



# 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 combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Poland\*

1. The Committee considered the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Poland (CEDAW/C/POL/7-8) at its 1249th and 1250th meetings, on 22 October 2014 (see CEDAW/C/SR.1249 and 1250). The Committee's list of issues and questions is contained in CEDAW/C/POL/Q/7-8, and the responses of Poland are contained in CEDAW/C/POL/Q/7-8/Add.1.

#### A. Introduction

2. The Committee appreciates the submission, by the State party of the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports, which generally followed the Committee's guidelines for the preparation of periodic reports. It also appreciates the State party's written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by its pre-session working group. It welcomes the oral presentation by the delegation and the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed orally by the Committee.

3. The Committee commends the high level State party's delegation, which was headed by Ms. Malgorzata Fuszara, Secretary of State at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Government's Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, and included representatives of various ministries and government agencies and the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue that took place between the delegation and the Committee.

#### B. Positive Aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2007 of the State party's combined fourth and fifth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/POL/4-5) and the sixth periodic report (CEDAW/C/POL/6) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of:

(a) The Act on Aliens, which enabled various categories of foreign women to legalise their stay in Poland, extending also protection to victims of trafficking, in May 2014;

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\* Adopted by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session (20 October – 7 November 2014).

(b) The amendments to the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, which aimed at enhancing prosecution of the crime of rape while eliminating secondary victimization of sexual violence victims, in 2013;

(c) The amendments to the Electoral Act, which introduced a quota of 35 per cent for representation of each gender on electoral lists for municipal, district, *Voivodeship* (regional), national and European Parliament elections, in 2011;

(d) The Act on the care of children below the age of 3, which aimed at improving access to institutional childcare in order to reconcile work and family life, in April 2011;

(e) The Act on Equal Treatment, which aims at guaranteeing equal treatment on grounds of sex, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, faith, outlook, disability, age or sexual orientation, in 2010; and

(f) The amendments to the Criminal Code to include a definition of trafficking and to penalize the preparation of this crime.

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:

(a) The National Action Plan for Equal Treatment 2013-2016, including the appointment of the Plenipotentiaries for Equal Treatment in *Voivodeships*, and of Coordinators for Equal Treatment in all Ministries;

(b) The National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings 2013-2015; and

(c) The National Broadcasting Regulatory Strategy 2014 – 2016 which aims at preventing stereotyping of social roles of women in the media.

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

(a) The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, on 25 April 2014;

(b) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on 25 October 2012.

## C. Principle areas of concern and recommendations

### 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 2008). It invites the Parliament (Sejm), in line with its mandate, to take necessary steps regarding the implementation of the present concluding observations between now and the next reporting period under the Convention.**

### Visibility of the Convention, the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations

8. The Committee takes notes of information that the Convention is generally considered as a source of law by courts and that the Committee's concluding observations are circulated to relevant ministries, authorities and non-governmental organizations. However, the Committee is concerned at reports about inadequate awareness of the Convention in general, of the procedures under the Optional Protocol to claim violations of women's rights, the

Committee's general recommendations and of the Views and recommendations of the Committee on individual communications and inquiries.

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

(a) **Disseminate the Convention, the Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations among all segments of the society, as well as facilitate access to information on the views and recommendations of the Committee on individual communications and inquiries, including through capacity building programmes for lawyers, judges, prosecutors, police and other law enforcement officials; and**

(b) **Raise awareness among women of their rights under the Convention and of available legal remedies at the national, regional and local levels, including through information campaigns and the media.**

**Legislative framework**

10. The Committee welcomes numerous legislative efforts by the Government; however, it is concerned that the Act on Equal Treatment of 3 December 2010 does not provide protection from sex and gender-based discrimination in areas such as education, health care, and private and family life; and that it does not adequately protect women from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, age, disability or other grounds, in the absence of a legal definition of such forms of discrimination. The Committee notes that the Convention is directly applicable in the national courts. However, it regrets the insufficient information about relevant case law.

11. **The Committee urges the State party to review the Act on Equal Treatment to ensure that anti-discrimination legislation contains a definition of discrimination against women in accordance with article 1 of the Convention, covering all areas of the Convention, and explicitly prohibiting sex and gender-based discrimination as well as multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The Committee recommends that the State party collect and disseminate information about cases where the Convention was invoked before or directly applied by the national courts.**

**Access to Justice and Legal Complaint Mechanisms**

12. The Committee regrets that insufficient information was provided on effective legal complaint mechanisms available to women who have experienced sex- or gender-based discrimination in areas other than employment, and on their outcome. The Committee is particularly concerned about the reportedly low number of complaints of sex- and gender-based discrimination where compensation was awarded.

13. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure access to effective legal remedies for women who have experienced sex and gender-based discrimination in order to enable them to seek redress and compensation. It also recommends that the State party collect and disseminate information on the number and type of complaints made and the redress provided.**

**Office of the Human Rights Defender**

14. The Committee is concerned about the absence of complaints of sexual harassment in employment, the limited application of administrative sanctions and means of redress in cases of sex and gender-based discrimination, and the lack of sex-disaggregated data on complaints of discrimination filed with the Human Rights Defender. The Committee also notes with concern the limited financial and human resources available to the Human Rights Defender.

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

(a) **Take measures to overcome the obstacles preventing the submission of complaints of sexual harassment in employment to the Human Rights Defender;**

(b) **Ensure the effective application by the Human Rights Defender of administrative sanctions and provision of redress in cases of sex and gender-based discrimination; and**

(c) **Provide the Human Rights Defender's Office with sufficient financial and human resources to enable it to fully implement its mandate to protect women's rights and promote gender equality, in compliance with the Paris Principles (annexed to General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993).**

**National machinery for the advancement of women**

16. The Committee notes that the mandate of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, together with the Plenipotentiaries for Equal Treatment in *Voivodeships* and the Coordinators for Equal Treatment in all Ministries, represents the national machinery for equal treatment and includes the elimination of discrimination against women. The Committee reiterates its concern that since 2006, there is no separate government authority in Poland responsible exclusively for gender equality policies. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of resources and the absence of a separate budget for the Government Plenipotentiary. The Committee further notes with concern the absence of a coordination mechanism to ensure gender mainstreaming at all levels.

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

(a) **Strengthen the mandate and authority of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, and provide it with the conditions enabling it to implement gender equality policies, and ensure the gender mainstreaming strategy in all Government ministries and agencies as well as at the municipal level;**

(b) **Increase the financial and human resources of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, while providing it with a separate budget to support its gender equality activities and programmes and to ensure effective coordination of government policies on gender equality; and ensure that every Ministry allocates a special budget for the effective implementation of the National Action Plan for Equal Treatment.**

18. The Committee is concerned that the National Action Plan for Equal Treatment 2013-2016, which has replaced previous National Action Plans for Women, does not sufficiently address women's rights and their protection from discrimination. The Committee regrets the insufficient information on the monitoring and impact assessment of the National Action Plan. The Committee notes the inadequate funding of women's rights non-governmental organizations and their limited involvement in the development and evaluation of the National Action Plan.

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

(a) **Evaluate the extent to which the gender-neutrality of the National Action Plan for Equal Treatment fails to address pre-existing gender inequalities (see General Recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the CEDAW Convention, para. 16) and correct this as needed;**

(b) **Effectively monitor and assess the impact and results achieved in the implementation of the National Action Plan in all parts of the State party, based on time-bound targets and indicators; and adjust its priorities, as necessary, in close consultation with women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and on this basis develop the instruments that will be used beyond 2016**

**(c) Adequately fund women’s rights NGOs and increase their involvement in the implementation of the National Action Plan and all other measures, programmes or projects that may be adopted.**

#### **Temporary special measures**

20. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information about the use of temporary special measures in different areas covered by the Convention, which may reflect an insufficient understanding of the character and purpose of such measures.

**21. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt temporary special measures to promote substantive equality of women and men in areas such as education, employment and participation in political and public life as well as to address the situation of disadvantaged women in all areas covered by the Convention. The Committee recommends establishing a procedure for the adoption and application of such measures. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that all relevant officials are familiar with the concept of temporary special measures, and encourage their application in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s General Recommendation No. 25 (2004) on Temporary Special Measures.**

#### **Stereotypes**

22. The Committee notes the efforts of the Government aimed at preventing stereotyping of social roles of women and men in the media and in society in general. However, it reiterates its concern about the persistence of deep-rooted gender stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society, which continue to be present in the media, education materials, and are reflected by the traditional educational choices of women and their disadvantaged position in the labour market, as well as by widespread violence against women. The Committee is particularly concerned at the reported increase of stereotypical and sometimes degrading media images of women which perpetuate sexual violence, including rape, and at the absence of a revision of textbooks. The Committee is also concerned at the absence of measures to counter the campaign by the Polish Catholic Church against “gender ideology.” The Committee points at the limited effectiveness - if any - of measures to counter negative stereotypes against Roma, LGBTI and disabled women.

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

**(a) Include the elimination of gender stereotypes as a key priority in the National Action Plan for Equal Treatment, especially those that perpetuate sexual violence including rape;**

**(b) Review, as a matter of priority, textbooks and materials, at all levels of education, to remove discriminatory gender stereotypes;**

**(c) Encourage the media to project positive images of women and the equal status of women and men in private and public life, and regularly monitor and evaluate such media representations through the National Broadcasting Council and the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection;**

**(d) Take measures to promote the equal rights of women and combat efforts made by any actors including the Catholic Church to downplay or degrade the pursuit of gender equality by labelling such measures as ideology; and**

**(e) Evaluate and strengthen measures to counter negative stereotypes against Roma, LGBTI and disabled women.**

#### **Violence against women including domestic violence**

24. The Committee notes that the State party signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence in December

2012. It is, however, concerned at the high prevalence of violence against women in the State party and the absence of a comprehensive strategy aimed at eliminating all forms of sex and gender-based violence against women. The Committee is particularly concerned at the remaining gaps in the legal framework to combat it, the limited effectiveness of protection orders and the low number of prosecutions and sentences in cases of domestic violence which results in inadequate protection of women victims of violence.

25. **Reiterating its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/POL/CO/6, para. 19) and recalling General Recommendation No. 19 (1994) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to:**

**(a) Expedite the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence as well as the harmonization of legislation with the Convention;**

**(b) Adopt a comprehensive strategy aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women, including older women and women with disabilities, in public and private life; and set-up an adequate coordinating and monitoring mechanism to effectively prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women;**

**(c) Amend the Criminal Code with a view to specifically criminalizing domestic violence and marital rape, and include a definition of “violence against women” in the Act on Countering Domestic Violence to ensure that relevant laws and policies are implemented in a gender-sensitive manner;**

**(d) Effectively enforce and monitor compliance with protection orders against perpetrators of, in particular, domestic violence;**

**(e) Systematically institute criminal proceedings, end the use of reconciliatory mediation for victims of domestic violence, and prosecute and punish perpetrators of such acts;**

**(f) Provide crisis centres and walk-in centres that offer protection and assistance to women victims of violence; and ensure the adequate geographical distribution of shelters as well as the provision of legal aid and other assistance for victims; and**

**(g) Regularly collect, analyse and publish data on reported, investigated and prosecuted cases of violence against women and girls.**

#### **Trafficking in persons and exploitation of prostitution**

26. The Committee notes the legislative and policy measures that the State party has taken against trafficking in human beings and the various measures of assistance to victims of trafficking. It nevertheless remains concerned about the limited data on the extent and purpose of trafficking, the absence of information on the origin of victims, and the limited evaluation of the measures taken. The Committee is also concerned about the low number of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators of trafficking and forced prostitution, and the limited training on gender-sensitive investigation methods for law enforcement officers. The Committee further regrets the lack of information on the extent of prostitution and the limited measures taken by the State party to reduce the demand for prostitution and to provide alternative income-generating opportunities for women who wish to leave prostitution.

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

- (a) **Compile and disseminate statistical data on the extent and purpose of trafficking, and the countries of origin as well as destination of victims of trafficking;**
- (b) **Systematically monitor and evaluate the impact of measures against trafficking;**
- (c) **Ensure that women and girl victims of trafficking are early and properly identified and have access to medical care, legal aid, psychosocial counselling, and rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, regardless of their ability or willingness to testify against traffickers;**
- (d) **Ensure effective prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of trafficking;**
- (e) **Train judges, prosecutors, the police and immigration officers as well as social workers on gender-sensitive ways to deal with victims of trafficking;**
- (f) **Address the root causes of trafficking and forced prostitution by increasing promoting educational and income generating opportunities for women and girls thereby minimizing their vulnerability to exploitation; and**
- (g) **Address the demand side of prostitution, and compile information on the extent of prostitution.**

#### **Participation in political and public life**

28. The Committee notes the high percentage of women in the State party's civil service and in first instance courts, as well as the fact that the Prime Minister is a woman and that there are currently five female ministers. It is nonetheless concerned that, with the exception of quotas for electoral lists and some attempts to promote the representation of women on management boards of public companies, no special measures are being applied as part of a comprehensive strategy to combat underrepresentation of women in political and public life and in decision-making positions, including in Parliament (24 % of Members of the Parliament and 13% of Senators are women), in municipal and regional councils (25 % of women representatives), executive authorities at various levels and in appellate courts.

29. **In line with its General Recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, the Committee encourages the State party to:**

- (a) **Amend the Electoral Act with a view to placing candidates, women and men, in alternative positions on electoral lists (so called "slide" or "zip" system) in order to achieve parity;**
- (b) **Adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's General Recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, including quotas, benchmarks with specific time frames, and training, to achieve women's equal and full participation in political and public life and in decision-making levels, including in the judiciary, executive functions at all levels and in international organizations.**

#### **Education**

30. The Committee acknowledges the reforms of national curricula for basic compulsory education, which include measures to advance equal opportunities for women and men. However, it remains concerned about structural barriers negatively affecting girls' and women's enrolment in non-traditional educational and vocational fields; gender segregation in the educational system as evidenced by the disparity in the number of boys' and girls' schools; the absence of mandatory comprehensive age appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health in school curricula; and the low number of women in management

positions in educational institutions and professorship positions. The Committee is also concerned about the continued placement of Roma girls in special schools or classes, the high drop-out rates of Roma girls from primary education and their low school attendance.

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

(a) **Eliminate structural barriers as well as negative stereotypes that potentially deter girls' enrolment in non-traditional educational and vocational fields at all levels of education;**

(b) **Consider adopting temporary special measures to promote girls' take up of technical subjects, and to accelerate the appointment of women in highest academic positions;**

(c) **Provide mandatory comprehensive age appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights to girls and boys, as part of the regular school curricula, including about responsible sexual behaviour, prevention of early pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, taught by appropriately trained personnel;**

(d) **Ensure the enrolment of Roma girls and boys in regular classes of primary schools instead of schools or classes for children with special needs; and**

(e) **Reduce the high drop-out rates of Roma girls from primary education, take effective measures to retain Roma girls attending school and increase their attendance at the secondary level through temporary special measures and support such as scholarships and free provision of textbooks.**

#### **Employment**

32. The Committee is concerned about the prevailing horizontal and vertical segregation between women and men in the labour market and in particular the concentration of women in low paid sectors of public employment, especially in precarious work; the limited participation of women in employment (53,4 %); the lack of counselling for girls and women on non-traditional educational and vocational choices and career options; and non-implementation of the principle of "equal pay for work of equal value". It is also concerned about the limited mandate of the labour inspectorate to investigate complaints of gender discrimination, and in particular sexual harassment, and the disparities in access to child-care services between urban and rural areas.

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

(a) **Eliminate horizontal and vertical segregation between women and men in the labour market, including by adopting temporary special measures to promote access by women, in particular young women, to employment, and review its legislation and policies in order to promote equal opportunities and equal treatment of women in employment including career opportunities and to limit exposure of women to precarious work;**

(b) **Develop support programmes including counselling for girls and women on non-traditional educational and vocational choices and career options, e.g. in the areas of science and technologies;**

(c) **Ensure equal remuneration for work of equal value, including through mandatory equality plans for public and private employers and labour inspections; and address the limited effectiveness of legal provisions on remuneration, in particular through the development of a methodology for the assessment of the wage gap in companies as well as awareness-raising within the State party's associations of employers and trade-unions;**

**(d) Strengthen the mandate of the labour inspectorate to effectively investigate complaints of gender discrimination, and in particular sexual harassment, including by addressing the conditions for disclosure of information about complaints and their authors; and**

**(e) Reduce disparities in access to child-care services between urban and rural areas, including by reversing the trend of closing of pre-school facilities.**

34. The Committee notes the measures taken to promote participation of women on private sector management and supervisory boards, however, it is concerned that women represent only less than 15 % of the management and supervisory board members.

**35. The Committee urges the State party to take measures to achieve women's equal and full participation in decision making in economic sphere, in particular in the management and supervisory boards of the listed companies and state-owned public companies.**

### **Health**

36. The Committee reiterates its concern about the high-prevalence of abortions, most of them illegal due to the strict legal requirements contained in 1993 Act on family planning, human foetus protection and preconditions for the admissibility of abortion. The Committee is also concerned about the restrictive application of this law and the extensive use - or abuse - by medical personnel of the conscientious clause. It is further concerned about the lack of official data and research on the prevalence of illegal and unsafe abortions in Poland. The Committee notes the efforts to improve the Act on Patient Rights, including a new time limit for acting on complaints, but considers that this will not solve the obstacles women face when confronted with an unwanted pregnancy. The Committee is also concerned about the limited access to modern contraceptives, including the barriers adolescent girls may face accessing information and reproductive health services including contraception.

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

**(a) Enhance women's access to health care, in particular to sexual and reproductive health services, including amending the 1993 Act on family planning, human foetus protection and preconditions, to make the conditions for abortion less restrictive;**

**(b) Establish clear standards for a uniform and non-restrictive interpretation of the conditions for legal abortion so that women may access it without limitations due to the excessive use of the so-called "conscientious objection" clause by medical doctors and health institutions; and ensure effective remedies to contest refusals of abortion, within the revision of the Act on Patient Rights;**

**(c) Mandate, support and finance research, study and data collection, as previously recommended (CEDAW/C/POL/CO/6, para. 25), on the scope, causes and consequences of unsafe illegal abortion and its impact on women's health and life, to obtain evidence-based elements for a revision of the law;**

**(d) Ensure the accessibility and affordability of modern contraception by women and girls, including women in rural areas, through the reimbursement of modern and efficient methods of contraception by the public health system; and**

**(e) Ensure unimpeded access to reproductive health services and contraception for adolescent girls.**

### **Rural women**

38. The Committee notes the State party's Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. However, it is concerned that rural women continue to suffer from limited access to health,

education, employment and social services, and to participation in decision-making processes at the local level.

39. **The Committee recommends that the State party develop comprehensive policies and programmes aimed at the economic and political empowerment of rural women and ensure their access to health, education, employment and social services, as well as facilitate their participation in decision-making processes at the local level, in particular in the boards of *Voivodeship* agricultural chambers, so as to address the high risk of female poverty in rural areas.**

#### **Disadvantaged groups of women**

40. The Committee is concerned at the inadequate participation of women from disadvantaged groups such as Roma women and women from other ethnic minorities and women with disabilities in political and public life.

41. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt temporary special measures to achieve equal and full participation by disadvantaged groups of women, including Roma women and women from other ethnic minorities and women with disabilities, in political and public life, and at decision-making levels.**

#### **Marriage and Family Relations**

42. The Committee notes that the default marital property regime within the State party is one of community property, and appreciates the legal framework that recognizes non-financial contribution to the marital property; however, the Committee is concerned that perceived fault by one of the spouses may have financial consequences, including compensation or loss of spousal support.

43. **The Committee calls upon the State party to review its regulation of the economic consequences of divorce in light of the General Recommendation no. 29 (2013) on economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution, and aim for separating the principles and procedures for dissolution of marriage from those relating to the economic aspects of the dissolution.**

#### **Statistical data**

44. The Committee regrets the limited availability of statistical data disaggregated by sex, age and by urban and rural areas, which makes it more difficult for the Committee to assess progress and trends over time in the actual situation of women and the enjoyment of their rights in all areas covered by the Convention.

45. **The Committee calls upon the State party to enhance its data collection and analysis of such data in all areas covered by the Convention so as to be able to assess more accurately the actual situation of women and their enjoyment of their human rights, disaggregated by sex, age and by urban and rural areas, as applicable, and to identify trends over time, including cases of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and to design and implement targeted policies and programmes for the promotion of gender equality. It also calls upon the State party to monitor, through measurable indicators, the impact of laws, policies and action plans and evaluate progress achieved towards the realization of women's de facto equality. The Committee requests the State party to include such statistical data and analysis in its next report.**

#### **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

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

### Dissemination

47. The Committee recalls the obligation of the State party to systematically and continuously implement the provisions of the Convention. It urges the State party to give priority attention to the implementation of the present concluding observations and recommendations between now and the submission of the next periodic report. The Committee therefore requests the timely dissemination of the concluding observations, in the official language(s) of the State party, to the relevant state institutions at all levels (national, regional, local), in particular to the Government, the ministries, the Parliament (Sejm) and to the judiciary, to enable their full implementation. It encourages the State party to collaborate with all stakeholders concerned, such as employers' associations, trade unions, human rights and women's organisations, universities and research institutions, media, etc. It further recommends that its concluding observations be disseminated in an appropriate form at the local community level, to enable their implementation. In addition, the Committee requests the State party to continue to disseminate the CEDAW Convention, its Optional Protocol and jurisprudence, and the Committee's General Recommendations to all stakeholders.

### Ratification of other treaties

48. The Committee notes that the adherence of the State party to the nine major international human rights instruments<sup>1</sup> 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 consider ratifying the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, to which it is not yet a party.

### Follow-up to concluding observations

49. The Committee requests the State party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 17, sub-paragraphs a) and b), and paragraph 29, sub-paragraphs a) and b) above.

### Preparation of the next report

50. The Committee invites the State party to submit its ninth periodic report in November 2018.

51. 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" (HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.