



---

**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Thirty-third session**  
6–17 May 2019

## **Compilation on Dominica**

### **Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### **II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies<sup>1, 2</sup>**

2. The United Nations subregional team regretted that Dominica had not ratified or acceded to any additional core international human rights treaties despite the various recommendations supported during its second universal periodic review.<sup>3</sup>

3. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that Dominica accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, of 1954, and to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, of 1961.<sup>4</sup>

4. The United Nations subregional team was concerned that many reports of Dominica to treaty bodies were overdue, and some of those reports had been overdue since 1995. According to the subregional team, United Nations agencies had been advocating for their completion and submission and had offered relevant technical assistance to the authorities of Dominica.<sup>5</sup> The subregional team recommended that Dominica promptly complete and submit its overdue reports to treaty bodies, in particular those to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, that it take advantage of the technical assistance offered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve its reporting record, and that it establish a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.<sup>6</sup>

5. The United Nations subregional team noted that in 2015, in collaboration with the country's Bureau of Gender Affairs and the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had conducted human rights



training activities for government officials on the universal periodic review mechanism and on sexual and reproductive health rights.<sup>7</sup>

### **III. National human rights framework<sup>8</sup>**

6. The United Nations subregional team noted that, in 2015 and 2017, natural disasters had wrought devastation on Dominica and had severely affected the country's economy, infrastructure, natural resources and human welfare.<sup>9</sup>

7. The United Nations subregional team stated that Dominica had participated in the Family Law and Domestic Violence Legal and Judicial Reform Project, of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and had indicated its intention to introduce legislation designed as part of that OECS Reform Project. The proposed legislation covered childcare and child protection, adoption, juvenile justice, domestic violence, and instituting a family court, and was comprised of the Status of Children Bill, the Juvenile Justice Bill, the Child (Care and Adoption) Bill, the Maintenance Bill, the Family Court Bill and the Domestic Violence Bill.<sup>10</sup>

8. The United Nations subregional team noted that, during its second universal periodic review, Dominica had supported the recommendations to establish a national human rights institution complying with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). However, the institution had not yet been established.<sup>11</sup>

9. According to the United Nations subregional team, the mandate of the Parliamentary Commissioner (the Ombudsman), who is responsible for investigating complaints against the Government, is limited and does not meet international standards.<sup>12</sup>

10. The United Nations subregional team welcomed the establishment of the Legal Aid Clinic, which provided legal services for low-income residents in Dominica. The clinic's target groups included women, persons with disabilities and senior citizens. However, the clinic mainly provided services in family matters relating to domestic violence or to protection orders for family members, including children.<sup>13</sup>

11. The United Nations subregional team noted that in December 2015, the Integrity in Public Office (Amendment) Act No. 21 of 2015 had been passed in Parliament. The amendment had changed the composition of the Integrity Commission from seven members to three. Critics argued that it weakened the Commission and made it more vulnerable to the Prime Minister's influence.<sup>14</sup>

### **IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

#### **A. Cross-cutting issues**

##### **1. Equality and non-discrimination<sup>15</sup>**

12. The United Nations subregional team regretted the lack of specific legislation in Dominica to address discrimination based on disability, on sexual orientation or gender identity, on social status or on any other grounds not currently covered by legislation.<sup>16</sup>

13. The United Nations subregional team noted that Dominica society was intolerant regarding homosexuality or gender identity. Some radio stations played music with homophobic lyrics and government officials had publicly made discriminatory statements.<sup>17</sup> The subregional team was particularly concerned that pursuant to the Sexual Offences Act 1998, consensual same-sex relations were considered "gross indecency" and were punishable by a sentence of up to five years and "buggery" was punishable by a sentence of up to 25 years.<sup>18</sup>

14. The United Nations subregional team was also concerned that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, particularly those of lower economic status, faced discrimination and stigmatization, and challenges in accessing basic health care, social services and employment.<sup>19</sup>

## **2. Development, the environment, and business and human rights**

15. The United Nations subregional team noted that climate change posed multiple challenges to Dominica. Among others, rising sea levels, changing coastal ecosystems and more frequent and more intense hurricanes caused distress to agriculture productivity, infrastructure, residential development and resource management.

16. The United Nations subregional team indicated that in December 2018 the Government had passed the Climate Resilience Act 2018 which established the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica, aimed at promoting the swift and cost-effective recovery of Dominica from climate-related disasters. As part of the resilience-building process, key industries were being targeted, including the agriculture, transport, housing and resettlement sectors. The subregional team indicated that the agriculture sector would receive significant funding from the World Bank, which would be used to restructure and retool the agriculture sector so that it was more resilient against disasters. The programme would benefit 4,900 farmers and fishermen, who would receive assistance to restore their livelihoods using climate-smart practices. The subregional team recommended that Dominica ensure that a human rights-based approach was incorporated into the implementation of the Climate Resilience Act 2018 and the Climate Resilience Execution Agency of Dominica plan of action.<sup>20</sup>

## **B. Civil and political rights**

### **1. Right to life, liberty and security of person<sup>21</sup>**

17. The United Nations subregional team noted that the de facto moratorium on the death penalty was still in place. In November 2018, Dominica had voted in favour of the resolution of the Third Committee of the General Assembly calling for a moratorium on executions. However, the death penalty continued to enjoy widespread public support. The subregional team was concerned at public statements by the Prime Minister and other government ministers declaring that Dominica would not abolish the death penalty. For instance, during a press conference in 2017, the Minister for Justice, Immigration and National Security had publicly affirmed that the death penalty was needed to protect vulnerable groups in society against violence.<sup>22</sup>

18. The United Nations subregional team also indicated that in 2018, in response to concerns about gun violence in Dominica, the Minister for Justice, Immigration and National Security had announced the Government's intention to amend firearms laws to create strict liability and stronger penalties for illegal gun possession.<sup>23</sup>

19. The United Nations subregional team noted with concern that the police did not always demonstrate appropriate treatment towards victims of gender-based violence or towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.<sup>24</sup>

### **2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law<sup>25</sup>**

20. The United Nations subregional team indicated that in 2014 and 2015 the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court had heard cases against the Attorney-General regarding allegations of police misconduct. In both cases the court had decided in favour of the plaintiffs, finding that the use of force by the police had been unjustifiable.<sup>26</sup>

21. The United Nations subregional team stated that, prior to Hurricane Maria, inefficiency in the legal system had already been a major concern. Among the issues, insufficient resources, a lack of magistrates and general understaffing were of particular concern and were contributing to lengthy trial delays. The subregional team regretted that the effects of Hurricane Maria had exacerbated the delays in the court system of Dominica. The subregional team also noted that, in November 2018, the Dominica Bar Association

had held a press conference voicing its concerns about “the state of disrepair of the courts in Dominica and the absence of the Criminal Division of the High Court”. As a result of the lack of facilities, no high court criminal trials had been held since the passage of Hurricane Maria. The Dominica Bar Association had called on the Ministry of Justice and the High Court Registry to take the measures necessary to ensure the immediate resumption of High Court criminal trials and had requested that a second Civil High Court judge be assigned to Dominica to reduce the current backlog.<sup>27</sup>

22. The United Nations subregional team noted that, while the Government generally implemented anti-corruption laws effectively, domestic and international observers had raised concerns in regard to the Citizenship by Investment Programme, which allowed foreigners to gain citizenship of Dominica through economic investment in the country.<sup>28</sup>

23. The United Nations subregional team also noted that, in January 2017, a foreigner who had held a diplomatic passport of Dominica had been arrested in his country of origin in connection with alleged involvement in a corruption scandal in that country. The Government of Dominica had subsequently stated that it did not sell diplomatic passports. In the wake of the scandal, officials had stopped issuing diplomatic passports to non-citizens in order to review the policy and update regulations.<sup>29</sup>

### **3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life<sup>30</sup>**

24. The United Nations subregional team indicated that the general elections held in 2014 had been competitive and credible. However, in 2017, members of opposition parties had alleged political harassment by the Government. In February 2017, following an opposition political meeting and anti-government protest, which saw looting and significant acts of vandalism, the Prime Minister had suggested that the unrest had amounted to an organized attempt by the opposition to “seize the seat of power”. The police had subsequently detained members of the United Workers Party and the Dominica Freedom Party. Police officers had taken some other members of opposition parties from their homes in the early hours of the morning. They had searched their homes and detained them for questioning in connection with the protests, including in connection with an alleged attempted coup d’état. Ultimately, those arrested had been released and all charges had been dismissed by the court.<sup>31</sup>

25. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noted that defamation remained a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment or a fine. UNESCO recommended that Dominica decriminalize defamation and place it under the Civil Code, in accordance with international standards.<sup>32</sup>

26. UNESCO also recommended that Dominica introduce a freedom of information law that was in accordance with international standards, and that it ensure progress on target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals concerning public access to information and fundamental freedoms.<sup>33</sup>

### **4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery<sup>34</sup>**

27. In 2017, the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations observed that for a number of years it had been requesting Dominica to repeal or amend the National Service Act 1977, under which persons between the ages of 18 and 21 years were required to perform national service, which included participating in development and self-help projects concerning housing, school, construction, agriculture and road-building, with failure to do so being punishable by a fine and imprisonment. The ILO Committee of Experts also observed that, contrary to the Government’s repeated statement that national service was created to respond to national disasters, the Act contained no reference to natural disasters but specified the objectives of the national service – “to mobilize the energies of the people of Dominica to the fullest possible level of efficiency, to shape and direct those energies to promoting the growth and economic development of the State”. The ILO Committee of Experts pointed out that the above-mentioned provisions were not in conformity with the prohibition of the use of forced or compulsory labour.<sup>35</sup>

## C. Economic, social and cultural rights

### 1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work<sup>36</sup>

28. The United Nations subregional team indicated that there was a gender-based division of labour in Dominica, with women overrepresented in the services sector (in both the government and the commercial branches). Services sector jobs were perceived to be more stable, but nevertheless were the jobs that were often most at risk in times of crisis. The subregional team regretted that a wage gap existed across all sectors between men and women, with the largest gaps being between skilled agricultural and fishery workers on the one hand and craftworkers and workers in related trades on the other. The subregional team also noted that a large segment of the labour market of Dominica was informal.<sup>37</sup>

29. The ILO Committee of Experts noted that the National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality in the Commonwealth of Dominica indicated that men and women in the employment and occupational structure participated in the economy according to established gender roles, with a strong representation of women in sectors with lower earning potential than men. It also noted that women had lower levels of access to land and to credit than men.<sup>38</sup> The United Nations subregional team further indicated that women predominated in the informal economy and were usually connected to the agricultural sector as street and market vendors, “hucksters” and vendors at tourist sites.<sup>39</sup>

30. The United Nations subregional team noted with concern that a significant proportion of the labour force had been left unemployed as an immediate consequence of Hurricane Maria, as well as estimates that the decline in the production of goods and services might continue for one to two years.<sup>40</sup>

31. The United Nations subregional team noted with concern that Dominica did not have a law that prohibited sexual harassment, which continued to be a serious and persistent challenge, and that the Bureau of Gender Affairs had reported that women, particularly young women, experienced sexual harassment while walking in public, as well as in the workplace.<sup>41</sup>

### 2. Right to social security<sup>42</sup>

32. According to the United Nations subregional team, Dominica Social Security – the main safety net for the population – provides sickness, maternity, invalidity, employment injury, funeral expense and survivor benefits to contributors.<sup>43</sup>

### 3. Right to an adequate standard of living<sup>44</sup>

33. The United Nations subregional team stated that in 2015, 28,000 people had been affected by Tropical Storm Erika and severe damage to infrastructure had been registered across the island. According to assessments, the damage and losses were equivalent to approximately 90 per cent of the country’s gross domestic product. The subregional team also indicated that in 2017, Hurricane Maria had affected the country’s entire population of approximately 70,000 inhabitants and had caused serious damage and losses. The impact of that disaster had been felt across all sectors, most significantly tourism, agriculture and housing. It had also had a negative impact on employment and livelihoods, and had consequently increased poverty in Dominica.<sup>45</sup>

34. The United Nations subregional team welcomed the national programmes aimed at poverty alleviation, implemented through the Government’s Growth and Social Protection Strategy.<sup>46</sup>

35. According to the United Nations subregional team, the United Nations Development Programme and Ministry of Housing comprehensive building damage assessment carried out after Hurricane Maria showed that of 29,431 buildings, 18 per cent had been destroyed and 23 per cent had suffered major damage. The subregional team noted that reconstruction of resilient housing was a key national priority, and that the Government was focused on reconstructing 5,000 houses through the \$40 million World Bank housing grant.<sup>47</sup>

#### 4. Right to health<sup>48</sup>

36. The United Nations subregional team was concerned that access to health care had been compromised since Hurricane Maria because all health centres around the island had been affected; some had been severely damaged, including type 3 centres, which provided primary care services, including contraceptive services and services for pregnant women. The subregional team added that, since the hurricane, primary health services had continued to be offered in buildings that had had only emergency repairs or in alternate premises. Moreover, routine visits to health centres and hospital care had been interrupted until those facilities could be repaired.<sup>49</sup>

37. The United Nations subregional team welcomed the pilot health insurance scheme for mothers and infants, launched in July 2017. The pilot scheme had made accessing prenatal and postnatal care more affordable for all Dominican mothers. The subregional team noted, however, that efforts should be made to make women aware of where and how to access critical health services.<sup>50</sup>

38. The United Nations subregional team indicated that in 2018 the Government of Dominica had signed on to a 2018–2024 multi-country cooperation strategy for Eastern Caribbean countries for technical cooperation on health with the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, which were providing technical assistance in order for the Government to adequately deliver health services across the country, in particular to women and children.<sup>51</sup>

#### 5. Right to education<sup>52</sup>

39. UNESCO was concerned that Tropical Storm Erika, in 2015, had wrought considerable damage on the education system, which included the partial or complete destruction of 14 schools, and the destruction of homes including those of school staff members.<sup>53</sup>

40. The United Nations subregional team noted that Dominica had a policy of universal access to primary and secondary education, including before Hurricane Maria. Following Tropical Storm Erika, schools were being rebuilt and refurbished and the Ministry of Education was undertaking initiatives to improve the quality of education. However, after Hurricane Maria many children had been out of school for months, and many schools had also been utilized as shelters for persons who had lost their homes in the hurricane. The subregional team noted that many Dominican children had been re-enrolled into schools across the Caribbean region, and was concerned at the inadequate data collection given that data were needed for a full evaluation of how many children were missing from the enrolment roster.<sup>54</sup>

41. UNESCO regretted that enrolment in pre-primary and early childhood education had decreased in Dominica in 2016 and that only 20 per cent of classroom teachers were trained. UNESCO recommended that Dominica provide one year of compulsory and free pre-primary education, in accordance with the 2030 Education Agenda.<sup>55</sup>

42. The United Nations subregional team stated that, in 2017, prior to Hurricane Maria, the Prime Minister of Dominica had announced that a large portion of the education budget would be allocated for training activities for teachers. Specifically, provisions were being made in the 2017/18 national budget to train special education teachers, and parents of children with disabilities. Subsequent to Hurricane Maria, the budget for 2018/19 referred to rebuilding smart climate-resilient schools.<sup>56</sup>

43. UNESCO recommended that Dominica increase its expenditure on education to at least 4 per cent of its gross domestic product, provide 12 years of publicly funded free education, provide 1 year of compulsory and free pre-primary education, and include key terms related to sustainable development in the curricula.<sup>57</sup>

44. UNESCO indicated that Dominica was a member of OECS, which had adopted the 2012–2021 OECS Education Sector Strategy.<sup>58</sup>

## **D. Rights of specific persons or groups**

### **1. Women<sup>59</sup>**

45. The United Nations subregional team noted that Dominica was in the process of updating its National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equality.<sup>60</sup>

46. The United Nations subregional team regretted that the Bureau of Gender Affairs, that provided services and programmes to address gender inequality, was severely underresourced and required strengthening in all areas. The subregional team recommended that Dominica strengthen the Bureau of Gender Affairs, including by increasing the human and financial resources.<sup>61</sup>

47. The United Nations subregional team noted that prior to Hurricane Maria, Dominica had made significant strides in social inclusion and gender equality, especially in the areas of education and leadership. However, significant gaps, relating to gender-based violence, labour force participation and access to health services, persisted.<sup>62</sup>

48. The United Nations subregional team noted that according to some statistics available, women headed 39.2 per cent of all households. The structure of the economy and the segmented labour market rendered those women vulnerable, since they were more at risk of extreme poverty. The subregional team stated that those households faced challenges such as low levels of education, low school attendance rates and limited access to basic health care, and that women might resort to survival strategies that included illegal activities and/or transactional sex.<sup>63</sup>

49. The United Nations subregional team was concerned that the lack of sex-disaggregated data about the immediate impact of Hurricane Maria on women's rights remained a challenge. However, the launch by the Government of the Caribbean Community gender equality indicators had allowed the collection of baseline data. The subregional team recommended, in particular, prioritizing the carrying out of a prevalence survey on gender-based violence in Dominica.<sup>64</sup>

50. The United Nations subregional team was concerned that, although women were benefiting from improvements in the health sector, gender-based violence remained high. According to administrative data, 86.9 per cent of the victims of domestic violence were women, one in two of those women had reported sexual assault and two in five had reported physical assault. The subregional team noted that in 2016 the Government had passed the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, which expanded the penalties for rape and criminalized marital rape. The subregional team also noted that the Government was making efforts to update the Domestic Violence Act. However, the amended legislation had been pending with the Cabinet for over a year and a half. The subregional team recommended that Dominica urgently pass and proclaim the amended Domestic Violence Act.<sup>65</sup>

51. The United Nations subregional team regretted that elderly women were particularly vulnerable, as there had been a notable increase in elderly persons reporting gender-based violence to the Bureau of Gender Affairs. Eighty per cent of the reported perpetrators were men. The subregional team regretted the lack of sufficient shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their children.<sup>66</sup>

52. The United Nations subregional team stated that although there had been no officially reported incidents of gender-based violence immediately following Hurricane Maria, there was a need for capacity-building and psychosocial support for victims, given that the causes of violence were prevalent – including the impacts of loss of employment on the household, shelters that had not been designed taking gender considerations into account, and an increase in drug and alcohol use.<sup>67</sup>

### **2. Children<sup>68</sup>**

53. The United Nations subregional team welcomed the National Child Protection Action Plan, adopted in May 2018.<sup>69</sup> The subregional team also noted the numerous child welfare bills, including the Model Children (Care and Adoption) Bill and the Child Justice

Bill. It was concerned, however, that the bills were yet to be passed, despite years of preparation which had included stakeholder consultations and workshops. The subregional team regretted that the bills had been expected to be passed by the end of 2016.<sup>70</sup>

54. The United Nations subregional team was concerned at the persistence of child abuse, in particular sexual abuse in Dominica. It regretted that the Social Welfare Division, responsible for the care and protection of children, social assistance to families and juvenile probation, was understaffed, and only one of several residential care centres that provided care and protection for children in crisis was operated by the Government. The subregional team noted the National Action Plan on Child Sexual Abuse that had recently been adopted. However, the plan had not been enforced. It also stated that, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Dominica had a mandatory reporting protocol for child abuse but the protocol required updating and better enforcement. The subregional team recommended that Dominica adopt the pending child welfare legislation developed as part of the OECS Reform Project.<sup>71</sup>

55. The United Nations subregional team indicated that the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, passed in 2016, also included penalties for persons who failed to report child abuse and for those who accepted bribes to avoid a penalty for child abuse.<sup>72</sup>

56. The United Nations subregional team regretted that the country's courts in the juvenile justice sector had not been operational since Hurricane Maria. It was also concerned that the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Dominica was 12 years and the juvenile justice framework applied to juveniles aged 12–18 years who came into conflict with the law. The subregional team stated that in 2015 the total prison population was 220, and included 9 children – 6 boys and 3 girls. All children who were in prison were held with adults.<sup>73</sup>

57. The United Nations subregional team indicated that UNICEF had worked with Dominica to implement the Child Friendly Schools initiative, which incorporated alternative methods of discipline in lieu of corporal punishment. Corporal punishment remained legal under the Education Act.<sup>74</sup>

### **3. Persons with disabilities<sup>75</sup>**

58. The United Nations subregional team indicated that although Dominica had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2012, the Government had yet to implement the vast majority of the Convention's provisions. The subregional team regretted the lack of any legislation or national policy on the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as of focal points within the Government for dealing with issues relating to persons with disabilities. This was also noted with concern by civil society organizations, although the Government had previously indicated an intention to establish a national disabilities council.<sup>76</sup>

59. The United Nations subregional team noted that in regard to the budget for 2018, the Prime Minister had indicated that the Government would prioritize realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and that the Ministry of Health and Social Services had been mandated to work with the Dominica Association of Persons with Disabilities to prepare a disabilities action plan for the implementation of measures to give effect to the Government's commitment.<sup>77</sup>

60. The United Nations subregional team stated that prior to the damage caused by Hurricane Maria, the vast majority of public buildings and roads had been inaccessible to persons with disabilities, and it was expected that the planned resilient rebuilding of the country's infrastructure would allow for greater access for persons with disabilities.<sup>78</sup>

61. The United Nations subregional team stated that there was one privately run educational facility dedicated to children with intellectual disabilities. Children with physical disabilities and hearing and vision impairments were integrated into public schools as much as possible. However, they were often stigmatized, and they faced a serious lack of opportunities, particularly in rural areas.<sup>79</sup> UNESCO recommended that Dominica guarantee by law the right to education of children with special needs and that it mainstream their education with an inclusive approach.<sup>80</sup>



#### 4. Minorities and indigenous peoples<sup>81</sup>

62. The United Nations subregional team indicated that the Ministry of Kalinago Affairs worked towards the improvement of the socioeconomic conditions of the people of the Kalinago Territory and the preservation and promotion of their cultural heritage, and the integration of the indigenous people of Dominica into the socioeconomic life of the wider Dominican society. However, the subregional team noted with concern that underemployment within the Kalinago Territory was a current and chronic issue, especially since the significant fall in banana exports.<sup>82</sup>

#### 5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons<sup>83</sup>

63. The United Nations subregional team referred to data according to which, in 2015, there were 6,720 migrants living in Dominica permanently as residents. The subregional team regretted that following Hurricane Maria, migrants had largely remained undocumented and therefore in an irregular situation. The subregional team also noted the lack of information about the progress of a specific policy or practice used by Dominica to identify asylum seekers and refugees within mixed migratory movements.<sup>84</sup>

64. UNHCR stated that during the period covered by its report, Dominica had been affected by mixed movements of undocumented persons travelling by sea and by air along the chain of islands of the Lesser Antilles.<sup>85</sup> Information received by UNHCR had suggested that Dominica might sometimes be a point of transit for significant numbers of foreigners en route to other territories. Dominica might also be a point of destination for some migrant workers. UNHCR regretted the lack of information about any specific policies or practices used by Dominica to identify asylum seekers and refugees within mixed movements (including a lack of information about State policies on the detention of undocumented persons).<sup>86</sup>

65. UNHCR recommended that Dominica adopt national refugee legislation and/or develop administrative regulations, policies and procedures to ensure full compliance with its obligations under the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 1951, and to provide a clearer basis for the international protection of refugees, that it develop a national refugee status determination procedure and build the capacity of government officials to undertake refugee status determination, with technical support from UNHCR, that it engage in the Caribbean Migration Consultations to promote regional cooperation and the exchange of best practices for strengthening the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants, and that it gather disaggregated data regarding undocumented persons known to have arrived and/or transited in Dominica and regarding the steps taken, if any, to determine whether any of those individuals had special protection needs.<sup>87</sup>

66. The International Organization for Migration had initially identified around 3,000 persons living in collective centres two weeks after Hurricane Maria struck. However, the total number of people in displacement was hard to quantify. Numerous unofficial displacement sites and host families had not been assessed. On the basis of building assessments conducted by the Government in mid-December 2017, it was estimated that more than 35,000 persons had been displaced.<sup>88</sup> In May 2018, the International Organization for Migration had indicated that there were still internally displaced persons living in collective centres.<sup>89</sup>

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Dominica will be available at [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/DMIndex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/DMIndex.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.32–93.33, 93.36–93.41, 93.43 and 94.1–94.4.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations subregional team submission for the universal periodic review of Dominica, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Dominica, p. 4.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, pp. 4–5.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.

- <sup>7</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>8</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.29–93.31, 93.34–93.35, 93.52, 93.75 and 94.10–94.12.
- <sup>9</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 1.
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid., pp. 2–3.
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid., p. 3.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid., p. 4.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid., pp. 3–4.
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid., p. 4.
- <sup>15</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.1–93.9 and 93.44–93.45.
- <sup>16</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 6.
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid., pp. 9–10.
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid., p. 9.
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid., p. 10.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid., pp. 18–19.
- <sup>21</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.11–93.19, 93.22, 93.26–93.27, 94.6–94.7 and 94.13–94.30.
- <sup>22</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 10.
- <sup>23</sup> Ibid., p. 11.
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid., p. 12.
- <sup>25</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 94.5–94.6 and 94.35–94.37.
- <sup>26</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 11.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid., pp. 11–12.
- <sup>28</sup> Ibid., p. 12.
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>30</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.10–93.19, 93.22 and 93.26–93.27.
- <sup>31</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, pp. 2 and 12–13.
- <sup>32</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Dominica, paras. 3 and 15.
- <sup>33</sup> Ibid., paras. 4 and 16.
- <sup>34</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/27/9, para. 93.28.
- <sup>35</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3338935:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3338935:NO).
- <sup>36</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.28 and 93.50.
- <sup>37</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 13.
- <sup>38</sup> See [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3339445:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3339445:NO).
- <sup>39</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 13.
- <sup>40</sup> Ibid., p. 2.
- <sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 7.
- <sup>42</sup> For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/27/9, para. 93.53.
- <sup>43</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 13.
- <sup>44</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.65–93.66.
- <sup>45</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 1.
- <sup>46</sup> Ibid., p. 14.
- <sup>47</sup> Ibid., p. 19.
- <sup>48</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.49 and 93.67–93.68.
- <sup>49</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, pp. 1 and 14–15.
- <sup>50</sup> Ibid., pp. 14–15.
- <sup>51</sup> Ibid., p. 15.
- <sup>52</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.48 and 93.69–93.74.
- <sup>53</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 7.
- <sup>54</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 15.
- <sup>55</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 7.
- <sup>56</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 15.
- <sup>57</sup> UNESCO submission, paras. 10–14.
- <sup>58</sup> Ibid., para. 7.
- <sup>59</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.20–93.21, 93.42, 93.46, 93.51, 93.54–93.55 and 93.62.
- <sup>60</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 6.
- <sup>61</sup> Ibid., p. 7.
- <sup>62</sup> Ibid., p. 6.
- <sup>63</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>64</sup> Ibid., pp. 6–7.

- 
- <sup>65</sup> Ibid., pp. 3 and 7.
- <sup>66</sup> Ibid., p. 7.
- <sup>67</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>68</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.23, 93.56–93.61, 93.63 and 94.31–94.34.
- <sup>69</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 8.
- <sup>70</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>71</sup> Ibid., pp. 8–9.
- <sup>72</sup> Ibid., p. 3.
- <sup>73</sup> Ibid., p. 9.
- <sup>74</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>75</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.47 and 93.76–93.78.
- <sup>76</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, pp. 16–17.
- <sup>77</sup> Ibid., p. 16.
- <sup>78</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>79</sup> Ibid., pp. 16–17.
- <sup>80</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 11.
- <sup>81</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.64 and 93.79.
- <sup>82</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 17.
- <sup>83</sup> For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/27/9, paras. 93.24–93.25.
- <sup>84</sup> United Nations subregional team submission, p. 18.
- <sup>85</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 1.
- <sup>86</sup> Ibid., pp. 1–2.
- <sup>87</sup> Ibid., p. 3.
- <sup>88</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, “Global report on internal displacement”, May 2018, available at [www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/downloads/2018-GRID.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/downloads/2018-GRID.pdf).
- <sup>89</sup> International Organization for Migration situation report, May 2018, available at <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SitRep%20No.12%20%20Hurricane%20Maria%20-%20May.18%20FVE.PDF>.
-