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Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with  
paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council  
resolution 16/21**

**Bahamas**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner due to word-limit constraints. For the full text, please refer to the document referenced. This report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of OHCHR other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review and developments during that period.

## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations<sup>1</sup>

#### International human rights treaties<sup>2</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1975) CEDAW (1993) CRC (1991)	ICESCR (2008) ICCPR (2008) CAT (signature only, 2008)	ICCPR-OP2 CAT (signature only, 2008) OP-CAT OP-CRC-AC OP-CRC-SC ICRMW CRPD CPED
<i>Reservations, declarations and/or understandings</i>	ICERD (Interpretative declaration, art. 4, 1975)  CEDAW (Reservation, arts. 2a, 9.2, 16.1.h and 29.1, 1993)  CRC (Reservation, art. 2, 1991)	ICESCR (Declaration, 2008)  ICCPR (Reservation, art. 14.6, 2008)  CEDAW (Withdrawal reservation, art. 16.1.h, 2011)	
<i>Complaint procedures, inquiry and urgent action<sup>3</sup></i>			ICERD, art. 14 OP-ICESCR ICCPR, art. 41 ICCPR-OP1 OP-CEDAW CAT, arts. 20, 21 and 22 OP-CRC-IC ICRMW, arts. 76 and 77 OP-CRPD CPED, arts. 31 and 32

**Other main relevant international instruments**

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Refugees <sup>4</sup>	Palermo Protocol <sup>7</sup>	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II <sup>5</sup>		Additional Protocol III of Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 <sup>8</sup>
	ILO fundamental conventions <sup>6</sup>		Stateless persons <sup>9</sup>
			UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education
			ILO Convention Nos. 169 and 189 <sup>10</sup>

1. The Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) welcomed the withdrawal of the reservation to article 16 (h) in 2011,<sup>11</sup> and encouraged the Bahamas to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention,<sup>12</sup> and to consider ratifying CAT, ICRMW, CPED, CRPD<sup>13</sup> and ILO Convention No. 189.<sup>14</sup>

2. UNHCR recommended that the Bahamas accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.<sup>15</sup>

**B. Constitutional and legislative framework**

3. CEDAW remained concerned that Bahamas's Constitution and national legislation did not contain an explicit definition of discrimination and recommended that the Bahamas, in partnership with the Constitutional Review Commission, repeal article 26 (1) of the Constitution and ensure that an explicit definition of discrimination, as well as provisions on the equal rights of women, be included in the Constitution or in other appropriate legislation; and withdraw its reservation to article 2 (a) of the Convention.<sup>16</sup>

4. CEDAW remained concerned that Bahamas had not undertaken a comprehensive revision of domestic law or enacted new legislation to domesticate the entire Convention as part of the national law. It urged a comprehensive revision of domestic law and enactment of new legislation so that all discriminatory provisions are reviewed and repealed.<sup>17</sup>

5. UNHCR noted that although the Bahamas has ratified the CRC, the Constitution fails to make provision for the grant of Bahamian nationality to foundlings on its territory, and therefore recommended the amendment of provisions of the Constitution. UNHCR reported that the Bahamas officially appointed the 13-member commission that will look into amending the Constitution, including the need to end gender-based discrimination against women consistent with UN Conventions and recommended the amendment of those discriminatory provisions, to allow women to pass their nationality to their children or to their spouses of foreign nationality on an equal basis with men.<sup>18</sup>

## C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

6. CEDAW recommended that the Bahamas establish a national human rights commission in compliance with the Paris Principles and provide it with sufficient resources, independent commissioners, a broad human rights mandate and a specific mandate on gender equality and ensure that its composition and activities are gender-sensitive.<sup>19</sup>

7. CEDAW noted the launching of various initiatives to combat violence against women, including the campaign “Domestic Violence is Everyone’s Business”<sup>20</sup> launched in 2012. It also recommended strengthening the financial and human resources allocated to the Bureau for Women’s Affairs and finalizing and accelerating the adoption of the National Gender Policy.<sup>21</sup>

8. CEDAW recommended the Bahamas to seek cooperation and technical assistance in the development and implementation of the Convention and strengthen its cooperation with specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.<sup>22</sup>

9. The ILO Committee of Experts hoped that a national policy on child labour will be elaborated soon.<sup>23</sup>

### Status of national human rights institutions

<i>National human rights institution</i> <sup>24</sup>	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Status during present cycle</i> <sup>25</sup>
Bahamas	No institution	No institution

## II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

### A. Cooperation with treaty bodies<sup>26</sup>

#### 1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	March 2004	–	–	Fifteenth to sixteenth reports overdue since 2006
CESCR	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 2010
HR Committee	–	–	–	Initial report overdue since 2010
CEDAW	–	2011	July 2012	Sixth report due 2016
CRC	January 2005	–	–	Second to fourth reports overdue since 2008

## 2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

### *Concluding observations*

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
CEDAW	2014	Temporary Special Measures; Violence against women. <sup>27</sup>	–

## B. Cooperation with special procedures<sup>28</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	No
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	–	–
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>	–	–
<i>Visits requested</i>	–	–
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, no communications were sent.	

## III. Implementation of international human rights obligations

### A. Equality and non-discrimination

10. CEDAW expressed deep concern at adverse cultural norms, practices and traditions as well as patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles, responsibilities and identities of women and men. It recommended Bahamas to put in place a comprehensive strategy with result-oriented approach to eliminate stereotypes that discriminate against women in the family, the workplace, in politics and in society and in collaboration with civil society.<sup>29</sup>

11. CEDAW encouraged Bahamas to implement temporary special measures in all areas covered by the Convention where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, including for women in situation of poverty, migrant women and women with disabilities.<sup>30</sup>

12. UNHCR and CEDAW were concerned that Bahamas did not see itself bound by the provisions of article 9, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention, based on a Constitutional Referendum vote against the withdrawal of the provision preventing women from passing their nationality to their children or to their spouses of foreign nationality.<sup>31</sup> UNHCR noted that, under the Constitution, children born abroad to Bahamian mothers cannot acquire nationality at birth; only children born of Bahamian fathers can do so which may lead to statelessness of children, while only men have the right to confer their citizenship on their foreign spouses, whereas Bahamian women do not have an equivalent right.<sup>32</sup> CEDAW recommended raising awareness among the population on the equal rights of women and men with regard to transmission of nationality; amending its Constitution and relevant domestic laws to grant Bahamian women equal rights with men in this regard; and withdraw its reservation to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Convention.<sup>33</sup>

13. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that the Employment Act 2001 prohibits discrimination but does not include the grounds of colour, national extraction and social origin, and hoped that the Government will amend section 6(a) of the Act.<sup>34</sup> The Committee noted the occupational segregation of men and women, including in the higher occupational category of senior officials and managers. It also recalled that, despite higher numbers of women graduating from training courses, women remain concentrated in so-called typically female occupations.<sup>35</sup>

## **B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

14. The Special Rapporteur on Torture noted information provided by the Government in 2009 in response to a communication sent in 2006, where it stated that it planned to take steps to repeal corporal punishment.<sup>36</sup>

15. UNHCR noted the adoption of a new policy of sharing screening forms with UNHCR of asylum-seekers and seeking the consent of UNHCR on asylum seekers claims. UNHCR in that regard encouraged the Bahamas to adopt national refugee legislation and facilitate full and open access to asylum procedures for persons who have expressed a credible fear of returning to their country of origin and to ensure that safeguards against refoulement are fully implemented. UNHCR was concerned that the Government routinely shares detainees' information with authorities in their country of origin and strongly recommended that the Bahamas fully respect the principle of confidentiality with regard to information on asylum applications and refrain from sharing migrants' information with government authorities in their countries of origin. This is particularly problematic for persons whose asylum claims are based on State persecution.<sup>37</sup> UNHCR encouraged the Bahamas to find durable solutions for the refugees who have been residing in the Bahamas for several years and whose permanent residency applications remain pending with the Cabinet.<sup>38</sup>

16. UNHCR noted that all persons entering the Bahamas in violation of the immigration law, including asylum-seekers, are usually detained; and there is no maximum length of detention specified in the law. UNHCR informed that migrants were interdicted at sea and arrested onshore for unlawful status in the Bahamas. They are held at the Carmichael Detention Centre, sometimes for extended periods; and systematic deportations from Carmichael are conducted. Following concerns raised in 2009, the Government conducted an investigation of conditions in the Carmichael Detention Centre; however, the Government did not make the results of the report public.<sup>39</sup> UNHCR reported that detention conditions at Carmichael are substandard and human rights organizations have extensively documented serious concerns relating to the inhumane treatment and physical and psychological abuse of detainees.<sup>40</sup>

17. CEDAW was concerned about high prevalence of violence, including rape, and persistence of domestic violence. It urged the Bahamas to adopt a comprehensive law, plan and strategy addressing violence against women and girls; raise awareness on marital rape; amend the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act to criminalize marital rape; ensure speedy access to justice of gender-based violence victims; and provide them with assistance and protection.<sup>41</sup>

18. UNHCR acknowledged efforts made by the Government of the Bahamas to curb human trafficking. It noted that by the end of 2010, the director of public prosecutions established a special cadre of prosecutors to prosecute trafficking cases. These prosecutors investigated officials for misconduct, but the Government did not report on the findings of the investigations or prosecutions of such officials.<sup>42</sup> CEDAW remained concerned about the absence of effective implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Act and cases brought before the court since the Act came into force. It recommended ensuring its effective enforcement as also highlighted by UNHCR.<sup>43</sup> UNHCR also encouraged the Bahamas to

thoroughly and transparently investigate suspected traffickers, develop standardized procedures to identify trafficking victims, and allocate resources to victims, in need of international protection, who should be given the opportunity to seek asylum.<sup>44</sup> CEDAW remained concerned about the absence of policies and programmes for victims of trafficking and recommended Bahamas to finalize the draft national Plan of Action; strengthen mechanisms for the investigation, prosecution and punishment of trafficking offenders; develop policies and programmes addressing prevention, protection, assistance and legal support; take measures to eliminate child pornography and raise awareness among the tourism industry; and review its prostitution policy and relevant legislation, particularly the Sexual Offences Domestic Violence Act (1991).<sup>45</sup>

19. In its 2009 direct request, the ILO Committee of Experts noted that girls aged 12 were sexually exploited through prostitution and that schoolgirls posed nude for photographs in exchange for money and food. The Committee noted there was no legislative or institutional mandate for a systemic review of the national child labour situation.<sup>46</sup>

20. The ILO Committee of Experts requested the Government to provide the text of any legislation prohibiting the sale and trafficking of children under 18 for labour exploitation or indicate progress made towards the adoption of such legislation. It also requested the Government to adopt appropriate penalties for such human rights violations.<sup>47</sup> The Committee requested the Government to take immediate and effective measures to prohibit the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs, and to adopt appropriate sanctions.<sup>48</sup>

21. The ILO Committee of Experts hoped that necessary measures will be taken to amend the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act announced by the Government for a number of years, either by repealing sanctions involving compulsory labour or by restricting their application to situations where the ship or the life or health of persons are endangered.<sup>49</sup> The Committee hoped that no sanctions involving compulsory labour could be imposed for the fact of participating in a peaceful strike.<sup>50</sup>

### **C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

22. CEDAW was concerned about the limited cases brought before court for redress in instances of discrimination against women. It recommended that Bahamas ensure that the Convention is known and applied by all branches of the Government and the judiciary as a framework for all laws, court decisions and policies on gender equality and that they are made an integral part of the training for judges, lawyers, prosecutors, police and other law enforcement officers; enhance women's awareness of their rights and means to enforce them; and provide information on the Convention to all women and men, particularly in the Family Islands.<sup>51</sup>

23. CEDAW was concerned at the divided structure of the family court system, which severely hampers women's access to justice in family matters; and the fact that, although the courts recognize the rights of de facto unions regarding property during the relationship and on its breakdown, there are no legal provisions governing de facto unions, which may deny women protection and redress in case of separation or violence against women. It encouraged Bahamas to establish a unified family court system.<sup>52</sup>

#### **D. Freedom of association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life**

24. A 2012 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament was 12.2 per cent in 2012.<sup>53</sup>

25. CEDAW recommended that Bahamas ensure women access to all areas of political and public life, including at high decision-making levels; adopt temporary special measures, such as quotas, to increase the number of women in political and public life and in decision-making positions; and implement awareness-raising activities for the society.<sup>54</sup>

#### **E. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

26. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that the Labour Relations Act does not apply in the prison service and requested the Government to guarantee workers the right to organize and hoped it will be amended soon. The Committee requested the Government to ensure the right of workers' organizations to recourse to strike and indicate measures taken or envisaged in this respect. The Committee recalled that no penal sanction should be imposed against a worker for having carried out a peaceful strike and therefore measures of imprisonment should not be imposed on any account.<sup>55</sup>

27. The ILO Committee of Experts asked the Government to take the necessary measures to ensure no discretionary power is conferred to the registrar to refuse the registration of trade unions or employers' organizations and to provide information on any measures taken or envisaged in this respect.<sup>56</sup>

28. The ILO Committee of Experts hoped that the Government amend sections 6 and 2(1) of the Employment Act 2001 in line with the Convention on Equal Remuneration Convention No. 100.<sup>57</sup> The Committee recalled that section 6(b) of the Act is narrower than what is required under the Convention in that it limits the application of work of equal value to comparing work performed in the same establishment, and where the work requires substantially the same skill, effort and responsibility and which is performed under similar working conditions.<sup>58</sup> CEDAW also recommended the Bahamas to enact legislation guaranteeing the principle of "equal pay for work of equal value" in all areas of work; adopt effective measures to eliminate occupational segregation based on stereotypes related to gender; bring in line with ILO Convention No. 103 legal provisions related to entitlement, among others, to maternity leave and protection against dismissal during maternity leave; implement employment policies to reduce unequal rates/higher level of unemployment of women; and enforce legal provisions protecting against sexual harassment and violence against women in the workplace.<sup>59</sup>

29. The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations noted the adoption of the Child Protection Act (2007).<sup>60</sup> It noted section 7(1) of the Act and hoped necessary measures will soon be taken to establish the minimum age for admission to hazardous work at 18 years and adopt legal provisions determining the types of hazardous work to be prohibited to people less than 18 years of age.<sup>61</sup>

#### **F. Right to health**

30. A 2012 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the children under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 16 in 2010.<sup>62</sup>

31. CEDAW called on Bahamas to ensure women's access to adequate health facilities and services, contraceptives and sexual and reproductive health services and mental health



services, including in the Family Islands; promote education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including by, inter alia, awareness-raising on early pregnancy and contraceptive use for family planning and sexually transmitted disease prevention; combat HIV/AIDS and give assistance to women and girls infected with HIV/AIDS; prevent breast cancer; and broaden the conditions under which abortion can be legally available including in instances of rape and incest.<sup>63</sup>

## **G. Right to education**

32. A 2012 United Nations Statistics Division source indicated that the net enrolment ratio in primary education increased from 97.2 per cent in 2009 to 97.8 in 2010.<sup>64</sup>

33. CEDAW remained concerned about some barriers that women face regarding the right to education. Therefore, it recommended eliminating these barriers that prevent women from attending adult education and literacy classes; ensuring that the curriculum content is gender sensitive, gender responsive and addresses the equality between women and men principle; and reviewing the educational textbooks and the family life and health education (FLHE) curriculum to eliminate remaining gender stereotypes.<sup>65</sup>

34. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that, according to the 2008 EFA UNESCO Report, the Bahamas is at risk of not achieving the EFA goal by 2015. It strongly encouraged the Government to improve the education system and requested it to increase school enrolment rates at both primary and secondary school levels.<sup>66</sup>

## **H. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers**

35. UNHCR noted that Bahamas has no refugee legislation and no regulatory framework to implement its obligations under the 1951 Convention, treating asylum-seekers and refugees on an ad hoc basis, with no access to judicial remedies. Migrant populations in the Bahamas include a complex mix of economic migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, victims of trafficking, and other individuals with protection needs such as undocumented and unaccompanied minors and people with undetermined nationality.<sup>67</sup>

36. UNHCR noted that, during an average year, the Bahamas intercepts, detains, and returns hundreds of different nationalities. During 2011, despite calls from UNHCR and OHCHR to stop all involuntary returns of Haitian nationals on humanitarian grounds following Haiti's 2010 earthquake, they repatriated 2,392 Haitians. There are an estimated 30,000 or more Haitians residing in an irregular manner in the Bahamas. UNHCR reported that the Bahamas is also looking into granting permanent residency for long term recognized refugees in the Bahamas.<sup>68</sup>

37. UNHCR and CEDAW were concerned about the penalization of asylum seekers for illegal entry and stay in Bahamas and the inadequate detention conditions, particularly for women and children. They recommended ensuring that they are not penalized; using detention as a last resort where necessary and for a short period; implementing safeguards against refoulement; and improving the detention conditions for women asylum seekers, in accordance with international standards.<sup>69</sup> UNHCR recommended considering alternatives to their detention.<sup>70</sup>

38. UNHCR noted that the Bahamas have no specific provisions in national legislation to either avoid situations of statelessness or to extend protection to stateless individuals who are lawfully present. The threat of statelessness primarily affects Bahamian-born Haitians who cannot always gather or obtain official documents confirming their Haitian nationality.<sup>71</sup>

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Bahamas from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/3/BHS/2).
- <sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| ICERD      | International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination                             |
| ICESCR     | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;   |
| OP-ICESCR  | Optional Protocol to ICESCR   |
| ICCPR      | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;   |
| ICCPR-OP 1 | Optional Protocol to ICCPR  |
| ICCPR-OP 2 | Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty                               |
| CEDAW      | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women                                    |
| OP-CEDAW   | Optional Protocol to CEDAW  |
| CAT        | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment                      |
| OP-CAT     | Optional Protocol to CAT  |
| CRC        | Convention on the Rights of the Child   |
| OP-CRC-AC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict                                     |
| OP-CRC-SC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography                    |
| OP-CRC-IC  | Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure  |
| ICRMW      | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families |
| CRPD       | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities   |
| OP-CRPD    | Optional Protocol to CRPD   |
| CPED       | International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance                        |
- <sup>3</sup> Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and CPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; CPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; CPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: CPED, art. 30.
- <sup>4</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- <sup>5</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html).
- <sup>6</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation;

- Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- <sup>7</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- <sup>8</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html).
- <sup>9</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- <sup>10</sup> International Labour Organization Conventions No. 169, concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries and No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.
- <sup>11</sup> Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5), para. 8.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 41.
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 45.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 33 and 34.
- <sup>15</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, 2012, p. 6.
- <sup>16</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, paras. 13 and 14.
- <sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 15 and 16.
- <sup>18</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, 2012, p. 6.
- <sup>19</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, para. 40.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 6.
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 18.
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 47.
- <sup>23</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), third paragraph. Available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:2699982](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:2699982).
- <sup>24</sup> According to article 5 of the rules of procedure for the International Coordination Committee (ICC) Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the different classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: Voting Member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles), B: Non-Voting Member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination); C: No Status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).
- <sup>25</sup> For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordination Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see AHRC/20/10, annex.
- <sup>26</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| CERD         | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination        |
| CESCR        | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights            |
| HR Committee | Human Rights Committee                                       |
| CEDAW        | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women |
| CRC          | Committee on the Rights of the Child                         |
- <sup>27</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, para. 46.
- <sup>28</sup> For the titles of special procedures, see [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx) and [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx).
- <sup>29</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, paras. 21 and 22.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 20.
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 29.
- <sup>32</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, 2012, p. 5.
- <sup>33</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, para. 30.
- <sup>34</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), second paragraph. Available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:2699481](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:2699481).

- <sup>35</sup> Ibid., fifth paragraph.
- <sup>36</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Summary of information, including cases, transmitted to Governments and replies received, A/HRC/13/39/Add.1, p. 23.
- <sup>37</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, 2012, p. 3.
- <sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 3.
- <sup>39</sup> Ibid., pp. 2–4.
- <sup>40</sup> Ibid., pp. 3–4.
- <sup>41</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, paras. 23 and 24.
- <sup>42</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, 2012, p. 2.
- <sup>43</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, paras. 25 and 26.
- <sup>44</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, 2012, p. 2.
- <sup>45</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, 27 July 2012, paras. 25 and 26.
- <sup>46</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), twelfth paragraph. Available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:2700663](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:2700663).
- <sup>47</sup> Ibid., third paragraph.
- <sup>48</sup> Ibid., fourth and fifth paragraph.
- <sup>49</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Observation concerning ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), third paragraph. Available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:2699284](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:2699284).
- <sup>50</sup> Ibid., sixth paragraph.
- <sup>51</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, paras. 11 and 12.
- <sup>52</sup> Ibid., paras. 37 and 38.
- <sup>53</sup> United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses, available at: <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg> (accessed on 15 August 2012).
- <sup>54</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, para. 28.
- <sup>55</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Observation concerning ILO Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), first, second, ninth and tenth paragraphs. Available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:2698698](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:2698698).
- <sup>56</sup> Ibid., third paragraph.
- <sup>57</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), second and third paragraphs. Available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:2699155](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:2699155).
- <sup>58</sup> Ibid., third paragraph.
- <sup>59</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, para. 34.
- <sup>60</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), second paragraph.
- <sup>61</sup> Ibid., seventh paragraph.
- <sup>62</sup> United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses, available from <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg> (accessed on 15 August 2012).
- <sup>63</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, para. 36.
- <sup>64</sup> United Nations Statistics Division coordinated data and analyses, available at <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg> (accessed on 15 August 2012).
- <sup>65</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, paras. 31 and 32.
- <sup>66</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), adopted 2011, published 101st ILC session (2012), sixth paragraph.
- <sup>67</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, 2012, p. 1.
- <sup>68</sup> Ibid., p. 1.

<sup>69</sup> CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5, paras. 29 and 30, and UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, pp. 3–4.

<sup>70</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Bahamas, 2012, p. 3,4.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

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