the fourteenth meeting of States parties to the Convention and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111.**

#### **Declaration under article 14 of the Convention**

35. **The Committee encourages the State party to consider making the optional declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual communications.**

#### **Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

36. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, the Committee recommends that, when implementing the Convention in its domestic legal order, the State party give effect to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, taking into account the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva in April 2009. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next periodic report specific information on action plans and other measures taken to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national level.**

### **International Decade for People of African Descent**

37. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/237, in which the Assembly proclaimed 2015–2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, and Assembly resolution 69/16 on the programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade, the Committee recommends that the State party prepare and implement a suitable programme of measures and policies. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next report precise information on the concrete measures adopted in that framework, taking into account its general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent.

### **Consultations with civil society**

38. The Committee recommends that the State party continue consulting and increasing its dialogue with civil society organizations working in the area of human rights protection, in particular those working to combat racial discrimination, in connection with the preparation of the next periodic report and in follow-up to the present concluding observations.

### **Dissemination of information**

39. The Committee recommends that the State party's reports be made readily available and accessible to the public at the time of their submission and that the concluding observations of the Committee with respect to those reports be similarly made available to all State bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Convention, including municipalities, in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

### **Common core document**

40. The Committee encourages the State party to update its common core document, which dates to 2011, in accordance with the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, in particular those on the common core document, as adopted at the fifth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies, held in June 2006.<sup>7</sup> In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 42,400 words for such documents.

### **Follow-up to the present concluding observations**

41. In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 of its rules of procedure, the Committee requests the State party to provide, within one year of the adoption of the present concluding observations, information on its implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 (racism in sports), 22 (c) and (d) (situation of Roma) and 28 (stateless persons) above.

### **Paragraphs of particular importance**

42. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 8 (implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Act and other provisions against racial discrimination, and evaluation of policies), 24 (prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law) and 26 (migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers) above and requests the State party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.

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<sup>7</sup> [HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6](#), chap. I.

**Preparation of the next periodic report**

43. The Committee recommends that the State party submit its combined fifteenth to eighteenth periodic reports, as a single document, by 12 October 2027, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session<sup>8</sup> and addressing all the points raised in the present concluding observations. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 21,200 words for periodic reports.

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<sup>8</sup> CERD/C/2007/1.