

Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Jordan

ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION

1. The Committee against Torture considered the third periodic report of Jordan (CAT/C/JOR/3) at its 1374th and 1377th meetings, held on 20 and 23 November 2015 (CAT/C/SR.1374 and 1377), and adopted the following concluding observations at its 1390th meeting, held on 3 December 2015 (CAT/C/SR.1390).

A. Introduction

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for accepting the simplified reporting procedure and to have submitted its periodic report under it, as this improves the cooperation between the State party and the Committee and allows for a more focused dialogue with the delegation.

3. The Committee appreciates having had the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue with the State party's high level delegation and the responses provided to the questions raised during the dialogue.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the following legislative measures taken by the State party in areas of relevance to the Convention:

- (a) The Juvenile Act No. 32 in 2014;
- (b) The Independence of the Judiciary Act No. 29 in 2014;
- (c) The Constitutional Court Act No. 15 in 2012;

(d) The increased penalties introduced in the amendment to the Penal Code in 2011 to crimes of physical and sexual violence such as rape (art. 292), indecent assault (arts. 296–298), abduction (arts. 302–303) and sexual harassment (arts. 304–307).

5. The Committee takes note of the State party's amendments to the Jordanian Constitution in 2011, notably to article 8(2) that prohibits torture and deems statements obtained by torture, use of harm or threat, invalid.

6. The Committee welcomes the establishment of a national register for cases of torture at the public prosecution offices; the adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking (2010–2012); and the holding of two international conferences on torture prevention and alternatives to pre-trial detention, organized by the Ministry of Justice at the Dead Sea in 2013 and 2015.

7. The Committee commends the State party for having admitted more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom are Syrians fleeing from the armed conflict in their country.

C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations

Pending follow-up issues from the previous reporting cycle

8. The Committee notes with regret the State party's lack of compliance with the follow-up procedure as well as the incomplete responses provided by the delegation during the dialogue to the Committee's recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 11, 18 and 31 of its previous concluding observations (CAT/C/JOR/CO/2).

Definition of torture

9. While noting the information provided by the delegation about the ongoing legal reform aimed at bringing the State party's Penal Code in line with the Convention, the Committee remains concerned that the definition of torture in the Penal Code (article 208) is not in line with articles 1 and 4 of the Convention. In particular the Committee is concerned that torture is considered a misdemeanour and that punishments are not commensurate to the gravity of the acts and are subject to amnesty as well as to status of limitation. The Committee is also concerned that punishment is limited to individuals who order or carry out acts of torture and does not extend to individuals who are otherwise complicit in such acts (arts. 1 and 4).

10. **The Committee urges the State party to adopt a definition of torture that covers all elements contained in article 1 of the Convention and ensure that torture is considered a crime and that penalties for torture are commensurate with the gravity of this crime in accordance with article 4, paragraph 2 of the Convention, and not subject to amnesty or pardon. It should also ensure that the scope of the definition of torture is extended to anyone who commits acts of torture, attempts to commit torture, or instigate, consents to or acquiesces to the commission of such acts. In this regard, the Committee draws attention to its general comment no. 2 (2007) on the implementation of article 2 by States parties, which states that serious discrepancies between the Convention's definition and that incorporated into domestic law create actual or potential loopholes for impunity. It further recommends that the State party take steps to include in the Penal Code a provision on the non-applicability of statutory limitations to the crime of torture.**

Absolute prohibition of torture

11. The Committee is concerned that there is no clear provision in the State party's legislation to ensure that the prohibition against torture is absolute and non-derogable. While noting that article 61 of the State party's Criminal Code stipulates that a person shall not be held criminally liable while obeying an order issued by a competent authority that must be obeyed by law, unless that order is illegal, the Committee expresses its concern about the lack of information on whether mechanisms or procedures for protecting subordinates from reprisals exist so as to enable subordinates to refuse to obey illegal orders in practice (art. 2).

12. **The State party should ensure that the principle of the absolute prohibition of torture is incorporated in its legislation and ensure its strict application, in accordance with article 2, paragraph 2, of the Convention. The State party should ensure that an order from a superior officer may not be invoked as a justification of torture, and to this end establish a mechanism for the protection of subordinates who refuse to obey such an order, and ensure that all law enforcement officers are informed of the prohibition of obeying unlawful order and are made aware of the protective mechanisms that are in place.**

Refugees and non-refoulement

13. While appreciating the State party's efforts to host an exceptional number of refugees fleeing armed conflict from neighbouring countries, the Committee expresses its concern about the living conditions in refugee camps that may amount to ill-treatment. It also takes note of the delegation's statement that the principle of non-refoulement is being practically applied, however remains concerned at reports of inconsistent border policies. In this regard, it notes with concern the State party's policy to not admit into its borders Palestinian refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria. It also notes the several cases of refoulement of such persons to Syria, without the necessary individualized procedures. The Committee is also concerned at reports indicating the State party's involvement in 'extraordinary renditions' in the context of war against terrorism (art. 3, 12 and 13).

14. The State party should:

- (a) Take effective measures to enhance living conditions in refugee camps;**
- (b) Strengthen its domestic legislative framework by adopting a comprehensive law on asylum consistent with international standards and in accordance with article 3 of the Convention;**
- (c) Abolish its policy to not admit Palestinian refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria and refrain from deporting them to Syria, if they crossed the borders;**
- (d) Ensure procedural safeguards against refoulement and effective remedies with respect to refoulement claims in removal proceedings, including review by an independent judicial body concerning rejections;**
- (e) Ensure that no one who is at any time under its control becomes the object of an "extraordinary rendition", and should conduct effective, impartial investigations into any and all cases of "extraordinary rendition" in which the State party may have played a role and bring to light the facts surrounding such cases. It should also prosecute and punish those responsible for such renditions and compensate victims;**
- (f) Consider ratifying the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

Withdrawal of nationality or national number

15. Notwithstanding the explanations provided by the delegation, the Committee remains concerned about reports indicating arbitrary revocation of citizenship or withdrawal of national ID numbers from Jordanians of Palestinian origin, thus subjecting them to risk of unlawful expulsion and compromising their rights to education and health care, among other rights (arts. 3 and 16).

16. The Committee reiterates its recommendations (CAT/C/JOR/CO/2, para 24) to the State party to put an end to its arbitrary withdrawal of national ID numbers from Jordanians of Palestinian origin. It further must ensure that decisions concerning nationality revocation are taken by a competent authority and meet relevant international criteria, including the concerned persons' right to be heard and challenge such decisions.

Fundamental legal safeguards

17. The Committee takes note of the procedural safeguards set out in articles 100 and 113, among others, of the Code of Criminal Procedure. It regrets, however the absence of an explicit provision on the right to access a lawyer immediately upon arrest; that articles

63(2) and 64(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code allow the interrogation of detainees without the presence of a lawyer ‘in case of urgency’; and, that article 66 (1) of the same Code allows the public prosecutor to prohibit communication with a detainee for a period of not more than 10 days, renewable. The Committee is also concerned at the State party’s failure to ensure the application of these and other fundamental legal safeguards to prevent torture and ill-treatment. In that respect, the Committee is concerned by consistent reports that detainees, in particular those held in facilities of the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) and the Public Security Directorate (PSD), are frequently deprived of timely access to a lawyer and a medical doctor, and of their right to notify a person of their choice. It is also concerned by allegations regarding the failure to adhere to the 24-hour limit for detainees to be brought before a competent authority, and to ensure the confidentiality of client-lawyer consultations (art. 2).

18. The State party should ensure that all detainees are afforded, by law and in practice, all fundamental legal safeguards from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty, including the right to be assisted by a lawyer without delay; the right to have immediate access to an independent medical doctor, regardless of any medical examination that may be conducted at the request of the authorities; to be informed of the reasons for arrest and the nature of any charges against them in a language that they understand; to be registered at the place of detention; to inform promptly a close relative or a third party concerning their arrest; to be brought before a judge without delay; and, the right to confidential consultations with lawyers.

Pre-trial detention

19. The Committee is concerned about the high number of inmates placed in pre-trial detention. It is also concerned that as a result, on remand inmates are not systematically separated from convicted prisoners as well as children from adults (arts 2, 11 and 16).

20. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to reduce the number of inmates placed in pre-trial detention, including by resorting to alternatives to imprisonment. The State party should also ensure the separation of pre-trial detainees in all places of detention from convicted prisoners and minors from adults.

Administrative detention

21. The Committee is highly concerned at the continuous recourse to administrative detention by the State party under the Crimes Prevention Act (1954) which allows for detention without charge and raises issues about the separation of powers between the executive and judicial branches. It is particularly concerned at the increasing number of persons held in administrative detention and for long periods during which detainees are deprived of procedural guarantees. It is also concerned that administrative detention is used in particular against women and girls victims of violence under the pretext of protecting them, as well as against migrant workers who fled abusive employers (arts 1, 2, 11 and 16).

22. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CAT/C/JOR/CO/2, para 13) to abolish the practice of administrative detention, including and in particular against holding women and girls who are victims of violence in ‘protective custody’ as well as migrant workers who have fled abusive employers. It should also ensure that guarantees exist regarding all fundamental procedural safeguards for all detainees. The State party should take immediate measures to amend the Crimes Prevention Act with a view to bringing it in compliance with international human rights standards and with the State party’s obligations under the Convention; alternatively, the State party should abolish the Crimes Prevention Act.

Reports of torture and ill-treatment

23. The Committee is concerned about consistent reports of widespread use of torture and ill-treatment of suspects by security and law enforcement officials, especially in detention facilities run by the General Intelligence Directorate as well as at the Criminal Investigations and Drugs Combatting Departments belonging to the Public Security Directorate, primarily to extract confessions or information to be used in criminal proceedings (arts. 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16).

24. **The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations (CAT/C/JOR/CO/2, para 16) to place all State security departments, notably the General Intelligence Directorate, under civilian authority and oversight, and to limit the powers of the Directorate. It further urges the State party to:**

(a) **Ensure that all instances and allegations of torture and ill-treatment are investigated promptly, effectively and impartially, and that perpetrators are prosecuted and convicted in accordance with the gravity of their acts, as required by article 4 of the Convention;**

(b) **Continue installing and maintaining video recordings of all interrogations and installing video surveillance in all areas of custody facilities where detainees may be present, except in cases where detainees' right to privacy or to confidential communication with their lawyer or doctor may be violated. Such recordings should be kept in secure facilities and be made available to investigators, detainees and lawyers;**

(c) **Unambiguously reaffirm the absolute prohibition of torture and publicly warn that anyone committing such acts or otherwise complicit or acquiescent in torture will be held personally responsible before the law for such acts and will be subject to criminal prosecution and appropriate penalties.**

Death in custody

25. The Committee is alarmed by the several cases of death of inmates in custody in 2015, namely the death of Ibrahim Abdullah El-Kadri, Omar El-Naser and Abdullah El-Zoabi. It is also concerned that while the case of Mr Sultan Alkhatatbi who died in Jandawil detention facility in 2013, was referred to the Police Court, despite the lapse of time the court case is still pending (arts. 2, 11 and 16).

26. **The State party should expedite the investigations into all cases of death in custody, which must adhere to international standards of investigation, bring perpetrators to justice, and punish them accordingly, if convicted.**

Reports of attacks against journalists

27. The Committee is concerned at reports alleging cases of excessive use of police force in dispersing demonstrations, including and in particular against journalists, which may amount to ill treatment or torture. The Committee is concerned that investigations into police and security forces use of force against journalists in relation to demonstrations that took place in April and in July 2011 were carried out by the Public Security Directorate that is employing the alleged perpetrators, and that such investigations resulted only with disciplinary measures against perpetrators in relation to the demonstration of July 2011 while none of the alleged perpetrators was prosecuted.

28. **The State party should:**

(a) **Carry out prompt, impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all allegations of excessive use of force, including torture and ill-treatment, by law**

enforcement officials; and ensure that those suspected of having committed such acts are immediately suspended from their duties throughout the investigation, while ensuring that the principle of presumption of innocence is observed;

(b) Prosecute persons suspected of having committed torture or ill-treatment against journalists in the above-mentioned events;

(c) Take immediate measures to eradicate all forms of harassment and ill-treatment by law enforcement during demonstrations and ensure that law enforcement officials are trained in professional techniques not to use force unless strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty.

29. The Committee is also concerned that the vague definition of a terrorist act in the Prevention of Terrorism Law, including the charge of "harming relations with a foreign country", and the existence of restrictive provisions in the Jordanian Penal Code on the freedom of media and publication, have resulted in substantial constraints on the work of journalists, many of whom were subject to arbitrary detention in the absence of procedural guarantees and face criminal charges before the State Security Court for allegedly violating the above-mentioned laws (arts. 2, 12, 13 and 16).

30. **The Committee recommends that the State party remove the obstacles affecting the work of journalists, including by introducing the necessary amendments to the Prevention of Terrorism Law and the Penal Code, and provide effective protection against arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists, including by prosecuting and punishing those responsible for such acts.**

Monitoring detention centres

31. While noting that article 10 of Law No. 51 empowers Jordan National Center for Human Rights to visit all correction and rehabilitation facilities, the Committee is concerned that the Center is unable to make unannounced visits to detention facilities run by the General Intelligence Directorate, and that in reality only a limited number of visits to the GID were carried out by the Center during the period under review. It further regrets the lack of information on steps taken by the State party to follow-up on visits reports as well as on measures taken to implement recommendations put forward by the Center. The Committee is also concerned at the limited resources allocated to the Center. Finally, it expresses its concern that NGOs are not granted access to correction and rehabilitation centers (arts. 2, 11 and 16).

32. **The State party should ensure that Jordan National Center for Human Rights is granted access to all facilities of detention and is able to carry out unannounced and regular visits to all such facilities. Alternatively, the State party should establish an independent monitoring mechanism mandated to carry out regular and unannounced visits to all places of detention. The Committee also calls on the State party to closely study the recommendations put forward by the Center following their visits to detention facilities and take appropriate steps to implement these recommendations, including and in particular where allegations of torture or ill-treatment are raised in these reports. To this end, the State party should increase the resources allocated to the Center so as to enable it to discharge its role effectively. The Committee encourages the State party to grant NGOs access to places of detention. It further invites the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.**

Complaint and investigation mechanisms

33. The Committee is concerned about the State party's continuous failure to establish an independent mechanism to carry out investigations of ill-treatment and torture allegations. In this regard, it is concerned that existing complaints mechanism, such as

submitting a complaint to the director of the prison, or to the PSD Legal Affairs or the PSD's Grievances and Human Rights Office, lack confidentiality and fail to protect complainants and witnesses, whilst existing investigation bodies, principally the public prosecutors, lack the necessary independence as they are placed within the same structure employing the alleged perpetrators. Furthermore, the Committee expresses concern about reports that inmates and prisoners are pressured to not lodge, or withdraw, complaints otherwise complainants risk being subject to reprisals. The Committee is also concerned that only a few ill-treatment or torture complaints have led to prosecution and none has resulted in a conviction (arts. 2, 12, 13 and 16).

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

(a) **Establish an independent complaint and investigation mechanism that complies with the requirement of institutional independence in order to avoid conflict of interest in the investigation of complaints by peers;**

(b) **Ensure that all complaints of torture or ill-treatment are promptly investigated in an impartial manner and that suspected perpetrators are duly tried and, if found guilty, are punished in a manner that is commensurate with the gravity of their acts;**

(c) **Ensure that the authorities launch investigations on their own initiative whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture or ill-treatment has been committed;**

(d) **Ensure that alleged perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment are immediately suspended from duty for the duration of the investigation;**

(e) **Ensure that complainants are protected against any ill-treatment, intimidation or reprisals as a consequence of their complaint, and that appropriate disciplinary, or where relevant, criminal measures, are taken against law enforcement officials for such actions.**

Anti-terrorism measures

35. The Committee is concerned that the amendments introduced to Law No. (18) on the Prevention of Terrorism in 2014 broadened the already vague definition of terrorist acts and expanded the jurisdiction of the State Security Court to hear cases that allegedly disturb the public order (arts 2 and 16).

36. **The Committee urges the State party to review the Law on the Prevention of Terrorism and ensure that definitions of terrorism and terrorist act are concise and compatible with the State party's obligations under the Convention.**

Special courts

37. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of special courts system in the State party, including the Police Court and the State Security Court. While noting the information provided by the delegation about the integration of civil judges in the Police Court and the amendment of the Public Security Law in 2015 stipulating the establishment of a Police Appeal Court, the Committee remains concerned about the reported lack of independence and impartiality of these courts, which hinders the full enjoyment of human rights, such as the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment. The Committee is further concerned that in reality although only a very limited number of cases concerning torture or ill-treatment have been referred to the Police Court, judicial processing of such cases is very slow (arts. 2, 11 and 12).

38. **The Committee recommends that the State party rectify this long-standing issue by transferring the jurisdiction to try personnel of public security directorate to regular courts and thus prosecuting cases of torture and ill-treatment carried out by officials through the regular civil courts. The Committee also urges the State party to abolish the State Security Court, in line with the recommendation put forward by the Human Rights Committee in 2010 (CCPR/C/JOR/CO/4, para 12).**

Gender-based violence

39. The Committee, while noting the information provided by the delegation on the draft law on the protection against domestic violence, expresses its serious concern that gender-based violence, including domestic violence and crimes committed in the name of “honour”, remains widespread in the State party. While taking notes of the information concerning the ongoing legal reform carried out in the State party, the Committee remains concerned about the persistence of provisions 308, 340, 98 and 99 of the Penal Code, that exempt rapists from criminal liability in the event of marrying the victim, and allow for reduced sentences in certain circumstances for perpetrators in crimes committed under the pretext of family ‘honour’, thus allowing perpetrators to escape punishment. The Committee further regrets the lack of information on the results of court cases concerning gender based violence, including sentences and punishments (arts. 1, 2, 4, 12 and 16).

40. **The State party should:**

(a) Intensify its measures to combat all forms of violence and women and ensure that all such cases are thoroughly investigated, perpetrators are prosecuted, and that victims obtain redress, including fair and adequate compensation;

(b) Finalise the enactment of the draft law on the protection against domestic violence and take effective measures to ensure its implementation in practice, including by issuing the necessary implementation mechanisms and sensitizing the law enforcement personnel, judiciary, prosecutors, lawyers and social workers to the new law;

(c) Repeal without further delay any mitigating and exculpatory provisions in the Penal Code concerning rape and “honour” crimes and act promptly to end impunity for rape, so called ‘honour’ crimes and other gender-based violence;

(d) Provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the number of complaints, investigations, prosecution, convictions and sanctions in cases of gender-based violence.

Training

41. While taking note of the information provided by the delegation on existing training programmes on ‘anger management’ and torture prevention organized by the Public Security Directorate, the Committee remains concerned about the limited information on the effectiveness of these training. The Committee appreciates the information provided by the delegation about the new guidelines for prosecutors that include the Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol) as an annex, however it regrets the lack of specific training provided to law enforcement officials, judges, prosecutors, forensic doctors and medical personnel dealing with detained persons on how to detect and document physical and psychological sequelae of torture (art. 10).

42. **The State party should:**

(a) Develop and apply a methodology for assessing how effective training programmes are in reducing the number of cases of torture and ill-treatment and in ensuring the investigation and prosecution of these acts;

(b) Ensure that all relevant staff, including medical personnel are specifically trained to identify cases of torture and ill-treatment, in accordance with the Istanbul Protocol.

Conditions of detention

43. The Committee is concerned that despite some measures taken to improve detention conditions, including through the establishment of new correction and rehabilitation centers, serious challenges in detention facilities persist. In particular, the overcrowding, poor sanitation, shortage in medical and health care as well as in blankets and adequate food (arts. 11 and 16).

44. **The State party should:**

(a) Continue the efforts to alleviate overcrowding of detention facilities, including through the application of alternative measures to imprisonment, as indicated by the delegation during the dialogue, and the increase of budgetary allocations to develop and renovate the infrastructure of prisons and other detention facilities;

(b) Take effective measures to improve sanitation, quality of food, and the health services and facilities available to inmates and prisoners;

(c) Ensure the application of the minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners in line with relevant international human rights standards.

Women migrant workers

45. The Committee is concerned at the persistent economic and physical exploitation of women migrant workers, especially domestic workers, coupled with insufficient regular inspection visits to monitor their working conditions. It is also concerned about the lack of information concerning prosecution of abusive employers (arts. 12, 13 and 16).

46. **The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its measures to address the situation of women migrant workers, including by ensuring effective implementation of labour laws and increasing inspection visits to migrant workers' workplaces and dormitories. The State party should also facilitate victims access to justice, investigate thoroughly all complaints and bring perpetrators to justice and if convicted punish them accordingly.**

Redress and rehabilitation

47. While bearing in mind article 256 of the Jordanian Civil Code which enables plaintiffs to seek damages from perpetrators for injuries suffered, the Committee is concerned about the lack of explicit provisions in domestic legislation that provides for the right of victims of torture and ill-treatment to fair and adequate compensation, including the means for as full rehabilitation as possible, as required by article 14 of the Convention. Apart from one court case of 2014 in which a plaintiff was ordered compensation for having been subjected to unlawful detention, the Committee regrets that the delegation failed to provide other information on reparation and compensation measures ordered by the courts or other State bodies since the entry into force of the Convention in the State party. The Committee also regrets the lack of information on treatment and social rehabilitation services and other forms of assistance, including medical and psycho-social rehabilitation, provided to victims (art. 14).

48. **The State party should review its legislation to include explicit provisions on the right of victims of torture and ill-treatment to redress, including fair and adequate compensation and rehabilitation, which among others ensure that victims may seek and obtain prompt, fair and adequate compensation, including in cases where the civil liability of the State party is involved, in accordance with article 14 of the Convention. It should, in practice, provide all victims of torture or ill-treatment with redress, including fair and adequate compensation, and as full rehabilitation as possible. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State establish a rehabilitation programme, including appropriate medical and psychological assistance, for victims and allocate the necessary resources for its effective implementation. The State party should provide the Committee with statistical data on cases in which the State party has provided compensation to victims of torture or ill-treatment, as well as the amount of the compensation. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its general comment no. 3 (2012) on the implementation of article 14 by States parties, which clarifies the content and scope of the obligations of States parties to provide full redress to victims of torture.**

Coerced confessions

49. While taking note of the legal safeguards enshrined in the Jordanian Constitution establishing the inadmissibility of evidence obtained through torture and in article 159 of the State party's Criminal Procedure Code invalidating evidence or proof obtained by means of physical or moral coercion, the Committee is concerned that, in practice, coerced confessions or statements are still used as admissible evidence in courts. The Committee remains concerned about the apparent failure to investigate those allegations, and about the lack of information on officials prosecuted and punished for extracting such confessions (art. 15).

50. **The State party should adopt effective measures to guarantee that coerced confessions or statements are inadmissible in practice, except when invoked against a person accused of torture as evidence that the statement was made. The State party should also ensure that law enforcement officials, judges and lawyers receive training on how to detect and investigate cases in which confessions are obtained under torture. Furthermore, it should ensure that officials who extract such confessions are brought to justice, prosecuted and punished accordingly.**

Follow-up procedure

51. The Committee requests the State party to provide, by 9 December 2016, follow-up information in response to the Committee's recommendations relating to: the fundamental legal safeguards, administrative detention, special courts, and coerced confessions, as contained in paragraphs 18, 22, 38 and 50 respectively of the present document. In the same context, the State party is invited to inform the Committee about its plans for implementing within the coming reporting period, some or all of the remaining recommendations in the concluding observations.

Other issues

52. The Committee encourages the State party to consider making the declaration under article 22 of the Convention, recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider communications from individuals subject to its jurisdiction.

53. The Committee invites the State party to ratify the core United Nations human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, namely 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.

54. The State party is requested to disseminate widely the report submitted to the Committee and the present concluding observations, in appropriate languages, through official websites, the media and non-governmental organizations.

55. The State party is invited to submit its fourth periodic report, by 9 December 2019. To that end, the Committee will in due course submit to the State party a list of issues prior to reporting, in view of the fact that the State party has agreed to report to the Committee under the simplified reporting procedure. The State party is also invited to submit its common core document in accordance with the requirements contained in the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties (HRI/GEN.2/Rev.6).
