

Issue Analysis

- Racial Discrimination - *Sessions 1-8*

Introduction

- Racial discrimination is an issue that is raised fairly often within the context of the Universal Periodic Review.
- A total of 22 States posed advance questions on the issue while 77 States made recommendations.
- Out of 3533 advance questions from session 1 to 8, 73 questions concerned racial discrimination.
- Out of 12385 recommendations in total, 343 focused on racial discrimination.
- In order to facilitate further analysis of this issue, a division has been made between questions and recommendations that concern substantive issues related to racial discrimination, those recommendations and questions focussing on ratification of CERD and those focussing on treaty bodies and special procedures¹.

Analysis

Racism / Racial Discrimination

- This category contains all questions and recommendations that relate to the situation of racial discrimination and any general remarks regarding the issue.
- Out of 73 questions posed on racial discrimination, 49 of these focused on the situation of racial discrimination.
- Out of 343 recommendations on racial discrimination, 225 recommendations focused on the situation of racial discrimination.
- Questions and recommendations include, for example “Please expand on the steps which have been taken to eliminate discrimination based on race, ethnicity, colour or national origin” and “Take regular action to prevent hate speech and to take appropriate and prompt legal measures against those who incite discrimination or violence motivated by racial, ethnic or religious reasons”.

Top 4 States posing advance written questions on this issue

1. United Kingdom (15 questions)
2. Netherlands (7 questions)
3. Denmark (4 questions)
4. Czech Republic and Italy (3 questions each)

Top 5 States making recommendations on this issue

1. Egypt (16 recommendations)
2. Canada (13 recommendations)
3. Algeria and Iran (12 recommendations each)

¹ Incidentally, regional bodies may also be included (i.e. European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance)

4. Austria (10 recommendations)
5. Brazil (9 recommendations)

Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

- This category concerns all recommendations related to the ratification of CERD.
- Out of 73 advance written questions, only 4 focused the ratification of CERD.
- Out of 343 recommendations on racial discrimination, 50 recommendations focused on the ratification of CERD.
- Questions and recommendations include, for example, “Strongly urge the Government to ratify the four remaining core UN conventions on human rights (civil and political rights (ICCPR), economic, social and cultural rights (ICESCR), torture (CAT) and racial discrimination (CERD)” and “Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.”

States posing advance written questions on this issue

1. Hungary (2 questions)
2. Denmark and Germany (1 question each)

Top 4 States making recommendations on this issue

1. Brazil (6 recommendations)
2. Algeria and Azerbaijan (4 recommendations each)
3. Canada, Mexico, Nigeria, France and Hungary (3 recommendations each)
4. Cuba, Chile, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Slovakia (2 recommendations each)

Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures

- This category contains all questions and recommendations that relate to treaty bodies and special procedures, including the implementation of States' national obligations.
- Out of 73 advance written questions, 20 questions concerned treaty bodies and special procedures.
- Out of 343 recommendations on racial discrimination, 68 recommendations focus on treaty bodies and special procedures.
- Recommendations and questions concerned implementation of recommendations of the various treaty bodies (CERD, HRC, CAT, CEDAW) on racial discrimination, recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, and the submission of reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, for example, “We would be grateful to know what further steps the government plans to take to eliminate racial discrimination, and if you could tell us when the government plans to submit its next report for the Committee for Elimination of Racial Discrimination?” or “Implement in national norms, the commitments made when ratifying the ICESCR and the CERD through the implementation of the recommendations which have come out of their respective Committees”.

Top 3 States posing advance written questions on this issue

1. United Kingdom (4 questions)
2. Germany (3 questions)
3. Lichtenstein, Hungary and Sweden (2 questions each)

Top 4 States making recommendations on this issue

1. Mexico (11 recommendations)
2. Egypt (7 recommendations)
3. Algeria (4 recommendations)
4. Cuba and Pakistan (3 recommendations each)

