



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
29 August 2016

Original: English

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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Twenty-sixth session**  
31 October-11 November 2016

**Compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with  
paragraph 15 (b) of the annex to Human Rights Council  
resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council  
resolution 16/21**

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.

GE.16-14929(E)



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## I. Background and framework

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

#### 1. International human rights treaties<sup>2</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	ICERD (1969)		ICCPR-OP 2
	ICESCR (1969)		OP-CAT
	ICCPR (1969)		ICPPED
	CEDAW (2003)		
	CAT (2004)		
	CRC (1993)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2003)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2003)		
	ICRMW (2005)		
	CRPD (2009)		
<i>Reservations and/or declarations</i>	ICERD (declaration/reservation, art. 22, 1969)	CRC (withdrawal of reservations, arts. 20 and 21, 2012)	
	ICESCR (declaration/reservation, art. 26 (1), 1969)		
	ICCPR (declaration/reservation, art. 48 (1), 1969)		
	CEDAW (declaration/reservations, arts. 2, 9 (2), 15 (4), 16 (1) (c), (d), (f) and (g), 16 (2) and 29 (1), 2003)		
	CAT (declaration, 2004)		
	CRC (general reservation/reservation, art. 14, 1993)		
	OP-CRC-AC (declaration/declaration under art. 3 (2): 18 years, 2003)		
	OP-CRC-SC (declaration/reservations, art. 3 (1) (a) (ii) and 3 (5), 2003)		
	ICRMW (declaration, 2005)		
	CRPD (general understanding/understanding, art. 12, 2009)		

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified/not accepted</i>
<i>Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action</i> <sup>3</sup>	OP-CRPD (2009)		ICERD, art. 14 OP-ICESCR ICCPR, art. 41 ICCPR-OP 1 OP-CEDAW CAT, arts. 20-22 OP-CRC-IC ICRMW, arts. 76 and 77 OP-CRPD, arts. 6 and 7

## 2. Other main relevant international instruments

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Action after review</i>	<i>Not ratified</i>
<i>Ratification, accession or succession</i>	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide		Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
	Palermo Protocol <sup>4</sup>		Conventions on refugees and stateless persons <sup>5</sup>
	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocol I <sup>6</sup>		Additional Protocols II and III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions <sup>7</sup>
	ILO fundamental conventions <sup>8</sup>		ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189 <sup>9</sup> Convention against Discrimination in Education

1. The Syrian Arab Republic (“the State”) was encouraged to become a party to ICCPPED<sup>10</sup>; the Optional Protocols to ICESCR<sup>11</sup>, ICCPR<sup>12</sup>, CEDAW<sup>13</sup> and CAT<sup>14</sup>; the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of the Refugees and its 1967 Protocol<sup>15</sup>; the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness<sup>16</sup>; the Convention against Discrimination in Education<sup>17</sup> and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.<sup>18</sup>

2. The Committee on the Rights of the Child encouraged the State to withdraw its general reservation and its reservation to article 14, of CRC. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women called upon the State to withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 15 (4) of CEDAW.

3. The Security Council demanded immediate implementation of its resolution 2254 (2015) to facilitate a Syrian-led and -owned political transition, in accordance with the Geneva communiqué.<sup>19</sup>

## B. Constitutional and legislative framework

4. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State incorporate in its Constitution and/or legislation provisions on gender equality and discrimination against women, and provide sanctions in line with CEDAW.<sup>20</sup>

5. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to enact the Child Rights Bill and comply with CRC.<sup>21</sup> It recommended prohibiting by law violations of OP-CRC-AC.<sup>22</sup>

## C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

6. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended enhancing the capacity and coordination role of the Syrian Commission for Family Affairs,<sup>23</sup> and adopting a national plan to address the negative impact of the conflict on the lives of women and girls.<sup>24</sup>

7. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons stressed the need for a legal framework and accountability mechanisms and urged the Government to explore durable solutions for internally displaced persons.<sup>25</sup>

## II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

8. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (“the Commission”) reported that its investigations remained curtailed by the denial of access to the country<sup>26</sup> and recommended that the Government allow it access.<sup>27</sup>

### A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

#### 1. Reporting status

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	March 1999	-	-	Sixteenth report overdue since 2000
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	August 2001	-	-	Fourth report overdue since 2006
Human Rights Committee	July 2005	-	-	Fourth report overdue since 2009
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	June 2007	2012	July 2014	Third report due in 2018

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Concluding observations included in previous review</i>	<i>Latest report submitted since previous review</i>	<i>Latest concluding observations</i>	<i>Reporting status</i>
Committee against Torture	May 2010	-	May 2012 (adopted in the absence of a special report requested pursuant to art. 19 (1))	Second report overdue since 2014
Committee on the Rights of the Child	June 2003 (CRC); October 2007 (OP-CRC-AC); September 2006(OP-CRC-SC)	-	October 2011	Fifth report overdue since 2015
Committee on Migrant Workers	April 2008	-	-	Second report overdue since 2011
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2011

9. The Committee against Torture invited the State to submit a report about widespread violations of CAT. The State has not responded.<sup>28</sup>

## 2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

### *Concluding observations*

<i>Treaty body</i>	<i>Due in</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Submitted in</i>
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	2015	Ensuring participation of women in public life; withdrawal of reservations; violence against women in conflict; ending impunity for abuses against women activists <sup>29</sup>	2016; <sup>30</sup> follow-up dialogue ongoing
Committee against Torture	2012 2011	Recommendations of concluding observations of 2012 <sup>31</sup> Secret detention centres; investigations; violence against women and “honour” crimes; human rights defenders <sup>32</sup>	Reminders sent in 2012 and 2014 <sup>33</sup> 2011; <sup>34</sup> special report requested <sup>35</sup>

## B. Cooperation with special procedures<sup>36</sup>

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
<i>Standing invitation</i>	No	No
<i>Visits undertaken</i>	Health Food	Internally displaced persons
<i>Visits agreed to in principle</i>		Summary executions Mercenaries

	<i>Status during previous cycle</i>	<i>Current status</i>
		Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
		Violence against women
<i>Visits requested</i>	Torture	Unilateral coercive measures
	Human rights defenders	Arbitrary detention
		Disappearances
<i>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</i>	During the period under review, 37 communications were sent. The Government replied to 15 communications.	

### **C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

10. The Secretary-General and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the State to allow independent access to United Nations entities, including OHCHR, to all areas, to enable them to monitor human rights violations.<sup>37</sup>

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

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

11. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned at the impact of negative gender stereotypes, given women's and girls' fear of being kidnapped or raped, or stigmatized if arrested.<sup>38</sup> It urged the adoption of a strategy to prevent any setback for women's rights in the peace negotiations.<sup>39</sup> It was concerned at the strict codes of conduct imposed on women by armed groups in the areas under their control.<sup>40</sup>

12. It was concerned about married women being unable to travel due to child custody restrictions requiring the father's consent<sup>41</sup> and recommended that the State facilitate women's freedom to travel with children.<sup>42</sup>

13. It was concerned at the adverse impact of statelessness on women and their children who were excluded from services restricted to nationals.<sup>43</sup>

14. It recommended repealing all discriminatory provisions in the Personal Status Code and ensuring equality of rights between women and men.<sup>44</sup>

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

15. The Commission reported that the conflict had devolved into a multisided proxy war steered by an intricate network of overseas alliances.<sup>45</sup> Attacks often took place in areas containing no discernible military targets, and the States concerned failed to comply with their obligations under international law, including the core international humanitarian law principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack.<sup>46</sup> The Security Council and the Commission called upon all parties to immediately comply with their obligations

under international law and to prohibit the use of illegal weapons.<sup>47</sup> The Commission recommended that the Government cease indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilians and that anti-government armed groups comply with international law. It recommended that States with influence apply pressure on the warring parties for a sustainable political transition process, curb the supply of weapons to warring parties and expand support for humanitarian operations.<sup>48</sup> The Security Council was gravely concerned at the continued suffering of the Syrian people, the negative impact of terrorism and violent extremist ideology in support of terrorism, the destabilizing effect of the crisis on the region and beyond, the physical destruction in the country, and the increasing sectarianism. It called on Member States to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, in compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law as applicable.<sup>49</sup>

16. The Secretary-General reported continued widespread conflict and high levels of violence throughout the country, including indiscriminate and disproportionate aerial bombings and ground attacks by the Government's forces supported by its allies. He reported that indiscriminate shelling by non-State armed opposition groups and designated terrorist groups continued to kill, injure and displace civilians.<sup>50</sup> The Commission noted that the Russian Federation as well as the United States of America-led coalition forces continued to carry out air strikes, according to reports received from official sources. OHCHR received numerous reports of air strikes reportedly carried out by international actors in which civilians were killed or injured, but was not able to adequately verify the origin of the reported air strikes.<sup>51</sup> Without access to the territory to examine the weaponry fragments, identifying the party responsible for the strikes was extremely challenging.<sup>52</sup> The Commission reiterated its recommendations that all parties comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and prohibit the use of illegal weapons. It called for effective cooperation against the terrorist organizations listed in the Security Council resolutions.<sup>53</sup>

17. The General Assembly strongly condemned the widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights and the violations of international humanitarian law by the authorities and its affiliated (*shabbiha*) militias, including the use of heavy weapons, aerial bombardments, cluster munitions, ballistic missiles against civilians, and attacks on schools, hospitals and places of worship.<sup>54</sup> The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict ("the Special Representative") reported that the use of barrel bombs by government forces on civilian objects had resulted in huge numbers of children being killed or severely injured.<sup>55</sup> The Human Rights Council condemned the indiscriminate or deliberate targeting of civilians, noting that the excessive and violent suppression of civilian protests by the Syrian authorities fuelled the escalation of armed violence.<sup>56</sup>

18. The General Assembly condemned the large-scale use of chemical weapons, which constituted a serious violation of international law, and stressed that those responsible for any use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.<sup>57</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child was appalled by the killing of Syrian children in an alleged chemical attack, considering it a gross violation of CRC.<sup>58</sup>

19. The Special Rapporteur on the right to health condemned the targeting and destruction of medical units, stating that these incidents amounted to war crimes and may constitute crimes against humanity. He called upon all parties to respect the special protections granted to medical units by international humanitarian law.<sup>59</sup> The Commission reported that targeting hospitals, medical personnel and transport and denying access to medical care remained an ingrained feature of the Syrian conflict. The Security Council, in its resolution 2139, demanded that all parties respect the principle of medical neutrality.<sup>60</sup> The Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons urged the Government to protect humanitarian workers and to support their work and operational capacity.<sup>61</sup>

20. The Security Council reiterated its call for all parties in the country to allow the unimpeded access of humanitarian personnel to populations in need of assistance and to cooperate fully with the United Nations organizations.<sup>62</sup> The Special Rapporteur on the right to health urged action to protect the millions living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, urging parties to the conflict to allow the passage of humanitarian relief for civilians and calling for the safe and unhindered evacuation of civilians who wished to leave.<sup>63</sup> The Special Representative reported that parties to the conflict, particularly the Government, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusrah and armed opposition groups, had used siege and starvation as a tactic of war.<sup>64</sup> A report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council stated that access to the 4.6 million people living in besieged, hard-to-reach and priority cross-line locations as at 30 April 2016 remained of critical concern.<sup>65</sup> Nearly half the besieged people in ISIL-controlled areas were inaccessible by United Nations humanitarian assistance.<sup>66</sup>

21. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the State to fully cooperate with the United Nations to ensure rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to over 10 million persons in need, including by immediately declaring a ceasefire, in compliance with Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2165, and called upon armed groups to facilitate access to humanitarian aid.<sup>67</sup> The Security Council and the Commission made related recommendations.<sup>68</sup>

22. The General Assembly denounced, inter alia, massacres, arbitrary executions, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. It strongly condemned all human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and the affiliated (*shabbiha*) militias, as well as by armed extremists, and armed anti-government groups. It also condemned the intervention of all foreign combatants, including those fighting on behalf of the Syrian authorities, and expressed deep concern that their involvement further exacerbated the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation.<sup>69</sup> It also strongly condemned the intervention of all foreign terrorist fighters.<sup>70</sup>

23. The Committee against Torture expressed concern at large-scale attacks by security forces against civilians, resulting in numerous summary executions of elderly people, women and children fleeing the attacks on towns and villages,<sup>71</sup> at bombardments of residential areas and at the demolition of houses.<sup>72</sup> It was concerned about the extensive gross violations of children's rights<sup>73</sup> and deeply concerned at consistent and corroborated allegations about the existence of widespread and systematic violations of the provisions of CAT against the civilian population.<sup>74</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child strongly urged taking all measures to protect children.<sup>75</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reminded the State of its obligations under CEDAW, which continued to apply during conflict.<sup>76</sup>

24. A Security Council report condemned the arbitrary detention and torture, kidnappings, abductions and forced disappearances of civilians, and demanded the immediate end of these practices and the release of all arbitrarily detained persons.<sup>77</sup> The Committee against Torture recommended that the State investigate reported enforced disappearances and communicate the results of the investigations to the families of missing persons.<sup>78</sup>

25. The Committee against Torture reiterated its recommendation to unambiguously reaffirm the prohibition against torture and hold personally responsible those participating in torture<sup>79</sup> and to immediately adopt protective measures and provide all victims with redress.<sup>80</sup> The Commission recommended prohibiting and preventing torture, including sexual violence.<sup>81</sup>



26. The Committee against Torture expressed concern about reports of the death in custody of detainees following torture<sup>82</sup>; and the habitual use of torture as a tool, which appeared to be a deliberate part of the State's policy.<sup>83</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned about the reported cases of children who died of torture,<sup>84</sup> and that detained children were still at risk of torture.<sup>85</sup> The Special Representative made related observations.<sup>86</sup>

27. The Committee against Torture was concerned by allegations regarding acts of torture, cruel and inhuman treatment, summary executions and abductions, committed by armed opposition groups.<sup>87</sup>

28. The Committee against Torture and the Secretary-General expressed grave concern about the cruel, inhuman or degrading conditions of detention, including the severe overcrowding of facilities.<sup>88</sup> The Committee expressed grave concern about the reported existence of secret places of detention.<sup>89</sup> Furthermore, it expressed concern about the lack of access for representatives of international organizations to detention places. It recommended establishing a national independent system to monitor detention places and allowing unannounced visits by national and international monitors,<sup>90</sup> and closing any secret detention facilities.<sup>91</sup>

29. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the State to prohibit all forms of violence against women by government forces and affiliated militias and armed groups,<sup>92</sup> and to ensure that sexual violence concerns were raised consistently in the peace process and reflected in any peace agreement.<sup>93</sup>

30. The Committee against Torture expressed concern about the extensive reports of sexual violence committed by public officers, including against male detainees and children.<sup>94</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Special Representative were concerned about cases of children being exposed to rape and sexual abuse while in rehabilitation.<sup>95</sup> The Special Representative requested the Government to prosecute perpetrators of such acts, and provide reparations.<sup>96</sup>

31. The Commission reported that in areas controlled by armed groups, civilians had experienced a relentless assault on their basic freedoms. ISIL enforced its rules summarily, inflicting harsh penalties and discriminating against those who transgressed or refused to accept their self-proclaimed rule. It had perpetrated a widespread and systematic attack against the Kurdish civilian population, amounting to crimes against humanity. The Commission recommended that the State comply with its binding legal obligation to protect its citizens from those crimes and recommended that the international community implement Security Council resolution 2170 and ensure that ISIL members were held accountable.<sup>97</sup> The Commission reported that ISIL had abducted hundreds of Yazidi women and girls, most of whom were sold as "war booty" or given as "concubines" to ISIL fighters, and indicated that dozens had been transported to various locations in the State, where they were kept in sexual slavery.<sup>98</sup> The Special Representative reported that girls had been victims of early and forced marriage to fighters, and Yazidi girls captured in Iraq continued to be trafficked and used as sex slaves.<sup>99</sup> The International Labour Organization (ILO) Committee of Experts urged putting an end to, and fully protecting against, such practices.<sup>100</sup>

32. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern at consistent reports indicating that displaced Syrian women and girls were at heightened risk of sexual violence and sexual exploitation, and of forced marriages and child marriages.<sup>101</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child raised similar concerns<sup>102</sup> and urged that early and forced marriages be prohibited.<sup>103</sup>

33. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned at “honour” crimes.<sup>104</sup> It recommended the repeal of articles 192, 242 and 548 of the Penal Code to end mitigating circumstances for honour crimes.<sup>105</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to ensure that perpetrators of honour crimes were given sanctions commensurate with the gravity of these crimes.<sup>106</sup>

34. The Special Representative reported that the United Nations had verified cases of the recruitment and use of children in hostilities by parties to the conflict. Most of the cases documented involved armed groups, including pro-government armed groups.<sup>107</sup> Abduction of children had become increasingly prevalent, carried out mainly by ISIL. The Special Representative recommended that the Government protect children and prevent their recruitment.<sup>108</sup> The ILO Committee of Experts noted that numerous armed groups were reportedly recruiting children and using them for logistics and as combatants. It noted that ISIL had instrumentalized and abused children on a scale not seen before in the conflict. It urged the Government to ensure the full and immediate demobilization of all children and to stop the forced recruitment of children into armed forces. With reference to Security Council resolution 2068 (2012), it urged the Government to ensure that persons who forcibly recruited children were prosecuted and punished.<sup>109</sup>

35. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to repeal article 170 of the Personal Status Code and the provisions of the Penal Code that authorized corporal punishment.<sup>110</sup>

36. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended expediting the adoption of a national plan to combat human trafficking.<sup>111</sup>

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

37. The Committee against Torture noted the Commission’s finding that “evidence exists that... individuals, including commanding officers and government officials, bear responsibility for crimes against humanity and other gross human rights violations”.<sup>112</sup> The Commission stated that crimes against humanity were being committed by government forces and by ISIL. War crimes by the belligerents were rampant.<sup>113</sup> The Commission recommended that its report be transmitted to the Security Council for the Council to take appropriate action by referring the situation to justice, possibly to the International Criminal Court or an ad hoc tribunal.<sup>114</sup> The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called on all Governments with influence in the State to intervene to stop human rights violations and abuses committed by the warring parties, urging Security Council members who had consistently blocked referral of the State to the International Criminal Court to live up to their responsibilities and refer the State to the Court.<sup>115</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to abolish Legislative Decrees 14/1969 and 69/2008 granting immunity from prosecution to security and intelligence agencies.<sup>116</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child took note of the establishment of a specialized judicial committee to investigate human rights violations committed since the start of the protests.<sup>117</sup>

38. The Commission recommended that the international community adopt stronger remedial and preventative actions in Security Council resolutions, focusing on the suppression of war crimes and combating impunity benefiting ISIL, and engaging international accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, to hold individuals, including ISIL commanders, responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity.<sup>118</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child supported the calls by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General for a prompt, independent, effective and transparent investigation into the human rights abuses committed since March 2011.<sup>119</sup>

39. The Committee against Torture recommended that the State establish an independent commission of inquiry into the serious allegations of human rights violations committed by security forces and armed groups acting under the control or with the consent or acquiescence of State authorities<sup>120</sup> and prosecute and punish those responsible.<sup>121</sup>

40. The Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended raising the legal age of criminal responsibility to at least 12 years.<sup>122</sup>

#### **D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life**

41. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged the State to set the minimum age of marriage at 18 for girls and boys and to repeal the provisions of the Personal Status Code condoning early marriages.<sup>123</sup>

42. It was concerned that birth registration in remote areas was problematic.<sup>124</sup> It urged amendment of the Personal Status Code to recognize all mixed marriages to ensure effective registration of all children.<sup>125</sup>

43. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and UNHCR recommended that the Government adopt legislation permitting women to transmit Syrian nationality to their children and that it apply article 3 (d) of the Nationality Code, to ensure the right to nationality for potentially stateless children born in the country.<sup>126</sup>

#### **E. Freedom of movement**

44. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that consular representatives had denied women activists the renewal of their passports while they were abroad.<sup>127</sup>

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

45. The Commission reported that ISIL had obstructed the exercise of religious freedoms and of freedom of expression, assembly and association, with many residents complaining of the violent acts perpetrated under the guise of corporal *hudud* punishments based on the group's radical interpretation of sharia law.<sup>128</sup>

46. The Committee against Torture expressed its concern about killings of journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders, and the arbitrary arrests of activists as a measure of intimidation and retribution.<sup>129</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned at continued government restrictions on the work of human rights organizations.<sup>130</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the State to release women activists and end impunity for acts such as arbitrary detention, physical abuse and sexual violence.<sup>131</sup>

47. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State adopt the draft law on associations.<sup>132</sup>

48. The ILO Committee of Experts urged the Government to ensure that those who expressed political views or peacefully opposed the established political, social or economic system were not sentenced to imprisonment with the imposition of compulsory labour.<sup>133</sup>

49. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned at the low level of participation of women in political and public life.<sup>134</sup> It urged the State to

ensure the participation of women holding different political views at all stages of the peace process, and to provide opportunities for women's and civil society organizations to contribute to the process as independent actors.<sup>135</sup>

50. UNESCO recommended decriminalizing defamation.<sup>136</sup>

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

51. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned at the pre-conflict discrimination against women in employment. It recommended that the State strengthen its efforts to provide women affected by the conflict with sustainable economic opportunities, in order to promote gender equality.<sup>137</sup>

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

52. The Secretary-General described the scale of the devastation for the Syrian people, which had reached staggering proportions. There were now some 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian or protection assistance, with some 6.5 million people internally displaced.<sup>138</sup>

53. The Committee on the Rights of the Child remained concerned that a sustained strategy to address the structural determinants of poverty was not being adopted.<sup>139</sup> The Secretary-General reported that three out of every four Syrians lived in poverty, that essential services across the country were operating at reduced capacity or were closed, and that unless there was an end to the fighting, living conditions would deteriorate further.<sup>140</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern at the fact that the vast majority of the population in need of humanitarian assistance were women and girls.<sup>141</sup>

54. The Commission stated that since 2011, insecurity, the imposition of sieges, economic sanctions and warfare had seriously impaired the ability of civilians to earn a living and had given rise to parallel economies rooted in opportunism, extortion and the denial of fundamental human rights.<sup>142</sup>

55. The report of the Commission stated that millions of Syrians had little or no access to electricity and running water, which, at times, were deliberately cut, rendering hospitals unable to function.<sup>143</sup>

56. Because of the massive and evolving shelter crisis, the Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons recommended that the Government formulate housing plans to increase shelter options for internally displaced persons.<sup>144</sup> He noted the importance of adequately addressing housing, land and property issues by means of clear policies.<sup>145</sup>

### **I. Right to health**

57. The Special Rapporteur on the right to health noted that more than 5 million people lived in "hard-to-reach" areas. Of these people, almost 600,000 lived in the 18 besieged areas in the State. He noted that medical facilities in besieged areas routinely lacked qualified personnel, equipment and medical supplies.<sup>146</sup> A Security Council report noted that since 1 January 2016, only four World Health Organization requests out of 18 had been approved by the Government to deliver medical supplies.<sup>147</sup> Insecurity and the restrictions imposed by parties had resulted in shortages of qualified medical workers, leaving many people unable to get treatment.<sup>148</sup>

58. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about reports of pregnant women in areas out of the Government's control being denied access to medical care, about restrictions imposed by the State on medical and surgical supplies and aid deliveries in besieged areas, and about lack of access to health care for victims of rape. It recommended expanding the grounds on which abortion was permitted and ensuring that women who were pregnant because of rape had free access to safe abortion services.<sup>149</sup>

## **J. Right to education**

59. The Commission indicated that over 3 million children had ceased to attend classes. Schools in areas of bombardment regularly suspended their operations. Many of the millions out of school may never complete their education. This not only affected the future prospects of Syrian children, but also those of the country and the region.<sup>150</sup> The Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons noted that education must be considered a high priority for internally displaced children.<sup>151</sup>

60. The Special Representative and UNRWA reported that attacks on schools had resulted in over 6,500 schools (and 70 per cent of UNRWA schools) being made inaccessible, having been destroyed or partially damaged or put to use as shelters for internally displaced persons.<sup>152</sup>

61. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that the State develop programmes for conflict-affected girls, to ensure that they could be reintegrated into schools or universities.<sup>153</sup>

## **K. Cultural rights**

62. The report of the Commission stated that when ISIL gained control of the ancient city of Palmyra, it razed millennia-old structures and objects and destroyed funerary busts in Tadmur. The terrorist group destroyed invaluable artefacts in the Palmyra museum, and the Tower of Elahbel.<sup>154</sup>

## **L. Persons with disabilities**

63. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that care and rehabilitation services for children with disabilities were mainly provided by civil society organizations. It urged the State to allocate resources for implementing plans for children with disabilities. It recommended that the State improve the quality of inclusive education.<sup>155</sup>

64. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged the State to address the specific risks and particular needs of internally displaced women with disabilities.<sup>156</sup>

## **M. Minorities**

65. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that Legislative Decree No. 49/2011 regulating the status of Syrian Kurds might benefit only Kurds registered as "foreigners" (*ajanib*).<sup>157</sup> It urged the State to guarantee that all children of Syrian-born Kurdish parents, including children of stateless Kurds (*maktoumeen*), could acquire Syrian nationality.<sup>158</sup>

66. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned by the fate of certain ethnic and religious minorities in the State at the hands of terrorist groups.<sup>159</sup>

## **N. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers**

67. UNHCR noted that laws on the entry and legal status of foreigners did not explicitly address the situation and protection needs of asylum seekers and refugees. UNHCR recommended adopting comprehensive national asylum legislation.<sup>160</sup>

68. UNHCR noted that the majority of the refugees and asylum seekers in the State were from Iraq and were not entitled to work. UNHCR was concerned that the protection situation for refugees had significantly deteriorated, noting that while voluntary repatriation might be an option in individual cases, it was not feasible for the majority of Iraqi refugees.<sup>161</sup>

69. UNRWA reported that prior to 2011, the State was home to 560,000 Palestine refugees. Since the outbreak of the conflict, an estimated 450,000 refugees had remained, some 280,000 of whom were internally displaced and in need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>162</sup> The Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons made related observations.<sup>163</sup> The Committee on the Rights of the Child strongly urged the State to cease military operations within and outside refugee camps and to provide humanitarian agencies with full access to the refugees.<sup>164</sup> As at April 2016, all 29 UNRWA schools in the Yarmouk refugee camp had been closed. UNRWA encouraged the authorities to investigate attacks on schools.<sup>165</sup>

70. The Security Council underscored the critical need to provide for the safe and voluntary return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their home areas and ensure the rehabilitation of affected areas, in accordance with international law, and to take into account the interests of countries hosting refugees.<sup>166</sup> The Commission recommended that the international community respect the principle of non-refoulement and abstain from forcibly returning refugees to the country, unless the conduct of all parties to the conflict improved.<sup>167</sup>

## **O. Internally displaced persons**

71. The Secretary-General reported that displacement had continued throughout the country.<sup>168</sup> The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs noted that more than half the population of the State had been forced to leave their homes — over 10.5 million people — one of the largest population displacements since the Second World War.<sup>169</sup> The Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons stated that by June 2014, close to half the entire population had fled their homes and almost a third of the population had been displaced within the country with the remainder having fled to neighbouring countries.<sup>170</sup> UNHCR estimated that as at December 2015, 6.5 million people were internally displaced.<sup>171</sup>

72. The Special Rapporteur noted that the vast majority of internally displaced persons in the collective centres that he had visited were women, children or elderly people.<sup>172</sup> He recommended that all efforts be undertaken to maintain family unity.<sup>173</sup> He noted that ISIL had waged a campaign of terror in parts under its control, leading to mass displacement, with some civilians displaced multiple times.<sup>174</sup> The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged that accountability mechanisms be put in place in all displacement settings.<sup>175</sup>

73. The Special Rapporteur was particularly concerned about protection issues and assistance challenges associated with specific highly vulnerable groups of internally displaced persons.<sup>176</sup> In regard to internally displaced persons, an extensive and comprehensive mapping of locations, population flows and needs assessments was required to ensure that assistance could be deployed rapidly.<sup>177</sup> Some 50 per cent of civil affairs departments had reportedly been destroyed, and there was a risk of people becoming stateless in the absence of birth registration.<sup>178</sup>

74. UNICEF reported that by May 2016, there were 6,000,000 children affected, including 2,536,316 children displaced outside the country and in need of assistance. UNICEF urged taking effective measures to protect these children from the worst forms of child labour.<sup>179</sup>

75. The Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons emphasized the need for collective displacement facilities to be in safe locations.<sup>180</sup>

## **P. Right to development**

76. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that corruption remained pervasive.<sup>181</sup>

77. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the shortage of resources under the United Nations humanitarian appeals for the country and called upon the international community to ensure that all pledges were fully honoured and additional contributions made.<sup>182</sup>

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

78. The Commission and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women were concerned at reports indicating that most women activists had been detained under the Act on Combating Terrorism. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned at the broad definitions of acts of terrorism, terrorist organizations and financing of terrorism<sup>183</sup> and urged the State to amend its Act on Combating Terrorism.<sup>184</sup>

## **R. Situation in, or in relation to, specific regions or territories**

79. The Committee on the Rights of the Child shared the State's serious concern about the difficulties in ensuring the rights of Syrian children in the occupied Syrian Golan.<sup>185</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, <http://treaties.un.org/>. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on the Syrian Arab Republic from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/12/SYR/2).

<sup>2</sup> The following abbreviations have been used in the present 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
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
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 CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

<sup>3</sup> Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

<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); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); and Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/ihl](http://www.icrc.org/ihl).

<sup>7</sup> Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); and 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 International Committee of the Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/ihl](http://www.icrc.org/ihl).



- <sup>8</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
- <sup>9</sup> ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).
- <sup>10</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 52; and CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 88.
- <sup>11</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 88.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid.; and CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 47.
- <sup>14</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 88.
- <sup>15</sup> Ibid., para. 75 (c).
- <sup>16</sup> See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 5; and CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 42 (c).
- <sup>17</sup> See the UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), paras. 38 and 69.
- <sup>18</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 84.
- <sup>19</sup> See Security Council resolution 2268 (2016). See also resolutions 2042 (2012), 2043 (2012), 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2170 (2014), 2175 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2235 (2015), 2249 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2254 (2015) and 2258 (2015) and the presidential statements of 3 August 2011 (S/PRST/2011/16), 21 March 2012 (S/PRST/2012/6), 5 April 2012 (S/PRST/2012/10), 2 October 2013 (S/PRST/2013/15), 24 April 2015 (S/PRST/2015/10) and 17 August 2015 (S/PRST/2015/15).
- <sup>20</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 18.
- <sup>21</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 13. See also paras. 34 (b), 44 and 58 (g).
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid., para. 84.
- <sup>23</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 20 (a).
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid., para. 20 (b).
- <sup>25</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, paras. 19, 84, 85, 104 and 105. See also the comments by the State, in A/HRC/32/35/Add.6.
- <sup>26</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 2 and 48. See also A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>27</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 154-161. See also CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 38.
- <sup>28</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, paras. 2 and 15.
- <sup>29</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 53.
- <sup>30</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2/Add.1.
- <sup>31</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 24.
- <sup>32</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 46.
- <sup>33</sup> See the letter dated 22 January 2014 from the Committee against Torture addressed to the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva, available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/SYR/INT\\_CAT\\_FUL\\_SYR\\_16176\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/SYR/INT_CAT_FUL_SYR_16176_E.pdf) (accessed on 24 August 2016), and the letter dated 21 December 2012 from the Committee against Torture addressed to the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations Office at Geneva, available from [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/SYR/INT\\_CAT\\_FUL\\_SYR\\_13124\\_E.pdf](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/SYR/INT_CAT_FUL_SYR_13124_E.pdf) (accessed on 24 August 2016). See also A/68/44, pp. 181 and 182.
- <sup>34</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.1.
- <sup>35</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 2.
- <sup>36</sup> For the titles of special procedure mandate holders, see [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx).
- <sup>37</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 8 (b); and A/70/919, para. 74.
- <sup>38</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 21 (b).
- <sup>39</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/1, para. 14 (c).
- <sup>40</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 21 (c).

- <sup>41</sup> Ibid., para. 45 (b). See also CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 55.
- <sup>42</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 46 (b).
- <sup>43</sup> Ibid., para. 37 (a).
- <sup>44</sup> Ibid., para. 46 (a).
- <sup>45</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 14-19, 23, 26-29, 32-37, 48, 50 and 58. See also Security Council resolutions 2249 (2015) and 2254 (2015); and A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>46</sup> See A/70/919, para. 9.
- <sup>47</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 154-161; and Security Council resolution 2268 (2016).
- <sup>48</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 154-161.
- <sup>49</sup> See Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), para. 13; see also resolution 2249 (2015), para. 5.
- <sup>50</sup> See S/2015/862;S/2016/156, paras. 3-6; and S/2016/460, para. 5. See also Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015).
- <sup>51</sup> See S/2016/631, paras. 6, 12, 15 and 18. See also S/2016/156, paras. 3-6. See also Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2258 (2015).
- <sup>52</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, para. 48. See also A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>53</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 154-161.
- <sup>54</sup> See A/RES/68/182.
- <sup>55</sup> See the submission from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 3.
- <sup>56</sup> See Human Rights Council resolution 31/17.
- <sup>57</sup> See A/RES/68/182.
- <sup>58</sup> OHCHR, “UN Committee on the Rights of the Child appalled by killing of Syrian children in alleged chemical attack”, press release, 26 August 2013, available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13660&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13660&LangID=E) (accessed on 24 August 2016).
- <sup>59</sup> OHCHR, “Attacks on medical units in Syria may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity”, press release, 10 June 2016, available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20080&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20080&LangID=E).
- <sup>60</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 58-68. See also A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>61</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para. 103.
- <sup>62</sup> See Security Council resolution 2043 (2012).
- <sup>63</sup> OHCHR, “UN expert urges action to protect millions living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas in Syria”, press release, 4 August 2016, available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20333&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20333&LangID=E).
- <sup>64</sup> See the submission from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 2. On 30 May 2013, ISIL and Al-Nusrah were designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council, in accordance with its resolution 1267 (1999). The two groups operate in the Syrian Arab Republic.
- <sup>65</sup> See S/2016/460, para. 22. See also OHCHR, “UN expert urges action to protect millions living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas in Syria”, press release, 4 August 2016, available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20333&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20333&LangID=E).
- <sup>66</sup> See S/2016/384, paras. 26 and 34. See also OHCHR, “UN expert urges action to protect millions living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas in Syria”, press release, 4 August 2016, available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20333&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20333&LangID=E).
- <sup>67</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, paras. 10 (a) and 11.
- <sup>68</sup> See Security Council resolution 2043 (2012); and A/HRC/31/68, paras. 154-161.
- <sup>69</sup> See General Assembly resolution 68/182, para. 6.
- <sup>70</sup> See General Assembly resolution 70/234, para. 14.
- <sup>71</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 20 (h). See also CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 7; and CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, paras. 6, 37 and 38; and the statement by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, dated 2 September 2011, available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/EarlyWarningProcedure.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/EarlyWarningProcedure.aspx) (accessed on 24 August 2016).

- <sup>72</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 20 (j).
- <sup>73</sup> Ibid., para. 20 (d).
- <sup>74</sup> Ibid., para. 18.
- <sup>75</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 38.
- <sup>76</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 8. See also the statement by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, 27 July 2012, available from [www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/Statements/CEDAWSyriaStatement\\_27072012.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/Statements/CEDAWSyriaStatement_27072012.pdf) (accessed on 24 August 2016).
- <sup>77</sup> See Security Council resolution 2139 (2014).
- <sup>78</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 22 (e).
- <sup>79</sup> Ibid., para. 22 (a).
- <sup>80</sup> Ibid., para. 22 (g).
- <sup>81</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, para. 155 (c). See also A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>82</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 20 (q).
- <sup>83</sup> Ibid., paras. 20 (b) and 21. See also CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 20 (a); and Human Rights Council resolution 31/17, para. 18.
- <sup>84</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 37. See also para. 50.
- <sup>85</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 50.
- <sup>86</sup> See the submission from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 3.
- <sup>87</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 21. See also S/2015/862, paras. 22 and 23.
- <sup>88</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 20 (f); and S/2015/862, para. 20.
- <sup>89</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 20 (g); and S/2015/862, para. 20.
- <sup>90</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, paras. 20 (g) and 22 (c). See also CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 30 (e).
- <sup>91</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 22 (d).
- <sup>92</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 27 (a).
- <sup>93</sup> Ibid., para. 27 (h). See also para. 10 (c), and the statement by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the situation of women and girls in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, 2 October 2014, available from [www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/StatementsChair/StatementOnTheSituationOfWomenAndGirlsInIraqAndSyria.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/StatementsChair/StatementOnTheSituationOfWomenAndGirlsInIraqAndSyria.pdf) (accessed on 24 August 2016).
- <sup>94</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 20 (c).
- <sup>95</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 85 (c), and the submission from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 3.
- <sup>96</sup> See the submission from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 3.
- <sup>97</sup> See A/HRC/27/CRP.3, paras. 20, 21 and 29, and sect. IX, recommendations (a) and (h).
- <sup>98</sup> See A/HRC/28/69, para. 188; and A/HRC/30/48, paras. 59 and 115-118. See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) – Syrian Arab Republic, adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016). See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) – Syrian Arab Republic, adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016).
- <sup>99</sup> See the submission from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 3.
- <sup>100</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) – Syrian Arab Republic, adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016). See also the reports submitted by the Commission to the Human Rights Council, in February and August 2015 (A/HRC/28/69 and A/HRC/30/48).
- <sup>101</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 9 (c).
- <sup>102</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, paras. 67 and 82 (c).
- <sup>103</sup> Ibid., para. 68.
- <sup>104</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 21 (a).

- <sup>105</sup> Ibid., para. 25 (a).
- <sup>106</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 68 (a).
- <sup>107</sup> See the submission from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 3.
- <sup>108</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>109</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) – Syrian Arab Republic, adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016), available from [www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100\\_COMMENT\\_ID:3239976:NO](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3239976:NO). See also S/2014/31, paras. 11-17 and 68; A/68/878-S/2014/339; and A/HRC/28/69, paras. 143 (d), 215 and 216.
- <sup>110</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 54; see also para. 72 (e).
- <sup>111</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 34 (a) and (c). See also CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 83 (a), (d), (e), (f) and (g).
- <sup>112</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 19. See also A/HRC/19/69, para. 87.
- <sup>113</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, para. 148.
- <sup>114</sup> Ibid., paras. 154-161.
- <sup>115</sup> Comment by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 6 May 2016, available from [www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=19927&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=19927&LangID=E). See also the statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, at the side event to the twenty-third session of the Human Rights Council entitled “Syria: the Path to Peace”, which took place on 7 June 2013. Ms. Pillay urged the Security Council to refer the Syrian crisis to the International Criminal Court. She said that sustainable peace would only be possible if accountability and justice prevailed.
- <sup>116</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 52; and CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 27 (d). See also CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 22 (b).
- <sup>117</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 37.
- <sup>118</sup> See A/HRC/27/CRP.3, sect. IX, recommendations (i) and (j).
- <sup>119</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 38.
- <sup>120</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 23 (c).
- <sup>121</sup> Ibid., para. 23 (d). See also CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 8 (c).
- <sup>122</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 86 (a).
- <sup>123</sup> Ibid., para. 31.
- <sup>124</sup> Ibid., para. 43 (d).
- <sup>125</sup> Ibid., para. 44. See also CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 46 (a).
- <sup>126</sup> See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 5; and CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 38. See also CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 42 (b).
- <sup>127</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 29 (d).
- <sup>128</sup> See A/HRC/27/CRP.3, paras. 20, 21 and 29, and sect. IX, recommendations (a) and (h).
- <sup>129</sup> See CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 20 (l) and (r).
- <sup>130</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 28.
- <sup>131</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 30 (a) and (c). See also CAT/C/SYR/CO/1/Add.2, para. 22 (f); and CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 29.
- <sup>132</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 36 (c).
- <sup>133</sup> ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observations concerning ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) – Syrian Arab Republic, adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016). See also Human Rights Council resolution 29/16, para. 5.
- <sup>134</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 35 (b).
- <sup>135</sup> Ibid., para. 14 (a) and (b).
- <sup>136</sup> See the UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), paras. 60 and 75.
- <sup>137</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, paras. 41 and 42.
- <sup>138</sup> See S/2015/862, para. 62.
- <sup>139</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 69.
- <sup>140</sup> See S/2015/862, para. 62.
- <sup>141</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 9 (b).

- <sup>142</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 130 and 131. See also A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>143</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 81-84. See also A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>144</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, paras. 87 and 88.
- <sup>145</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 41.
- <sup>146</sup> OHCHR, “UN expert urges action to protect millions living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas in Syria”, press release, 4 August 2016, available from [www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20333&LangID=E](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20333&LangID=E).
- <sup>147</sup> See S/2016/384, para. 46.
- <sup>148</sup> See S/2015/862, paras. 54 and 59.
- <sup>149</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, paras. 39 (e) and (f) and 40 (f).
- <sup>150</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 69-80. See also A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>151</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para. 99.
- <sup>152</sup> See the submission from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 2; and UNRWA, “Schools on the front line: the impact of armed conflict and violence on UNRWA schools and education services” (2016), pp. 1, 5 and 14. Available from [www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/schools\\_on\\_the\\_front\\_line.pdf](http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/schools_on_the_front_line.pdf). See also the UNRWA statement entitled “UNRWA condemns bombardment killing Palestine refugee woman and destroying school”, available from [www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-condemns-bombardment-killing-palestine-refugee-woman-and-destroying](http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-condemns-bombardment-killing-palestine-refugee-woman-and-destroying).
- <sup>153</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 40 (b).
- <sup>154</sup> See A/HRC/31/68, paras. 85-89 and 109-113. See also A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1, A/HRC/19/69, A/HRC/21/50, A/HRC/22/59, A/HRC/23/58, A/HRC/24/46, A/HRC/25/65, A/HRC/27/60 and A/HRC/30/48.
- <sup>155</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, paras. 61 and 62.
- <sup>156</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 10 (b).
- <sup>157</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 41.
- <sup>158</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 42 (a). See also CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 38 (b).
- <sup>159</sup> Statement by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the situation of women and girls in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, dated 2 October 2014, available from [www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/StatementsChair/StatementOnTheSituationOfWomenAndGirlsInIraqAndSyria.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/StatementsChair/StatementOnTheSituationOfWomenAndGirlsInIraqAndSyria.pdf) (accessed on 24 August 2016).
- <sup>160</sup> See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), pp. 3 and 4. See also CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 75.
- <sup>161</sup> See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), pp. 1 and 2.
- <sup>162</sup> UNRWA, “Schools on the front line: the impact of armed conflict and violence on UNRWA schools and education services” (2016), p. 2. Available from [www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/schools\\_on\\_the\\_front\\_line.pdf](http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/schools_on_the_front_line.pdf).
- <sup>163</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para. 71.
- <sup>164</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 75.
- <sup>165</sup> UNRWA, “Schools on the front line: the impact of armed conflict and violence on UNRWA schools and education services” (2016), pp. 1, 5 and 14. Available from [www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/schools\\_on\\_the\\_front\\_line.pdf](http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/schools_on_the_front_line.pdf). See also the UNRWA statement entitled “UNRWA condemns bombardment killing Palestine refugee woman and destroying school”, available from [www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-condemns-bombardment-killing-palestine-refugee-woman-and-destroying](http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-condemns-bombardment-killing-palestine-refugee-woman-and-destroying).
- <sup>166</sup> See Security Council resolution 2254 (2015).
- <sup>167</sup> See A/HRC/27/CRP.3, sect. IX, recommendation (o).
- <sup>168</sup> See S/2015/862, para. 16.
- <sup>169</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Humanitarian needs overview 2016”, p. 4. Available from [https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/system/files/documents/files/2016\\_hno\\_syrian\\_arab\\_republic.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/system/files/documents/files/2016_hno_syrian_arab_republic.pdf).

- <sup>170</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para. 10.
- <sup>171</sup> See the UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of the Syrian Arab Republic (2016), p. 2.
- <sup>172</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para. 59.
- <sup>173</sup> Ibid., para. 95.
- <sup>174</sup> Ibid., para. 55.
- <sup>175</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 10 (d).
- <sup>176</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para. 63.
- <sup>177</sup> Ibid., para. 93.
- <sup>178</sup> Ibid., para. 33.
- <sup>179</sup> UNICEF, “Syria crisis May 2016 humanitarian results”, p. 1, available from [www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF\\_Syria\\_Crisis\\_SitRep\\_May\\_2016.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_Syria_Crisis_SitRep_May_2016.pdf).  
See also ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) – Syrian Arab Republic, adopted in 2015, published 105th ILC session (2016).
- <sup>180</sup> See A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para. 61.
- <sup>181</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 20.
- <sup>182</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, paras. 12 and 40 (g).
- <sup>183</sup> Ibid., para. 29 (b); and A/HRC/32/35/Add.2, para. 59.
- <sup>184</sup> See CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2, para. 30 (d) and (f).
- <sup>185</sup> See CRC/C/SYR/CO/3-4, para. 7.
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