Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Viet Nam*

1. The Committee considered the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Viet Nam (CEDAW/C/VNM/7-8) at its 1313rd and 1314th meetings, on 10 July 2015 (see CEDAW/C/SR.1313 and 1314). The Committee’s list of issues and questions are contained in CEDAW/C/VNM/Q/7-8 and the responses of Viet Nam are contained in CEDAW/C/VNM/Q/7-8/Add.1.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee appreciates that the State party submitted its combined seventh and eighth periodic reports. It also appreciates the State party’s written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by its pre-session working group. It welcomes the oral presentation of the delegation and the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed orally by the Committee during the dialogue.

3. The Committee commends the State party delegation which was headed by Mr. Doan Mau Diep, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs. The delegation also included representatives from the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, as well as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations at Geneva.

B. Positive Aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2006 of the State party’s combined fifth and sixth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/VNM/5-6) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of:

   (a) The Constitution which recognizes gender equality and prohibit gender-based discrimination, in 2013;

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* Adopted by the Committee at its sixty-first session, meeting from 6 to 24 July 2015.
(b) The amendment to the Law on Vietnamese Nationality, as amended, which facilitates the acquisition of Vietnamese nationality by refugee and stateless women and prevents statelessness, in 2014;

(c) The Land Law which provides for the issuance of land use certificates in the name of both spouses in 2013;

(d) The amendment to the Labour Code, as amended, which prohibits sexual harassment at work, in 2012;

(e) The Law on Human Trafficking, which explicitly prohibits forced labour and sexual exploitation, in 2011;

5. The Committee welcomes the State party’s efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, such as the adoption of:

(a) The National Strategy for Gender Equality (2011-2020);

(b) The National Programme on Gender Equality (2011-2015);

(c) The National Action Plan on the prevention of and combat against human trafficking (2011-2015);

6. The Committee welcomes the fact that, in the period since the consideration of the previous report, the State party has ratified or acceded to the following international instruments:

(a) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in 2015;

(b) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in 2015;

(c) Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in 2012;


C. Principle areas of concern and recommendations

National Assembly

7. The Committee stresses the crucial role of the legislative power in ensuring the full implementation of the Convention (see the statement by the Committee on its relationship with parliamentarians, adopted at the forty-fifth session, in 2010). It invites the National Assembly, in line with its mandate, to take necessary steps regarding the implementation of the present concluding observations between now and the next reporting period under the Convention.

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

8. The Committee welcomes the inclusion of the principle of gender equality and the prohibition of discrimination based on sex in the Constitution, as amended in 2013. It also notes that several laws relevant to gender equality and the advancement of women are scheduled for revision in the next few years, which can be an opportunity for facilitating further gender-mainstreaming in the State party. However, the Committee is concerned that:
(a) A few laws and decrees, such as the Law on Marriage and Family and the Labour Code, still contain discriminatory provisions that are not compatible with the Convention and the Constitution;

(b) The implementation of laws and policies remains weak due to the lack of accountability mechanisms and insufficient human, technical and budgetary resources and unawareness of the concept of substantive gender equality by law and policy makers and government officials.

(c) The general lack of knowledge about gender equality

9. The Committee recommends that the State party:

a) Use the scheduled revision of laws, including the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Code and the Legal Aid Law, as an opportunity to harmonize these laws with the provisions of the Convention and the Constitution;

b) Consider amending the Law on Marriage and Family and the Labour Code to bring them into full conformity with the Convention and the Constitution;

c) Build strong accountability mechanisms for the implementation of laws and policies relevant to gender equality and the advancement of women, including in the National Programme on Gender Equality for 2016-2020, with clear timelines, targets and indicators, clear allocation of responsibilities, mechanisms for monitoring its implementation, and allocation of adequate human, technical and budgetary resources;

d) Enhance capacity-building for law and policy makers, government officials, the judiciary and law enforcement officials at national and provincial levels to promote understanding of the concept of substantive gender equality in line with the Convention;

e) Widely disseminate the Convention, the Constitution and the Gender Equality Law throughout the State party, including at the community level, and translate them into ethnic minority languages.

Legal aid and access to Justice

10. The Committee welcomes efforts made by the State party to build capacity of the judiciary on gender equality. The Committee is concerned nevertheless that:

(a) The frequent use of reconciliation and mediation for dispute resolution privileges men over women, including in cases of domestic violence and property disputes, and hinders women’s access to justice and remedies;

(b) Women’s access to legal aid remains low and under the Legal Aid Law (2006) legal aid is not free of charge for women whose household income is above poverty line, even if they do not have access to household income and/or are survivors of domestic violence.

11. The Committee recommends the State party:

(a) Enhance the implementation of relevant national law which prioritize judicial process to reconciliation and mediation, and sensitize community leaders, law enforcement officers, lawyers and the judiciary to ensure women’s access to justice;

(b) Include, in the scheduled amendment of the Legal Aid Law in 2016, the development of a comprehensive legal aid scheme in order to ensure effective access by women to courts, including on cases of discrimination and violence against women, with clear timeline and mechanism for monitoring, for criminal cases, in accordance
with the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems (General Assembly resolution 67/187, annex); 

(c) Enhance women’s awareness of their rights and legal literacy in all areas of the law to empower women to avail themselves of procedures and remedies to claim their rights under the convention.

National machinery for the advancement of women

12. The Committee notes various institutions to advance women’s rights, including the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, the National Committee for the Advancement of Women and the Vietnamese Women’s Union. However, it is concerned about:

(a) The lack of effective coordination and clear division of responsibility in ensuring gender equality and rights of women within State institutions;

(b) The insufficient implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2011-2020).

13. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure the overall coordination among relevant State institutions in ensuring gender equality and rights of women, with clear mandate and defined responsibilities for each institution as well as adequate human, technical and financial resources and authority to effectively discharge their mandates;

(b) Enhance the effective implementation of the National Strategy on Gender Equality (2011-2020) by allocating human, technical and financial resources necessary for its implementation in order to ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed across all areas of work of the Government.

Temporary special measures

14. The Committee notes with concern that there is limited understanding in the State party of temporary special measures to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men, in line with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures.

15. The Committee encourages the State party to promote understanding of and use temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures, as a necessary component of a strategy to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality of women and men, in all areas of the Convention where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged.

Stereotypes and discriminatory practices

16. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted gender stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society which over-emphasize subordinate and caring roles of women and are reflected in practices such as son preference. It also notes with concern the prevalence of harmful practices such as child marriage in certain areas of the State party and about gender bias and gender stereotypes persisting in the media.
17. The Committee recommends that the State party:
   (a) Adopt comprehensive strategic measures to address the root causes of
gender inequality and modify the deeply-entrenched discriminatory gender
stereotypes and cultural beliefs that privilege men over women in order to eliminate
gender-based discrimination and harmful practices.
   (b) Reinforce awareness-raising programmes to eliminate gender
stereotypes associated with traditional gender roles in the family and in society,
targeting officials at all levels, the judiciary and law enforcement personnel, teachers,
parents and community leaders, as well as women and men and girls and boys, on the
negative effects of harmful practices and discriminatory stereotypes on women's
enjoyment of their right, in accordance with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention;
   (c) Sensitize and cooperate with the media to enhance understanding of
the concept of equality of women and men in public and private life and convey
positive images of women.

Violence against women

18. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Law on Domestic Violence
Prevention and Control in 2007 and the revised Labour Code in 2012 which prohibited
sexual harassment at work. However, it is concerned about:
   (a) The high prevalence of violence against women and girls, including dating
violence, violence in public spaces and sexual harassment at the work place, as well as
against older women and women in prostitution;
   (b) The absence of legal provisions explicitly criminalizing marital rape; the low
rate of reporting and conviction of perpetrators of violence against women; excessive use of
reconciliation procedures to address domestic violence; and over-reliance on forensic
evidence in investigating physical and sexual violence;
   (c) The inadequacy of victim assistance and rehabilitation services;
   (d) The lack of systematic collection of comprehensive data on violence against
women.

19. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, the
Committee recommends that the State party:
   (a) Revise the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and
criminalize all forms of violence against women, including marital rape, dating
violence, violence in public spaces and sexual harassment;
   (b) Develop, as a matter of priority, a national plan of action to prevent and
respond to all forms of violence against women and allocate sufficient human,
technical and financial resources for its effective implementation;
   (c) Encourage women to report cases of violence and abuse by de-
stigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts, and
ensure that all reported cases are effectively investigated, that perpetrators are
prosecuted and adequately punished;
   (d) Review the use of reconciliation and ensure that women victims of
domestic violence have effective access to protection orders and legal remedies;
   (e) Provide mandatory training for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police
officers, health professionals and social workers on the strict application of legal
provisions criminalizing violence against women and girls;
(f) Ensure that victims have access to support services including free legal aid, medical and psychological care, shelters, counselling and livelihood support;

(g) Systematically collect statistical data on all forms of violence against women disaggregated by forms of violence, age, disability, ethnicity, and relationship between victims and perpetrators, and on the number of complaints, prosecutions, convictions and sentences imposed on perpetrators, as well as on reparations provided to victims.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

20. The Committee welcomes the various efforts made by the State party to combat trafficking in women and girls. However, it notes with concern at:

(a) The fact that State party remains a source country for internal and cross-border trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual and labour exploitation as well as fraudulent internationally brokered marriage;

(b) The increase in the number of trafficked girls and reports of trafficking in new born babies;

(c) The very low conviction rates under the Anti-Trafficking Law;

(d) Stigmatization and administrative penalties imposed on women and girls in prostitution; and

(e) The lack of effective national mechanisms for the referral of victims of trafficking to rehabilitation and reintegration assistance.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Carry out a study to investigate the scope, extent and root causes of trafficking in women and girls for sexual and labour exploitation, both within the country and abroad, including through the systematic collection and analysis of data on sexual and labour exploitation of women and girls;

(b) Take effective measures to eliminate the root causes of trafficking and prostitution, including poverty, in order to eliminate vulnerability of women and girls to such exploitation;

(c) Review the Law on Administrative Violations Sanctions (2012) and the Law on Administrative Penalties (2012), with a view to decriminalizing women in prostitution;

(d) Take measures to prevent and eliminate child prostitution and to ensure that perpetrators of child prostitution are prosecuted and adequately punished and that girls in prostitution are not treated as offenders but as victims;

(e) Develop effective referral mechanisms and ensure that victims of trafficking are swiftly identified, fully informed of available services and their entitlements, and adequately protected and supported, including through rehabilitation and social reintegration;

(f) Raise awareness among women at risk of trafficking and protect them by regulating and inspecting fraudulent internationally brokered marriages and strengthening bilateral cooperation to reduce vulnerabilities of women married to foreign nationals;

(g) Enhance international, regional and bilateral cooperation to prevent trafficking and harmonize legal procedures aimed at the prosecution and punishment of traffickers.
Participation in political and public life

22. The Committee is concerned about the slow increase in the number of women elected to the National Assembly and the low representation of women in decision-making positions at national and local levels.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to increase the number of women in decision-making positions at all levels and in all areas, in the light of the Committee’s general recommendation No. 23 on women in political and public life;

(b) Consider establishing quota for female candidates higher than 35% for the elections to the National Assembly and the People’s Council for 2016-2021 in order to achieve the target of 35% for elected female deputies set in the National Strategy on Gender Equality for 2011-2020.

Women human rights defenders

24. The Committee is also concerned at:

(a) Alleged harassment, arbitrary arrests, detention and ill-treatment of women human rights defenders in the State party; and

(b) The limited possibilities for civil society organizations, including women’s rights organizations, to participate in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes relevant to the implementation of the Convention.

25. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Investigate allegations of harassment, arbitrary detention, ill-treatment of women human rights defenders, prosecute those responsible and provide remedies to the victims;

(b) Take specific steps to create an enabling environment in which women human rights defenders and women’s rights organizations can be freely established and freely operate in the State party, in line with article 7 (c) of the Convention.

Education

26. The Committee notes with concern that:

(a) There is a lack of monitoring and insufficient resources for the education sector.

(b) Discriminatory gender biases and stereotypes are perpetuated in education materials;

(c) Girls are segregated in traditional fields of study;

(d) Girls belonging to ethnic minorities have limited access to all levels of education.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the implementation of the Education Sector Action Plan with sufficient resources from the national budget;

(b) In the ongoing revision of educational materials, ensure that discriminatory stereotypes are removed from all school text books, teaching materials and curricula;
(c) Intensify its efforts aimed at diversifying academic and vocational choices for women and men and take further measures to encourage girls and boys to choose non-traditional fields of education;

(d) Reduce illiteracy and school dropout rates and increase access to secondary and tertiary level of education among girls belonging to ethnic minorities, including through the provision of bilingual education and scholarships and subsidies.

Employment

28. The Committee welcomes the State party’s ratification of International Labour Conventions No. 100 on equal remuneration and No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, as well as its adoption of the revised Labour Code (2012). However, it is concerned about:

(a) The persistent gender wage gap;

(b) The lower retirement age for women and extensive list of occupations prohibited for women;

(c) The concentration of women in low-paid jobs in the informal sector without access to social protection and outside the scope of the Labour Code;

(d) Discriminatory practices against women by employers based on maternity and pregnancy.

29. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reduce the gender wage gap, including by addressing occupational segregation of women in the public and private sectors and promoting women’s access to higher paid jobs and decision-making positions;

(b) Adopt the same age of mandatory retirement for women and men, and review and reduce the list of occupations prohibited for women;

(c) Provide a regulatory framework for the informal sector, with a view to providing women in this sector with access to social protection and other benefits;

(d) Strengthen the regulation and inspection of employers to enforce compliance with labour standards and the prohibition of discrimination against women.

Migrant women workers

30. The Committee notes that the internal and cross-border migration has rapidly increased in recent years. In this context, the Committee is concerned that:

(a) Internal migrant workers, including women and girls, face barriers in accessing basic social services guaranteed to all Vietnamese citizens;

(b) Migrant women and girls, especially women domestic workers, are subject to a high risk of sexual and labour exploitation;

(c) Women and girls migrating abroad are often victimized by fraudulent recruitment agencies and brokers for international marriage;

(d) Migrant women who are victims of exploitation and violence face barriers in filing complaints and accessing justice.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Designate an agency responsible for the protection of migrants, including those who migrate outside of official migration programmes;
(b) Ensure that internal migrants and their families, including those who are not registered in the household registration system (hộ khẩu), enjoy all the rights that are guaranteed to all Vietnamese citizens;

(c) Strengthen the inspection of workplaces, including private households;

(d) Adopt legislation for the protection of domestic workers and consider ratifying ILO Convention No. 189 on domestic workers;

(e) Ensure the regulation and monitoring of recruitment agencies and marriage brokers;

(f) Revise the Law on Vietnamese Guest Workers Working Abroad Under Contract (2007) to make it gender-sensitive and responsive to the specific needs of migrant women and girls;

(g) Raise awareness of and provide information to women and girls, in particular those in rural areas, on the risks that they may face and on the remedies available in case they face human rights violations.

Health

32. The Committee commends the State party for the progress made in reducing the maternal and child mortality rates and in the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5. Nevertheless, the Committee notes with concern;

(a) The imbalance of sex ratio at birth arising from strong preference for male offspring which results in the sex selection of foetuses;

(b) That the maternal mortality rate remains high in rural and mountainous areas and among ethnic minority women;

(c) The high abortion rate among adolescents;

(d) The increase in number of women in long-term sexual relationships infected with HIV/AIDS by their male partners and stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take measures to prevent sex selection of foetuses.

(b) In the new Population Law, fully guarantee the rights of women and men to freely and responsibly decide on the number and spacing of their children without distinction of any kind, including their sex, disability, health, economic or social status and ethnicity;

(c) Ensure that women and girls, as well as men and boys, have access to free, age-appropriate and quality information on sexual and reproductive health and to affordable family planning services and contraceptive, regardless of their marital status, disability, ethnicity or geographical location. Sterilization and use of contraceptive should be made based on full informed consent and voluntary will of women and girls concerned;

(d) Enhance efforts to reduce maternal mortality in rural areas and among women from ethnic minorities by improving their access to basic pre- an ante-natal care, emergency obstetric care and presence of skilled birth attendants at births. To that end, the State party is encouraged to consider the Technical Guidance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce preventable maternal morbidity and mortality (A/HRC/21/22 and corr. 1 and 2);
(e) Introduce age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health in school curricula and facilitate access by adolescent girls and boys to contraceptives, as well as to quality reproductive health services, assistance and counselling;

(f) Strengthen enforcement of the Law on HIV Prevention and Control (2006) to address stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV and raise awareness of men, including those with risk behaviours and those living with HIV, on their role in reducing transmission of HIV to their sexual partners.

Economic empowerment of women

34. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) Women’s economic empowerment has not been fully mainstreamed into overall development strategies of the State party.

(b) The majority of women in the agricultural and informal sectors, older women and minority women have limited access to full social protection, and they have limited access to training opportunities and financial resources, such as formal credits through bank loans, income, pension and social security schemes, compared to men.

35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Integrate initiatives aimed at encouraging women’s economic empowerment throughout the State party’s development strategies, keeping in mind the specific situations of different groups of women;

(b) Ensure access by women to agricultural and informal sectors, older women and minority women, especially women from Degar and Khmer Krom communities, to training opportunities, such as vocational training, and financial resources, such as income-generating projects, credit facilities, pension and social benefits schemes on an equal basis with men.

Rural women

36. The Committee welcomes that the Land Law (2013) provides for the issuance of land use certificates in the name of both spouses. However, it remains concerned that, in practice, male-only certificates are often issued and that mediation of disputes tends to privilege men over women. The Committee is also concerned at the recent increase in expropriation and relocation programmes in the context of development projects, disaster risk reduction and responses to climate change, which have negatively affected the livelihood of rural women.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Establish effective monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Land Law and ensure that land use certificates bear the names of both spouses and that legal remedies are given priority over mediation in case of land disputes involving women;

(b) Use expropriation only for a public purposes defined under the law and with adequate compensation and reparation for the affected women. Evictions and relocations should not result in affected women being rendered homeless or vulnerable to the violation of human rights. In this regard, the Committee draws the attention of the State party to FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security as well as the Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development Based Evictions and Displacement, developed by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing (A/HRC/4/18).
Refugee, asylum-seeking and stateless women

38. The Committee welcomes that the State party facilitated the naturalization of former Cambodian refugees received in 1975-1980, including many women. It also welcomes the significant reduction of stateless women under the Law on Vietnamese Nationality, as amended in 2014. However, the Committee is concerned that:

(a) There is no procedure in place for granting asylum or determining refugee status despite the constitutional guarantee of the right to asylum;

(b) There are 800 stateless women who lost their Vietnamese nationality in failed attempts to obtain another nationality.

39. In line with its general recommendation No. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Adopt legislation and effective procedures for granting asylum and refugee status and to provide protection on grounds of gender-based persecution;

(b) Continue facilitating the reduction of statelessness, in particular the reacquisition of Vietnamese nationality by women who became stateless by renouncing their Vietnamese nationality;


Marriage and family relations

40. The Committee is concerned that:

(a) The legal age for marriage remains lower for women than men;

(b) The economic rights of women in de facto unions are not recognized, including upon the dissolution of their relationships, under the Law on Marriage and Family Law (2014).

41. The Committee recommends the State party:

(a) Review the Law on Family and Marriage with a view to set the same minimum age for marriage for women and men in line with article 16 of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation 21 on equality in marriage and family relations;

(b) Consider the situation of women in de facto unions, and of the children resulting from them, and take the necessary measures, including by amending the Law on Marriage and Family, to ensure the protection of their economic rights, including upon the dissolution of their relationships in accordance with general recommendation No. 29 on economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution.

Data collection and analysis

42. The Committee notes that the State party had developed the National Gender Development Statistical Indicators. However, it is concerned at the general lack of disaggregated data which are necessary for an accurate assessment of the situation of women and identification of discrimination, for informed and targeted policymaking, and for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved towards the realization by women of substantive equality.
43. The Committee recommends that the State party enhance the collection, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, location and socioeconomic status, and the use of measurable indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and progress towards the realization by women of substantive equality in all areas covered by the Convention.

Optional Protocol and amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention

44. The Committee encourages the State party to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention and to accept, as soon as possible, the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

45. The Committee calls upon the State party to utilize the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, in its efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention.

Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development framework

46. The Committee calls for the integration of a gender perspective, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, into all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and into the post-2015 development framework.

Dissemination

47. The Committee recalls the obligation of the State party to systematically and continuously implement the provisions of the Convention. It urges the State party to give priority attention to the implementation of the present concluding observations and recommendations between now and the submission of the next periodic report. The Committee therefore requests the timely dissemination of the concluding observations, in the official language(s) of the State party, to the relevant state institutions at all levels (national, regional, local), in particular to the Government, the ministries, the National Assembly and to the judiciary, to enable their full implementation. It encourages the State party to collaborate with all stakeholders concerned, such as employers’ associations, trade unions, human rights and women’s organisations, universities and research institutions, media, etc. It further recommends that its concluding observations be disseminated in an appropriate form at the local community level, to enable their implementation. In addition, the Committee requests the State party to continue to disseminate the CEDAW Convention, its Optional Protocol and jurisprudence, and the Committee's general recommendations to all stakeholders.

Ratification of other treaties

48. The Committee notes that the adherence of the State party to the nine major international human rights instruments\(^1\) would enhance the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects of life. The Committee

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\(^1\) The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; 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; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
therefore encourages the State party to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to which it is not yet a party.

Follow-up to concluding observations

49. The Committee requests the State party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 (a), (b) and (d) and 23 (b) above.

Preparation of the next report

50. The Committee invites the State party to submit its ninth periodic report in July 2019.

51. The Committee requests the State party to follow the “Harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents” (HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1).