



**International Convention on
the Elimination of All Forms
of Racial Discrimination**

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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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**Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted
by States parties under article 9 of the Convention**

**Concluding observations on the combined ninth to eleventh
periodic reports of Tajikistan**

Addendum

**Information received from Tajikistan on follow-up to the
concluding observations****

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** The present document is being issued without formal editing.



Interim information on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 and 14 of the concluding observations on the combined ninth to eleventh periodic reports of Tajikistan

I. Introduction

1. At its 2562nd and 2563rd meetings, held on 10 and 11 August 2017, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered the combined ninth to eleventh periodic reports of Tajikistan (CERD/C/TJK/9-11) and formulated recommendations on the basis of that review.
2. In order to implement the recommendations, the Government Commission on International Human Rights Obligations drafted and, on 23 February 2018, adopted a national action plan on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the period 2018–2020.
3. The information herein was prepared by the secretariat of the Government Commission on International Human Rights Obligations on the basis of inputs submitted by the ministries and departments represented on the Commission. The secretariat held frequent consultations with civil society during the preparation of the report. A draft of the document was circulated to representatives of civil society, and recommendations were received from relevant State bodies and civil society institutions. These recommendations were taken into account in the preparation of the final version of the document.

II. Participation in public and political life

Paragraph 12 of the concluding observations

4. Tajikistan implements a policy directed towards eliminating all forms of racial discrimination, promoting mutual understanding among the peoples living in the country and ensuring respect for the principle that all citizens, stateless persons and other groups protected under the Convention are equal before the law. In the period 2014–2015, Tajikistan ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In 2018, Tajikistan signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
5. The Constitution of Tajikistan covers all the matters for which provision is made in article 5 of the Convention, including equality before the law and tribunals (art. 17), the right to protection (arts. 18, 19, 20 and 21), political rights (art. 27), the right to freedom of movement and residence (arts. 22 and 24), the right to freedom of conscience (art. 26), the right to inherit (art. 32), the right to marry (art. 33), social rights (arts. 35–38) and cultural rights (arts. 40–41). The legislation governing the relevant sectors sets out these standards and establishes equality of rights and freedoms irrespective of ethnicity, race, sex, language, religion, political opinion, education, social status or property.
6. In accordance with the relevant resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians, in 2000 Tajikistan initiated the practice of conducting a population census on a regular basis every 10 years. This trend will be maintained for the next census round, which will take place in 2020 and for which preparatory work has already started.
7. Like other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, Tajikistan collects information on the ethnic composition of the population and on the peoples living in its territory only through the population census conducted every 10 years.
8. Comparative indicators on the population growth rates of different ethnic groups and peoples are calculated only for the intercensal period.

9. Following the population census of 2010, the Government took the requisite measures to compile disaggregated data. In the collection of data, the sex, ethnicity and mother tongue of members of ethnic minorities living in Tajikistan were recorded. The information is processed by sex and age. The data on different ethnic groups are disaggregated by marital status, sex and age for persons aged 15 years or over, and by age and education level for those aged 6 years or over.

10. The Republic of Tajikistan is a multi-ethnic country inhabited by some 100 different ethnic groups and peoples, according to the most recent population and housing census, conducted in 2010. The main ethnic groups are as follows: Tajik (84.3 per cent of the total population), Uzbek (12.2 per cent), Kyrgyz (0.8 per cent), Russian (0.5 per cent), Turkmen (0.2 per cent), Tatar (0.1 per cent) and other ethnic groups and peoples (1.9 per cent).

11. The annex shows the composition of the total population of Tajikistan by ethnic group or people and the population growth rate of each group, using figures from the 2000 population census and the 2010 population and housing census.

12. On 1 March 2005 the Act on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities in the Exercise of Such Rights came into force in Tajikistan. This law regulates matters concerning the constitutional guarantees of equality between men and women in the social, political, cultural and all other spheres. It is intended to prevent discrimination on grounds of sex and establishes State guarantees of equal opportunities for men and women. Under article 3 of the Act, discrimination between women and men in terms of their rights is prohibited. Violation of the fundamental principle of gender equality (carrying out public policies or other acts that treat men and women unequally on the basis of sex) is regarded as discrimination and is to be eliminated in the cases and the manner set forth in the legislation of Tajikistan.

13. On 19 June 2018, the Commissioner for Human Rights of Tajikistan established an interdepartmental working group and adopted the 2018–2020 action plan of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Tajikistan on the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of 20 April 2018. Pursuant to paragraph 4.9 of the national action plan, the Labour Code, the Health Code, the Act on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Men and Women and Equal Opportunities in the Exercise of Such Rights, the Civil Service Act and the regulations on the procedure for holding competitions to fill vacant administrative posts in the civil service are being reviewed to ensure that they are in conformity with the requirements of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

14. The Ministry of Education and Science has published and distributed the textbook *Zaboni davlati* (The Official Language) for the second to eleventh grades of general educational institutions where the language of instruction is Uzbek or Russian. There are plans to reissue this textbook for general educational institutions where the language of instruction is Kyrgyz or Turkmen.

Information on the representation of ethnic minorities in educational institutions is shown in the table below:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Women</i>
Number of teachers	120 635	68 867
Including:		
Tajik	91 909	50 499
Uzbek	26 206	16 764
Turkmen	524	357
Kyrgyz	1 103	488
Kazakh	23	20
Russian	513	459

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Women</i>
Belarusian	7	7
Ukrainian	30	28
Azeri	10	8
Armenian	13	13
Georgian	29	17
Tatar	169	149
Other ethnic groups	99	58

15. The Institute of Capacity-building and Retraining for Educational Personnel has devised and carried out a programme to train teachers who work in schools with pupils belonging to ethnic minorities. The Ministry of Education and Science has also drawn up a model syllabus for instruction in the official language, which it has recommended for use in capacity-building and retraining courses in the official language.

16. Special workshops are regularly held on the question of the official language and the languages of ethnic minorities. In 2018, there are plans to hold capacity-building courses for teachers working in general educational institutions where the language of instruction is an ethnic minority language.

17. The Television and Radio Committee has produced a number of broadcasts and programmes designed to give effect to paragraphs 12 and 14 of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. These programmes have been aired on the country's public television and radio channels.

18. In particular, this topic was widely covered on the Television Tajikistan channel. Audiences showed particular interest in programmes such as *Murofīa*, *Dar mavzui ruz*, *Tolikiston va lanon*, *Mavke*, *Konun* and *Menvari siesat*. In addition, the information programme *Akhbor* broadcast news items related to this topic. Radio Tajikistan and its broadcasting network have produced and aired a number of programmes on the elimination of racial discrimination, including *Fursati baen*, *Nabzi siesat*, *Namsado*, *Nukuki shumo*, *Marifati shanrvandi*, *Fursati baen*, *Khonai nav — zindagii nav*, *Bonu*, *Posukhi nukukshinos*, *Nadisi Zan*, *Charogi khonadon*, *Menvar*, *Oila* and *Muoshirat*. In these programmes, experts and specialists focused on issues related to the elimination of racial discrimination.

19. Under the action plan for 2018, the Committee on Youth and Sports has conducted a number of training workshops and round-table discussions, including a workshop on the theme "Preparing capable girls to become civil servants" in the cities and districts of Ayni, Panjakent, Spitamen and Istaravshan, in Sughd Province; and in Kūlob, Bokhtar, Khamadoni and Farkhor, in Khatlon Province. In addition, 50 girls from all parts of the country participated in a national workshop on the same theme, held in Dushanbe. The speakers at the event included well-known, distinguished women who, through their work, are making a worthy contribution to the development of society in Tajikistan. One of the relevant topics discussed by the workshop participants was the need to combat all forms of racism and, accordingly, to combat racial discrimination and show solidarity with all segments of the population.

20. In accordance with the requirements of the State statistical reporting form No. 1-GS, "Composition of the civil service, by number and grade", the Civil Service Agency prepares a quarterly statistical report for monitoring the number of civil servants, including women and members of different ethnic groups. The monitoring results are sent to the relevant authorities for the necessary action.

21. As at 1 July 2018, the total civil service staffing table consists of 21,033 posts, of which 1,834 are vacant, meaning that the number of persons actually working as civil servants is 19,199. The number of active civil servants as at 1 January of each year stood at 19,382 in 2018, 19,007 in 2017, 18,902 in 2016, 18,585 in 2015, 18,295 in 2014 and 18,491 in 2013. The number of civil servants who are women stands at 4,457, or 23.2 per cent of the total. As at 1 January of each year, the figure stood at 4,467, or 23.0 per cent, in 2018;

4,171, or 22.0 per cent, in 2017; 4,226, or 22.3 per cent, in 2016; 4,374, or 23.5 per cent, in 2015; 4,315, or 23.5 per cent, in 2014; and 4,343, or 23.4 per cent, in 2013.

22. The ethnic groups represented in the civil service are as follows: Tajik (17,780, or 92.6 per cent); and Russian, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and other ethnic groups (1,419, or 7.4 per cent). The respective figures as at 1 January of each year were 17,951 (92.6 per cent) and 1,431 (7.3 per cent) in 2018; 17,526 (92.2 per cent) and 1,481 (7.8 per cent) in 2017; 17,392 (92.0 per cent) and 1,510 (7.9 per cent) in 2016; 16,900 (90.9 per cent) and 1,685 (9.0 per cent) in 2015; 16,510 (91.2 per cent) and 1,785 (9.7 per cent) in 2014; and 16,693 (90.2 per cent) and 1,798 (9.7 per cent) in 2013.

23. The number of civil servants in decision-making positions stands at 5,762, or 30.0 per cent of the total. As at 1 January of each year, the figure stood at 5,822, or 30.0 per cent, in 2018; 5,670, or 29.8 per cent, in 2017; 5,659, or 29.9 per cent, in 2016; 5,548, or 29.8 per cent, in 2015; 5,521, or 30.1 per cent, in 2014; and 5,743, or 31.0 per cent, in 2013.

24. Of these, 5,389, or 93.5 per cent, belong to the Tajik ethnic group and 373, or 6.4 per cent, belong to the Russian, Uzbek, Kyrgyz or other ethnic groups. The respective figures as at 1 January of each year were 5,447 (93.5 per cent) and 375 (6.4 per cent) in 2018; 5,326 (93.9 per cent) and 344 (6.0 per cent) in 2017; 5,280 (93.3 per cent) and 379 (6.7 per cent) in 2016; 5,145 (92.7 per cent) and 403 (7.2 per cent) in 2015; 5,117 (92.6 per cent) and 404 (7.3 per cent) in 2014; and 5,325 (92.7 per cent) and 418 (7.2 per cent) in 2013.

25. As at 1 July 2018, the number of women appointed to civil service vacancies on a competitive basis stands at 320, or 23.7 per cent of all such appointees.

26. During this period, 7 women were recommended for appointment to senior civil service positions on the basis of the outcome of their performance reviews.

27. In the first half of 2018, out of the pool of officials of State bodies, 5 women were appointed to decision-making positions.

28. In accordance with paragraph 37 of the regulations on the procedure for holding competitions to fill vacant administrative posts in the civil service (Presidential Decree of 10 March 2016, No. 647), the interview scores of women who are first-time applicants to the civil service are increased by three points.

29. As a result of the application of this rule, as at 1 July 2018, 31 women had been appointed to fill vacancies in the civil service, including 19 in central bodies and 12 in local bodies.

30. In the judiciary, 7 members of ethnic minority groups, including 1 person of Kyrgyz background and 6 persons of Uzbek background, 2 of whom are women, have been appointed as judges.

31. Among civil servants employed by the courts, 18 persons are of other ethnic groups, including 1 person of Kyrgyz background and 17 persons of Uzbek background, 1 of whom is a woman.

32. A number of measures, targeting various segments of society, are being taken and widespread use is being made of the media with the aim of eradicating stereotypes concerning the roles of women and men in the family and society and raising awareness of the need to secure equal rights and opportunities for men and women and to eliminate gender stereotypes. The Committee for Women and the Family alone has produced more than 200 programmes and broadcasts, which have been aired on various national and local television channels, for the purpose of increasing understanding of the importance of equal rights and opportunities for men and women. In addition, 70 meetings have been held in ministries and government departments of Tajikistan to raise awareness among male and female civil servants of the need to eliminate social stereotypes in relation to women.

33. In cooperation with the Project on Prevention of Domestic Violence, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Oxfam, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and the Taekwondo Association, public service spots have been produced and broadcast on the

following issues: equal rights of men and women in society; respect for women in the family; observance of the rights of women and children in the family; prevention of family violence through a public dialogue on family values; gender equality; the primordial importance of education for boys and girls; zero tolerance towards family violence; efforts to combat early marriage; and compulsory State registration of marriages.

34. In order to enact regulations in the social sphere concerning employment in Tajikistan and to lay the legal, socioeconomic and organizational foundations for State policies in this regard, including State guarantees of the constitutional rights of citizens to work and to social protection against unemployment in a market economy, the authorities have adopted a law on employment promotion that is based on the Constitution of the Republic.

35. Under that law, the Government of Tajikistan adopts and implements State programmes to promote employment over the medium term. These measures apply to all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, race, sex, language, religion, political opinion, education, social status or property.

36. At the moment, the labour and employment bodies' offices on minority ethnic groups do not carry out separate statistical reporting.

37. The results of a procuratorial review show that during the first half of 2018, no allegations or reports of discrimination or wrongful acts against Roma/Jughi individuals were filed.

III. Situation of the Roma/Jughi community

Paragraph 14 of the concluding observations

38. In Tajikistan, the fair social and political representation and participation of persons belonging to ethnic minorities such as Roma/Jughi, including women, are ensured. Legislation has been enacted to raise the level of representation of such persons in all State institutions at the national and local levels.

39. It has been established that there are over 13,000 Jughi communities in Tajikistan. They are located in the towns and districts of Panjakent, Hisor, Vahdat, Vose and Jaloliddini Balkhi. Roma/Jughi communities are concentrated in the Provinces of Sughd and Khatlon (in the districts of Jaloliddini Balkhi and Vose) and in centrally administered areas (the towns of Tursunzoda, Hisor and Vahdat and the district of Rūdaki).

40. In the Province of Sughd, Roma/Jughi communities are concentrated in the districts of Bobojon Ghafurov and Spitamen and the town of Panjakent. Enrolment of Roma/Jughi children in the Province's general educational institutions stands at 187, including 50 girls.

41. In the district of Bobojon Ghafurov, 32 such children (including 5 girls) are enrolled in school No. 18; 39 (including 9 girls) are enrolled in school No. 19; 1 is enrolled in school No. 32; and 5 (including 2 girls) are enrolled in school No. 58.

42. In the district of Spitamen, 8 such children (including 1 girl) are enrolled in school No. 2 and 5 (including 4 girls) are enrolled in school No. 27.

43. In the town of Panjakent, 69 such children (including 12 girls) are enrolled in school No. 15; 7 (including 2 girls) are enrolled in school No. 34; 1 is enrolled in school No. 1; and 20 (including 14 girls) are enrolled in school No. 47.

44. In Khatlon Province, Roma/Jughi communities are concentrated in the districts of Jaloliddini Balkhi and Vose. A total of 292 Roma/Jughi children are enrolled in general educational institutions in the Province.

45. In the district of Jaloliddini Balkhi, 57 such children are enrolled in school No. 6 and 75 are enrolled in school No. 8. In the district of Vose, 160 children belonging to that community are enrolled in school No. 68.

46. In the district of Varzob, 64 such children (including 18 girls) are enrolled in a general educational institution: 64 (including 18 girls) are enrolled in school No. 46.
47. In the district of Rūdakí, 132 such children (including 73 girls) are enrolled in general educational institutions: 27 (including 3 girls) in school No. 12; 70 (including 50 girls) in school No. 109; and 35 (including 20 girls) in school No. 173.
48. In the town of Vahdat, 59 such children (including 29 girls) are enrolled in general educational institutions: 41 (including 23 girls) in school No. 122 and 18 (including 6 girls) in school No. 97.
49. In the town of Tursunzoda, 232 such children (including 79 girls) are enrolled in general educational institutions: 64 (including 25 girls) in school No. 51; 98 (including 35 girls) in school No. 25; 43 (including 9 girls) in school No. 7; and 27 (including 10 girls) in school No. 23.
50. In the town of Hisor, 363 such children (including 150 girls) are enrolled in general educational institutions: 55 (including 21 girls) in school No. 111 and 308 (including 129 girls) in school No. 96.
51. Throughout the Republic, a total of 1,329 children belonging to Roma/Jughi communities are enrolled in general educational institutions, given that basic education is compulsory under the law. After completing their basic education, many of these children go to work with their parents. Girls do not continue their education.
52. According to the passport and registration service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, no difficulties have arisen with regard to the processing of timely applications for the issuance of birth certificates and passports to Roma/Jughi citizens of Tajikistan, as these citizens have a non-nomadic lifestyle and are registered at their place of residence.
53. Like other citizens of Tajikistan, Roma/Jughi individuals do, however, face certain issues if their applications for identity documents are submitted late. In such cases, they must provide additional documents to prove their identity and to show that they are citizens of Tajikistan, and must pay the fines provided for by the relevant Tajik legislation.
54. The passport and registration services of the internal affairs authorities, in close cooperation with civil society organizations that work in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Tajikistan and representatives of Roma/Jughi communities living in the district of Shahrinav (villages of Oftobruya and Vahdat), the town of Hisor (village of Sohtmonchien), the town of Tursunzoda (villages of Shodmon, Zarbador and Khidoyat) and other areas, provide citizens of Tajikistan with assistance in obtaining a passport.
55. No cases of discrimination in the issuance of identity documents or violation of the rights and freedoms of the Roma/Jughi ethnic minority have been identified.
56. Under the Constitution of Tajikistan, all ethnic groups and peoples residing in the territory of the Republic have the right to use their mother tongue. Moreover, as the Constitution does not refer to “ethnic minorities”, the citizenry of the Republic is not divided into ethnic minority groups. The people of Tajikistan are citizens of Tajikistan, irrespective of ethnicity. The State guarantees the rights and freedoms of every person, irrespective of his or her ethnicity, race, sex, language, religion, political opinion, education, social status or property, to take part in government and in political life. Human beings and their rights and freedoms are the supreme value. Life, honour, dignity and other inherent human rights are inviolable. Human and civil rights and freedoms are recognized, observed and protected by the State.
57. Restrictions on human and civil rights and freedoms in accordance with international and national legal instruments are permitted only in order to protect the rights and freedoms of other persons, public order, the constitutional order, national security or defence, public health or morals or the territorial integrity of Tajikistan.
58. To date, there has been no structural differentiation based on race or ethnicity in the health-care and social protection systems. The basic condition for obtaining services is the presentation of an identity document (passport or birth certificate) by the individual

concerned, either in person or through his or her legal representative. In addition, in order to prevent any discrimination against persons living in Tajikistan and to ensure their equality before the law, individuals who seek services from the health-care and social protection systems (patients, recipients of social services and other beneficiaries) are identified in records and statistical reports in terms of their status as residents of Tajikistan and their social situation (employed or unemployed, temporarily not working, pensioner, disabled, veteran, etc.).

59. With regard to the adoption of a strategy or plan to improve the situation of Roma/Jughi, given that there are no constraints on the rights and freedoms of these citizens and no signs of discrimination against them, the national action plan on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the period 2018–2020 provides for the review of this issue to determine whether such action is necessary.

Annex

Population of Tajikistan, disaggregated by ethnicity on the basis of data from the 2000 and 2010 population censuses

<i>Ethnic group or people</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010 as % of 2000</i>
Total population	6 127 493	7 564 502	123.5
Tajik	4 898 382	6 373 834	130.1
Uzbek	936 703	926 344	98.9
Russian	68 171	34 838	51.1
Tatar	18 939	6 495	34.3
Kyrgyz	65 515	60 715	92.7
Ukrainian	3 787	1 090	28.8
German	1 136	446	39.3
Turkmen	20 270	15 171	74.8
Korean	1 696	634	37.4
Kazakh	936	595	63.6
Jewish	182	34	18.7
Ossetian	960	396	41.3
Belarusian	464	104	22.4
Crimean Tatar	138	18	13.0
Siberian Tatar	10	17	1.7 times
Bashkir	872	143	16.4
Armenian	995	434	43.6
Mordvin	300	42	14.0
Central Asian Jewish	15	2	13.3
Azeri	798	371	46.5
Chuvash	195	47	24.1
Afghan	4 702	3 675	78.2
Roma	4 249	2 334	54.9
Lak	147	2	1.4
Bulgarian	64	19	29.7
Georgian	161	92	57.1
Moldovan	341	157	46.0
(Ottoman) Turk	672	1 360	2.0 times
Polish	74	23	31.1
Udmurt	39	12	30.8
Mari	60	13	21.7
Greek	41	28	68.3
Uyghur	379	276	72.8
Lithuanian	40	11	27.5
Persian (Iranian)	306	473	154.6
Dargin	39	6	15.4
Latvian	104	9	8.7
Lezgin	51	13	25.5
Arab	14 450	4 184	29.0

<i>Ethnic group or people</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010 as % of 2000</i>
Kabardin	11	8	72.7
Avar	19	13	68.4
Karaite	29	2	6.9
Karakalpak	34	4	11.8
Buryat	26	6	23.1
Komi	4	1	25.0
Estonian	20	10	50.0
Chechen	47	20	42.6
Kumyk	26	5	19.2
Ingush	16	11	68.8
Circassian	14	5	35.7
Khakas	6	4	66.7
Finnish	9	5	55.6
Komi-Permyak	4	2	50.0
Tabasaran	17	6	35.3
Chinese	24	801	33.4 times
Kurdish	17	7	41.2
Karachai	11	2	18.2
Abkhaz	67	4	6.0
Balkar	45	2	4.4
Abazin	57	5	8.8
Austrian	1	9	9.0 times
American	24	62	2.6 times
Romanian	5	4	80.0
British	43	104	2.4 times
Nenets	26	1	3.8
Vietnamese	9	3	33.3
Netherlander	19	6	31.6
Spanish	2	7	3.5 times
Karelian	7	166	23.7 times
Slovak	5	2	40.0
French	-	7	-
Italian	1	2	2.0 times
Japanese	-	2	-
Dungan	132	1	0.8
Hungarian	-	1	-
Aghul	9	1	11.1
Koryak	3	4	133.3
Tofalar	2	2	100.0
Chuvan	11	4	36.4
Nogai	15	1	6.7
Mingi	243	268	110.3
Durmen	3 502	7 608	2.2 times
Lakai	51 001	65 555	128.5
Kongrat	15 102	38 078	2.5 times
Katagan	4 888	7 601	155.5

<i>Ethnic group or people</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2010 as % of 2000</i>
Yuz	1 053	3 798	3.6 times
Barlos	3 743	5 271	140.8
Semiz	1	47	47 times
Kesamir	13	156	12 times
Indian and Pakistani	245	262	106.9
Other ethnic groups	489	15	3.1
Ethnicity not specified	13	74	5.7 times
