Subject: Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on addressing the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls, pursuant to resolution 32/L.25 of the Human Rights Council

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva and has the honour to refer to Resolution 32/L.25 entitled, “Addressing the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls.”

This resolution expressed “concern about the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence,” recognized the need “to integrate and mainstream a gender perspective into relevant policies, strategies and programmes of action,” called upon States to “develop and strengthen comprehensive gender-responsive, multisectoral policies and programmes involving relevant authorities, in sectors such as justice, health, social services, education and child protection services, as well as relevant non-State actors,” and requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to “prepare a report on the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls, with a view to identifying challenges and good practices, including, as appropriate, the contributions of the universal periodic review, and to present it to the Council at its thirty-fifth session.”

Accordingly, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights would be grateful if all Member States could provide information outlined in the attached questionnaire for the preparation of this report. Submissions should be limited to five pages and sent to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (United Nations Office at Geneva, CH 1211 Geneva 10; Fax. +41 22 917 90 08; Email: registry@ohchr.org) by 12 December 2016.

Please indicate whether the information provided can be made available on the OHCHR website. Any enquiries may be made to Caroline Ouaffo Wafang at couaffowafang@ohchr.org, telephone +41 22 9179881, and Sandra Aragon at saragon@ohchr.org, telephone +41 22 928 9393.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva the assurances of its highest consideration.

26 October 2016
The following questionnaire is aimed at assisting Member States in providing information for the above-mentioned report.

1. Is there any data or research on the prevalence of violence and discrimination against women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; women and girls migrants or asylum seekers; women and girls survivors of trafficking or sexual and gender based violence; indigenous women and girls; women and girls of African descent or belonging to other groups facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance?

2. Please provide information on promising practices and initiatives to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, particularly with regard to the above-mentioned list? In answering Member States may wish to take the following into consideration:

   a. Does your country have a national legislation, policy, strategy which addresses multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance?

   b. Are there specific and/or multisectoral measures, policies or programs of action in place to prevent and address violence against women and girls facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance?

   c. Does your country have comprehensive gender responsive multisectoral programmes involving relevant authorities and non-state actors in sectors such as justice, social services, education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, and child protection services? Is there a budget allocated for this purpose and a specific governmental body assigned with this issue? How do those programmes take into account the specific situation and needs of women and girls belonging to the above mentioned groups or other groups facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance?

   d. Please share information on programmes and initiatives implemented by governmental bodies, civil society organizations, women’s groups and networks, community based organizations, private sector, media to address harmful attitudes and stereotypes that perpetuate multiple and intersecting forms of gender discrimination, racism, racial xenophobia and related intolerance, and related violence against women and girls?

3. What are the mechanisms in place to ensure the meaningful participation of women and girls belonging to groups facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in decision making at all levels?
4. Please provide information on measures adopted to empower, inform, develop knowledge, skills and abilities of women and girls facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly the list mentioned above, to prevent, and to mitigate the impact of discrimination and violence on the full enjoyment of all their rights.

5. What measures are in place to ensure redress and promote recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of women and girls who have suffered discrimination and violence, particularly women and girls belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; women and girls migrant or asylum seekers; women and girls survivors of trafficking or sexual and gender based violence; indigenous women and girls; women and girls of African descent or belonging to other groups facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance?

6. Are there measures to building the capacity of key actors and professionals from the health, social, education, judicial, law-enforcement, migration, refugee and asylum, employment sectors in responding to the specific needs of women and girls at risk or affected by multiple and intersecting discrimination and violence?

7. What are the challenges in addressing the needs of girls and women facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, particularly the above mentioned list, in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies?

8. What is the actual or potential contribution of the Universal Periodic Review in tackling the issue?