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Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**Concluding observations on the combined seventeenth to nineteenth reports of Israel***

1. The Committee considered the combined seventeenth to nineteenth periodic reports of Israel (CERD/C/ISR/17-19), submitted in one document, at its 2788th and 2789th meetings (see CERD/C/SR.2788 and CERD/C/SR.2789), held on 4 and 5 December 2019. At its 2799th meeting, held on 12 December 2019, it adopted the present concluding observations.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the submission of the combined seventeenth to nineteenth periodic reports of the State party and expresses its appreciation for the constructive dialogue with the State party's delegation. It thanks the delegation for the information provided during the consideration of the report and for the additional written information submitted after the dialogue.

3. The Committee recognizes the issues related to security and stability in the region. The State party should, however, ensure that, in conformity with the principles of the Convention, measures taken are proportionate, do not discriminate in purpose or in effect against Palestinian citizens of Israel, Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory or any other minorities whether in Israel proper or in territories under the State party's effective control; and that they are implemented with full respect for human rights as well as relevant principles of international humanitarian law.

4. The Committee reiterates its view that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are not only illegal under international law but are an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights by the whole population, without distinction as to national or ethnic origin. Actions that change the demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Occupied Syrian Golan are also of concern as violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

B. Positive aspects

5. The Committee welcomes the State party's ratification of or accession to the following international human rights instruments:

- (a) The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2012;
- (b) The Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), of the International Labour Organization, in 2012.

* Adopted by the Committee at its 100th session (25 November – 13 December 2019).

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

(a) The adoption, in 2019, of Amendment No. 137 to the Penal Law 5737-1977, which recognizes racist motives as an aggravating circumstance for the offence of murder;

(b) The adoption, in 2018, of Amendment No. 22 to the Legal Aid Law, which provides for free legal aid to any person who files a civil law suit under the Prohibition of Discrimination in Products, Services and Entry into Places of Entertainment and Public Places Law 5761-2000;

(c) The adoption, in 2017, under government resolution No. 2397, of the Government Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the Bedouin Population in the Negev (2017-2021);

(d) The establishment, in 2016, under government resolution No. 1958, of the Unit for the Coordination of the Fight Against Racism within the Ministry of Justice;

(e) The adoption, in 2016, under government resolution No. 959, of the Program for the Development and Empowerment of Druze and Circassian Localities (2016-2019);

(f) The adoption, in 2015, under government resolution No. 922, of the Economic Development Plan for the Arab Sector (2016-2020).

C. Concerns and recommendations

Composition of the population

7. While noting the efforts made by the State party to provide information on the national background of the Jewish population of Israel, as well as on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by various ethno-religious groups residing in the territory of the State party, the Committee regrets the lack of comprehensive updated statistics on the socio-economic status of the different population groups, including migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons, living in Israel and in the territories under the State party's jurisdiction or effective control (arts. 1 and 5).

8. **Bearing in mind paragraphs 10 to 12 of its guidelines for reporting under the Convention (CERD/C/2007/1) and its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) concerning article 1 of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party provide updated statistics on the demographic composition of the population and on the socio-economic status of the different population groups, within its territory and in the territories under its effective control, disaggregated by ethnic or national origin, gender, and languages spoken, including migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, taking into account the principle of self-identification.**

Applicability of the Convention

9. While acknowledging the willingness of the State party delegation to discuss questions relating to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Committee regrets that the report did not contain any information concerning the population living in these territories. In this regard, the Committee remains concerned at the position of the State party to the effect that the Convention does not apply to all the territories under the State party's effective control, which not only include Israel proper but also the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Syrian Golan. The Committee reiterates (CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16, para. 10) that such a position is not in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Convention and international law, as also affirmed by the International Court of Justice (art. 2).

10. **Reiterating its previous concluding observations (CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16, para. 10), the Committee strongly urges the State party to review its approach and interpret its obligations under the Convention in good faith and in accordance with international law. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure that all persons**

under its effective control enjoy full rights under the Convention without discrimination based on grounds of race, colour, descent and ethnic or national origin.

Prohibition of racial discrimination

11. The Committee reiterates its concern (CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16, para. 13) that no general provision for equality and the prohibition of racial discrimination has been included in the State party's Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty (1992), which serves as the State party's bill of rights. While the prohibition of discrimination appears in several specific laws in a fragmented way, it is still not contained in a comprehensive law, which would encompass a definition of racial discrimination in line with article 1 of the Convention (arts. 1 and 2).

12. The Committee recommends that the State party amend its Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty (1992) to explicitly incorporate the principle of equality and the prohibition of racial discrimination and adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation which includes a definition of racial discrimination covering all grounds of discrimination, in line with article 1 of the Convention, and encompasses direct and indirect discrimination in both the public and private spheres.

Basic Law: Israel – the Nation State of the Jewish People

13. The Committee is concerned about the discriminatory effect of the Basic Law: Israel – the Nation State of the Jewish People (2018) on non-Jewish people in the State party, as it stipulates that the right to exercise self-determination in Israel is “unique to the Jewish people” and establishes Hebrew as Israel's official language, downgrading Arabic to a “special status”. Furthermore, while Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are not only illegal under international law but also an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights by the whole population, the Basic Law constitutionally elevates them “as a national value” (arts. 1, 2 and 5).

14. The Committee urges the State party to review the Basic Law: Israel – the Nation State of the Jewish People with a view to bring it in line with the Convention. According to general recommendation No. 21 (1996) on the right to self-determination, “all peoples have the right to determine freely their political status”. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that the change in the status of Arabic language does not weaken the linguistic rights of the Arabic-speaking population. As regards the expansion of Jewish settlements, the Committee urges the State party to comply with its international legal obligations, including under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

Discriminatory laws

15. The Committee remains concerned at the maintenance of several laws which discriminate against Arab citizens of Israel and Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and create differences among them, as regards their civil status, legal protection, access to social and economic benefits, or right to land and property. The Committee is also concerned about the adoption of Amendment No. 30 of 2018 to the already discriminatory Entry into Israel Law (1952), which grants the Israeli Minister of Interior broad discretion to revoke the permanent residency permit of Palestinians living in East Jerusalem (art. 2 and 5; see also paragraph 22 of the present concluding observations).

16. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure equal treatment for all persons on the territories under its effective control and subject to its jurisdiction, including by guaranteeing equal access to citizenship, legal protection, social and economic benefits, as well as right to land and property, and that it amend or revoke any legislation that do not comply with the principle of non-discrimination.

Institutional framework

17. While the Committee regrets that the Ministry of Minority Affairs was dismantled since the State party's last review, it welcomes the establishment of the Unit for the Coordination of the Fight Against Racism within the Ministry of Justice, which is mandated, *inter alia*, to receive and examine complaints of racial discrimination. While noting that the

State party has started the necessary consultations to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, it remains concerned that such institution has not yet been established. The Committee is also concerned at reports about the unclear status and activities of certain quasi-government entities, which carry out specific decision-making functions without being part of the executive structure (art. 2).

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

(a) **Prioritize and expedite the establishment of an independent national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, with a mandate to combat racial discrimination, in full compliance with the Paris Principles, in light of its general recommendation No. 17 (1993) on the establishment of national institutions to facilitate the implementation of the Convention;**

(b) **Ensure that all institutions carrying out governmental functions fully comply with the State party's international legal obligations and are accountable on equal footing with other executive bodies.**

Complaints of racial discrimination

19. The Committee welcomes the various measures taken to facilitate the reporting of complaints for acts of racial discrimination, including the adoption of Amendment No. 22 to the Legal Aid Law, the launching of several awareness-raising campaigns, and the creation of various complaints mechanisms, including a hotline to provide information and assistance to persons affected by such acts. It is, however, concerned:

(a) About the lack of detailed information on racial discrimination complaints filed with the national courts and other relevant Israeli institutions, as well as on investigations, prosecutions, convictions, sanctions, and on the reparations provided to victims;

(b) That people belonging to minority groups, in particular Palestinian and Bedouin communities, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons may face obstacles in accessing justice while seeking remedies for cases of discrimination (art. 6).

20. **Bearing in mind general recommendation No. 31 (2005) on the prevention of racial discrimination in the administration and functioning of the criminal justice system, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Provide information and statistics on complaints of racial discrimination, as well as on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions imposed, and on the reparations provided to victims, disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic or national origin.**

(b) **Increase awareness among minority groups, in particular Palestinian and Bedouin communities, as well as among migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, of their rights under the Convention and eliminate all barriers preventing them from accessing justice; and continue facilitating the filing of complaints for victims of racial discrimination.**

Segregation between Jewish and non-Jewish communities, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

21. The Committee reiterates its concern (CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16, para. 11) that the Israeli society continues to be segregated as it maintains Jewish and non-Jewish sectors, including two systems of education with unequal conditions, as well as separate municipalities, namely Jewish municipalities and the so-called "municipalities of the minorities", which raises issues under article 3 of the Convention. The Committee is particularly concerned about the continued full discretion of the Admissions Committees to reject applicants deemed "unsuitable to the social life of the community" (arts. 3, 5 and 7).

22. As regards the specific situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Committee remains concerned (CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16, para. 24) at the consequences of policies and practices which amount to segregation, such as the existence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory of two entirely separate legal systems and sets of institutions for Jewish communities in illegal settlements on the one hand and Palestinian populations living in

Palestinian towns and villages on the other hand. The Committee is appalled at the hermetic character of the separation of the two groups, who live on the same territory but do not enjoy either equal use of roads and infrastructure or equal access to basic services, lands and water resources. Such separation is materialized by the implementation of a complex combination of movement restrictions consisting of the Wall, the settlements, roadblocks, military checkpoints, the obligation to use separate roads and a permit regime that impacts the Palestinian population negatively (art. 3).

23. Recalling its previous concluding observations (CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16, para. 11), the Committee draws the State party's attention to its general recommendation 19 (1995) concerning the prevention, prohibition and eradication of all policies and practices of racial segregation and apartheid, and urges the State party to give full effect to article 3 of the Convention to eradicate all forms of segregation between Jewish and non-Jewish communities and any such policies or practices which severely and disproportionately affect the Palestinian population in Israel proper and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Family reunification

24. The Committee remains deeply concerned about the disproportionate and adverse restrictions imposed by the Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Provision), which suspends the possibility, with certain rare exceptions, of family reunification of Israeli citizens or residents of East Jerusalem with Palestinian spouses living in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. The Committee notes that, although the legislation now allows the granting of temporary residence permits for humanitarian reasons or a residence permit under special circumstances, the process requires the fulfilment of strict security and age conditions, and the withdrawal of such permits can be arbitrary (arts. 2, 3 and 5).

25. The Committee recommends that the State party objectively balance its security concerns with the human rights of persons affected by the various laws and policies regarding citizenship and entry into Israel, review its legislation in order to ensure the respect of the principles of equality, non-discrimination and proportionality, and further facilitate family reunification of all citizens and permanent residents of the State party.

Racist hate speech and hate crimes

26. The Committee welcomes the recent adoption of Amendment No. 137 to the Penal Law 5737-1977, which recognizes racist motives as an aggravating circumstance for murder. It also notes the existence of criminal legislation on hate speech, incitement to racism and to violence, as well as on racist organizations and participation in and support for such organizations. The Committee is, however, concerned about:

(a) The tide of racist hate speech in public discourse, in particular by public officials, political and religious leaders, in certain media outlets and in school curricula and textbooks;

(b) The proliferation of racist and xenophobic acts that particularly target non-Jewish minorities, especially Palestinian citizens of Israel, Palestinians residing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and migrants and asylum-seekers of African origin;

(c) Reports that the judiciary might handle cases of racial discrimination by applying different standards based on the alleged perpetrator's ethnic or national origin (arts. 2, 4 and 6).

27. Recalling its general recommendations No. 7 (1985) relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention, No. 8 (1990) concerning the interpretation and application of article 1 (1) and (4) of the Convention, No. 15 (1993) on article 4 of the Convention and No. 35 (2013) on combating racist hate speech, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Step up its efforts to counter and stem the tide of racism and xenophobia in public discourse, in particular by strongly condemning all racist and xenophobic

statements by public figures, political and religious leaders, as well as media personalities, and by implementing appropriate measures to combat the proliferation of acts and manifestations of racism that particularly target non-Jewish minorities; and remove any derogatory comments and images that perpetuate prejudices and hatred from school curricula and textbooks;

(b) Ensure that public prosecutors and the judiciary as a whole prosecute racist hate speech and hate crimes by applying the same standards, irrespective of the alleged perpetrators' ethnic or national origin.

Situation of the Bedouin people

28. While welcoming several measures taken to improve the situation of Bedouin people, including the adoption of the Socioeconomic Development Plan for Negev Bedouin (2017–2021), to enhance their educational opportunities and their access to public and social services, the Committee remains concerned about house demolitions and the ongoing transfer of Bedouin communities to temporary locations, as well as the absence of meaningful participation of and consultation with Bedouin communities in the formulation of such plans affecting their access to land and property. The Committee is also concerned about the substandard living conditions in both the unrecognized villages and the recognized townships, which are characterized by limited access to adequate housing, water and sanitation facilities, electricity and public transportation (arts. 2 and 5).

29. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure meaningful consultation with all concerned Bedouin communities regarding the implementation of the various plans affecting their right to land and property and resolve the pending land ownership claims in a timely, transparent and effective manner, recognize their villages, take all necessary measures to improve their living conditions, and stop house demolitions and the eviction of Bedouin people from their homes and ancestral lands.**

Situation of Domari (Gypsy) people

30. While taking note of the existing measures to improve the situation of Domari (Gypsy) people, the Committee remains concerned about their generally low socio-economic status, including extreme poverty, substandard living conditions, low attendance rates of children in primary schools and their underrepresentation in secondary and post-secondary education, and their high rates of unemployment (arts. 2 and 5).

31. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma, the Committee urges the State party to improve the situation of Domari people, including through coordination at all levels of government and by engaging with Domari communities in the design, implementation and evaluation of inclusion policies and action plans. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to end extreme poverty of Domari people, provide genuine solutions to increase school attendance and employment, and improve their housing conditions and their access to basic services.**

Situation of minority women

32. The Committee is concerned that minority women, in particular those belonging to Palestinian, Druze, Bedouin, Circassian and Ethiopian communities, may face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin and gender, including barriers to obtaining access to employment, education, health care and justice (arts. 2 and 5).

33. **Recalling its general recommendation No. 25 (2000) on gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, the Committee recommends that the State party eliminate all barriers faced by minority women, in particular those belonging to Palestinian, Druze, Bedouin, Circassian and Ethiopian communities, in obtaining access to employment, education, health care and justice. To this end, it recommends that the State party incorporate a minority women perspective into all gender-related policies and strategies.**

Minorities within the Jewish population

34. While taking note of the various measures taken to improve the situation of minorities within the Jewish population, the Committee reiterates its concern (CERD/C/ISR/CO/14-16, para. 21) at allegations of ongoing discrimination against Ethiopian Jews (arts. 2 and 5).

35. **The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discriminations affecting Jewish minorities so as to ensure equal enjoyment of their rights under the Convention, particularly the rights to education, work and political representation.**

Participation in public and political life

36. The Committee welcomes the various initiatives taken to increase the representation of persons belonging to minorities, such as the Palestinian, Druze, Bedouin, Circassian and Ethiopian communities, in the public sector, especially in government offices. It also notes the outreach programs which have taken place in the judicial and law enforcement sectors to attract more professionals of minority background. However, the Committee is concerned about recent legislative changes regarding the Knesset, such as Amendment No. 62 (2014) to the Knesset Elections Law raising the threshold required for political parties and Amendment No. 44 (2016) to the Basic Law: The Knesset (Dismissal of a Knesset Member in accordance with Section 7A) (2016) regarding the establishment of a procedure to oust a sitting Knesset Member on political and ideological grounds, which could both considerably weaken the right to political participation of non-Jewish minorities (arts. 2 and 5).

37. **The Committee recommends that the State party continue and step up its efforts to achieve adequate representation of minorities in the civil service, law enforcement and judicial bodies, in particular in senior positions. Furthermore, it recommends that the State party eliminate obstacles and create favourable conditions for the participation of minorities in political decision-making processes.**

Rights to education, work and health

38. The Committee is concerned:

(a) About the disproportionately high dropout rates among Bedouin students and the significant gaps in the educational achievements between Arab students and Jewish students, as well as the shortage of classrooms and kindergartens in Bedouin neighbourhoods

(b) That non-Jewish minority groups, in particular Palestinian and Bedouin communities, continue to face limitations in the enjoyment of their right to work and are concentrated in low-paying sectors;

(c) About the disproportionately poor health status of the Palestinian and Bedouin populations, including shorter life expectancy and higher rates of infant mortality compared to those of the Jewish population (art. 5).

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

(a) **Step up its efforts to address the high dropout rates of Bedouin students, as well as the shortage of classrooms and kindergartens in Bedouin neighbourhoods, and take effective measures to improve the quality of education provided to Arab students with a view to enhancing their academic achievements;**

(b) **Intensify its efforts to increase the labour market participation of non-Jewish minority groups, in particular Palestinians and Bedouins, especially women belonging to these communities, including by providing education and training tailored to their experience and level of job skills and by considering the establishment of special measures;**

(c) **Take concrete measures to improve the health status of the Palestinian and Bedouin populations.**

Situation of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons

40. The Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The very low recognition rate of refugees in the State party;
- (b) The Law for the Prevention of Infiltration (1954) and its amendments, which stigmatize persons who entered irregularly as “infiltrators”, especially Sudanese and Eritreans, allow for their detention and enforced residence, and penalize irregular entry into the State party without exempting individuals who are in need of international protection;
- (c) The requirement for employers, under a new provision of May 2017, to deduct part of the monthly salaries of employees falling under the Law for the Prevention of Infiltration, which causes further impoverishment of these persons;
- (d) Instances of de facto segregation of children of asylums-seekers and about their poor educational conditions, which results in a significantly higher percentage of them requiring special education and development assistance;
- (e) The lack of adequate protection for stateless persons who entered Israel irregularly, primarily people of African descent, and the revocation of the citizenship of Bedouin persons without due process (arts. 2 and 5).

41. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Ensure that the refugee status determination procedure is in full compliance with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and that the process of application is fair and effective;**
- (b) Amend the Law for the Prevention of Infiltration and any other relevant legislation in order to ensure that they do not stigmatize asylum-seekers and are in line with the State party’s international obligations;**
- (c) Consider abolishing the provisions which require the employers to deduct a significant percent of the salaries of employees falling under the Law for the Prevention of Infiltration, which further hampers their socio-economic status and opportunities;**
- (d) Ensure equal access to and quality education of children of asylum-seekers, continue the establishment of educational institutions, including by increasing the number of public kindergartens, and put an end to the de facto segregated schooling system;**
- (e) Ensure adequate protection for all stateless persons and establish an effective mechanism to end statelessness among Bedouins.**

Settlement policies and acts of violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem

42. The Committee is concerned at continuing confiscation and expropriation of Palestinian land, continuing restrictions on access of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, to natural resources, inter alia, agricultural land and adequate water supply. The Committee is particularly concerned:

- (a) About the discriminatory effect of planning and zoning laws and policies on Palestinians and Bedouin communities in the West Bank, the continued demolitions of building and structures, including water wells, and as a consequence, further displacement of Palestinians;
- (b) That the process of applying for building permits is prolonged, complicated and expensive and that few such applications are approved, while a preferential treatment continues for the expansion of Israeli settlements, including through the use of “state land” allocated for settlements;
- (c) About acts of violence perpetrated by the State party’s settlers against Palestinians and their property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and at the lack of effective accountability for and protection from such acts by the State party’s authorities (arts. 2, 4, 5 and 6).

43. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Review planning laws and policies in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem in consultation with the affected populations, to ensure that they are compliant with its obligations under the Convention and ensure the rights to property, access to land, housing and natural resources of Palestinian and Bedouin communities;

(b) Review the construction permit system in order to prevent demolitions and forced evictions and put an end to the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements;

(c) Take all necessary measures to prevent violence perpetrated by the State party's settlers and that all incidents of violence are promptly and properly investigated, and that victims are provided with effective remedies.

Ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip

44. The Committee is concerned about the long-standing blockade of the Gaza strip imposed by the State party. It notes with concern that the blockade continues to violate the right to freedom of movement, access to basic services, especially to health care, and impedes the ability to access safe drinking water (arts. 2,3 and 5).

45. **The Committee urges that the State party review its blockade policy and urgently allow and facilitate the rebuilding of homes and civilian infrastructures, ensure access to necessary urgent humanitarian assistance as well as to the right to freedom of movement, housing, education, health, water and sanitation, in compliance with the Convention.**

Occupied Syrian Golan

46. The Committee remains concerned at the vulnerable situation of Syrian residents of the Occupied Syrian Golan and their unequal access to land, housing and basic services. It is particularly concerned about the expansion of settlements and activities that have reduced Syrian farmers' access to water, and about the fact that, due to the Law on Citizenship (1952), families ties continue to be disrupted (art. 5).

47. **The Committee urges that the State party ensure equal access for all residents of the Occupied Syrian Golan to fundamental rights, such as the right to land, housing, water and basic services. It also recommends that the State party put an end to the expansion of Israeli illegal settlements and find a satisfactory solution to the issue of family separation.**

D. Other recommendations

Ratification of other treaties

48. **Bearing in mind the indivisibility of all human rights, the Committee encourages the State party to consider ratifying those international human rights treaties that it has not yet ratified, in particular treaties with provisions that have direct relevance to communities that may be subjected to racial discrimination, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), of the International Labour Organization, as well as the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.**

Amendment to article 8 of the Convention

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

Declaration under article 14 of the Convention

50. The Committee encourages the State party to make the optional declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention with a view to recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual communications.

Follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

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

International Decade for People of African Descent

52. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/237, in which the Assembly proclaimed 2015–2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, and Assembly resolution 69/16 on the programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade, the Committee recommends that the State party prepare and implement a suitable programme of measures and policies in collaboration with organizations and peoples of African descent. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next report precise information on the concrete measures adopted in that framework, taking into account its general recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent.

Consultations with civil society

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

Follow-up to the present concluding observations

54. In accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 of its rules of procedure, the Committee requests the State party to provide, within one year of the adoption of the present concluding observations, information on its implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 18 (institutional framework) and 29 (situation of the Bedouin people) above.

Paragraphs of particular importance

55. The Committee wishes to draw the attention of the State party to the particular importance of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 (Basic Law: Israel – the Nation State of the Jewish People), 16 (discriminatory laws), 23 (segregation between Jewish and non-Jewish communities, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territory) and 27 (a) (racist hate speech and hate crimes) above and requests the State party to provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the concrete measures taken to implement those recommendations.

Dissemination of information

56. The Committee recommends that the State party's reports be made readily available and accessible to the public at the time of their submission and that the concluding observations of the Committee with respect to those reports be similarly made available to all State bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Convention,

including municipalities, in the official and other commonly used languages, as appropriate.

Common core document

57. The Committee encourages the State party to update its common core document, which dates to 19 January 2015, in accordance with the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, in particular those on the common core document, as adopted at the fifth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies held in June 2006 (HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I). In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 42,400 words for such documents.

Preparation of the next periodic report

58. The Committee recommends that the State party submit its combined twenty to twenty-third periodic reports, as a single document, by 2 February 2024, taking into account the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee during its seventy-first session (CERD/C/2007/1) and addressing all the points raised in the present concluding observations. In the light of General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee urges the State party to observe the limit of 21,200 words for periodic reports.
