



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
29 July 2015

Original: English

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Viet Nam*

1. The Committee considered the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Viet Nam (CEDAW/C/VNM/7-8) at its 1313th and 1314th meetings, on 10 July 2015 (see CEDAW/C/SR.1313 and 1314). The Committee's list of issues and questions is contained in CEDAW/C/VNM/Q/7-8 and the responses of Viet Nam are contained in CEDAW/C/VNM/Q/7-8/Add.1.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee appreciates that the State party submitted its combined seventh and eighth periodic reports. 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 by 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 delegation, which was headed by the Deputy Minister for Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Doan Mau Diep, and included representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Planning and Investment, as well as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since its consideration in 2006 of the State party's combined fifth and sixth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/VNM/5-6) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of the following legislation:

* Adopted by the Committee at its sixty-first session (6-24 July 2015).



(a) Constitution, which recognizes gender equality and prohibits gender-based discrimination, in 2013;

(b) Amendment to the Law on Vietnamese Nationality, which facilitates the acquisition of Vietnamese nationality by refugee and stateless women and prevents statelessness, in 2014;

(c) Land Law, which provides for the issuance of land-use certificates in the name of both spouses, in 2013;

(d) Amendment to the Labour Code, which prohibits sexual harassment at work, in 2012;

(e) Law on Human Trafficking, which explicitly prohibits forced labour and sexual exploitation, in 2011.

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) National Strategy for Gender Equality (2011-2020);

(b) National Programme on Gender Equality (2011-2015);

(c) National Action Plan on Human Trafficking (2011-2015).

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

(a) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in 2015;

(b) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2015;

(c) United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2012;

(d) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2012.

C. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

National Assembly

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 the National Assembly, 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.

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

8. The Committee welcomes the inclusion of the principle of gender equality and the prohibition of discrimination based on sex in the Constitution of 2013. It also notes that several laws relevant to gender equality and the advancement of women are scheduled for revision in the next few years, which can be an opportunity for facilitating further gender mainstreaming in the State party. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned:

(a) That a few laws and decrees, such as the Law on Marriage and Family (2014) and the Labour Code, continue to contain discriminatory provisions that are not compatible with the Convention and the Constitution;

(b) That the implementation of laws and policies remains weak owing to the lack of accountability mechanisms and insufficient human, technical and budgetary resources and unawareness of the concept of substantive gender equality by lawmakers and policymakers and government officials;

(c) That the general lack of knowledge about gender equality persists.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Use the scheduled revision of laws, including the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Code and the Legal Aid Law, as an opportunity to harmonize those laws with the provisions of the Convention and the Constitution;**

(b) **Consider amending the Law on Marriage and Family and the Labour Code to bring them into full conformity with the Convention and the Constitution;**

(c) **Build strong accountability mechanisms for the implementation of laws and policies relevant to gender equality and the advancement of women, including in the forthcoming national programme on gender equality for 2016-2020, with clear timelines, targets and indicators, a clear allocation of responsibilities, mechanisms for monitoring implementation, and the allocation of adequate human, technical and budgetary resources;**

(d) **Enhance capacity-building for lawmakers and policymakers, government officials, the judiciary and law enforcement officials at the national and provincial levels to promote understanding of the concept of substantive gender equality in line with the Convention;**

(e) **Widely disseminate the Convention, the Constitution and the Gender Equality Law throughout the State party, including at the community level, and translate them into ethnic minority languages.**

Legal aid and access to justice

10. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party to build the capacity of the judiciary on gender equality, but is concerned:

(a) That the frequent use of reconciliation and mediation for dispute resolution, including in cases of domestic violence and property disputes, favours men over women and hinders women's access to justice and remedies;

(b) That women's access to legal aid remains low and, under the Legal Aid Law (2006), legal aid is not free of charge for women whose household income is above the poverty line, even if they lack access to household income and/or are survivors of domestic violence.

11. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Enhance the implementation of relevant national laws that accord priority to the judicial process rather than reconciliation and mediation, and raise the awareness of community leaders, law enforcement officers, lawyers and the judiciary to ensure women's access to justice;**

(b) **Include, in the scheduled amendment to the Legal Aid Law in 2016, the development of a comprehensive legal aid scheme so as to ensure effective access by women to the courts, including in cases of discrimination and violence against women, with a clear timeline and mechanism for monitoring, for criminal cases, in accordance with the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems (General Assembly resolution 67/187, annex);**

(c) **Enhance women's awareness of their rights and legal literacy in all areas of the law to empower women to avail themselves of procedures and remedies to claim their rights under the Convention.**

National machinery for the advancement of women

12. The Committee notes the existence of various institutions to advance women's rights, including the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, the National Committee for the Advancement of Women and the Vietnamese Women's Union, but is concerned about:

(a) The lack of effective coordination and clear division of responsibility in ensuring gender equality and the rights of women within State institutions;

(b) The insufficient implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2011-2020).

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) **Ensure overall coordination among relevant State institutions in ensuring gender equality and the rights of women, with a clear mandate and defined responsibilities for each institution as well as adequate human, technical and financial resources and the authority to effectively discharge their mandates;**

(b) **Enhance the effective implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2011-2020) by allocating the human, technical and financial resources necessary for its implementation so as to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed across all areas of work of the Government.**

Temporary special measures

14. The Committee notes with concern that there is limited understanding in the State party of temporary special measures to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 on the subject.

15. **The Committee encourages the State party to promote the understanding of and use temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, as a necessary component of a strategy to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in all areas of the Convention in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged.**

Stereotypes and discriminatory practices

16. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted gender stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society that overemphasize the subordinate and caring roles of women and are reflected in practices such as son preference. It also notes with concern the prevalence of harmful practices such as child marriage in some areas of the State party and about the persistence of gender bias and gender stereotypes in the media.

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

(a) **Adopt comprehensive strategic measures to tackle the root causes of gender inequality and modify the deeply entrenched discriminatory gender stereotypes and cultural beliefs that favour men over women, with the aim of eliminating gender-based discrimination and harmful practices;**

(b) **Reinforce programmes to eliminate gender stereotypes associated with traditional gender roles in the family and in society, targeting officials at all levels, the judiciary and law enforcement personnel, teachers, parents and community leaders, as well as women and men and girls and boys, to raise awareness of the negative effects of harmful practices and discriminatory stereotypes on women's enjoyment of their rights, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention;**

(c) **Raise the awareness of and cooperate with the media to enhance understanding of the concept of equality of women and men in public and private life and convey positive images of women.**

Violence against women

18. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control in 2007 and the revised Labour Code in 2012, which prohibited workplace sexual harassment, but is concerned about:

(a) The high prevalence of violence against women and girls, including dating violence, violence in public spaces and workplace sexual harassment, as well as against older women and women in prostitution;

(b) The absence of legal provisions explicitly criminalizing marital rape; the low rate of reporting and conviction of perpetrators of violence against women; the excessive use of reconciliation procedures to address domestic violence; and the overreliance on forensic evidence in investigating physical and sexual violence;

(c) The inadequacy of victim assistance and rehabilitation services;

(d) The lack of systematic collection of comprehensive data on violence against women.

19. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Revise the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and criminalize all forms of violence against women, including marital rape, dating violence, violence in public spaces and sexual harassment;**

(b) **Develop, as a matter of priority, a national plan of action to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and allocate sufficient human, technical and financial resources for its effective implementation;**

(c) **Encourage women to report cases of violence and abuse by destigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts, and ensure that all reported cases are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished;**

(d) **Review the use of reconciliation and ensure that women who are victims of domestic violence have effective access to protection orders and legal remedies;**

(e) **Provide mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police officers, health professionals and social workers on the strict application of legal provisions criminalizing violence against women and girls;**

(f) **Ensure that victims have access to support services, including free legal aid, medical and psychological care, shelters, counselling and livelihood support;**

(g) **Systematically collect statistical data on all forms of violence against women, disaggregated by form of violence, age, disability, ethnicity and relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, and on the number of complaints, prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed on perpetrators, as well as on reparations provided to victims.**

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

20. The Committee welcomes the various efforts made by the State party to combat trafficking in women and girls, but notes with concern:

(a) That the State party remains a source country for internal and cross-border trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual and labour exploitation as well as fraudulent internationally brokered marriage;

(b) The increase in the number of trafficked girls and reports of trafficking in newborns;

(c) The very low conviction rates under the Law on Human Trafficking;

(d) The stigmatization of and administrative penalties imposed on women and girls in prostitution;

(e) The lack of effective national mechanisms for the referral of victims of trafficking to rehabilitation and reintegration assistance.

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

(a) **Carry out a study to investigate the scope, extent and root causes of trafficking in women and girls for sexual and labour exploitation, both within**

the country and abroad, including through the systematic collection and analysis of data on such exploitation;

(b) Take effective measures to eliminate the root causes of trafficking and prostitution, including poverty, in order to remove the vulnerability of women and girls to such exploitation;

(c) Review the Law on Administrative Violations Sanction (2012) and the Law on Administrative Penalties (2012) with a view to decriminalizing women in prostitution;

(d) Take measures to prevent and eliminate child prostitution and to ensure that perpetrators of child prostitution are prosecuted and adequately punished and that girls in prostitution are not treated as offenders but as victims;

(e) Develop effective referral mechanisms and ensure that victims of trafficking are swiftly identified, fully informed of available services and their entitlements, and adequately protected and supported, including through rehabilitation and social reintegration;

(f) Raise awareness among women at risk of trafficking and protect them by regulating and inspecting fraudulent internationally brokered marriages and strengthening bilateral cooperation to reduce the vulnerabilities of women married to foreign nationals;

(g) Enhance international, regional and bilateral cooperation to prevent trafficking and harmonize legal procedures aimed at the prosecution and punishment of traffickers.

Participation in political and public life

22. The Committee is concerned about the slow increase in the number of women elected to the National Assembly and the low representation of women in decision-making positions at the national and local levels.

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

(a) Take measures to increase the number of women in decision-making positions at all levels and in all areas, in the light of the Committee's general recommendation No. 23 on women in political and public life;

(b) Consider establishing a quota for female candidates higher than 35 per cent for the elections to the National Assembly and the People's Council for 2016-2021 with the aim of achieving the target of 35 per cent for elected female deputies set in the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2011-2020).

Women human rights defenders

24. The Committee is concerned at:

(a) The alleged harassment, arbitrary arrests, detention and ill-treatment of women human rights defenders in the State party;

(b) The limited possibilities for civil society organizations, including women's rights organizations, to participate in the design, implementation,

monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

25. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To investigate allegations of harassment, arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of women human rights defenders, prosecute those responsible and provide remedies to the victims;

(b) To take specific steps to create an enabling environment in which women human rights defenders and women's rights organizations can be freely established and freely operate in the State party, in line with article 7 (c) of the Convention.

Education

26. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That there is a lack of monitoring and insufficient resources for the education sector;

(b) That discriminatory gender biases and stereotypes are perpetuated in education materials;

(c) That girls are segregated in traditional fields of study;

(d) That girls belonging to ethnic minorities have limited access to all levels of education.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of the education sector action plan with sufficient resources from the national budget;

(b) In the revision of educational materials, ensure that discriminatory stereotypes are removed from all school textbooks, teaching materials and curricula;

(c) Intensify its efforts aimed at diversifying academic and vocational choices for women and men and take further measures to encourage girls and boys to choose non-traditional fields of education;

(d) Reduce illiteracy and school dropout rates and increase access to secondary and tertiary levels of education among girls belonging to ethnic minorities, including through the provision of bilingual education and scholarships and subsidies.

Employment

28. The Committee welcomes the State party's ratification of the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), and the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), of the International Labour Organization, as well as its adoption of the revised Labour Code (2012), but is concerned about:

(a) The persistent gender wage gap;

(b) The lower retirement age for women and the extensive list of occupations prohibited for women;

(c) The concentration of women in low-paid jobs in the informal sector without access to social protection and outside the scope of the Labour Code;

(d) Discriminatory practices against women by employers based on maternity and pregnancy.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reduce the gender wage gap, including by addressing the occupational segregation of women in the public and private sectors and promoting women's access to higher-paid jobs and decision-making positions;

(b) Adopt the same age of mandatory retirement for women and men and review and reduce the list of occupations prohibited for women;

(c) Provide a regulatory framework for the informal sector, with a view to providing women in the sector with access to social protection and other benefits;

(d) Strengthen the regulation and inspection of employers to enforce compliance with labour standards and the prohibition of discrimination against women.

Migrant women workers

30. The Committee notes that internal and cross-border migration has rapidly increased in recent years. In that context, the Committee is concerned:

(a) That internal migrant workers, including women and girls, face barriers in gaining access to basic social services guaranteed to all Vietnamese citizens;

(b) That migrant women and girls, especially women domestic workers, are at a high risk of sexual and labour exploitation;

(c) That women and girls migrating abroad are often victimized by fraudulent recruitment agencies and brokers for international marriage;

(d) That migrant women who are victims of exploitation and violence face barriers in filing complaints and gaining access to justice.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Designate an agency responsible for the protection of migrants, including those who migrate outside the framework of official migration programmes;

(b) Ensure that internal migrants and their families, including those not registered in the household registration system (*hộ khẩu*), enjoy all the rights guaranteed to all Vietnamese citizens;

(c) Strengthen the inspection of workplaces, including private households;

(d) Adopt legislation for the protection of domestic workers and consider ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization;

(e) **Ensure the regulation and monitoring of recruitment agencies and marriage brokers;**

(f) **Revise the Law on Vietnamese Guest Workers Working Abroad Under Contract (2007) to make it gender sensitive and responsive to the specific needs of migrant women and girls;**

(g) **Raise the awareness of and provide information to women and girls, in particular those in rural areas, on potential risks and on the remedies available if they face human rights violations.**

Health

32. The Committee commends the State party for the progress made in reducing the maternal and child mortality rates and in the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5. Nevertheless, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The imbalance of the sex ratio at birth arising from a strong preference for male offspring, which results in the sex selection of foetuses;

(b) That the maternal mortality rate remains high in rural and mountainous areas and among ethnic minority women;

(c) The high abortion rate among adolescents;

(d) The increase in the number of women in long-term sexual relationships infected with HIV/AIDS by their male partners and the stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV.

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

(a) **Take measures to prevent sex selection of foetuses;**

(b) **In the new population law, fully guarantee the rights of women and men to freely and responsibly decide on the number and spacing of their children without distinction of any kind, including sex, disability, health, economic or social status and ethnicity;**

(c) **Ensure that women and girls and men and boys have access to free, age-appropriate and high-quality information on sexual and reproductive health and to affordable family planning services and contraceptives, regardless of their marital status, disability, ethnicity or geographical location. Decisions regarding sterilization and the use of contraceptives should be made based on the full informed consent and voluntary will of the women and girls concerned;**

(d) **Enhance efforts to reduce maternal mortality in rural areas and among women from ethnic minorities by improving their access to basic prenatal and antenatal care, emergency obstetric care and the presence of skilled attendants at births. To that end, the State party is encouraged to consider the technical guidance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce preventable maternal morbidity and mortality (see A/HRC/21/22 and Corr.1 and 2);**

(e) **Introduce age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health in school curricula and facilitate access by adolescent girls and boys to contraceptives, as well as to high-quality reproductive health services, assistance and counselling;**

(f) **Strengthen enforcement of the Law on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS (2006) to address the stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV and raise the awareness of men, including those with risk behaviours and those living with HIV, of their role in reducing the transmission of HIV to their sexual partners.**

Economic empowerment of women

34. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That women's economic empowerment has not been fully mainstreamed into the overall development strategies of the State party;

(b) That most women in the agricultural and informal sectors, older women and minority women have limited access to full social protection and have limited access to training opportunities and financial resources, such as formal credits through bank loans, income and pension and social security schemes, compared with men.

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

(a) **Integrate initiatives aimed at encouraging women's economic empowerment throughout its development strategies, keeping in mind the specific situations of different groups of women;**

(b) **Ensure access by women to the agricultural and informal sectors, and by older women and minority women, especially women from the Degar and Khmer Krom communities, to training opportunities, such as vocational training, and financial resources, such as income-generating projects, credit facilities and pension and social benefits schemes, on an equal basis with men.**

Rural women

36. The Committee welcomes the fact that the Land Law (2013) provides for the issuance of land-use certificates in the name of both spouses, but remains concerned that, in practice, male-only certificates are often issued and that mediation of disputes tends to favour men over women. The Committee is also concerned at the recent increase in expropriation and relocation programmes in the context of development projects, disaster risk reduction and responses to climate change, which have negatively affected the livelihood of rural women.

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

(a) **Establish effective monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Land Law and ensure that land-use certificates bear the names of both spouses and that legal remedies are given priority over mediation in case of land disputes involving women;**

(b) **Use expropriation only for public purposes defined under the law and with adequate compensation and reparation for the affected women. Evictions and relocations should not result in affected women being rendered**

homeless or vulnerable to violations of their human rights. In that regard, the Committee draws the attention of the State party to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, as well as the basic principles and guidelines on development-based evictions and displacement developed by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living (see A/HRC/4/18, annex I).

Refugee, asylum-seeking and stateless women

38. The Committee welcomes the fact that the State party facilitated the naturalization of former Cambodian refugees received in the period 1975-1980, including many women. It also welcomes the significant reduction in the number of stateless women under the Law on Vietnamese Nationality, as amended in 2014, but is concerned:

(a) That there is no procedure in place for granting asylum or determining refugee status, notwithstanding the constitutional guarantee of the right to asylum;

(b) That there are 800 stateless women who lost their Vietnamese nationality in failed attempts to obtain another nationality.

39. **In line with its general recommendation No. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt legislation and effective procedures for granting asylum and refugee status and provide protection on grounds of gender-based persecution;**

(b) **Continue to facilitate the reduction of statelessness, in particular the reacquisition of Vietnamese nationality by women who became stateless by renouncing that nationality;**

(c) **Expedite its accession to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

Marriage and family relations

40. The Committee is concerned:

(a) That the legal age for marriage remains lower for women than for men;

(b) That the economic rights of women in de facto unions are not recognized, including upon the dissolution of their relationships, under the Law on Marriage and Family.

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

(a) **Review the Law on Marriage and Family with a view to setting the same minimum age for marriage for women and men, in line with article 16 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 21 on equality in marriage and family relations;**

(b) **Consider the situation of women in de facto unions, and of the children resulting from such unions, and take the measures, including by amending the Law on Marriage and Family, necessary to ensure the protection**

of their economic rights, including upon the dissolution of their relationships, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 29 on article 16 of the Convention (economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution).

Data collection and analysis

42. The Committee notes that the State party has developed national gender development statistical indicators but is concerned at the general lack of the disaggregated data necessary for an accurate assessment of the situation of women and identification of discrimination, for informed and targeted policymaking and for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved towards the realization by women of substantive equality.

43. **The Committee recommends that the State party enhance the collection, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, location and socioeconomic status, and the use of measurable indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and progress towards the realization by women of substantive equality in all areas covered by the Convention.**

Optional Protocol and amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention

44. **The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention and to accept, as soon as possible, the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee.**

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

45. **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.**

Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development framework

46. **The Committee calls for the integration of a gender perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and into the post-2015 development framework.**

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 that the present concluding observations be disseminated in a timely manner, in the official language of the State party, to the relevant State institutions at all levels (national, regional and local), in particular to the Government, the ministries, the National Assembly and 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**

organizations, universities, research institutions and the media. It recommends that the present 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 Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and relevant jurisprudence, in addition to 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 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 consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and 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

49. The Committee requests the State party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 (a), (b) and (d) and 23 (b) above.

Preparation of the next report

50. The Committee invites the State party to submit its ninth periodic report in July 2019.

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/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.