



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

### Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of Germany\*

1. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights considered the sixth periodic report of Germany (E/C.12/DEU/6) at its 31st and 32nd meetings (see E/C.12/2018/SR.31 and 32), held on 25 September 2018, and adopted the present concluding observations at its 58th meeting, held on 12 October 2018.

#### A. Introduction

2. The Committee welcomes the sixth report submitted by the State party and the supplementary information provided in the replies to the list of issues (E/C.12/DEU/Q/6/Add.1). The Committee also appreciates the constructive dialogue held with the State party's high-level, interministerial delegation.

#### B. Positive aspects

3. The Committee welcomes the legislative, institutional and policy measures taken to ensure a high level of protection of economic, social and cultural rights in the State party, in particular, the introduction of a national minimum wage in 2015 through the enactment of the Act on the National Minimum Wage (*Mindestlohngesetz*).

#### C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations

##### Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

4. The Committee welcomes the statement of the delegation of the State party that the Government plans to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and it encourages the State party to expedite ratification.

##### State party's obligation in the context of the federal system

5. While noting that the federal system of the State party confers powers and responsibilities, particularly those relating to the realization of the rights covered by the Covenant, to the federal states (*Länder*), the Committee is concerned that the significant disparities in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, inherited from the division of Germany before 1990, continue to persist in spite of determined efforts by the

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\* Adopted by the Committee at its sixty-fourth session (24 September–12 October 2018).



State party to overcome them. The Committee is also concerned about insufficient information and data regarding the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in some *Länder*.

6. **The Committee recalls that decentralization by no means reduces the overall responsibility of the State party to fulfil its obligations under the Covenant (article 29 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties) as the primary duty-bearer. The Committee recommends that the State party undertake further steps with a view to enabling all people, regardless of their place of residence, to enjoy the rights covered by the Covenant in order to reduce existing disparities, including through close monitoring of the implementation of those rights by the federal Government. The Committee also recommends that the State party improve its data-collection system to enable the timely collection of reliable data on the enjoyment of all rights covered by the Covenant in all *Länder*.**

#### **Business and human rights**

7. While welcoming the adoption of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, the Committee is concerned at the exclusively voluntary nature of the corporate due diligence obligations set out in the Action Plan regarding respect for human rights and is also concerned at the lack of monitoring mechanisms in this regard. It is particularly concerned at the fact that the State party would introduce binding legislative measures only if fewer than 50 per cent of all enterprises based in Germany with more than 500 employees have introduced human rights standards into their business processes. This may in effect lead to a regulatory gap for the imposition of corporate due diligence obligations, even when a large proportion of corporations have incorporated such obligations into their business activities.

8. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights by all stakeholders, through a comprehensive and transparent monitoring process. It also recommends that the State party adopt a regulatory framework that ensures that all companies domiciled in the State party or under its jurisdiction identify, prevent and address human rights abuses in their operations not only in Germany but also abroad and that such companies can be held liable for violations.**

9. The Committee is concerned at: (a) the practical obstacles impeding access to justice in the State party by non-nationals whose rights have allegedly been violated by German companies abroad, despite the fact that German law provides for their access to justice and to legal aid; (b) the absence of collective redress mechanisms in the Code of Civil Procedure other than for the protection of consumers' claims; (c) the lack of the criminal liability of corporations under German law; and (d) the lack of disclosure procedures, which makes it extremely difficult for claimants to prove the violation of their rights by an act of a company.

10. **The Committee recommends that the State party take measures, including the provision of enhanced legal assistance for victims and the introduction of collective redress mechanisms in civil proceedings, criminal liability of corporations and disclosure procedures, to guarantee that the victims of human rights abuses by companies domiciled in Germany or under the country's jurisdiction have access to effective remedies and compensation in Germany.**

11. **The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its general comment No. 24 (2017) on State obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of business activities.**

#### **Human rights and international trade and investment agreements**

12. The Committee is concerned that, in the absence of relevant provisions in the European Union Common Agricultural Policy, the State party does not carry out human rights impact assessments in relation to agricultural exports to low-income, food-deficit countries. It is particularly concerned that, even taking into account the phasing-out of

export subsidies, exports of foodstuffs to developing countries may have a negative impact on the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in those countries.

13. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that human rights impact assessments are carried out to assess the overall impact of agricultural exports on developing countries in order to ensure compliance with its Covenant obligations on international assistance and cooperation. It also recommends that the State party make every effort to bring about the amendment of the European Union Common Agricultural Policy regulations in order to align them with the obligations of European Union member States that have ratified the Covenant and to ensure that food exports to developing countries do not threaten the viability of the farming sector in those countries and are consistent with the efforts of those countries to rebuild local food systems and invest in local food production. This requires close monitoring of the impact of agricultural exports.**

14. The Committee is concerned at the data exclusivity provisions imposed on developing countries by the European Union preferential trade agreements, which delay access to affordable generic drugs for persons in those countries, with harmful impacts on their right to health.

15. **The Committee recommends that the State party carry out human rights impact assessments prior to the commencement of negotiations on preferential trade agreements in order to ascertain the impact of data exclusivity provisions on access to affordable generic drugs in developing countries. It also recommends that the State party make every effort to bring about the amendment of European Union procedures to incorporate provisions on carrying out human rights impact assessments prior to commencing negotiations on preferential trade agreements with developing countries. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to paragraph 39 of its general comment No. 14 (2000) on the right to the highest attainable standard of health.**

#### **Obligations of a State party under the Covenant as a State member of international financial institutions**

16. The Committee regrets that the State party, as a State member of international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the European Stability Mechanism, has not sufficiently exercised its great leverage to ensure that the conditionalities that these institutions attach to a loan do not result in unjustified retrogression in the enjoyment of the rights covered by the Covenant in borrowing States.

17. **The Committee recommends that the State party make every effort to exercise its great leverage to ensure that all international financial institutions of which it is a State member ensure that the conditionalities attached to a loan do not lead borrowing States to violate their obligations under the Covenant. In particular, these conditionalities should not lead to the adoption of unjustified retrogressive measures or the violation of core obligations required by the Covenant, or have a disproportionate impact on marginalized individuals and groups. In this regard, it also recommends that the State party ensure that the international financial institutions of which it is a member carry out a human rights impact assessment prior to the provision of a loan to that end. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its statement on public debt, austerity measures and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/2016/1) and the letter on austerity measures sent by the Chair of the Committee to States parties on 16 May 2012.**

#### **Climate change**

18. While noting the State party's domestic commitment to ensuring compliance with its target of reducing emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 compared with 1990 levels, the Committee regrets that the State party is not on course to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for 2020.

19. **The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to reach its greenhouse gas emission targets for 2020 and that it comply with its obligations**

**under article 4 (16) of the Paris Agreement by submitting its 2030 target as its nationally determined contribution.**

#### **Official development assistance**

20. The Committee notes that the State party's official development assistance reached the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income in 2016, owing to the inclusion in the calculation of the costs of accommodating asylum-seekers and migrants in search of international protection. The Committee regrets that it fell short of meeting that commitment in the following year (art. 2 (1)).

**21. The Committee calls on the State party to step up its efforts to meet the official development assistance commitment consistently in future years (art. 2 (1)).**

#### **Discrimination in church-run institutions**

22. The Committee is concerned at the repeated reports of discrimination on grounds of religious belief, sexual orientation or gender identity in employment in non-ecclesiastic positions in church-run institutions, such as schools and hospitals (arts. 2 (2) and 6).

**23. The Committee recommends that the State party review the General Equal Treatment Act, particularly its sections 8 and 9, to ensure that no discrimination is permitted against non-ecclesiastical employees on grounds of religious belief, sexual orientation or gender identity.**

#### **Intersex children and transgender persons**

24. The Committee welcomes the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court of 10 October 2017 concerning the third gender. The Committee is, however, concerned that gender confirmation surgery has continued to be performed on intersex infants and children since the adoption of the Law on Amendments to the Civil Status Act and is also concerned at the lifelong devastating consequences of such surgery on the mental, physical and psychological health and well-being of the children concerned. It is further concerned that gender laws (*Transsexuellengesetz*) in the State party pathologize transgender status (arts. 2 (2) and 12).

**25. The Committee recommends that the State party take necessary measures to prohibit medically unnecessary gender confirmation surgery on intersex infants and children and to provide an enabling environment in which intersex infants and children can develop and in which their preferred gender identity can be respected. It also recommends that the State party revise its gender laws in accordance with international human rights standards and best practice.**

#### **Migrants**

26. The Committee is concerned that section 87 (2) of the Residence Act (*Aufenthaltsgesetz*) obliges public authorities to report undocumented migrants to immigration authorities, which can deter irregular migrant workers from seeking services, such as health care, that are essential for the enjoyment of their rights and from reporting crimes, including domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence (arts. 2 (2) and 12).

**27. The Committee recommends that the State party establish a clear separation ("firewall") between public service providers and immigration enforcement authorities, including through repealing section 87 (2) of the Residence Act, to ensure that irregular migrant workers can access basic services without fear.**

#### **Family reunification of refugees and persons under subsidiary protection**

28. The Committee appreciates the efforts of the State party to host a large number of refugees and other migrants forced to flee their countries. However, the Committee notes with concern that the family reunification for persons entitled to subsidiary protection, which has been possible since 2015 and was reinstated following its suspension between March and July 2018, remains subject to a quota of 1,000 persons per month, although exceptions are allowed for humanitarian reasons. It is concerned at the lack of clarity on the

procedures and criteria for implementing the new regulations. It is further concerned that, under the State party's legislation, unaccompanied minors with refugee status are expected to guarantee the means of subsistence and accommodation for their entire family in cases of family reunification involving minor siblings coming with parents. This leads to an increased number of rejections and deters people from seeking family reunification (arts. 2 (2) and 10).

**29. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that persons entitled to subsidiary protection are allowed to reunite with their families, including by lifting the quota of 1,000 persons per month. It also recommends that the State party improve its family reunification process by providing streamlined and clear procedures and criteria for such reunification and reducing practical and administrative barriers to family reunification; and that it allow both parents and siblings to reunite without hurdles when an unaccompanied minor who is the first family member to arrive in the host State acts as the sponsor.**

#### **Women's representation in decision-making positions**

30. The Committee is concerned at the low representation of women in decision-making positions, particularly in the private sector, and at the ineffectiveness of the Act on the Equal Participation of Women and Men in Executive Positions in the Private Sector and Public Service (2015) in this regard. It is concerned, in particular, that: (a) the statutory quota of at least 30 per cent women on supervisory boards, provided for in the Act, covers only 108 companies; (b) the majority of companies that are obliged to set targets for gender quotas under the Act have not done so; and (c) sanctions for non-compliance are not effective (art. 3).

**31. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to increase women's representation in decision-making positions, and in particular to: (a) expand the scope of the statutory quota of at least 30 per cent women on executive boards and in higher management positions to all private listed companies or private companies that have worker participation in management decision-making; (b) fully enforce and, if necessary, strengthen the sanctions for non-compliance; and (c) provide private companies with strong incentives to further gender equality and combat gender-based discrimination and stereotyping.**

#### **Prevalence of precarious employment**

32. The Committee is concerned at the very large number of people (estimated at 14 million) in various forms of precarious employment such as "mini jobs", temporary agency work, part-time employment, subcontracted employment, short-term service contracts and fixed-term employment. These workers receive low wages, have a low level of social protection and have weakened bargaining power. The Committee is also concerned at the rising number of workers (which currently stands at 1.2 million) relying on social benefits and it is further concerned that only a small proportion of workers manage to move from precarious employment to regular employment (arts. 6 and 7).

**33. The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to create decent jobs and to regularize precarious employment by providing employers with incentives and workers in precarious employment with training to improve their qualifications and with other forms of support, such as care services for children and dependent adults, to support them in taking up full-time jobs, bearing in mind that the majority of these workers are women. It also recommends that the State party ensure that the labour and social security rights of these workers are fully guaranteed in law and in practice and that legislation on the minimum wage is enforced.**

#### **Employment of persons with disabilities**

34. The Committee is concerned at the inadequate level of compliance with the quota of 5 per cent of employees being persons with severe disabilities and at the high incidence of unemployment among persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities. It is also concerned at the increasing number of persons with disabilities working in sheltered workshops, who are provided with limited labour and social protection and do not benefit

from legislation on the minimum wage, and at the low rate of transition from sheltered workshops to the open labour market (arts. 2 (2) and 6).

**35. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure full compliance with the quota for the employment of persons with severe disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, and strengthen the sanctions for non-compliance. It also recommends that the State party ensure that workers in sheltered workshops are fully covered by labour and social protection measures, including the national minimum wage, and that it takes effective measures to facilitate the transition of workers with disabilities from sheltered workshops to the open labour market.**

#### **Minimum wage**

36. The Committee welcomes the introduction of a national minimum wage, which is currently set at 8.50 euros and adjusted every two years. It is, however, concerned that the State party does not have reliable data on compliance with the minimum wage and that a significant number of workers are reportedly paid below the minimum wage (art. 7).

**37. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to ensure that all workers are paid at least the national minimum wage and that the minimum wage is set at a level sufficient to provide workers and their families with an adequate standard of living. The Committee also recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to strengthen the enforcement of the minimum wage. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to paragraph 23 of its general comment No. 23 (2016) on the right to just and favourable conditions of work.**

#### **Gender pay gap**

38. The Committee is concerned that the gender pay gap remains high, at 21 per cent in 2018, mostly owing to persistent vertical and horizontal de facto segregation and the predominant proportion of women in precarious employment. It is also concerned that this leads to a wide gender pension gap (which currently stands at 53 per cent), as well as to a disproportionately high incidence of poverty among older women (arts. 3, 7, 9 and 11).

**39. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to close the gender pay gap, including by: (a) addressing vertical and horizontal de facto segregation; and (b) reviewing its social and tax policies, with a view to addressing the factors that discourage women from continuing their careers or taking up full-time employment. Moreover, the Committee urges the State party to take targeted measures to address the high incidence of poverty among older women.**

#### **Occupational safety and health**

40. The Committee is concerned at the insufficient number of labour inspections conducted in the agricultural sector, in particular in small workplaces, and at the high number of fatal occupational accidents in the sector (art. 7).

**41. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to prevent occupational accidents and diseases, in particular by strengthening labour inspection in the agricultural sector, in particular small workplaces in that sector.**

#### **Domestic workers**

42. Noting that approximately 163,000 caregivers, primarily women migrant workers, are employed in private households in Germany, the Committee is concerned that they are required to work excessive hours without regular rest and are vulnerable to exploitation, that labour inspections are insufficient and that these workers have access to limited and fragmented complaint mechanisms (art. 7).

**43. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that domestic workers, who are mainly employed as caregivers, enjoy the same conditions as other workers as regards remuneration, rest and leisure, limitation of working hours and protection against unfair dismissal. It also recommends that the State party protect them from exploitation and abuse. It further recommends that the State party improve the**

**complaint mechanisms so as to make them easily accessible to these workers and that the State party ensure effective inspection mechanisms to monitor their conditions of work. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to paragraph 47 (f) of its general comment No. 23 (2016) on the right to just and favourable conditions of work.**

#### **Right to strike of civil servants**

44. The Committee remains concerned about the prohibition by the State party of strikes by all public servants with civil servant status, including schoolteachers with this status. This goes beyond the restrictions allowed under article 8 (2) of the Covenant, since not all civil servants can reasonably be deemed to be providers of an essential service (art. 8).

**45. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (E/C.12/DEU/CO/5, para. 20) that the State party take measures to revise the scope of the category of essential services with a view to ensuring that all those civil servants whose services cannot reasonably be deemed as essential are entitled to their right to strike in accordance with article 8 of the Covenant and with the International Labour Organization (ILO) Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87).**

#### **Social security**

46. The Committee is concerned that the level of the basic social benefits is not sufficient to allow recipients and their families to enjoy an adequate standard of living. It is also concerned at the calculation method of the subsistence level, which is based on a sample survey of the expenditure of the lowest-income households and excludes some basic costs. It is further concerned at the sanctions imposed on recipients of the basic social benefits (*Grundsicherung*) for jobseekers under Book II of the Social Code, which cut the benefits by 30 to 100 per cent and particularly affect young people, whose benefits are removed entirely if they are found to have breached their duties (*Pflichtverletzung*). It reiterates its concern at the definition of what is considered as “suitable” employment, which jobseekers are expected to accept (arts. 6, 9 and 11).

**47. The Committee recommends that the State party increase the level of the basic social benefits by improving the calculation methods of the subsistence level, in the light of the judgment of the Federal Constitutional Court of 23 July 2014. It urges the State party to review the sanctions regime in order to ensure that the subsistence minimum is always be applied. It also recommends that the State party expressly define criteria for assessing the suitability of employment, in line with article 21 (2) of the ILO Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Convention, 1988 (No. 168). The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its general comment No. 19 (2007) on the right to social security.**

#### **Care services for older persons**

48. While welcoming the decision to create 13,000 new caregiver positions in hospitals, the Committee is concerned at the chronic shortage of qualified caregivers for older persons in the State party. It reiterates its concern at the situation of older persons living in degrading conditions, including in some nursing homes, and who receive inadequate care owing to a shortage of qualified caregivers (arts. 11 and 12).

**49. The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to secure a sufficient number of qualified caregivers for older persons, in accordance with the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, and ensure that such caregivers enjoy just and favourable conditions of work. It reiterates its previous recommendations (E/C.12/DEU/CO/5, para. 27) that the State party take immediate steps to improve the situation of older persons in nursing homes, allocate the necessary resources to training nursing care personnel and conduct more frequent and thorough inspections of nursing homes. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its general comment No. 6 (1995) on the economic, social and cultural rights of older persons.**

### **Child poverty**

50. The Committee is concerned that 19.7 per cent (2.55 million) of children are living in poverty, the majority of whom are living with a single parent or in families with two or more siblings. It is also concerned that the level of child benefits remains insufficient to meet their basic needs. It is also concerned at reports that some parents, including migrant parents, do not apply for child benefits owing to bureaucratic hurdles or a lack of information about benefits and that the State party does not effectively assess the reasons for people not taking up benefits (arts. 9 and 10).

**51. The Committee recommends that the State party continuously review the adequacy of the child benefit schemes, including standard child benefits, supplementary child allowances and the education and participation package, with a view to eradicating child poverty. It also recommends that the State party collect data on child benefits schemes, including take-up rates, and take the measures necessary to address the difficulties faced by eligible households in accessing the benefits.**

### **Nutrition of school children**

52. The Committee is concerned that, despite measures taken in this regard, many children still go to school without breakfast (arts. 10 and 11).

**53. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that children are provided with school meals, as necessary, while further raising the awareness of parents and children about the need for appropriate nutrition and providing families with support in this regard.**

### **Right to housing**

54. While noting the announcement that the budget allocation to social housing would be increased in the future, the Committee is concerned at the very high level of rents and rent increases; the acute shortage of affordable housing, coupled with the decreased number of apartments available as social housing; and the decreasing and low level of public spending on housing. It is particularly concerned at the very low threshold for housing reimbursement in the basic social benefits, which has led many families on the basic social benefits in metropolitan areas to cut down other basic expenses to pay rent or in some cases rendered such families homeless. It is also concerned at reports that the number of persons without adequate housing has constantly increased, reaching 1.2 million. The Committee regrets the absence of official data on the prevalence of homelessness and the lack of shelters to accommodate homeless persons (arts. 9 and 11).

**55. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

**(a) Increase the provision of affordable housing units, especially for the most disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups;**

**(b) Continue to increase the level of public funding in the housing sector;**

**(c) Increase the threshold for housing reimbursement under the basic social benefits to reflect market prices;**

**(d) Reduce the level of homelessness and ensure adequate provision of reception facilities, including emergency shelters and hostels, as well as social rehabilitation centres;**

**(e) Collect data, disaggregated by gender, ethnicity and other relevant criteria, on the scope and the extent of homelessness in the State party and establish an effective means of monitoring the situation of homelessness;**

**(f) Take appropriate measures to counteract the impact of speculation in urban residential accommodation on access to affordable housing.**



### Access to electricity

56. The Committee is concerned at reports that a large number of households, particularly those receiving the basic social benefits, experience energy poverty and that 328,000 households were affected by power shutdowns in 2016 owing to unpaid bills (art. 11).

**57. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt effective measures to ensure that all households are able to meet their basic electricity needs, thus avoiding power shutdowns for households that are unable to pay for their minimum needs.**

### Right to health

58. The Committee is concerned that, under the Act on Benefits for Asylum Applicants, asylum-seekers' access to health care is restricted to acute and painful conditions for the first 15 months of their stay in Germany and that their access to health care is further limited owing to the lack of a clear definition of or guidelines on "other essential health-care services", which, under the Act, are provided in exceptional cases, or "acute and painful conditions" (art. 12).

**59. The Committee recommends that the State party take all measures necessary to ensure that all persons in the State party, including asylum-seekers, have equal access to preventive, curative and palliative health services, regardless of their legal status and documentation, and review the Law on Basic Unemployment Benefits for Non-Nationals and the Act on Benefits for Asylum Applicants accordingly. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its statement on the duties of States towards refugees and migrants under the Covenant (E/C.12/2017/1).**

### Right to education

60. While acknowledging the efforts made by the *Länder* and municipalities to improve access to education, the Committee is concerned at the persisting challenges in the education sector, in particular:

(a) The nationwide shortage of teachers, which has an impact on the availability, accessibility and quality of education;

(b) The continuing high number of students with disabilities who are in special schools rather than integrated into the normal school system;

(c) The obstacles that refugee and asylum-seeking children face in having access to education, which vary considerably from *Land* to *Land* and from municipality to municipality (arts. 13 and 14).

**61. The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Secure a sufficient number of trained and qualified teachers and ensure that those who fill the gaps as an interim measure are adequately trained and certified before assigning them to schools;**

(b) **Continue to roll out the inclusive education programme and encourage the enrolment of children with disabilities in inclusive schools;**

(c) **Continue its efforts to ensure that refugee and asylum-seeking children start their education as soon as possible upon arrival in the country and ensure equal and quality education for them across the country.**

## D. Other recommendations

62. **The Committee recommends that the State party consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.**

63. **The Committee recommends that the State party take fully into account its obligations under the Covenant and ensure the full enjoyment of the rights enshrined**

therein in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level. Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals would be significantly facilitated by the State party establishing independent mechanisms to monitor progress and treating beneficiaries of public programmes as rights holders who can claim entitlements. Implementing the Goals on the basis of the principles of participation, accountability and non-discrimination would ensure that no one is left behind.

64. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to progressively develop and apply appropriate indicators on the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to facilitate the assessment of progress achieved by the State party in complying with its obligations under the Covenant for various segments of the population. In that context, the Committee refers the State party to, *inter alia*, the conceptual and methodological framework on human rights indicators developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (see HRI/MC/2008/3).

65. The Committee requests that the State party disseminate the present concluding observations widely at all levels of society, including at the national, provincial and municipal levels, in particular among parliamentarians, public officials and judicial authorities, and that it inform the Committee in its next periodic report about the steps taken to implement them. The Committee encourages the State party to engage with the German Institute for Human Rights, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society in the follow-up to the present concluding observations and in the process of consultation at the national level prior to the submission of its next periodic report.

66. In accordance with the procedure on follow-up to concluding observations adopted by the Committee, the State party is requested to provide, within 24 months of the adoption of the present concluding observations, information on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 49 (relating to care services for older persons), 51 (relating to child poverty) and 55 (b) and (c) (relating to the right to housing).

67. The Committee requests the State party to submit its seventh periodic report, to be prepared in accordance with the reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee in 2008 (E/C.12/2008/2), by 31 October 2023. In addition, it invites the State party to update its common core document, as necessary, in accordance with the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties (see HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I).

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