



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

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## Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

### Concluding observations on the combined twenty-third and twenty-fourth periodic reports of Greece\*

1. The Committee considered the combined twenty-third and twenty-fourth periodic reports of Greece,<sup>1</sup> submitted in one document, at its 3121st and 3122nd meetings,<sup>2</sup> held on 3 and 4 December 2024. At its 3131st meeting, held on 10 December 2024, it adopted the present concluding observations.

#### A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined twenty-third and twenty-fourth periodic reports of the State party. The Committee also welcomes the constructive dialogue with the high-level delegation and thanks the delegation for the information that it provided during the Committee's consideration of the reports and after the dialogue.

#### B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the following legislative, institutional and policy measures taken by the State party:

(a) Adoption of Law No. 4960/2022 on the national guardianship system and the framework for the accommodation of unaccompanied minors and other activities of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum;

(b) Adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, in 2022;

(c) Adoption of Law No. 4779/2021 on prohibiting audiovisual media services from transmitting incitement to violence or hate crimes on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, descent and other grounds;

(d) Adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Social Integration of Roma, 2021–2030;

(e) Adoption of Law No. 4780/2021 on strengthening the National Commission for Human Rights in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);

(f) Launch of the National Emergency Response Mechanism for unaccompanied minors in precarious living conditions, in 2021;

\* Adopted by the Committee at its 114th session (25 November–13 December 2024).

<sup>1</sup> CERD/C/GRC/23-24.

<sup>2</sup> See CERD/C/SR.3121 and CERD/C/SR.3122.



(g) Adoption of Law No. 4760/2020 on abolishing “protective custody” of unaccompanied minors;

(h) Adoption of the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance, 2020–2023;

(i) Adoption of Law No. 4662/2020 on strengthening the mandate of the Ombudsperson, designated as the national investigation mechanism of incidents of arbitrariness by law enforcement officials;

(j) Adoption of the National Action Plan 2019–2023 for the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings and the Protection and Rehabilitation of Victims;

(k) Launch of the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking, in 2019;

(l) Adoption of Law No. 4619/2019, amending the Criminal Code, on recognizing racist motivations as aggravating circumstances and abolishing the provisions criminalizing blasphemy.

## C. Concerns and recommendations

### Statistics

4. While noting the statistics provided by the delegation on Roma communities, refugees and asylum-seekers, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of comprehensive statistics on the demographic composition of the population, disaggregated by ethnicity, including with regard to members of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups and non-citizens, such as migrant workers, undocumented migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons, and on the socioeconomic status of the various population groups. This lack limits the Committee’s ability to properly assess the situation of such groups, including their socioeconomic status and any progress achieved by implementing targeted policies and programmes. The Committee is also concerned that the data collection tools on socioeconomic indicators do not permit the gathering of disaggregated data by ethnic origin or incorporate the principle of self-identification (arts 1, 2 and 5).

**5. Reiterating its previous recommendations<sup>3</sup> and recalling its general recommendation No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention, and its guidelines for reporting under the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party collect and provide to the Committee reliable, updated and comprehensive statistics on the demographic composition of the population, based on the principle of self-identification, including on ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups, including Roma, and non-citizens, such as migrant workers, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons. It also recommends that the State party produce disaggregated statistics on the socioeconomic situation of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups, including Roma, and non-citizens, and on their access to education, employment, healthcare and housing, with a view to creating an empirical basis for assessing the equal enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Convention.**

### Situation of minorities

6. The Committee notes the information provided by the delegation that the State party recognizes Muslims in Thrace as a minority group, in accordance with the provisions of the 1923 Treaty of Peace, signed at Lausanne on 24 July 1923, and that the legislative framework does not allow the recognition of other minority groups, particularly on the ground of ethnicity. The Committee is concerned, however, that the lack of recognition, under the legislative framework, of ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups, including Muslim ethno-religious minority groups living on the islands of Rhodes and Kos, denies them their right to self-identification and may limit their enjoyment of their rights protected under the

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<sup>3</sup> CERD/C/GRC/CO/20-22, para. 9.

Convention, such as the rights to preserve their language and culture and freedom of religion and association (arts. 1, 2 and 5). The Committee also notes the information provided on the issues related to the implementation of relevant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

7. **Reiterating its previous recommendations,<sup>4</sup> the Committee recommends that the State party review its legislative framework with a view to recognizing ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups in accordance with the right to self-identification to ensure their full enjoyment of their rights without discrimination. The Committee also reiterates that the Treaty of Lausanne neither prohibits the consideration of other groups as minorities nor prevents persons belonging to various ethnic groups to exercise their right to self-identification. It urges the State party to implement the relevant judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.**

#### **The Convention in the domestic legal order**

8. The Committee notes the information provided by the delegation that ratified international treaties are part of the domestic legal order pursuant to the Constitution. The Committee nevertheless regrets the lack of information on cases in which the provisions of the Convention were invoked before or applied by domestic courts (art. 2).

9. **The Committee recommends that the State party conduct training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns, in particular for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement officials, to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are invoked, when relevant, by and before domestic courts. It requests the State party to include in its next periodic report specific examples of the application of the Convention by the domestic courts.**

#### **Legislative framework**

10. The Committee notes the information provided on the legislative measures taken on prohibiting racial discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes, including amending the Criminal Code to recognize racist motivations as aggravating circumstances, pursuant to Law No. 4619/2019, and prohibiting audiovisual media services from transmitting incitement to violence or hate crimes on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, descent and other grounds, pursuant to Law No. 4779/2021. The Committee nevertheless remains concerned that the legislative framework is not in full compliance with the requirements of article 4 of the Convention, in particular with regard to the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority, and that it does not explicitly prohibit organizations that promote and incite racial discrimination. The Committee is further concerned that the provisions of the Criminal Code criminalize hate speech only in cases in which it endangers the public order and the life, physical integrity and freedom of persons, which may hinder the investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of hate crimes (arts 1, 2, 4 and 6).

11. **Reiterating its previous recommendations and its general recommendations No. 7 (1985) and No. 15 (1993) relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention, and No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party review its legislative framework, particularly the Criminal Code, to explicitly criminalize racist hate speech and hate crimes in full compliance with the requirements of article 4 of the Convention.**

#### **Policy framework**

12. The Committee notes the information provided on the implementation of the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance (2020–2023) and the activities of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance, which is the advisory body mandated to design policies related to combating racial discrimination and monitor the implementation of those policies. The Committee notes the information provided by the delegation that the Council is

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., para. 11.

organizing a consultation to develop a new action plan. The Committee, nevertheless, is concerned about:

(a) Reports of a low level of implementation of activities under the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance (2020–2023) owing to a lack of coordination and engagement of the relevant governmental bodies, insufficient allocation of resources and a lack of clear indicators to monitor and evaluate the impact of activities under the National Action Plan;

(b) The lack of activity of the National Council against Racism and Intolerance between May 2023 and June 2024 (arts. 1, 2 and 5).

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

(a) **Expedite the development and adoption of a new national action plan on combating racism, within a clear time frame;**

(b) **Ensure effective and meaningful consultation with and the participation of civil society organizations working on the rights of persons belonging to groups vulnerable to racial discrimination, such as ethnic and ethno-religious minority groups, particularly Roma, and non-citizens, such as migrant workers, undocumented migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons, particularly in relation to the development, monitoring and implementation of policies;**

(c) **Adopt measures to ensure the effective monitoring and evaluation of policies relating to the rights of persons belonging to groups vulnerable to racial discrimination;**

(d) **Strengthen the National Council against Racism and Intolerance, including by allocating adequate human, financial and technical resources to enable it to carry out its mandate and activities effectively.**

**Administration of justice**

14. The Committee notes with appreciation the strengthened measures taken to combat and investigate racial discrimination and hate crimes, including the appointment of 24 special prosecutors to investigate racial discrimination and hate crimes, the establishment of two specialized departments within the Hellenic police, in Athens and Thessaloniki, and 68 additional offices throughout the State party, and the application of a special classification system for files and cases of hate crime at the prosecution level to facilitate data collection on those crimes. It notes the statistics provided on hate crimes complaints received by the Ombudsperson and the Hellenic police, as well as prosecutions and court decisions. The Committee also notes the adoption of Law No. 4478/2017 on providing support to victims, including victims of racial discrimination and hate crimes. The Committee is concerned, however, that:

(a) Many of the 68 established police offices to combat hate crimes are reportedly inactive;

(b) There is a low level of reporting of complaints related to racial discrimination and hate crimes reportedly because of a lack of trust by victims in the law enforcement agencies, widespread fear of reprisals by law enforcement officials, gaps in the State party's anti-racial discrimination structure, lack of awareness about complaint channels and the rights of victims, and the perception that hate crimes are normalized and widespread;

(c) There is a low prosecution rate for hate crimes and a failure to adequately recognize and investigate racial discrimination and hate crimes by law enforcement agencies;

(d) The conviction rate for hate crimes is low, and the recognition of racist motivations as aggravating circumstances by the prosecution and courts, pursuant to article 82A of the Criminal Code, is inconsistent and infrequent; furthermore, the State party did not provide comprehensive information concerning convictions and sanctions in cases of racial discrimination and hate crimes handled by the courts;

(e) The judicial data collection system on complaints, particularly concerning racial discrimination and hate crimes, does not provide information on cases from the

investigation stage until the final adjudication, which limits the ability of the Committee to assess and monitor the implementation of the legislative framework on racial discrimination and hate crimes;

(f) There is a reported lack of victim support services, and implementation of Law No. 4478/2017 is ineffective owing to inadequate technical, human and financial resources (arts. 1, 2, 5 and 6).

**15. The Committee draws the State party's attention to its general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, and recalls that an absence of complaints and legal action relating to racial discrimination may reveal a lack of suitable legislation, poor awareness of the legal remedies available, a lack of trust in the judicial system, a fear of reprisals or a lack of will on the part of the authorities to prosecute the perpetrators of such acts. Recalling its general recommendations No. 7 (1985) and 15 (1993) relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention and No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Strengthen its efforts to support the law enforcement agencies in combating racial discrimination and hate crimes, in particular by allocating adequate human, financial and technical resources to ensure that all of the 68 police offices to combat hate crimes are active and operating;**

(b) **Take the measures necessary to improve the training programmes for officials engaged in the administration of justice, including police officers and other law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges, on racial discrimination and hate crimes, including on the identification and registration of such crimes;**

(c) **Take effective measures to encourage the reporting of racist hate speech and hate crimes and to ensure the availability and accessibility of safe reporting channels to those who are vulnerable to racial discrimination, including by conducting an assessment of the systems for reporting and registering complaints of racial discrimination and hate crimes and by taking measures to identify and prevent discriminatory attitudes in the judicial system;**

(d) **Undertake public education campaigns on the rights enshrined in the Convention and on how to file complaints of racial discrimination;**

(e) **Strengthen its efforts to combat racial discrimination and hate crimes, including by ensuring the effective implementation of its legislative framework, particularly article 82A of the Criminal Code;**

(f) **Take measures to identify and effectively address all barriers to justice faced by victims of racial discrimination and hate crimes, in particular by increasing access to legal aid, actively cultivating trust among victims of racial discrimination and hate speech in institutions and among professionals involved in the administration of justice, and taking measures to accelerate the administration of justice;**

(g) **Strengthen its efforts to enhance its data collection system for complaints of racial discrimination and hate crimes, in particular by ensuring the availability of statistics on complaints of racial discrimination and hate crimes and on investigations and prosecutions undertaken, convictions handed down and sanctions imposed;**

(h) **Implement effectively Law No. 4478/2017 by ensuring the availability of support services to victims of racial discrimination and allocating adequate human, financial and technical resources, and ensure the availability and accessibility of legal assistance;**

(i) **Ensure effective and meaningful consultation with and the participation of civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders working on the rights of persons belonging to groups vulnerable to racial discrimination and hate crimes, in particular the National Commission for Human Rights, the Ombudsperson and the Racist Violence Recording Network, in relation to the development, monitoring and implementation of measures related access to justice for victims of racial discrimination and hate crimes.**

### **Hate speech and hate crimes**

16. The Committee notes the information provided on measures taken against the Golden Dawn party and its members, including the judgment of October 2020 of the Athens Court of Appeals and the suspension of State funding to the party. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on measures to combat hate speech and hate crimes, including the adoption of Law No. 4779/2021 on prohibiting audiovisual media services from transmitting incitement to violence or hate crimes and the issuance in 2018 of the guidelines for law enforcement agencies on handling hate speech. It also notes the information on the code of ethics for journalists and the code of ethics for members of the Greek Parliament. The Committee is nevertheless concerned about reports of widespread racial discrimination, racist hate speech and hate crimes, and of the dissemination of negative stereotypes of members of groups vulnerable to racial discrimination, particularly Roma, migrant workers, asylum-seekers and refugees. It is also concerned about reports of the use of racist hate speech by politicians and the lack of information on investigations, prosecutions and convictions of politicians and public figures for hate speech (arts. 4, 6 and 7).

**17. Recalling its general recommendations No. 7 (1985) and 15 (1993) relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention and No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt the measures necessary to monitor the spread of racist hate speech on the Internet and social media, in close cooperation with the National Council for Radio and Television. It also recommends that the State party take effective measures to ensure the public condemnation of racist hate speech and to distance itself from racist hate speech by public figures, including politicians, and ensure that such acts are investigated and appropriately sanctioned.**

### **Racial profiling and racially motivated police violence**

18. The Committee notes the information provided by the delegation on the code of ethics for police personnel and training provided to law enforcement officials on principles of human rights. It also notes the information provided regarding the issuance of a presidential decision in January 2024 that amended the legislative law enforcement disciplinary framework to stipulate that the service of law enforcement officials who are convicted of criminal and disciplinary offences would be terminated. It also notes the information provided that, since 2017, the police had referred approximately 1,300 complaints of police violence to the Ombudsperson, which is designated as the national mechanism for investigation of arbitrary incidents by law enforcement officials. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of a clear prohibition of racial profiling in the legislative framework on law enforcement;
- (b) Reports of racial profiling by the police of members of Roma communities and non-citizens, such as migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees;
- (c) Reports of racially motivated and excessive use of force by the police and border law enforcement agencies against members of Roma communities and non-citizens, such as migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees;
- (d) The lack of detailed information on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions for acts of racial profiling and racially motivated and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials against members of Roma communities and non-citizens (arts. 4 and 6).

**19. Recalling its general recommendation No. 36 (2020) on preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

- (a) **Adopt legislation that explicitly prohibits racial profiling by law enforcement officials during police stops and other police operations;**
- (b) **Conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all allegations of racial profiling, racially motivated police violence and excessive use of**

force by law enforcement officials, including by strengthening the mandate of the Ombudsperson and allocating adequate resources, and ensure that the alleged perpetrators are prosecuted and, if convicted, punished with appropriate sanctions and that victims or their families are provided with adequate forms of reparation;

(c) **Collect and include in its next periodic report information on complaints of racial profiling, racially motivated police violence and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions, and on reparations provided to victims.**

#### **Civic space**

20. The Committee notes the information provided by the delegation on guarantees to exercise the right to freedom of association. The Committee is nevertheless concerned about reports that members of civil society organizations, human rights defenders and activists are targets of intimidation, harassment and threats as a consequence of their work to promote and protect the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. Notwithstanding the explanation of the delegation regarding the principle of non-interference in a pending court case, the Committee is also concerned about reports of harassment and travel bans and assets freezes imposed on human rights defenders and members of civil society organizations as a consequence of their work. The Committee is also concerned about the legal measures taken to introduced stringent requirements for civil society organizations working to promote and protect the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees (art. 5).

21. **Recalling the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in her report on her visit to the State party in 2022,<sup>5</sup> the Committee recommends that the State party take measures, including legislative measures, to ensure an open space for the operation and activity of human rights defenders and activists and civil society organizations, in particular those working on the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, and to eliminate the complex administrative procedures for the registration of those civil society organizations. It also recommends that the State party conduct effective, thorough and impartial investigations into all reported cases of intimidation and harassment of, and threats against, human rights defenders, activists and members of human rights organizations working to promote and protect the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees.**

#### **Situation of Roma**

22. The Committee notes the information provided by the delegation on the assessment, conducted in 2020, concerning the implementation of the National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma (2012–2020), which indicated a lack of coordination among the relevant ministries and stakeholders, as well as the absence of indicators and data collection to monitor implementation. The Committee notes the adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Social Integration of Roma (2021–2030) and the information on the implementation and consultation processes. It further notes the information provided by the delegation on the development and implementation of integrated local action plans by the municipalities with Roma communities. The Committee remains concerned, however, about reports of:

(a) The continued marginalization and social exclusion of Roma and the continued widespread existence of negative stereotypes, prejudices and intolerance against Roma;

(b) The extreme poverty and substandard living conditions faced by Roma in informal settlements with no proper infrastructure and limited access to basic services and the continued subjection of Roma to forced evictions, without alternative housing or compensation being offered;

(c) Delays in civil registration and obstacles faced by members of the Roma communities in obtaining identity documents and birth registration certificates, the lack of which exposes them to discrimination in access to education, healthcare, housing and employment;

<sup>5</sup> [A/HRC/52/29/Add.1](#), para 115.

(d) High unemployment rates among Roma;

(e) Low attendance and high dropout rates at all levels of education among Roma children, and the persistence of segregated education of Roma children (arts. 2 and 5).

**23. Reiterating its previous recommendations <sup>6</sup> and recalling its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Social Integration of Roma (2021–2030), while ensuring effective and meaningful consultation with and the participation of civil society organizations working on the rights of Roma communities and the allocation adequate human, financial and technical resources;**

(b) **Take the measures necessary to develop the remaining integrated local action plans by the municipalities and ensure the implementation of all integrated local action plans;**

(c) **Take measures to combat structural discrimination and to discourage stigmatization and stereotyping of Roma communities;**

(d) **Expedite the registration of non-documented members of the Roma communities and the process for issuing identity and birth registration documents;**

(e) **Take measures to combat discrimination against Roma in all spheres of life, to ensure that Roma who are victims of discrimination have access to effective remedies, to provide training on Roma issues for law enforcement and judicial officers and for journalists, and to conduct awareness-raising campaigns to promote Roma identity and culture;**

(f) **Take the measures necessary to end extreme poverty among the Roma communities;**

(g) **Halt the forced eviction of Roma, including by legalizing the informal settlements, and when house demolition or forced eviction cannot be avoided, ensure that the families and individuals affected are provided with alternative adequate housing and compensation;**

(h) **Take measures to increase the employment rate among Roma, including measures aimed at improving the vocational qualifications of members of the Roma communities and combating discrimination in the field of employment;**

(i) **End the de facto segregation in schools and intensify efforts to ensure access by Roma children to quality and inclusive education, with a view to increasing school enrolment rates and combating school dropout, including by strengthening the support system for Roma children and families and by conducting awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of education targeted at Roma children and young people and their families.**

#### **Migrant workers**

24. The Committee notes the information provided by the delegation on the concluding agreements with other States to recruit migrant workers in the field of agriculture. While noting the information on labour inspections, investigations and sanctions imposed, the Committee is concerned about the lack of detailed information on measures taken to address the abuse, exploitation and discrimination faced by undocumented migrant workers, including regarding recruitment and remuneration. The Committee is also concerned about the barriers faced by migrant workers, particularly undocumented migrants, in gaining access to justice and other forms of remedies (arts 2 and 5).

**25. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to combat abuse and exploitation of migrant workers, including by assessing and reviewing the**

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<sup>6</sup> CERD/C/GRC/CO/20-22, para. 21.



**employment framework on migrant workers, to reduce their vulnerability to abuse and exploitation, particularly by their employers. It also recommends that the State party adopt measures to ensure the access of migrant workers to justice, irrespective of their status, including to free legal aid, and that it conduct awareness-raising campaigns among migrant workers on their rights and on existing remedies.**

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

26. The Committee commends the State party for the measures it has taken to improve the situation of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants, including the infrastructural upgrades of reception centres and the reform of the guardianship system of unaccompanied minors pursuant to Law No. 4960/2022. The Committee also notes the establishment in 2023 of an individual complaint mechanism regarding violation and abuse at the State party's border and the establishment of the Fundamental Rights Officer position in the Ministry of Migration and Asylum with the mandate to collect and assess complaints regarding allegations of human rights violation and abuse during the reception of asylum-seekers and the asylum procedure pursuant to Law No. 4690/2022. The Committee is nevertheless concerned about:

(a) Reports that migrants and asylum-seekers face substandard and poor conditions at pre-removal detention centres and police and guard stations, including overcrowding and unsanitary conditions, and that basic services are inadequate or unavailable, including healthcare, psychological support, food and legal services;

(b) Reports that reception centres for asylum-seekers on the mainland are camp-like facilities, far from urban centres and lacking basic services, as well as reports of the discontinuation in 2021 of the urban accommodation and support scheme, under which asylum-seekers and refugees enjoyed housing, education and other services;

(c) The reduction of the time frame for refugees to leave reception centres from 6 months to 30 days and the halting of cash assistance immediately following the notification of the issuance of a decision granting international practice, pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 4939/2022;

(d) Reports that refugees are facing obstacles and discrimination in accessing the social protection system, such as the housing allowance and the child allowance, owing to complicated and discriminatory administrative requirements, including an unattainable documentation threshold;

(e) Reports, since March 2020, of an increasing number of migrants in irregular situations following the rejection of their asylum applications, owing to the decision to halt deportation to Türkiye, and reports that they are facing barriers in accessing and enjoying their rights;

(f) Reports of human rights violations and abuse in police stations and pre-removal centres perpetrated by law enforcement officials against detained migrants, including excessive use of force, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and arbitrary detention;

(g) Reported incidents of pushback and forced return at sea and land borders of migrants and asylum-seekers in need of international protection, in violation of the principle of non-refoulement, by law enforcement agencies engaging in excessive use of force and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and arbitrary detention without minimum and legal guarantees, which have led to deaths and injuries of migrants and asylum-seekers;

(h) The lack of information on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions for allegations of pushback and forced return of migrants and asylum-seekers in need of international protection, as well as other allegations of human rights violations and abuse, including excessive use of force, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and arbitrary detention, perpetrated by border law enforcement officials against migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees;

(i) The lack of information on the ethnic composition of the prison population (arts. 2 and 5).

27. **Reiterating its previous recommendations <sup>7</sup> and recalling its general recommendation No. 30 (2004) on discrimination against non-citizens, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Continue its efforts to improve the living conditions in reception and identification centres, including by allocating human, financial and technical support, and ensure the access of migrants and asylum-seekers to healthcare services, adequate food, social support and legal aid;**

(b) **Take measures to ensure access to asylum-seekers and enjoyment by asylum-seekers of to their rights without discrimination, particularly with respect to housing, healthcare services and education, including by reviewing the legislative framework of the national social protection system and Law No. 4939/2022 to repeal forms of indirect discrimination against refugees and by considering the reintroduction and implementation of the urban accommodation and support scheme;**

(c) **Take the measures necessary to ensure that migrants in irregular situations following the rejection of their asylum applications have effective access to accommodation, adequate living conditions, psychological and legal services and counselling, and release those detained arbitrarily;**

(d) **Refrain from engaging in collective expulsion and pushback, provide access to its territory for persons in need of international protection and fully respect the principle of non-refoulement;**

(e) **Conduct effective, thorough and impartial investigations into all reports of abuse and violation of human rights, particularly cases of forced return, pushback, excessive use of force and violence and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment perpetrated by law enforcement officials against migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly those deprived of their liberty, prosecute and punish adequately those convicted with penalties commensurate with the offences and provide victims with adequate redress and support;**

(f) **Take measures to ensure the availability and accessibility of safe reporting channels, including by ensuring the functioning and the allocation of resources to the individual complaint mechanism and the Fundamental Rights Officer under the Ministry of Migration and Asylum;**

(g) **Collect data on complaints of violence and abuse against migrants and asylum-seekers and on prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed for such acts, as well as on the ethnic and national composition of the prison population, and provide the relevant statistics in its next periodic report.**

#### **Stateless persons**

28. The Committee notes the information provided by the delegation on the conditions for stateless persons to access nationality, which are based on the length of permanent and legal residence or birth and school attendance in the State party. The Committee is nevertheless concerned about the delay in developing and implementing a dedicated determination procedure in relation to statelessness, pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 4375/2016. It is also concerned about reports that stateless persons face obstacles in gaining access to education and health services (arts. 2 and 5).

29. **The Committee recommends that the State party establish a dedicated and effective procedure for determining statelessness. It also recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that stateless persons are able to enjoy their economic and social rights without discrimination.**

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<sup>7</sup> [Ibid.](#), para. 23.

## **D. Other recommendations**

### **Ratification of other treaties**

30. Bearing in mind the indivisibility of all human rights, the Committee encourages the State party to consider ratifying those international human rights treaties that it has not yet ratified, in particular treaties with provisions that have direct relevance to communities that may be subjected to racial discrimination, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization. The Committee encourages the State party to accede to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

### **Amendment to article 8 of the Convention**

31. The Committee recommends that the State party accept the amendment to article 8 (6) of the Convention adopted on 15 January 1992 at the fourteenth meeting of States parties to the Convention and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/111.

### **Declaration under article 14 of the Convention**

32. The Committee encourages the State party to make the optional declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual complaints.

### **Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

33. In the light of its general recommendation No. 33 (2009) on follow-up to the Durban Review Conference, the Committee recommends that, when implementing the Convention in its domestic legal order, the State party give effect to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, taking into account the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva in April 2009. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next periodic report specific information on action plans and other measures taken to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national level.

### **International Decade for People of African Descent**

34. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/237, in which the Assembly proclaimed 2015–2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, and Assembly resolution 69/16 on the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade, and considering that the International Decade is coming to an end, the Committee requests the State party to include in its next periodic report information on the outcome of the measures taken to implement the programme of activities and on the sustainable measures and policies put in place in collaboration with people of African descent and their organizations, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent.

### **Consultations with civil society**

35. The Committee recommends that the State party continue consulting and increasing its dialogue with civil society organizations working in the area of human rights protection, in particular those working to combat racial discrimination, in connection with the preparation of the next periodic report and in follow-up to the present concluding observations.

**Dissemination of information**

36. The Committee recommends that the State party's reports be made readily available and accessible to the public at the time of their submission and that the concluding observations of the Committee with respect to those reports be similarly made available to all government bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Convention, in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

**Common core document**

37. The Committee encourages the State party to update its common core document, which dates to May 2018, in accordance with the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, in particular those on the common core document, as adopted at the fifth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies held in June 2006.<sup>8</sup> In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 42,400 words for such documents.

**Paragraphs of particular importance**

38. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 7 (situation of minorities), 19 (racial profiling and racially motivated police violence) and 23 (situation of Roma) above and requests the State party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.

**Follow-up to the concluding observations**

39. In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 of its rules of procedure, the Committee requests the State party to provide, within one year of the adoption of the present concluding observations, information on its implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 25 (migrant workers) and 27 (e) (migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers) above.

40. The Committee commends the State party for the timely submission of the interim follow-up report on its previous concluding observations.

**Preparation of the next periodic report**

41. The Committee recommends that the State party submit its combined twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth periodic reports, as a single document, by 18 July 2028, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session<sup>9</sup> and addressing all the points raised in the present concluding observations. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 21,200 words for periodic reports.

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<sup>8</sup> HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I.

<sup>9</sup> CERD/C/2007/1.