|  |
| --- |
| **Thailand’s submission for the questionnaire in relation to General Assembly resolution 68/268** |

1. **Simplified reporting procedure**

Thailand is for the first time using the simplified reporting procedure in our second periodic report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. From our experience, the new procedure helps as a framework for a State party in formulating precise answers to the list of issues constituting a focused report.

Thailand encourages all human rights treaty bodies to continue to offer to States parties for their consideration the simplified reporting procedure. We also encourage those treaty bodies who have not yet adopted the simplified reporting procedure to start using this procedure, in order to help lessen Member States’ reporting burden.

Thailand suggests that the human rights treaty bodies adopt a unified manual or guidelines for the human rights treaty bodies and States parties, with a view to harmonizing the process in practice and ensuring the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.

1. **Dialogue at the consideration of report**

Thailand appreciates the constructive dialogues with the human rights treaty bodies. Thailand, however, recommends that questions posed strictly focus on the issues in the implementation of treaty obligations and not beyond in order to allow for in-depth discussion with States parties.

Committee members should also be in a position to recommend examples of best practices drawn from other States parties. Dialogue at the consideration of the report should serve as a platform to exchange views and good practices, rather than a question-and-answer session. In this regard, the human rights treaty bodies are also encouraged to compile good practices and lessons learned and share them with States parties.

1. **General comment**

Thailand has contributed to the consultation process of the human rights treaty bodies for the elaboration of some general comments, such as the draft General Comment No. 6 on Equality and Non-discrimination (Article 5) of the Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities. Thailand finds this exercise constructive and useful.

Given the human rights treaty bodies’ oversight across regions, Thailand encourages them to focus on developing general comments, especially on issues that the Committee find as common challenges in many States parties (from their review experiences). Thailand welcomes the recent practice, which some of the human rights treaty bodies have worked together in co-developing general comments on cross-cutting issues. Thailand suggests that the human rights treaty bodies work with relevant United Nations agencies and United Nations country teams in raising awareness of general comments, disseminating them and supporting States parties’ implementation thereof.

1. **Technical cooperation and capacity-building**

Thailand commends the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for its continued engagement in supporting States parties in building the capacity to implement their treaty obligations. The Royal Thai Government, for instance, has collaborated with the Office in organizing two capacity-building workshops on treaty bodies reporting in 2018 and 2019. In addition, Thailand has had good experiences in working with the United Nations country team in Thailand to organize mock sessions prior to interactive dialogues with the human rights treaty bodies.

Thailand supports the work of the human rights treaty bodies and the Office in building States parties’ capacity to implement their treaty obligations, as listed under paragraph 17 of the resolution, particularly through strengthening cooperation with relevant regional human rights mechanisms, building and developing institutional capacity for reporting and strengthening technical knowledge through ad-hoc training on reporting guidelines at the national level, and facilitating the sharing of best practices among States parties.

Thailand strongly suggests that the human rights treaty bodies and the Office continue to, in close consultation with States parties, strengthen such activities in the field of technical cooperation and capacity-building in order to pave the way for structural changes on the ground. Thailand also suggests that the United Nations country teams, including the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, strengthen their roles in supporting States parties’ preparation for treaty body reporting and implementation of treaty obligations and concluding observations.

1. **Videoconference**

Thailand acknowledges the human rights treaty bodies and the Office’s efforts in providing, at the request of a State party, the opportunity for members of its official delegation not present at the meeting to participate in the consideration of the report of that State party by means of videoconference in order to facilitate wider participation in the dialogue.

Thailand suggests that the human rights treaty bodies and the Office work with the host Government to ensure that the said practice is not hindered by technical barriers, including internet connection instability. Thailand also encourages the human rights treaty bodies to consider extending the use of videoconference to committee members of the human rights treaty bodies, who - due to certain circumstances - cannot be present at the dialogue, in order to facilitate their attendance.

1. **Working language**

Thailand suggests that the Office and the United Nations country teams consider facilitating the use of a non-official language of the United Nations, including providing an interpreter during the dialogue with the human rights treaty bodies, at the request of the State party.

1. **Reporting schedule**

Thailand suggests that the human rights treaty bodies and the Office adopt concrete measures to increase predictability in the reporting schedule after the submission of a State party’s report, e.g. the dialogue is to follow not later than a year, in order to allow them to prepare in a time-efficient and effective manner and lessen the burden of updating the information.

1. **Cross-cutting issues**

Noting the cross-cutting nature of issues under international human rights treaties and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other relevant international obligations, Thailand suggests that the human rights treaty bodies and the Office either adopt a mechanism or concrete measures to synchronize and share among themselves the information received. Thailand also suggests that the human rights treaty bodies streamline questions for States parties and explore the possibility of inviting members of relevant committees of the human rights treaty bodies to join – on an issue-specific basis – the dialogue should their schedule permit.

1. **Source of information**

While respecting the human rights treaty bodies’ use of different sources of information, Thailand is concerned about the impression expressed by several agencies that the questions, concluding observations and recommendations of the human rights treaty bodies are often relied on the information received from civil society organizations.

Thailand suggests that the human rights treaty bodies adopt concrete measures to ensure a balanced approach and sufficient context-specific understanding of committee members in considering the information made available by the government and civil society organizations, with a view to drawing useful concluding observations for States parties.

1. **Terms of committee members of human rights treaty bodies**

Thailand suggests that members of all human rights treaty bodies be elected to a limited number of terms (for example, not more than two consecutive terms) in order to allow new perspectives within the human rights treaty bodies and the continued sharing of knowledge and experiences.

1. **Use of technologies**

Thailand suggests that the human rights treaty bodies increase the use of technologies while continuing their engagement in order to promote effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, including to support States parties’ implementation of their treaty obligations and concluding observations, monitoring and follow-up.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*