**Political Participation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region**

Compilation of jurisprudence from United Nations
Human Rights Mechanisms

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**UDHR Article 21**

(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

 (2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

 (3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

**ICCPR Article 25**

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:

1. To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
2. To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;
3. To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

**CESCR Article 8**

1. The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure:

1. The right of everyone to form trade unions and join the trade union of his choice, subject only to the rules of the organization concerned, for the promotion and protection of his economic and social interests. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public order or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others;
2. The right of trade unions to establish national federations or confederations and the right of the latter to form or join international trade-union organizations;
3. The right of trade unions to function freely subject to no limitations other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public order or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others;
4. The right to strike, provided that it is exercised in conformity with the laws of the particular country.

2. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces or of the police or of the administration of the State.

3. Nothing in this article shall authorize States Parties to the International Labour Organisation Convention of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures which would prejudice, or apply the law in such a manner as would prejudice, the guarantees provided for in that Convention.

**CEDAW Articles 7 & 8**

**Article 7**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

1. To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
2. To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
3. To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

**Article 8**

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.

**CERD Article 5(c)**

In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:

(c) Political rights, in particular the right to participate in elections-to vote and to stand for election-on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service;

**CRPD Article 29**

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake to:

1. Ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:
2. Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;
3. Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;
4. Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;
5. Promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:
6. Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;

Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

***Middle East Region***

1. Bahrain
2. Iraq
3. Jordan
4. Kuwait
5. Lebanon
6. Occupied Palestinian Territory
7. Oman
8. Qatar
9. Saudi Arabia
10. Syrian Arab Republic
11. United Arab Emirates
12. Yemen

**Bahrain**

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3 (CEDAW, 2014)**

19. The Committee appreciates the efforts of the State party to re-examine the stereotyped content of school curricula and books and to provide vocational education to both girls and boys, including in non-traditional fields. The Committee welcomes the efforts of the State party, in partnership with the media, to increase the participation of women and to show a positive and diverse image of women in public life. The Committee remains concerned, however, about the persistence of traditional stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in society and, in particular, within the family.

20. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/BHR/ CO/2, para. 22) and encourages the State party to continue to implement measures to bring about change to the widely shared stereotypical roles of women and men, including awareness-raising and training programmes and campaigns, and to promote equal sharing of family responsibilities and the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the public and private spheres.

27. The Committee welcomes the initiatives undertaken by the State party to encourage women’s participation in leadership positions. It regrets, however, that, their high levels of education and economic empowerment notwithstanding, women continue to be underrepresented in political and public life, in particular in the parliament and local councils and in decision-making positions.

28. The Committee reiterates its recommendation (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2, para. 29) and calls upon the State party to take measures, including temporary special measures in the form of quotas, with benchmarks and specific timetables, to increase the number of women in political and public life at all levels and in all areas, including in the parliament and local levels of government, in the light of its general recommendation No. 23 on women in political and public life. It recommends that the State party promote women in leadership positions and foster a political and social environment conducive to the promotion of women in all sectors.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/2 (CEDAW, 2008)**

20. The Committee notes the State party’s insufficient understanding of the purpose of, and need for, temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and expresses its concern that they are regarded as contrary to the Constitution and discriminatory. It is further concerned that no temporary special measures are in place to accelerate the achievement of de facto or substantive equality between men and women, in particular with regard to participation of women in politics and in the workplace.

21. The Committee urges the State party to adopt and implement, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, temporary special measures, in particular in the field of participation of women in public life and in the area of employment of women. The Committee further recommends that the State party raise public awareness about the importance of temporary special measures in accelerating the process of the achievement of gender equality.

28. While noting the State party’s initiatives to promote the participation of women in public and political life, the Committee is concerned that women continue to be underrepresented in public and political life and in decision-making positions, particularly in the Council of Representatives and in Municipal Councils.

29. The Committee urges the State party to take all appropriate measures, including temporary special measures under article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, and to establish concrete goals to accelerate the increase of women in the Council of Representatives and Municipal Councils. The Committee recommends that the State party encourage political parties to use quotas. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to undertake awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making at all levels.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3 (CEDAW, 2014)**

19. The Committee appreciates the efforts of the State party to re-examine the stereotyped content of school curricula and books and to provide vocational education to both girls and boys, including in non-traditional fields. The Committee welcomes the efforts of the State party, in partnership with the media, to increase the participation of women and to show a positive and diverse image of women in public life. The Committee remains concerned, however, about the persistence of traditional stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in society and, in particular, within the family.

20. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/BHR/ CO/2, para. 22) and encourages the State party to continue to implement measures to bring about change to the widely shared stereotypical roles of women and men, including awareness-raising and training programmes and campaigns, and to promote equal sharing of family responsibilities and the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the public and private spheres.

27. The Committee welcomes the initiatives undertaken by the State party to encourage women’s participation in leadership positions. It regrets, however, that, their high levels of education and economic empowerment notwithstanding, women continue to be underrepresented in political and public life, in particular in the parliament and local councils and in decision-making positions.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/21/6 (UPR, 2012)**

* 115.53. Implement the constitutional reforms in the elections of 2014 ( Qatar );

**Iraq**

**Concluding Observations: CCPR/C/IRQ/CO/5 (CCPR, 2015)**

13. The Committee is concerned about the persistence in legislation of discriminatory provisions against women, such as those contained in the Criminal Code and in the Personal Status Act, including provisions that permit polygamy under certain circumstances. It is also concerned at the low representation of women at the highest levels of Government and in the judiciary (arts. 3 and 26).

**Concluding Observations: CERD/C/IRQ/CO/15-21 (CERD, 2014)**

11. The Committee notes with concern that, despite provisions in the Constitution requiring equitable composition of the State party’s various components within the security services sector, there remains a disproportionately low representation of ethno-religious minorities in security and police forces, particularly within the Nineveh Plain, as well as in high-ranking positions of command and authority. The Committee is also concerned about the emergence of new armed militias formed on a sectarian basis (arts.2 and 5).

The Committee recommends that the State party take special measures to better ensure that ethno-religious minorities are adequately represented at all levels of the Government’s security and police forces, including in positions of command and authority, by engaging inter alia with such communities through effective outreach and recruitment. The State party should also ensure that all units of the Iraqi armed forces are organized on a strictly non-sectarian basis and remain within a chain of command that is transparent and accountable to the Government and the Council of Representatives.

12. The Committee is concerned that the current electoral laws are inadequate as they make it difficult for minority ethnic groups to attain political representation in proportion to their representation in society, and that quotas allocated to some minority communities are too low (arts. 2 and 5).

The Committee recommends that the State party amend the electoral laws and increase the number of reserved seats for minorities, including minorities not benefiting from the quota system, guaranteeing the representation of the different components of the population in proportion to their real demographic weight. The State party should also abide by the 2010 Federal Court ruling which requires that the number of seats reserved for the Yezidis be increased.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/IRQ/CO/4-6 (CEDAW, 2014)**

11. The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party’s delegation with regard to the Government’s endorsement of the draft national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). It is concerned, however, that the current draft does not address all aspects of women’s participation in the national reconciliation process. It is also concerned that, although a special office for women has been established within the National Reconciliation Committee, the participation of women in the Committee is limited to awareness-raising activities.

12. The Committee urges the State party to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes within the National Reconciliation Committee. It calls upon the State party to establish a clear time frame for finalizing the draft national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in cooperation with the Kurdistan Region and representatives of women’s organizations, and ensure that the plan:

1. Takes into consideration the full spectrum of the Security Council’s agenda on women and peace and security as reflected in Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 2122 (2013);
2. Incorporates a model of substantive equality, in line with the Convention, that will have an impact not only on violence against women but also on all spheres of women’s life and addresses the intersecting forms of discrimination to which women, including widows and internally displaced and refugee women, are subjected;
3. Integrates a gender-responsive budget, sets out indicators for the regular monitoring of its implementation and provides for accountability mechanisms.

21. The Committee notes the establishment of the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq in accordance with Act No. 53 (2008) and of the Independent Board of Human Rights in the Kurdistan Region (Act No. 4 (2010)). It also notes that the mandate of the High Commission allows it to receive individual complaints and to conduct preliminary investigations into human rights violations. The Committee is concerned, however, at the lack of implementation of Federal Supreme Court decision No. 42 (2012), which provides that the total number of women commissioners should be five (one third of the total). It further notes with concern that the independence of the High Commission might be jeopardized owing to political interests and the difficulties of the Board of Commissioners in electing its President and Vice-President.

22. The Committee reminds the State party of its responsibility to ensure that the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq is in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), in particular with regard to its independence. It urges the State party to ensure the implementation of Federal Supreme Court decision No. 42 (2012) on women’s representation among the commissioners, in compliance with Act No. 53 (2008).

33. The Committee appreciates that the 25 per cent quota for women’s representation in the Council of Representatives enshrined in the Constitution and in the Elections Act (Amendment Act No. 26 (2009)) was met in the elections held in 2010. It notes that a 25 per cent quota for women in the provincial councils was established by Federal Supreme Court decision No. 13/T/2007. The Committee welcomes the adoption of temporary special measures to encourage women’s participation as candidates in the forthcoming legislative elections and the information provided by the delegation indicating that 2,500 women have been registered as candidates. The Committee remains concerned, however, at:

(a) The very low level of participation of women in political and public life, in particular in decision-making positions at all levels of government (national, regional and local), owing to persistent traditional and patriarchal attitudes regarding the role of women in society;

(b) The fact that political parties appear to limit their support to women to simply nominating them as candidates in order to meet the required 25 per cent quota without providing them with the means to enhance their political leadership skills;

(c) The sex segregation of committees in the Council of Representatives, with women participating in committees that deal with topics traditionally associated with women, such as health;

(d) The fact that the Ministry of State for Women’s Affairs is the only ministry headed by a woman (1 of 36) and that the representation of women in decision-making positions within the executive branch is very low;

(e) The very low participation of women in the judiciary (6 per cent of the total number of judges and prosecutors), the efforts of the State party notwithstanding.

34. The Committee further appreciates that a 30 per cent quota for women’s representation in the Kurdistan regional parliament is stipulated in Act No. 10 (2009) and that the participation of women in the Kurdistan regional government has increased. It is concerned, however, that the main positions at the decision-making level continue to be occupied by men.

35. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making as a democratic requirement in all areas of public and political life at the national, regional and local levels by, inter alia, adopting temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25;

(b) To ensure that political parties allocate funds to the promotion of women’s political leadership and support for women candidates running for elections;

(c) To implement activities to raise awareness of the importance of the participation of women in decision-making, with the aim of eliminating patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men in society, in particular for decision-making bodies of political parties;

(d) To take appropriate measures to increase the representation of women in the judiciary, in particular in higher courts, and ensure the appointment of women to the Federal Supreme Court.

44. The Committee notes the initiatives undertaken by the State party to promote the advancement of rural women. It is concerned, however, at the prevalence of customs and traditional practices that limit the degree of involvement of rural women in development programmes and their access to credit and prevent them from inheriting or acquiring land and other property. The Committee is also concerned at the difficulties faced by rural women in gaining access to health-care and social services and in participating in decision-making processes at the community level.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party:

1. Conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of the participation of rural women in development projects as decision makers and beneficiaries;

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/28/14 (UPR, 2014)**

* 127.96 Effectively apply resolution 1325 of the Security Council concerning women’s participation in decision-making (Chile) – Supported.
* 127.203 Endeavour to protect the security and rights of persons belonging to minorities, to bring to justice individuals and organizations that violate their rights and to ensure fair and proportional representation of all minorities in security apparatuses, governance and decision-making bodies at regional and federal levels (Ireland) – Supported.
* 127.204 Take further legislative and practical steps to ensure equal political, economic, cultural and social rights for those belonging to minorities, including by increasing the number of reserved seats for minorities in the parliament (Hungary);

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/14/14 (UPR, 2010)**

* 81.91. Introduce, within its overall security policy, further measures to secure life of confessional groups and indigenous people, and further pursue its policy of involving the representatives of the latter in new political and social structure of Iraq (Armenia);
* 81.101. Hold the next elections in an inclusive and transparent manner (Brazil);
* 81.102 Make efforts to ensure that all Iraqis, including religious minorities, can participate in elections that are safe, fair and free of intimidation and violence (United States) – Supported
* 81.103. Take action to ensure the Supreme National Commission for Accountability and Justice is independent and operates towards the goal of free and fair elections with participation of all parties (New Zealand);
* 85.19. To facilitate independent participation of civil society in the democratization process, and to lift restrictions on the freedom of the right of association and assembly, in accordance with international human rights standards (Netherlands);

**Jordan**

**Concluding Observations: CERD/C/JOR/CO/13-17 (CERD, 2012)**

13. While noting as positive the State party’s 2010 election law which increases the number of seats representing urban districts, where most Jordanians of Palestinian origin reside, the Committee is concerned that the current structure of the State party’s parliament remains disproportionately imbalanced in favour of rural districts. The Committee is further concerned that, as non-citizen residents, Jordan’s large refugee population remains unable to participate in the political processes and decision-making in the State party. It is also concerned that security forces, whose leadership generally excludes Jordanians of Palestinian descent, continue to exercise significant influence over Jordanian political life in a manner that limits citizens’ freedoms of speech and assembly (art. 5(c)).

The Committee recommends that the State party consider further amendments to its election law and apportionment of parliamentary seats to facilitate proportionate representation of Jordanians of all ethnic origin as well as non-national residents in its politics and decision making. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party consider measures, including minimum quotas, to increase the proportion of persons of Palestinian origin in the leadership of its security forces.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/4 (CEDAW, 2007)**

6. The Committee congratulates the State party on the establishment of a 20 per cent quota for women in the municipal councils, which has led to the election of 240 women to municipal councils, and on the appointment of the first female head of a court.

27. While appreciating the recent election of 240 women to municipal councils following the adoption of a 20 per cent quota for women in municipal councils and noting the quota of 6 seats for women out of 110 seats in the lower house of Parliament and the appointment of 7 women to the upper house of Parliament, the Committee is concerned about the low level of representation of women in public and political life and in decision-making positions.

28. The Committee encourages the State party to take sustained measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendations 23 and 25, and to establish concrete goals and time frames in order to accelerate the increase in the representation of women in elected and appointed bodies in all areas and at all levels of public life. In this regard, the Committee urges the State party to consider amending the Elections Act before the parliamentary elections scheduled for November 2007 in order to institute a significantly higher quota for women, as recommended by the Jordanian National Commission for Women. The Committee invites the State party to also encourage political parties to use quotas or numerical goals in order to accelerate women’s equal representation. It recommends that the State party conduct training programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders. It calls upon the State party to undertake awareness-raising, including for all members of Parliament, about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making for society as a whole.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/5 (CEDAW, 2012)**

13. While noting the recent review of the Jordanian Constitution that aimed at enhancing people’s enjoyment of their civic and political rights, the Committee is deeply concerned that women were not included in the composition of the Royal Committee mandated to review the Constitution and proposing amendments to the Parliament; that women’s demands were not taken up by the Royal Committee; and essentially, that the prohibition of discrimination on gender basis was not incorporated in article 6 of amended Constitution in 2011. The Committee is further concerned about the absence of the prohibition and definition of gender discrimination in national legislation in accordance with article 1 of the Convention.

14. The Committee recommends that the State party revisit its Constitution and to insert the word gender or sex in article 6 as a prohibited ground of discrimination, and to adopt and effectively implement comprehensive legislation on gender equality, including a prohibition of discrimination against women in accordance with article s 1 and 2 of the Convention. The Committee further encourages the State party to pursue its intent, as declared by the delegation during the dialogue, to appeal to the Constitutional Court, once established in accordance with the amended Constitution, to issue a legal opinion on the material scope of the application of the term “Jordanians” as used in article 6 of the Constitution, so as to ensure the equal applicability of the principle of equality before the law on all Jordanian men and women.

15. While commending the State party on forming the National Dialogue Commission in 2011 to carry out legal reforms of national legislation in response to popular demand, the Committee is highly concerned that women were substantially underrepresented in the Commission’s composition; legal reform was not progressing at the pace desired; discriminatory provisions in various domestic laws persisted, including in the Penal Code, Personal Status Act, Labour Code and Nationality Act; and, that women’s demands were not fully incorporated in the proposals made by the Commission to the Parliament.

16. The Committee urges the State Party to accelerate its efforts in repealing all remaining discriminatory provisions in its domestic legislations with the aim of ensuring full compliance with the provisions of the Convention, in accordance with article 2. In this regard, the Committee calls upon the State party to, inter alia, raise significantly the number of women members in the National Dialogue Commission and to incorporate women’s demands in conformity with the Convention, in the Commission’s proposals to the Parliament while fully cooperating with civil society.

31. While aware of the State party’s use of temporary special measures to accelerate women’s participation in political life, the Committee is concerned about the considerable gap between the quota allocated for women’s representation at national and municipal levels. The Committee is also concerned about the small number of women in the Parliament, cabinet and political parties as well as in decision-making positions.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the quota for women’s representation at municipal and national levels to a minimum of 30 per cent, so as to ensure that women are effectively involved in the development of the State party at all levels. The Committee calls upon the State party to create effective incentives for women in order to encourage them to take part in public life, such as the provision of free day-care facilities to women candidates, and to ensure that political parties have women in high decision-making positions. The Committee, while recalling its general recommendation No. 23 on women in political and public life (1997), recommends that the State party implements awareness-raising activities for society as a whole on the importance of women’s participation in decision-making, and to develop targeted training and mentoring programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and potential women candidates and women holding public office.

41. The Committee expresses its concern at the disadvantaged position of women in rural and remote areas who are characterized by poverty, difficulties in accessing health and social services and a lack of participation in decision-making processes at the community level.

**Concluding Observations: CCPR/C/JOR/CO/4 (CCPR, 2010)**

15. The Committee notes with concern that the Public Assemblies Act (2008) requires any organizer of a public meeting on general State policy first to obtain the governor’s written authorization (art. 21).

The State party should amend the Public Assemblies Act and take the necessary steps to ensure that any restriction on freedom of peaceful assembly is strictly compatible with the provisions of article 21 of the Covenant and not subordinate to political considerations.

16. The Committee is concerned at the restrictions on NGOs with regard to their establishment and certain aspects of their operation. It is particularly concerned that the Government has full discretion in appointing a State employee to serve as temporary president of a newly established NGO (art. 22).

The State party should amend the Societies Act and take appropriate steps to ensure that any restriction on freedom of association is strictly compatible with the provisions of article 22 of the Covenant.

18. While welcoming the fact that international observation will be allowed for the first time during the forthcoming elections in November 2010, the Committee is concerned at reports that insufficient measures are being taken to guarantee free and transparent elections (art. 25).

The State party should take adequate steps to further guarantee free and transparent elections, including the establishment of an independent electoral commission responsible for systematic election monitoring.

19.The Committee is concerned about the insufficient participation of women in public life (arts. 3 and 25).

The State party should take all necessary measures to increase women’s participation in the various areas of public life, raise awareness and increase the minimum quotas for women in the House of Representatives (currently 10 per cent) and in municipal councils (20 per cent).

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Heiner Bielefeldt, A/HRC/25/58/Add.2 (SR Freedom of Religion, 2014)**

53. Jordan should continue to promote a positive climate between religious communities. Interreligious dialogue projects should take into account the existing inter and intra-religious diversity and ensure a fair participation of women.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/25/9 (UPR, 2014)**

118.78. Amend the Press and Publications Law to allow for open channels of public communication in print and online media and for greater access to public information in order for citizens to participate more meaningfully in the public sphere (United States of America) – Supported.

118.82. Continue to promote women’s political participation and representation at national and local levels, including in the cabinet, political parties and the judicial system (Thailand) – Supported.

118.83. Exert more effort to promote women’s participation in public life through executing the national strategy for Jordanian women 2012 – 2015 (Qatar);

118.85. Continue to pursue policies with the view of better promoting participation of women in the political life (Greece) – Supported.

118.86. Consider launching awareness - raising campaigns on the empowerment of women in public and political life (Turkey);

118.87. Take further measures to increase the participation of women in political life (Rwanda);

118.88. Continue with its efforts to promote women’s participation in the political sphere (Turkey);

118.89. Continue efforts to increase women’s participation in political life, both in elected positions and in discretionary appointments (Costa Rica);

118.90. Continue its ongoing efforts in promoting and enhancing women’s political participation, including through the implementation of the national coalition this strategy for the period 2012 – 2017 (Indonesia);

118.91. Redouble efforts to ensure the empowerment of women in political and economic plans in order to reduce gender inequalities (Djibouti);

118.92. Continue its measures in fostering women’s advancement, including intensifying efforts to increase the number of women in decision-making posts (Malaysia);

118.93. Adopt further measures to increase the participation of women in political life, including to serve as senior level officials in the executive and judicial branches, at the national and local levels (Maldives);

118.94. Continue the efforts which aim at expanding the inclusion of the general public in the decision-making process (Lebanon) – Supported.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/11/29 (UPR, 2009)**

* 92.25. Continue efforts in promoting the rights of women and their participation in higher decision-making posts (Bahrain); further pursue efforts to increase the level of representation of women in society, including their appointment to the higher governmental posts (Azerbaijan)

**Kuwait**

**Concluding Observations: CRC/C/KWT/CO/2 (CRC, 2013)**

33. The Committee expresses concern that children are generally not perceived as rights holders in Kuwaiti society and that their participation in the public sphere and their opportunity to have their voices heard in decision-making processes are absent at the policy level and insufficient at the family, school and institutional and community levels.

34. Referring to its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, the Committee reiterates its recommendations that the State party take all appropriate measures to encourage the participation of children in the family, in institutions, at school and in society (CRC/C/15/Add.96, para. 19). The Committee also recommends that the State party establish clear mechanisms and guidelines for an effective implementation in practice of the right of the child to be heard, and ensure that the views of the child are taken into account by policymaking bodies and that children are provided with adequate responses to their proposals.

**Concluding Observations: CCPR/C/KWT/CO/2 (CCPR, 2011)**

3. The Committee welcomes the following legislative and institutional steps taken by the State party:

The adoption of Act 17 of 2005 giving women the right to vote and to stand for elections, and the following election of women as members of the Parliament in 2009.

7. The Committee regrets that the State party continues to maintain its interpretative declaration on article 2, paragraph 1 and article 3 of the Covenant, which the Committee has already found in its previous concluding observations to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Covenant (CCPR/CO/69/KWT, para. 4), as well as its interpretive declaration to article 23, and its reservations to article 25(b) of the Covenant. (art. 2)

The State party should formally withdraw its interpretative declaration on article 2, paragraph 1 and article 3, and should consider withdrawing its interpretative declaration on article 23 and its reservation to article 25(b) of the Covenant.

8. Despite the progress achieved with respect to the participation of women in political life, the Committee remains concerned about their underrepresentation in legislative and executive bodies, especially about the absence of women as judges. The Committee is also concerned about persisting stereotypes of the role of women in the family and in society at large. (arts. 3, 25 and 26)

The State party should enhance its efforts to eliminate gender stereotypes on the role and responsibilities of men and women in the family and in society, including through the adoption, if necessary, of temporary special measures to further increase the participation of women in public and political life, as well as the private sector. The State party should take immediate steps to ensure that the position of judge is effectively accessible to women.

29. The Committee is concerned that no legal framework regulates the existence of political parties. Political groups are thereby hindered from organizing events that require official authorization, from seeking funds and from participating effectively in the political life of the State party (arts. 22 and 25).

The State party should adopt a legal framework regulating the existence of political parties, and enabling them to participate effectively and formally in Kuwaiti political life.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/3-4 (CEDAW, 2011)**

7. The Committee notes with appreciation that the State party has accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee’s meeting time and that it has withdrawn its reservation to article 7 (a) concerning the elimination of discrimination against women in the right to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies.

34. While women have been granted the right to vote and stood for election in 2005, and four women were subsequently elected to the National Assembly, the Committee expresses its concern that women remain largely underrepresented in public and political life and that the level of women’s participation in the Parliament and Government remains very low. The Committee also notes with concern that the Office of the Public Prosecution does not appoint women to the post of prosecutors and that the High Council of the Judiciary refrains from appointing women as judges. The Committee is also concerned that there are only two women ambassadors in the State party’s 82 diplomatic missions abroad.

35. The Committee urges the State party to further encourage and facilitate women’s representation in Parliament and ministerial positions, and their appointment as prosecutors and judges and at the senior level in the civil service, and to increase the representation of women in the diplomatic service, including as heads of its diplomatic missions abroad.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/29/17 (UPR, 2015)**

157.184. Intensify measures to enhance the participation of women in public life (Austria);

157.185. Continue strengthening the increasing participation of women in public life (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));

157.186. Promote the participation of women in public affairs and increase their representation in the elected councils (Algeria) – Supported.

157.187. Further encourage and facilitate the representation of women in parliament, in the judiciary and in diplomatic missions abroad (Hungary);

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/15/15 (UPR, 2010)**

79.37. Continue in the positive policy of granting Kuwaiti women more rights, in particular the right to participate in political life, which contribute to getting more women in leading positions in society (Lebanon) – Supported.

79.38. Continue to promote the participation of women in policy making and improve the status of women in the society (Bangladesh);

79.39. Achieve further progress in the advancement of the role of Kuwaiti women in the public sphere (Indonesia);

79.41. Promote women’s rights and their role in the family institution and society in line with its national and cultural particularities as well as its international obligations (Islamic Republic of Iran);

82.13. Ensure equal employment opportunities for women, and enhance women’s participation in the workforce by recruiting qualified women for expert and supervisory positions in all ministries, diplomatic corps and the judiciary (Netherlands) – Supported.

**Lebanon**

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/4-5 (CEDAW, 2015)**

31. The Committee is concerned about the gross underrepresentation of women in public and political life and the lack of capacity-building for political party and labour union representatives with regard to women’s rights, and regrets that the bill that would have provided for a 30 per cent minimum quota for women’s representation on the candidate lists of political parties for parliamentary elections was not adopted. It is concerned about the strong political resistance to the adoption of temporary special measures to effectively promote the equal participation of women in public and political life.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Take all appropriate measures to increase the number of women in elected and appointed office at all levels, so as to comply with article 7 of the Convention;

(b) Take specific measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life and No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, and establish concrete goals and timetables in order to accelerate the increase in the representation of women in all spheres of public and political life;

(c) Implement awareness-raising campaigns to highlight the importance to society as a whole the full and equal participation of women in leadership positions in all sectors and at all levels and explain the purpose of introducing temporary special measures such as quotas as a strategy necessary for accelerating the realization of women’s de facto equality.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/3 (CEDAW, 2008)**

7. The Committee commends the State party’s post conflict efforts to mainstream the role of women in peace building, decision-making, development and rehabilitation process in ten villages which were heavily affected by the conflict in Lebanon in July and August 2006. It also welcomes the implementation of a project entitled “WEPASS” aimed at empowering women in the conflict-affected regions with a view to capacity building in the main areas of concern covered by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

10. While acknowledging the difficulties confronting the State party owing to the consequences of the 2006 conflict, the current difficult political situation and the short period of time between the issuance by the Committee of its previous concluding comments adopted in 2005 (A/60/38, paras. 77-126) and the submission of the State party’s third period report, the Committee notes that there has been no progress at all toward implementation of those comments in respect of some concerns raised in the Committee’s previous concluding comments. In particular, the Committee considers that its recommendations in paragraphs […] 106 (to design and implement comprehensive awareness-raising programmes to foster a better understanding of and support for equality between women and men at all levels of society), 108 (to take sustained measures to accelerate the increase in the representation of women in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life).

11. The Committee reiterates these concerns and recommendations and urges the State party to proceed without delay with the latter’s implementation.

12. While welcoming the ongoing efforts to address the need of women in the post-conflict period, the Committee is concerned that the promotion of women’s human rights and gender equality has not been considered as a priority, in particular in efforts to address the consequences of the conflict and in the peacebuilding and reconstruction processes. It is also concerned about the small number of women in leadership positions in areas connected with the transition process.

13. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the promotion and protection of women’s human rights and gender equality is a central goal of all aspects of the transition process and to raise the legislature’s awareness of that important goal. It further urges the State party to devote serious attention to the specific needs of women in the post-conflict period and ensure women’s equal participation in decision-making, in conformity with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. The Committee recommends that the State party put in place an action plan for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), taking into account paragraph 1 of article 4, and articles 7 and 8 of the Convention.

24. The Committee continues to be concerned about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society in Lebanon, which are reflected in women’s educational choices, their situation in the labour market and their low level of participation in political and public life. The Committee is concerned about persistent stereotypes reflected in school textbooks and curricula.

25. The Committee requests that the State party enhance the training of teaching staff on gender equality issues and revise educational textbooks and curricula to eliminate gender-role stereotypes. The Committee urges the State party to disseminate information on the Convention through all levels of the educational system, including through human rights education and gender-sensitivity training, so as to change existing stereotypical views and attitudes about women’s and men’s roles. The Committee calls upon the State party to further encourage diversification of the educational choices of boys and girls. It also urges the State party to encourage a public dialogue on the educational choices girls and women make and their subsequent opportunities and chances in the labour market. It recommends that awareness-raising campaigns be addressed to both women and men and that the media be encouraged to project positive images of women and of the equal status and responsibilities of women and men in the private and public spheres.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/31/5 (UPR, 2015)**

132.159 Safeguard the democratic nature of Lebanon, as prescribed by Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, by carrying out local elections as planned, without delay, as well as by urgently facilitating the appointment of a president and the holding of a parliamentary election (Sweden) – Supported.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/16/18 (UPR, 2011)**

81.14. Continue efforts for the advancement of women and their participation in public life, and fight violence against women (Algeria);

81.16. Establish laws and cultivate processes and institutions to protect women’s rights, foster women’s political participation, and ensure equitable representation of their interests and concerns (United States) – Supported.

**Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Concluding Recommendations: A/HRC/12/48(ADVANCE2) (Ad hoc Missions, 2009)**

1879. … Systematic efforts to hinder and control Palestinian self-determined democratic processes, not least through the detention of elected political representatives and members of Government and the punishment of the Gaza population for its perceived support for Hamas, culminated in the attacks on government buildings during the Gaza offensive, most prominently the Palestinian Legislative Council. The cumulative impact of these policies and actions make prospects for political and economic integration between Gaza and the West Bank more remote.

1943. … Insofar as it is based on political affiliation and prevents those members from participating in the conduct of public affairs, it is also in violation of its articles 25 recognizing the right to take part in public affairs and 26, which provides for the right to equal protection under the law.

1947. To responsible Palestinian authorities,

(b) The Palestinian Authority and the Gaza authorities should release without delay all political detainees currently in their power and refrain from further arrests on political grounds and in violation of international human rights law.

(c) The Palestinian Authority and the Gaza authorities should continue to enable the free and independent operation of Palestinian non-governmental organizations, including human rights organizations, and of the Independent Commission for Human Rights.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, S. Michael Lynk, A/71/554 (SR Palestine, 2016)**

39. The Declaration on the Right to Development is particularly relevant to understanding the human rights predicament in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Among other rights, the Declaration expressly includes the following human rights that are binding in international law: (a) The self-determination of peoples (art. 1); … (f) Participatory decision-making in public affairs (arts. 2 and 8). These rights lie at the core of the binding human rights and humanitarian obligations under international law, which apply in full to the Occupied Palestinian Territory67. They establish not only rights for the Palestinian people, but also create obligations for Israel, the Occupying Power, to respect and protect those rights. The Palestinian people’s right to self-determination is widely accepted by the international community, and the International Court of Justice has stated that “Israel is bound to comply with its obligations to respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and its obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law”. While the question of development is necessarily complex in the context of occupation, it is essential that human rights and humanitarian law be interpreted in a way that is consistent with the right to development, regardless of the length of occupation.

**Oman**

**Concluding Observations: CERD/C/OMN/CO/2-5 (CERD, 2016)**

17. While appreciating the data provided in the Statistical Yearbook 2015 on the participation of women in political life, as well as on the employment and education of women, the Committee remains concerned about the lack of similar information pertaining to ethnic minorities, in particular women belonging to ethnic minorities. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information on measures adopted to ensure that all ethnic groups and migrant workers equally enjoy the rights contained in article 5 of the Convention (arts. 2 and 5).

18. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (see CERD/C/OMN/CO/1, para. 17) that the State party take the necessary measures, including through special measures, to ensure the effective enjoyment of all rights contained in article 5 of the Convention by all ethnic groups and migrant workers living in the State party. The Committee further requests that the State party provide detailed information about all such measures and their impact in its next periodic report.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/OMN/CO/1 (CEDAW, 2011)**

8. The Committee commends the State party for the commitment and political will expressed by its Head of State for empowerment and participation of women in all walks of life.

21. Despite the appointment of 14 women representatives to the Council of State , the Committee is concerned that the State party’s understanding of the purpose of, and need for, temporary special measures is not in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004) . The Committee is concerned that despite the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions, including, inter alia, in the political sphere, the National Human Rights Commission has found no reason to expedite the adoption of temporary special measures, including a system of quotas. The Committee is thus concerned that a strategy of temporary special measures is neither in place nor envisaged for the near future to accelerate the achievement of de facto equality between men and women in political and other decision-making positions.

22. The Committee encourages the State party to:

(a) Familiarize relevant officials and political representatives with the concept of temporary special measures described in article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, as elaborated in the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004);

(b) Include in its legislation specific provisions on the application of temporary special measures that encourage their use both in the public and private economic sectors;

(c) Implement temporary special measures in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, including the political sphere, the judiciary and the public sector to accelerate de facto equality of women.

31. While recognizing the presence of women in some high ranking posts, the Committee is concerned at the very low representation or absence of women in the Consultative Council, the government, the judiciary and the diplomatic corps. It notes with particular concern that no woman was elected to the Consultative Council in the last elections. The Committee is indeed concerned that, despite the legal possibility for women to be judges and the presence of women in different positions within the judicial system, there are no women judges on the bench. Furthermore, despite the activities of a number of public interest associations in the country, the Committee is concerned about the absence of a vibrant civil society, including autonomous and active women’s human rights organizations.

32. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

(a) Adopt laws and policies aimed at the promotion of women’s full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of public, political and professional life, in accordance with article 7 of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 23 (1997), and adopt temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004);

(b) Conduct awareness-raising activities for the society at large about the importance of gender equality and women’s participation in decision-making , including providing support for training of women’s NGOs with respect to the provision s of the Convention and the Committee’s jurisprudence, particularly with regard to articles 7 and 8 of the Convention and general recommendations Nos. 23 and 25;

(c) Develop training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office as well as programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders;

(d) Create and ensure an enabling environment for civil society, particularly for the specialized women’s NGOs.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/31/11 (UPR, 2016)**

129.178 Provide more opportunities to women to be represented in high-level government posts (Georgia);

129.180 Increase the space for the representation of women in senior government positions (Lebanon);

129.181 Take additional efforts towards the participation of women in the area of political life (Libya) – Supported.

129.182 Strengthen efforts to promote the active presence of women in society and in political life, including by combating stereotypes through awareness-raising campaigns (Turkey);

129.183 Increase the representation of women in high government positions and elected councils (Algeria);

129.184 Take steps to increase women’s participation in elections to the Shura Council, both as voters and candidates, and to widen the participation of all citizens in the decision-making processes (Czech Republic) – Supported.

129.207 Support the social integration of women in all spheres of life (Tajikistan);

129.208 Promote the active presence of women in the society (Chile);

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/17/7 (UPR, 2011)**

89.9 Continue promulgating legislation and promoting policies necessary to strengthen the protection of, and respect for, the rights of women and their role in society, while considering them an essential partner in the development process (Egypt) – Supported.

89.31 Take additional measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and promote the status of women and their participation in all State institutions (Bahrain);

89.32 Strengthen existing efforts to increase the opportunities for the representation of women in the Omani Consultative Council (Majlis el-Shura) (Bahrain);

89.33 Take further efforts to promote the participation of women in public life (Algeria);

89.34 Promote the rights of women and enable them to participate more effectively in public life (Morocco);

89.35 Consider further steps to engage women in politics in order to increase the number of women in decision - making positions (Norway);

89.36 Increase opportunities for the representation of women in Government functions (Yemen);

89.38 Continue its efforts to develop capacities of women to fulfil their responsibilities as key partner in the development (Pakistan);

**Qatar**

**Concluding Observations: CRPD/C/QAT/CO/1 (CRPD, 2015)**

9. The Committee is concerned about the lack of consultation of persons with disabilities and of the difficulties for independent organizations of persons with disabilities and their families to engage in human rights advocacy for better implementation of the Convention. It is also concerned about the lack of diversity in the range of organizations with disabilities independent to the State party. The Committee is further concerned by the lack of participation by organizations of persons with disabilities throughout the process of its consideration of the implementation of the Convention in the State party, and that it did not receive any alternative reports from Qatari civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities.

10. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt the measures necessary to ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities can register as associations, participate and be consulted and are enabled to contribute effectively to the implementation of the Convention in relation to law and policymaking, including a review of existing laws and their current requirements, the provision of financial and other support and the establishment of a formal mechanism recognized by law. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all foundations and civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, comply with the principles and the provisions of the Convention, through the development of guidelines and standards for service provision. It also recommends that the State party ensure that organizations of persons with disabilities have the freedom to engage with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

51. The Committee is concerned that legislation on voter assistance provisions for persons with disabilities violates the secrecy of vote.

52. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure, through legislative and other measures, the accessibility of ballots and election materials and polling stations and that, when voting, persons with disabilities are allowed assistance from a person of their own choice.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/QAT/CO/1 (CEDAW, 2014)**

27. The Committee is concerned that deep-rooted patriarchal attitudes and cultural traditions constitute a barrier to the political participation of women in Qatar. It is particularly concerned at the continued absence of women in the Shura (Advisory) Council and the central municipal councils, and at the low representation of women in ministerial positions and in other decision-making positions in the Government, including in the foreign service, as well as in the judiciary and the legal profession.

28. The Committee calls upon the State party:

1. To take immediate measures, in view of the upcoming Advisory Council elections, to ensure that at least 30 per cent of the members appointed to the Shura (Advisory) Council are women;
2. To adopt and implement further measures, including temporary special measures in the form of quotas, with benchmarks and specific timetables, to increase the number of women in political and public life, at all levels and in all areas, including in the central municipal councils and local government units, in accordance with article 4 (1), of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures;
3. To take appropriate measures, including the enactment of relevant electoral laws, to ensure that political parties allocate sufficient funding for women campaigning and establish benchmarks with a specific timetable in addition to sanctions, such as fines for political parties in case of non compliance;
4. To take all measures necessary to remove all barriers to women’s participation in the foreign service and to increase the number of women judges, prosecutors and lawyers and ensure the appointment of women to the Supreme Court and to the Court of Appeal;
5. To raise awareness of the importance of women’s participation in elections as candidates and voters, with a view to eliminating patriarchal attitudes that deter women’s political participation.

29. The Committee notes with concern the lack of vibrant and autonomous women’s rights organizations in the State party. While noting the information provided by the State party’s delegation that there are no legal obstacles to establishing women’s associations, the Committee is concerned that the registration procedure under the current law on associations and private organizations (Law No. 12 of 2004) is burdensome and subject to approval by the Council of Ministries, and that associations, including women’s associations, are prohibited from becoming involved in political issues.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/27/15 (UPR, 2014)**

122.29 Continue its efforts to enhance women’s role in society and their effective involvement in the development process, as well as enabling their participation in economic, political and business activities in the country (Romania) – Supported.

122.30 Continue to take necessary measures to enable women to be equal partners in development and decision-making (India);

122.31 Continue efforts to improve the status of women in society and promote gender equality at all levels, thereby enhancing the contribution of women to the development process (Sri Lanka);

122.32 Continue its commendable efforts to empower women in social, political, economic and public life, including by continuing its positive campaigning to raise awareness of women’s rights (Malaysia);

122.33 Continue efforts to ensure the representation of women at all levels of the political process and their participation in public life (Chile);

122.34 Address the issue of the election of women to parliament (the Shura Council) (Ghana);

122.35 Take concrete steps to enhance women’s awareness of their rights and guarantee and increase women’s public and political participation (Czech Republic) – Supported.

122.38 Facilitate women’s access to justice and mainstream a gender-based approach to justice and employment (Sierra Leone);

124.54 Ensure that the judicial and law enforcement system is not abused to harass individuals for expressing their political or religious views, including on the Internet (Czech Republic) – Supported.

122.59 Encourage freedom of expression of opinion and strengthen cooperation and coordination with civil society and non-governmental organizations (Norway) – Supported.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/14/2 (UPR, 2010)**

83.10 To continue taking measures to promote and empower women and to enable them to participate in a more effective manner in public life (Algeria) – Supported.

**Saudi Arabia**

22. In view of the persistence of traditional attitudes towards children in society, in particular towards girls, which limit their right to express their views and to have those views taken into account, the Committee draws the State party’s attention to its general comment No. 12 (2009) on the right of the child to be heard, in which the Committee underlines that children’s right to freely express their views constitutes one of the most essential components of children’s dignity and that a family where children can freely express their views and have them given due weight from the earliest ages provides an important model and prepares the child to exercise the right to be heard in the wider society. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct programmes and awareness-raising activities to promote the meaningful and empowered participation of all children within the family, community and schools, including within student councils, paying particular attention to girls and children in vulnerable situations.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/2 (CEDAW, 2008)**

25. The Committee expresses concern that, while there has been visible improvement regarding the number of women participating in the workforce, especially in the public sector, the level of representation of women in public and political life, at the local, national, and international levels and in particular in decision-making positions, is very low. It is further concerned that women were excluded from the first municipal elections in Saudi Arabia. While noting the role of some women as advisers, the Committee is also concerned that women do not participate in the country’s Consultative Council (Shura).

26. The Committee encourages the State party to take sustained measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendations 23 and 25, and to establish concrete goals and time frames to accelerate the increase in the participation and representation of women in the Shura and other elected and appointed bodies in all areas and at all levels of public and political life. It recommends that the State party conduct training programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders. It calls upon the State party to undertake awareness-raising about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making for society as a whole.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its consequences and consequences, Yakin Ertürk, A/HRC/11/6/Add.3 (SR Violence against Women, 2009)**

95. (a) Women’s empowerment and public sphere participation:

…

• Establish the facilities and mechanisms for women’s equal participation in all public and private institutions, including law practices and the judiciary.

• Take the necessary measures to enable women to exercise their right to vote and to stand for election in future elections.

• Ensure women’s equal participation in decision-making and planning at all levels, including the Shura Council and Council of Ministers. To that end, provide training for women in leadership skills and technical know-how.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/25/3 (UPR, 2013)**

138.34. Abolish, modify or introduce legislation, measures and practices to ensure the effective elimination of all forms of legal discrimination against women and to allow for their full participation in society, including in decision-making and political processes, on an equal basis with men (Canada) – Noted.

138.53. Bring its domestic legislation in line with the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and to enact and implement a law of association enabling all NGOs to operate legally, without harassment and undue government interference (Czech Republic) – Supported.

138.64. Continue to adopt legal and political measures, along with widespread awareness-raising and sensitization campaigns aimed at continuing to make progress towards gender equality, in particular in the areas of the family, labour, politics and education (Paraguay);

138.111. Allow women to participate fully and equally in society by abolishing the guardianship system, appointing more women to positions of authority, and increasing freedom of movement (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) – Noted.

138.154. Ensure that the judicial and law enforcement system is not abused to harass individuals for expressing their political or religious views (Czech Republic) – Supported.

138.176. Redouble efforts to achieve a greater participation of women in remunerated employment, which goes beyond the area of teaching or the education sector, and that includes leadership positions in both the public and private spheres (Ecuador);

138.177. Carry out properly follow-up measures to guarantee meaningful progress in the area of women’s public and political participation (Indonesia) – Supported.

138.179. Exert more effort to enable women’s participation in the political and the public life, and eliminating the barriers that prevent women from enjoying their rights, whether cultural or societal (Oman);

138.180. Continue actions in ensuring the participation of women in political and public life in order to eliminate existing barriers in the way of guaranteeing, promoting and protecting the rights of women in line with the international standards (Russian Federation);

138.181. Continue to implement appropriate measures to promote further participation of women in various sectors of society and women’s employment both within Government and in the private sector (Japan);

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/14/2 (UPR, 2010)**

83.8. To intensify efforts to guarantee equal opportunities for women in the public service, especially in senior governmental positions (Netherlands);

83.9. To continue its efforts to strengthen the role of women in society and to include women in an effective manner in the development process, supporting women to enable them to participate in economic activities in the country (Kuwait);

83. 10. To continue taking measures to promote and empower women and to enable them to participate in a more effective manner in public life (Algeria);

83.11. To continue to remove any impediments that could hamper Qatari women’s full participation in society (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya);

83.12. To continue to formulate and implement policies that enhance and develop the capacity of women to fulfil their responsibilities as key partners in the development process (Pakistan);

83.13. To continue to promote women’s rights and empowerment, with a view to further enhancing their participation in economic and political life (Philippines);

83.14. To continue to empower the status and participation of women in social and business spheres (Turkey);

83.15. To further enhance the representation of women in all fields of society (Azerbaijan);

83.17. To continue efforts to ensure that women fully participate in society (Nicaragua);

83.20. To continue its efforts to improve the status of women and ensure their full participation in all areas of life (Belarus);

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/11/23 (UPR, 2009)**

87.18. Take further steps in enabling fuller participation of women in Saudi Arabian public life by guaranteeing women and girls their right to education, employment, freedom of movement, marriage with their free and full consent and health, including protection from and redress for family violence (Finland); develop and adopt a comprehensive national plan of action for the incorporation of human rights for women into national legislation and practices to ensure the eradication of violence against women, a dismantling of the male guardianship system, an allowance of the freedom of movement, access to work, study, and health care, as well as equal standing before the courts and the right to vote and participate in public affairs, and incorporate and implement the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Israel)

**Syrian Arab Republic**

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2 (CEDAW, 2014)**

13.The Committee notes that in November 2013 the Ministry of Social Affairs organized a workshop to discuss the role of women in the peacebuilding and reconstruction processes, in the framework of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), followed by a conference in January 2014. However, it is concerned:

(a)That the process has not been fully inclusive and has excluded prominent women members of Syrian civil society;

(b)That the diverse voices of women have been marginalized when it comes to actively and meaningfully participating in peace negotiation efforts, such as the Geneva Conference on Syria;

(c)That, without the meaningful and inclusive participation of women at all stages of the peace and reconstruction processes, as well as in transitional justice and national reconciliation mechanisms, women’s priorities and experiences of the conflict will not be fully integrated, as required under the Convention and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which could set back the processes.

14. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures and its general recommendation No. 30 and urges the State party:

(a) To revive the peace negotiations and to ensure the meaningful and inclusive participation of women holding different political views at all stages of the peace process and in all reconstruction initiatives, as well as in transitional justice processes, in particular at the decision-making level, and at the national and local levels, and, to that end, to adopt temporary special measures, such as quotas, in conformity with article 4 (1) of the Convention;

(b) To develop capacity-building programmes for women seeking to participate in the peace, reconstruction and transitional justice processes;

(c) To provide opportunities for women ’ s and civil society organizations to contribute to the peace process as independent actors, such as by establishing an effective channel of communication between them and the mediation team to ensure coordination and joint initiatives for the inclusion of women ’ s priorities;

(d) To reaffirm the non-negotiable character of all the rights under the Convention and to adopt a strategy to prevent any setback for women’s rights in the peace negotiations;

(e) To revive and engage in a political process aimed at building a comprehensive and lasting peace that lays the foundation for a comprehensive democracy rooted in the rule of law;

(f) To ensure the inclusive participation of women in the development and implementation of the national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions and, in so doing, to, in line with its obligations under the Convention and the present concluding observations, incorporate a model of substantive equality covering all the rights enshrined in the Convention in order to ensure that the needs and priorities of women are adequately addressed;

(g) To establish a road map with a clear timeframe, benchmarks and a gender-responsive budget for the implementation of the national action plan, to develop indicators for the regular monitoring of its implementation and to provide for accountability mechanisms.

35. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party with regard to the representation of women in various areas of government (e.g. 20 per cent in the judiciary and 35 per cent in the Foreign Service). The Committee is, however, concerned at the:

(a)Stagnation at 12 per cent for more than a decade in the level of representation of women in the People’s Assembly and the drop in the participation of women in government positions from 10 to 8 percent;

(b)Overall low level of participation of women in political and public life, in particular in decision-making positions at all levels, owing to persistent traditional and patriarchal attitudes regarding the role of women in society, which limit the participation of women;

(c)Absence of quotas for women in the Electoral Act (Decree No. 101/2011) and the Political Parties Act (Decree No. 100/2011);

(d)Restrictions on establishing women’s and civil society organizations owing to, among other things, considerable delays in adopting the bill on associations.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Pursue sustained policies aimed at promoting the full and equal participation of women in decision-making as a democratic requirement in all areas of public and political life at the national, regional and local levels by, among other things, adopting temporary special measures in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee ’ s general recommendation No. 25;

(b) Amend the Electoral Act (Decree No. 101/201 1) and the Political Parties Act (Decree No. 100/201 1) to incorporate quotas of at least 30 per cent for women ’ s representation in the People ’ s Assembly and the provincial councils;

(c) Adopt the bill on associations and ensure that there are no restrictions that are contrary to international human rights standards on the establishment of women’s and civil society organizations and that women are able to participate freely in political and public life, independent of the Government, and in an enabling environment in full respect of their freedoms of expression, association and assembly;

(d) Implement activities to raise awareness of the importance, for society as a whole, of the participation of women in decision-making, in particular as candidates and voters, with a view to eliminating patriarchal attitudes that deter women from such participation.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1 (CEDAW, 2007)**

25. While appreciating the State party’s goal of 30 percent women in decision-making levels in both the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans, the Committee is concerned about the lack of measures adopted towards the realization of this goal and the continuing low levels of representation of women in public and political life and in decision-making positions, particularly in municipal, town and village councils.

26. The Committee encourages the State party to take sustained measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation 25, and to establish concrete goals and timetables so as to accelerate the increase in the representation of women, in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life, including in municipal, town and village councils. The Committee invites the State party to also encourage political parties to use quotas. It recommends that the State party conduct training programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders. It further urges the State party to undertake awareness-raising about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making for society as a whole.

**Concluding Observations: CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4 (CRC, 2012)**

28.The Committee expresses deep concern that the State party continues to restrict the work of human rights organizations, including those monitoring children’s rights, notably by denying them registration and a license. The Committee is particularly concerned that members of non-governmental human rights organizations are constantly subjected to threats, harassment, physical attacks and arrests and that a number of human rights defenders have been detained or have disappeared since the onset of the protests in March 2011.

29. The Committee strongly urges the State party to immediately release all persons detained in relation to their legitimate and peaceful activities in defense of human rights and to ascertain the whereabouts of all human rights defenders whose fate remains unknown. The Committee also urges the State party to take concrete steps to facilitate and give legitimate recognition to human rights defenders and their work, including those who report child rights violations for appropriate State party’s action, and to ensure that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can safely carry out their functions in a manner consistent with the principles of a democratic society.

39. The Committee welcomes the various initiatives taken to implement the rights of the child to be heard and, in particular, the inclusion of children in the drafting process of the State party’s report and the establishment as a pilot project of a children’s parliament in the Dayral-Zawr Governorate. The Committee however reiterates its concern (CRC/C/15/Add.212, para. 30) that traditional attitudes towards children in society continue to limit the respect for their views, especially within the family and schools, and that insufficient measures have been taken by the State party to ensure that children are effectively heard in all judicial and administrative proceedings.

40. In the light of its general comment No. 12 (2009), the Committee reminds the State party of its obligation to undertake appropriate measures to fully implement the right of the child to be heard. It recommends that the State party take effective measures to ensure that this right is respected and implemented in all judicial and administrative proceedings, and to enhance the understanding of the value of the right of the child to be heard in all institutions attended by children and at all levels of society, especially at the family, community and school levels, including awareness-raising activities and training for adults and children.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Chaloka Beyani, A/67/931 (RSG IDPs, 2013)**

(a) Promote and commit to concrete measures with the aim of achieving a peaceful Syrian-led solution for the country, with the full participation of all stakeholders, as well as displaced persons, including, in particular, displaced women;

**Concluding Recommendations: A/HRC/19/69 (Commission of Inquiry, 2012)**

125. The commission remains convinced that the only possible solution to end the violence is an inclusive dialogue leading to a negotiated settlement that effectively ensures the human rights of all people in the country.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/19/11 (UPR, 2012)**

100.13. Continue the process of taking measures at the national level as well as the national dialogue under the guidance of its legitimate authorities as a means of a political solution to the situation in the country (Cuba) – Supported.

100.14. Establish an inclusive national dialogue leading to free and fair multi-party elections as soon as possible (Maldives);

100.15. Make effective a genuine process of national dialogue with the opposition (Spain);

100.16. Find a formula to reinitiate a respectful dialogue between the various parties and to find a peaceful solution to the problem (Ecuador);

100.17. Take more tangible steps to promote and protect the human rights of its citizens, by continuing to engage all relevant parties in an open and meaningful dialogue (Iran) – Supported.

100.18. Continue efforts to find peaceful solutions to any issues pertaining to the protection of human rights in the country, including through inclusive dialogues involving relevant civil societies (Indonesia);

100.19. Intensify an all-inclusive transparent process with a view to fulfilling the aspirations of all Syrian people (South Africa);

100.20. Continue to appropriately implement all changes promised to its people and strengthen the dialogue mechanisms with civil society (Bolivia);

100.21. End conflict and violence and reach a political solution through dialogue and national reconciliation in order to bring Syria back to a normal situation (Vietnam);

100.23. Expedite its reforms such as measures to raise citizens’ living standards and duly take into account the aspirations of the people of Syria in the reform process (Thailand);

100.24. Implement political and economic reforms conducted with the full participation of all social sectors for the development of the country and better ensure the fundamental rights and freedom for the people (Vietnam) – Supported.

100.25. Make every effort to put an end to violence, implement genuine political reforms at this critical juncture, and continue to work towards reaching a peaceful solution through negotiations and dialogue, in order to spare further bloodshed of the brotherly Syrian people, and preserve its security and stability and the unity of territorial integrity (Sudan);

100.29. Multiply its efforts to involve in the decision-making the active participation of different social structures, especially those geared to combat poverty and social equality (Nicaragua);

100.36. Consider strengthening all measures aimed at promoting gender equity and the full and effective participation of women in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres of life, including through legislative and administrative means (South Africa);

100.37. Immediately adopt and implement necessary legislative and administrative measures to promote a greater inclusion of women in the country’s public and political life, ensuring that they effectively participate in the decision-making process, and lift the reservations made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Mexico);

101.6. Take measures to address the low levels of representation of women in public and political life and in decision-making (Slovenia);

101.15. Ensure the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, human rights defenders and detainees and make incommunicado detentions illegal (Sweden);

105.8. Bring its action in line with the assistance provided by the Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, so as to cease the violent repression, initiate an open national dialogue which is inclusive and transparent, and initiate a reliable and transparent investigation into the violent repression, which has resulted in a high number of injured and dead protestors (Uruguay) – Noted.

**United Arab Emirates**

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/2-3 (CEDAW, 2015)**

21. The Committee takes note of the political will at the highest level to increase the percentage of women in decision-making positions and welcomes the Cabinet Decision No. 319/15F/22 on the promotion of women’s participation in the boards of directors of federal authorities, companies and institutions. The Committee is, however, concerned about the absence of a clear strategy to translate political will into reality, in particular temporary special measures to promote the substantive equality of women and men.

22. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and effectively implement temporary special measures, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, including time-bound goals and quotas in both the public and private sectors, directed towards the achievement of the de facto or substantive equality of women and men in areas in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, including in political and public life and employment.

33. The Committee welcomes the fact that 30 per cent of leadership positions in the Government are held by women. However, it notes that, women nevertheless remain underrepresented in the Federal National Council and in the judiciary and that, while they account for 71.6 per cent of university students, they represent only 15 per cent of faculty members.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt targeted measures, including temporary special measures, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, to achieve women’s substantive equality with men in political and public life, including in the judiciary and in university faculties. To that end, the Committee recommends that the State party set time-bound targets for the implementation of strategies, such as statutory quotas, financial support and capacity-building programmes on leadership skills and political campaigning for potential women candidates in elections. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next periodic report comprehensive information on the use of such temporary special measures and on their impact.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/1 (CEDAW, 2010)**

30. The Committee appreciates the States party’s acknowledgement that customs and traditions of society are gradually changing towards creating larger space for women’s participation in public and political life and notes the first electoral experience held in the State party’s Federal National Council (2006) for men and women members of the electoral committee, resulting in the election of one woman and the appointment of eight others. Nevertheless, and in spite of the State party’s initiatives to encourage participation in leadership positions, the Committee regrets that women continue to be underrepresented in public and political life and in decision-making positions. Furthermore, while recognizing the important activities of a number of women’s and social welfare organizations and public interest associations in the country, the Committee is concerned about the absence of a robust civil society, including autonomous and active women’s and human rights organizations, and notes the difficulties that exist for the registration of these associations, which play an essential role for the effective implementation of the Convention and the achievement of gender equality.

31. The Committee urges the State party to do its utmost to ensure the equal participation of women in public affairs, including temporary special measures under article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and in accordance with the Committee’s general recommendations Nos. 23 and 25, and to establish concrete targets to accelerate the increase of women’s political representation, with the use of time frames or increased quotas. It also recommends that the State party continue to undertake awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making at all levels. The Committee calls upon the State party to take concrete steps, including through legal amendments, to create and ensure an enabling environment in which civil society and women’s groups focused on gender equality and women’s empowerment can be established and can freely conduct their programmes and activities.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M’jid, A/HRC/16/57/Add.2 (SR Sale of Children, 2010)**

109. The Special Rapporteur recommends that child participation is increased by:

(a) Informing, consulting and involving children in all matters involving them, including with respect to programmes and policies on the rights of the child;

(b) Ensuring the participation of disadvantaged children (disabled, non-registered and vulnerable children) without discrimination;

(c) Empowering children and youth to engage in more positive and meaningful use of information and communication technologies;

(d) Enhancing child and youth initiatives related to prevention, to fight sexual exploitation and to promote child rights. Children should be viewed as actors and vectors of proposals, not merely as subjects of rights.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/23/13 (UPR, 2013)**

128.89. Continue to work towards increasing the representation of women in leading and decision-making positions (Sudan);

128.94. Continue to enact legislations and strengthen policies which are necessary to empower women and strengthen their roles in society (India);

128.96. Continue its efforts in the field of women participation in high level positions of decision-making and in all areas of society (Angola) – Supported.

128.100. Continue its ongoing efforts to further increase the attendance of girls in secondary and higher education and the participation of women in professional and political spheres (Turkey) – Supported.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/10/75 (UPR, 2009)**

92.11. To protect and respect the freedom of expression and association of human rights defenders in accordance with the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and refrain from placing any unnecessary restrictions on their work (Norway) – Noted.

**Yemen**

**Concluding Observations: CERD/C/YEM/CO/17-18 (CERD, 2011)**

13. The Committee recalls its previous concluding observations (CERD/C/YEM/CO/16) and notes with concern that the State party has not yet withdrawn its reservations to article 5(c) and (d) (iv), (vi) and (vii) of the Convention, which provisions, inter alia, provide for the right to participate in elections, the right to marriage and choice of spouse, the right to inherit, and the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (art. 5).

The Committee expresses the belief that a reservation to article 5 has the effect of negating the core purposes and objectives of the Covenant. The Committee, therefore, reiterates the recommendation made in its previous concluding observations (CERD/C/YEM/CO/16) that the State party should consider withdrawing its reservation to article 5 (c) and (d) (iv), (vi) and (vii) of the Convention, which provisions, inter alia, provide for the right to participate in elections, the right to marriage and choice of spouse, the right to inherit, and the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The Committee expresses the hope that the State party will thoroughly examine the reservations and understand the need to withdraw them in order to give full effect to its obligations under the Convention.

**Concluding Observations: CRC/C/YEM/CO/4 (CRC, 2014)**

42. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that children, including in rural areas, have access to sufficient and appropriate information, including through innovative and suitable means. It further recommends that the State party submit information in this regard in its next periodic report.

**Concluding Observations: CCPR/C/YEM/CO/5 (CCPR, 2012)**

11. While welcoming the delegation’s pledge to adopt a Constitutional amendment introducing quotas for women in the conduct of public affairs, the Committee notes with concern that women remain underrepresented in both the public and private sectors, particularly in decision-making positions and that the current Parliament shows reluctance towards such a change. The Committee is also concerned about the worrying figures on women and girls’ illiteracy, which is an obstacle to their full enjoyment of human rights (arts. 2, 3 and 26).

In line with its previous concluding observations (CCPR/CO/84/YEM, paras. 8 and 10), the Committee urges the State party to take measures to preserve the achievement s made by women in the context of peaceful demonstrations in 2011, in terms of public participation, and translate them into lasting achievements by means such as adopting a Constitutional amendment introducing quotas for women in the conduct of public affairs. The State party should take urgent and concrete steps to ensure the literacy and education of girls and women.

**Concluding Observations: E/C.12/YEM/CO/2 (CESCR, 2011)**

9. The Committee expresses deep concern about the extremely low level of representation of women in decision-making positions in all spheres, including in parliament, Government, the judiciary, public administration, the Foreign Service and academia (art.3).

The Committee urges the State party to adopt a comprehensive gender equality act, and introduce temporary special measures, including a quota system, to promote the representation of women in decision-making positions in all spheres.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/YEM/CO/6 (CEDAW, 2009)**

8. The Committee takes note of the Government’s commitment to adopt temporary special measures in the form of programmes to narrow the gap between men and women in political and public life, and especially the recent tentative acceptance of a quota system which would be instituted for the next elections for the Parliament, through an amendment of the electoral law in order that women hold at least 15 per cent of parliamentary seats.

22. The Committee is concerned about the very low rate of representation of women in decision-making positions in all spheres, particularly in Parliament (0,3%), in Government (1,82% of commissioned ministers) and in the judiciary (1.65%), as well as in the public and private sectors, including in the public administration, the Foreign Service and academia.

23. The Committee urges that the State party take effective and sustained legal measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and general recommendation 25, to increase the representation of women at all levels and spheres of politics, especially in decision-making positions. In this regard and in order to accelerate the representation of women, the Committee calls upon the State party to establish legal quotas for women for the coming elections to the Parliament. It further urges the State party to undertake awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making for society as a whole, including in the public and private sectors.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/26/8 (UPR, 2014)**

115.24 Continue its efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles and with a merit-based selection of board members and staff (Denmark) – Supported.

115.51 Ensure that Yemeni women enjoy the same rights as men, promote their right to participate in political life on an equal footing with their male counterparts, and protect women against gender-based discrimination and violence (Switzerland);

115.96 Continue the efforts to protect and promote the rights of women, in conformity with CEDAW, and implement the recommendations of the National Dialogue Conference (in particular, with regard to early marriages and participation of women in political life) (France) – Supported.

115.109 Continue working in order to guarantee the human rights of its citizens and the strengthening of the democratic model that is adopted by its people (Cuba) – Supported.

115.118 Continue strengthening women’s participation in society and in decision-making processes (Bahrain);

115.119 Take measures to improve women’s participation in the political process and the various aspects of life (Pakistan);

115.120 Invite women and other marginalized sectors to participate in other government consultative bodies (Philippines) – Supported.

115.122 Proceed with the national policies aimed to promote women’s position in the society and to achieve better representation in the elected councils (Algeria);

115.123 Ensure that adequate resources, political commitment and support be given in preparation for the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in 2014, which must be held in a free, fair and transparent manner and in accordance with international standards (Maldives) – Supported.

 **UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/12/13 (UPR, 2009)**

* 91.5. Amend the provisions of the Crime and Penalty Law, the Election and Referendum Law, the Labour Code and the Prison Law which are in contradiction to its international obligations under CEDAW and take concrete measures to improve the social, economic and political participation of women;
* 91.34. Continue its efforts to advance the role of women in society and support women in acceding to high-level decision-making posts;
* 91.37. Ensure a gender perspective in all fields and stimulate women’s participation in public life, while putting emphasis on the situation in local and rural communities;
* 91.39. Continue efforts made to upgrade the status of Yemeni women to one of equality with that of men, including with regard to their representation in society and politics, their access to education and their treatment before the law;
* 91.42. Continue to improve the condition of women and ensure their effective participation in political life by appointing them to political positions of responsibility;

***North Africa Region***

1. Algeria
2. Egypt
3. Libya
4. Mauritania
5. Morocco
6. Tunisia

**Algeria**

**Concluding Observations: CERD/C/DZA/CO/15-19 (CERD, 2013)**

17. While the Committee commends the State party on the measures adopted to increase the number of women in decision-making positions, it is concerned by the fact that Amazigh women risk being subjected to double discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and gender (art. 5).

The Committee draws the attention of the State party to general recommendation No. 25 (2000), concerning gender-related dimensions of racial discrimination, and recommends that it continue to promote women’s rights, focusing in particular on Amazigh women.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/DZA/CO/3-4 (CEDAW, 2012)**

8. The Committee welcomes the enactment, since 2005, of the following legislative measures aimed at eliminating discrimination against women, including:

1. The amendment to the Constitution in 2008, reaffirming in article 31 bis the State’s commitment to “promote the political rights of women by increasing their opportunities to access representation in elected bodies”;

11. Given the importance of reliable data about the demographic, political, economic and social situation in Algeria, the Committee calls on the State party to submit its common core document in accordance with the requirements of the common core document contained in the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties (HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I). The common core document should reflect, inter alia, the updated information about women in political decision-making and women active in the labour market, thus enabling effective monitoring of the full implementation of the Convention in the State party.

25. Recalling its general recommendations No. 23 (1997), on women and political life, and No. 25 (2004), on temporary special measures, the Committee is concerned about the low number of temporary special measures adopted by the State party to deal with gender equality issues. The Committee takes note of the statement of the delegation that, while quotas have been established for a minimum representation of women on electoral lists for elections to the People’s National Assembly and regional and municipal assemblies, pursuant to Organic Law No. 12-03 of 12 January 2012,no fixed representation or quota exists with regard to representation of women in those elected bodies or concerning employment of women in the private sector and at the higher level positions of the administration.

26. The Committee urges the State party to take steps to achieve substantive equality between men and women, including through the adoption of temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25. In particular, the Committee recommends that the State party consider adopting special measures, such as quota s or preferential treatment, to accelerate women’s participation in public and political life, including measures for women to enter into public office and perform all functions at all levels of the government, including diplomatic and international posts, as well as their employment in the private sector.

33. While welcoming the amendment to article 31 of the Constitution that provides for greater political representation of women, the Committee expresses its concern at the continued significant underrepresentation of women in the lower and upper houses of the Parliament—the People’s National Assembly and the Council of the Nation, respectively—as well as in the Government, and the continued low number of women candidates in elections at all levels. The Committee notes the promulgation of Organic Law No. 12-03 of 12 January 2012, adopted by Parliament in November 2011, containing compulsory quotas for a minimum representation of women for elections to the People’s National Assembly, regional assemblies and municipal assemblies. While noting that a sliding scale of quotas was established, ranging from 20 to 50 per cent, the Committee is concerned that the opening quota is lower than 33 per cent as initially envisaged; and that there is no quota for election to the Council of the Nation. The Committee also remains concerned at the low number of women in the judiciary, in public administration and in the foreign service, including as heads of diplomatic missions abroad. The Committee is particularly concerned at the low number of specific measures, including temporary special measures, to promote women’s representation in public and political life, including the representation of women in directorship and leadership position in public enterprises.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase the opening quota to a minimum of 30 per cent for representation of women in electoral lists for elections at all levels, including the Council of the Nation , and take measures towards ensuring effective parity of women’s m membership in the elected bodies;

(b) Facilitate further appointment of women as prosecutors, judges and magistrates and at senior levels in the public administration and Foreign Service, including as head s of its diplomatic missions abroad;

(c) Introduce further specific measures, in particular temporary special measures, to increase the participation of women in public and political life, including the representation of women in directorship and leadership position s in public enterprises;

(d) Continue to implement leadership training programmes and awareness - raising campaigns on the importance of women’s participation in public and political life and to evaluate the impact of such measures.

**Concluding Observations: CCPR/C/DZA/CO/3 (CCPR, 2007)**

20. While noting the State party’s desire to amend its laws and engage in reflection on the status of women in Algeria, the Committee notes with concern the persistence of discrimination against women in both practice and law, particularly in relation to marriage, divorce and adequate participation in public life (Covenant, arts. 3, 23, 25 and 26).

The State party should:

1. Step up its efforts to increase awareness of women’s rights among the Algerian population, to promote women’s participation in public life, to improve access for women to education and to guarantee them access to employment opportunities.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue, A/HRC/20/17/Add.1 (SR Freedom of Expression, 2012)**

90. The Special Rapporteur reiterates the importance of freedom of opinion and expression, coupled with freedoms of peaceful assembly and of association, in a truly democratic society. The political reforms in which Algeria has embarked are certainly important and come at a critical time; however, these reforms are marred by gaps and shortcomings that seriously impede the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and association. Enduring negative practices in relation to the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association further undermine the exercise of these rights.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, Raquel Rolnik, A/HRC/19/53/Add.2 (SR Housing, 2011)**

56. The Special Rapporteur appreciates the considerable effort made by the Algerian State in the area of housing, in particular the construction of free public housing. She notes, however, that major efforts still need to be made to diversify policies in accordance with existing needs in the country and to incorporate the various components of the right to adequate housing. A democratization of housing policy based on transparency and the direct involvement of citizens and organizations of civil society in the definition and implementation of these policies would constitute a very important step in shifting the focus from housing construction to the actual realization of the right to housing in Algeria.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/21/13 (UPR, 2012)**

129.22 Prior to the next elections in 2014, review legislation in the areas of freedom of expression, association, assembly and religion to ensure full compatibility with Algeria ’ s international obligations (United Kingdom) – Supported.

129.28 Continue efforts in order to increase participation of women in political, public and professional spheres (Greece) and enhance its efforts to strengthen women ’ s leadership and participation in politics and public service (Indonesia) – Supported.

129.52 Further the on-going reform process in order to consolidate democracy and rule of law (Pakistan) – Supported.

129.24 Reinforce its legal measures on strengthening political parties and electoral system (Iran (Islamic Republic of));

129.26 Develop a comprehensive Women Rights Plan, aimed at eliminating discriminatory practices, as is reflected in CEDAW ’ s report of February 2012 (Spain), examine systematically its laws with the aim of putting them in conformity with CEDAW (Switzerland) and continue to promote initiatives to empower women of the country at an economic, political and social level, doubling efforts to eliminate discriminatory practices which still affect them, as reflected in CEDAW ’ s report of February this year (Chile);

129.28 Continue efforts in order to increase participation of women in political, public and professional spheres (Greece) and enhance its efforts to strengthen women ’ s leadership and participation in politics and public service (Indonesia);

129.36 Continue to promote women’s rights as well as their participation in the society and decision making process (Palestine);

129.52 Further the on-going reform process in order to consolidate democracy and rule of law (Pakistan);

129.53 Allocate more resources to support the on-going reform process aimed at consolidating democracy and the rule of law (Malaysia);continue to consolidate the process (Oman), to further strengthen the country’s democratization and the Rule of Law, with special focus on human rights (Spain);

**Egypt**

**Concluding Observations: CMW/C/EGY/CO/1 (CMW, 2007)**

42. The Committee expresses its concern at the fact that Egyptian migrant workers abroad are not able to exercise their right to vote.

43. The Committee encourages the State party to continue its efforts to facilitate the exercise of voting rights by Egyptian migrant workers residing abroad.

**Concluding Observations: CERD/C/EGY/CO/17-22 (CERD, 2016)**

27. While noting the new constitutional provisions on quotas to guarantee the participation of young people, women, Christians and persons with disabilities on local councils, the Committee regrets that minority groups such as Nubians and the Bedouin are excluded from this special measure (art. 5).

28. The Committee recommends that the State party consider including minorities in the quota system, so as to ensure that the different segments of the Egyptian population are represented.

**Concluding Observations: E/C.12/EGY/CO/2-4 (CESCR, 2013)**

9. The Committee is concerned about the serious widespread discrimination against women, particularly with regard to their low representation in the workforce, disadvantageous wide wage gap, and prevalence of employment in the informal sector. The Committee is equally concerned that there continue to be laws that discriminate against women in the context of divorce and inheritance. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about the low number of women in decision-making positions and the withdrawal of reservation of seats for women in parliament (art. 3).

The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to enhance the participation of women in the labour force. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure adequate legislation to guarantee employment conditions and fair and equal remuneration for women that is in compliance with the Covenant. In doing so, the State party should place particular emphasis on addressing these issues in the informal employment sector. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party consider adopting temporary special measures for promoting the substantive equality of women and men in all areas, in particular in the areas of employment, and participation in political and public life, including in parliament.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/7 (CEDAW, 2010)**

29. The Committee notes various measures taken by the State party, including the recent amendment of its election law establishing a quota of 64 additional seats reserved for women in the People’s Assembly (lower house) and the establishment of the Egyptian women’s parliamentary forum. The Committee is concerned, however, that this quota does not include the Shura Assembly and only covers two consecutive parliamentary terms. The Committee is also concerned at reports of violence, including gender-based violence, against female candidates during the electoral process, which poses a serious challenge to their political participation. Furthermore, the Committee remains concerned about the continuing underrepresentation of women in public, political and professional life and in decision-making positions, including in municipal, town and village councils, and in senior management in general.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making in all areas of public, political and professional life. It recommends that the State party fully utilize general recommendation No. 23 concerning women in public life and calls upon the State party to adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25, in order to accelerate the full and equal participation of women in public and political life. The Committee calls on the State party to take the necessary measures to secure the participation of women in the various phases of the electoral process, including effective measures to combat gender-based violence against them. The Committee recommends the implementation of awareness-raising activities on the importance of the participation of women in decision-making for society as a whole and the development of targeted training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office, as well as programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders. The Committee also recommends that the State party carefully monitor the effectiveness of measures taken and results achieved and that it inform the Committee thereof in its next report.

43. While noting that rural women constitute the majority of women in the State party and the workforce in the agricultural sector, the Committee reiterates its concern at the very limited information and statistical data provided on the situation of women in rural and remote areas, particularly on the issues of health, education, labour and employment, and participation in socio-political life. The Committee notes the recent Government campaign, but it is concerned at the high number of rural women who still lack personal identity cards, which prevents them from fully enjoying their rights as citizens, including registering as voters and obtaining work and State services.

44. The Committee requests the State party to include in its next report comprehensive data on the situation of rural women in all areas covered by the Convention. The Committee also requests the State party to accelerate the process of issuance of identity cards to all women, including women in rural and remote areas.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, Catarina de Albuquerque, A/HRC/15/31/ADD.3 (SR water & sanitation, 2010)**

70. The Government should:

…

(p) Ensure that people have the opportunity to participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of water and sanitation projects. Expand water-user associations to systematically include drinking water and sanitation in order to ensure more participation by water users in decisions, policy formulation and monitoring of access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/14/17 (UPR, 2010)**

95.8 Continue promoting the work of the Higher Committee for Migration in order to promote the rights of migrants and to implement the possibility for Egyptian migrants abroad to cast their vote (Bolivia) – Supported.

95.31 Continue its efforts in ensuring the improvement of the status of women, including through intensifying the implementation of programmes and activities for the empowerment of women and enhancing women’s participation in the political field (Malaysia) – Supported.

95.33 Consider further steps to ensure a high number of women in decision-making positions (Norway);

95.60 Continue its efforts to promote the political participation of women at all levels and to increase the representation of women in the judiciary (Palestine) – Supported.

95. 85 Advance in the promotion of the status of women in society in order to achieve full equality in rights between women and men in all matters (Chile);

95.102 Effectively guarantee the exercise of freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public life and politics, in line with the obligations set forth in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile) – Supported.

99.12 Establish a fully independent electoral commission allowing for open participation of all political parties and objective certification of election results (Canada) – Supported.

**Libya**

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/LBY/CO/5 (CEDAW, 2009)**

29. While noting with satisfaction that women’s participation has risen to 32 per cent in the General People’s Congress, and welcoming the information provided by the Libyan delegation on women’s involvement in the Basic People’s Congresses and positions held on these bodies, the Committee remains concerned that women continue to be underrepresented in political and public life, particularly in decision-making bodies, including the executive branch of Government, and the diplomatic and public service.

30. The Committee urges the State party to take all appropriate measures, including temporary special measures under article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and in accordance with the Committee’s general recommendations Nos. 23 and 25, and to establish concrete goals to accelerate the increase of women’s representation in the executive branch of Government, Parliament and the diplomatic corps. It recommends that the application of such measures to increase women’s political representation should include the establishment of benchmarks with timetables or increased quotas. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to undertake awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making at all levels.

**Concluding Observations: CCPR/C/LBY/CO/4 (CCPR, 2007)**

11. While the Committee takes note of some positive developments regarding the advancement of women, in particular regarding the admission of women to the judiciary and the establishment of a centre for women’s studies as well as a Department for Women’s Affairs, it reiterates its previous concern that inequality between women and men continues to exist in many areas, in law and practice, such as, notably, regarding inheritance and divorce (arts. 3, 17, 24, and 26).

The State party should review its laws in order to ensure equality between men and women in matters of personal status, in particular regarding divorce and inheritance. The State party should furthermore guarantee that equality is ensured in law and in practice.

23. While noting the release in March 2006 of more than 100 prisoners convicted of offences against State security, the Committee continues to be concerned at the extensive limitations of the right to freedom of opinion and expression in law and in practice, particularly those imposed on peaceful opposition to, or criticism of the Government and the political system. Furthermore, the Committee regrets that the State party did not provide any indication as to when the long overdue revision of the Publication Act of 1972, which, in its present form, severely restricts freedom of opinion and expression, will be completed and adopted. (arts. 18, 19, 21, 22, 25)

The State party should urgently revise its legislation, including the Publication Act of 1972, to ensure that any limitations on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including those of the media, are in strict compliance with the Covenant.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/30/16 (UPR, 2015)**

137.82 Take judicial and administrative measures to ensure equality and empowerment of women, including fair representation in the legislative and executive branches of the State and participation in political decision-making (Denmark) – Supported.

137.178 Increase women’s representation in decision-making positions (Rwanda);

137.179 Ensure women’s participation in public, constitutional, and transitional justice processes (South Africa);

137.180 Take concrete measures to enhance the participation of women in political and public life, including in efforts for conflict resolution and state building (Austria) – Supported.

137.183 Ensure the rights of minorities, particularly with regard to their full and complete political representation (Chad) – Supported.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/16/15 (UPR, 2011)**

93.24. Continue its efforts to promote women’s role in social and public life, and protect them from violence (Islamic Republic of Iran) – Supported.

93.25. Continue the implementation of measures designed to enhance the role of women in social and political life (Belarus);

93.26. Strengthen measures and policies to promote the active role and participation of women in the political, social and economic life of the country (Viet Nam);

93.28. Step up efforts to enhance the participation of women in all spheres of socio-economic life, in line with the progress made in education (Bangladesh);

93.33. Continue to take practical measures to ensure the effective participation of women in economic, social and political fields (Pakistan);

95.8. In line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, adopt a national plan to eliminate stereotypes regarding the role of women in society, and speed up the reform process to guarantee equality between men and women, including with regard to the transfer of nationality, the custody of children, divorce and inheritance (Mexico);

96.17. Promote the creation of an adequate environment for the full enjoyment of freedom of association, including the creation of labour unions and organizations independent from government; and initiate a review of the relevant provisions to ensure that the restrictions on freedom of association are only those provided for in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mexico) – Supported.

**Mauritania**

**Concluding Observations: CMW/C/MRT/CO/1 (CMW, 2016)**

50. The Committee commends the State party on the promulgation of Act No. 2009-22 (2009) on the special provisions governing the right to vote of Mauritanians living abroad. However, it is concerned by the fact that insufficient information has been received regarding the actual enjoyment of this right, in particular with respect to the voter turnout rate for Mauritanians living abroad.

51. The Committee invites the State party to provide information in its next periodic report on the voter turnout rate for Mauritanians living abroad in all consultations of a national scope (referendums and legislative, senatorial and presidential elections) and on the manner in which the right to vote is applied in practice.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3 (CEDAW, 2014)**

20. The Committee welcomes the system of quotas adopted by the State party to increase the political participation of women, in addition to the focus in the poverty reduction strategy on the situation of women. It is nonetheless concerned about the absence of temporary special measures as a systematic component to accelerate substantive equality of women and men in all areas of the Convention and the lack of understanding by the authorities and society in general about the scope and importance of temporary special measures, as defined in the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25 on the subject.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Implement temporary special measures such as quotas, preferential treatment, outreach and support programmes for women and strategies to promote substantive equality of women and men, in consultation with various stakeholders, including women parliamentarians, the various municipal councils and women’s organizations in urban and rural areas;

(b) Disseminate information among all branches of the Government about the scope of temporary special measures, such as the quota system in gaining access to public positions or social services, preferential treatment, outreach and support programmes, as defined in article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, and the need to use such measures to overcome discrimination against women in areas such as employment and participation in economic, public and political life.

30. The Committee welcomes the increasing percentage of women in the parliament, the introduction of quotas for women’s representation in public office, the financial benefits for political parties that nominate more women than required by the quota and the fact that seats on municipal councils are reserved for women. It remains concerned, however, about the lack of economic support for women candidates in elections and about the low number of women at the ministerial level, the regional level (wilayas), the communal level, in the Foreign Service and in the judiciary. The Committee notes with concern that many legislative initiatives benefiting women are yet to be adopted, which shows a need to further strengthen the role and visibility of women in politics.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to improve the legal framework for the inclusion of women in political life by adopting measures providing for parity in gender representation in legislative bodies. It also recommends that the State party establish programmes to provide financial resources and technical advice for women who aim to stand for public positions. It further recommends that the State party adopt a quota system for the appointment of women to the Cabinet, foreign service positions and the judiciary and provide disaggregated data on the representation of women at those levels.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/1 (CEDAW, 2007)**

6. The Committee welcomes the introduction of a 20 per cent quota for women on lists of candidates for municipal and parliamentary elections which, together with financial incentives for political parties, resulted in the election of 33 per cent women at the municipal level and 17.9 and 17.0 per cent women, respectively, to the Senate and the National Assembly.

19. The Committee notes the State party’s insufficient understanding of the purpose of, and need for temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention. The Committee is concerned about the absence of women in the judiciary and the limited participation of women in public administration, especially at decision-making levels.

20. The Committee recommends that the State party use temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation 25, as part of a necessary strategy towards the accelerated achievement of substantive equality for women, especially in the judiciary and the civil service, including the Foreign Service. It requests that the Government include information on the use of such temporary special measures, in relation to the various provisions of the Convention, and the impact of such measures, in its next periodic report. The Committee recommends that the commitment made by the candidates to the Presidency, in the charter for the promotion of women, to establish a minimum quota of 20 percent of women in decision-making posts in the public administration be fully implemented by the State party.

41. The Committee is especially concerned about the situation of rural women, about their lack of information and of participation in decision-making processes and about their lack of access to health care, social security services, education, justice, clean water, electricity, land and credit facilities. The Committee is also concerned about discrimination against women on the basis of ethnicity. The Committee is further concerned about the lack of data on the de facto situation of rural women.

42. The Committee urges the State party to pay special attention to the needs of rural women and of those belonging to various ethnic groups. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure that rural women have access to health care, education, justice, clean water, electricity, land and income-generating projects. The Committee recommends that the State party carefully monitor the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Poverty Reduction of Mauritania so as to ensure that the gender perspectives contained in the strategy are explicitly addressed in the implementation process. The Committee also recommends that the State party collect data on the situation of rural women and include such data and analysis in its next periodic report. It also requests the State party to provide a clear picture of the situation of women belonging to various ethnic groups in that report.

**Concluding Observations: CCPR/C/MRT/CO/1 (CCPR, 2013)**

7. The Committee regrets that the State party denies the existence of racial discrimination on its territory. It is also concerned by the absence of any definition or criminalization of racial discrimination in its legislation and regrets that the State party has not provided data on the extent of the phenomenon, the groups most affected and the measures taken to combat it. It notes with concern that racial discrimination based on ethnicity prevents the enjoyment of human rights by certain ethnic groups, including access for Haratine women to public affairs. The Committee is concerned that the State party has still not adopted the draft national plan of action against racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (arts. 2, 26 and 27).

The State party should adopt a definition of, and prohibit, racial discrimination in its legislation in conformity with the Covenant. It should also combat discrimination based on ethnic origin in all areas and expedite the drafting, approval and adoption of the draft national plan of action against racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and both implement and publicize it.

9. The Committee notes with concern the inequality that exists between men and women in certain areas of public affairs, including in the judiciary, the diplomatic service and senior positions in public administration. The Committee is concerned by the continued discrimination against women compared to men in respect of the transmission of nationality (Act No. 1961-112, as amended, setting out the Mauritanian Nationality Code, article 16); the discrimination against women in the 2001 Personal Status Code (arts. 9–13), which places unmarried women under guardianship; and discrimination in respect of inheritance rights and the rights of spouses during marriage and at the dissolution of marriage (arts. 2, 3, 23 and 26).

The State party should continue its efforts to improve the level of representation of women in political and public affairs and continue campaigns to raise women’s awareness and inform them of their rights. The State party should review its Nationality Code to allow Mauritanian women to transmit their nationality on an equal footing with men and the 2001 Personal Status Code to remove the provisions that discriminate against women.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Doudou Diène, A/HRC/11/36/Add.2 (SR Racism, 2009)**

73. This pervasive discrimination manifests itself in part in the “invisibility” of its victims in the political, economic and social spheres, in public life, especially at decision-making levels in Government, the military and the police and security forces, as well as in the private sector, as evidenced by the low level of representation of certain communities in the business sector. This invisibility, which is also reflected in the victims’ silence on their suffering, disproportionately affects the black Moor and black African communities.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/16/17 (UPR, 2011)**

90.20. Direct all programmes aimed at improving the status of women, and enhance their participation in all areas of society (Algeria) – Supported.

90.21. Pursue efforts for the advancement and empowerment of women and for the integration of women’s needs into development (Bahrain);

92.21 Combat gender inequality and discriminatory practices in the areas of work, the family, social roles and personal integrity, by amending vague or non-existing legislation and rules addressing pervasive stereotypes and combating practices such as female genital mutilation and gavage (Brazil);

92.44. Take steps to make the judiciary more representative of Mauritanian society in terms of ethnic and social origin, language and gender (United Kingdom) – Noted.

**Morocco**

**Concluding Observations: E/C.12/TUN/CO/3 (CESCR, 2016)**

28. The Committee commends the State party on the steps taken to increase the representation of women in the justice sector, the legislature and the civil service. However, women remain at a disadvantage in accessing the labour market owing to the fact that provisions designed to enhance work-life balance actually reinforce gender stereotypes and occupational segregation. The Committee is concerned by the gender pay gap and the number of women in unpaid work in the agricultural sector (arts. 3 and 6).

29. The Committee urges the State party to:

…

(c) Increase the representation of women in decision-making positions in public entities and better promote the balanced representation of the sexes in businesses, including through temporary special measures.

**Concluding Observations: CMW/C/MAR/CO/1 (CMW, 2013)**

41. The Committee notes with satisfaction that the Moroccan Constitution recognizes the right of Moroccans residing abroad to vote and be elected. The Committee welcomes the efforts made by the State party to allow Moroccan migrant workers living abroad to participate in the 2011 constitutional referendum, but regrets that there is still no means to ensure their participation in elections.

42. The Committee encourages the State party to take measures to facilitate the exercise of the right to vote by all Moroccan migrant workers living abroad.

**Concluding Observations: CEDAW/C/MAR/CO/4 (CEDAW, 2008)**

24. While welcoming the State party’s efforts and achievements to increase women’s political participation, especially the appointment of seven ministers to the current Government and the commitment and efforts of various political parties resulting in 30 women (10.7%) being elected in the House of Representatives at the September 2002 elections, the Committee remains concerned about the very low rate of representation of women in decision-making positions in all spheres, particularly in the House of Counselors (1.1%) and at the municipal level (0.53%), as well as in the public and private sectors, the judiciary, the Foreign Service and academia.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party take effective and sustained legal measures to increase the political representation of women at all levels, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, rather than depending on ad-hoc moral commitments from political parties. In order to accelerate the representation of women, the Committee calls upon the State party to establish legal quotas for women for the 2009 municipal elections and adopt temporary special measures to increase women’s representation in decision-making positions in all spheres. It further urges the State party to undertake awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making for society as a whole, including in the public and private sectors.

32. The Committee is particularly concerned about the situation of rural women, their lack of participation in decision-making processes and their difficulty in accessing health care, public services, education, justice, clean water and electricity, which impairs seriously the enjoyment of their social, economic and cultural rights. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of data on the de facto situation of rural women.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party take temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to ensure that rural women enjoy their political, social, economic and cultural rights without any discrimination, especially with regard to access to education and health care facilities. It also recommends that they are fully integrated in the formulation and implementation of all sectoral policies and programmes.

**Report of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice A/HRC/20/28/Add.1 (WG Discrimination women, 2012)**

91. The Working Group recommends that the Government:

(a) Accelerate the drafting of the organic laws delineating the conditions and modalities for all citizens, women and men, to exercise their right to present motions in legislative matters and petitions to public powers; these laws should aim to include special measures to increase effective access to these rights of poor and marginalized women, including resources for building the capacities of local women’s groups;

(b) Institutionalize, by amending the laws on elections, special measures to increase the numbers of women in elected positions at the national and local levels so that they meet international standards; national lists that reserve a certain number of seats for women should be preserved and quotas increased. Women should be able to present themselves for re-election on national lists. Increased quotas that meet international standards should be applied in local elections;

(c) Review the representation of women in the national cabinet in order to ensure that the goals of formal and substantive equality between men and women are achieved;

(d) Review the rules of procedure for decision-making in the top echelons of executive, legislative and judicial bodies to ensure that they are gender-sensitive;

(e) Facilitate access for female and male parliamentarians, especially first-timers, to capacity-building to increase their knowledge of the State’s international human rights legal obligations and all aspects of women’s human rights, as well as of legal drafting and other legislative work; in male-dominated settings, women would benefit from leadership and confidence-building training;

(f) Ensure follow-up to the recommendations of the consultative commission on regionalization on gender equality in the implementation of the governance system of the regions and other territorial collectives envisaged in the Constitution; constitutionally mandated funds for social development and interregional solidarity should incorporate principles of gender-responsive budgeting.

92. The Working Group recommends that political parties institute diversity of ways and means to guarantee inclusion of women on electoral lists.

**Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights,** **Farida Shaheed, A/HRC/20/26/Add.2 (SR Cultural Rights, 2012)**

89. To ensure effective gender equality for women providing religious guidance, women should be able to join – as full members – religious councils at all levels, including fatwa institutions, and be allowed to practice religious supervision within mosques, whether through lessons or preaching.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/21/3 (UPR, 2012)**

129.78. Continue action to increase representation of women in elected and decision-making positions (Sri Lanka) – Supported.

129.80. Take immediate steps to implement the new Constitution’s provision that international human rights are to be fully respected, including press freedom, freedom of expression, assembly and association (Sweden) – Supported.

129.83. Promptly approve the license applications for all civil society organizations that meet legal requirements, including those organizations advocating for minority populations (United States of America) – Supported.

129.88. Continue enactment of legislations and strengthening of efficient public policies to insure protection and respect of women rights and their role in the society, including promoting women participation in public life and development process (Egypt) – Supported.

129.93. Pursue further policies aimed at improving women’s participation in all spheres of public life, including political and professional life (Greece);

131.4. Ensure that the procedures governing registration of civil society organizations, including organizations advocating for the Saharawi people’s right to self-determination, are in conformity with international standards (Norway) – Noted.

**Tunisia**

**Concluding Recommendations: CRPD/C/TUN/CO/1 (CRPD, 2011)**

35. The Committee recommends the urgent adoption of legislative measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, including persons who are currently under guardianship or trusteeship, can exercise their right to vote and participate in public life, on an equal basis with others.

**Concluding Recommendations: CEDAW/C/TUN/CO/6 (CEDAW, 2010)**

36. The Committee commends the State party for the remarkable gains achieved in the participation of women in public life. It notes in particular the rise in women candidates for the 2009 legislative elections to 18 per cent and the increase of women’s representation in the parliament, which has reached 26.17 per cent. The Committee notes with appreciation the positive measures taken by the party currently in power to establish, for the previous legislative and municipal elections, a minimum proportion of 30 per cent of women candidates. The Committee regrets, however, that these quotas do not apply to all political parties. Furthermore, the Committee regrets the slow pace of progress in the representation of women in high-level elected and appointed bodies, including as high-ranking officials within executive bodies of Government, judiciary and civil and diplomatic services, and within local government bodies. It is concerned that women’s representation in trade unions, as well as in managerial and decision-making positions and on boards of directors in private economic sector continues to be low.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making in all areas of public, political and professional life. It recommends that the State party fully utilize general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life and calls upon the State party to adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, in order to accelerate the full and equal participation of women in public and political life. The Committee calls on the State party to take the necessary measures to secure the participation of women in the various phases of the electoral process. The Committee recommends that the State party implement awareness-raising activities on the importance of the participation of women in decision-making for society as a whole and develop targeted training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office, as well as programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders. Furthermore, the Committee requests the State party to monitor developments with regard to women’s participation in trade unions and top management positions with a view to supporting further participation in these sectors through legislative or policy initiatives and to provide information on results achieved, including relevant disaggregated statistical data.

**Concluding Recommendations: CCPR/C/TUN/CO/5 (CCPR, 2008)**

19. The Committee is concerned that during elections, the Electoral Code (article 62-III) prohibits anyone from using a private or foreign radio or television channel or one broadcasting from abroad with a view to encouraging listeners to vote or to abstain from voting for a candidate or list of candidates (articles 19 and 25 of the Covenant).

The State party should abolish these restrictions in order to make the provisions of the Electoral Code fully compatible with articles 19 and 25 of the Covenant.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/21/5 (UPR, 2012)**

114.9. Continue to take measures necessary to achieve the full and effective participation of woman in the political, social and economic fields (Egypt); Continue its efforts to further promote participation of women in decision-making in all spheres of public life (Greece); Continue to support policies for the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making in all spheres of public, political and professional life (Oman) – Supported.

114.15. Further pursue its efforts to ensure the increased participation of all citizens in public life (Azerbaijan) – Supported.

114.23. Study the possibility to establish new measures to strengthen respect for the rights of persons with disabilities and fight against the discrimination with which they are faced (Argentina); Eradicate all forms of discrimination against people with disabilities and encourage their full integration in society (Djibouti); Guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and aim to integrate them in development programmes to ensure their effective participation in society (Iraq);

114.24. Adopt and implement appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls, have access to an inclusive education system, and that they can participate effectively and fully in political and public life on an equal basis with others (Portugal) – Supported.

114.56. Include freedom of expression, press freedom and access to information in the Constitution (Netherlands) – Supported.

114.76. Engage in an all-inclusive and participatory reform process and ensure that all sections of the population, including women, persons with disabilities, minority and indigenous groups and civil society organisations are brought on board (Ghana) – Supported.

**UPR Recommendations: A/HRC/8/21 (UPR, 2008)**

8. Encourages the facilitation of the registration of civil society, unions and political parties (Belgium, Sweden, United States of America and United Kingdom)

1. For a full list of relevant instruments, see A/HRC/27/29, para. 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)