



# International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Distr.: General  
18 February 2026  
English  
Original: Spanish  
English, French and Spanish only

## Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

### 117th session

Geneva, 13 April–1 May 2026

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports, comments and information submitted by States Parties under article 9 of the Convention**

## List of themes in relation to the combined twenty-second to twenty-sixth periodic reports of Cuba

### Note by the Country Rapporteur

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination decided at its seventy-sixth session<sup>1</sup> that the Country Rapporteur would send to the State Party concerned a short list of themes, with a view to guiding and focusing the dialogue between the State Party's delegation and the Committee during the consideration of the State Party's report. The present document contains a list of such themes. It is not an exhaustive list; other issues may also be raised in the course of the dialogue. No written replies are required.

### Demographic composition of the population

2. Up-to-date disaggregated data on the demographic and ethnic composition of the population and indicators on its socioeconomic situation, particularly for the population of African descent. Information on measures taken to systematically incorporate ethnicity, as well as self-identification questions, in population and housing censuses, household surveys and the data collection and administrative records of public institutions and subnational governments.<sup>2</sup>

### The Convention in domestic law and the institutional and policy framework for its implementation (arts. 1, 2, 4 and 5)

3. In the light of article 8 of the State Party's Constitution, information on the status of the Convention in the domestic legal system and the possibility for the provisions of the Convention to be directly invoked before domestic courts. Information on cases in which the provisions of the Convention have been invoked before the courts of the State Party or directly applied by them. Additional information on any training on the Convention provided to law enforcement officials, public defenders, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, justice system officials and other public officials.<sup>3</sup>

4. Measures taken or envisaged to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation containing a clear definition of racial discrimination, including direct, indirect, multiple and

<sup>1</sup> [A/65/18](#), para. 85.

<sup>2</sup> [CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21](#), paras. 9 and 10; [CERD/C/CUB/22-26](#), paras. 16, 210 and 211.

<sup>3</sup> [CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21](#), paras. 7 and 8; [CERD/C/CUB/22-26](#), paras. 8, 17–19 and 204–209.



intersecting forms of such discrimination, covering all fields of law and public life and all grounds of discrimination referred to in article 1 (1) of the Convention.<sup>4</sup>

5. Additional information on measures taken to criminalize acts of racial discrimination and all the conduct described in article 4 of the Convention, including the provision of support and funding for such conduct, on all the prohibited grounds enumerated in article 1 of the Convention.<sup>5</sup>

6. Measures taken to prevent and combat racist hate speech, hate crimes and incitement to racial hatred and xenophobia, including in the media and on the Internet and social media platforms. Updated information on the processing by the State Party's civil, administrative and criminal courts of cases related to racist hate crimes and speech and acts of incitement to racial hatred, including in the media and on the Internet and social media platforms. Measures taken to facilitate the reporting and investigation of hate crimes, including the establishment of a collection and storage system for disaggregated data.

7. Updated information on the measures adopted or envisaged to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).<sup>6</sup>

8. Additional information on the National Commission against Racism and Racial Discrimination "Color Cubano", including its mandate, trends in the human, financial and technical resources allocated to it since its establishment, the ethnic diversity of its staff and its presence across the country, particularly in remote areas of the State Party's territory.<sup>7</sup> Information on measures taken to ensure effective coordination between the National Commission and other institutions promoting and protecting human rights and on cooperation with civil society organizations and human rights defenders, in particular organizations of persons of African descent and those dedicated to combating racial discrimination.

9. Information on the status and results of the National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination in terms of established goals and indicators, monitoring mechanisms and the human, financial and technical resources allocated for its implementation.<sup>8</sup> Information on the participation of groups particularly exposed to racial discrimination in the assessment of the implementation and results of the aforementioned National Programme, in particular the population of African descent.

10. Additional information on activities organized in the State Party within the framework of the first International Decade for People of African Descent, progress in planning actions and activities for the second International Decade and participation of groups particularly exposed to racial discrimination, especially persons of African descent, in the design, implementation and follow-up of these initiatives.<sup>9</sup>

#### **Situation of persons of African descent (arts. 2 and 5)**

11. Implementation of measures, including special measures and affirmative action, to address the structural and multiple forms of discrimination and inequality in various public and private settings that affect the population of African descent and to ensure the effective enjoyment of their rights throughout the territory of the State Party.<sup>10</sup> Impact of these measures and the participation of the aforementioned population in their design, implementation and evaluation.

<sup>4</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 15 and 16; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 8, 17–19 and 230.

<sup>5</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 15 and 16; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 31–35, 46–50 and 230–237.

<sup>6</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 11 and 12; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, para. 212.

<sup>7</sup> CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 10–12, 212, 213, 250, 257–259 and 262.

<sup>8</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 19 and 20; Committee's follow-up letter dated 24 November 2020; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 10–12 and 249–263.

<sup>9</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, para. 37; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 305–312.

<sup>10</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 17 and 18; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 250 and 254–256.

12. Information on measures taken to increase the participation of persons of African descent, in particular women of African descent, in political and public affairs at all levels of government and in decision-making positions in both the public and private sectors.<sup>11</sup> Results of these measures, supported by statistical data.

13. Measures taken to prevent and investigate excessive use of force and arbitrary arrests and to punish by law enforcement officials who engage in such conduct, particularly against persons of African descent who organize or participate in peaceful demonstrations in defence of their rights, and information on reparations granted to victims or their families.<sup>12</sup> Up-to-date detailed information on the ethnic or national origin of persons deprived of liberty and on measures taken to ensure that detention records include information on ethnic or national origin and descent.<sup>13</sup>

14. Measures taken and planned, including at the legislative level, to prevent, address and explicitly prohibit racial profiling by law enforcement personnel and other public officials, on disciplinary or criminal penalties imposed in the context of investigating cases of racial profiling and punishing the perpetrators and on compensation awarded to victims.

15. Measures taken to ensure the full enjoyment of civil and political rights, in particular the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, on an equal footing and without discrimination, by persons of African descent, especially activists, human rights defenders, journalists and artists.<sup>14</sup> Steps taken to effectively protect human rights defenders, journalists, activists and artists, including those of African descent, against reprisals, intimidation, threats, violence and criminalization for their activities to defend human rights and combat inequality and racial discrimination.<sup>15</sup>

16. Information on measures taken to reduce poverty and inequities among the population of African descent and to ensure that persons belonging to this population group enjoy effective access, on equal terms and without discrimination, to education, housing, health services, employment and basic services.<sup>16</sup> Impact of such actions, illustrated by trends in the group's socioeconomic situation in recent years.

17. Additional information on measures taken to combat inequities, multiple and interrelated forms of discrimination, and violence, including gender-based violence, faced by women and girls of African descent.<sup>17</sup>

#### **Situation of refugees, asylum-seekers and other non-nationals (arts. 2 and 5)**

18. Measures taken or planned to bring national legislation, including article 282 of the Criminal Code, which criminalizes illegal entry into the territory of the State Party, fully into line with international obligations relating to the protection of the human rights of migrants.<sup>18</sup> Information on the measures taken to facilitate the integration of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers and to ensure adequate protection of their human rights, including the effective enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>11</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 17 and 18; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 70–82 and 118.

<sup>12</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 31 and 32; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 293–301.

<sup>13</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 23 and 24; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 269–281.

<sup>14</sup> CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 114–120, 196 and 197.

<sup>15</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 13 and 14; Committee's follow-up letter dated 24 November 2020; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 114–120, 196, 197 and 214–229.

<sup>16</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 17 and 18; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 129–151, 161–167, 183, 190–195, 238–248 and 254–256.

<sup>17</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 25 and 26; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 102 and 282–284.

<sup>18</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 27 and 28; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 285 and 286.

<sup>19</sup> CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 285 and 286.

19. Impact of measures taken to combat trafficking in persons, particularly for purposes of labour or sexual exploitation, including the National Plan of Action to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons and Protect Victims for the period 2023–2026. Updated information on victims of trafficking in persons, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnic group and nationality, and on investigations, convictions, penalties imposed and the reparation and rehabilitation measures provided to victims.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Access to justice (arts. 5 and 6)**

20. Updated information on cases of racial discrimination and related offences brought before the courts or other national institutions and on the results of the investigations conducted, the penalties imposed and the reparation granted to the victims.<sup>21</sup>

21. Further information on administrative and judicial remedies available for reporting cases or lodging complaints of racial discrimination and related offences.<sup>22</sup> Measures to raise awareness among the population of the State Party of the rights enshrined in the Convention and the complaint mechanisms and judicial and non-judicial remedies available to it in cases of racial discrimination. Measures to guarantee access to justice, in particular measures taken to make it easier to file complaints in cases of racial discrimination and to reverse the burden of proof in favour of the victims. Measures aimed at removing obstacles in the judicial system that hinder victims' access to justice, including the complexity of procedures, the lack of specific measures to provide information on remedies and the distance to justice centres.

#### **Training, education and other measures to combat prejudice and intolerance (arts. 5 and 7)**

22. Additional information on measures taken to strengthen human rights education, in particular education on the Convention and the fight against racial discrimination and xenophobia, in school curricula and training programmes for teachers and other education professionals in the public and private sectors.<sup>23</sup> Information on the representation of persons of African descent and migrants in textbooks and curricula at all levels and on measures taken to promote knowledge and awareness of the cultural heritage and history of these groups and their contribution to the State Party's society and culture. Initiatives to address the history of slavery and its consequences, including in curricula at all levels.

23. Additional information on measures taken to prevent and combat the dissemination of stereotypes, discriminatory practices, racial prejudice and xenophobia, including in the media and on social networks.<sup>24</sup> Measures to raise awareness among the public, civil servants and law enforcement officials of the importance of cultural diversity, tolerance and inter-ethnic understanding.

---

<sup>20</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 29 and 30; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 287–292.

<sup>21</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 21 and 22; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, para. 180.

<sup>22</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 21 and 22; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 54–65, 178–181 and 264–268.

<sup>23</sup> CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 182–189, 222–229 and 313–318.

<sup>24</sup> CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21, paras. 33 and 34; CERD/C/CUB/22-26, paras. 173–175, 222–229, 302 and 313–318.