



**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
(10 Oct – 28 Oct 2022)**

Treaty Body	CEDAW
Total number of Concluding Observations	8
Number of countries receiving recommendations on persons with disabilities	8
Number of countries receiving recommendations on persons with disabilities	100%
Number of recommendations including explicit references to disability	69

ARMENIA - CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/7

BELGIUM - CEDAW/C/BEL/CO/8

SWITZERLAND - CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/6

FINLAND - CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/8

GAMBIA - CEDAW/C/GMB/CO/6

HONDURAS - CEDAW/C/HND/CO/9

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS - CEDAW/C/KNA/CO/5-9

UKRAINE - CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/9

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

ARMENIA - CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/7

General context

9. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts and commitment towards peacebuilding, the consolidation of human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law, and sustainable development. It acknowledges the complex political, economic and security constraints during the reporting period for the State party, aggravated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and continued armed hostilities, notwithstanding the "Statement by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and the President of the Russian Federation" of 9 November 2020, which poses a challenge to the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, it notes that the State party has been facing a volatile situation marked by human suffering, forced displacement, economic instability, the rise of violence and insecurity, including sexual and gender-based violence. The State party has been facing also the reinforcement of traditional and patriarchal attitudes that limit women's and girls' enjoyment of their rights, in particular for disadvantaged groups of women and girls, such as internally displaced women, women in a refugee-like situation, rural women, older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities, and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women. Nevertheless, it considers that the implementation of the Convention, especially during times of conflict, is the most effective safeguard to ensure full respect for, and the enjoyment of, women's rights, given that women are a driving force of the socioeconomic development of the country.

10. The Committee calls on the State party to implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations as a matter of high priority, giving due consideration to its general recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of State parties under the Convention, and its general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post conflict situations to ensure substantive equality of women and men in all areas of the Convention and affirm women's leadership in peace processes and ensure the sustainable human, social and economic development of the State party.

Women, peace and security and internally displaced women and women in a refugee-like situation

11. The Committee notes as positive the adoption of the First and Second national action plans for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, covering the period 2019-2024. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned about the status of women and girls, especially those who are internally displaced or are in a refugee-like situation, who have limited access to education, employment, health and housing and protection from gender-based violence. It is also concerned that women have been marginalized and are not actively and meaningfully participating in all stages of peace and reconstruction processes and that women's priorities and their experiences in the armed conflict have not been fully integrated in those processes.

12. The Committee highlights as critical the meaningful and inclusive participation of women at all stages of peace and reconstruction processes, to ensure that women's priorities and experiences of the armed conflict are fully integrated in those processes, as required under the Convention and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), to ensure lasting peace. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, and recommends that the State party:

(e) Address the specific needs of internally displaced women and girls and of women and girls in a refugee-like situation who often face intersecting forms of discrimination, including widows, women and girls with disabilities, older women, women and girls belonging to ethnic minorities and lesbian, bisexual or transgender women, and provide durable interventions to address their needs;

Access to justice

15. The Committee welcomes the establishment of the Legal Equality Council to ensure equal protection of rights through administrative and civil procedures. However, it notes with concern persistent barriers to women's and girls' access to justice, including their limited knowledge of their rights and the remedies available to claim them and limited capacity of the judiciary and law enforcement officials to apply the Convention.

16. Recalling its general recommendation No. 33 (2015) on women's access to justice, the Committee recommends that the State party address the barriers to women's and girls' access to justice, including by:

(b) Strengthening awareness raising among women and girls, including in rural areas and among women belonging to disadvantaged groups such as internally displaced women, women in a refugee-like situation, women with disabilities and older women, on the legal remedies available to claim violations of their rights

Temporary special measures

21. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to introduce temporary special measures to increase the representation of women in political and public life. However, it is concerned at the limited use of temporary special measures in other areas where women are underrepresented and disadvantaged, in particular rural women, internally displaced women and girls, women and girls in a refugee-like situation, women belonging to minorities and women with disabilities, such as education, employment and decision-making.

22. 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:

(a) Adopt temporary special measures and establish time-bound targets, to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in all areas covered by 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 rural women, internally displaced women and girls, women and

girls in a refugee-like situation, women belonging to ethnic minorities and women with disabilities;

Gender-based violence against women

25.The Committee notes the State party's efforts to combat gender-based violence against women, in particular the adoption of the Law on Prevention of Violence within the Family, Protection of Victims of Violence within the Family and Restoration of Peace in the Family, in 2017, the amendments to the Criminal Code, and the establishment of the Council on Prevention of Violence in the Family, in 2018. However, it is 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 the absence of criminal law provisions specifically criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence, 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, internally displaced women and women and girls in a refugee-like situation.

26.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)Amend the Criminal Procedural Code and the Law on Prevention of Violence within the Family, Protection of Victims of Violence within the Family and Restoration of Peace in the Family, to ensure that all forms of gender-based violence against women, are specifically criminalized, and take into account the special protection needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, including women with disabilities, migrant women, internally displaced women and women in a refugee-like situation;

Education

33.The Committee notes with appreciation the State party's commitment to enhance full-fledged and effective participation and equal opportunities of women and men in the field of science and education, enshrined in the Gender Strategy for 2019 – 2023. It also notes the revision of the "Healthy Lifestyle" programme to be rolled out in schools in 2023, as well as the ongoing transition of the State schools to an inclusive education system. However, the Committee notes with concern the persisting segregation of women and girls in education, in particular:

(a)The high dropout rates among girls in secondary education, attributable to early pregnancies, child marriage, gender based discrimination or disability, in particular in rural areas;

34Recalling its general recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education and its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/5-6, para.23), the Committee recommends that the State party:

Employment

35. The Committee notes with concern:

(b) The lack of progress made towards the abolition of the list of jobs and professions considered dangerous for women, minors and persons with disabilities, contained in decision No. 2308-N of 29 December 2005, which perpetuates segregation in the labour market;

(f) The limited access to stable and adequately remunerated employment for disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, including women belonging to ethnic minorities, internally displaced women, women in a refugee-like situation, migrant women and women with disabilities.

36. 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 policies 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 such as the information and communication technologies sector. It also recalls its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/5-6, para. 25) and recommends that the State party:

(f) Improve access to employment and training opportunities for disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, such as women belonging to ethnic minorities, internally displaced women, women in a refugee-like situation, migrant women and women with disabilities;

Health

37. The Committee notes with concern:

(b) Stigmatization of and discrimination against women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS and women using drugs, as well as the inadequate mental health services for women.

38. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health, target 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/5-6, para. 27) and recommends that the State party:

(b) Adopt measures to combat and eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination against and stigmatization of women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, and women using drugs, in the health care system and ensure that they have access to adequate health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, antiretroviral treatment and drug treatment;

Women and girls with disabilities

43. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That women with disabilities continue to face systemic barriers to access healthcare services, including physical barriers, to accessible information and communication, as well as discriminatory treatment with regard to sexual and reproductive health services such as safe abortion and post-abortion services;

(b)The absence of specific targets in the Annual Employment Programme to promote employment of women with disabilities;

(c)That women and girls with disabilities, especially those with intellectual disabilities and psychosocial disabilities, continue to be confined to closed institutions, where they often face discrimination and gender-based violence, due to the slow deinstitutionalization process and lack of community based services.

44.The Committee recalls its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/5-6, para.37) and in view of targets 5.1, 5.2 and 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, in particular:

(a)Revise the Annual Employment Programme to promote the employment of women with disabilities, takin all necessary measures to increase accessibility of mainstream services and reasonable accommodation for all women and girls with disabilities;

(b)Increase the availability of community-based services aimed at enabling women with disabilities to live independently and participate in the community;

(c)Ensure that women and girls with disabilities have equal access to education, housing, health care and social protection and address gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities, particularly those living in institutions, prevent and investigate violations of their human rights and prosecute and punish perpetrators.

BELGIUM - CEDAW/C/BEL/CO/8

Access to justice

13.The Committee notes the amendments introduced in the Judicial Code in respect of legal aid , in 2016 and 2020. However, the Committee notes with concern that the eligibility criteria for aid have been severely restricted and the procedure to access aid has become more complex. The Committee also notes with concern:

(b)The serious obstacles to access to justice faced by migrant women victims of gender-based violence, particularly those without a residence permit, for fear of being deported, and by women with disabilities.

14In line with its general recommendation No 33 (2015) on women’s access to justice, the Committee recommends the State Party to ensure that the eligibility criteria for legal aid and public defence services are based on the real income or disposable assets of the woman and that the procedure to access aid is accessible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of women. The Committee also recommends the State Party to:

(b)Take all necessary measures to eliminate the serious obstacles to access to justice faced by all women, including undocumented women and women with disabilities, by ensuring the provision of procedural and age-appropriate accommodation, as well as interpretation services, and by granting a residence permit during the entire judicial proceedings for undocumented victims.

Temporary special measures

19. The Committee notes that the State Party legislation provides quota systems and affirmative actions for the equality between women and men and for the disadvantaged groups of people. However, the Committee notes with concern that the State party has not adopted in the reporting period any temporary special measures to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, in particular in decision-making and leadership positions in political and economic life, or for disadvantaged groups of women, such as migrant women, including undocumented women, women with disabilities and Roma women, in all areas covered by the Convention.

20. In line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and its general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Define and introduce "affirmative actions" for women in current and future sectoral public policies aimed at disadvantaged populations (such as migrants, Roma, people with disabilities, among others), aimed at accelerating the achievement of substantive equality of women and men.

Harmful practices

23. The Committee notes with concern, that despite the existing legislation and measures taken, there are still harmful practices against women and girls in the State Party. In this regard, the Committee expresses its concern that:

(b) Forced sterilisation of women and girls with disabilities, and in particular those with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, continues to be a widespread practise and a requirement in some institutions;

24. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Ensure that, in practice, women with disabilities, particularly with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, are not subjected to sterilization without their free, prior and informed consent, and offer them training programs on health and sexual and reproductive rights, including the prevention of sexual abuse, in accessible formats and adapted to their particular needs;

Gender-based violence against women

25. The Committee welcomes the ratification in 2016 of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and the adoption of the new National Action Plan to Combat all Forms of Gender-based Violence 2021-2025. It further notes the adoption of a new circular COL 15/2020 on the assessment of the risks of domestic violence; the revision of criminal policy circular COL 04/2006 in 2015 on rules to be applied for the treatment of situations of domestic violence; the amendment of legislation relating to the temporary ban on residence for perpetrators of domestic violence, in order to facilitate its use (Law of 5 May 2019 on various provisions in criminal matters); and measures to strengthen victim support services. However, the Committee notes with concern the limited number of places in shelters for victims of gender-based

violence in the State party; the decreasing funding of policies to combat violence against women; and the lack of comprehensive and updated statistical data on the extent of gender-based violence in the State party.

26. Recalling its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, and in line with target 5.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Ensure the systematic collection of data on gender-based violence against women and girls, disaggregated by age, nationality, disability and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

29. The Committee welcomes the adoption of Law of 18 June 2018 on the fight against acts of violence perpetrated in the name of culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called "honour", including genital mutilation, in 2018. It notes the adoption of a criminal policy circular (COL 6/2017) to sensitize magistrates and police officers and give them tools to undertake gender-sensitive investigations, and to define the prosecution policy for prosecutors. It further notes awareness-raising activities including the creation of a website and a poster campaign disseminating the toll-free help line 0800/90.901, as well as the development of a guide on gender-based violence committed in the name of so-called honour for legal and health professionals to enable them to recognize the signs and manage such situations. However, the Committee notes with concern the scarcity of disaggregated statistical data on cases prosecuted under Law on the fight against acts of violence perpetrated in the name of culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called "honour".

(b) Ensure the collection and analysis of comprehensive updated statistical data on violence perpetrated in the name of culture, custom, religion, tradition or so-called "honour", disaggregated by age, nationality, disability and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator;

Employment

43. The Committee welcomes the ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) in 2015. It notes the measures taken by the State party to address gender segregation in the labour market and improve women's access to careers in science and technology. It also notes the adoption of the Law of 15 March 2017 on practical and manageable work, which introduces the system for flexible working hours for employees; as well as the adoption in 2018 of a new and additional parental leave scheme which reduces parents working time by 10 percent. The Committee notes with concern, however:

(e) The high unemployment rates and the additional obstacles faced by women from disadvantaged groups (such as migrant women, undocumented women, women with disabilities, Roma women and older women) for their access, permanence and promotion in the labour market.

44. The Committee draws attention to its general recommendation No. 13 (1989) on equal remuneration for work of equal value and to target 8.5 of the Sustainable

Development Goals, to achieve by 2030 full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Review wages in all sectors, apply gender sensitive analytical job classification and evaluation methods, conduct regular pay surveys, and encourage employers to publish a narrative with their gender pay gap data, with a view to better understanding the reasons behind the gender wage gap, and strictly enforce the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in order to narrow and ultimately close the gender pay gap;

(b) Prioritize the transition of women from part-time to full-time work, including by providing a sufficient number of adequate and accessible childcare facilities;

(c) Reinforce measures, including regular labour inspections and strengthening women's access to confidential and independent complaint mechanisms, to address employment discrimination against women based on pregnancy and maternity;

(d) Raise awareness among employers and employees of sexual harassment and the relevant provisions relating to protection against violence and moral or sexual harassment, ensure that all reports of sexual harassment are effectively investigated and that those responsible are adequately punished, and ratify the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190);

(e) Strengthen labour inspections to monitor the working conditions of women domestic workers and investigate and punish exploitative and abusive practices of employers; and ensure in legislation and in practice that women domestic workers have explicit, written terms of employment outlining their specific duties, hours, remuneration, days of rest and other conditions of work, in contracts that are free, fair and fully consented to, together with information on access to complaint mechanisms;

(f) Take all necessary measures, including temporary special measures, to combat the structural barriers faced by women from disadvantaged groups (such as migrant women, undocumented women, women with disabilities, Roma women and older women) to secure full and productive employment, decent work and equal pay for work of equal value.

Health

45. The Committee welcomes the amendments made to the right to voluntary termination of pregnancy by eliminating the test for distress and by removing abortion from the criminal code, in 2018. The Committee also welcomes the statement by the delegation of the State party that only the woman concerned but not a legal guardian can give consent to sterilization. It further notes the information given by the delegation during the dialogue that since 2022, health care coverage for psychological services has improved in the State party, including for women and girls, and that there is no need to go through a general practitioner; and that mental health prevention programmes have been established. The Committee nevertheless notes with concern:

(a) That women with disabilities, migrant women, including undocumented women, and Roma women often encounter difficulties to access health services, particularly sexual and reproductive health services and information, including access to safe abortion;

(c) The lack of free, prior and informed consent for any medical treatment or intervention, particularly of women with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, migrant women, and intersex children

Women with disabilities

55. The Committee notes with concern that women with disabilities in the State party often face exclusion from the labour market, high levels of institutionalisation, as well as high rates of gender-based violence.

56. In line with its general recommendation No. 18 (1991) on women with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that all women and girls with disabilities are able to access the labour market, give their free and informed consent to decide where and with whom they choose to live, and access all support services available to victims of gender-based violence;

(b) Address intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and ensure their inclusion and access to all rights under the Convention, including by eliminating restrictions on their legal capacity, ensuring their access to justice, protection from gender-based violence, and access to inclusive education, employment and health services, including sexual and reproductive health services.

Data collection

61. The Committee is concerned at the general lack of updated statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability, geographical location and socioeconomic background, which are necessary for an accurate assessment of the situation of women, to determine whether they suffer from discrimination, for informed and targeted policymaking and for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved towards the realization of women's substantive equality in all areas covered by the Convention.

62. The Committee calls upon the State party to develop a gender indicator system to improve the collection of data, disaggregated by sex and other relevant factors, necessary to assess the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at mainstreaming gender equality and enhancing women's enjoyment of their human rights. 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 and to enhance its collaboration with women's associations that could assist in the collection of accurate data

SWITZERLAND - CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/6

Temporary special measures

35. The Committee welcomes the introduction in 2021 of a 30 percent quota for the representation of women on boards of directors and of a 20 percent quota for executive boards in companies with more than 250 employees. It also notes that GES 2030 provides for a 40 percent quota for the representation of women in the managing bodies of companies associated with the federal Government (in line with art. 2, para. 2, of Order RS No. 172.220.12, on remuneration and other contractual conditions agreed upon with the highest level of management and the members of the managing bodies of federal companies and establishments. It notes with concern, however, that initiatives to promote equal participation in different areas of society, such as in employment, by disadvantaged groups of women, including migrant and refugee women and women with disabilities, are insufficient to overcome the barriers they are facing.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt temporary special measures, such as outreach and support programmes, targeted recruitment and quotas, in line with article 4 of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures, to promote substantive equality of women and men in all areas where women in vulnerable situations are underrepresented and disadvantaged, such as employment, leadership positions and in politics;

(b) Carry out awareness-raising programmes among the general public on the need for statutory quotas, notably to effect the structural, social and cultural changes necessary to correct past and current forms and effects of discrimination against women.

Health

57. The Committee notes with concern that despite the prohibition of sterilization without the free and full consent of the person, sterilization of women and girls aged 16 and above deemed “incapable of discernment” is exceptionally permitted according to articles 7 and 8 of the Law on sterilizations.

58. The Committee referring to the recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD/C/CHE/CO/1, para. 36) recommends that the State party:

(a) Prohibit the sterilization of women and girls with disabilities without their prior, informed and free consent, without exception

(b) Repeal any legal provisions that allow substituted consent by third parties;

(c) Provide redress and support to women and girls who are victims of forced sterilization.

Economic empowerment and social benefits

59. The Committee is concerned about the significant number of women living in poverty or at risk of poverty in the State party, due to their higher unemployment rates, concentration in part-time, precarious and low-paid employment, and disproportionate

burden of unpaid care work. The Committee notes with concern that these factors also result in lower pension benefits for women, translating into old-age poverty. It further notes with concern

(c)The low number of women with disabilities receiving full disability benefits due to their underrepresentation in employment;

60.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b)Ensure that all women with disabilities have access to adequate disability benefits;

FINLAND - CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/8

Temporary special measures

17.The Committee welcomes the efforts of the State party to strengthen the participation of migrant women in political and public life, education and the labour market. It also takes note of the government resolution of 2015 requiring the boards of large and medium-sized listed companies to have a minimum of 40 per cent of both women and men on their boards. The Committee is, however, concerned that there have been no positive developments towards this minimum quota for women in recent years.

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:

(c)Continue and further strengthen specific temporary special measures to accelerate the participation of women belonging to disadvantaged groups such as migrant women, Roma women, Sami women, single mothers, older women and women with disabilities, in political and public life, decision-making, education and the labour market.

Harmful practices

21.The Committee notes the proposed amendment of the Law on verification of gender to remove the requirement of proof of sterilisation for a transsexual person.. It also notes that a working group was established to prepare best practice guidance to help health-care professionals advise parents with intersex children. The Committee further notes that forced marriage is punishable as human trafficking or as coercion. The Committee notes with concern, however:

(c)The failure of the State party to repeal Section 2 of the Sterilisation Law, which permits the sterilization of women with mental disabilities who have limited legal capacity or who have been deprived of their legal capacity without their consent;

22.Recalling joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019) on harmful practices, and the Committee's previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/8, paras.17 and 29), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c)Take immediate steps to repeal section 2 of the Sterilization Law and provide effective remedies for women victims of forced or involuntary sterilization;

Gender-based violence against women

23. The Committee welcomes the reform of legislation governing sexual offences and the establishment of a post of independent rapporteur on violence. It notes the State party's efforts to prevent gender-based violence against women including through capacity building for the police, the establishment of sexual violence referral centres (SERI) throughout the country and the launch of a national campaign against sexual harassment in 2016. The Committee nevertheless notes with concern:

(f) The lack of adequate shelters for victims of gender-based violence against women, particularly in the northern region, namely the Sami homeland, and the inaccessibility of most shelters for women with disabilities;

24. Reiterating its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/7, para.19), and 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:

(d) Provide adequate shelters for victims of gender-based violence in all regions, including the Sami homeland, and ensure that all shelters are accessible for women with disabilities;

Equal participation in political and public life

27. The Committee welcomes the high percentage of women in the State party's parliament (45.5 per cent), among the State party's representatives in the European Parliament (57.1 per cent) and as ambassadors in the civil service (50%). The Committee notes with concern, however, that:

(b) Migrant women, women with disabilities, women from ethnic minorities and Roma women are underrepresented in political and public life and notes the lack of statistical data on their situation;

28. Reiterating its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/7, para. 23, and recalling its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life and its general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt measures, including temporary special measures such as statutory quotas or incentives for political parties to include an equal number of women and men in their electoral lists, especially at the municipal level;

(b) Put in place measures, including temporary special measures, to ensure that the representation of women in political and public life, and particularly in leadership positions, reflects the full diversity of the population;

(c) Carry out awareness raising activities, with a particular emphasis on the region of Åland and the Sami populations, to accelerate women's equal representation in political and public life;

(d) Putting in place temporary special measures, including statutory quotas, for the representation of women in decision-making positions in the defence forces.

Employment

31.The Committee welcomes the recent legislative amendments providing equal family leave for both parents and additional leave to single parents. It takes note of the State party's efforts to eliminate gender segregation in the labour market and its intention to reduce the gender pay gap to 12 per cent by 2025. The Committee nevertheless notes with concern:

(c)The difficulties experienced by women belonging to ethnic minorities, migrant women and women with disabilities in accessing secure, well-paid and full time work;

32.With reference to its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/7, para. 27), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c)Develop effective strategies and policies to improve women's access to secure, well-paid jobs with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged groups of women, including migrant women, women from ethnic minority groups, single mothers, older women and women with disabilities;

Disadvantaged groups of women

37.The Committee notes with appreciation that separate wings for women inmates will be established in six prisons to ensure their safety and well-being. It also notes the State party's indication that proposed amendments to the Law on the promotion of integration to facilitate the integration of migrant women in society and strengthen their access to the labour market. It further notes that the third national policy on the Roma under preparation focuses on the status of several groups within the Roma community, including Roma women. The Committee notes with concern, however, the lack of information on specific measures to address the situation of women who face intersecting forms of discrimination, in particular migrant women, Roma women, older women and women with disabilities.

38.The Committee recommends that in its next report the State party provide detailed information on targeted measures to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women who face intersecting forms of discrimination, including migrant women, Roma women, older women and women with disabilities.

GAMBIA - CEDAW/C/GMB/CO/6

National machinery for the advancement of women

13.The Committee welcomes the establishment, in 2019, of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare, noting that a stated goal of its Strategic Plan (2021-2025) is to mainstream gender in key sector policies and programmes and ensure gender-responsive programming and budgeting across all sectors. The Committee is concerned, however, that the Ministry is restrained in implementing its mandate due to resource constraints, given that in 2022, the total national budget invested in the government's programming on gender, children, and social welfare was 0.3 per cent.

14.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:

(c) Define indicators for all gender equality objectives, including those of the Gambia National Gender Policy 2021-2030 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; provide an assessment of progress made in its next periodic report;

Health

33. The Committee notes the efforts of the State party to enhance access to health care for women, including the Kabilo Baama initiative to improve clinic attendance by women, which has reportedly resulted in reduced rates of maternal, child and neo-natal mortality. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The high maternal mortality rates and prevalence of unsafe abortions, including among adolescent girls, given the very limited circumstances in which abortion is legal in the State party, namely, only when the life of the pregnant woman or girl is at risk;

(b) The limited availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning services, for women and girls, especially rural women and girls, exacerbated by the diversion of resources to COVID-19 programmes

34. In line with its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health and targets of 3.1 and 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Ensure that women and girls have adequate access to information on sexual and reproductive health and rights and that all women, including rural women and women with disabilities, have access to adequate sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, free/ affordable and safe contraceptive methods, prevention of early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and safe abortion and post-abortion services.

Women with disabilities

39. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2021. It is, however, concerned that women and girls with disabilities continue to face discrimination, stigma, exclusion, prejudices, negative stereotypes, and lack of accessibility in public and private spaces.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2021, including by:

(a) Providing the Disability Advisory Council with adequate human, technical and financial resources and gender-sensitization training, to implement its mandate to promote and protect the rights of girls and women with disabilities;

(b) Adopting and implementing a strategy to increase the independence and employability of women with disabilities, also by ensuring the accessibility of workplaces and introducing a quota for labour market participation by women with disabilities;

(c) Increase accessibility of justice for women with disabilities, including by providing systematic training to judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers on the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

HONDURAS - CEDAW/C/HND/CO/9

Women's rights and gender equality in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery efforts

8. The Committee takes note of the measures taken by the State party to implement gender-responsive recovery strategies related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and targeted measures to alleviate the negative socio-economic impact of the pandemic on women and girls. However, the Committee is concerned about the further increase in the already high prevalence of gender-based violence against women, including domestic violence, as well as the increasing feminization of poverty during the pandemic, which have disproportionately affected women and girls belonging to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, who already faced multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination prior to and whose condition further deteriorated during the pandemic.

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

(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, women living in poverty, women belonging to ethnic and national minority groups, women in humanitarian settings, older women, women with disabilities, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women;

Visibility of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations

10. The Committee remains concerned about the limited visibility of the Convention in the State party, in particular among women. It is concerned that women, especially rural women, women belonging to ethnic minorities, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and women with disabilities, are often not aware of their rights under the Convention and the remedies available to claim them.

11. Recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/HND/CO/7-8, para. 9), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Disseminate and give more visibility to the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations;

(b) Consider establishing a comprehensive mechanism for the implementation of the present concluding observations and involve non-governmental organizations promoting women's rights and gender equality in the work of the mechanism, taking into account the four key capacities of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, namely, engagement, coordination, consultation and information management;

(c) Raise awareness among women 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;

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

Constitutional and legislative framework and discriminatory laws

12. The Committee notes that the principle of equality and non-discrimination are enshrined in the Constitution. However, it remains concerned about intersecting forms of discrimination against disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women in the State party, in particular women living in poverty, women with disabilities, rural women, indigenous women, Afro-Honduran women, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, and women human rights defenders.

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Devise a comprehensive system to collect data on discrimination against women, disaggregated by age, nationality, ethnicity, disability and socioeconomic status.

Temporary special measures

20. The Committee remains concerned that the information provided by the State party indicates a lack of adequate understanding of the nature, scope and necessity of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating substantive equality of women and men, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention. It also notes with concern the absence of temporary special measures other than electoral quotas, in particular to address intersecting forms of discrimination against rural women, indigenous women, Afro-Honduran women, women with disabilities and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.

21. Recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/HND/CO/7-8, para. 19) and drawing attention to its general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, the Committee recommends that the State party take targeted measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention, to accelerate substantive equality of women and men, in particular rural women, indigenous women, Afro-Honduran women, women with disabilities and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, in all areas under the Convention where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, including political and public life, education, employment and health.

Gender-based violence against women

24. The Committee reiterates its concern about the persistence of gender-based violence against women in the State party, including sexual violence. It regrets that the persistence of high levels of insecurity, violence and organized crime in the State party, is negatively affecting the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights. It is particularly concerned that, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Honduras had the highest femicide rate in Latin America in 2019. It also notes with concern:

- (a)The reduction in article 193 of the Penal Code of the minimum sentence for the crime of femicide (15 years less than under the previous Penal Code), and that at least 278 femicides in the State party have been reported in 2020 and 318 in 2021, mostly committed by intimate partners or former intimate partners;
- (b)That the new Penal Code no longer specifically criminalizes marital rape;
- (c)Underreporting of gender-based violence against women and girls due to victims' fear of stigmatization or reprisals, economic dependence on an abusive partner, legal illiteracy, language barriers and lack of trust in the law enforcement authorities;
- (d)The lack of adequate assistance and remedies for women seeking to escape violent relationships, the insufficient number of adequate shelters across the State party and the frequent practice of sending victims back to their abusive partners or compelling them to part with their children;
- (e)That the Special Prosecutor's Office for Child Protection registered 6,951 cases for the crime of sexual abuse against children and adolescents between 2016 and 2020;
- (f)The persistence of gender-based violence and discrimination against lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, exacerbated by widespread impunity for perpetrators of hate crimes, including gender-based violence against and killings of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women.

25. Recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/HND/CO/7-8, para. 23) and in line with its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, and with Sustainable Development Goal 5.2 on the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, the Committee recommends that the State party strictly enforce and monitor the enforcement of legislation criminalizing gender-based violence against women and strengthen its public security strategy to combat organized crime and to eliminate the related high levels of insecurity and violence that continue to affect women and girls. It also recommends that the State party:

- (g) Collect comprehensive data, disaggregated by age, sex, relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and other sociodemographic characteristics, such as disability, to better inform policies and strategies to combat gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic and sexual violence.**

Equal participation in political and public life

28. The Committee notes with concern:

- (a)The persistence of structural barriers to participation in political and public life faced by women, in particular rural women, indigenous women, Afro-Honduran women, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and intersex women, as well as women with disabilities;

29. 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:

- (a) Adopt temporary special measures, such as statutory quotas and a gender parity system, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general**

recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to ensure the equal representation of women, including rural women, indigenous women, Afro-Honduran women, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and intersex women, as well as women with disabilities, at the decision-making level, in the National Congress, regional and municipal legislative bodies, the Government, the civil service and the foreign service;

Education

34. The Committee notes increase of the budget allocated to the Ministry of Education and welcomes initiatives to ensure equal access to quality education for indigenous and Afro-Honduran children and adolescents. The Committee nevertheless notes with concern:

- (a) The disproportionately high levels of illiteracy among women, in particular among indigenous, Afro-Honduran and rural women;
- (b) The low enrolment rates among women and girls compared to men and boys;
- (c) The relatively high rates of early pregnancy and school dropout among girls, due also to child marriage;
- (d) Persistent discriminatory gender stereotypes in the education system, including an emphasis on traditional roles of women in school textbooks;
- (e) The lack of sexuality education addressing the role of social gender relations and the impact of patriarchal attitudes and discriminatory gender stereotypes on women's and girls' sexuality;
- (f) Barriers preventing indigenous and rural girls and women from attending virtual education programmes during the period of confinement in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular due to the lack of technological equipment;
- (g) Harassment, corporal punishment and bullying of girls and women, in particular lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, in educational environments and the limited information on the number of complaints and investigations in such cases and on the penalties imposed.

35. 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/HND/CO/7-8, para. 33), the Committee recommends that the State party promote the importance of girls' education at all levels, as a basis for their empowerment, and:

- (a) Reduce the high illiteracy rate among women and girls, with a focus on girls living in poverty, rural girls, indigenous women, Afro-Honduran women, pregnant women and girls and young mothers, women and girls with disabilities and refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls, through temporary special measures, such as quotas with time-bound targets, to increase the enrolment, retention and completion rates among girls and women in secondary and higher education;**

Employment

36. The Committee appreciates the information provided by the delegation during the interactive dialogue that a time-use survey has been conducted to facilitate understanding gender differences in time use and activities and the strategies women

and men use to sustain livelihoods in the State party. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(d)The high unemployment rate among indigenous women, rural women and women with disabilities

37. In line with target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals on the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men and recalling its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/HND/CO/7-8, para. 35), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(d)Ensure that indigenous women, rural women and women with disabilities have access to employment and accessible transportation to promote their inclusion in public and private employment;

Economic empowerment of women

40.The Committee remains concerned about the disproportionately high levels of poverty and the limited access to economic and social benefits for disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, in particular indigenous women, Afro-Honduran, rural women and women with disabilities.

41.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Strengthen efforts to reduce poverty among women, with a particular focus on disadvantaged and marginalized groups of women, such as indigenous women, Afro-Honduran, rural women and women with disabilities, promote their access to low-interest loans without collateral and participation in entrepreneurial initiatives to empower them economically and provide them with opportunities to acquire necessary skills to participate in economic life;

Women and girls in detention

44.The Committee is concerned about the conditions of detention of women deprived of their liberty, including overcrowding of detention facilities due to the extensive use of pre-trial detention, and their limited access to food, medical treatment and hygiene products for them and their accompanying children. It further notes with concern the deaths of six women during a prison riot and of at least three other women during further incidents at the “Penitenciaría Nacional de Adaptación Social de Mujeres”, in Támara, Francisco Morazán in 2020.

45.The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b)Ensure that women deprived of their liberty and their accompanying children have adequate access to food, medical treatment and hygiene products, and provide an appropriate environment, recreation, educational activities and privacy for women detainees, including those who are pregnant, accompanied by their children and women with disabilities;

e)Collect data on women deprived of liberty disaggregated by age, ethnicity, disability, nationality, geographical location and socioeconomic background.

Visibility of the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations

8. The Committee is concerned that the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations are not fully incorporated into domestic law and are still not well-known within the judiciary and among legal professionals and that women, in particular rural women, migrant women and women with disabilities, are often not aware of their rights under the Convention and the remedies available to claim them.

9. The Committee recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to widely disseminate the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations and provide mandatory and continuous capacity building for judges, lawyers and law enforcement officers to ensure that the Convention, the Committee's general recommendations and its jurisprudence under the Optional Protocol are sufficiently known by the judiciary and legal professionals and invoked in court proceedings and raise awareness among women of their rights under the Convention and the legal remedies available to them to claim violations of those rights and ensure that information on the Convention, the Committee's jurisprudence under the Optional Protocol and its general recommendations is accessible to all women.

Employment

30. The Committee welcomes the legislative measures taken by the State party aimed at ensuring equal access to formal employment (Equal Pay Act, 2012) and notes that the State party mandated a special unit within the Department of Labour to conduct regular inspections to ensure its enforcement. It remains concerned, however, about the persistent gender pay gap and the failure of the State party to implement the observations of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organization, adopted in 2016 and 2019, in relation to the absence of provisions in the Equal Pay Act explicitly guaranteeing the equal remuneration of women and men for work of equal value. It is also concerned about the lack of legislation explicitly criminalizing sexual harassment in the workplace.

31. The Committee draws attention to target 8.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to achieve by 2030 full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value, and recommends that the State party:

(a) Amend the Equal Pay Act, in line with the observations of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Organization, to include the principle of equal remuneration of women and men for work of equal value;

(b) Intensify its efforts to address the persistent gender pay gap by regularly reviewing wages in sectors where women are concentrated and adopting measures

to close the gender pay gap, including through gender-neutral analytical job classification and evaluation methods and regular pay surveys;

(c) Enact legislation explicitly criminalizing sexual harassment in the workplace, ensure that victims have access to effective remedies and that complaints about sexual harassment are effectively investigated, perpetrators prosecuted and adequately punished, and victims protected from retaliation;

(d) Ratify the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), of the International Labour Organization.

Health

32. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to ensure access to high-quality health care services to all women. It notes with concern, however, the lack of a strategic plan on sexual and reproductive health and rights, the criminalization of abortion except in cases of rape and threats to the life or health of the pregnant women, the discrepancies between the age of consent (currently 16 years old) and the access to which contraceptives can be accessed without parental approval (currently 18 years old) and the limited accessibility of health services for women with disabilities.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(d) Ensure the accessibility of health care services and facilities for women and girls with disabilities, such as accessible walkways and the use of braille and sign language, and train health professionals on their specific health needs.

Economic empowerment

34. The Committee notes that the State party has adopted a welfare assistance system aimed at reducing the socioeconomic vulnerabilities of economically disadvantaged women and their families, and the Women's Employment, Entrepreneurship and Financial Inclusion Project to provide technical and financial support to unemployed women and female entrepreneurs. It notes with concern, however, the insufficient specific measures and targeted programmes to support and stimulate entrepreneurship among women and promote their economic empowerment. It is also concerned about structural barriers faced by women to access low interest loans and bank loans without collateral as well as other forms of financial credit, microcredit, credit guarantee schemes, venture capital, markets, supply and value chains and other economic development opportunities.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(c) Promote women's entrepreneurship, particularly with regard to those belonging to disadvantaged groups, such as women with disabilities, migrant women, single mothers, young women and older women;

Disadvantaged groups of women

38. The Committee welcomes the Eastern Caribbean High Court ruling (29 August 2022) rendering unconstitutional all laws that criminalize same sex intimacy. It also welcomes the establishment of a dedicated officer in the Ministry of Community

Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services to work with persons with disabilities and older persons. However, the Committee notes with concern:

(b) The lack of policy to support and empower women and girls with disabilities and provide special training programmes to increase their independence and employability;

39. The Committee recommends that the State party amend all relevant laws to reflect the High Court ruling without further delay, and adopt targeted measures and gender sensitive policies to ensure access to justice, employment and health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, social protection and integration within the community for disadvantaged groups of women including women with disabilities and migrant women, taking into account their specific needs, and implement the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Nelson Mandela Rules (General Assembly Resolution 70/175 of 17 December 2015) to address the conditions of women in detention.

UKRAINE - CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/9

Factors and difficulties preventing the effective implementation of the Convention

10. The Committee is similarly concerned that the military attack against Ukraine has resulted in grave violations of human rights of Ukrainian women and girls, who are victims of attacks against civilians and civilian objects such as schools, kindergartens, medical and other essential civilian infrastructures, through the use of cluster munitions, air strikes and artillery, as well as of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, arbitrary and extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, gender-based violence, including sexual violence, forced transfers and forced displacements of populations. It notes that the military attack by Russian Federation against Ukraine has a particularly severe impact on women and girls in disadvantaged situations, such as internally displaced women, rural women, older women, women with disabilities, Roma women, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women and women from other minorities, including Crimean Tatar women. The Committee recalls that some of these violations may amount to crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes under international law (see Human Rights Council resolution [S-34/1](#)).

12. The Committee calls upon the State party to implement the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations, giving due consideration to its general recommendations No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations and No. 32 (2014) on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women. It recommends that the State party consider seeking international assistance, as needed, for the implementation of the recommendations, including technical assistance by the Committee.

Women living in conflict-affected areas and internally displaced women

17. The Committee welcomes the measures taken to avoid casualties among civilians, including women and girls, during hostilities, such as the implementation of the National Strategy on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, the establishment

of a Civilian Casualties Prevention Working Group, and the collection of disaggregated statistical data on civilian injuries and deaths (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 12). The Committee also notes the measures taken by the State party to strengthen access by women and girls living in conflict-affected areas and internally displaced women to social, legal and psychological assistance (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, paras. 46-50, 52-54 and 57-59). Nevertheless, the Committee notes with concern that:

(a) The reported cases of human rights violations committed against women and girls in conflict-affected areas;

(b) Women and girls living in conflict-affected areas and internally displaced women have limited access to justice, civil registrars, education, durable employment opportunities, social protection, health care, food, adequate water and sanitation, shelter and electricity due to the destruction of or severe damage to a large number of schools, health centres, and other essential infrastructure;

(c) The significant impact of the armed conflict on women's and girls' mental health.

18. In line with its general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post conflict situations, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide systematic and mandatory training on women's rights and gender equality to law enforcement officials and members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, develop and ensure compliance by security sector actors with a code of conduct on the respect for human rights, and ensure that all women and girls survivors of conflict-related gender-based violence have access to support, including by the Centre for Assistance to Rescued Persons, whose branches should be extended to all conflict-affected regions of the State party, and that women and girls who are injured and/or have acquired a disability due to the war, receive support and rehabilitation services;

(c) Continue to strengthen access to mental health services for women and girls affected by the armed conflict, including women working in the security and defence sectors, survivors of conflict-related gender-based violence and disadvantaged groups of women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities.

Gender-based violence against women

29. The Committee notes the issuance in 2020 of the Decree on Urgent Actions to Prevent and Combat Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence and to Protect the Rights of Victims of Such Violence and the approval in 2019 of the Procedure for the Carrying Out and Documentation of Medical Examination of Victims or Possible Victims of Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence and Providing Medical Care to them. It also welcomes the measures taken to provide capacity-building programmes for judges, prosecutors, police officers and other law enforcement officers to support women victims of gender-based violence (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, paras. 39 to 42). The Committee further notes that the Expert Council on Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Discrimination is mandated to issue expert assessments of cases of gender-based violence and that the State party provides free legal aid to victims of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 65) and deploys mobile teams to the regions, which provide

social and psychological assistance to women victims of gender-based violence (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 119-122, 127). However, the Committee notes with concern:

(a) The lack of harmonization of national legislation with the recently ratified Council of Europe Convention No. 210 on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (2011);

(b) That the Criminal Procedure Code does not provide for ex officio prosecution of gender-based violence against women, including sexual violence;

(c) The high incidence and low number of cases of domestic violence, in which emergency restraining orders are issued (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 116);

(d) The limited number of police mobile teams for domestic violence response (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 123) and the increased risk of intimate partner violence due to the traumatic experiences of women, men and children during the armed conflict;

(e) The lack of shelters for victims of domestic violence in 7 of the 25 regions of the State party (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 128);

(f) The delay in adopting draft legislation on reparations for victims of gender-based violence against women and girls;

(g) The limited availability of disaggregated data on the number of reports, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of gender-based violence against women and girls in the State party, including domestic violence, and on the sentences imposed on perpetrators.

30. Recalling its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/8, para. 29) and its general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(e) Ensure that all women and girls victims of gender-based violence in the State party have access to adequate shelters, legal assistance, if necessary free of charge, health care, especially mental health services, including rural women, internally displaced women, women with disabilities, women who use drugs and other disadvantaged groups of women;

(g) Strengthen the collection of comprehensive data on gender-based violence against women and girls, disaggregated by age, sex, relationship between the victim and the perpetrator 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.

Equal participation in political and public life

33. The Committee notes that a number of local councils in the State party have joined the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life. It nevertheless notes with concern that:

(a) Women remain underrepresented in the Parliament of Ukraine and in regional, district and city councils and that their representation has decreased in settlement and village councils (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, paras. 155-157);

(b) Women's representation at senior levels of the public service remains unchanged and that although the number of women in high-level positions in the diplomatic

service has increased, it remains disproportionately low (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, paras. 78, 84 and 158);

(c) Women in political and public life reportedly face misogynist public discourse by male politicians, political commentators and media professionals that perpetuate discriminatory gender stereotypes.

34. Reiterating its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/8, para. 33), and recalling its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Continue capacity-building activities for women politicians and candidates at the local government level (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 160), extend such capacity-building on negotiation and leadership skills and provide campaign financing for women candidates at all levels, with an emphasis on internally displaced women, women belonging to national minorities and women with disabilities, and support local councils wishing to join and implement the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life;

Education

37. The Committee welcomes the introduction of the mandatory review of State-sponsored educational materials to remove discriminatory content (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 165), the inclusion of gender studies at all levels of education (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 174) and the efforts made to encourage girls' education in non-traditional fields of study (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, paras. 168-170). The Committee, however, is concerned about:

(d) The continued low school attendance and completion rates among Roma girls (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 178) and the barriers faced by children with disabilities, including girls with disabilities, in the education system.

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

(d) Strengthen its awareness-raising campaigns and introduce further measures to increase school enrolment, retention and completion rates among Roma girls and women and girls with disabilities, including through the implementation of the Strategy for Promoting the Rights and Opportunities of Persons Belonging to the Roma National Minority in Ukrainian Society for the period up to 2030 (2021) and of the National Strategy for the Creation of Barrier-Free Space in Ukraine, respectively.

Employment

39. The Committee welcomes the abolishment of the list of more than 450 professions prohibited for women (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 184) and the approval of guidelines for gender audits in enterprises, institutions, and organizations (2021). The Committee nevertheless notes with concern:

(a) The increase in the unemployment rate among women and the high numbers of unemployed young women (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, paras. 180 and 181);

(b)The continued horizontal and vertical segregation in the labour market and the high concentration of women in low-paid jobs, in the informal sector and in positions in the formal sector, for which the employer does not declare income for tax and social protection purposes;

(c)The orientation of women and girls to traditionally female-dominated occupations in career guidance at the educational level and in programmes for unemployed women (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 182);

(d)The persistent gender pay gap (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 197), despite its slight decrease and continued efforts by the State party to reduce it;

(e)The absence in legislation explicitly prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace;

(f)The persistently low number of men availing themselves of parental leave while the child is under the age of 3 years (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 84).

40. With reference to its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/8, para. 37), the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a)Reduce unemployment among women, including through targeted measures by the State Employment Service and the Ministry for Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 185-188), with an emphasis on unemployed internally displaced women, single mothers, young mothers, older women, rural women, women with disabilities, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, women who use drugs, Roma women and women living in conflict-affected areas of the State party;

Economic and social benefits

43. The Committee commends the State party for the specific measures taken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to support women entrepreneurs, low-income families and internally displaced women (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, paras. 244-248). It also welcomes the provision of social benefits to single mothers, older women, rural women, women with disabilities, unemployed women, Roma women, internally displaced women and homeless women (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, paras. 229-232 and 236-241). The Committee further notes the establishment of 14 new Administrative Service Centres to provide social and administrative services in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and of 16 mobile centres providing such services to **women with disabilities**, rural women and older women (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 235). However, the Committee notes with concern:

(c)The lack of adequate housing for internally displaced women, including women with disabilities and older women, and the need for durable solutions for internally displaced women, including women, whose houses have been destroyed.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(c)Ensure durable solutions for internally displaced women, with a particular focus on women and girls with disabilities, older women and women with children, and adopt legislation to ensure that women whose property was destroyed have access to financial compensation.

Marriage and family relations

45. The Committee welcomes the amendments to improve the enforcement of alimony payments in 2017 and the payment of temporary government benefits to women who do not receive alimony payments for their child (CEDAW/C/UKR/9, para. 233). It nevertheless notes with concern:

(c) Reports of cases where women with disabilities and women who use drugs have been deprived of the custody of their children;

(e) Reported cases of women with disabilities who have been pressured and harassed into marrying men seeking to leave the State party as personal assistants;

(f) The lack of support and services offered to parents of children with disabilities, including mothers of children with disabilities, for assuming their guardianship and custody in order to avoid their institutionalisation.

46. The Committee, recalling its general recommendation No. 21 (1994) on equality in marriage and family relations, its general recommendation No. 29 (2013) on the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution and its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/8, para. 48), recommends that the State party:

(c) Provide support to mothers with disabilities and mothers who use drugs and refrain from automatically depriving them of custody of their children;

(e) Adopt legal safeguards to protect women with disabilities from forced marriages under harassment;

(f) Provide the necessary support and services to parents of children with disabilities, including mothers of children with disabilities, to ensure their custody and care in a family environment.