



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 sixteenth to eighteenth periodic reports of Namibia*

1. The Committee considered the combined sixteenth to eighteenth periodic reports of Namibia,¹ submitted in one document, at its 2997th and 2998th meetings,² held on 16 and 17 August 2023. At its 3016th meeting, held on 30 August 2023, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission, albeit late – due 11 December 2019 and received 9 November 2020 – of the combined sixteenth to eighteenth periodic reports of the State party.

3. The Committee regrets that the State party did not submit information on follow-up to the previous concluding observations, on its combined thirteenth to fifteenth periodic reports, adopted by the Committee in 2016.³

4. The Committee welcomes the open and constructive dialogue with the State party's high-level delegation, and the information provided orally during, and in writing following, the dialogue by the delegation in response to the questions and issues raised by the Committee.

B. Positive aspects

5. The Committee welcomes the ratification by the State party of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization (ILO), on 9 December 2020.

6. The Committee also welcomes the enactment and gradual entry into force of the Repeal of Obsolete Laws Act (Act No. 21 of 2018), which repealed a number of apartheid-era laws, including the Natives Minimum Wage Proclamation (Proclamation No. 1 of 1944) and the Promotion of the Economic Development of National States Act (Act No. 46 of 1968), and colonial-era laws, including the Indemnity Proclamation (Proclamation No. 8 of 1923) and the Promotion of the Density of Population in Designated Areas Act (Act No. 18 of 1979).

7. The Committee further welcomes the following policy measures taken by the State party:

- (a) Fifth National Development Plan (2017/18–2021/22);
- (b) Social Protection Policy (2021–2030);

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

¹ [CERD/C/NAM/16-18](#).

² See [CERD/C/SR.2997](#) and [CERD/C/SR.2998](#).

³ [CERD/C/NAM/CO/13-15](#).



- (c) National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence (2019–2023).

C. Concerns and recommendations

Statistics

8. The Committee regrets the overall lack of statistics provided by the State party. The Committee is particularly concerned that the State party has not developed the necessary tools in order to collect disaggregated statistics that would allow it to evaluate the situation of the different racial or ethnic groups, or the outcomes of the various measures taken by the State party (arts. 1 and 2).

9. **Recalling the Committee’s guidelines on reporting under the Convention,⁴ the Committee reiterates that State parties that do not collect information on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin are requested to provide information on mother tongues, languages commonly spoken or other indicators of ethnic diversity. The Committee requests that the State party provide disaggregated statistics and socioeconomic indicators in its next periodic report.**

Domestic implementation of the Convention

10. While noting that article 144 of the Constitution incorporates the Convention into domestic law, the Committee remains concerned that the definition of racial discrimination under the Racial Discrimination Prohibition Act (Act No. 26 of 1991) does not encompass both direct and indirect discrimination or incorporate all the grounds enumerated in article 1 of the Convention, with the ground of descent being notably absent (arts. 1 and 2).

11. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt a comprehensive definition of racial discrimination in legislation that incorporates all the grounds enumerated in article 1 of the Convention, including discrimination on grounds of descent, and encompasses both direct and indirect discrimination. In particular, the Committee draws the State party’s attention to its general recommendation No. 29 (2002) on descent in the context of article 1 (1) of the Convention and recommends that the State party amend the Racial Discrimination Prohibition Act to explicitly prohibit discrimination on grounds of descent.**

Ombudsperson

12. While noting the information provided by the State party, the Committee regrets the delays in the adoption of the Ombudsman bill. The Committee is concerned by the absence of a provision to guarantee the financial or human resources necessary for the Office of the Ombudsman to effectively fulfil its mandate. It is also concerned that the Ministry of Justice continues to determine the budget and recruit the staff of the Office of the Ombudsman (art. 2).

13. **The Committee recommends that the State party expedite the adoption of the Ombudsman bill and take measures to guarantee that the Office of the Ombudsman is equipped with the financial and human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate. It also recommends that the State party take measures to give the Office of the Ombudsman direct authority to recruit staff and determine its budget according to the Office’s priorities. In this regard, the Committee further recommends that the State party consider consulting with civil society throughout the process.**

Racist hate speech, incitement to racial hatred and hate crimes

14. The Committee reiterates its concern about the lack of legislation prohibiting racist hate speech or incitement to racial hatred, particularly in view of section 14 of the Racial Discrimination Prohibition Amendment Act (No. 26 of 1998), under which persons may be exempted from conviction for the offence of “inciting racial disharmony” on grounds of public interest, public benefit or reasonable belief that the statement or statements concerned

⁴ CERD/C/2007/1, paras. 10–12.

were true. The Committee is deeply concerned about persistent incidents of hate speech and incitement to racial hatred, including in the context of sports events, on the media, on the Internet and through online platforms. In addition, the Committee is concerned about the lack of information provided on the outcomes of the numerous complaints brought before the Ombudsman concerning hate speech and incitement to racial hatred (art. 4).

15. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 15 (1993) on article 4 of the Convention, in which it stresses that the provisions of article 4 are of a mandatory character. Recalling further its general recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legislation prohibiting racist hate speech and incitement to racial hatred, giving due consideration to the bill on combating discrimination, discriminatory harassment and hate speech that has been proposed by the Office of the Ombudsman;

(b) Ensure that the proposed laws, including those relating to communication on the Internet and through online platforms, recognize racist hate speech and incitement to racial discrimination as offences punishable by law;

(c) Ensure that all incidents of hate speech are effectively investigated and prosecuted and that those found guilty are punished, regardless of their official status, and provide information in its next report on the number of cases of hate speech reported, on prosecutions and convictions in relation to such cases, and on compensation provided to victims;

(d) Ensure that all racially motivated crimes, including verbal and physical violence, are effectively investigated, that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, and that motives based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin are considered as an aggravating circumstance when imposing punishments;

(e) Continue efforts to provide training to law enforcement officials, and carry out targeted awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and combat racist hate crimes and hate speech, including among politicians;

(f) Ensure that the public authorities, including high-level public officials, distance themselves from hate speech and that they formally and publicly reject and condemn hate speech and the dissemination of racist ideas;

(g) Ensure that the appropriate authorities, including the Office of the Prosecutor-General, in cooperation with relevant bodies, such as Namibia Rugby Union, the Media Ombudsman of the Editors' Forum of Namibia, and Internet service providers, address racist hate speech and incitement to racial discrimination by investigating, penalizing and, where appropriate, prosecuting all reported instances.

Racial profiling and abuse of power by law enforcement

16. The Committee is concerned about reports to the Office of the Ombudsman of incidents of racial profiling by the police, such as the disproportionate use of stop-and-search checks of vehicles driven by Black persons as compared with those driven by white persons. The Committee is concerned that these practices as reported to the Office of the Ombudsman have not been further investigated by the Office of the Prosecutor-General or other appropriate authorities (art. 4).

17. Recalling its general recommendations No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system and, particularly, No. 36 (2020) on combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Include in its legislation a comprehensive prohibition of racial profiling and ensure that the police and other law enforcement officials are provided with clear guidelines aimed at preventing racial profiling during police checks, identity checks and other police measures;

(b) Establish an effective mechanism to regularly collect and monitor disaggregated data on practices and complaints relating to racial profiling and racial

discrimination, including in the context of identity checks, traffic control and stop-and-search checks;

(c) Investigate in an effective and timely manner all incidents of racial profiling, racist abuse, ill-treatment and abuse of authority by law enforcement agencies and ensure that those responsible are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate penalties;

(d) Ensure that members of groups targeted by racism and racial discrimination who are victims of racial profiling by law enforcement officials have access to effective remedies and adequate compensation and do not face retaliation for reporting such acts;

(e) Promote ethnic diversity within the police and ensure the presence of police officers belonging to targeted ethnic groups working on the front line in order to help reduce racism and discriminatory practices, including racial profiling;

(f) Take effective measures to prevent excessive use of force, ill-treatment and abuse of authority by the police, including by ensuring that appropriate training in human rights is provided to law enforcement officials throughout the country, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 13 (1993) on the training of law enforcement officials in the protection of human rights.

Equal participation in public and political affairs

18. The Committee is concerned about the underrepresentation of certain ethnic groups in public and political affairs, in particular the San, Ovaherero and Nama people. The Committee regrets the lack of updated information from the State party on the representation of the various ethnic groups. The Committee is also concerned that groups that self-identify as Indigenous communities are not represented by traditional authorities chosen in accordance with the will of the community in question. Moreover, the Committee is concerned about barriers to the equal participation of members of such groups in public and political affairs, including:

(a) Prejudices or stereotypes regarding candidates or parties, compounded by the low level of representation of the ethnic groups to which they belong;

(b) Threats and intimidation by politicians and public officials against communities regarding development projects, including those affected by the development of hydrogen projects;

(c) The lack of guarantees, both in law and in practice, for communities to participate in decision-making processes, and the lack of consultations with affected communities regarding development or mining projects with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent;

(d) The fact that some communities, such as the Rehoboth Baster community, are not represented by traditional authorities appointed in accordance with the will of the community in question (art. 5).

19. The Committee recommends that the State party provide information on the representation of the various ethnic groups in decision-making bodies or in high-ranking positions, including statistics on the number of persons from each of the groups protected under article 1 of the Convention at each of the levels of government. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to promote equal participation in public and political affairs, including:

(a) Taking special measures, in accordance with articles 1 (4) and 2 (2) of the Convention, based on statistics to improve representation at all levels of government, including, where necessary, the introduction of reserved seats;

(b) Condemning the use of threats and intimidation by politicians and public officials against communities affected by development projects;

- (c) **Adopting laws and policies to guarantee the participation of affected communities in decision-making and consultations with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent;**
- (d) **Reviewing the process of appointment of traditional authorities in consultation with communities that are unrepresented or that contest their appointed representative.**

Equal enjoyment of economic and social rights

21. Recalling the requirement under the Convention that inequalities in the enjoyment of rights be addressed, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) **Encourage the Namibia Statistics Agency to continue to provide data on multidimensional poverty, disaggregated by ethnic or language group;**

(d) Where persistent inequalities are identified – such as in the enjoyment of the rights to be free from poverty, to adequate housing, to equal quality of health and adequate health care, and to a healthy environment – take additional measures, including special measures, on the basis of data and consultations with affected communities in accordance with general recommendation No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures in the Convention.

22. While noting that an estimated 3 million hectares of land have been redistributed to Black farmers, the Committee regrets the lack of information provided by the State party to demonstrate the positive outcomes of the policies on land reform and resettlement, including data to show that this land has not been disproportionately allocated to privileged individuals or ethnic groups. The Committee also regrets the lack of information provided by the State party on plans to implement the resolutions adopted during the Second National Land Conference, held in 2018. The Committee is concerned about illegal fencing of communal land, which disproportionately affects Indigenous Peoples in the Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Omaheke and Otjozondjupa Regions, and the lack of effective judicial remedies for victims of this practice (art. 5).

(a) Collect data on the allocation of the estimated 3 million hectares of land redistributed to Black farmers, disaggregated by geographical location and by ethnic group or, alternatively, language group;

(b) **Take measures to implement the resolutions adopted during the Second National Land Conference, in particular those aimed at combating corruption within the decision-making land boards and instituting clear procedures to facilitate the reclamation and restitution of ancestral lands and territories, and facilitate further consultations where necessary with regard to the other resolutions, including those on the issues of expropriation of foreign-owned agricultural land, environmental and cultural impact assessments, the role of traditional courts in land disputes, and performance assessments of farms;**

(c) **Take measures to ensure prompt and effective remedies, including the application of sanctions by the courts as a means of deterring illegal fencing and ensuring that victims are adequately compensated, in keeping with the obligation of the State party to provide remedies and guarantees of non-repetition for rights violations resulting from lack of effective legal protection.**

Equal access to quality education

24. The Committee notes the efforts of the State party to expand equal access to quality education, including the financial support provided to students and learners from San, Ovatue and Ovatjimba communities through the Division of Marginalized Communities. However, the Committee is concerned that the State party has not taken measures to address the root causes of the disparate levels of access to quality education, including discrimination on the basis of race, colour, ethnicity or language. In particular, the Committee is concerned by the disproportionately high dropout rates among persons with albinism and among the San, Ovatue and Ovatjimba people. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about reports of harassment of San, Ovatue and Ovatjimba students by teachers who belong to a different ethnic group or speak a different language (art. 5).

25. **The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to ensure equal access to quality and inclusive education, with a view to decreasing school dropout rates, including by:**

(a) **Facilitating a safe environment for San, Ovatue and Ovatjimba children to remain in school by providing transportation and financial aid for uniforms and schools materials;**

(b) **Providing financial assistance to San, Ovatue and Ovatjimba children to continue their secondary and post-secondary education;**

(c) **Employing teachers and educators from communities that commonly speak the same language as the students and learners;**

(d) **Conducting training on discrimination through the basic education programme, including on discrimination on the basis of ethnicity or colour, such as that faced by persons with albinism;**

(e) **Including education on human rights, in particular with regard to racial discrimination, in school curricula for all students;**

(f) **Conducting awareness-raising campaigns within communities on the importance of education for children with albinism and for San, Ovatue and Ovatjimba children.**

Violence against women

26. The Committee notes the numerous interventions and measures taken by the State party, including a number of targeted bills currently pending to address gender-based violence, the creation of a hotline, the use of specialized courts and the temporary deployment of social workers in areas of concern. The Committee also notes the awareness-raising campaigns, targeting traditional and religious leaders, on harmful traditional practices. However, the Committee remains concerned by the disproportionately high levels of violence against Black, San, Ovatue and Ovatjimba women. The Committee regrets that the measures adopted thus far by the State party do not adequately take into consideration the root causes or address intersecting forms of discrimination, such as discriminatory stereotypes and the

multidimensional exclusions faced by women on the basis of gender and ethnicity, which perpetuate violence against women. In addition, the Committee is concerned by the lack of guarantees for the participation of women from all ethnic groups in decision-making processes concerning the design, implementation and evaluation of measures taken to combat violence against women (art. 5).

27. Recalling its general recommendation No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, the Committee urges the State party:

(a) To evaluate the outcomes and effectiveness of the various measures taken to combat violence against women, including through a review of access to justice in this regard and of the number and nature of reported cases of violence against women, disaggregated by ethnic group of victims and perpetrators, including which were investigated, and prosecuted, for women across all ethnic groups;

(b) To strengthen efforts to promote safe and culturally-appropriate alternative practices to current harmful traditional practices;

(c) To conduct public awareness-raising campaigns to encourage the reporting of cases of violence against women and to combat discriminatory stereotypes;

(d) To guarantee the participation of women from all ethnic groups in the design, implementation and evaluation of all programmes and policies, including the forthcoming evaluation of the National Plan of Action on Gender-Based Violence (2019–2023), scheduled for the 2023/24 financial year.

Access to justice

28. The Committee is concerned about the low number of cases and complaints concerning racial discrimination that have been filed in the national courts. While noting the measures taken by the State party to expand the availability of legal services, including the construction of a limited number of new courts and the expansion of legal aid, the Committee regrets the lack of information provided by the State party on measures taken to effectively address other barriers to access to justice faced by victims of racial discrimination, such as lack of will on the part of authorities to prosecute the perpetrators of offences under the Racial Discrimination Prohibition Act, geographical distances to courts, language difficulties, the shortage of trained prosecutors, magistrates and judges, excessive filing fees, the perception – especially among communities such as the San – that the judicial system is intimidating or overly complicated, the unavailability of group or class actions and lack of awareness of the justiciability of the rights under the Convention (art. 6).

29. The Committee recalls that a low number of complaints of acts of racial discrimination filed with the authorities may reveal a lack of adequate legislation, a lack of will on the part of the authorities to prosecute the perpetrators of such acts, poor awareness of the legal remedies available, a lack of trust in the authorities or the judicial system, or a fear of reprisal. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Undertake a review of the barriers to justice faced by victims of racial discrimination with regard to the reporting of cases of racial discrimination;

(b) Establish an independent and transparent mechanism for investigating incidents of racial discrimination, including cases of racist hate speech and hate crimes, in consultation with the groups that are most exposed to racial discrimination;

(c) Take appropriate and effective measures to ensure that all victims of racial discrimination have access to effective legal remedies and adequate reparations;

(d) Establish a system to collect disaggregated data on cases of racial discrimination, including action taken in the administration of justice;

(e) Strengthen the training of law enforcement officials to properly and effectively examine and investigate cases of racial discrimination and to prevent and punish any reprisals against those who report acts of racial discrimination;

(f) Undertake campaigns to make rights holders aware of their rights, the remedies available and the legal regime regarding protection against racial discrimination;

(g) Consider amending its laws on judicial procedure to allow class actions to be brought by victims of racial discrimination;

(h) Conduct public awareness-raising initiatives on the justiciability of the rights under the Convention and domestic law;

(i) Conduct training programmes on racial discrimination and anti-discrimination law for professionals engaged in the administration of justice, including judges, public prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement officials.

Reparations for historical injustices

30. The Committee shares the concerns expressed by a group of special procedure mandate holders, in a joint communication dated 23 February 2023,⁵ regarding the alleged failure of the State party to ensure the right of the Ovaherero and Nama peoples, including women and girls, to meaningful participation, through self-elected representatives, in the negotiations on the recognition of the genocide committed against those communities in the former German South-West Africa colony between 1904 and 1908, which led to the issuance in 2021 of a joint declaration between the State party and Germany. The Committee notes the ongoing planning by the State party to commemorate the genocide, including through the designation of a commemorative day, the establishment of a museum and the designation of heritage sites. The Committee also shares the concerns of the special procedure mandate holders on the qualified recognition of the genocide committed between 1904 and 1908. While the Committee notes the information provided by the State party during the dialogue that the joint declaration affords funds for reparations that are distinct from development aid, the Committee is concerned that the joint declaration does not explicitly provide for this distinction. The Committee notes that follow-up negotiations on interpretation of the addendum are continuing (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

31. **The Committee urges the State party to:**

(a) **Guarantee the right of the Ovaherero and Nama peoples, including women and girls, to meaningful participation, through self-elected representatives, in the ongoing follow-up negotiations related to the recognition and redress of the 1904-1908 genocide, and in the design and implementation of the plans to commemorate the genocide;**

(b) **Take steps to guarantee that aggrieved communities are directly involved in negotiations and are present to receive an agreed-upon apology;**

(c) **Establish memorials, with the participation of all affected groups, acknowledging the sexual and physical violence, and exploitative relationships and marriages, to which Ovaherero and Nama women and girls were subjected during the colonial era;**

(d) **Proceed with the follow-up negotiations with a view to obtaining, in addition to the acknowledgement and apology contained in the joint declaration issued in 2021, guarantees of restitution, compensation and rehabilitation, including the return of human remains and recognition of the decimation of cultures;**

⁵ Communication DEU 1/2023 from the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences. Available at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27875>.

(e) **Take steps to begin a new round of negotiations, with the full involvement of all affected communities, to establish additional memorials recognizing historical injustices, including enslavement, forced labour, and the imposition of apartheid during the illegal occupation by South Africa of Namibia and those who suffered and died fighting against apartheid;**

(f) **Establish guarantees of non-repetition concerning the types of violations of human rights that gave licence to the historical injustices of colonialism, apartheid and genocide.**

Situation of non-citizens, including migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons

32. The Committee notes the planned amendments to the Namibian Citizenship Act (Act No. 14 of 1990) and the Namibia Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act (Act No. 2 of 1999), the drafting of bills on regularization of the status of certain residents of Namibia and their descendants and on statelessness determination and protection, and the tabling of a bill on civil registration and identification. Reiterating its previous concerns,⁶ the Committee regrets that the State party maintains its reservation to article 26 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, restricting freedom of movement within the State party's territory. The Committee regrets the lack of information on measures taken by the State party to ensure the rights of all non-citizens, including those in the Osire refugee settlement, to an adequate standard of living and to full access to services such as health care, housing, education and employment, and to identity documents (art. 5).

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

(a) **Conduct consultations, including with civil society, throughout the process of formulating or reforming relevant legislation, to ensure the right of non-citizens to access to employment, health care and education;**

(b) **Withdraw its reservation to article 26 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, with a view to ensuring the right of non-citizens to freedom of movement;**

(c) **Regularly evaluate the conditions in the Osire refugee settlement and allocate financial resources in order to ensure the rights of non-citizens to an adequate standard of living and to full access to services such as health care, housing, education and employment.**

D. Other recommendations

Ratification of other treaties

34. The Committee notes the establishment by the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation of a sectoral committee on the ratification of treaties to which Namibia is not yet a party. 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, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). The Committee encourages the State party to accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

⁶ CERD/C/NAM/CO/13-15, paras. 27 and 28.

Amendment to article 8 of the Convention

35. 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

36. The Committee encourages the State party to make 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

37. In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on the 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

38. 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

39. 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

40. 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 and publicized on the website of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

Common core document

41. The Committee encourages the State party to update its common core document, which dates to 2014, 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 2006.⁷ 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

42. 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 13 (Ombudsman), 23 (b) and (c) (land reform and resettlement) and 27 (c) and (d) (violence against women) above.

Paragraphs of particular importance

43. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9 (statistics), 15 (racist hate speech, incitement to racial hatred and hate crimes), 21 (equal enjoyment of economic and social rights) and 31 (reparations for historical injustices) above and requests the State party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.

Preparation of the next periodic report

44. The Committee recommends that the State party submit its combined nineteenth to twenty-second periodic reports, as a single document, by 11 December 2027, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session⁸ 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.

⁷ [HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6](#), chap. I.

⁸ [CERD/C/2007/1](#).