**Protecting human rights during and after the COVID-19**

**Joint questionnaire by Special Procedure mandate holders**

Several Special Procedure mandate holders will focus their forthcoming thematic reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council or the General Assembly on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights. The questionnaire is meant to assist the human rights experts to obtain information and elaborate comprehensive recommendations on the measures taken by national, federal and local governments to protect their population and ensure the enjoyment of human rights, including particular groups at risk of discrimination or social exclusion, such as older persons, persons in situation of homelessness, women, children, persons with disabilities people of African Descent, domestic and migrant workers, LGBT persons, persons subjected to contemporary forms of slavery, and people living in poverty or experiencing poverty as a consequence of the crisis, as well as indigenous peoples.[[1]](#footnote-1)

In order to facilitate responding to questions by Special Procedures, a joint questionnaire has been developed including a list of common questions and specific thematic questions responding to information required by participating mandates.

**Who should respond to the questionnaire/call for contributions?**

The mandate holders invite States, regional and local governments, international and regional organizations, National Human Rights Institutions, equality bodies, and civil society organizations, UN agencies, funds and programmes and other interested stakeholders to share relevant information for their respective reports.

**What can be sent?**

The mandate holders welcome all relevant contributions and submissions which can be drafted in response to the questions. Reports which have already been drafted on relevant topics may also be submitted for consideration.

**When and Where to send submissions?**

Responses and submissions should be sent to [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) by **19 June 2020**. When responding please use the heading: Response to joint questionnaire of special procedures.

In order to facilitate processing and ensure accessibility, submissions in Word format in English, French or Spanish are appreciated. It is kindly requested to limit responses and submissions to 4,500 words and to include hyperlinks to relevant documents, statistical data, public regulations and legislation providing more detailed information.

**All responses and submissions received in accessible format will be published on the webpages of participating Special Procedures, except if confidentiality of the submission is explicitly requested. Submissions received in non-accessible PDF format will not be published, but will be made available upon request.**

**Common questions**

**Impact on human rights**

* Please explain the impact of the pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights and what actions have been taken by the State to respect, protect and fulfil human rights?

"Portugal was very attentive to the promotion of Human Rights" internally and externally during the pandemic, which "exerted increased pressure", according to Teresa Ribeiro, on the effects that the Covid-19 pandemic had on the most vulnerable groups (women, elderly, people with disabilities or homeless people, immigrants, refugees) and in the practices adopted and in what “was done to protect these most vulnerable groups).

In this domain, it was analyzed not only what Portugal did domestically, but also bilaterally and multilaterally.

Source: https://observador.pt/2020/05/20/portugal-esteve-muito-atento-a-protecao-dos-direitos-humanos-na-pandemia/

* Are there any measures put in place in your country following the pandemic which have had a limiting effect on human rights? If so, please list them, provide an explanation for their adoption and indicate the time-frame by which they will be lifted?

The generality of the population has the “general duty of home staying” during the state of emergency, but it is possible to leave home in some specific situations and the private cars can only be driven for the trips provided in the decree released this Friday.

The Government decree that materializes the measures of the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic establishes “the general duty of home care”, meaning that the general population must avoid leaving home beyond what is necessary and what is stipulated.

In this sense, the majority of the population may leave home to purchase goods and services, to work, look for a job or respond to a job offer, for health reasons, to assist vulnerable or elderly people and to accompany minors.

According to the decree, it is also possible to leave home for physical activity, but not in a group, short trips to outdoors, participation in social volunteering activities, trips to fulfill parental responsibility sharing, participation in procedural acts together of judicial bodies and delivery of essential goods to people who are disabled or deprived of their freedom of movement.

Visits to post offices, banks, insurance companies, veterinarians and walking the dog are also other reasons to be able to go out during the state of emergency.

Diplomatic personnel and international organizations located in Portugal may also leave home, provided they are related to the performance of official functions, and journalists.

The decree also states that private cars can travel on public roads to carry out the activities provided in the state of emergency or for gas.

"High-performance athletes and their coaches, as well as sport companions for adapted sports" can travel on the public road, as they are equated with professional activity.

The state of emergency began on March 18 and ended on May 2, passing into a state of public calamity.

* 1. Were these measures determined by law? If yes, please indicate the relevant legislation.

On March 18, 2020, a state of emergency was declared in Portugal, through the Decree by the President of the Republic No. 14-A / 2020.

* 1. Why were these measures necessary to respond to the COVID-19 situation?

The World Health Organization had qualified the current public health emergency situation caused by the epidemic of the disease COVID-19, making it imperative to plan measures to ensure its treatment, through a regime appropriate to this reality, which allows establish exceptional and temporary measures to respond to the epidemic.

* 1. Were these measures proportional in view of their expected results to counter the pandemic?

Yes, there were some on the following dates: May 4th, May 18th and June 1st

* 1. Did these measures have any discriminatory effects on various groups of the population? If so, please indicate which ones and why.

No, they didn’t.

* Please describe whether responses to the pandemic by States, businesses, faith-based organizations or others actors have resulted in a rollback of human rights, including in relation to affirmative action, gender-equality, inclusion of persons with disabilities and LGBT persons, land rights of indigenous peoples’ or access to sexual and reproductive health services?
* What long-term impacts of the pandemic and its response measures are expected on the enjoyment of human rights?
* Please explain if economic recovery and financial assistance mechanisms to reduce the social economic impact of the measures adopted have been subjected to prior human rights impact assessments?

Moratoriums for credit agreements celebrated with bank, customers, vehicles, rentals, water, electricity and telephone bills.

Support Measures for Workers - Portugal:

Support for Workers - Layoff, Support for Diverse Workers - Teleworking,

Prophylactic isolation, Sickness allowance, Child and grandchild care allowances, Rights in the context of the suspension of teaching and non-teaching activities, Employees, Self-employed workers and Essential service workers.

**Statistical information**

* Please provide epidemiological data on COVID-19 infections, recovery and mortality rates in your country, region or locality, disaggregated by nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, membership of indigenous peoples, age, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, income/poverty levels, disability, immigration status or housing situation. Which groups in your country have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and how can this be explained?

Portugal registers today, 9 June, 34 885 confirmed, 21156 recovered and 1485 deaths associated with covid-19, according to the epidemiological bulletin released by the Directorate-General for Health (DGS).

Confirmed cases by region: North Region 17 037, Lisbon Region, 11 335, Center Region, 3792, Faro, 376 and Alentejo 266, Azores 137 and Madeira 97.

North and Center are the most affected regions by Covid-19 in Portugal.

* Please provide age disaggregated data on persons infected by COVID 19 and the percentage of them living in care institutions for older persons. Please provide age disaggregated data on deaths caused by COVID-19 and the percentage of them who were in care institutions.

Last news on April 23, 2020:

Covid-19: Forty percent of the dead were elderly people living in nursing homes.

The Social Security Institute is doing "permanent monitoring of about 750" nursing homes, reveals ministry. About 15,000 workers have already been tested.

* Please share any information and data on the availability of health services to ensure access to testing, personal protective equipment and treatment. Please specify to what extent supply issues, economic, social or other barriers have limited access to testing, personal protective equipment and health care services, in particular for persons belonging to particular racial or ethnic groups, indigenous peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBT persons, persons living in poverty or in situation of homelessness, migrant workers, or persons without legal residency status.

Portugal has carried out more than 490,000 diagnostic tests on COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, the Secretary of State for Health António Lacerda Sales advanced this Thursday at the daily press conference to update the data.

According to the minister, there are currently 73 laboratories processing samples in Portugal, of which 32 are in institutions of the National Health Service (NHS), 19 in private institutions and 22 elsewhere, namely in the academy and army laboratories.

Lacerda Sales recalled that Portugal has about one million diagnostic tests in stock, having already distributed more than 340,000 tests (44% in the North region, 33% in Lisbon and Vale do Tejo, 8% in the Center region 4.4% in Algarve and 1.5% in Alentejo). With regard to extraction kits, the country's reserve is 915,000 units.

According to the epidemiological bulletin published by the Directorate-General for Health (DGS), Portugal registers 26,715 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 533 more than on Wednesday, which corresponds to an increase of 2%.

On the other hand, there are 2,258 cases of recovery from infection caused by the new coronavirus, 182 more than yesterday, and 1,105 deaths (16 more). The lethality rate currently stands at 4.1% and rises to 15.1% for those over 70 years of age.

Of the total infected, 84.1% are in home treatment and 3.3% are in hospital (874), of which 2.8% are in the ward and 0.5% in Intensive Care units.

* Please provide us with data indicating the social-economic impact of the economic downturn triggered by COVID-19 such as changes to household income, increase of unemployment, access to food and traditional livelihoods, poverty or homelessness in your country, region or locality, disaggregated by nationality, race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, religion or immigration status.

There are more than 48,000 unemployed in April. There are already 77 more since the beginning of the pandemic.

Unemployment in Portugal soared in April, rising 22.1% over the same month last year. In relation to March, the increase was 14.1%, that is, another 48,562 people.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the number of unemployed people registered in employment centers has increased by 76,761 people.

Unemployment soared in Portugal in April, with the effects of the covid-19 pandemic feeling full. The number of unemployed registered in employment centers, that is, the so-called registered unemployment, increased by 48,562 people compared to March. The increase is 14.1%, according to data from the Institute of Employment and Professional Training (IEFP), published this Wednesday.

* Which groups have been identified as particularly vulnerable to socio-economic hardship in the context of the COVID-19 crisis?
* Please provide data on the number of older persons who live in residential care institutions or alternative setting; the number of older persons in situation of homelessness and/or without adequate housing; and the number of older persons who are in prisons, refugee camps and informal settlements.
* Please provide data on abuse and neglect of older persons, in and outside care institutions brought to the attention of public authorities or complaint mechanisms.
* Please provide data on incidents of domestic violence, including femicides disaggregated by a) intimate partner femicide b) family related femicide based on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim/s and c) all other femicides based on the country context.

**Protection of various groups at risk and indigenous peoples**

* What measures have public authorities taken to protect high-risk populations from COVID-19, including: a) health care and social workers, b) older persons, c) other persons with a possibly reduced immune system such as indigenous peoples, or persons living with HIV, d) detained and incarcerated persons, including persons under state custody; e) persons living in care homes, f) children and adults living in institutions, camps, shelters or collective accommodation, g) persons with disabilities, h) homeless persons; i) persons living in informal settlements or overcrowded homes; j) refugees, IDPs and k) migrant workers.
* Can you inform us about particular measures taken to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for communities and groups subject to structural discrimination and disadvantage?
* What measures have been taken by public authorities to ensure continued provision of services, including food, healthcare, education, psycho-social assistance to persons in vulnerable situation, including a) older persons, b) persons with disabilities, c) LGBT persons, d) persons in situations of homelessness, e) indigenous peoples, f) victims and survivors of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, g) human trafficking, h) discrimination, i) victims of contemporary forms of slavery, including forced labour, as well as h) child victims of sale and sexual exploitation?
* Has there been any interruption of services, such as the closure of emergency shelters, food banks, or the disruption of health care or psycho-social services that has been of concern?
* Have particular measures been taken to address the situation of single parent households?
* What measures have been taken to address racial disparities, prevent racial discrimination and protect victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance during the pandemic?
* **Social Protection**
* Please provide information on implemented and planned adjustments to the social safety net in response to the crisis, to ensure that individuals who lost all or part of their income as a consequence of the pandemic have access to sufficient nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, health care, energy and other essential goods and services? How has the State ensured fair and equitable access to social safety net measures across lines of race, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, membership of indigenous peoples, and others?
* How has the State approached social protection of small entrepreneurs and for people whose livelihoods are based in informal economies, in particular persons working often informally, in agriculture and other traditional livelihoods, child and health care, domestic work, construction, restaurants, street vending, tourism or as sex-workers? What specific efforts have been made to assess and mitigate the relevant health and social-economic risks to these populations?

**Participation and consultation**

* What decision-making processes were used to adopt measures to respond to the pandemic? Did they include participation of local and decentralized authorities, including indigenous authorities, scientific experts, and civil society organizations?
* If emergency regulations have been imposed, to what extent have they affected official processes ensuring public participation and consultation? Have women and groups particularly affected by the pandemic and the response measures participated in such decision-making processes?
* What participation and consultation methods have been employed in preparing and implementing re-opening strategies or after emergency regulations have been lifted?

Starting on May 4

- Mandatory confinement for sick people and under active surveillance, and civic duty of home removal;

- Prohibition of events or gatherings with more than 10 people;

- Funerals only with the presence of family members;

- Professional practice continues on a teleworking basis, whenever the functions allow;

- In public transport, buses with a driver's cab; and disinfectant gel dispensers (maximum capacity of 66%);

- In public services, decentralized customer service counters (service by appointment);

- In local shops, opening stores with an open door to the street up to 200m2 (capacity of 5 people per 100m2); hairdressers, manicurists and similar (by appointment);

- Bookstores and automotive trade, regardless of the area;

- In the area of ​​culture, opening of libraries and archives (reduced capacity and physical distance);

- Possibility to practice individual sports outdoors.

Starting on May 18

- Reopening of schools for the 11th and 12th years, from 10 am to 5 pm, day care centers (with the option of supporting the family), and social facilities in the area of ​​disability;

- Reopening of stores with open door to the street up to 400m2;

- Reopening of restaurants, cafes and the like (50% capacity);

- Opening of museums, monuments and palaces, art galleries and the like (reduced capacity and physical distance).

Starting on 30/31 May

- Restart of religious ceremonies, with rules to be defined between the DGS and religious denominations;

- Resumption of official football competitions.

Starting on June 1

- Partial teleworking, with lagged schedules or mirror teams;

- Reopening of Citizen Stores;

- Opening of stores with an area greater than 400 m2 or inserted in shopping centers;

- Reopening of daycare centers, pre-school and ATL;

- Reopening of cinemas, theaters, auditoriums and concert halls (reduced capacity and physical distance).

**Awareness raising and technology**

* What awareness-raising activities have been undertaken by the State to inform groups in vulnerable situation, indigenous people and other populations living in remote or conflict-affected areas of health risks associated with COVID-19?

Portugal does not have indigenous communities, but the communities that are closest to this model of isolation are the gypsy, but everyone has been informed of the security processes against COVID-19. Daily, the General Directorate of Health conducts collective interviews where the data and new procedures.

* Have public officials and law enforcement officials been trained and briefed with regards to the overall human rights impact of the pandemic, and the situation of groups in vulnerable situation during and after the crisis?

Yes, they have.

**Internet**

* The internet and social media were increasingly used for work, education, shopping for food and other goods, awareness raising sharing of information, freedom of expression, religious ceremonies, cultural and social interaction, consultation and political decision making. What challenges and obstacles has the pandemic highlighted in terms of access for all to internet? Has the recent situation given rise to increased violations of human rights, mobbing and bullying online? If so, how was this addressed?

Unfortunately, we do not have direct information on these violations, but several civil society organizations working on these issues have come to the media to alert and ask for attention.

* What approach have the relevant authorities taken to monitor online information related to the pandemic? Have some contents been removed from the internet? If so, what criteria were applied to decide that the specific contents should be erased? Have specific measures been implemented against hate speech in cyber-space?

**Accountability and justice**

* Could you kindly highlight key concerns in complaints received by national human rights institutions, ombudspersons, anti-discrimination bodies in relation to the COVID-19 crises and how they have been addressed?

What became public was the rising unemployment rate, several companies with layoff employees. Despite the government's commitment to provide financial resources, this resource took a long time to reach the needy and thus caused an overload on the NGOs that provide basic necessities.

* Could you provide any account and statistics on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operation of the justice system, including law enforcement, the provision of legal assistance and the operation of courts? Which activities were temporarily suspended?

In this scenario, in order to mitigate the impacts arising from the pandemic, Law No. 1397/2020 (PL 1397/20) was presented on April 1, which, if approved and sanctioned, will bring changes to the legal regime for extrajudicial recovery and will suspend - until December 31, 2020 or as long as the state of public calamity in the country is recognized - certain provisions of the Law of Business Recovery and Bankruptcy (Law 11,101 / 05). In this sense, the Judiciary and its assistants must adapt to the innovations brought by the project, also facing the challenges to be overcome.

* Please describe measures taken by the justice system in your country in protecting individuals from human rights violations and abuse during or after the COVID-19 pandemic. What measures have been taken to prevent, investigate or prosecute a) arbitrary arrest and detention, b) gender-based violence, c) sale and sexual exploitation of children, d) contemporary forms of slavery, e) racial discrimination, or f) illegal evictions?
* What measures have been taken to ensure access to justice, and provide accountability and redress for victims of hate-speech, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance during the pandemic?
* What has been the impact of this situation on women's access to justice? Are courts open and providing protection and decisions in cases of domestic violence, and are protection orders accessible?

The Secretary of State for Citizenship and Equality, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, through the National Institute for Medical Emergency (INEM), has been developing, since the beginning of March, a contingency plan for preventing and combating domestic violence in the context of Covid-19. The shelter network has been in operation, complying with the rules of isolation and social distance, having welcomed 50 victims between April 6 and 27, said the Secretary of State. In addition, there are currently three helplines that have received 308 requests for help since March 19.

* Have persons in situation of homelessness been fined, detained or prosecuted for non-respect of confinement or stay at home orders? How was this issue addressed in your country?

No, they haven’t. However, in the social districts of Greater Lisbon, where thousands of citizens of African countries live, the anguish of losing their precarious job is added to the fear of infection by the new coronavirus, and the difficulty of confinement where it is not easy to live. In part, this confinement results from a lack of work, since almost all construction is stopped and, for now, those who work for "odd jobs" have not had tasks. Women who work in cleaning companies continue to work, albeit at a slower pace now. Everyone is afraid of the future, as they do not know when they will be able to return to service.

* In which way have restrictions for public or private meetings impacted on the freedom of expression and assembly? Have persons taking part in peaceful protest been fined, detained, or prosecuted for breaking national restrictions imposed for public or private meetings?
* Are there public or parliamentary investigations under way in relation to the response of public authorities to contain the spread of the pandemic?
* Please provide information on any alleged neglect, abuse, or serious violation of health regulations in health care institutions and institutions caring for older persons and persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 epidemic in your country?

Many nursing homes had a delay in testing employees and users, which favored an increase in positive cases in this type of service, whether private or public.

* What measures have been taken by public and judicial authorities to address such allegations and to establish accountability, if applicable? Have any disciplinary, public inquiries or court cases been initiated, including against managers of the institutions concerned?

Yes, after broadcasting complaints on local television networks, the government was mobilized to ascertain responsibilities as well as to correct errors.

* Could you kindly share information on emergency regulations and COVID-19 response measures that may have been reviewed or suspended by national or constitutional courts in your country?

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights**

The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Mr. Olivier De Schutter, will examine the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on people in poverty by assessing the extent to which the economic recovery plans adopted, in order to cushion the impacts of the economic recession, take into account the need to reduce poverty and inequalities. He will also examine the specific vulnerability of people in poverty to contamination.

In accordance with the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation No. 202 (2012), a national social protection floor is conceived as a basic set of rights entitling individuals to basic social security guarantees for health care and for income security for children, older persons and those unable to work, in particular in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity, and disability. Do the economic recovery plans adopted include measures towards making progress towards establishment or strengthening of a national social protection floor?

Do the employment policies associated with the economic recovery plans take into account the specific situation of people working in the informal sector, and the need to improve working conditions in that sector as well as to extend formal social protection to them? Have such policies sought to increase the employability of groups that face specific barriers in their access to employment, for example, through demand-driven skills development and vocational training?

Have the economic recovery measures prioritized investments in education and skill development for women and girls, and in sectors where women make up a considerable proportion of the labour force (such as in export manufacturing)? Do they include gender budgeting to ensure that women benefit equally from public investments?

Have the tax reforms associated with the economic recovery plans sought to widen the tax base, by rebalancing the tax contributions of corporations and those in high-income brackets? Have the impacts of the introduction of new or higher taxes on those living in poverty been assessed?

The human rights principles of participation, transparency and accountability require States to create and maintain mechanisms by which individuals can meaningfully and effectively contribute to, provide feedback on and claim redress from policy measures that affect their enjoyment of human rights. Were any mechanisms established to allow people living in poverty to participate in the design, implementation and assessment of economic recovery plans?

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food**

The thematic report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Michael Fakhri, to the General Assembly will focus on international trade. The report’s main objective will be to identify the limits of the current international food system, explore to what extent the WTO is still suitable, and propose principles and mechanisms for a new food system. COVID-19 highlights the pre-existing weaknesses and inequities of the current system, but also provides a way to find new paths forward.

1. To what extent, and how, were international and domestic food supply chains disrupted during the pandemic? What were the measures taken by national, federal, provincial or local governments? Did authorities close particular local markets or impose export restrictions on certain goods? What was the reasoning for the actions taken by the respective authorities?

Due to misinformation at the beginning of the pandemic, there was an increase in purchases of the first-need genres, momentarily leading to a shortage of them, but after a massive media campaign, there was a rapid return to normal consumption habits. However, there was an increase in requests for support from families, NGOs that work with the provision of food to the most needy social classes.

2. What measures did national, federal, provincial or local governments put in place to ensure access to food for the individuals in vulnerable situations such as older persons, children, women, rural communities, LGBT persons, national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic minorities, and indigenous peoples?

The government joined the NGOs in providing food to families that had a drop in purchasing power as well as homeless people and others who needed it.

3. What were the conditions under which food workers such as agricultural labourers, store workers, transporters, cooks, and shopkeepers had to work? What measures did national, federal, provincial or local governments put in place to ensure the safety and welfare of these workers? Were any special provisions and protections made for migrant workers?

The Ministry of Agriculture and its secretariats carried out guidance work on the covid19 as well as on the use of protective equipment, social distance, etc. with this, there was no drop in rural production of basic consumption patterns.

1. Can you provide examples of any other measures taken by national, federal, provincial or local governments in your country to prevent hunger during the pandemic and in its aftermath?

The government focused on explanatory and training actions for rural producers, with which they were able to continue working safely. There was no interruption in the production cycle.

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing**

The report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal, to the General Assembly focuses on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the right to housing. It will analyse measures taken to prevent and stop evictions during and in the aftermath of the crisis and to protect groups at risk of marginalization, including persons living in situation of homelessness and in informal settlements. The report will discuss whether emergency measures implemented may have had discriminatory outcomes, map out emerging good practices to counter them by local and national governments, and analyse medium and long term interventions required to protect during and after the crisis the right to adequate housing for all.

1. Please elaborate on measures taken by national, federal, provincial or local governments to ensure persons are protected from the virus at their home or place of living:
2. Has your country declared a prohibition on evictions? If a prohibition was declared, indicate its legal basis and how long it will last. Please specify if it is a general prohibition and if it also applies to persons living in informality or in informal settlements. Is the prohibition of evictions restricted to tenants or mortgage payers who have been able to pay their rent or serve their mortgages, or broader?

In Portugal, there have been many government interventions to support those living in rented houses, ensuring that they are not evicted.

1. If no general prohibition on evictions was declared, please indicate how many evictions have taken place, the number of people affected, and the specific details of time, location and reasons.
2. Have any measures been taken to ensure that households are not cut-off from water, heat or other utility provision when they are unable to pay their bills?

Yes, electricity and water payments have been suspended. Failure to pay bills generated during the pandemic period could not be the reason for the suppression of these services.

1. Please provide any information about other legal or financial measures aimed to ensure that households do not lose their home if they cannot pay their rent or mortgage payments? Have any other tenant protection measures been adopted in response to the pandemic?

The payment of house purchase installments was suspended, and residents could not be evicted. Plots of goods, such as automobiles, were also suspended and delayed for after the epidemic.

1. What measures have been taken to protect persons living in informal settlements, refugee or IDP camps, or in situation of overcrowding from COVID-19?

Positive social cases were observed in the social neighborhoods and all members of the same family were tested. If there were needs, they would be relocated to places that housed asymptomatic patients. If there were severe symptoms, they were taken to hospitals.

1. What measures have been taken by authorities to ensure that migrant and domestic workers housed by their employers continue to have access to secure housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath? If migrant workers left their place of work to return to their place of origin, what measures were taken to ensure their right to housing?

If there were no positive cases in the accommodation, they would continue to be used, if a positive case arose, the residents were tested and quarantined. Many who lost their jobs were unable to return to their country of origin due to border closures and flight cancellations.

1. Have any measures been taken to provide safe accommodation for persons in situation of homelessness? If yes, how many persons were housed, in what form, where and for how long? How will it be ensured that persons provided with temporary accommodation will have access to housing after the crisis?

Yes, several accommodations were created for homeless people, so that they could live in a safe place.

1. Can you provide examples of any other measures taken or planned by national, federal, provincial or local Governments in your country to protect the right to adequate housing during the pandemic and in its aftermath?

When there were not enough locations, some local accommodations and small hotels collaborate to house quarantined contaminated individuals.

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights**

The next report to the Human Rights Council by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Ms. Karima Bennoune, will focus on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the exercise of cultural rights and on the role of culture and cultural rights in responding to the pandemic.

1. What have been the impacts on cultural rights and on cultural life\* of:
2. the pandemic?

All cultural activities were suspended. Theater, festivals, national festivals.

1. measures taken to respond to the pandemic?

It has been a challenge to reactivate cultural events, function rooms, festivals, due to the fact that they do not allow an adequate inspection of the distance and use of security equipment.

*\* Cultural rights include the rights to take part in cultural life without discrimination, to access and enjoy heritage, to artistic and scientific freedom, and to benefit from scientific knowledge and its applications. Cultural life includes performing arts, museums, heritage sites, sports and public spaces used for a variety of cultural and social gatherings*.

1. What efforts have been made to guarantee the exercise of cultural rights, in accordance with the requirements of public health? How has the message that cultural life must be enjoyed in ways that respect public health and medical expertise been communicated?

All cultural activities were suspended. Theater, festivals, national festivals.

1. What roles have culture and cultural rights played in responding to the pandemic:
2. At the individual and collective levels, including in building resilience and solidarity, and memorializing victims?
3. At the scientific level, to provide adequate information to inform public policy and ensure public awareness?
4. In any other relevant manner?
5. What steps have been taken to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, and of measures to counter the pandemic, on the cultural sector and on the human rights of those working in it (including artists, athletes, cultural heritage professionals, cultural workers, librarians, museum workers and scientists)?

The reactivation of culture initiated by 6 June still being reopened little by little. There is still no data on this process.

1. How have the cultural sector and those working in it adapted to the pandemic? How have these adaptations been received by the public and how have they been supported, including financially? Are there sectors of the population that may risk exclusion from such adaptations?
2. What kind of measures will be necessary to rebuild the cultural sector going forward? How will inclusion be addressed?

The government intends to provide financial support to professionals in the sector, but it has not yet been concluded how.

1. Has your Government already envisaged / announced specific measures to support the culture sector during and after the pandemic? How will relevant constituencies participate in their development and implementation?

The government has already announced financial support for the culture sector, but it has not yet been concluded how.

1. Have scientific and medical experts been able to express themselves freely about the pandemic, its impacts and needed responses? What measures have been taken to address the denial of scientific information about the pandemic, and to ensure access to reliable scientific information to guide policymaking and personal choices.

**Questions by the Independent Expert on the human rights of older persons**

The report of the Independent Expert, Ms. Claudia Mahler, will focus her report to the General Assembly on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of the human rights of older persons. The report aims to highlight the challenges for the rights of older persons in the current national and international legal framework. It will analyse different risks to older persons human rights which were exacerbated and heightened and made more apparent during the pandemic. Ageism and age discrimination have continued, together with violations to older persons’ right to health and care service support, including their right to life, their right to information, their right to live free from violence, abuse and neglect, and their right to participate and to social inclusion. The report will provide best practices and case studies.

1. Please provide more information on the situation and measures taken in state run or financed facilities with a focus on the needs of older persons with underlying health conditions. Please provide any information concerning shelters for older women to protect them from abuse or from homelessness.

Some elderly shelters were signaled in which there was an extreme delay in the intervention of the Ministry of Health in order to provide serum tests.

2. Please provide information how and how many older persons called for assistance, help or made official complaints during the pandemic.

3. Please provide information on reports, speeches and measures which had a special focus on older persons during the pandemic. Please include best and bad practices.

4. Please provide examples how older persons have participated in decision-making processes during the pandemic. Please describe how their perspective and needs have been integrated in national policies and programmes on the way to recovery from COVID-19 to make it a more inclusive and age friendly society.

**Questions by the Working Group on Persons of African Descent**

The Working Group of experts on people of African descent will focus its annual report to the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council on the impact of COVID-19 and the response to the pandemic, on the human rights of people of African descent.

1. What measures have been taken to assess and address the impact of COVID-19 and associated efforts on people and communities of African descent in the country? For example, is data disaggregated on the basis of race being kept on infection, severity, recovery, and availability and access to both health and non-health resources and interventions? Are economic stimulus, public health, and health care efforts related to the pandemic penetrating communities of African descent and what data supports these conclusions?

2. What measures have been taken to explicitly ensure bias is not motivating medical and policy decisions during this pandemic?

3. What measures have been taken to ensure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic does not disproportionately fall to people of African descent? This question includes (a) the impact of infection, (b) the impact of new or existing policy, including access to health care and social safety net, and (c) the non-infection impact (like loss of livelihood and income).

4. Given the particular 'social invisibility' of people of African descent in many countries, what measures have been taken to ensure that the unique needs of people of African descent – with respect to both health and policy - are fully understood? What planning has taken place to address these unique needs of communities of African descent during this pandemic?

5. What representation by people of African descent exists in high-level decision making relating to this crisis? What specific efforts have the State used to ensure adequate expertise, and understanding to responsibly plan on behalf of communities of African descent? What measures have been taken to ensure equal protection, including ensuring that interventions that appear neutral on their face do not license or facilitate racial bias and stereotypes?

6. What protection efforts have centred public health issues specific to people of African descent? How have States leveraged existing civil society expertise to define key concerns and to effectively implement policy with respect to people of African descent? How have concerns and assessments relating to people of African descent impacted research and knowledge production agendas developed in response to the COVID-19, including to investigate specific barriers to care, or recognize the racially discriminatory intent or impact of policy?

7. To what extent do people of African descent have access to justice in the time of the pandemic? What remedies are available to people of African descent for the racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia they face in the midst of COVID-19? What independent investigations are conducted for the racially motivated violations of their human rights? What sanctions are imposed on responsible entities and individuals? Please provide examples.

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples**

The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Mr. José Francisco Cali Tzay, will present a report to the General Assembly in October 2020.[[2]](#footnote-2) The report will examine how to ensure effective protection of indigenous peoples, who may be at greater risk of negative impacts on their human rights both from the virus and States’ responses to it, while guaranteeing their right to autonomy and self-determination.

The report will also seek to help States avoid impunity for violations and abuses of indigenous peoples’ rights by States or businesses, related to the pandemic. The Special Rapporteur will also present examples of good practices of indigenous participation in implementing innovative responses to the pandemic that include the vision and approaches of indigenous peoples.

1. How has your Government assessed and redressed potential disproportionate impact of the virus on the health of indigenous peoples, and avoided contamination in remote communities? What measures were taken to ensure access to information, health care and other forms of urgent assistance for remote communities? How were such measures adapted to the cultural and other specific characteristics of indigenous communities?
2. Has your Government observed any disproportionate impact of the pandemic and measures in response, on indigenous peoples’ access to traditional livelihood, food and education, or the right to be consulted and provide consent in the context of development and business operations on their territories?
3. How has your Government supported indigenous peoples in their own initiatives to fight the pandemic, protect health and provide assistance in their own communities?
4. How are indigenous peoples ensured a role in shaping the national COVID-19 response to avoid discriminatory effects on their communities and including their actual socio-economic and cultural requirements in recovery programmes? How is their input sought and respected in all relevant programs that could affect them?
5. What measures have been taken to protect the lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples against potential increased militarization and land-grabbing by external actors during the pandemic, including when indigenous people’s mobilization may be restricted by lockdown and quarantine?

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery**

The thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, Mr. Tomoya Obokata, to the Human Rights Council at its 45th session in September 2020 will analyse how increasing poverty and rising unemployment caused by the COVID 19 health crisis push people into exploitative employment in informal or illegal economies, increasing their vulnerability to forced labour, worst forms of child labour and other slavery-like practices such as bonded labour, as well as forced marriage. The impact on those who are already in a situation of enslavement will also be highlighted, given that resources for anti-slavery initiatives may be further limited in the context of the economic crisis, likely disrupting services for the prevention and response to contemporary forms of slavery. Finally, the report will offer recommendations with regards to interventions that are required to address these problems and to protect most vulnerable groups.

1. What is the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on contemporary forms of slavery, including descent-based slavery; forced labour; debt bondage; serfdom; sexual slavery; commercial sexual exploitation of children; child labour; domestic servitude; and servile forms of marriage?
2. What steps have been taken by the Government to reduce increased risks of contemporary forms of slavery in the context of the outbreak? Please, share any good practices and identify persistent challenges, including with regards to prevention; identification of victims; provision of access to recovery and rehabilitation services; and investigation and prosecution of slavery-related crimes.
3. Are there indications of an increase in the number of people employed in informal or illegal economies since the outbreak of the pandemic? Are there reports of forced labour and exploitative labour practices in such business sectors, such as long working hours, low pay, no adequate time to rest, and no holiday pays, etc.?
4. Has there been engagement with business entities and other stakeholders to develop joined strategies on reducing the risk of vulnerable workers in their operations and supply chains becoming exposed to contemporary forms of slavery in the context of the pandemic.
5. Since the outbreak, has the Government continued investigating and prosecuting human rights violations related to decent-based slavery; forced labour; debt bondage; serfdom; sexual slavery; commercial sexual exploitation of children; child labour; domestic servitude; and servile forms of marriage?
6. In light of the Sustainable Development Goals and global commitments to eradicate slavery (target 8.7) and measure progress in this area, has the Government been able to ensure timely collection and analysis of disaggregated data? If available, please share the data collected in the first quarter of 2020, including information regarding the number, age, gender and nationality of identified victims; number of prosecution of perpetrators; types of services provided to the victims; industries where victims were identified. Has any of these data significantly varied from previously recorded trends due to factors related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children**

The report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children will explore how the COVID-19 crisis threatens to further erode the situation of children most vulnerable to sale and sexual exploitation. The report will focus on identifying push and pull factors, scaling up good practice, and providing recommendations on the measures to address the heightened risks of sale and sexual exploitation of children, during and in the aftermath of the pandemic. The recommendations of the report will seek to: operationalize the pledges made under Agenda 2030 as far as they relate to SDG targets 5.3, 8.7 and 16.2. and ensure implementation of effective child protection responses arising in the context of emergencies.

1. What is the impact of COVID-19 crisis on the nature and scope of various manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation of children, including sexual exploitation and abuse of children, both online and offline; child marriage; trafficking of children; surrogacy and sale of children; illegal adoptions and child labour?

* What are the new forms and manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation of children in the context of COVID 19 crisis?
* What are the key trends and accelerators in the context of the pandemic that may increase children’s vulnerability to the sale and sexual exploitation?

1. What essential protection measures, , including identification, reporting, referral and investigation, have been put in place to detect and prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation cases and how effective have they been since the outbreak?
2. Have there been any initiatives on collecting disaggregated data on specific forms and manifestations of sale and sexual exploitation of children during the pandemic and assessing the near and long-term impacts of COVID-19?

These data will only be known to us after the full return of the activities of the NGOs that serve the victimized children.

1. Please, share information about challenges faced in the provision of undisrupted healthcare, education and legal aid, as well as care recovery and reintegration services for the victims in the context of the outbreak.
2. Have there been examples of innovative solutions to ensure effective functioning of child protection and justice systems that are resilient, adaptable and able to withstand the next crisis?

Online assistance. Both in NGOs and in the judicial system, in urgent cases.

1. How relevant and functional were the existing legal frameworks dealing with prohibition, prosecution, protection, care, assistance and prevention in relation to all forms of physical, mental and sexual violence against, exploitation and neglect of, and harmful practices in relation to children?
2. Has there been a surge of resource allocation, actions plans or coordination mechanisms, prevention and response services for the protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation?

Wisely, there was no leasing of financial resources directly for these actions, but there was guidance for support areas, and consequently benefited victimized children and women.

**Questions by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

The report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Mr Victor Madrigal-Borloz, will be presented to the General Assembly in October 2020. It will focus on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and gender diverse (LGBT) persons, communities and/or populations. It will build on consultation and research processes triggered since the start of the pandemic, and also the work of States and civil society to create an LGBT-inclusive response to the health crisis. It will analyse the particular circumstance of LGBT persons who are living with disabilities, older persons, youths and children, migrants, minorities, those affected by poverty and homelessness, as well as those who face health challenges. The report will further analyse measures adopted in the context of the pandemic, aimed at persecuting LGBT persons, with indirect or unintended discriminatory effects, and identify and analyse good practice.

1. How did the State evaluate the situation of LGBT persons vis-à-vis the pandemic and potential specific vulnerabilities?
2. What measures were adopted by the State to ensure that LGBT persons would not be subjected to discrimination in the implementation of COVID-19 related interventions?
3. Did LGBT civil society participate in the design of measures taken to respond to the pandemic? If no, why not?
4. What is the information available to the State as to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the general situation of LGBT persons and their access to education, housing, health and employment and on their living conditions?
5. Can you identify good practices in the State interventions in relation to COVID-19 and LGBT persons? Can you identify good practices stemming from civil society actions? Have lessons be learned from the pandemic on how not to leave LGBT persons behind in emergency situations?

**Questions by the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes**

The Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Mr. Baskut Tuncak, would welcome in addition responses to the following specific questions related to his mandate:

What evidence have you collected on environmental factors (such as exposure to hazardous substances and wastes, air and water pollution) that are contributing to serious or deadly cases of COVID-19?

Which initiatives and measures have been taken to understand such link and to currently address this problem?

**Questions by the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights**

The report of the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights, Ms. Yuefen Li, to the United Nations General Assembly will focus on debt servicing and debt sustainability of low-income and developing countries in view of the current COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on financing for development , economy, poverty and the right to an adequate standard of living. To inform her report Ms. Li welcomes contributions from States, International Financial Institutions, Regional Banks, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations, academics and other stakeholders, on the following issues:

1. Did your Government benefit or have been allocating (as a creditor, lender or donor) any forms of debt alleviation including debt standstill, relief, moratorium, restructuring or cancellation. Was human rights a major consideration in making decisions and the use of the financial resources? Were there any specific groups at risks identified and if so, please detail specific measures considered to protect their human rights.
2. How much additional resources have been deployed to deal with the pandemic and COVID-19 relief if applicable? If any forms of debt alleviation have been allocated/received, were there any adjustments made to social spending and COVID relief programmes, if so, please provide further details.
3. In addition, have the debt repayment requirements pressed your Government to cut some of the social expenditures, including on health? If so, do you think that this has hampered the current response of the health system to the COVID-19 crisis?
4. Going forward, what measures or policy recommendation are being considered by your Government/institution for economic recovery and debt sustainability and to prevent and mitigate human rights impacts of the COVID-19 economic fallout?

1. Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Mr. Olivier De Schutter; Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Mr. Michael Fakhri; Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal; Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Ms. Karima Bennoune; Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Ms. Claudia Mahler; Working Group on Persons of African Decent; Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Mr. José Francisco Cali Tzay; Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Mr. Tomoya Obokata; Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, Ms. Mama Fatima Singhateh; Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Mr Victor Madrigal-Borloz; Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, Mr. Baskut Tuncak; Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights, Ms. Yuefen Li. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The full call for input is available at: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/SRIndigenousPeoples/Pages/Callforinput\_COVID19.aspx [↑](#footnote-ref-2)