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| **Thailand written contribution submitted for the 2020 review of the United Nations human rights treaty body system** |

**General**

1. The review should be done in a comprehensive manner with a clear time frame process, in full respect of the independence of the treaty bodies, with full participation of the general membership.

2. The process should also take relevant ideas from previous discussions into account especially the Meetings of treaty body Chairs and member states leading up to this review process as well as replies from UN Member States to questionnaires circulated by OHCHR regarding the review of the implementation of GA resolution 68/268. Contributions of civil society, including NGOs, and National Human Rights Institutions to the review should also be taken into consideration.

3. It should be emphasized that this review process is a follow up of the GA resolution 68/268. In order to take firm next steps and decide on further actions, we will need to go through the GA’s suggestions in the last review process to build on progress achieved and address the challenges that remain.

5. As the treaty-bodies have already adopted most of the suggestions made by the GA in the resolution 68/268, the GA should also follow up on the implementations, such as optimizing interactive dialogue on the implementation of treaty obligations, annual reporting by the treaty bodies to the respective decision-making organs, the elaboration of an aligned methodology for a constructive dialogue with the States parties, as well as enhancing the working methods and the process of the nomination of experts; all while respecting the treaty provisions and the particularity of each treaty body.

6. This review process should result in recommendations that will address the remaining problems particularly in the short-term to help strengthen the system. This should include ways of making the system less burdensome in terms of reporting. A medium-term restructuring and a long-term reform should be the next steps to be taken by each treaty body.

**Alignment of working methods**

7. Resolution 68/268 invites the human rights treaty-bodies and the OHCHR, within their respective mandates, to “continue to work to increase coordination and predictability in the reporting process, including through cooperation with the States parties, with the aim of achieving a clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States parties”.

8. The majority of proposals from the State responses to the third biennial questionnaire on GA Res. 68/268 highlighted the need for an alignment of working methods. This review process should echo such proposal and also take views from expert members of the treaty-bodies in this regard as they are in charge of the implementation of how all treaty-bodies could adopt a more unified approach for reporting.

9. Thailand welcomes the recent practice that some of the human rights treaty bodies have worked together in co-developing general comments on cross-cutting issues and encourages more treaty-bodies to adopt such approach.

**Reporting**

10.Thailand welcomes the newly adopted measure that*all* treaty bodies agreed to offer the simplified reporting procedure (SRP) to all States parties for periodic reports and may do so for initial Reports[[1]](#footnote-1). All treaty bodies offering the SRP for initial reports will develop a standard list of issues prior to reporting (LOIPR). We hope that all treaty bodies can standardize the use of SRP to avoid any confusion that might happen in reviewing States parties’ reports.

11.An innovative approach can be continuously explored, including “a stronger, simpler monitoring system” [[2]](#footnote-2) announced by the Chairpersons of the treaty bodies in July last year to streamline reporting.

12. The common core document could be useful so long that it provides updated information and does not duplicate information provided in the treaty-specific documents indispensable for the work of each committee.

13. The concluding observations and recommendations made by each treaty body at the end of consideration of States parties periodic reports should be short, focused and concrete, bearing in mind the particularity and mandate of each treaty body and the requirements of each of the initial or periodic reports considered.

**Financial Resources**

14. Given the UN existing financial situation, optimization of resources for the treaty bodies is welcomed to the extent that they do not alter the distinct function, uniqueness and the particularity of each of the treaty bodies, not only as underlined by GA resolution 68/268, but—above all—as prescribed in the respective human rights treaties.

15. We would like to underline the importance of practical and innovative solutions that are cost-effective for the system while bringing States party reviews closer to Governments and rights-holders especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. For instance, through greater use of information and communications technologies and remote participation.

**Current system of processing information**

16. While respecting the human rights treaty bodies’ use of different sources of information in formulating questions for State parties, Thailand is concerned about the impression expressed by several agencies that some of the concluding observations and recommendations of the human rights treaty bodies relied on the insufficiently fact-checked information often received from unofficial sources.

17. Thailand suggests that the human rights treaty bodies adopt concrete measures to ensure a balanced approach and sufficient context-specific understanding of committee members in considering the information made available by various sources, with a view to drawing useful and relevant concluding observations for States parties.

**The Functionality of Treaty Bodies**

18. The role of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies regarding decisions related to working methods and alignment of procedures should be strengthened to facilitate coordination and harmonization of the organizational work, within the scope and the mandate of each treaty body.

19. Treaty bodies should be encouraged to continue to progress in the direction of harmonizing their working methods especially aligned methodology for a constructive dialogue with the States parties to increase efficiency and to help State parties to follow, bearing in mind their respective mandates’ particularity and requirements.

**Dialogue**

20. Treaty bodies may elaborate harmonized guidelines for dialogues, including through a coordinated approach, including within the framework of the simplified reporting procedure. It is also important to find ways to avoid spending too much time and resources on the issues already resolved, which were previously addressed by and updated to other treaty bodies. This will help reduce the burden on both treaty bodies and the States parties.

21. Questions posed should focus on the issues in the implementation of treaty obligations in order to allow for in-depth discussion with States parties. Meeting time for dialogue with a State party has to be allocated in such a manner as to ensure a more interactive and more productive dialogue.

22. Committee members should also be in a position to recommend examples of best practices drawn from other States parties. Dialogue at the consideration of the report should also serve as a platform to exchange views and good practices, and not only a question-and-answer session. In this regard, the human rights treaty bodies are also encouraged to compile good practices and lessons learned and share them with States parties.

**Capacity building program**

23. The work of the human rights treaty bodies and the OHCHR in building States parties’ capacity to implement their treaty obligations, as listed under paragraph 17 of the resolution, particularly through strengthening cooperation with relevant regional human rights mechanisms. Efforts such as building and developing institutional capacity for reporting and strengthening technical knowledge through ad-hoc training on reporting guidelines at the national and regional level, and facilitating the sharing of best practices among States parties should be further explored and encouraged.

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1. Treaty body Chairpersons Position Paper on the future of the treaty body system, July 2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24787&LangID=E [↑](#footnote-ref-2)