

**Contribution of the Republic of Slovenia**

**to the Questionnaire in relation to General Assembly resolution 68/268**

28 January 2022

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1. **Introduction**

As a strong supporter of the human rights treaty body system, Slovenia welcomes this query on the state of the human rights treaty body system and thanks the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for organizing and processing this round of consultations.

At the same time Slovenia takes note of the reports of the Secretary General, which in its essence stress that lack of reporting compliance, a backlog in state reviews and review of communications, as well as insufficient alignment / harmonization of working methods impede well functioning of the system. The entire situation was made more dire in the wake of the ongoing pandemic.

Slovenia also recognizes the actions needed to achieve the progress in this regard, including the measures recognized in A/RES/68/268, in the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies (A/74/256, in particular annex III) and in the report of the co-facilitators on the state of the treaty body system (A/75/601).

1. **Crossregional initiative**

Our country joined a cross-regional initiative of 47 countries which, in a form of a letter, encouraged Treaty Body Chairs to adopt important measures that would help ensure more effective functioning of the treaty bodies and assure their compliance with § 1, 5, 6, 7, 9, 15 and 34 of A/RES/68/268. These measures include:

1. Introduce a predictable calendar of review cycles that is coherent, that maximizes synergies, ensures complementarity among treaty bodies and avoids unnecessary repetition. Such a calendar also needs to take into account, inter alia, the increasing reporting burdens and resource constraints of States parties, in particular Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, and factor in other reporting obligations such as the Universal Periodic Review. When producing this schedule, we strongly recommend the treaty body Chairs to replace every second review with a focused review so as to enhance reporting compliance.
2. Move to a model of rationalized, harmonized, streamlined and modern working methods and rules of procedure. Ensure a uniform simplified reporting procedure is the default procedure for all periodic reports and to limit the number of questions in the list of issues prior to the reporting on the basis of a standard methodology. Frequent meetings amongst Chairs and consultation with Member States to monitor implementation, as well as further initiatives to enhance coordination and planning and to share best practices across treaty bodies, would be desirable.
3. Keep pace with the new technological developments to increase the efficiency, transparency and accessibility of the treaty body system. Online and hybrid work models are tools for enhanced engagement with all actors involved and should form part of a balanced approach that encompasses both online working methods and traditional physical meetings.
4. **Additional approaches to be considered regarding the way forward**

Launch of the new predictable calendar (R§33 of A/RES/68/268) - Treaty Body System could consider a measure that would, without setting precedent for the future, enable it »a fresh start« or break with the past. A new predictable calendar of reviews could be launched in a way that would schedule those countries that are ready to be reviewed first. If more than a year passed since they submitted their reports, they could be asked to update them.

Modern working methods (§22 and other paragraphs refering to them) - While the presence of all treaty body members in one physical location, when the treaty body is in session, should remain standard practise, we believe civil society members that prefer to participate virtually, should be allowed to do so also in the future.

Daily Substance Allowance (DSA) - DSA proved to be insufficient as treaty bodies adapted to virtual modes of working. Slovenia believes that the UN Secretariat, together with the member states, should revise the current system and come up with a new or complimentary system of allowances that would allow for those experts who – in the future – prefer, or are obliged by circumstances, to participate virtually to the proceedings of their respective treaty body.

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