



**IDA's Compilation of Disability
Related Extracts of Concluding
Observations of the Committee on
the Elimination of Discrimination
Against Women**

**CEDAW Committee's 81st session
(7Feb 2022 - 22 Feb 2022)**

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women - 81st session - 2022	
Total Number of Concluding Observations	6
Number of countries receiving recommendations on persons with disabilities	5
Number of countries receiving recommendations on persons with disabilities	83%
Number of recommendations including explicit references to disability	64

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - CEDAW/C/DOM/CO/8

GABON - CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7

PANAMA - CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/8

PERU - CEDAW/C/PER/CO/9

SENEGAL - CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8

UGANDA - CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/8-9

UZBEKISTAN - CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6

Official versions of Concluding Observation are available on the website devoted to the session [here](#).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - CEDAW/C/DOM/CO/8

Women's access to Justice

13. The Committee notes the mechanisms put in place by the State to increase women's access to justice, particularly for young women, women with disabilities, women of Haitian origin and older women, such as the availability of free legal aid, psychological assistance, sign language and Creole interpreters. It also notes the adoption of the Strategic Institutional Plan of the Judiciary for 2020-2024, which includes provisions to increase accessibility of justice for women with disabilities. However, the Committee is concerned that women with disabilities face barriers to access justice due to physical and behavioural barriers and limited knowledge of women with disabilities of their rights and the remedies available to claim them. The Committee is further concerned that the mandate of the National Public Defence Office does not include the provision of legal aid to victims of discrimination wishing to initiate civil, labour, and administrative proceedings.

14. In line with the recommendations contained in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/DOM/CO/6-7, para. 17), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen the human and financial resources to ensure accessibility of justice for women with disabilities including use of sign language and braille in judicial proceedings;

Gender-based violence against women

21. The Committee notes the measures in place in the State party to respond to gender-based violence against women, including increased victim support services such as temporary shelters, medical treatment and psychological and legal assistance. It also notes the adoption of the first economic reparation programme for women victims of domestic violence and to foster families of girls and boys orphaned by femicide and the Strategic Plan for a Life Free from Violence in 2020. However, the Committee is concerned about the high incidence of gender-based violence against women in the State party, and the delay in adopting the draft Law on Violence against Women, which would specifically criminalize femicide and other forms of gender-based violence against women. It also notes with concern the absence of a unified system and procedure to record reports of gender-based violence against women, the limited number of prosecutions and convictions and the lenient sentences imposed on perpetrators of gender-based violence against women.

22. In line with its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women updating general recommendation No 19 (1992), and the recommendations contained in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/DOM/CO/6-7 para. 25), the Committee urges the State party to:

(b) Raise awareness about the criminal nature of gender-based violence against women and its different forms, bearing in mind special needs in terms of accessibility of information for disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, including women with disabilities;

(d) Ensure that women and girls, including women with disabilities, refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant women, lesbian, bisexual, transgender women and intersex persons, who are victims of gender-based violence against women have adequate access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance and to victim and witness protection programmes;

Economic empowerment of women

39. The Committee notes the reduction in the poverty rate and efforts made to strengthen women's economic empowerment in the State party. It also notes that 65 percent of loans awarded by the National Council for the Promotion and Support of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises were granted to women. It further notes that households headed by women were the primary beneficiaries of the solidarity pensions for persons affected by multidimensional poverty and the implementation of the National Plan for Happy Families aimed at facilitating access to adequate housing. However, the Committee is concerned about the low percentage in social spending compared to other countries in the region. It also notes with concern that women migrant workers employed in the informal economy who are in an irregular situation are unable to access the banking system, and that banks give priority to married women when authorizing loans. The Committee further notes with concern that official microcredit programmes fail to cover women with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Increase access to credit for all women, in a non-discriminatory manner, including women employed in the informal economy, migrant women and women with disabilities;

Women with disabilities

45. The Committee is concerned about the restrictions to legal capacity faced by women with disabilities, which limits or prevents them from taking their own decisions, exercising their parental rights and accessing justice. The Committee is also concerned about the fact that only 27.8 percent of women with disabilities participate in the labour market. The Committee also notes with concern that women with disabilities who are institutionalised or in detention do not receive appropriate attention and reasonable adjustments based on their needs. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of disaggregated data concerning the situation of women with disabilities in order to substantiate the formulation of laws and policies in the State party to accelerate de facto equality and overcome the obstacles that prevent them from exercising their rights.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Eliminate all systems that partially or fully deprive women with disabilities of their legal capacity, thus enabling them to take their own decisions, exercise their parental rights and access justice on an equal footing with others;

(b) In line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, introduce temporary

special measures focussing on fostering vocational training and participation in the labour market for women with disabilities;

(c)Ensure that women with disabilities in institutions and in detention receive appropriate attention and reasonable adjustments based on their needs;

(d)Ensure that women with disabilities are not placed in institutions without having given their free, prior and informed consent, and that the existence of a disability shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty;

(e)Establish a comprehensive system to gather data disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors concerning women with disabilities and to substantiate the formulation of laws and policies in the State party to accelerate substantive equality and overcome the obstacles that prevent them from exercising their rights.

GABON - CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7

Access to justice

12.The Committee welcomes the establishment of mobile courts aimed at facilitating access to justice for women living in rural and remote areas. It is, however, concerned that women are unable to access legal remedies for rights violations due to their limited awareness of their rights and limited knowledge among judges and law enforcement officials of the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations. It also notes with concern that fear of stigmatization for filing complaints, the complex legal procedures, inaccessibility of legal aid and the geographical inaccessibility of courts impede women's access to justice.

13.In line with its general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c)Raise awareness among women and girls, in particular rural women and women with disabilities, of their rights under the Convention and the remedies available to them to claim those rights, in cooperation with civil society organizations;

National machinery for the advancement of women

14.The Committee welcomes the progress made in the consolidation of the legal framework for the promotion of equality and congratulates the State party on the implementation of the "Decade of Equality" (2015-2025). However, the Committee is concerned that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Women's Rights, which acts as the national machinery for the advancement of women, lacks guaranteed sustainable funding. It further notes with concern the lack of systematic gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting across all government departments. It regrets the lack of data disaggregated by sex and other related variables to enable adequate monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the various strategies promoting women's rights. The Committee is also concerned that the enabling legislation of the National Human Rights Commission is not compliant with international standards. It further regrets the lack of information on implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

15. Recalling the guidance provided in the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular regarding the conditions necessary for the effective functioning of national machineries, the Committee recommends that the State party:

b) Define indicators for all gender equality objectives, including those of the Gabon-Egalité strategy and its action plan, strengthen the national capacity to systematically collect data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, region and socioeconomic background, to evaluate progress towards realizing those objectives and provide an assessment of progress made in its next periodic report. In this regard, the Committee draws the State party's attention to its general recommendation No. 9 (1989) on statistical data concerning the situation of women and encourages the State party to seek technical assistance from relevant United Nations agencies.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

20. The Committee welcomes the bilateral agreements concluded with Togo and Benin, in 2018, to combat and prevent trafficking in persons. It notes with concern: (a) The Penal Code provision punishing trafficking is not in line with international standards;

(b) The State party continues to be a country of transit and destination for trafficked women and girls, mainly for purposes of labour and sexual exploitation, including in mines, disproportionately affecting migrant women and girls;

(c) There is a lack of data on the extent of trafficking in persons and at the absence of specific procedures in place for the early identification of victims and national referral mechanisms for protection and assistance;

(d) The absence of a national anti-trafficking plan and of a functioning inter-ministerial committee to coordinate the national anti-trafficking response; and

(e) The absence of information on exit programmes for women who wish to leave prostitution.

21. In line with its general recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(e) Undertake a comprehensive study with a view to collecting data on the extent and forms of trafficking in women and girls, disaggregated by age, disability, region and country of origin;

Nationality

24. The Committee is concerned that approximately eleven per cent of children born in Gabon are not registered at birth or thereafter, thereby increasing their risk of being denied access to basic services, such as health care and education. It is further concerned that, in practice, the issuance of a birth certificate is made conditional upon payment of the costs of childbirth, thereby presenting an obstacle for poor women.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party: (a) Strengthen the Citizenship and Social Protection programme (2020) to encourage the timely registration of

births and issuance of birth certificates, prioritizing the registration of births of girls with disabilities;

Health

30. The Committee acknowledges the State party's efforts to enhance access to health care for women, including through the adoption of the mandatory health insurance for low-income persons as well as the 2017 presidential measures to make childbirth, pre and post-natal consultations free of charge. However, the Committee is concerned that:

- (a) The availability and accessibility for women and girls of sexual and reproductive health and family planning services is inadequate, especially for rural women and girls;
- (b) Maternal mortality rates, including among adolescent girls, are persistently high and basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care are inadequate;
- (c) The prevalence of unsafe abortions remains high given that legal abortions may only be carried out before the tenth week and may only be performed by a doctor in a hospital;
- (d) A disproportionately high number of women and girls are infected with HIV/AIDS in the State party and face stigmatization and social exclusion based on their HIV/AIDS status, and the limited availability of antiretroviral treatment.

31. In line with its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (c) Ensure that women and girls have access to accurate information relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights and that all women, including rural women and women with disabilities, have access to high-quality sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, the prevention of early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and safe abortion and emergency post-abortion services; and**

Disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women

36. The Committee regrets the lack of information on the situation of disadvantaged groups of women in the State party, including poor women and single mothers, women with disabilities, and refugee, migrant and indigenous women. It is concerned about reports that refugee women have no health care coverage. The Committee is further concerned about the high number of women detainees awaiting trial, in some cases for many years, and reports of severe overcrowding in female prisons, the absence of separation of male and female detainees, as well as of women detainees awaiting trial and convicted women.

- (c) Allocate specific and adequate resources to women with disabilities in the National Gender Equality and Equity Strategy and in the Women's Decade;**
- (d) Guarantee access to justice for women with disabilities who are victims of gender-based violence ensuring that such cases are effectively investigated and perpetrators prosecuted and adequately punished;**

Data collection and analysis

40. The Committee is concerned about the general lack of statistical data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability, geographical location and socioeconomic background, which are necessary to accurately assess the situation of women, determine the magnitude and nature of discrimination, develop informed and targeted policies and systematically monitor and evaluate progress achieved towards the realization of substantive equality between women and men in all areas covered by the Convention.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party enhance the collection, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive data, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, migration status, disability and other relevant factors, and use measurable indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and progress towards the realization by women of substantive equality in all areas covered by the Convention and the gender-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

PANAMA - CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/8

Women's rights and gender equality in relation to the coronavirus disease pandemic and recovery efforts

9. The Committee welcomes the information provided by the delegation during the dialogue indicating the adoption of a national emergency and social assistance plan including digital transfers and covering 51.58 percent women out of the total number of beneficiaries. It also notes the information programmes to ensure universal vaccination in which 51,53 percent of the beneficiaries are women. The Committee, nonetheless, remains concerned that women have been extremely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and measures taken to contain it, in particular due to the loss of jobs, including for domestic workers, reduction of wages, recourse to the informal economy, or the loss of livelihoods for indigenous women in areas where tourism was the main income-generating activity before the pandemic, exacerbating situations of hunger and malnutrition faced by indigenous women. It is also concerned about information indicating the spread of gender stereotypes overemphasizing women's role as housewives and care givers during the pandemic and about discrimination of transgender women during the confinement periods allowing outing activities on the basis of sex. It is furthermore concerned about the limited participation of women at the high-level government commissions established to address the impacts of the pandemic, and the absence of measures to ensure gender-equality and women empowerment in the recovery period.

10. The Committee, in line with its guidance note on the obligations of States parties to the Convention in the context of COVID-19, issued on 22 April 2020, recommends that the State party:

(b) Implement targeted programmes to address situations of hunger and malnutrition exacerbated during the pandemic in indigenous provinces, and ensure that measures to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic target all groups of women, including rural women, indigenous and Afro-descendant women and girls living in remote areas, women domestic workers, migrant, refugee and asylum seeking

women, women with disabilities and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons;

(d) Promote and facilitate the equal participation of women, including indigenous, Afro-descendant women and women with disabilities in the State party's official national recovery programmes, across all sectors of policy.

Legislative protection from discrimination

11. The Committee takes note of the State party's efforts to develop its legislative and policy framework concerning gender equality and non-discrimination, including recognising sexual or other types of harassment, bullying in the workplace, racism and sexism as criminal offenses. Nonetheless, it remains concerned about:

(d) Intersecting and *de-facto* discrimination faced by indigenous, Afro-descendant women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, migrant asylum-seeking and refugee women, and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

Women's access to justice and remedies

13. The Committee acknowledges the establishment of free legal aid for survivors of crime irrespective of socioeconomic status and throughout all judicial procedures and welcomes measures adopted to expedite judicial proceedings in family courts, including through the use of audio and video technical equipment during judicial hearings, and to increase access of indigenous women to justice through mobile family courts in the Province of Chiriquí. The Committee, nonetheless, remains concerned by:

(b) The lack of information disaggregated by age, sex, disability status, status of migrant, refugee, or asylum seeking, race and ethnicity, on complaints and recommendations issued by the Directorate for the Protection of Women Rights at the Ombudsperson's Office, concerning human rights violations and discrimination against women;

(d) The lack of information on measures to ensure access to justice and remedies for women with disabilities, including those who have been subjected to abuse and violence in institutional care settings;

14. The Committee, in line with its General Recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, recommends that the State party:

(b) Collect information disaggregated by sex, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migrant, refugee, asylum seeking status, disability situation, concerning the complaints and decisions taken by the Ombudsperson Office concerning violations of women's rights;

(d) Design a strategy and set-up indicators aimed at guaranteeing access to justice by women with disabilities, introducing procedural adjustments responsive to disability, providing information in accessible formats throughout court proceedings, improving physical accessibility to courts, sign language interpreters, and accessibility of mechanisms to file complaints;

National machinery for the advancement of women

15. The Committee welcomes the information about the political and financial autonomy of the National Institute for Woman, and the establishment of a Network of Government Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Equal Opportunities, and other entities for the advancement of women, including the National Women's Council, the National Committee on Violence against Women and employment and gender directorates (CEDAW/C/PAN/8, see paras. 37, 38, 40, 46). However, it remains concerned about:

(c) The absence of mechanisms across all mechanisms and sectors of policy to ensure appropriate consultations with and meaningful participation of women's organizations, including Indigenous and Afro-descendant women and women with disabilities, in the national machinery for the advancement of women

16. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide the Institute for the Advancement of Women with ministerial rank, ensuring appropriate budgetary allocations for implementation and monitoring of policies in the area of gender equality, and expediting the process to establish the Ministry of Women's Affairs as provided for in the National Strategic Plan 2019-2024;

(b) Establish better coordination systems across different sectors to implement public policies in the area of gender equality and mainstream gender equality;

(c) Ensure participation and cooperation mechanisms with women's civil society organizations in the national machinery for the advancement of women across sectors and at the provincial level, and disseminate information about measures to promote women's rights at the CINAMU network.

Temporary special measures

17. The Committee is concerned about provisions in the Electoral Code that limit the implementation of parity in lists of candidates to elected positions, in particular by allowing political parties to replace women candidacies with male candidates. It also observes the absence of information about temporary special measures to achieve substantive equality in all areas covered by the Convention for overcoming marginalization of women subjected to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

18. In line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's General Recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(d) Allocate budgetary resources to develop temporary special measures to aimed at accelerating substantive equality and eliminate intersectional discrimination affecting indigenous and Afro-descendant women, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women, female heads of households and women with disabilities.

Gender-based violence against women

21. The Committee welcomes the legislation in the State party recognising *femicide* as a criminal offense as well as reforms to increase penalties concerning different forms of sexual violence, including rape, sexual exploitation, and child pornography. It also takes note of the measures included in the Public Policy for Equal Opportunities for

Women (Executive Decree N° 244 of 18 December 2012) to prevent gender-based violence against women. However, the Committee remains concerned about:

(a) The persistence of different forms of gender-based violence against women, in public and private spaces, including the prevalence of domestic violence, sexual violence against adolescent girls, in residential alternative care centres, and affecting women with disabilities, Indigenous and Afro-descendant women (para. 95) and migrant women;

22. The Committee, in the light of its General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the actual implementation of all legislation and institutional measures to tackle and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women targeting violence against women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, particularly adolescent girls, women with disabilities, Indigenous and Afro-descendant women, and migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women, establishing benchmarks, indicators of progress and a timeframe to monitor implementation;

(e) Ensure the availability of and strengthen support services for victims of gender-based violence, including the availability of counselling, psychosocial and rehabilitation services, ensuring that shelters for and information directed at women who are victims of gender-based violence are accessible throughout the State party including for women with disabilities, that staff are properly trained and that the quality of the services provided is regularly monitored;

Equal participation in political and public life

29. The Committee notes with concern:

(d) The absence of measures to promote participation in political and public life of indigenous, Afro-descendant women and women with disabilities, or in leading positions at the international level.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(e) Strengthen mechanisms to facilitate women's participation in the international area, adopt a legislation and policy measures that promote diversity and political participation at all levels, including representation of Indigenous and Afro-descendant women, young women, rural women and women with disabilities, in international affairs, including organizations and in leading positions at diplomatic missions, and implement measures to reduce negative attitudes associated with women in high level international leadership positions.

Education

33. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) The higher illiteracy rates among women compared to those of men (para. 142), particularly affecting Indigenous and rural women and the lack of information disaggregated by age, ethnicity, disability, migrant, refugee, asylum-seeking status and socio economic condition on girls and women's access to education, in particular their enrolment, completion and dropout rates;

34. **Recalling its General recommendation No. 36 on the right of girls and women to education and its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/7, paras. 35 and 37), the Committee recommends that the State party:**(a) **Set up a strategy with measurable indicators and timeframes for the assessment of progress with regard to women's education, including in indigenous provinces (*comarcas*), and ensure that the Ministry of Education collects statistical data about their enrolment, completion and drop-out rates, disaggregated by age, ethnicity, disability, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking status, and socio economic condition;**

Health

37. The Committee observes the implementation of measures, including the National Strategic Plan for the Reduction of Maternal and Perinatal Morbidity and Mortality 2015-2020. However, it notes with concern:

(d) **Forced sterilization procedures against indigenous women and young girls and women with disabilities, at the request of a third party and without their free, prior and informed consent.**

38. **The Committee recalls its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/7, paras. 41, 43 and 45), and recommends that the State party:**

(c) **Adopt specific health targets in national and provincial plans aimed at improving access to health services for all women and in particular for Indigenous, Afro-descendant and women with disabilities, and monitoring mechanisms that include cooperation and participation of women and their civil society organizations;**

(f) **Prevent forced sterilization of indigenous women and women with disabilities, including by eliminating legal provisions allowing for sterilization of women with disabilities on the basis of impairment and at the request of family members or guardians, ensure that women always provide their free, prior and informed consent regarding sterilization, and establish programs at the national and regional levels to provide access by women with disabilities to sexual and reproductive health and rights.**

Economic and social benefits and economic empowerment of women

39. The Committee observes the initiatives to promote women's entrepreneurships, loan programmes, including agricultural loans, facilities, cooperatives for agricultural production. However, it is concerned about:

(d) **The situations of poverty, deprivation, including food insecurity of women, including women heads of household, women with disabilities or those caring for family members with disabilities, rural, Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and migrant and refugee women.**

40. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**(d) **Implement public policies and plans of action to eliminate poverty, with timeframes among women with disabilities, Indigenous women, Afro-descendant women, migrant women ensuring that they participate in entrepreneurial initiatives, empower them economically, and opportunities to acquire necessary skills to participate in different sectors of economy.**

Women with disabilities

47. The Committee notes with concern legislation that limits the legal capacity of persons with disabilities and have a direct impact on women with disabilities restricting their right to marry, to exercise parental rights, and to access justice. It is also concerned about the information on the prevalence of the welfare approach of policy measures concerning persons with disabilities and the impact on the recognition of women with disabilities as subjects of rights, in accordance with international human rights law.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Set up clear goals and lines of action concerning gender equality in its policies and programmes in the area of disability and ensure that policies and programmes across sectors address intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities;**
- (b) Eliminate restrictions on the legal capacity of women with disabilities, ensuring their access to justice, protection from gender-based violence;**
- (c) Establish and implement legislation to ensure that all work places are accessible and that government buildings are made physically accessible and that information is provided in accessible formats such as Braille and sign language;**
- (d) Develop data and statistics on women with disabilities disaggregated by age, sex, location and impairment.**

PERU - CEDAW/C/PER/CO/9

Access to Justice

13. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party to strengthen women's access to justice for women, including the National Plan on Access to Justice for Vulnerable Persons, 2016-2021. It notes with concern, however, the persistent institutional, structural and practical barriers to women's access to justice, including the following:

(c) That young women, are unable to access the courts or to personally report cases of gender-based violence against women without an adult present and that indigenous women, rural women, women land right defenders, women with disabilities, and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women are often harassed and denied services when seeking to access justice;

14. In accordance with the Convention and with the Committee's general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Continue raising awareness among women about their rights under the Convention, targeting in particular women belonging to marginalized groups, including low-income, rural women, Afro-Peruvian and other afrodescendant women, refugee or asylum-seeking and migrant women, and indigenous women and women with disabilities;

Discriminatory stereotypes and harmful practices

21. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party to eliminate patriarchal attitudes, deeply rooted stereotypes and harmful practices. It nevertheless remains concerned at the pervasiveness of such attitudes and the social legitimization of harmful practices against women and girls in the State party, as manifested in:

(a) The high prevalence of child marriages, noting that almost one in five girls in Peru is married before the age of 18;

(b) Gender-based violence against women and discrimination against women with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, refugee or asylum-seeking and migrant women, and indigenous and Afro-Peruvian women, particularly in the delivery of health services and in their engagement with the justice system.

22. In line with Joint General Recommendation/General Comment No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014) on harmful practices, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy across all sectors to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society, working with a broad range of stakeholders, including women's organizations, to ensure that all public policies integrate a gender perspective, with a view to dismantling discriminatory attitudes that perpetuate gender-based violence against women and discrimination as well as harmful practices against women and girls, and particularly against those who are lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex, refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants or with disabilities

Gender-based violence against women

23. The Committee welcomes the strengthening of legal provisions to combat gender-based violence against women in the State party, including the adoption of Law N ° 30364 on the prevention of violence against women and members of the family group, in 2015, the National Plan against Gender-Based Violence 2016-2021; and the 2019 guidelines for an intercultural perspective on the prevention, protection, and support for cases of violence against women, children, adolescents, and indigenous women, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, women with disabilities. It remains deeply concerned, however, about the high incidence of intimate partner violence against women, exacerbated by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, noting that over the past two years the numbers of femicides, sexual violence and disappearances of young women increased exponentially.

24. Recalling its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Enhance mechanisms to monitor the enforcement of laws criminalizing gender-based violence against women and providing for victim support services, in particular as regards disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, such as young women, indigenous, Afro-Peruvian and other afrodescendants, lesbian, bisexual transgender and intersex women, and women with disabilities;

- (b) Ensure the provision of appropriate, accessible and quality support services responding to the needs of survivors of gender-based violence against women, especially indigenous women, Afro-Peruvian and other afrodescendant women, women with disabilities, refugee, asylum seeking and migrant women, women living with HIV/AIDS, and lesbian, bisexual transgender and intersex women;**
- (j) Approve a disaggregated case registration system, with variables such as ethnic and linguistic self-identification, disability, nationality, sexual orientation and gender identity;**

Equal Participation in political and public life

29. The Committee welcomes the progress made by the State party in increasing women's participation in political and public life, in particular the establishment of the Group for Strengthening Indigenous Political Participation (Resolution 085-A-2016-P/JNE), as well as Law 31030, raising the quota in both regional and municipal elections to 50% (gender parity). The Committee nevertheless notes with concern:

- (a) The persistence of structural barriers faced by women, particularly women from marginalized groups, in access to political and public life, decision-making processes and dialogues with the government on issues such as extraction mining ventures and large-scale agricultural initiatives;**
- (b) That discriminatory gender stereotypes continue to impede women from standing for election at the state and municipal levels;**
- (c) Increased political harassment against women, largely with impunity for those responsible;**
- (d) Complaints about women with disabilities being disfranchised because they were not on the electoral roll as a consequence of previously being subject to guardianship/ interdiction status.**

30. Recalling its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, as well as target 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

- (c) Adopt measures to address discriminatory gender stereotypes and practices within political parties that discourage women, in particular indigenous, Afro-Peruvian and other afro-descendants, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and women with disabilities, from standing for election at the federal, state or municipal levels;**
 - (f) Ensure equal voting rights for women with disabilities, including by ensuring that women previously subject to guardianship/ interdiction status are included on the electoral roll.**
- 33. The Committee welcomes the efforts to increase girls' and women's access to education across the State party through the development of a bilingual and intercultural education service model in 2018. It notes with concern, however:**

Education

33. The Committee welcomes the efforts to increase girls' and women's access to education across the State party through the development of a bilingual and intercultural education service model in 2018. It notes with concern, however:

- (a) That the high illiteracy rates disproportionately affects women and girls from marginalized communities who face intersecting forms of discrimination, such as indigenous, rural and Afro-Peruvian women and girls and women and girls with disabilities, refugees and migrants, many of whom have no formal education at all;
- (b) The disproportionately low literacy and completion rates among girls who become pregnant; and
- (c) The lack of age-appropriate sexuality education at all levels, including education on sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality.

34. Recalling its general recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education, the Committee recommends that the State party promote understanding of the importance of girls' education at all levels as a basis for their empowerment, and:

- (a) **Take targeted measures to ensure that disadvantaged and marginalized groups of girls, and particularly indigenous, Afro-Peruvian girls, rural girls and girls with disabilities, refugees and migrants, have adequate access to quality education as well as their retention in school, including by:**
 - (i) **Strengthening the educational infrastructure in indigenous communities and rural areas;**
 - (ii) **Providing free, reliable and safe school transport for girls and women in rural and remote areas;**
 - (iii) **Facilitating the enrolment of girls from marginalized groups in educational institutions at all levels; and**
 - (iv) **Ensuring adequate opportunities for indigenous girls and women to receive instruction in their own languages;**
- (b) **Ensure that sufficient human and financial support is available for implementation of strategies to prevent early pregnancies and strengthen support mechanisms to encourage pregnant girls and young mothers to continue their education during and after pregnancy, including by providing affordable childcare facilities, informing pregnant girls of their rights and imposing fines on educational institutions that expel pregnant girls and/or deny young mothers the opportunity to reintegrate into education; and**
- (c) **Strengthen the delivery of gender-sensitive, age-appropriate and accessible education on sexual and reproductive health and rights in curricula at all levels of education to foster responsible sexual behaviour with a view to preventing early pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including by providing teachers with systematic training on sexual and reproductive health and rights.**

Health

37. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to prevent early pregnancies, including the National Multisectoral Policy for Children and Adolescents (2030), establishing guidelines aimed at reducing early pregnancies and prioritising comprehensive sexuality education for basic education students. However, the Committee notes with concern:

- (e) Reports of forced sterilization of women and girls, in particular women and girls with

intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, despite the prohibition in law;

38. In line with its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reduce maternal mortality, including by legalizing abortion in cases of rape, incest, threats to the life or health of the pregnant woman or severe fetal impairment, decriminalize it in all other cases and provide women with access to safe abortion and post-abortion comprehensive care and services, in particular in cases of complications resulting from unsafe abortion;

(b) Develop and approve an exclusive Technical Health Standard for differentiated comprehensive care for girls who are pregnant as a result of rape, in accordance with international human rights standards for children and adolescents, ensuring that medical personnel are trained to ensure specialized attention for victims, including the provision of essential services for emergency contraception and abortion;

(c) Develop and strengthen the capacities of health personnel in the implementation of the National Technical Guide for the Standardization of the Procedure for the Comprehensive Care of the Pregnant Woman in the voluntary interruption for therapeutic indication of pregnancy of less than 22 weeks;

(d) Intensify inclusive awareness-raising programmes to ensure that women and girls, and particularly those from marginalized groups, have confidential access to modern contraceptives and information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including their right to make autonomous decisions, and to eliminate discriminatory gender stereotypes and attitudes regarding the sexuality of women and girls;

(e) Ensure that no sterilizations are performed without the free, prior and informed consent of the woman concerned, that practitioners performing sterilizations without such consent are adequately punished and that redress and adequate financial compensation are provided without delay to women who are victims of non-consensual sterilizations;

(f) Provide free access for all women and girls to COVID-19 vaccination and collect disaggregated data on the impact of COVID-19 on women's health in the State party;

(g) Ensure a comprehensive approach to access to prevention programmes, treatment and quality care and support to address HIV/AIDS, TB and viral hepatitis within sexual and reproductive healthcare, in both urban and rural areas, and implement strategies to prevent and counter stigmatisation and discrimination against women living with HIV/AIDS.

Economic empowerment and social benefits

39. The Committee remains concerned about the disproportionately high levels of poverty and inequality in accessing economic and social benefits faced by disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, especially indigenous women, Afro-Peruvian and other Afrodescendant women, rural women and women with disabilities.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Strengthen its national poverty reduction strategy with a particular focus on disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, in particular indigenous women, Afro-Peruvian and other afrodescendant women, rural women and women with

disabilities, and encourage the active participation of women in the formulation and implementation of poverty reduction strategies-

Women with disabilities

43. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Legislative Decree No. 1384 (2018), recognizing and regulating the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on equal terms; however it remains concerned that women with disabilities still face restrictions to take their own decisions and to access to justice and are sometimes subjected to medical interventions without their free, prior and informed consent in the State party.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party address intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and ensure their inclusion and enjoyment of all rights under the Convention, including by eliminating restrictions to take their own decisions; ensuring their access to justice, protection from gender-based violence against women, inclusive education, employment and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services; and requiring that no medical interventions, treatments and internments, must be performed on them without their free, prior and informed consent, in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 18 (1991) on disabled women.

Women and girls in detention

47. The Committee is concerned about the conditions of detention faced by women deprived of their liberty, in particular the lack of adequate services to address the needs of pregnant women and women with children, girls, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, migrant, indigenous women, Afro-Peruvian and other afro-descendant women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS and women with other illnesses such as tuberculosis in detention.

48. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop the penitentiary infrastructure to provide an appropriate environment for women detainees who are pregnant, accompanied by their children and women with disabilities, and consider non-custodial measures alternatives to incarceration;

(e) Collect data on women deprived of liberty disaggregated by age, ethnicity, disability, nationality, geographical location and socioeconomic background, with a focus on the system of registration and treatment of lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women in prisons

SENEGAL - CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8

Women's access to justice

13. The Committee appreciates the increase in the budgetary allocation for the provision of judicial aid, and the efforts made to provide such aid through decentralized legal support centres ('justice houses'). It also welcomes the translation of the Convention into six national languages and its dissemination on the local level. The Committee is concerned, however, that women continue to face multiple barriers to obtaining access to justice, owing to the following:

(a)The limited access to legal aid and support of disadvantaged groups of women, including rural women, women living in poverty, women with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, and women who are victims of sexual violence;

14. In line with its general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, the Committee recommends that the State party:(a)Ensure access to effective legal aid services for all women and girls in all parts of the State party and expedite the adoption of the law on legal aid to ensure that legal aid is available, affordable and accessible to all women in all settings, especially marginalized groups of women;

(b)Enhance women' s awareness of their rights and the means to enforce them through, inter alia, legal literacy programmes, and raise awareness among traditional and religious leaders, police officers and the general public on women's rights and gender equality;

(c)Accelerate capacity-building programmes for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other legal professionals, and the appointment of women to the judiciary, and ensure that the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Committee's general recommendations and its views on individual communications and inquiries are made an integral part of their professional training, so as to enable them to apply, invoke and/or refer to the provisions of the Convention directly and to interpret national legislation in line with the Convention;

(d)Give legal standing to civil society organizations to enable them to lodge complaints on behalf of victims of human rights violations.

Women facing intersecting forms of discrimination

39. The Committee is concerned about the following:

(b)Reports of acts of violence, including sexual violence, committed against women and girls with disabilities and women and girls with albinism, such as in the context of erroneous traditional beliefs, and the obstacles they face in accessing health services, including services related to sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, education, employment and social services;

(d)The lack of statistical data on the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, including women and girls with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and older women.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b)Efficiently protect women and girls with disabilities and women and girls with albinism against any form of violence, ensuring that strict penalties are imposed on perpetrators of violations against them, continue awareness-raising campaigns, ensure access to health services, including services related to sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS, and collect data, disaggregated by sex, disability and other relevant factors;

(c)Adopt the legislative and policy measures necessary to combat hate speech against lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, increase the level of their

protection, provide them with access to shelters, and fully investigate and, if appropriate, prosecute all cases of violations of their rights;

(d) Improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of up-to-date data, disaggregated by relevant factors, on the enjoyment by disadvantaged groups of women, including women and girls with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and older women, of their rights and on the measures taken to address the intersecting forms of discrimination and violence that such persons face.

Marriage and family relations

41. The Committee welcomes the development of a child protect act, the piloting of “schools for husbands”, the national consultations on questions of marriage and family relations undertaken in 2018 and 2019, and the awareness-raising measures conducted to encourage the registration of marriages. However, it is deeply concerned that:

f) There is a lack of comprehensive data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, location and socioeconomic status, on the numbers of child marriages, unregistered marriages, and polygamous, levirate and sororate marriages.

42. The Committee, recalling its general recommendation No. 21 (1994) on equality in marriage and family relations and its general recommendation No. 29 (2013) on the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution, recommends that the State party:

(f) Ensure the collection, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive and up-to-date data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, location and socioeconomic status, on child marriages, unregistered marriages and polygamous, levirate and sororate marriages.

Data collection and analysis

43. The Committee commends the efforts made by the State party to develop a National Gender Equality Index and to build capacity in gender units to collect and disseminate data disaggregated by sex. It is concerned, however, that disaggregated data is available in some, but not all areas of relevance to the realization of the rights of women, in particular regarding harmful practices, gender stereotypes, child marriage, polygamous, levirate and sororate marriages, violence against women, trafficking, education, employment, economic empowerment and health.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to enhance the systematic collection, dissemination and analysis of data related to women’s rights, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, religion, geographical location, disability and socioeconomic context, in all spheres, and use those data as a basis for designing policies to implement the Convention and assessing progress achieved towards that objective. It also calls upon the State party to accelerate the development of measurable indicators on gender-related issues and to continue capacity-building measures to improve the collection of data.

UGANDA - CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/8-9

General context

9. The Committee notes the measures undertaken by the State party for gender-responsive recovery strategies related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including by developing and implementing the national gender-based violence multi-sectoral COVID-19 response plan 2021/22-2024/25 and targeted measures to alleviate the negative economic and social effects of the pandemic on women and girls. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about the high prevalence of gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence, the longest shutdown of educational institutions globally due to the pandemic, and the feminization of poverty, which disproportionately affects women and girls belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

10. **In line with its guidance note on the obligations of States parties to the Convention in the context of COVID-19, issued on 22 April 2020, the Committee recommends that the State party, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic:**

(a) Implement measures to redress long-standing inequalities between women and men by placing women at the centre of COVID-19 recovery strategies, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, paying particular attention to unemployed women and women living in poverty, women belonging to ethnic and national minorities, indigenous women, women in humanitarian situations, older women, women with disabilities, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women, and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons;

Visibility of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations

11. The Committee notes the State party's efforts to enhance the visibility of the Convention, including by publishing the Convention in local languages. It is, however, concerned that women are often not aware of their rights under the Convention and the remedies available to them, in particular rural women, women belonging to ethnic and national minorities, indigenous women, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women, and women with disabilities.

12. **Recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7, para. 14), the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) Disseminate and give more publicity to the Convention, the Committee's concluding observations and its general recommendations;

(b) Consider establishing a comprehensive implementation mechanism for the present concluding observations, and involve the Ugandan Human Rights Commission, the Equal Opportunities Commission, the National Women's Council and non-governmental organizations promoting women's rights and gender equality in this mechanism, taking into account the four key capacities of engagement, coordination, consultation and information management of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up: engagement, coordination, consultation and information management;¹

¹See www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf.

(c) Raise women’s awareness of their rights under the Convention and the legal remedies available to them to claim violations of such rights, and ensure that information on the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendations is accessible to all women, including women belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups;

(d) Provide systematic capacity-building and training for government officials, judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officials, as well as lawyers on the Convention.

Women’s access to justice

15. The Committee welcomes that the Equal Opportunities Commission provides women with an additional avenue for obtaining a remedy as it may receive and settle individual complaints concerning women’s rights and gender equality, or refer them to appropriate authorities for adjudication, including courts. It also welcomes the holding of special court sessions at various High Courts throughout the State party to fast track cases of gender-based violence against women. The Committee is, however, concerned at:

(a) The complexity of the plural legal system in the State party, which constitutes a barrier to women’s access to justice, the persistence of discriminatory gender stereotypes in the justice system and the stigmatization of women complainants, including women migrant workers, rural women, women with disabilities, women with albinism and Muslim women;

16. With reference to its general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women’s access to justice, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(ii) Allocating the necessary human, technical and financial resources to the formal justice sector, in particular in rural and remote areas, to enable all women to claim their rights, and provide procedural accommodations for women with disabilities, including as witnesses;

Gender-based violence against women

25. The Committee notes that the National Development Plan III 2020/21-2024/25, like its predecessors, prioritizes combatting gender-based violence against women, and the creation of a National Gender Based Violence Database that aims at better informing strategies, policies and programmes to combat gender-based violence against women. The Committee is, however, deeply concerned that:

(a) Gender-based violence against women, including sexual violence and domestic violence, continues to be manifested throughout the entire life cycle of women and girls and that there is a high level of impunity and social acceptance in the Ugandan society;

(b) There are still instances of the practice of so-called “child sacrifice”, meaning the transfer of a girl or a boy from their home area with the intention to kill them for ritual purposes or to remove the child’s body parts for economic gain;

(c) Marital rape is not defined as a crime;

(d)The number of shelters, which are largely funded by development partners, is limited and insufficient funds are available for victims support services.

26. With reference to its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, and recalling its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7, paras. 24 and 28), the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Intensify efforts to raise awareness among both women and men, including through educational and media campaigns, with the active participation of women's organizations and women human rights defenders, on the criminal nature of gender-based violence against women in order to challenge its social acceptance, and destigmatize and protect women from reprisals to encourage them to report incidents of gender-based violence against women, as well as on the specific risk of gender-based violence for women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination, such as lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women and intersex persons, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women, women with disabilities, and women and girls with albinism;

(e) Collect comprehensive data and link it to the National Gender Based Violence Database, disaggregated by age, sex and relationship between victims and perpetrators and other sociodemographic characteristics, such as disability, to better inform policies and strategies to combat gender-based violence against women and girls, including sexual violence.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

27. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, including by engaging in international cooperation, such as for Ugandan women migrant workers abroad, as well as in awareness-raising initiatives and by awarding compensation to victims of trafficking, including those trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation and prostitution. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the State party remains a source, transit and destination country for trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls, and that there is a lack of statistical data on the extent of trafficking and its root causes, including in humanitarian settings;

(b) That women migrant workers are at risk of becoming victims of trafficking and sexual and labour exploitation;

(c) The lack of information on conviction rates in trafficking cases and the number of such cases reported, since 2018;

(d) The high prevalence of exploitation of girls in prostitution and child labour, including domestic servitude, forced begging, and exploitation in agriculture and brick making.

28. With reference to its general recommendation No. 38 (2020) on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration and recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7, para. 28), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009 and collect data on trafficking, disaggregated by sex, age, nationality, ethnicity, disability and

socioeconomic status to assess the impact of the Act, raise awareness in all communities about the Act, and strengthen victim assistance and witness protection and victim referral pathways in accordance with the National Referral Guidelines for the Management of Victims of Trafficking;

Equal participation in political and public life

31. The Committee welcomes that the Vice-President, Prime Minister and First Deputy Prime Minister and almost half of Cabinet positions are held by women and that the State party applies statutory quota such as reserved parliamentary and local assembly seats for women, including women with disabilities. It notes that the Gender Strategy 2020 and the National Development Plan III 2020/21-2024/25 also aim at ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities in decision-making in political and public life. The Committee is nevertheless concerned that the voter turnout in general elections dropped from 67.6 per cent in 2016 to 59.3 per cent in 2021, in part because women felt discouraged to exercise their right to vote due to heavy military deployment and police presence around the elections, election violence and allegations of vote rigging. It is further concerned that discriminatory laws and guidelines disenfranchise women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities.

32. Recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7, para. 30), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(d) Provide capacity-building in political leadership and campaigning skills and access to campaign financing for women candidates, including women with disabilities and women with albinism, and raise awareness among political leaders and the public about the fact that the full, equal, free and democratic participation of women in political and public life on an equal basis with men is required for the full implementation of the Convention;

(e) Repeal discriminatory legal provisions that restrict women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities from exercising their right to vote and to stand for election.

Nationality

35. The Committee welcomes that the State party, as one of the largest host countries in the world, receives approximately 1.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers in the State party, more than half of them women and girls, guaranteeing their constitutional right to birth registration and enabling foreign women to confer their nationality to their children. The Committee is, however, concerned about delays in birth registrations, in particular in rural and remote areas and within indigenous communities, and in the registration, issuance and renewal of identity cards for refugee women and girls, and the lack of information on measures taken to reduce statelessness.

36. With reference to its general recommendation No. 32 (2014) on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women, the Committee recommends that the State party:

b) Collect data on stateless women and girls, disaggregated by age, ethnicity and disability, and provide such data in its next periodic report;

Education

37. The Committee welcomes teaching programmes for indigenous girls in local languages, the efforts by State party to ensure education in humanitarian settings, including by establishing teaching partnerships between teachers and parents, and notes the lifting of a compulsory six months' ban after giving birth for girls before returning to school. The Committee is nevertheless concerned at:

(d) The allocation of only 0.1 per cent of the education sector budget to special needs education and the extremely low enrolment rate of girls with disabilities in both inclusive schools and specialised institutions, due in part to the inadequate facilities for girls with disabilities in public schools;

38. With reference to its general recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education and recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7, para. 32), the Committee recommends that the State party promote the importance of girls' education at all levels as a basis for their empowerment, and:

(a) Take measures to reduce the high illiteracy rate among women and girls, with a focus on girls living in poverty, rural girls, pregnant girls and young mothers, girls with disabilities, and refugee and asylum-seeking girls, through temporary special measures, such as quota, with time-bound targets to increase girls' enrolment, retention and completion rates in secondary education, and strengthen continuing education for women;

(d) Strengthen the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act 2020 by allocating the necessary human, technical and financial resources for the education of girls with disabilities, including increasing the number of schools for inclusive education throughout the entire State party, and taking measures to ensure accessibility and to provide reasonable accommodation for girls with disabilities in schools;

Employment

39. The Committee welcomes the Leadership Code (Amendment) Act 2017, which provides women with protection from sexual harassment at public workplaces, and the establishment of the Leadership Code Tribunal, which is mandated to adjudicate breaches of the Code, including by combatting corruption in the public sphere. The Committee is nevertheless concerned at:

(d) The fact that reportedly 80 per cent of women with disabilities have no independent livelihoods and sources of income

40. Recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7, para. 34), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(d) Take measures pursuant to the Persons with Disabilities Act 2020, including quota for women with disabilities and legally mandated reasonable accommodation, and the National Development Plan III 2020/21-2024/25, to ensure that women with disabilities have access to employment and accessible transportation to promote their inclusion in public and private employment;

UZBEKISTAN - CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6

Legislative framework

9. The Committee welcomes the progress made by the State party in establishing a progressive national legislative framework to protect women's rights and promote gender equality since the consideration of its fifth periodic report in 2015. Due to the recent adoption of many important pieces of legislation, the Committee considers that it is difficult to assess progress and trends over time in terms of the actual situation of women and in their enjoyment of their human rights in regard to all areas covered by the Convention. The Committee notes that the definition of discrimination in the Law on Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men (2019) encompasses direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of sex. It nevertheless notes with concern that the definition does not cover intersecting forms of discrimination. The Committee also notes with concern that the Convention has not been directly applied or invoked in court proceedings, despite the existing provisions ensuring the precedence of international treaties over national legislation and the related capacity-building provided to judges and lawyers. The Committee is also concerned that the State party has a reservation to article 12 of the recently ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, preserving substitute decision-making practices, which contradicts the object and purpose of the Convention as enshrined in article 1 and prevents the State party from fully implementing and addressing all human rights of women and girls with disabilities in compliance with the human rights model of disability.

(d) Withdraw its reservation on article 12 to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Temporary special measures

17. The Committee notes with appreciation the adoption in 2019 of the Law on Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, adopted in 2019, which provides for temporary special measures. It also notes that the State party carried out a study on the use of temporary special measures to advance substantive equality of women and men in the State party. However, the Committee remains concerned about the limited use of temporary special measures in most areas of the Convention where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, and the limited impact of existing temporary special measures.

18. In line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures and recalling its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/5, para. 14), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Adopt temporary special measures and establish time-bound targets, as a necessary strategy to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in all areas of the Convention where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, in both the public and private sectors, especially at the decision-making level, and with particular attention to women belonging to ethnic minority groups, women with disabilities and older women;

e) Adopt temporary special measures and establish time-bound targets to support particularly disadvantaged women including rural women, older women, women with disabilities and women in detention in accessing meaningful employment, secure housing, appropriate healthcare and quality education.

Gender-based violence against women

21. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Law on Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence, in 2019, and the Government Decree on Protection Orders. The Committee also notes the adoption of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence, in 2020. However, the Committee remains concerned about the high incidence of gender-based violence against women in the State party, including the stark increase in cases of domestic violence during the COVID-19 lockdown. It also notes with concern:

(b) The absence of criminal law provisions specifically criminalizing different forms of gender-based violence other than sexual violence and rape, and inadequate protection from gender-based violence of women and girls facing intersecting forms of discrimination, including women and girls belonging to religious and ethnic minorities, women and girls with disabilities, and women living with HIV/AIDS;

22. Recalling its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Review the Law on Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence and other relevant national legislation to cover all forms of gender-based violence and take into account the special needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, including women with disabilities, migrant women, women living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women;

Employment

31. The Committee notes that the prohibition of employment of women in certain industries and professions has been lifted in 2019. However, the Committee is concerned that the same year, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health developed and approved a new list of professions and jobs advising against employing women in those professions. The Committee is further concerned about:

(e) Limited access to decent employment for disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, including women belonging to ethnic minorities, migrant women and women with disabilities.

32. Recalling that progress in employment should go hand in hand with the empowerment of women and equality at work, the Committee recommends that the State party refocus its employment policy on gender equality and ensure that it is based on results, measurable indicators, partnerships with the private sector and opportunities for professional training in all areas, including innovative sectors and the information and communications technology sector. It also recalls its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/5, para. 26) and recommends that the State party:

(g) Improve access to employment and training opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, such as women belonging to ethnic minorities, women with disabilities and migrant women, and provide pre-departure training for women who migrate.

Disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women

39. The Committee remains concerned that older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minority groups, in particular women and girls belonging to Mughat/Luyli communities, refugee and asylum-seeking women, migrant women, women living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women continue to face intersecting forms of discrimination in the State party.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt targeted measures, including temporary special measures, to ensure access to justice, employment and health care, including sexual and reproductive health services respecting the confidentiality of patient information, social protection and food security for disadvantaged groups of women such as older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minority groups, in particular women and girls belonging to Mughat/Luyli communities, refugee and asylum-seeking women, migrant women, women living with HIV/AIDS, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, taking into account their specific needs.