



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Bangladesh*

1. The Committee considered the eighth periodic report of Bangladesh (CEDAW/C/BGD/8) at its 1453rd and 1454th meetings, on 8 November 2016 (see CEDAW/C/SR.1453 and 1454). The Committee's list of issues and questions is contained in CEDAW/C/BGD/Q/8 and the responses of Bangladesh are contained in CEDAW/C/BGD/Q/8/Add.1.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee appreciates the submission by the State party of its eighth periodic report. It also appreciates the State party's written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by the pre-sessional working group and welcomes the oral presentation of the delegation and the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed orally by the Committee during the dialogue.

3. The Committee commends the State party for its high-level delegation, which was headed by the State Minister of Women and Children Affairs, Meher Afroze, and also included representatives of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Local Government Division; the Ministry of Home Affairs, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division; the Ministry of Labour and Employment; the Ministry of Education; and the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2011 of the State party's sixth and seventh periodic reports (CEDAW/C/BGD/6-7) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of the following legislation:

* Adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fifth session (24 October-18 November 2016).



- (a) Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act (2013), increasing maternity leave to six months;
- (b) Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act (2013), providing for the rights of women with disabilities;
- (c) Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (2012);
- (d) Hindu Marriage Registration Act (2012), providing for the legal recognition of Hindu marriages.

5. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, such as the adoption of the following:

- (a) Seventh Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), for implementing the Government's Vision 2021, which includes the promotion of women's rights;
- (b) Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, providing legal protection, including access to social benefits, and maternity leave and establishing the minimum age of employment in domestic work at 14 years, in 2015;
- (c) Gender Equity Strategy, in 2014;
- (d) Climate Change and Gender Action Plan, in 2013;
- (e) National Action Plan for the Implementation of the National Women Development Policy, in 2013;
- (f) National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2013-2025);
- (g) Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, in 2013;
- (h) National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking (2012-2014);
- (i) National Action Plan for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (2011-2016).

6. The Committee welcomes the fact that, in 2011, in the period since the consideration of the previous report, the State party ratified or acceded to the following international instruments:

- (a) International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
- (b) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

C. Parliament

7. The Committee stresses the crucial role of the legislative power in ensuring the full implementation of the Convention (see the statement by the Committee on its relationship with parliamentarians, adopted at the forty-fifth session, in 2010). It invites Parliament, in line with its mandate, to take the necessary steps regarding the implementation of the present concluding observations between now and the next reporting period under the Convention.

D. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

Reservations

8. The Committee regrets that, its previous commitment notwithstanding, the State party has taken no measures to withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 16(1) (c) of the Convention and reiterates that these reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

9. **Recalling its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/BGD/CO/7, para. 12), the Committee recommends that the State party take prompt measures towards the withdrawal of its reservations to articles 2 and 16 (1) (c) of the Convention within a specific time frame.**

Legislative framework

10. The Committee notes with concern that many discriminatory laws and provisions remain in the national legislation, such as different definitions of “girl child” and “boy child” in various acts, the restrictive scope of marital rape in the Criminal Code and the lack of jurisdiction of special tribunals on violence against women to hear cases of discrimination against women. It is also concerned that the personal status laws, regulating marriage, divorce, inheritance, guardianship and custodial rights within the various religious groups, continue to discriminate against women and girls and that the State party has yet to consider adopting a unified family code. It is further concerned about the State party’s failure to adopt the long-awaited anti-discrimination law and about the lack of implementation of the provisions of the Constitution and existing laws on the rights of women and girls, owing in part to prevailing patriarchal attitudes in the State party.

11. **The Committee urges the State party:**

(a) **To review and repeal all discriminatory laws and legal provisions without delay, in particular personal status laws, in order to harmonize them with its obligations under the Convention;**

(b) **To adopt, within a clear time frame, a unified family code to ensure the equality of women in matters of marriage, divorce, inheritance and child custody;**

(c) **To accelerate the adoption of the anti-discrimination law, which is in compliance with the Convention, within a specific time frame;**

(d) **To set up accountability mechanisms with sufficient human, technical and financial resources to monitor the full and effective implementation of legislation that provides for the protection of women’s and girls’ rights.**

Access to justice

12. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access to justice for women, especially women and girls in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, owing to their lack of awareness, their legal illiteracy, the costly legal procedures and the lack of capacity-building programmes for judicial and law enforcement officials, as well

as the stigmatization of women seeking justice. While noting that the State party established the Legal Aid Fund for persons in need, the Committee is concerned that the Fund is largely inaccessible for women and girls without sufficient means.

13. In line with its general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that all women and girls, including stateless women, refugee women and women from ethnic minorities, have effective access to justice, by raising their awareness of their human rights and the remedies available to claim them;

(b) Provide for the judiciary and law enforcement officers mandatory capacity-building programmes on women's rights;

(c) Ensure that women and girls without sufficient means have access to the Legal Aid Fund to secure their legal representation and enable them to claim their human rights.

National machinery for the advancement of women

14. The Committee notes that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is responsible for advancing women's rights and gender mainstreaming across all government departments. Nevertheless, it notes with concern that the Ministry has a vaguely defined mandate and a weak institutional structure and lacks the human, technical and financial resources necessary to effectively promote women's rights and gender equality. The Committee also notes that gender mainstreaming is not a priority in the State party and that other relevant institutions, such as that the National Council for Women and Child Development, are not effectively promoting gender equality.

15. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that its national machinery for the advancement of women has a clearly defined mandate, sufficient authority and the human, technical and financial resources necessary to effectively promote women's rights and gender equality;

(b) Ensure effective gender mainstreaming across all government departments, for example by establishing a coordination body specifically dedicated to gender mainstreaming.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

16. The Committee is concerned about the persistent patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society. It is also concerned about the limited efforts made by the State party to eliminate such stereotypes, which constitute serious barriers to women's equal enjoyment with men of their human rights and their equal participation in all spheres of life. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has one of the highest rates of child marriage worldwide: 66 per cent of girls who marry are under 18 years of age, often because of poverty, lack of personal safety or difficulties in verifying their age. The Committee also notes with concern that the practice of giving a dowry continues to be imposed on girls' families. The

Committee is further concerned about a proposed amendment to the law on child marriage that includes a clause that would allow the marriage of girls at 16 years of age with the consent of the parents or the court, thus legalizing child marriage.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt and implement a comprehensive policy with effective and sustained measures, aimed at women, men, girls and boys, to overcome stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society;**

(b) **Raise awareness about women's rights and gender equality among young people and adults and work with the formal and informal education systems and the media to promote positive and non-stereotypical images of women;**

(c) **Take immediate measures to end the harmful practice of child marriage by addressing the root causes, raising awareness among parents, teachers and community and religious leaders about the negative effects of child marriage on the health and well-being of girls, holding accountable those responsible and retaining 18 years of age as the legal minimum age of marriage for girls without exception. In doing so, the State party should be guided by joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014) on harmful practices.**

Gender-based violence against women

18. The Committee notes that the State party adopted in 2013 the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules and the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children. Nevertheless, it notes with concern that:

(a) Gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape, fatwa-instigated violence, dowry-related violence and sexual harassment in private and public spaces, continues to take place in the State party;

(b) Existing rules, policies and plans addressing gender-based violence against women are rarely implemented owing to stereotypes and gender bias, lack of gender sensitivity on the part of law enforcement officials and lack of capacity-building for judges and lawyers;

(c) Legislation criminalizing sexual harassment against women and girls in the workplace and in school is absent;

(d) Marital rape is not criminalized in the State party unless the victim is a child bride under 13 years of age;

(e) Gender-based violence, including rape, against indigenous women in the Chittagong Hill Tracts relating to land grabbing is continuously being reported;

(f) Studies, surveys and disaggregated data on the extent of gender-based violence and its root causes are not updated.

19. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party give priority attention to combating violence against women and girls, in

accordance with its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women. It recommends that the State party:

(a) **Adopt, without delay, legislation criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls, including marital rape irrespective of the age of the victim, domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse, and ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished and that the victims have access to immediate protection, rehabilitation and means of redress, including compensation;**

(b) **Ensure the implementation of the existing legal and policy framework against gender-based violence by providing capacity-building and awareness-raising programmes for the judiciary, the police and law enforcement officials, as well as health-care providers, to sensitize them on all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and enable them to strictly enforce relevant criminal law provisions and to provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims;**

(c) **Criminalize the sexual harassment of women and girls in the workplace and in school;**

(d) **Effectively investigate all reports of gender-based violence against indigenous women relating to land grabbing and take measures to bring those responsible to justice;**

(e) **Establish a database to collect data and provide information in the next periodic report on the number of reported cases of gender-based violence against women and girls, such as domestic violence, rape, fatwa-instigated violence, dowry-related violence and sexual harassment, disaggregated by age and the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, and on the number of prosecutions and the sentences imposed on perpetrators;**

(f) **Undertake studies and/or surveys on the extent of gender-based violence and its root causes.**

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

20. The Committee is concerned that trafficking in women and girls remains prevalent in the State party, which is a source country and, in some cases, a transit country. It notes the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act of 2012 and the related Plan of Action. Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the number of traffickers prosecuted and sentenced since 2012. It notes with concern that Rohingya victims of trafficking are frequently denied the protection and support services required under the Act and the Plan of Action. The Committee is also concerned about discrimination and violence against women in prostitution and their children, who face stigmatization, forced evictions and frequent police harassment and are often denied access to education and health care.

21. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act of 2012 and the related Plan of Action. It also recommends that the State party:**

(a) Speed up the adoption of the rules of procedure for the implementation of the Act and establish a clear time frame for establishing specialized tribunals to effectively prosecute and adequately punish traffickers;

(b) Continue to raise awareness about the criminal nature of trafficking in persons and provide capacity-building for the judiciary and law enforcement officials on the strict enforcement of the Act, including with regard to protection and assistance for Rohingya women and girls who are victims of trafficking;

(c) Develop a coordination mechanism to address trafficking in and sexual exploitation of women and girls and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources for the effective implementation of the Plan of Action;

(d) Address the root causes of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution by reducing poverty among women and girls and regularizing the status of Rohingya women and girls;

(e) Collect sex-disaggregated data on the number of women who are victims of trafficking and exploitation in prostitution, as well as on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of trafficking and forced prostitution, and include such data in its next periodic report;

(f) Provide effective protection for and prevent discrimination and violence, including police harassment and forced evictions, against women in prostitution and their children and ensure that they have adequate access to health care, education, accommodation and alternative livelihood opportunities.

Participation in political and public life

22. The Committee welcomes the commitment of the State party to reserving 50 seats in Parliament for women. Nevertheless, it notes with concern that only a few women have reached the highest level of the political pyramid and that women, in general, are underrepresented in Parliament, the judiciary and the Administration and in the private sector. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of information on the number of women, including minority women, in local governments, the foreign service and academic institutions, in particular at the decision-making level.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt targeted measures, including temporary special measures, such as quotas, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, in all areas covered by the Convention in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged. It also recommends that the State party effectively implement its laws and regulations providing for substantive equality between men and women in political and public life. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next periodic report data on the number of women at the decision-making level, in both the public sector and the private sector.

Non-governmental organizations

24. The Committee notes that the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, adopted in October 2016, has the potential of placing strict control over civil society organizations, including women's organizations, especially their funding, which may undermine their free registration and operation in the State party. It also notes with concern that the increasing criminalization of criticism of the Government may further restrict the activities of non-governmental organizations working on human rights, including women's rights organizations.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party review and amend the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act to ensure that it does not restrict the free registration, operation and freedom of expression of non-governmental organizations working on women's rights and gender equality and that it does not create disproportionate financial and administrative barriers undermining their effective functioning.

Nationality

26. The Committee notes that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2009 provides for equal rights of women and men to transfer their nationality to their children or foreign spouse. The Committee is concerned, however, that the Act does not apply retroactively to children born before its entry into force. The Committee also notes with concern that, notwithstanding the Births and Deaths Registration Act of 2004, only 3 per cent of children in the State party are registered at birth (within 45 days following their birth) and that 88 per cent are registered once they reach school age, which puts children who are not registered at risk of statelessness and prevents them from having access to basic services. The Committee is further concerned that almost 60 per cent of the unregistered Rohingya population are women and children who remain without legal status and face obstacles in their access to legal and social services.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of its legislation on nationality, with a view to providing citizenship to all children born to a Bangladeshi parent and ensuring that such laws are applied retroactively to children born before the entry into force of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2009. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that all children born in its territory are registered immediately at birth and provided with access to basic services and encourages the State party to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto.

Education

28. The Committee commends the State party for achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education. Nevertheless, it notes with concern:

(a) That the number of girls in school drops by half between the primary and secondary levels of education owing to child marriage, sexual harassment and early pregnancy, the low value placed on girls' education, poverty and the long distances to schools in rural and marginalized communities;

(b) The lack of information on the impact of the ruling of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court requiring all schools to develop a policy against sexual harassment in school and on the way to and from school;

(c) The lack of a policy to ensure that young mothers can return to school as soon as possible after giving birth;

(d) The lack of teacher training on delivering age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights and the absence of a mandatory sexual education curriculum at all levels;

(e) The underrepresentation of women and girls in non-traditional fields of study and career paths, such as in technical and vocational education, and in higher education.

29. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/BGD/CO/7, para. 28) that the State party:

(a) Retain girls in school and adopt re-entry policies enabling young mothers who have dropped out to return to school immediately after giving birth;

(b) Encourage women and girls to pursue non-traditional fields of study and career paths through awareness-raising and career counselling;

(c) Adopt effective measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health, such as scholarships, to promote access by women and girls to higher education, including in non-traditional fields of study;

(d) Strengthen awareness-raising and training of school officials, teachers and pupils and enforce the Ministry of Education directive to implement the ruling of the High Court Division requiring the development of a policy to address sexual abuse and harassment in school, provide safe transportation to and from school and safe educational environments, free of discrimination and violence, and ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence in schools are punished appropriately;

(e) Ensure that age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including responsible sexual behaviour, prevention of early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, is integrated into curricula at all levels of education.

Employment

30. The Committee welcomes the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act and the Labour Policy of 2013, which extend maternity leave to six months, but remains concerned that the six-month period is not being fully implemented and that discrimination against pregnant women persists in the private sector. The Committee is also concerned at:

(a) The low participation rate of women in the formal economy and the persistent wage gap between women and men in most sectors;

(b) The failure to implement the High Court Division guidelines concerning the protection of women from sexual harassment in the workplace;

(c) The unsafe working conditions for women;

(d) The legal barriers to forming unions, especially in industries with a high concentration of women, including agriculture, although there has been an increase in the number of unions registered since 2013.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take effective measures to monitor and improve the working conditions of women in the informal and private sectors by ensuring regular labour inspections and social protection coverage;

(b) Address the gender wage gap by applying gender-neutral analytical job classification, evaluation methods and regular pay surveys and establishing effective monitoring and regulatory mechanisms for employment and recruitment practices;

(c) Regulate and monitor the working conditions of women employed in the garment sector, in order to protect them from unsafe labour conditions, through regular inspections and increased fines for abusive employers;

(d) Remove all obstacles to the establishment of trade unions, especially for women employed in the agricultural sector;

(e) Adopt and implement specific legislation concerning the protection of women from sexual harassment in the workplace in accordance with the High Court Division guidelines.

Women domestic workers

32. The Committee is concerned that women domestic workers in the State party are subjected to violence, abuse, food deprivation and murder. It is also concerned that such crimes go unreported and that the victims have limited access to justice and redress.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party establish mechanisms to monitor the employment conditions of women domestic workers and investigate all reports of violence against them and that the State party facilitate their access to justice by exempting them from legal fees and providing free legal aid. It also recommends that the State party ratify the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization.

Health

34. The Committee remains deeply concerned about the high levels of maternal mortality, often owing to child marriage and subsequent early pregnancy, and about the criminalization of abortion, which forces women and girls to resort to unsafe abortion. The Committee notes that abortion is not criminalized in cases involving risk to the life of the pregnant woman or “menstrual regulation”; however, such exceptions are rarely made. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access to modern contraception for adolescent girls and unmarried women, as well as the lack of information on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Furthermore, the

Committee is concerned that women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and women in prostitution have limited access to health services owing to stigmatization and social ostracism.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Legalize abortion, at least in cases involving rape, incest, risk to the life or health of the pregnant woman or severe fetal impairment, decriminalizing abortion in all other cases, as well as provide women with access to high-quality post-abortion care, especially in cases involving complications resulting from unsafe abortions, and also remove punitive measures for women who undergo abortion;**

(b) **Address negative stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes with regard to the sexuality of adolescents and ensure that they have affordable access to modern contraceptives and to accurate information and education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including responsible sexual behaviour, prevention of early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections;**

(c) **Ensure access to health services for women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and women in prostitution and provide them with access to adequate health services, including antiretroviral medicines, as well as take measures to combat their stigmatization and social ostracism.**

Economic empowerment of women

36. The Committee notes the significant progress made by the State party in combating poverty and through its Vision 2021 policy, which promotes the economic empowerment of women. Nevertheless, it remains concerned about the high rates of poverty and malnutrition among women and girls, especially those who belong to disadvantaged and marginalized communities, who reportedly have limited access to social security benefits and programmes. The Committee is also concerned about the limited access by rural women to financial credit and loans from public banks, given that laws and policies do not recognize them as farmers.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its gender-sensitive poverty alleviation programmes and ensure the participation of women in the development of such programmes. In doing so, the State party should particularly focus on poverty alleviation and malnutrition among marginalized and disadvantaged groups of women. The Committee also recommends that the State party take action and eliminate obstacles to ensure the realization of women farmers' rights to access to credit and loans, as well as productive resources.

Rural women

38. The Committee expresses concern that rural women have limited access to education, health, social services, land ownership and/or inheritance and that they are not part of decision-making processes in the State party. The Committee is in particular concerned about the contamination of underground water with arsenic, which limits the access of women and girls in rural areas to safe drinking water. The Committee also expresses concern about the impact of climate change on women and girls in parts of the country affected by disasters, the lack of a gender-sensitive

approach in disaster risk reduction and post-disaster management and the limited participation of women in policymaking processes to mitigate disaster and climate change.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to empower rural women by improving their participation in decision-making processes and enabling access to education, health, social services, land ownership and/or inheritance, as well as measures to provide access to safe drinking water for rural women and girls. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party always ensure the equal participation of women and girls in policymaking processes to mitigate disaster and climate change.

Disadvantaged groups of women

40. The Committee is concerned that disadvantaged groups of women and girls, including Dalit women, women with disabilities, older women, Rohingya refugee women and women from ethnic minorities face multiple intersecting forms of discrimination as a result of their gender, health, indigenous identity, caste and socioeconomic status. The Committee is particularly concerned about:

(a) The sexual and gender-based violence against ethnic minority women for the purpose of land grabbing; and the militarization of indigenous areas, especially in the Chittagong Hill Tracts;

(b) The lack of access to education, health and public facilities for women with disabilities and older women;

(c) The abductions, sexual harassment, rape and intimidation of Dalit women, as well as their lack of access to public services and resources;

(d) The lack of access to education, employment and freedom of movement of Rohingya women and girls and the increased rates of trafficking in Rohingya women and girls, especially those who are unregistered.

41. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation and urges the State party:

(a) **To enact a comprehensive law and take immediate measures, including temporary special measures, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls from vulnerable groups and protect them from all forms of discrimination, gender-based violence and abuse;**

(b) **To promptly investigate and prosecute cases of gender-based violence targeting ethnic minority women and girls, including the militarization of indigenous areas, and to ensure that those convicted are appropriately punished;**

(c) **To ensure that women and girls from vulnerable groups have access to basic services, including education, employment and health care, without discrimination.**

Marriage and family relations

42. The Committee notes the significant contribution that Bangladeshi women make to their marital households and assets. Nevertheless, it is concerned that the State party has no legal regime recognizing, defining or setting out rules for control over marital property during marriage or the division of marital property on an equal basis between spouses upon divorce.

43. The Committee calls upon the State party to review its personal laws and adopt a uniform family code applicable equally to members of all religions and confessions in the country and ensure that women have equal rights to marital property during marriage and upon divorce.

Data collection and analysis

44. The Committee is concerned about the limited data available in the country concerning all areas covered by the Convention, owing to the poor functioning of civil registration systems, non-reporting and the lack of technical and human capacity.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to collect data in all areas covered under the Convention, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, religious background, socioeconomic status (including caste), marital status and other categories.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

46. The Committee calls upon the State party to use the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in its efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

47. The Committee calls for the realization of substantive gender equality, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, throughout the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Dissemination

48. The Committee requests the State party to ensure the timely dissemination of the present concluding observations, in the official languages of the State party, to the relevant State institutions at all levels (national, regional and local), in particular to the Government, the ministries, Parliament and the judiciary, to enable their full implementation.

Technical assistance

49. The Committee recommends that the State party link the implementation of the Convention to its development efforts and that it avail itself of regional or international technical assistance in this respect.

Ratification of other treaties

50. The Committee notes that the adherence of the State party to the nine major international human rights instruments¹ would enhance the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects of life. The Committee therefore encourages the State party to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to which it is not yet a party.

Follow-up to the concluding observations

51. The Committee requests the State party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 (b) and (c), 15 (a) and 19 (a) above.

Preparation of the next report

52. The Committee invites the State party to submit its ninth periodic report in November 2020. In case of delay, the report should cover the entire period up to the time of its submission.

53. The Committee requests the State party to follow the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents (see [HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6](#), chap. I).

¹ The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.