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## **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

### **Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Bangladesh\***

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

#### **A. Introduction**

2. The Committee appreciates that the State party submitted its eighth periodic report. 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 of the delegation and the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed by the Committee during the dialogue.

3. The Committee commends the State party's high-level delegation which was headed by Her Excellency Ms. Meher Afroze, State Minister of Women and Children Affairs. The delegation also included representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Local Government Division; the Ministry of Home Affairs, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division; the Ministry of Labour and Employment; the Ministry of Education; and the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

#### **B. Positive Aspects**

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

(a) The Amendment to the Labour Act (2013), which increased the maternity leave to 6 months;

(b) The Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act (2013), which also provides for the rights of women with disabilities;

(c) The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (2012); and

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

(d) The Hindu Marriage Registration Act (2012), which provides for the legal recognition of Hindu marriages.

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

(a) The Seventh National Five Year Plan (2016-2020) to implement the Government's Vision 2021, which includes the promotion of women's rights;

(b) The Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, which provides legal protection, including access to social benefits, maternity leave and establishes the minimum age of employment in domestic work at 14 years, in 2015;

(c) The Gender Equity Strategy, in 2014;

(d) The Climate Change and Gender Action Plan, in 2013;

(e) The National Action Plan for Implementation of the National Women Development Policy, in 2013;

(f) The National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2013-2025);

(g) The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, in 2013;

(h) The National Plan of Action on Combatting Human Trafficking (2012-2014); and

(i) The National Action Plan for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (2011-2016).

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

(a) The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in 2011; and

(b) The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2011.

## **C. Principal 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 2010). It invites Parliament, 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.**

### **Reservations**

8. The Committee regrets that despite its previous commitment, the State party has not taken any measures to withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 16, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention and reiterates that these reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention.

9. **Recalling its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/BGD/CO/7, para. 12), the Committee recommends that the State party take prompt measures towards**

**withdrawal of its reservations to articles 2 and 16, paragraph 1 (c), of the Convention within a concrete timeframe.**

#### **Legislative framework**

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

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

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

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

**(c) Accelerate the adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Law, which is in compliance with the Convention within a specific time frame; and**

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

#### **Access to Justice**

12. The Committee is concerned about the lack of access to justice for women, especially women and girls in marginalized and disadvantaged situations, due to their lack of awareness, legal illiteracy, costly legal procedures and the lack of capacity building programmes for judicial and law-enforcement officials as well as stigmatization of women seeking justice. While noting that the State party established a Legal Aid Fund for persons in need, the Committee is concerned that the Fund is largely inaccessible for women and girls without sufficient means.

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

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

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

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

#### **National machinery for the advancement of women**

14. The Committee notes that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is responsible for advancing women's rights and gender mainstreaming across all government

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

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

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

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

**Stereotypes and harmful practices**

16. The Committee is concerned about the persistent patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory stereotypes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society. It is also concerned about the limited efforts made by the State party to eliminate such stereotypes which constitute serious barriers to women's equal enjoyment with men of their human rights and their equal participation in all spheres of their life. The Committee notes with concern that the State party has one of the highest rates of child marriages worldwide, with 66% of girls marrying below the age of 18 years, often due to poverty, lack of personal safety or difficulties to verify their age, and that the practice of dowry continues to be imposed on the families of girls. The Committee is further concerned about a new proposed amendment to the law on child marriages which includes a clause that allows the marriage of girls at the age of 16 with the consent of the parents or the court, thus legalizing child marriage.

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

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

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

**(c) Take immediate measures to end the harmful practices of child marriage by addressing the root causes, raising awareness among parents, teachers, community and religious leaders about the negative effect of child marriage on the health and well-being of a girl child, holding those responsible to account and by retaining the legal minimum age of marriage for girls at 18 years without any exceptions. In doing so, the State party should be guided by joint General Recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/General Comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014) on harmful practices.**

**Gender-based violence against women**

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

- (a) Gender based violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape, fatwa-instigated violence, dowry related violence and sexual harassment of women and girls in private and public spaces, continue to take place in the State party;
- (b) Existing rules, policies and plans addressing gender-based violence against women are rarely implemented due to stereotypes and gender bias, and lack of gender sensitivity on the part of law enforcement officials, and lack of capacity among judges and lawyers;
- (c) The legislation criminalizing sexual harassment against women and girls in the workplace and in schools is absent;
- (d) Marital rape is not criminalized in the State party unless the victim is a child bride below the age of 13 years;
- (e) Gender-based violence, including rape, against indigenous women in Chittagong Hills Tract related to land grabbing is continuously reported; and
- (f) Studies/surveys and disaggregated data on the extent of gender-based violence and its root causes are not updated.

19. **The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party give priority attention to combating violence against women and girls, in accordance with its General Recommendation No 19 (1992). It recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Adopt, without delay, legislation criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls, including marital rape irrespective of the age of the victim, domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse, and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished and that the victims have access to immediate protection, rehabilitation and means of redress, including compensation;**
- (b) Ensure the implementation of the existing legal and policy framework against gender-based violence by providing capacity building and awareness-raising programmes for the judiciary, the police and law enforcement officials, as well as health care providers, to sensitize them on all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls and enable them to strictly enforce relevant criminal law provisions and to provide adequate gender-sensitive support to victims;**
- (c) Criminalize sexual harassment of women and girls in the workplace and in schools;**
- (d) Effectively investigate all reports of gender-based violence against indigenous women connected with land grabbing and take measures to bring those responsible to justice;**
- (e) Establish a database to collect data and provide information in the next periodic report on the number of reported cases of gender-based violence against women and girls, such as domestic violence, rape, fatwa-instigated violence, dowry related violence and sexual harassment of women and girls, disaggregated by age and relationship between the perpetrators and victims, and on the number of prosecutions and the sentences imposed on perpetrators; and**
- (f) Undertake studies/surveys on the extent of gender-based violence and its root causes.**

#### **Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

20. The Committee is concerned that trafficking in women and girls remains prevalent in the State party which is a source country and, in some cases, a transit country. It notes the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act of 2012 and the related Action Plan. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the number of traffickers

prosecuted and sentenced since 2012. It notes with concern that the Rohingya victims of trafficking are frequently denied the protection and support services required by the Act and the Action Plan. The Committee is also concerned about discrimination and violence against women in prostitution and their children who face stigmatization, forced evictions and frequent police harassment and are often denied access to education and health care.

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

**(a) Speed up the adoption of the rules of procedure for the implementation of the 2012 Act and establish a clear timeframe for setting up specialized tribunals to effectively prosecute and adequately punish human traffickers;**

**(b) Continue raising awareness about the criminal nature of human trafficking and provide capacity building for the judiciary and law enforcement officials on the strict enforcement of the 2012 Act, including as regards the protection and assistance for Rohingya women and girls who are victims of trafficking;**

**(c) Develop a coordination mechanism to address trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources for the effective implementation of the 2012 Action Plan;**

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

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

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

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

22. The Committee welcomes the commitment of the State party to reserve fifty seats in Parliament for women. However, it notes with concern that only few women have reached the highest level of the political pyramid and that women, in general, are underrepresented in the parliament, judiciary, administration and in the private sector. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of information on the numbers of women, including minority women in the local governments, foreign services and academia, in particular at the decision-making levels.

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

### Non-governmental organizations

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

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

### Nationality

26. The Committee notes that the 2009 Citizenship Act, as amended, provides for equal rights of women and men to transfer their nationality to their children or foreign spouse. The Committee is, however, concerned that this amendment does not apply retroactively to children born prior to the entry into force of the new legislation. The Committee also notes with concern that despite the 2004 Birth and Death Registration Act, only three percent of children are registered at birth (under 45 days) in the State party and that 88 percent are registered once they reach school age, which puts children who are not registered at risk of statelessness and prevents them from accessing basic services. The Committee is further concerned that almost 60 percent of unregistered Rohingya population are women and children who remain without legal status and face obstacles to access legal and social services.

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

### Education

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

(a) The number of girls dropping by half between the primary and secondary level of education due to child marriage, sexual harassment and early pregnancy, the low value placed on girls' education, poverty and long distance to schools in rural and marginalized communities;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**(e) Ensure that age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including responsible sexual behaviour, prevention of early pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, is integrated in school curricula at all levels of education.**

### **Employment**

30. The Committee welcomes the amendments to the Labour Act and Labour Policy of 2013, which extend maternity leave to 6 months, but remains concerned that the 6-month period is not fully implemented and that discrimination against pregnant women persists in the private sector. The Committee is also concerned at:

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

(b) Failure to implement the High Court guidelines concerning the protection of women from sexual harassment in the work place;

(c) Unsafe working conditions for women in the workplace; and

(d) Legal barriers to form unions, especially in women concentrated industries, including in agriculture, although there has been a growth in the number of unions registered since 2013.

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

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

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



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

(d) **Remove all obstacles to establish trade unions, especially for women employed in the agriculture sector; and**

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

#### **Women domestic workers**

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

33. **The Committee recommends that the State party establish mechanisms to monitor the employment conditions of women domestic workers and investigate all reports of violence against them, as well as facilitate their access to justice by exempting them from legal fees and providing free legal aid. It also recommends that the State party ratify ILO Convention No 189 on decent work for domestic workers.**

#### **Health**

34. The Committee remains deeply concerned about the high levels of maternal mortality often due to child marriages and subsequent early pregnancies as well as about the criminalization of abortion which forces women and girls to resort to unsafe abortion. The Committee notes that abortion is not criminalized in case of risk to the life of the pregnant woman and “menstrual regulation”. However, it notes that this exception is rarely applied and is concerned about the lack of access to modern contraception for adolescent girls and unmarried women, as well as the lack of information on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that women and girls living with HIV/AIDs and women in prostitution have limited access to health services due to stigmatization and social ostracism.

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

(a) **Legalize abortion at least in cases of rape, incest, threats to the life and/or health of the pregnant woman, or severe foetal impairment and de-criminalize in all other cases, as well as provide women with access to quality post-abortion care, especially in cases of complications resulting from unsafe abortions. The State party should also remove punitive measures for women who undergo abortion;**

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

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

#### **Economic empowerment of women**

36. The Committee notes the significant progress made by the State party in fighting poverty and its Vision 2021 policy which promotes economic empowerment of women.

However, it remains concerned about the high rates of poverty and malnutrition among women and girls, especially those who belong to disadvantaged and marginalized communities, who reportedly have limited access to social security benefits and programmes. The Committee is also concerned about the limited access by rural women to financial credit and loans from public banks, as laws and policies do not recognize them as farmers.

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

#### **Rural women**

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

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

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

40. The Committee is concerned that disadvantaged groups of women and girls, including Dalit women, women with disabilities, elderly women, Rohingya refugee women and women of ethnic minorities face multiple intersecting forms of discrimination due to their gender, health, indigenous identity, caste and socio-economic status. The Committee is in particular concerned about:

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

(b) Lack of access to education, health, public facilities for women with disabilities and elderly women;

(c) Abductions, sexual harassment, rape, intimidation and lack of access to public services and resources for Dalit women; and

(d) Lack of access to education, employment and freedom of movement as well as increased rates of trafficking of Rohingya women and girls, especially those who are unregistered.

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

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

(b) Promptly investigate and prosecute cases of gender-based violence targeting ethnic minority women and girls, including militarization of indigenous areas, and ensure that those convicted are punished with appropriate sanctions; and

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

#### **Marriage and family relations**

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

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

#### **Data collection and analysis**

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

45. **The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to collect data in all areas covered under the Convention. The data should be disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, religious background, socio-economic status, including caste, marital status and others.**

#### **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.**

#### **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

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

#### **Dissemination**

48. **The Committee requests the State party to ensure the timely dissemination of the present concluding observations, in the official 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 and to the judiciary, to enable their full implementation**

#### **Technical Assistance**

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

#### **Ratification of other treaties**

50. **The Committee notes that the adherence of the State party to the nine major international human rights 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 International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to which it is not yet a party.**

#### **Follow-up to concluding observations**

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

#### **Preparation of the next report**

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

53. **The Committee requests the State party to follow the “Harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents” (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.