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COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: CEDAW/SRP

The Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

The Secretariat has the honour to refer to the decision by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, taken during its 82nd session (13 June to 1 July 2022), to shift from an opt-in model for the simplified reporting procedure (decision 69/5 of 9 March 2018 on the reinstatement of the simplified reporting procedure) to an opt-out model (decision 82/3 of 1 July 2022 on the harmonization of working methods).

Under the simplified reporting procedure, the Committee sends a list of issues prior to the submission of the report ('list of issues prior to reporting', or 'LOIPR') to the State party concerned. The replies of the State party to the LOIPR constitute its periodic report under article 18, paragraph 1 (b), of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ('the Convention'). After the State party has submitted its replies to the LOIPR to the Committee, the Committee will not address another list of issues to the State party, but will rather consider the report thus submitted by the State party at one of its future sessions. Hence, under the simplified procedure, only two documents are exchanged between a State party and the Committee before the interactive dialogue takes place: a list of issues prior to reporting, drawn up by the Committee; and replies by the State party, which constitute the State party's report. Under the standard procedure, three principal documents are exchanged: a report by the State party; a list of issues adopted by the Committee; and replies by the State party.

The simplified reporting procedure aims to ease the reporting burden of States parties; strengthen their capacity to fulfil their reporting obligations in a timely and effective manner; provide the Committee with more targeted reports; improve the effectiveness of the treaty monitoring system by reducing the need to request supplementary information before considering a report; and allow the Committee to plan its work in advance.

The use of the simplified reporting procedure is in line with General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the recommendations of the co-facilitators to the 2020 Treaty Body Review and the conclusions of the 34th annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies (New York, 30 May to 3 June 2022); the implementation of the eight-year predictable review schedule, outlined in the conclusions of the 34th annual meeting of the Chairs of the treaty bodies, is subject to the availability of human and financial resources. General Assembly resolution 68/268 '...encourage[d] States parties to consider the possibility of using the simplified reporting procedure, when offered, to



facilitate the preparation of their reports and the interactive dialogue on the implementation of their treaty obligations' (A/RES/68/268, OP2).

States parties to the Convention that wish to opt-out from the simplified reporting procedure and instead maintain the standard reporting procedure should notify the Secretariat of the Committee of their decision by Note Verbale addressed to [ohchr-cedaw@un.org](mailto:ohchr-<u>cedaw@un.org</u>) by **20 September 2022**.

Please note that any State party that does not reply to this Note Verbale to indicate that it wishes to maintain the standard reporting procedure will henceforth automatically be reviewed under the simplified reporting procedure. This does not apply to States parties that have already submitted a report to the Committee under the standard reporting procedure, which has not been reviewed yet. These reports will still be reviewed under the standard reporting procedure. For future reporting cycles, those States parties will also be reviewed under the simplified reporting procedure, unless they notify the Secretariat by 20 September 2022 of their decision to maintain the standard reporting procedure.

The Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'H'.

Geneva, 12 August 2022