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paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council  
resolution 5/1\***

**Syrian Arab Republic**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

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\* Report submitted late in order to include latest information from the visit of the fact-finding mission, although this was not still available at the time of processing the present report.

## I. Background and framework

### A. Scope of international obligations<sup>1</sup>

<i>Universal human rights treaties<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>	<i>Declarations/reservations</i>	<i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i>
ICERD	21 April 1969	Declaration Reservation (article 22)	Individual complaints (art. 14): No
ICESCR	21 April 1969	Declaration Reservation (art. 26.1)	
ICCPR	21 April 1969	Reservation (art. 48.1)	Inter-State complaints (art. 41): No
CEDAW	28 March 2003	Declaration Reservation (arts. 9.2, 16.1 (c)(d)(f), 29.1)	
CAT	19 Aug. 2004	Declaration/reservation concerning article 20	Inter-State complaints (art. 21): No  Individual complaints (art. 22): No  Inquiry procedure (art. 20): No
CRC	15 July 1993	Reservation (general, arts. 14, 20, 21)	–
OP-CRC-AC	17 Oct. 2003	Declaration Binding declaration under art. 3: 18 years	–
OP-CRC-SC	15 March 2003	Declaration Reservation (art.3.1.a, art.3.5)	–
ICRMW	2 June 2005	Declaration	Inter-State complaints (art. 76): No  Individual complaints (art. 77): No

<i>Universal human rights treaties<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Date of ratification, accession or succession</i>	<i>Declarations/reservations</i>	<i>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</i>
CRPD	10 July 2009	Declaration Understanding (art.12)	–
CRPD-OP	10 July 2009		Inquiry procedure (arts. 6 and 7): No

*Treaties to which Syrian Arab Republic is not a party: OP-ICESCR<sup>3</sup>, ICCPR-OP 1, ICCPR-OP 2, OP-CEDAW, OP-CAT, and CED.*

<i>Other main relevant international instruments</i>	<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide	Yes
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	No (signature only)
Palermo Protocol <sup>4</sup>	Yes
Refugees and stateless persons <sup>5</sup>	No
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto <sup>6</sup>	Yes, except Additional Protocol II and III.
ILO fundamental conventions <sup>7</sup>	Yes
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education	No

1. In 2010, the Committee against Torture (CAT) recommended that the Syrian Arab Republic consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.<sup>8</sup> Syria should reconsider its position on article 20 of the Convention,<sup>9</sup> and consider making the declarations under articles 21 and 22.<sup>10</sup> CAT also invited Syria to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.<sup>11</sup>

2. In 2003, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that Syria study its reservations, particularly concerning articles 14, 20 and 21, with a view to withdrawing them.<sup>12</sup> In 2006, CRC noted that the Government had approved the withdrawal of the reservations to articles 20 and 21 of the Convention and to article 3 of the Optional Protocol, subject to promulgation by the legislative body.<sup>13</sup>

3. In 2007, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) commended Syria for its decision to withdraw reservations to Convention articles 2, 15 (4), 16 (1) (g) and 16 (2), but was nevertheless concerned about the remaining reservations to articles 9 (2), 16 (1) (c), (d) and (f) and 29 (1).<sup>14</sup> CEDAW encouraged Syria to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.<sup>15</sup>

4. In 1999, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) recommended that Syria consider making the declaration provided for in article 14 of the Convention.<sup>16</sup>

5. In 2008, the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) encouraged the Syrian Arab Republic to consider making the declarations provided for in articles 76 and 77 of the Convention<sup>17</sup>. It also invited Syria to consider acceding to ILO Conventions No. 97 and No. 143,<sup>18</sup> and to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.<sup>19</sup>
6. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and CAT encouraged Syria to accede to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Optional Protocol.<sup>20</sup>
7. CAT and CRC recommended that Syria ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which it had signed on 22 November 2000.<sup>21</sup>
8. UNESCO encouraged Syria to ratify the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education.<sup>22</sup>

## **B. Constitutional and legislative framework**

9. The 2009 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Arab Human Development report stated that the Constitution of Syria presents socialism and Arab nationalism as the only path for national struggle.<sup>23</sup> The 2007-2011 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) indicated that the political system continues to be oriented around the constitutional leadership of society by the Ba'ath Party.<sup>24</sup>
10. CAT and the HR Committee expressed concern that the State of Emergency imposed in 1962, as amended in 1963, had become quasi-permanent, allowed the suspension of fundamental rights, and attributed broad emergency powers to the security forces.<sup>25</sup> On 25 April 2011, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights noted the announced lifting of the state of emergency, but urged corresponding action as well as the amendment of other laws that obstruct fundamental freedoms.<sup>26</sup>
11. CAT recommended that Syria amend its legislation to adopt a definition of torture in conformity with the Convention<sup>27</sup> and ensure that acts of torture be offences under criminal law, punishable by appropriate penalties.<sup>28</sup>
12. CEDAW recommended that Syria adopt a definition of discrimination in line with article 1 of the Convention, include provisions on the equal rights of women in the Constitution or other relevant legislation, enact a comprehensive law on gender equality,<sup>29</sup> and repeal or amend discriminatory legislation.<sup>30</sup>
13. CRC recommended that Syria explicitly prohibit the recruitment and the involvement of children in hostilities,<sup>31</sup> and that it amend the Penal Code in order to explicitly define all offences in accordance with the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.<sup>32</sup>

## **C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure**

14. As of 8 April 2011, Syria did not have a national human rights institution accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC).<sup>33</sup>
15. CAT recommended the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles,<sup>34</sup> and called upon Syria to establish a national system

to effectively monitor and inspect all places of detention, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.<sup>35</sup>

#### D. Policy measures

16. In 2005, Syria adopted the United Nations Plan of Action (2005–2009) for the World Programme for Human Rights Education, focusing on the national school system.<sup>36</sup>

17. The 2007-2011 UNDAF indicated that there would be reforms in governance and human rights as a top priority in the immediate future.<sup>37</sup>

18. CRC recommended that Syria adopt a comprehensive National Plan of Action to deal with the issue of homelessness and street children.<sup>38</sup>

## II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

### A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

#### 1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<i>Treaty body<sup>39</sup></i>	<i>Latest report submitted and considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
CERD	1998	March 1999		Sixteenth to twentieth reports overdue since 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and 2008, respectively.
CESCR	1999	August 2001		Fourth report overdue since 2006.
HR Committee	2004	July 2005	Submitted in September 2006	Fourth report overdue since 2009.
CEDAW	2005	June 2007		Combined second and third report due in 2012.
CAT	2009	May 2010	Due in 2011	Second report due in 2014.
CRC	2000	June 2003	–	Combined third and fourth report due in 2009, submitted in 2009 to be examined in

<i>Treaty body<sup>39</sup></i>	<i>Latest report submitted and considered</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Follow-up response</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
				2011.
OP-CRC-AC	2006	October 2007	–	Report under the Convention submitted in 2009.
OP-CRC-SC	2005	September 2006		Report under the Convention submitted in 2009.
CMW	2006	April 2008	–	Second report due in 2011.
CRPD				Initial report due in 2011.

## 2. Cooperation with special procedures

<i>Standing invitation issued</i>	No
<i>Latest visits or mission reports</i>	Special Rapporteur on the right to health (September 2010); Special Rapporteur on the right to food (November 2010).
<i>Visits agreed upon in principle</i>	
<i>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</i>	Special Rapporteur on the question of torture (2005, 2007, 2010); Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (2008).
<i>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</i>	
<i>Follow-up to visits</i>	
<i>Responses to letters of allegations and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, 53 communications were sent. The Government replied to 30 communications.
<i>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues</i>	Syria responded to 12 of the 23 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate holders, <sup>40</sup> within the deadlines.

19. CAT recommended that Syria permit visits of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.<sup>41</sup>

20. Following his visit to Syria in 2010, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food encouraged the Government to extend a standing invitation to all special procedures.<sup>42</sup>

21. In March 2011, in connection with its candidacy for membership in the Human Rights Council, Syria pledged to continue enhancing and promoting dialogue with all special procedures.<sup>43</sup>

22. In April 2011, the Human Rights Council encouraged relevant special-procedures mandate holders to pay particular attention to the human rights situation in Syria, and urged Syria to cooperate, including by allowing country visits.<sup>44</sup>

### **3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

23. OHCHR cooperation with Syria is facilitated through its regional office for the Middle East. In 2009, OHCHR provided assistance and training in connection with Syria's preparations for the UPR.<sup>45</sup>

24. Syria contributed financially to the Durban Review Conference in 2009.<sup>46</sup>

25. On 29 April 2011, the Human Rights Council requested OHCHR to urgently dispatch a mission to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law in Syria, and urged the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate fully with and grant access to personnel from the mission.<sup>47</sup> In May and June 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights repeatedly urged the Government to grant access to the mission, as mandated by the Council.<sup>48</sup>

## **B. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

### **1. Equality and non-discrimination**

26. CEDAW urged Syria to address stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men, including hidden cultural patterns and norms that perpetuate direct and indirect discrimination against women and girls.<sup>49</sup>

27. CEDAW recommended that Syria revise its Personal Status Act to ensure that women and men have equal rights to marriage, divorce, custody and inheritance, and that polygamy and child marriages be prohibited.<sup>50</sup> HR Committee expressed concern that the Penal Code contains provisions discriminating against women, including providing lesser penalties for honour crimes.<sup>51</sup>

28. The 2007-2011 UNDAF noted that women were not always in a position to effectively exercise their rights and that girls' early marriage remained widespread.<sup>52</sup>

29. The 2005 CCA noted that women had limited access to assets and a low level of participation in the salaried workforce.<sup>53</sup>

30. An ILO Committee of Experts in 2009 stressed the importance of determining the nature, extent and causes of wage inequalities between men and women.<sup>54</sup> CEDAW also expressed concern about the persistent gap in wages between women and men, and at the concentration of women in the informal sector, with no social security or other benefits.<sup>55</sup>

31. CEDAW was concerned about continuing low levels of representation of women in public and political life and in decision-making, particularly in municipal, town and village councils.<sup>56</sup> CEDAW encouraged Syria to accelerate the increase in the representation of women, in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life.<sup>57</sup> The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) reported that in the parliamentary elections of 2007, 31 of the 250 parliamentary seats had been filled by women.<sup>58</sup>

32. UNHCR informed that under national legislation, women married to foreigners cannot pass on their nationality to their husband, with special measures taken in order to cater for the political principles applicable to Palestinians.<sup>59</sup>

33. CRC was concerned that the Nationality Act of 1969 does not automatically grant citizenship to children of Syrian women married to non-nationals, and that children of Syrian-born Kurdish parents who are stateless continue to be denied Syrian nationality and are subject to discrimination.<sup>60</sup>

34. The HR Committee called on Syria to ensure that all members of the Kurdish minority enjoy effective protection against discrimination and are able to enjoy their own culture and use their own language.<sup>61</sup>

## **2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person**

35. On 15 April 2011, 10 special procedures mandates, in a joint statement, denounced the rising death toll and brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters, journalists and human rights defenders. The experts urged the authorities to stop the repression and engage in a meaningful, inclusive and transparent dialogue to implement reforms.<sup>62</sup> The High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the violent response to peaceful protests was unacceptable and that security forces must immediately stop using live ammunition against demonstrators.<sup>63</sup> The High Commissioner reiterated her appeal on subsequent occasions, condemning the unrelenting violent crackdown on peaceful protesters.<sup>64</sup>

36. On 29 April 2011, the Human Rights Council unequivocally condemned the use of lethal violence against peaceful protestors and the hindrance of access to medical treatment. It urged the Government to immediately put an end to all human rights violations, release all prisoners of conscience and arbitrarily detained persons, and cease any intimidation, persecution and arbitrary arrests. The Council requested OHCHR to urgently dispatch a mission to Syria to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law.<sup>65</sup>

37. The Secretary-General similarly condemned the ongoing violence against peaceful demonstrators, including the use of tanks and live fire that killed and injured hundreds of people. He reminded the Syrian authorities of their obligation to respect international human rights and called for an independent, transparent and effective investigation.<sup>66</sup>

38. On 2 June 2011, the United Nations Special Advisers on the Responsibility to Protect and the Prevention of Genocide, in a joint statement, said they were gravely concerned at the increasing loss of life in Syria and particularly alarmed at the apparently systematic and deliberate attacks by police, military, and other security forces against unarmed civilians taking part in protests.<sup>67</sup> In mid-June 2011, the High Commissioner for human rights noted that the number of those killed in incidents involving protests was believed to have exceeded 1,100 persons, including women and children. The number of persons arbitrarily detained was estimated at more than 10,000, with numerous cases emerging of torture and ill-treatment of detainees. The High Commissioner called upon the Government to halt the assault on its own people and respect obligations under international human rights law.<sup>68</sup>

39. In 2005, the HR Committee had expressed concern that the nature and number of offences carrying the death penalty were not consistent with the requirement of the Covenant. The Committee was deeply concerned at the de facto reinstatement of death sentences and executions in 2002.<sup>69</sup> In 2010, Syria voted against the General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the death penalty.<sup>70</sup>

40. CAT was deeply concerned at reports regarding high numbers of persons involuntary disappeared, in particular members of the Muslim Brotherhood. CAT urged Syria to establish an independent commission of inquiry into all disappearances, to



prosecute and punish perpetrators and to provide effective remedies to victims.<sup>71</sup> The HR Committee had raised similar concerns in 2005.<sup>72</sup> In its follow-up reply to the HR Committee, Syria explained that a committee had been established to address the issue of missing persons.<sup>73</sup>

41. CAT expressed its concern at alleged restrictions on independent forensic examination into the cases of deaths in custody. Syria should promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigate all incidence of death in custody and prosecute those found responsible.<sup>74</sup>

42. CAT was deeply concerned about allegations concerning the routine use of torture by law enforcement and investigative officials, in particular, in detention facilities. CAT recommended that Syria unambiguously reaffirm the absolute prohibition of torture and publicly condemn practices of torture, especially by the police and prison personnel, and ensure prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of torture.<sup>75</sup>

43. CAT was concerned at reports about secret detention facilities under the command of the intelligence services, such as the Military Intelligence service, the Political Security Directorate, the Directorate General of Intelligence Services and the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence Services. Syria should disclose the existence of any such facilities and the authority under which they have been established. CAT urged Syria to close all such facilities.<sup>76</sup>

44. Alleged incidents of killings, forced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and torture were also raised with the Government in a number of communications by special procedures mandate holders.<sup>77</sup>

45. CAT recommended urgent measures to bring the conditions of detention in police stations, prisons and other detention facilities into line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, in particular by reducing prison overcrowding, by ensuring that detention is only used as a measure of last resort; and by strengthening judicial supervision of conditions of detention.<sup>78</sup>

46. CEDAW urged Syria to put in place comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, so as to ensure that victims have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished.<sup>79</sup> CAT expressed similar concerns and further called upon Syria to amend applicable provisions of the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of "honour" crimes do not benefit from a reduction of penalty.<sup>80</sup>

47. CAT recommended increased efforts to prevent and combat trafficking of women and children, provide protection for victims and ensure their access to medical, social, rehabilitative and legal services.<sup>81</sup> CEDAW urged the protection of the human rights of trafficked women and girls, including by ensuring that they are not sent to prison or to reform centres for juvenile delinquents.<sup>82</sup> CMW urged Syria to adopt the draft law on trafficking in persons.<sup>83</sup> CRC was concerned at information reporting instances of Iraqi girls trafficked to Syria for the purpose of sexual exploitation.<sup>84</sup> It recommended strengthening regional and bilateral judicial and police cooperation for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution.<sup>85</sup>

48. CRC was concerned that labour law provisions do not extend protection, including effective inspections, to children engaged in work in the informal sector, where child work is concentrated and which in many cases involves hazardous conditions.<sup>86</sup>

49. CRC was concerned that corporal punishment in schools is not prohibited by law.<sup>87</sup> It recommended measures to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote positive, non-violent forms of discipline as an alternative to corporal punishment.<sup>88</sup>

### 3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

50. On 29 April 2011, the Human Rights Council stressed the need for Syria to launch a credible and impartial investigation and to prosecute those responsible for attacks on peaceful protesters. It also requested OHCHR to urgently dispatch a mission to investigate all alleged violations of international human rights law in Syria with a view to avoiding impunity and ensuring full accountability.<sup>89</sup>

51. In 2010, CAT expressed concern at the lack of judicial independence and arbitrary procedures that had resulted in the systematic violation of the right to fair trials. It urged Syria to protect the independence of its courts and tribunals, as well as the independence and immunity of judges, in accordance with international standards.<sup>90</sup>

52. CAT was also concerned that the Supreme State Security Court, which had been established in 1968 outside the ordinary criminal justice system, had the competence to impose penal sanctions for very widely defined crimes, and permitted prolonged incommunicado detention without judicial supervision or a right to appeal.<sup>91</sup> On 25 April 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights noted the announced abolition of the Court.<sup>92</sup>

53. CAT was concerned that Legislative Decrees Nos. 61 and 64 of 1950 and 2008 respectively grant members of intelligence agencies de facto immunity from prosecution for crimes committed while on duty. CAT was deeply concerned at widespread impunity preventing prosecution for crimes committed on duty, including torture and ill-treatment.<sup>93</sup>

54. CAT was alarmed by reports that confessions obtained by torture are invoked as evidence in proceedings, especially in the Supreme State Security Court and the military courts, and that claims by defendants that they have been tortured are almost never investigated. Syria should amend the Criminal Procedure Code to explicitly prohibit the use of any statement made under torture as evidence.<sup>94</sup> In 2005, HR Committee had raised similar concerns.<sup>95</sup>

55. CAT recommended measures to ensure that detainees are afforded all fundamental safeguards from the outset of their detention, including the right to have prompt access to a lawyer and an independent medical examination, to notify a relative, to be informed of their rights at the time of detention, and to appear before a judge within a time limit in accordance with international standards.<sup>96</sup>

56. A number of individual cases involving alleged arbitrary arrests and/or issues related to the independence of the judiciary were raised with the Government through communications from special procedures mandate holders.<sup>97</sup>

57. CAT was gravely concerned at the practice of allowing perpetrators of rape to escape prosecution by marrying their victims, or allowing families to waive their "right to complain". CAT also noted with concern that marital rape is not a criminal offence under the law and that national legislation fails to explicitly criminalize domestic violence, and exonerates perpetrators of "honour crimes".<sup>98</sup> CEDAW raised similar concerns and called upon Syria to amend applicable provisions in the Penal Code.<sup>99</sup>

58. CRC recommended that Syria deal with children under 15 in conflict with the law through child protection procedures rather than criminal justice; ensure that persons under 18 are not tried or detained as adults; and that the deprivation of liberty is only used as a measure of last resort.<sup>100</sup> CRC further recommended that Syria ensure that children used for prostitution are neither criminalized nor penalized, and that child victims and witnesses are protected at all stages of the justice process.<sup>101</sup>

#### 4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

59. CRC was concerned about early marriages in rural areas<sup>102</sup> and also recommended that Syria amend legislation to raise the minimum age for marriage for girls to that of boys.<sup>103</sup> CRC was also concerned at information on the practice of temporary marriages in some areas of the country, involving girls as young as 12 years who are given in marriage in exchange for money.<sup>104</sup>

60. CRC recommended that Syria strengthen its efforts to guarantee the registration of all children, irrespective of the legal status of parents.<sup>105</sup>

#### 5. Freedom of movement

61. In a number of communications, special procedures mandate-holders raised with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic issues concerning travel restrictions imposed on political activists and human rights defenders.<sup>106</sup>

#### 6. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

62. On 15 April, in a joint statement, 10 special procedure mandate holders denounced the brutal crackdown on peaceful protesters, journalists and human rights defenders, noting that firing on peaceful crowds attending protests or funerals cannot be justified by any means.<sup>107</sup>

63. The High Commissioner for Human Rights said the Government's violent response to peaceful protests was unacceptable, reminding the Government that it had an international legal obligation to protect peaceful demonstrators and the right to peaceful protest.<sup>108</sup> The Secretary-General similarly called on Syria to protect fundamental rights and freedoms, including the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, as well as the freedom of the press.<sup>109</sup>

64. On 29 April 2011, the Human Rights Council urged the Syrian Arab Republic to fully respect freedoms of expression and assembly; to allow access to the Internet and telecommunications networks, to lift censorship on reporting, and to enlarge the scope of political participation. It also stressed the need to prosecute those responsible for attacks on peaceful protesters.<sup>110</sup>

65. In 2010, CAT had recommended that Syria amend or abolish the vague security provisions under the Criminal Code that unlawfully restrict the right to freedom of expression, association or assembly.<sup>111</sup> HR Committee was concerned at allegations that the Government had blocked access to some Internet sites used by human rights defenders and political activists.<sup>112</sup>

66. CAT was concerned about reports of persisting acts of harassment and persecution experienced by human rights defenders. Syria should ensure the prompt, impartial and effective investigation into such acts.<sup>113</sup> The HR Committee expressed similar concerns and called on Syria to immediately release all persons detained because of their activities in the field of human rights, and to amend legislation that restricts the activities of organizations working in this field.<sup>114</sup> In its follow-up reply, Syria stated that procedures for associations had been simplified to facilitate registration.<sup>115</sup>

67. CEDAW recommended that Syria ensure, including through speedy revision of the Associations Law, that civil society organizations and women's non-governmental organizations not be restricted with respect to their establishment and operations and that they are able to function independently of the Government.<sup>116</sup>

68. The 2007-2011 UNDAF noted a shortage of information about Government actions and limitations on the media.<sup>117</sup>

69. The HR Committee recommended that Syria respect the right to conscientious objection to military service and establish, if it so wishes, an alternative civil service of a non-punitive nature.<sup>118</sup>

70. UNESCO noted that certain articles of the Penal Code, the Emergency Law and the 2001 Publications Law criminalize the publication of material that “harms national unity, tarnishes the image of the State or threatens the goals of the revolution”. It also noted that access to the Internet was provided through State-run servers, and that social-networking and video-sharing websites were often blocked.<sup>119</sup>

71. The 2009 UNDP Arab Human Development report noted that the Constitution, in article 38, subordinated freedom of expression to the ideology of State and society by making it conditional upon “safeguarding the soundness of the domestic and nationalist structure and strengthening the socialist system”.<sup>120</sup> The 2007-2011 UNDAF reported that restrictions on political associations and public assembly had remained in force under the Emergency Law since 1963.<sup>121</sup>

72. A number of individual cases involving alleged arbitrary arrests and/or torture of human rights defenders, journalists and political activists, as well as the imposition of court sentences and travel restrictions were raised with the Government through communications by special procedures mandate holders.<sup>122</sup>

#### **7. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

73. In 2009, an ILO Committee of Experts requested information on measures to increase the knowledge and understanding, including among Kurds and Bedouins, of legal provisions providing for equality in employment and occupation.<sup>123</sup>

74. The ILO Committee also requested the Government in 2009 to report on measures to repeal or amend legislative provisions which establish a regime of trade union monopoly, and to amend legislative provisions which restrict the right to strike by imposing heavy sanctions, including imprisonment.<sup>124</sup>

75. In 2010, the ILO Committee was concerned over penal sanctions involving compulsory labour as a punishment for expressing political views, for breaches of labour discipline and for participation in strikes. The Committee hoped that, once the new Penal Code was adopted, persons convicted for activities coming under the purview of the Convention would no longer be compelled to perform labour.<sup>125</sup> It also expressed concern with regard to section 364 of the Penal Code, under which imprisonment may be imposed for leaving or interrupting work as a member of the staff of any public administration, establishment or body.<sup>126</sup>

#### **8. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

76. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food, following a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic in August/September 2010, commended the Government for its efforts to ensure food security, but noted that the adoption of a human rights approach and an increased focus on vulnerable groups could significantly increase the impact of these efforts.<sup>127</sup>

77. Following a mission to Syria in November 2010, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health noted advances in key health indicators, in particular regarding maternal and child health, but said more needed to be done to ensure delivery of quality services, particularly in rural areas. He noted that barriers to accessing health care still exist for certain vulnerable groups, including stateless Kurds.<sup>128</sup>

78. CRC was concerned that there was a significant gap in the quality of care between public and private health services.<sup>129</sup> CRC recommended that Syria match its commitment to public primary health by adequate allocations of human and financial resources and ensure that all children, especially in rural areas, have access to health care.<sup>130</sup> According to the 2007-2011 UNDAF, the health, nutrition and education of many children remained a challenge, particularly in rural areas.<sup>131</sup>

#### **9. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community**

79. In 2011, UNESCO noted that the 1973 Constitution provides that “education is a right guaranteed by the State, that elementary education is compulsory and all education is free, and that the State undertakes to extend compulsory education to other levels”. According to UNESCO, mobile schools have been initiated for the children of the Bedouins.<sup>132</sup>

80. CRC recommended that Syria strengthen initiatives to stem the problem of school drop-out at primary and secondary levels, especially in rural areas and by girls, and to allocate the required resources to ensure the provision of learning materials and supplies.<sup>133</sup>

#### **10. Minorities and indigenous peoples**

81. According to UNHCR, part of the Kurdish population living in the north-east of the country is considered stateless. In light of Presidential Decree No. 49 of 2011, which allows the Kurdish population registered as foreigners in the Governorate of Hassake to acquire Syrian citizenship, UNHCR expressed the hope that the situation of the non-registered stateless Kurds would soon be addressed as well.<sup>134</sup>

82. CAT was deeply concerned at reports of torture, ill-treatment, death in custody and incommunicado detention of political activists of Kurdish origins. CAT also noted with concern reports of deaths of Kurdish conscripts during mandatory military service, whose bodies were returned to the families with evidence of severe injuries. CAT recommended urgent investigations into all allegations of torture, ill-treatment, death in custody, death during military service and incommunicado detention of people belonging to the Kurdish minority.<sup>135</sup>

83. CAT was also concerned about continued administrative detention of Iranian nationals of Arab (Ahwazi) ethnic descent, pending deportation.<sup>136</sup>

#### **11. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers**

84. According to UNHCR, the Syrian Arab Republic hosts one of the largest urban refugee populations in the world.<sup>137</sup> Providing for their essential needs continues to pose major difficulties.<sup>138</sup> The 2009 Arab Human Development report estimated that Syria hosts 1.5 million Iraqi refugees and over 450,000 Palestinian refugees.<sup>139</sup> UNFPA noted that Syria was experiencing a refugee humanitarian crisis that is straining resources.<sup>140</sup>

85. The 2007-2011 UNDAF noted that Syria does not officially recognize refugees under the mandate of UNHCR, although the authorities generally respect attestations issued to asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR.<sup>141</sup> CAT recommended that Syria establish a national procedure for determination of refugee status and amend its national legislation in order to recognize special status attributed by UNHCR.<sup>142</sup>

86. CAT called on Syria to formulate legal provisions in line with the Convention to ensure an effective, independent and impartial review of decisions on expulsion, return or extradition; and to refrain from expelling, returning or extraditing any person to a State where there are substantial grounds for believing that the person would risk being subjected to torture.<sup>143</sup>

87. CRC recommended that Syria identify at the earliest possible stage refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children entering Syria who may have been recruited or used in hostilities; and provide them with immediate assistance.<sup>144</sup>

88. CMW encouraged Syria to further pursue efforts to conclude agreements with the major countries of destination for Syrian workers, including those in the Arab Gulf region, in order to ensure the best possible protection for Syrian migrant workers abroad.<sup>145</sup>

89. In June 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights drew attention to the fact that several thousand Syrians were fleeing the country.<sup>146</sup>

## **12. Internally displaced persons**

90. The Human Rights Council emphasized in a number of resolutions that the displaced persons from the occupied Syrian Golan must be allowed to return to their homes and recover their property.<sup>147</sup>

91. The 2009 Arab Human Development report estimated that the number of internally displaced persons in Syria in 2007 was 430,000.<sup>148</sup>

92. On 15 April 2011, in connection with Government action against peaceful protesters, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons called on the Government to avoid any actions which might lead to further displacement.<sup>149</sup>

## **13. Human rights and counter-terrorism**

93. CAT recommended that Syria establish an independent investigation to follow up on allegations of its involvement in "extraordinary renditions".<sup>150</sup>

## **14. Situation in or in relation to specific regions or territories**

94. The Human Rights Council, in a number of resolutions, expressed deep concern at the suffering of Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan due to the systematic and continuous violation of their fundamental and human rights since the foreign military occupation of 1967.<sup>151</sup>

# **III. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints**

95. UNHCR commended the State's generous policy regarding the stay of a large Iraqi refugee population in the country, and expressed the hope that this may continue so long as the situation in Iraq was not conducive to a safe return.<sup>152</sup>

96. UNHCR noted that despite the absence of a specific legal framework for the protection of refugees, Syria had taken prompt action in addressing protection issues raised by UNHCR, such as residency, detention and the enjoyment of basic rights.<sup>153</sup>

97. UNHCR welcomed the adoption on 7 April 2011 of Presidential Decree No. 49, which grants Syrian citizenship to the Kurdish population registered as foreigners in the Governorate of Hassake.<sup>154</sup>

98. CEDAW congratulated Syria on the achievement of parity between girls and boys in secondary education,<sup>155</sup> and UNDAF noted that enrolment in basic education was 98 per cent.<sup>156</sup>

99. The Special Rapporteur on the right to health commended Syria's commitment to realizing the right to health, including its commitment to provide comprehensive health care services for up to 1.5 million Iraqi refugees.<sup>157</sup>

## IV. Key national priorities, initiatives and commitments

### A. Pledges by the State

100. In March 2011, in connection with its candidacy for the Human Rights Council, the Syrian Arab Republic pledged to uphold the highest standards in promotion and protection of human rights, to address and implement all human rights equally and without any distinction.<sup>158</sup>

### B. Specific recommendations for follow-up

101. In 2010, CAT requested Syria to provide, within a year, information on its response to recommendations regarding secret detention facilities, and violence against women.<sup>159</sup>

102. In 2003, the HR Committee had requested information on follow-up to its recommendations in paragraphs 6 (state of emergency), 8 (disappearances), 9 (allegations of torture) and 12 (operation of non-governmental organizations).<sup>160</sup> In September 2006 Syria provided its response.<sup>161</sup>

## V. Capacity-building and technical assistance

103. UNIFEM reported on a regional project to build awareness of CEDAW.<sup>162</sup>

104. UNHCR is conducting awareness-raising and capacity-building activities with a view to encouraging Syria to accede to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.<sup>163</sup>

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of instruments listed in the table may be found in *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 1 April 2009* (ST/LEG/SER.E.26), supplemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org>.

<sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

- <sup>3</sup> Adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/117 of 10 December 2008. Article 17, paragraph 1, of OP-ICESCR states that “The present Protocol is open for signature by any State that has signed, ratified or acceded to the Covenant”.
- <sup>4</sup> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
- <sup>5</sup> 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- <sup>6</sup> Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at [www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html](http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intla/intrea/chdep/warvic.html).
- <sup>7</sup> International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- <sup>8</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 39.
- <sup>9</sup> Ibid., para. 40.
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid., para. 41.
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid., para. 43.
- <sup>12</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.212, para. 8.
- <sup>13</sup> CRC/C/OPSC/SYR/CO/1, para. 6.
- <sup>14</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, paras. 6, 11, 12.
- <sup>15</sup> Ibid., para. 39.
- <sup>16</sup> CERD/C/304/Add.70, para. 16.
- <sup>17</sup> CMW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 12.
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid., para. 14.
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid., para. 16.
- <sup>20</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 17; and Syrian Arab Republic UNDAF 2007-2011, p. 9, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>21</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 42, and CRC/C/OPAC/SYR/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>22</sup> UNESCO submission to the UPR on Syrian Arab Republic, 2011, para. 25.
- <sup>23</sup> UNDP, Arab Human Development Report 2009, p. 58, available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/regional/arabstates/name,3442,en.html>.
- <sup>24</sup> Syrian Arab Republic UNDAF 2007-2011, p. 5, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>25</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para.10; CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 6; see also Syria’s follow-up response,



- CCPR/CO/84/SYR/Add.1, p. 2, para. 6.
- <sup>26</sup> Press release, 25 April 2011.
- <sup>27</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 5.
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 6.
- <sup>29</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 16.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 18.
- <sup>31</sup> CRC/C/OPAC/SYR/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 15.
- <sup>33</sup> For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), see Secretary-General Report on the process currently utilized by the ICC to accredit national institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles, A/HRC/16/77, 3 February 2011, Annex.
- <sup>34</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 36.
- <sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 14.
- <sup>36</sup> See General Assembly resolution 59/113 B and Human Rights Council resolutions 6/24, 10/3 and 12/4. See also letters from the High Commissioner for Human Rights dated 9 January 2006 and 10 December 2007, both at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/education/training/Summary-national-initiatives2005-2009.htm>.
- <sup>37</sup> Syrian Arab Republic UNDAF 2007-2011, p. 5, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>38</sup> CRC/C/OPSC/SYR/CO/1, para. 26.a.
- <sup>39</sup> The following abbreviations have been used for this document:
- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| CERD         | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination                               |
| CESCR        | Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights                                   |
| HR Committee | Human Rights Committee  |
| CEDAW        | Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women                        |
| CAT          | Committee against Torture   |
| CRC          | Committee on the Rights of the Child  |
| CMW          | Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families |
| CRPD         | Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.                               |
- <sup>40</sup> The questionnaires referred to are those reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate holder issued between 1 January 2007 and 1 January 2011. Responses counted for the purposes of this section are those received within the relevant deadlines, and referred to in the following documents: (a) A/HRC/6/15, para. 7; (b) A/HRC/7/6, annex; (c) A/HRC/7/8, para. 35; (d) A/HRC/8/10, para. 120, footnote 48; (e) A/62/301, paras. 27, 32, 38, 44 and 51; (f) A/HRC/10/16 and Corr.1, footnote 29; (g) A/HRC/11/6, annex; (h) A/HRC/11/8, para. 56; (i) A/HRC/11/9, para. 8, footnote 1; (j) A/HRC/12/21, para. 2, footnote 1; (k) A/HRC/12/23, para. 12; (l) A/HRC/12/31, para. 1, footnote 2; (m) A/HRC/13/22/Add.4; (n) A/HRC/13/30, para. 49; (o) A/HRC/13/42, annex I; (p) A/HRC/14/25, para. 6, footnote 1; (q) A/HRC/14/31, para. 5, footnote 2; (r) A/HRC/14/46/Add.1; (s) A/HRC/15/31/Add.1, para. 6 – for list of responding States, see <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/WaterAndSanitation/SRWater/Pages/ContributionsPSP.aspx>; (t) A/HRC/15/32, para. 5.(u) A/HRC/16/44/Add.3 (v) A/HRC/16/48/Add.3 (w) A/HRC/16/51/ Add.4; (x) A/HRC/17/38, see Annex I.
- <sup>41</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 38.
- <sup>42</sup> Press release, 15 November 2010.
- <sup>43</sup> Pledges and commitments undertaken by Syria before the Human Rights Council, as contained in note verbale dated 1 March 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Syria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly.
- <sup>44</sup> Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1, para. 6.
- <sup>45</sup> OHCHR Annual Report, 2009.
- <sup>46</sup> 2009 OHCHR Report on Activities and Results, pp. 159, 162, 190 and 215.
- <sup>47</sup> Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1, paras. 7-8.
- <sup>48</sup> Opening Statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council; OHCHR News Release, Geneva, 9 June 2011; Introduction of preliminary report on the situation of human rights in Syria, High Commissioner's statement to the

- Human Rights Council on 15 June 2011.
- <sup>49</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 28.
- <sup>50</sup> Ibid., para. 34.
- <sup>51</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 16.
- <sup>52</sup> Syrian Arab Republic UNDAF 2007-2011, p. 5, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>53</sup> Syrian Arab Republic CCA 2005, p. 34, available at <http://www.undg.org/docs/7353/Syria%202007%20CCA%20final.pdf> (accessed on 27 March 2011).
- <sup>54</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100) Syrian Arab Republic (ratification: 1957) Published: 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062009SYR100, para. 1.
- <sup>55</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 31.
- <sup>56</sup> Ibid., para. 25.
- <sup>57</sup> Ibid., para. 26.
- <sup>58</sup> See [http://www.unifem.org/worldwide/arab\\_states/](http://www.unifem.org/worldwide/arab_states/).
- <sup>59</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Syrian Arab Republic, 2011, pp. 4 and 6.
- <sup>60</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.212, para. 32.
- <sup>61</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 18.
- <sup>62</sup> Press release, 15 April 2011.
- <sup>63</sup> Press release, 25 April 2011.
- <sup>64</sup> Opening Statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights at the seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council, delivered by the Deputy High Commissioner; OHCHR news release, Geneva, 9 June 2011.
- <sup>65</sup> Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1.
- <sup>66</sup> Press releases, Secretary-General, New York, 22 April 2011 (SG/SM/13521); 27 April 2011, (<http://www.unicwash.org/Media.aspx?date=2011-04-27>), 4 and 9 May 2011; Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, New York, 3 June 2011.
- <sup>67</sup> United Nations Press Release, 2 June 2011.
- <sup>68</sup> Introduction of preliminary report on the situation of human rights in Syria, statement of the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council on 15 June 2011.
- <sup>69</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 7.
- <sup>70</sup> General Assembly resolution 65/2006. Voting record available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/65/resolutions.html>.
- <sup>71</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 21.
- <sup>72</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 8.
- <sup>73</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR/Add.1, pp. 1–2.
- <sup>74</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 32.
- <sup>75</sup> Ibid., para. 7.
- <sup>76</sup> Ibid., para. 15.
- <sup>77</sup> See e.g. A/HRC/13/31, pp. 156–157; A/HRC/10/44/Add.4; paras. 215–222; A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, paras. 2397–2480.
- <sup>78</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 30.
- <sup>79</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 20.
- <sup>80</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 25.
- <sup>81</sup> Ibid., para. 28.
- <sup>82</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 24.
- <sup>83</sup> CMW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 40.
- <sup>84</sup> CRC/C/OPSC/SYR/CO/1, para. 27.
- <sup>85</sup> Ibid., para. 28.
- <sup>86</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.212, para. 50.
- <sup>87</sup> Ibid., para. 36.
- <sup>88</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.212, para. 37.
- <sup>89</sup> Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1.
- <sup>90</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 12.
- <sup>91</sup> Ibid., para. 11. See also Arab Human Development Report 2009, available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/regional/arabstates/name,3442,en.html>, p. 62.

- <sup>92</sup> Press release, 25 April 2011.
- <sup>93</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 13.
- <sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 33.
- <sup>95</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 9.
- <sup>96</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>97</sup> See e.g. A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, paras. 2397–2480.
- <sup>98</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 27.
- <sup>99</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 20.
- <sup>100</sup> CRC/C/OPSC/SYR/CO/1, para. 14 (b).
- <sup>101</sup> CRC/C/OPSC/SYR/CO/1, paras. 20, 22.
- <sup>102</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.212, para. 23.
- <sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 24.
- <sup>104</sup> CRC/C/OPSC/SYR/CO/1, para. 23.
- <sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 26.c.
- <sup>106</sup> See e.g. A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, para. 2469.
- <sup>107</sup> Press release, 15 April 2011.
- <sup>108</sup> Press release, 25 April 2011.
- <sup>109</sup> Press releases, Secretary-General, New York, 22 April 2011 (SG/SM/13521); 27 April 2011, (<http://www.unicwash.org/Media.aspx?date=2011-04-27>).
- <sup>110</sup> Human Rights Council resolution S-16/1, paras. 1, 4 and 5.
- <sup>111</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 8.
- <sup>112</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 13.
- <sup>113</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 34.
- <sup>114</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 12.
- <sup>115</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR/Add.1, p. 12.
- <sup>116</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 36.
- <sup>117</sup> UNDAF 2007-2011, pp. 5–8, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>118</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 11.
- <sup>119</sup> UNESCO submission to the UPR on Syrian Arab Republic, 2011, paras. 20-24, 26.
- <sup>120</sup> UNDP Arab Human Development Report 2009, p. 58, available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/regional/arabstates/name,3442,en.html>.
- <sup>121</sup> Syrian Arab Republic UNDAF 2007-2011, p. 5, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>122</sup> A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, paras. 2397–2480.
- <sup>123</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) Syrian Arab Republic (ratification: 1960) Published: 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062009SYR111, para. 1.
- <sup>124</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87) Syrian Arab Republic (ratification: 1960) Published: 2009, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062009SYR087, para. 1.
- <sup>125</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) Syrian Arab Republic (ratification: 1958) Published: 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062010SYR105, para. 1.
- <sup>126</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Individual Observation concerning Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) Syrian Arab Republic (ratification: 1960) Published: 2010, Geneva, doc. No. (ILOLEX) 062010SYR029, para. 1.
- <sup>127</sup> A/HRC/16/49/Add.2.
- <sup>128</sup> Press release, 15 November 2010 and A/HRC/17/25/Add.3.
- <sup>129</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.212, para. 40.
- <sup>130</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 41.
- <sup>131</sup> UNDAF 2007-2011, p. 5-8, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>132</sup> UNESCO submission to the UPR on Syrian Arab Republic, 2011, paras. 3-19, 25.

- <sup>133</sup> CRC/C/15/Add.212, para. 45.
- <sup>134</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Syrian Arab Republic, 2011, p. 4.
- <sup>135</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 8.
- <sup>136</sup> Ibid., para. 19.
- <sup>137</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Syrian Arab Republic, 2011, pp. 2–3.
- <sup>138</sup> UNHCR, Global Appeal 2011 Update, Syrian Arab Republic, 2011, pp. 4–5, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/4cd96c4b9.html>.
- <sup>139</sup> Arab Human Development Report 2009, available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/regional/arabstates/name,3442,en.html>, table 4-6..
- <sup>140</sup> UNFPA overview, Syria, available at : [http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/CO\\_Overviews/Syria\\_b2\\_9.23.doc](http://www.unfpa.org/webdav/site/global/shared/CO_Overviews/Syria_b2_9.23.doc) (accessed on 8 May 2011).
- <sup>141</sup> Syrian Arab Republic UNDAF 2007-2011, p. 5, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>142</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 17.
- <sup>143</sup> Ibid., para. 18.
- <sup>144</sup> CRC/C/OPAC/SYR/CO/1, para. 21.
- <sup>145</sup> CMW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 38.
- <sup>146</sup> Introduction of preliminary report on the human rights situation in Syria, statement of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights to the Human Rights Council on 15 June 2011.
- <sup>147</sup> Human Rights Council resolutions 16/17, 13/5 and 10/17.
- <sup>148</sup> Arab Human Development Report 2009, available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/regional/arabstates/name,3442,en.html>, table 4-7. (accessed on 08 May 2011).
- <sup>149</sup> Press release of 15 April 2011 on joint statement on Syria by 10 Special Procedures mandate-holders.
- <sup>150</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 18.
- <sup>151</sup> Human Rights Council resolutions 16/17 and 10/17.
- <sup>152</sup> UNHCR submission to the UPR on Syrian Arab Republic, 2011, pp. 4 and 5.
- <sup>153</sup> Ibid., pp. 4,6.
- <sup>154</sup> Ibid., p. 2.
- <sup>155</sup> CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 9.
- <sup>156</sup> UNDAF 2007-2011, pp. 5–8, available at <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>.
- <sup>157</sup> Press release, 15 November 2010.
- <sup>158</sup> Pledges and commitments undertaken by Syria before the Human Rights Council, as contained in note verbale dated 1 March 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Syria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly.
- <sup>159</sup> CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 46.
- <sup>160</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR, para. 22.
- <sup>161</sup> CCPR/CO/84/SYR/Add.1.
- <sup>162</sup> UNIFEM, On the Agenda: Women’s Human Rights 2005, available at: [http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/world\\_summit\\_2005/documents/2005WorldSummit\\_HumanRights.pdf](http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/world_summit_2005/documents/2005WorldSummit_HumanRights.pdf) (accessed on 27 March 2011).
- <sup>163</sup> UNDAF, p. 9: <http://www.undg.org/unct.cfm?module=CoordinationProfile&page=Country&CountryID=SYR>
-