

**Contribution of the Republic of Slovenia**

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

26 February 2024

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1. **Introduction**

Slovenia thanks the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its support to the UN treaty body system and for organizing and processing this round of consultations. Slovenia strongly supports the human rights treaty body system as the tool for consistent and strengthened implementation of human rights obligations. It underlines the importance of the independence, integrity and efficiency of treaty bodies.

We take note of the reports of the Secretary General stressing the lack of reporting compliance, a backlog in state reviews and review of communications, as well as insufficient harmonization of working methods of treaty bodies. Slovenia recognizes and welcomes the efforts already made by the treaty bodies within their respective treaties and mandates to harmonize their working methods and strengthen the system. Further improvements to make the system more predictable and transparent and less burdensome for States, NGOs and other stakeholders are necessary.

In this context, we examined the Working Paper of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, dated 29 May 2023 entitled *Options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the human rights treaty body Chairs at their 34th meeting in June 2022* with great interest. Greater clarity on the financial implication of each option would be welcome. We consider that the measures presented in the Working Paper that would not require additional guidance by member states or budget allocations should proceed forthwith.

1. **Coordination and predictability of the reporting process**

Slovenia is party to 8 core international human rights instruments and additionally to 8 optional protocols. Slovenia strives to fulfil its reporting obligations in a timely manner. In 2013, Slovenia established a national interdepartmental coordinating body (which includes 2 representatives of the civil society and 2 representatives of academia) to manage the reporting obligations to the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review, which relative to the size of the country represent a substantial responsibility. Slovenia therefore in principle supports efforts for more coordination of reporting timetables and streamlining reporting obligations through a predictable calendar to facilitate the work of states parties as well as the treaty bodies.

1. **Recent national experience with reporting and presentation of reports**

Slovenia has continued to accept the use of the simplified reporting procedure, when this was offered by the relevant treaty body. The experience with this procedure has so far been positive as far as the preparation and presentation of such a national report are concerned. The potential of the simplified reporting procedure to focus the report and the dialogue on the most relevant and priority issues may result in more targeted and effective concluding observations.

Slovenia does, however, observe that the preparation of concluding observations could better reflect the substance of the interactive dialogue taking place between the national delegation and the Treaty Body members during the consideration of the national report.

Some treaty bodies continue to have very long periods between the submission of a national report and its consideration. Among other issues, this presents specific difficulties in view of the relevance of such reports and the added burden for the states parties in preparing extensive new materials for the interactive dialogue.

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