



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 twenty-second to twenty-sixth periodic reports of Cuba*

1. The Committee considered the combined twenty-second to twenty-sixth periodic reports of Cuba,¹ submitted in one document, at its 3213th and 3214th meetings,² held on 23 and 24 April 2026. At its 3221st meeting, held on 29 April 2026, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined twenty-second to twenty-sixth periodic reports of the State Party. The Committee also welcomes the open and constructive dialogue with the State Party's high-level delegation and thanks the State Party for the additional information provided in writing after the dialogue.

B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the adoption by the State Party of the following laws and public policies:

- (a) The Constitution of 2019;
- (b) The Family Code of 2022;
- (c) Act No. 153 of 2022 on the amparo procedure for protection of constitutional rights;
- (d) The Criminal Procedure Act (No. 143 of 2021);
- (e) The National Programme for the Advancement of Women, in 2021;
- (f) The National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination, in 2019.

4. The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State Party to fulfil its obligations under the Convention and the commitment expressed during the dialogue to give effect to the Committee's recommendations despite the impact of the embargo.

C. Concerns and recommendations

Data collection

5. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party regarding the demographic composition of the population and the collection of data based on skin

* Adopted by the Committee at its 117th session (13 April–1 May 2026).

¹ CERD/C/CUB/22-26.

² See CERD/C/SR.3213 and CERD/C/SR.3214.



colour. The Committee is concerned about the use of the term “mulatto” in the data-collection tools used by the State Party and a number of its public policies, including those on the fight against racial discrimination, and the fact that the only criterion used for the purposes of self-identification is skin colour. While taking note of the information provided by the State Party and the socioeconomic situation it is facing, the Committee regrets that no population and housing census has been conducted since 2012. Although the Committee appreciates the fact that the State Party has provided some statistics, it is regrettable that these statistics are not comprehensive enough to allow for an assessment of living conditions and the progress made with regard to the enjoyment of the rights set out in the Convention, in particular by people of African descent, migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees (arts. 2 and 5).

6. Taking into account its previous concluding observations³ and its general recommendations No. 4 (1973) concerning reporting by States Parties under article 1 of the Convention, No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention, No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens and No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent, the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Review the methodology used for the collection of data in the national statistical system to ensure that it is based on the principle of self-identification and that the self-identification categories used are determined through broad, inclusive and culturally appropriate consultations with people of African descent, accurately reflecting the ethnic composition of the population and taking into account the connotations that certain terms have acquired for historical reasons;

(b) Continue its efforts to conduct a new population and housing census and, as soon as possible, a household survey, with a view to collecting reliable, up-to-date and comprehensive information on the demographic composition of the Cuban population;

(c) Strengthen its efforts to generate and publish statistics and indicators on human rights and the socioeconomic situation of the population, including people of African descent, migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, disaggregated by ethnic origin, gender, age, nationality, region, province, municipality and urban or rural residence, including in the most remote areas, doing so with respect for the principle of self-identification and with the aim of establishing an adequate empirical basis for the development and evaluation of policies and measures designed to ensure that all persons can exercise the rights protected by the Convention on an equal footing and without discrimination.

Application of the Convention

7. The Committee notes that, pursuant to article 8 of the State Party’s Constitution, the provisions of duly ratified international treaties, including the Convention, form part of the national legal order or are incorporated into it. However, the Committee is concerned about the absence of cases in which the Convention has been invoked or directly applied by national courts (arts. 1 and 6).

8. The Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Step up efforts to provide regular training on the Convention, in particular to judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement and other public officials and lawyers, so that they are able to invoke and apply it in relevant cases, thereby ensuring its systematic application at all levels of government;

(b) Adopt guidelines for officials responsible for the administration of justice to ensure the direct application of the Convention in the domestic legal system;

(c) Include concrete examples of the application of the Convention by national courts and other relevant forums in its next periodic report.

³ CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, para. 10.

Legislation against racial discrimination

9. The Committee notes that the State Party's Constitution provides that all persons are equal before the law, are to receive the same protection and treatment from the authorities and are to enjoy the same rights, freedoms and opportunities, without discrimination of any kind on grounds of sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ethnic origin, skin colour, religious belief, disability, national or regional origin, or any other personal condition or circumstance that implies a distinction detrimental to human dignity. However, it remains concerned that the national legal framework does not contain a definition of racial discrimination that is fully aligned with article 1 of the Convention and that expressly covers all prohibited grounds of discrimination and direct and indirect racial discrimination in the public and private spheres (arts. 1 and 2).

10. **Bearing in mind its previous concluding observations,⁴ the Committee recommends that the State Party adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that contains a clear definition of racial discrimination, including its direct and indirect, multiple and intersectional forms, covering all areas of law, both in the public and private spheres, and including all the grounds of discrimination mentioned in article 1 (1) of the Convention, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 14 (1993) on article 1 (1) of the Convention.**

National human rights institution

11. The Committee takes note of the establishment of the National Ombudsman's Office under the Ministry of Justice in 2023. However, the Committee remains concerned that the State Party has not yet established a national institution responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights that is compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (art. 2).

12. **Taking into account its previous concluding observations⁵ and its general recommendation No. 17 (1993) on the establishment of national institutions to facilitate the implementation of the Convention, the Committee urges the State Party to establish an independent national human rights institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles and has the mandate to promote and protect human rights, including by preventing and tackling racial discrimination and racism. It recommends that the State Party hold broad and inclusive consultations with civil society organizations, including organizations of people of African descent, regarding the establishment and mandate of such an institution. It also recommends that the State Party seek technical assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in establishing the institution.**

Public policy and institutional framework to combat racial discrimination

13. The Committee notes with interest the adoption, in 2019, of the National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination and the establishment of the National Commission against Racism and Racial Discrimination to implement the objectives set under the Programme. While noting the inclusion of socioeconomic indicators in the Programme, the Committee is concerned about the lack of information regarding its level of implementation, the results achieved and its impact in the six years since it was introduced. The Committee regrets the lack of information on the human, financial and technical resources earmarked for the implementation of the Programme and assigned to the National Commission. It is also concerned about the terminology used in the context of the Programme, as mentioned in paragraph 5 above, and about reports concerning the insufficient inclusion of people of African descent and their organizations (arts. 2 and 5).

⁴ Ibid., para. 16.

⁵ Ibid., para. 12; and [CERD/C/CUB/CO/14-18](#), para. 13.

14. Taking into account its previous concluding observations,⁶ the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Routinely generate, publish and disseminate information on the level of implementation, the results and the impact of the National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(b) Establish appropriate evaluation and accountability mechanisms in order to monitor and assess, on a regular basis and with clear goals and specific time frames, the implementation of the Programme and its effectiveness in reducing and eliminating the structural discrimination and inequality faced by people of African descent;

(c) Assign sufficient human, financial and technical resources for the effective implementation of the Programme at the national, provincial and local levels, as well as to the National Commission against Racism and Racial Discrimination so that it is able to carry out its mandate fully, effectively and independently;

(d) Review the terminology used in the context of the Programme when referring to the skin colour of the Cuban population, holding broad and inclusive consultations with people of African descent, in line with the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 (a) above;

(e) Ensure the broad and inclusive participation of civil society, in particular people of African descent and their representative organizations, including independent organizations, in the development of policies and plans that concern them, such as the National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination, and in the monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes of these policies and plans.

Implementation of article 4 of the Convention

15. The Committee takes note of the adoption of the Criminal Code and welcomes the inclusion of a number of key provisions that criminalize the conduct prohibited under article 4 of the Convention and establish racist motives as an aggravating circumstance in various crimes. While the Committee takes note of the explanations provided by the State Party, it is concerned that the Criminal Code does not fully cover all the grounds of discrimination mentioned in article 1 of the Convention, such as descent, and does not cover all the obligations assumed by the State Party under article 4, including the provisions prohibiting public authorities and institutions from promoting or inciting racial discrimination and prohibiting assistance to racist activities, including the financing thereof. The Committee regrets the lack of sufficient information on the measures taken to prevent and tackle racist hate speech and xenophobia (art. 4).

16. With reference to its previous concluding observations,⁷ the Committee recommends that the State Party revise its laws, in particular the Criminal Code, to include all grounds of discrimination mentioned in article 1 (1) of the Convention, including descent, and ensure that all the acts described in article 4 are prohibited and criminalized. The Committee draws the State Party's attention to its general recommendations No. 1 (1972) concerning States Parties' obligations under article 4 of the Convention, No. 7 (1985) relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention, No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention and No. 15 (1993) on article 4 of the Convention, pursuant to which all provisions of article 4 are binding.

17. The Committee also recommends that the State Party take the necessary measures to prevent, punish and combat racist hate speech and xenophobia, including on the Internet and social media platforms. It further recommends that the State Party facilitate the reporting of racist hate speech and ensure that perpetrators are duly prosecuted and punished and that victims and their families have access to effective remedies and adequate reparation. The Committee draws the State Party's attention to its general recommendation No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech and its

⁶ CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, para. 20.

⁷ Ibid., para. 18.

general recommendations No. 38 (2025) and No. 39 (2025), which concern general guidelines and thematic guidelines, respectively, for eradicating xenophobia towards migrants and other persons perceived as such.

Discrimination against people of African descent

18. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party on the measures adopted to tackle and eliminate the vestiges of racism, racial discrimination and racial prejudice that persist in Cuba and to eradicate the conditions that give rise to inequalities and racial discrimination, including the adoption of the National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination, which forms part of the Macroprogramme for Human Development, Equity and Social Justice and is linked to the National Plan for Economic and Social Development. However, the Committee is concerned that people of African descent in the State Party continue to face racism and structural discrimination owing to the historical legacy of slavery, which is demonstrated by the fact that they continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty, vulnerability and marginalization, by their overrepresentation in prisons and by the disparities affecting their effective enjoyment of the rights set forth in article 5 of the Convention, primarily economic, social and cultural rights, in particular, their access to the labour market, adequate housing and basic services (arts. 2 and 5).

19. **Bearing in mind its previous concluding observations,⁸ and in the light of its general recommendations No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures in the Convention and No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent, the Committee recommends that the State Party intensify its efforts to adopt and effectively implement, at all levels of government, the special measures or affirmative action necessary to eliminate the structural discrimination and inequality faced by people of African descent, ensuring their broad and inclusive participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of these measures. The Committee also recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Step up efforts to improve the living conditions of people of African descent by guaranteeing their protection against discrimination by State bodies and public officials or by any individual, group or organization;**

(b) **Take concrete measures to reduce the poverty, vulnerability and marginalization that disproportionately affect people of African descent and to eliminate the obstacles that prevent this group from effectively enjoying their economic, social and cultural rights;**

(c) **Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat racial discrimination in the workplace and improve the access of people of African descent to the formal economy, skilled jobs and management positions;**

(d) **Conduct a thorough analysis of the reasons for the overrepresentation of people of African descent in prisons, with a view to effectively addressing the underlying factors, and collect data, disaggregated by ethnic origin, skin colour and other relevant factors, as a matter of routine at all stages of criminal proceedings.**

Excessive use of force, freedom of peaceful assembly and racial profiling

20. The Committee remains concerned about allegations of excessive use of force, in particular by law enforcement officials, including cases that have resulted in the death of the victim, and about allegations concerning the arbitrary detention of people of African descent, especially those who organize or participate in peaceful demonstrations to protect their rights. The Committee is also concerned about allegations regarding the racial profiling of people of African descent by law enforcement officials, in particular in the country's tourist areas. It regrets the lack of adequate information on the measures taken by the State Party to investigate these allegations (arts. 5 and 6).

⁸ Ibid., para. 18.

21. Taking into account its previous concluding observations,⁹ the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Adopt the measures necessary to prevent law enforcement officials from subjecting people of African descent to an excessive use of force, ill-treatment or abuse, in particular by implementing in-service training programmes for such officials on the use of force in accordance with international standards, including the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and the United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement;

(b) Ensure that all cases in which law enforcement officials have subjected people of African descent to an excessive use of force, arbitrary detention or racial profiling are investigated promptly and effectively, that the perpetrators are duly prosecuted and punished in line with the gravity of the offence, that adequate reparations are provided to the victims and their families and that they do not face reprisals for filing a complaint;

(c) Include in its legislation an explicit prohibition on the practice of racially-motivated stops by law enforcement officials, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 36 (2020) on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials;

(d) Ensure full respect for the right of all individuals, including people of African descent who organize or participate in peaceful demonstrations to protect their rights, to freedom of peaceful assembly.

Situation of human rights defenders

22. The Committee remains deeply concerned about allegations of harassment, assault, intimidation, threats, disqualification, movement restrictions, surveillance, arbitrary detention and criminalization directed against human rights defenders, in particular leaders of civil society, activists, journalists, artists and human rights defenders working against racial discrimination and for the human rights of people of African descent. The Committee is also concerned about allegations concerning the imposition of restrictions on the ability of human rights defenders to leave the country and participate in meetings organized by international human rights mechanisms, in addition to restrictions on the establishment and registration of independent associations. The Committee notes with concern the State Party's failure to acknowledge that these acts have occurred and regrets the lack of information on the measures taken to prevent or investigate them (arts. 2, 5 and 6).

23. Taking into account its previous concluding observations,¹⁰ the Committee urges the State Party to:

(a) Adopt effective and timely measures to prevent and guarantee the impartial investigation of cases involving harassment, assault, intimidation, threats, disqualification, movement restrictions, surveillance, arbitrary detention and criminalization directed against human rights defenders, in particular leaders of civil society, activists, journalists, artists and human rights defenders working against racial discrimination and for the human rights of people of African descent, and to duly punish the perpetrators and award adequate reparations to the victims;

(b) Ensure that criminal law provisions are not used to unduly restrict the legitimate work of human rights defenders or take reprisals against them, and revise the provisions of the Associations Act (No. 54) so that independent associations and non-governmental organizations, including those representing people of African descent, can be established and registered on equal terms and without discrimination of any kind, including on grounds of political or other opinion;

⁹ Ibid., para. 32.

¹⁰ Ibid., para. 13.

(c) **Take the necessary measures to protect human rights defenders and their work, including through the adoption of specific laws that are consistent with international standards and the establishment of an effective prevention and protection mechanism;**

(d) **Ensure that human rights defenders, in particular leaders of civil society and human rights defenders working against racial discrimination and for the human rights of people of African descent, are not subjected to arbitrary restrictions that prevent them from attending and participating in meetings held by international human rights mechanisms;**

(e) **Ensure an open civic space that enables human rights defenders, activists, journalists and artists, including those critical of the Government, to carry out their legitimate work effectively and safely, free from all forms of intimidation, disqualification, threats, attacks and reprisals, and conduct information and awareness-raising campaigns on the vital work they do.**

Freedom of religion

24. The Committee is concerned about allegations concerning the harassment of members of Afro-Cuban religious groups and organizations, including allegations regarding the arbitrary detention of the leaders and members of these groups and organizations, and about the impact of such acts on the exercise of the rights to freedom of religion, peaceful assembly and association by the people of African descent concerned (arts. 5 and 6).

25. **The Committee recommends that the State Party take the measures necessary to ensure the full exercise of the rights to freedom of religion, peaceful assembly and association by members of Afro-Cuban religious groups or organizations or those with a religious component. It also recommends that the State Party ensure that all allegations of harassment and arbitrary detention targeting the leaders and members of the aforementioned groups and organizations are investigated, that the perpetrators are duly punished and that the victims are provided with protection and adequate reparations.**

Multiple forms of discrimination against women of African descent

26. While noting the measures taken by the State Party, the Committee remains concerned about reports regarding the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination that continue to be faced by women and girls of African descent in the State Party, who encounter greater obstacles when seeking to obtain access to the labour market, opportunities for political participation and decision-making positions and are disproportionately affected by adolescent pregnancy and maternal mortality. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the prevalence of gender-based violence, including femicide, against women of African descent (art. 5).

27. **Bearing in mind its previous concluding observations,¹¹ and in the light of its general recommendation No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State Party:**

(a) **Adopt additional and effective measures to combat the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination to which women and girls of African descent are subjected, including by mainstreaming gender across all policies and strategies on racial discrimination;**

(b) **Step up its efforts to eliminate the structural barriers encountered by women of African descent when seeking to obtain access to the labour market, in particular the formal sector, opportunities for political participation and decision-making positions;**

(c) **Take the measures necessary to reduce maternal mortality and early pregnancy rates among people of African descent;**

¹¹ Ibid., para. 26.

(d) **Strengthen measures to prevent gender-based violence against women of African descent, including by criminalizing femicide in the Criminal Code, in addition to measures providing protection and assistance for victims, including temporary shelter, and ensure that effective investigations are conducted, that the perpetrators are duly punished and that the victims are awarded adequate reparations.**

Migrants in an irregular situation

28. While the Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party's delegation during the dialogue, it remains concerned about the adverse effects of the application of article 282.1 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes illegal entry into the national territory, as it pertains to the return of migrants in an irregular situation (art. 5).

29. **Taking into account its previous concluding observations¹² and its general recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee urges the State Party to repeal the legislative provisions that criminalize irregular immigration.**

Trafficking in persons

30. The Committee takes note of the measures taken by the State Party to tackle trafficking in persons, including the adoption of the National Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons and Protect Victims, which was updated in 2023. However, the Committee again regrets the lack of statistics disaggregated by the sex, age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin and nationality of the victims, which would allow for an assessment of the incidence of trafficking in persons among people of African descent and individuals of other ethnic or national origins. It also regrets the lack of information regarding awareness-raising campaigns on trafficking in persons that have been run since 2018, especially in the tourism sector (art. 5).

31. **With reference to its previous concluding observations,¹³ the Committee urges the State Party to intensify its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, in particular trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons and Protect Victims. It also recommends that the State Party conduct awareness-raising campaigns aimed at preventing trafficking, including training for law enforcement and other public officials on the identification of victims and campaigns informing members of the most vulnerable population groups of their rights and the remedies available. The Committee requests that the State Party include in its next periodic report information disaggregated by the sex, age, sexual orientation, ethnic origin and nationality of the victims and on the number of investigations conducted, convictions obtained and sentences imposed in cases of trafficking in persons.**

Access to justice

32. The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State Party regarding the measures introduced to facilitate access to justice for all, including the adoption by the Attorney General's Office in 2023 of decisions No. 16/23 (protocol for preventing and tackling racial discrimination) and No. 76/23 (protocol for handling cases of discrimination, violence and harassment in the workplace). However, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of complaints of racial discrimination submitted to the courts (arts. 2 and 6).

33. **In the light of its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, the Committee reminds the State Party that the absence or small number of complaints or legal actions brought by victims of racial discrimination may reveal that there is a lack of specific relevant legislation, that victims have inadequate information concerning their rights, that they fear social censure, reprisals or the cost and**

¹² Ibid., para. 28.

¹³ Ibid., para. 30.

complexity of the judicial process, that there is a lack of trust in the police and judicial authorities or that the authorities are insufficiently alert to or aware of offences involving racism. Taking into account its previous concluding observations,¹⁴ the Committee urges the State Party to:

(a) Ensure that the legal framework for combating racial discrimination contains appropriate provisions, facilitate the reporting of cases and guarantee access for all victims to effective and impartial judicial and non-judicial remedies and adequate reparations;

(b) Revise the aforementioned protocols to make them more effective and ensure that the use of administrative fines for offences of discrimination is fully compatible with the Convention and does not impede access to effective judicial protection;

(c) Run campaigns to inform the general public, in particular the groups most vulnerable to racial discrimination, of the rights enshrined in the Convention and the mechanisms and remedies available to them to exercise these rights;

(d) Step up its efforts to ensure that victims of racial discrimination have effective access to free legal aid services and allocate sufficient human and financial resources to these services;

(e) Strengthen the training delivered to public officials, prosecutors, judges, magistrates and law enforcement officials so that they are able to effectively handle cases of racial discrimination, and establish independent evaluation mechanisms to assess whether such cases are being underreported;

(f) Collect statistics on complaints of racial discrimination and racially motivated offences, disaggregated by the ethnic or national origin of the victims and other relevant variables related to intersectional discrimination, and on the prosecution and conviction of the perpetrators and the reparations awarded to the victims.

Education and other measures to combat racial prejudice and intolerance and to address the legacy of the past

34. The Committee takes note of the various measures adopted by the State Party to provide training on human rights, the fight against discrimination and the history and contributions of people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples to national identity and culture. However, it remains concerned about the persistence of racial stereotypes and prejudice against people of African descent, which continue to be entrenched in society. The Committee regrets the lack of sufficient information regarding public awareness-raising and education campaigns on the negative effects of racial discrimination. It also regrets the lack of information on wide-ranging initiatives aimed at addressing and providing remedies for the legacy of the historical injustices of slavery (arts. 2 and 7).

35. Taking into account its previous concluding observations,¹⁵ the Committee recommends that the State Party:

(a) Continue and step up its efforts in the field of human rights education, ensuring that school, university and vocational training programmes include systematic and continuous training in human rights, the Convention and the fight against racial discrimination, racism and xenophobia;

(b) Strengthen measures to ensure that school curricula and educational materials cover the history of the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans and its consequences, in addition to the contributions of people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples to national identity and culture;

¹⁴ Ibid., para. 22.

¹⁵ Ibid., para. 34.

(c) Routinely run national, provincial and local awareness-raising and educational campaigns informing the general public of the negative effects of racial discrimination, with the aim of combating racial stereotypes and prejudices and all forms of discrimination;

(d) Engage in broad and inclusive consultations with people of African descent and their representative organizations that lead to the establishment of institutions devoted to the study and development of comprehensive proposals and initiatives aimed at addressing and providing redress for the legacy of the historical injustices of slavery, taking into account the objectives of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent (2025–2034).

D. Other recommendations

Ratification of other treaties

36. Bearing in mind the indivisibility of all human rights, the Committee encourages the State Party to consider ratifying the international human rights treaties that it has not yet ratified, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. The Committee also encourages the State Party to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Declaration under article 14 of the Convention

37. 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

38. In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, the Committee recommends that, when implementing the Convention, 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

39. The General Assembly, in its resolution 79/193, proclaimed the period 2025–2034 the Second International Decade for People of African Descent. It also decided to extend the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade, adopted in resolution 69/16, with a view to ensuring continuing efforts to promote respect for, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of people of African descent. In view of these developments, the Committee recommends that the State Party implement the programme of activities in collaboration with people of African descent and include in its next periodic report information on the specific measures taken in this regard, bearing in mind the Committee's general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent.

Consultations with civil society

40. The Committee recommends that the State Party step up its efforts to cooperate in a constructive and inclusive manner with civil society organizations working in the area of human rights protection, in particular those working to combat racial discrimination, and that it hold broad consultations in preparing its next periodic report and in its follow-up to the present concluding observations.

Dissemination of information

41. 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 government bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Convention at the provincial and municipal levels, and publicized on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the official language and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

Common core document

42. The Committee encourages the State Party to update its common core document, which dates to 2016, 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 2006.¹⁶ 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.

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 12 (national human rights institution), 14 (public policy and institutional framework to combat racial discrimination) and 23 (situation of human rights defenders) above and requests the State Party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.

Follow-up to concluding observations

44. In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 74 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 6 (a) (data collection), 8 (a) (application of the Convention) and 35 (c) (education and other measures to combat racial prejudice and intolerance and to address the legacy of the past) above.

Preparation of the next periodic report

45. The Committee recommends that the State Party submit its combined twenty-seventh to thirtieth periodic reports, as a single document, by 16 March 2031, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session¹⁷ 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.

¹⁶ HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I.

¹⁷ CERD/C/2007/1.