

Every Woman Treaty
ZERO DRAFT
Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

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Preamble

The States Parties to the present binding Convention,

Affirming the global commitment to prevent, protect, eliminate and condemn all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages, which is a violation of their basic right to live a life free from violence across their life cycle, in every sphere, including but not limited to public, private and online locations,

Welcoming Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 and its indicator 5.2, which calls on States to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation,

Recalling that the rights of women and girls have been recognized in international and regional human rights instruments, notably in the:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Optional Protocol;
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
Convention on the Rights of the Child;
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime;
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women;
Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict;
UN Principles for Older Persons and Madrid International Plan on Ageing;
UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
UN General Assembly Resolution on Sexual Harassment;
UN Commission on the Status of Women's 2013 Agreed Conclusions on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls;
UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2016, 2122, 2242, 2272, 2467; and
ILO's Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) and Recommendation (No. 206) as well as the following regional instruments:
Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women;
Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam;
Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;
Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence; and
ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region;

Welcoming the general recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) regarding violence against women Nos 12 (1989), 19 (1992), 30 (2013), and 35 (2017),

Welcoming also the general comments of the Committee against Torture (CAT Committee) of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment Nos 2 (2008) and 3 (2012),

Acknowledging that the prohibition of violence against women and girls has evolved into a principle of customary international law, as reflected by legal opinion (*opinio juris*) and State practice,

Nevertheless, deeply concerned that despite these goals, instruments, and statements, normative gaps exist and that extensive, endemic, and systemic violence against women and girls of all ages persists without adequate multi-sectoral community responses, implementation, monitoring measures including dedicated data collection and analysis, access to justice, and services including but not limited to prevention education,

Proclaiming that violence against women and girls of all ages violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human safety and dignity, hampers the growth and prosperity of societies and the family, and impedes the full development of the potentialities of women and girls,

Highlighting that in many parts of the world, girls and women of all ages have the least access to food, water and nutrition, health, safety, education, training, jobs and income-generating opportunities, justice, governance, and political processes and that this is exacerbated by extensive, endemic and systemic violence against women and girls in situations of poverty, armed conflict, war, transitional, transnational and extranational contexts as well as climate emergencies,

Stressing the role of men and boys as part of the solution in frameworks to eliminate violence against women and girls,

Resolved that the adoption of a binding Convention on the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages within the human rights framework will strengthen the protection of the rights of women and girls and ensure continued, successful implementation of laws, policies, and measures by States Parties so that violence-free societies are established and maintained for the wellbeing of all human beings,

Have agreed as follows:

PART 1 - Purposes, Definitions, General Principles & General Obligations

Article 1

With a view to filling the normative gaps in the current legal instruments, the purposes of this Convention are to:

- 1) elucidate the norms to prevent, protect, eliminate and condemn all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages, during their life cycle in public, private, online, and all other spheres;
- 2) provide guidance for States Parties to design comprehensive and inclusive frameworks, policies, and measures to enable an effective and measurable multi-sectoral community response for the prevention, protection, elimination, and condemnation of all forms of violence against women and girls, with particular consideration given to marginalized individuals and communities to include those living with intersecting issues of race, color, language, religion, political or other opinions, nationality, national or social origin, ethnicity

and indigenous status, property, marital status or widowhood, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status, migrant or refugee status, age or disability that are additional dimensions of disadvantage;

- 3) offer States Parties guidance on inclusive frameworks for bilateral, multilateral, regional, and international cooperation to eliminate violence against women and girls;
- 4) support States Parties to offer knowledge and training to government and non-government organizations, including but not limited to the justice and law enforcement sector, security sector, health sector, social services, education sector, local government, the world of work and media, in order to cooperate effectively and implement in practice an integrated multi-sectoral community response to end violence against women and girls;
- 5) lay down comprehensive and measurable monitoring and reporting guidelines for States Parties to prevent, protect, eliminate and condemn all forms of violence against women and girls; and
- 6) establish an independent monitoring body to which States Parties shall submit cyclical reports on the application of this binding Convention in law and in practice.

Article 2: Definitions

- 1) **Violence** refers to a range of unacceptable behaviors and practices, or threats of such acts, whether a single occurrence or repeated, that aim at, result in, or are likely to result in physical, psychological, sexual, emotional, or economic harm.
- 2) **Violence against women and girls** is a behavior or threats of such acts, whether a single occurrence or repeated, that restricts or nullifies the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls of all ages and prevents them from obtaining equality and self-fulfillment. Violence against girls and women (VAWG in this draft) applies to all forms of violence against women and girls and includes abetment or acquiescence of such violence and the omission to prevent or stop the commission of such behavior.
- 3) **Violence with particular reference to women and girls with disabilities** includes practices such as forced institutionalization; forced and coerced sterilization; forced and coerced abortion; forced removal of children on the basis of their mother having disabilities; forced contraception; forced and coerced psychiatric interventions; forced imposition or withholding of medication; withdrawal of essential technical aids; denial of provision of essential care; medical exploitation; chemical and physical restraint; violations of privacy; forced isolation; seclusion; deprivation of liberty; humiliation; and denial of their legal capacity.
- 4) **Domestic violence** refers to physical and sexual violence and coercive control, applied as an act or pattern of acts of assault, sexual coercion, threats, neglect, humiliation, and intimidation, or other abuse that are used to harm, punish or frighten a person. This control includes a range of acts designed to make the targeted persons subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance, and escape, and regulating their everyday behavior.
- 5) **Girl child** is defined as under 18 years of age.
- 6) **Harmful practices** are practices in every sphere including the public, private and online domains that exclude, restrict, impair or nullify the fundamental human rights and equality of women and girls in relation to men and boys including, but not limited to, child and early marriage, forced marriage, FGM, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection, virginity testing,

HIV-Aids cleansing, so-called “honour” crimes, acid attacks, crimes committed in relation to bride-price and dowry, widow maltreatment, forced pregnancy, and trying females for witchcraft, whether perpetrated by non-State or State actors.

7) **Human rights** are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, nationality, national or social origin, ethnicity and indigenous status, property, marital status or widowhood, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status, migrant or refugee status, age or disability or any other characteristic. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone without discrimination is entitled to these rights.

8) **Inclusive** is used to emphasize that all people are valued, heard, and treated equally.

9) **Indigenous** includes:

a) tribal peoples in independent countries whose social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations;

b) peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonization or the establishment of present State boundaries and who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions; and

c) peoples who self-identify as indigenous or tribal, as this is a fundamental criterion.

10) **Marginalised** describes those persons or groups who experience persistent inequality and adversity resulting from discrimination, social stigma, and stereotypes often linked to or arising from a particular circumstance in their lives.

11) **Highly marginalized** denotes the situation where persons or groups suffer extreme forms of violence experienced concurrently by them with consistent levels of inaccess to justice and services, thus creating unlivable, untenable, and extremely dangerous circumstances for these persons or groups compared to others.

12) **Multi-sectoral community response** refers to a response that involves all sectors of communities, and survivors and can be at the national, provincial, or local government and municipal levels.

13) **Older women** are defined as 60 years of age or older.

14) **Sexual harassment in the world of work** refers to unwelcome physical, verbal and non-verbal behaviors of a sexual nature, or threats of such acts, whether a single occurrence or repeated, that involve a demand for sexual favors as a condition for gaining or remaining in employment (quid pro quo harassment), or create a hostile, intimidating or humiliating work environment.

15) **Sphere** is the location where violence is perpetrated, whether that location be public, private, urban, rural, workplaces, educational institutions, homes, prisons, transport, online, virtual or other.

16) **State actors** include but are not limited to persons and entities, whether formal, informal or customary, which exercise State authority or jurisdiction as the public administration, security and justice providers, dispute, mediation and oversight bodies, or any other legal actors, entities or systems representing the State.

17) **Non-State actors** include but are not limited to persons and entities, whether legal entities, customary or informal communities, such as businesses, academic institutions, think tanks, media and communication technologies, not directly operating as a representative or quasi-representative of the State and include:

- a) parents, grandparents, extended family members;
- b) community members;
- c) faith-based leaders or representatives;
- d) health care workers;
- e) members of non-governmental or other civil society organizations;
- f) academics and researchers enjoying intellectual independence.

18) **Torture** is defined as cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, whether perpetrated by State or non-State actors in all spheres including public, private and online locations.

19) **Transitional justice** is the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with an attempt to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past abuses, in order to ensure accountability, deliver justice, achieve reconciliation and prevent any recurrence.

20) **Women and girls with a disability** refers to persons who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Article 3: Scope

1) This Convention shall apply to all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages in times of peace and situations of conflict, pre- and post-conflict.

2) This binding Treaty shall apply to all forms of harmful practices on women and girls of all ages.

3) This binding Treaty shall apply to all forms of State and non-State torture on women and girls of all ages.

4) This Convention shall:

- a) apply to all women and girls, at every life stage, without discrimination on the grounds listed in Article 2(7); and
- b) cover targeted measures for particular groups of women and girls to include marginalized and highly marginalized communities where requested, specified or appropriate so as to effectively prevent, protect, eliminate and condemn all forms of violence against women and girls.

Article 4: General Principles of the Convention

These general principles set, as a minimum, that

- 1) All women and girls have the right to life, liberty, dignity, and security of the person, and a life cycle free from violence.
- 2) The right of women and girls to a life free from violence is indivisible from and interdependent with other human rights, including the right to life, liberty, dignity and security of person; the right to health; the right to equality and equal protection within the family; the right to freedom from torture; the right to work and to education, and the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, movement, participation, assembly and association.
- 3) All women and girls have the right to an effective remedy by the competent national procedures, including tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted them by this binding Convention.
- 4) All women and girls are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.

Article 5: State Obligations

- 1) States shall refrain from engaging in all acts of violence against women and girls in every sphere and ensure that public authorities, officials, agents and institutions execute a multi-sectoral community response to act in conformity with the general principles above.
- 2) States shall ensure appropriate and inclusive financial and human resources in every sphere for the successful implementation of their national frameworks (policies, laws, and practices) and the general principles above.
- 3) States shall make strong, inclusive, political commitments at the national, regional, and international levels to develop and support comprehensive multi-sectoral measures to eliminate violence against women and girls, taking into consideration:
 - a) the need to take effective measures to protect women and girls from all acts of violence in every sphere or exposure to such acts of violence;
 - b) the need to take inclusive, legal and social measures to prevent the initiation, commission, instigation of and acquiescence in violence against women and girls in all spheres;
 - c) the need to promote well-planned, targeted social programs and media campaigns at all socio-economic levels in all spheres, to raise awareness of the consequences of violence against women and girls; and
 - d) the need to ensure processes for effective judicial intervention in all spheres for all acts of violence against women and girls to control and remedy perpetration of such violence.
- 4) States shall recognize that regional and international cooperation, particularly in the transfer of knowledge and data, sharing of judicial measures and legislation and provision of legal, public health, and social expertise, are important and also shall take into consideration the role of cultural, social, economic and political factors in such cooperation.

Article 6: Inclusion of Survivors and Civil Society

- 1) States shall acknowledge that the participation of survivors, women's groups, and civil society organizations is essential in achieving the objectives of this Convention.

2) States shall consult closely with and actively involve women and girls of all ages, including through non-government organizations, civil society, and survivor stakeholder consultations, in the development and implementation of legislation and policies, to give effect to this Convention, and in other decision-making processes relating to women and girls who subject to or at risk of violence.

3) States shall also involve, as appropriate, an inclusive range of organizations and groups especially those working in the areas of legal aid, gender and development, youth, sexual health, adolescents, and masculinity.

Article 7: Equality and Non-Discrimination

1) It is recognized that, in addition to constituting a violation of women's and girls' human rights, violence against women and girls is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women.

2) Where States condone or ignore inequality and discrimination against women and girls, VAWG is a consequence. Therefore States shall adopt new, or strengthen existing, national policies to end discriminatory situations which have the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by women and girls, irrespective of their marital status or age, of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

3) Culture, custom, religion, tradition, or so-called "honor" may not be applied, invoked or referred to under any circumstance or context to justify or allow any form of harmful practice or violence against women and girls.

Article 8: Comprehensive Legal Coverage

States shall ensure that national legislation is inclusive, multidisciplinary, and comprehensive, criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls and includes prevention, protection, and support for survivors (including health, psychological, economic, and social measures), family members, and witnesses, as well as punishment of perpetrators.

Article 9: State failure deemed condoning

A State that fails to take all appropriate measures to prevent, protect, eliminate and condemn acts of violence against women and girls when its authorities know or should know of the danger of violence, or that fails to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators and to provide reparation to survivors of such acts, is deemed to provide tacit permission or condone such acts of violence which constitute human rights violations.

PART 2 - Prevention and Protection

Article 10: Duty to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls

1) States shall adopt prevention measures as an ongoing, integrated strategy that addresses diverse risk and protective factors in relation to violence against women and girls.

2) Prevention shall include an inclusive and measurable multi-sectoral community response with legislative, administrative, executive and other measures.

3) States shall promote measurable access to justice for women and girls by:

- a) establishing a broad range of effective protection and resolution mechanisms;
 - b) eliminating institutional, structural and systematic discrimination and abuse of power in all domestic laws, systems, and structures, and promoting gender responsiveness within institutions, structures, and systems in every sphere;
 - c) allocating funds to support women and girls in need, particularly within the legal system;
 - d) establishing a legal framework for women and girls to speak of their experience, inclusive of all forms of violence whether inflicted by State or non-State actors;
 - e) protecting and advancing the legal capacity of women and girls to seek redress in a manner that ensures their safety, protects their privacy, respects their dignity, and provides compensation and assistance.
- 4) State shall ensure that women and girls of all ages, especially survivors of violence, have the right to:
- a) free, equal and safe access to medical care and public health through public services;
 - b) equal access and equal opportunities to education, vocational training, decent work, and career development;
 - c) own and independently control their property, financial and economic resources;
 - d) make independent decisions regarding their health, education and economic opportunities;
 - e) access reliable information from all sources, including the internet and all forms of technology and media, so that they are able to express their opinions, issues, and needs without fear of retaliation or unequal treatment.

Article 11: State Duties - Policy Implementation and Collection of Data

- 1) States shall take the necessary measures to establish, or strengthen an existing, a national institution to implement, coordinate, monitor progress, and ensure compliance. This institution shall:
- a) have adequate resources to be effective at domestic, regional, and international levels, including but not limited to financial support and access to technical experts;
 - b) consult with civil society organizations, including but not limited to survivor- and women-focused groups, and human rights organizations with representation from marginalized and highly marginalized communities;
 - c) be authorized/empowered to hear individual complaints as well as to conduct its own inquiries;
 - d) develop and oversee, as appropriate, national action planning and data collection and dissemination related to violence against women and girls.
- 2) States shall collect, analyze and disseminate baseline and ongoing data at regular intervals on the causes, consequences, frequency of all forms of violence against women and girls, and

on the effectiveness of measures to prevent, protect, punish, and eliminate violence against women and girls.

3) States shall use the above-mentioned data to refine policy, legislation, judicial guidance, and national action planning.

4) Data shall be disaggregated by characteristics including but not limited to sex, race, ethnicity, age and disability, and any other characteristics that relate to particular vulnerability. Data protection shall be maintained across all phases and platforms in accordance with UN Statistical Commission protocols on anonymity and confidentiality.

5) States shall make publicly available all results and analysis of the collected information across multiple platforms and shall publicize the availability of more detailed results if warranted. Both methodology and results shall be transparent, explained clearly, and incorporate globally inclusive styles of analysis of community change.

6) Types of data collected include but are not limited to:

a) common law evolution and legislation passed;

b) civil and criminal justice system data (police reports, arrests, charges, convictions, dismissals, plea agreements, sanctions, probation records, protection orders, violations of protection orders, femicides);

c) health documentation from hospitals, emergency rooms, and clinics, as well as labor inspection reports on workplace health and sexual harassment (injuries from sexual assault, domestic violence, genital mutilation, acid attacks, psychological anguish, mental health pathologies);

d) social services provided by governments and civil society, including but not limited to numbers of shelter beds, number of clients served by crisis centers, advocacy and legal services, and number of hotline calls;

e) information obtained directly from survivors;

f) media reports;

g) documentation on government funding to address violence against women and girls, including but not limited to survivor services, judicial systems, and reparations to survivors;

h) documentation on creation, implementation, and monitoring of protocols for coordination of services at local, provincial and national levels;

i) sector-specific policies and procedures, if any, covering women working in at-risk domains such as hospitality, entertainment, emergency services, social care services, domestic work, education, and transport.

Article 12: Penal, Civil and Administrative Reinforcements

1) States shall provide mandatory training for all State officials involved in judicial and non-judicial processes related to violence against women and girls to ensure that discriminatory behaviors are eradicated, and stereotypical attitudes are addressed effectively.

2) Training shall be directed at but not be limited to:

- a) public officials engaged in the administration of the State, law enforcement, security sector, health sector, social services, education sector, local government, and media in all spheres;
 - b) members of the armed forces and peacekeeping forces;
 - c) specific training regarding new legislation, policies, and measures to ensure that officials understand and are able to implement new measures in all spheres; and
 - d) particularly healthcare workers, given their unique role as first points of contact for survivors, dedicated training, certification, support, and reporting processes that prioritize understanding the needs of older women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, and marginalized women and girls survivors.
- 2) Training courses and capacity-building programs shall be developed and conducted in consultation with women-focused non-governmental organizations and survivor groups.

Article 13: Training and Mandatory Education Relating to Violence Against Girls and Women

- 1) States shall implement age-appropriate, mandatory, and recurrent education and training to prevent, protect, eliminate and condemn violence against women and girls.
- 2) States shall monitor this education and training regularly to assess effects and results.
- 3) States shall develop and implement comprehensive educational curricula, in consultation with women-focused non-governmental organizations and survivor groups, to address and modify challenging, discriminatory, violating, and potentially violating patterns of behavior, as well as derogatory stereotypes relating to women and girls.
- 4) Content shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a) the human rights of women and girls and in particular, the right of women and girls to live their lives free from violence;
 - b) the root causes of violence against women and girls, including gender inequality and derogatory stereotypes relating to women and girls, rigid gender roles, and violence-supportive attitudes in society;
 - c) risk factors for violence against women and girls, including structural discrimination which forces them into situations of vulnerability;
 - d) direct and indirect effects of violence on survivors and the costs of such violence for individuals, families, societies, and economies;
 - e) the role of men and boys in prevention and protection, with single-sex programs for men and boys designed and delivered by male champions of change;
 - f) learners are to be provided with documentation of their successful completion of a training program, which lists the main areas covered by the training.

Article 14: Advocacy and Rights-Based Programs

- 1) States shall approach violence against women and girls of all ages as a structural problem and acknowledge violence against women and girls as a manifestation of unequal power relations between men and women and a violation of women's and girls' human rights;
- 2) States shall promote, develop, conduct and evaluate for effectiveness, on a regular basis, programs to raise public awareness of women's and girls' human rights, including equality of opportunity and treatment irrespective of sex and the right of women and girls to live their lives free from all forms of violence.
- 3) Awareness-raising campaigns and programs shall be developed and safely implemented in cooperation with national human rights institutions and equality bodies, civil society, and non-governmental organizations, especially women's and survivor groups, and with marginalized communities, where appropriate, to increase understanding among the general public of the different manifestations of VAWG under this Convention, the consequences on children and the urgency to prevent, protect, eliminate and condemn such violence.
- 4) States shall raise awareness through all available communications, tools, and measures in all spheres to safely promote information to the general public on the existence and costs of violence against girls and women, prevention channels, existing and new legal remedies, access to justice, and all measures available to prevent, protect, eliminate, and condemn such violence.
- 5) States shall allocate sufficient funding for public awareness-raising programs on violence against women and girls.

PART 3 - Investigation, Prosecution, Reparations

Article 15: Holistic response

- 1) The relevant government agencies shall collaborate to ensure an effective and measurable multi-sectoral community response in all spheres to include the police, prosecutors, lawyers, judges, health care professionals, social services, the education sector, the world of work and media.
- 2) States shall develop regulations, protocols, guidelines, instructions, directives, and bench books, including standardized user-friendly forms for the comprehensive safe and timely implementation of the policy and legislation with particular attention given to marginalized individuals and communities to include older women, indigenous women, women with disabilities and widows.
- 3) Where possible, States shall ensure that such regulations, protocols, guidelines, instructions, directives, and bench books are freely available in accessible formats.

Article 16: Investigation and Jurisdiction

Policy and legislative measures include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1) Specialised police and prosecutorial units established being
 - a) designated units on violence against girls and women that are funded sufficiently to initiate a multi-sectoral community response, accomplish their mandate, and maintain the training of staff in a measurable manner;
 - b) designed so that a complainants/survivor may communicate with female police officers or prosecutors if she so wishes;

c) where possible, a unit of women police officers in each police station trained to initiate a multi-sectoral community response, provide support to complainants or survivors.

2) Police officers trained and responsible for:

a) responding promptly to every request for assistance and protection in cases of violence against girls and women even when the person who reports such violence is not the complainant/survivor;

b) initiating an effective and measurable multi-sectoral community response;

c) assigning the same priority to calls concerning cases of violence against women and girls as to calls concerning other acts of violence and assigning the same priority to calls concerning domestic violence as to calls relating to any other form of violence against girls and women;

d) upon receiving a complaint, conducting a coordinated risk assessment of the crime scene and responding accordingly in a language understood by the complainant; and

e) maintaining disaggregated data in accordance with Article 11 of this Convention.

3) Prosecutors having the duty to:

a) participate and cooperate in an effective and measurable multi-sectoral community response, and initiate this response if not currently existing;

b) establish that responsibility for prosecuting violence against women and girls lies with prosecution authorities and not with complainants or survivors of violence, regardless of the level or type of injury;

d) ensure that all legal proceedings are available in the whole territory of the State, and are provided irrespective of complainant's residence status;

e) ensure that violence against women and girls is not automatically referred to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) procedures, including mediation and conciliation, and that when settlements outside formal legal systems are agreed to, non-disclosure clauses are not permitted;

f) maintain disaggregated data in accordance with Article 11 of this Convention.

Article 17: Shifting the burden of proof

Complaint and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for violence against women and girls shall include shifting the burden of proof once a *prima facie* case is established by the complainant, to the alleged perpetrator to demonstrate that the act was not a violation of the national prohibition on violence against women and girls, except for criminal proceedings.

Article 18: Remedies and reparations

1) States shall ensure punishment of perpetrators, reparations for survivors, and dissemination measures regarding the national policy to eliminate violence against women and girls, which could include fines, protection orders, cease and desist orders, imprisonment, and in complaints from the world of work the right to resign with compensation, reinstatement,

compensation for lost wages and damage/injury suffered, orders concerning related medical expenses and legal fees and costs, as well as orders to undertake awareness training regarding violence against women and sexual harassment in the world of work.

2) The policy and legislative measures to provide restitution and compensation violence against women and girls shall include, but not be limited to the possibility of:

a) sentencing in criminal cases with an order for the payment of restitution and compensation from the perpetrator to the survivor-woman or girl or the family of the victim;

b) a statement that compensation alone does not substitute for other penalties, such as imprisonment, for perpetrators of violence against women and girls;

c) no ceiling limit on amounts of compensation for injury suffered and assurance that damages amounts shall be adequate, promptly attributed, holistic and proportionate to the gravity of the injury suffered;

d) creation of a government-sponsored compensation fund, enabling women and girls who have survived violence to receive a fair amount of compensation.

3) The policy and legislative measures regarding perpetrators of violence against women and girls shall include, but not be limited to:

a) establishing intervention programs and alternative sentencing for perpetrators and that the operators of such programs are mandated to work in close cooperation with complainants or survivors and appropriate service providers;

b) clarifying that alternative sentencing and intervention programs are appropriate only in cases where the perpetrator will be monitored continuously by justice officials to ensure the complainant/survivor's safety and the effectiveness of the sentence.

4) States shall include public apologies as an option within complainants' reparation packages.

5) States shall enact legislation to allow women or girl complainants to bring civil lawsuits against perpetrators without requirements of family member's or husband's consent, and amend guardianship laws that deprive women of legal capacity or restrict the ability of women with disabilities to testify in court.

6) Following the Universal Declaration of Human Rights acknowledgment that everyone has the right to seek and enjoy, in other countries, asylum from persecution, States shall enact legislation to ensure that survivors of violence against women and girls are deemed to have been persecuted and that such survivors constitute "a particular social group" for the purposes of asylum law.

Article 19: Intersections with Conflicting Law

1) States shall provide for the removal of provisions contained in other areas of law such as family law, property law, housing rules and regulations, social security law, health law, and labor law that contradict this Convention and the national policy on VAWG, so as to ensure a consistent legal framework that promotes women's human rights, and the prevention, protection, elimination, and condemnation of violence against women and girls.

2) States shall ensure that laws do not prevent or deter women from reporting violence, and

do not allow prosecution of women when the perpetrator is acquitted.

3) States shall establish that where there are conflicts between customary and/or religious law and the formal justice system, the matter shall be resolved with respect for the human rights of the woman or girl and in accordance with internationally agreed standards.

4) States shall ensure that the processing of a case under customary and/or religious law does not preclude it from being brought before the formal justice system.

5) States shall promote research and disseminate good practices on access to justice for marginalized and highly marginalized women and girls to include older women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, and widows.

PART 4: Specific Situations

Article 20: Violence Against Girls

1) Recognizing that girl children are disproportionately affected by violence perpetrated by family members and intimate partners in a domestic setting, States shall enact legislative measures to prevent domestic violence in all its forms, protect girls who have been subjected to or who have witnessed domestic violence, and ensure full access to justice and services for all survivors of domestic violence.

2) Recognizing that girl children are at particular risk of violence through neglect, States shall incorporate the principle of “best interests of the child” from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) into domestic policies, laws, and institutions that address and/or impact girl children.

Article 21: Violence Against Marginalised Groups of Women and Girls

1) Marginalised groups of women and girls include, but are not limited to, immigrants, migrant workers, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, refugees and asylum seekers, widows, stateless women, and women and girls who have endured torture by non-State or State actors, as well as older women, indigenous women and women with disabilities.

2) Recognising that some groups of women and girls are at particular risk of violence, including torture, perpetrated by State and non-State actors, in all spheres, States shall:

a) review and amend all domestic legal frameworks to ensure the rights of women and girls in situations of marginalization are fully protected;

b) adopt measures to address intersectionalities that increase risk among marginalized populations, such as sexual violence and the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Article 22: Violence and the right to a healthy life

1) Acknowledging that health is a universal human right and understanding that women and girls have rights to health that include sexual and reproductive health, States have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfill these rights. States shall adopt legislative measures to ensure access to comprehensive, non-discriminatory, rights-based health services for all women and girls, regardless of their social, sexual, or health status.

2) The legislative measures shall:

- a) include training and information on types of violence against women and girls for frontline sexual and reproductive healthcare workers and ensure that both mobile and fixed clinics have current referral information for survivors;
- b) prohibit forced, inheritance, and abduction marriage;
- c) prohibit forced maternity, sterilization, or termination for any girl or woman;
- d) recognize the additional risk factors facing women and girls with disabilities;
- e) initiate training and other medical activities to reduce obstetric violence and promote respectful treatment of women during childbirth;
- f) improve women's and men's knowledge of, access to, and use of modern contraceptive methods in order to reduce unintended pregnancies and thus reduce the incidence of abortions or unplanned births.

Article 23: Violence in family law contexts

1) States shall ensure the following guarantees:

- a) divorce or judicial separation from a violent husband and adequate alimony to women and children;
- b) the woman's right to stay in the family dwelling after divorce;
- c) social insurance and pension rights of women who divorce the perpetrator;
- d) prohibition of eviction of a widow and her children from her marital home by a landlord or family as a result of becoming widowed;
- e) prohibition on disallowing a widow to return to her maternal home or marital home following her abduction and/or forced marriage, in peacetime and in conflict;
- f) legal recognition of half-widows and functional widows whose husbands are permanently missing as a result of political, civil, religious, or social unrest to be implemented 18 months after the husband's disappearance;
- g) expedited distribution of property, and other relevant procedures upon widowhood;
- h) careful screening of all custody and visitation cases so as to determine whether there is a risk of ongoing violence and guaranteeing that the exercise of any awarded visitation or custody rights does not jeopardize the rights and safety of the survivor or children;
- i) a statutory presumption against awarding child custody to a perpetrator;
- j) availability, in appropriate cases, of professionally supervised visitation centers;
- k) a woman who has suffered violence and who has acted in self-defense or fled in order to avoid further violence, shall not be classified as a perpetrator, or have a negative inference drawn against her, in custody and visitation decisions.

2) Recognising that older women are at a particular risk of domestic violence and neglect, States shall ensure the availability of criminal justice mechanisms and implementation of civil

remedies for older women who are abused by relatives.

3) States shall ensure that widows and single mothers of all ages and all women who bear children out of wedlock have access to the same rights and protections as married women.

4) Recognising that widows of all ages face vulnerabilities due to stigmatization and harmful stereotypes and are at particular risk of violence and neglect, States shall ensure the availability of criminal justice mechanisms and implementation of civil remedies for widows who are abused and/or disinherited by relatives.

5) States shall adopt measures to minimize the risks posed by international marriage brokers, including but not limited to:

a) regulating the operations of international marriage brokers including removal of license to operate upon proven violations of the national policy and laws on VAWG;

b) restricting abusive men's ability to use international marriage brokers;

c) ensuring that women who are recruited through international marriage brokers are above the age of majority and have given voluntary and informed consent;

d) providing every recruited woman with information about her prospective spouse and her legal rights in the country of destination.

Article 24: Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict

1) States shall recognize that situations of armed conflict exacerbate all forms of violence against women and girls, including but not limited to intimate partner violence and sexual violence, and reduce their access to support services and recourse to justice, and shall condemn this human rights violation.

2) States shall recognize that conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls is a tactic of war and that under the terms of the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, rape and other types of sexual violence of comparable gravity are crimes against humanity.

3) States shall take all necessary policy and legislative actions to ensure that all women and girls are free from sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, including but not limited to the following measures:

a) define sexual violence in conflict to include rape, mutilation, sexual slavery and forced prostitution, forced marriage, pregnancy, and sterilization;

b) acknowledge that such violence may be perpetrated by State security forces that include both military and police, supranational forces, and non-State actors such as paramilitaries, rebels, and militia organizations;

c) also acknowledge that violence may be carried out by national and international humanitarian workers and security and peace-keeping forces;

d) strengthen training regarding armed forces' and humanitarian workers' mandate to protect civilians;

e) prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence against women and girls at national or international levels.

4) States shall recognize “secondary” violence as new episodes of violence resulting from a first, initial act. Secondary violence is common, but not limited to, cases of sexual violence, including:

- a) so-called “honor” crimes and killings, aimed at restoring a family’s honor after a sexual assault, including, but not limited to, rape;
- b) maternal deaths as a result of rape;
- c) HIV-AIDS infection as a result of rape;
- d) social exclusion and denial of rights to medical, legal or any other form of support;
- e) community exclusion and stigmatization.

5) States also shall recognize the violence that is not perpetrated by combatants, but is instead a consequence of the social context created by the conflict in which violence increases while response systems become weaker, such as the following:

- a) violence associated with the greater prevalence of and access to firearms;
- b) violence that occurs while fleeing from conflict or during displacement;
- c) increased rates of domestic and intimate partner violence;
- d) impunity for perpetrators who are affiliated with armed combatants, military, police, or peacekeeping forces;
- e) limited access to law enforcement, healthcare, and other response systems;
- f) Increased rates of forced early and child marriage.

6) States shall address violence against women and girls in different types of conflict, including low-intensity conflicts and those that involve paramilitary, organized crime and other non-State actors.

7) States shall affirm the role and full inclusion of women in conflict prevention, negotiation, and reaching agreements to end the conflict, and include them as equal partners in demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration processes in order to achieve long term and sustainable solutions, as well as in developing and implementing security sector reform.

8) States shall implement, evaluate, and monitor programs to protect women and girls in conflict, including in the time periods before and after the conflict is openly declared. These programs shall include but not be limited to:

- a) reviewing access to justice and all related services for survivors, undertaking reform, and implementing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with input from women experts and survivors and non-government stakeholders;
- b) assessing and improving existing health care facilities and other systems of support for survivors of violence in conflict, particularly regarding practitioner training to address the post-traumatic effects of violence;

- c) disseminating information about rights and resources available to survivors of violence in conflict.
- 9) States shall establish partnerships with and provide support to national civil society organizations whose mandate is related to strengthening women's and girls' social equality, including but not limited to:
- a) women's and girls' political activism and participation;
 - b) rule of law and improvement of national legal frameworks related to women's and girls' protection from violence, especially during armed conflict and post-conflict crises;
 - c) youth organizations engaged in education programs influencing positive behavioural changes within communities and society.
- 11) States shall recognize the status of "victim of war" to all women and girl survivors of violence in conflict as a mandatory element of peace reconciliation, transitional justice, and social cohesion processes after the conflict.

Article 25: Types of Violence Against Women and Girls

- 1) States shall recognize that women and girls are at risk for many types of violence in their life cycles, including but not limited to domestic and workplace violence, sexual violence including sexual assault and sexual harassment, violence in situations of armed conflict, trafficking, and slavery, violence sponsored by the State or perpetrated by State actors, either on their territory or extra-territorially, and harmful practices.
- 2) States shall acknowledge that all types of violence, including torture, against women and girls, can be committed by businesses in addition to individuals and State actors.
- 3) States have a duty to protect against violence caused by the extraterritorial acts of businesses, as well as a corresponding duty to address and provide adequate remedies for acts of violence perpetrated by businesses.
- 4) When *nationality laws* disadvantage women and girls by making them more at risk of violence and less able to obtain treatment and justice, and when refugee or asylum-seeking, immigrant and stateless women and girls are at particularly high risk, States shall enact legislation to:
- a) adopt a gender-responsive, non-discriminatory approach in asylum processes, understanding that women and girls may be fleeing life-threatening violence in their home countries or trafficking, while in their host country;
 - b) allow all adult women to apply for legal immigration status independently without requiring permission from spouses, or male family members, and allow refugee or asylum-seeking, immigrant and stateless women who have survived violence to apply confidentially for legal immigration status independently of the perpetrator;
 - c) ensure that women and girls survivors of violence of all ages shall not be deported or subjected to other punitive actions related to their immigration status when they report such violence to police or other authorities;
 - d) allow survivors of violence to report any violence against them to the police or other authorities without requiring permission from their employers;

- e) establish procedures that allow women seeking asylum to present their claims in safety, before female case officers.
- 5) When **online** violence occurs by perpetrators using social media and other internet communication to threaten, slander, extort or harm a woman or girl through deliberate and hostile behavior, States shall address this online violence by:
- a) ensuring that the law takes account of new technologies and providing remedies through both criminal and civil cases;
 - b) encouraging digital technology companies to strengthen or adopt measures with a view to eliminating violence and sexual harassment online;
 - c) updating policies and laws against harassment, intimidation, extortion, stalking and other forms of violence against women and girls to take account of online settings.
- 6) States shall address **sexual violence** by enacting legislation that:
- a) replaces existing offenses of rape and “indecent” assault with a broad offense of *sexual assault* based on harm;
 - b) provides for aggravating circumstances including but not limited to, the age of the survivor, the relationship of the perpetrator and survivor, the gravity of the violence, the presence of multiple perpetrators, and grave physical or mental consequences of the attack on the survivor;
 - c) removes any requirement that sexual assault be committed by force and any requirement to prove penetration, and minimizes secondary victimization of the complainant/survivor in proceedings;
 - d) criminalizes sexual assault within a relationship such as marital rape;
 - e) criminalizes sexual harassment, both *quid pro quo*, and hostile work environment, in accordance with labor law norms;
- 7) Because **sexual harassment** in the world of work impairs equality in employment and compromises women’s safety and health at work, States shall end sexual harassment by enacting legislation, either criminal, civil, administrative, non-discrimination, occupational safety and health or labor law, that:
- a) follows ILO’s Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190);
 - b) proclaims a clear prohibition of sexual harassment;
 - c) requires employers to take appropriate steps commensurate with their degree of control to prevent violence and harassment, including a workplace policy developed in consultation with workers and their representatives;
 - d) identifies, in consultation with employers’ and workers’ organizations, the sectors, or occupations and work arrangements in which women workers are at greater risk and institutes measures to mitigate the risk and ensure that they are effectively protected.
- 8) States shall take all necessary policy and legislative actions to combat **trafficking** in human

beings, commercial sexual exploitation, and slavery, including but not limited to the following:

- a) establish or strengthen domestic systems of investigation and prosecution related to trafficking and slavery consistent with international treaties related to trafficking;
- b) prohibit punishment of survivors of trafficking and slavery;
- c) increase advocacy for trafficking and slavery to be treated as an issue of local, national, and international priority, considering the economic and social cost of trafficking and slavery as a deterrent to social development and a just society.

9) Understanding that controlling a woman's money and *economic security* is a manifestation of unequal power and violence, States shall take measures to address forms of exploitation and coercive control, including but not limited to economic, physical, and psychological violence that undermine women's autonomy, dignity, safety, and economic security, including through:

- a) maintenance of a legal framework to protect women's rights to access and use assets, their right to full inheritance of wealth, land, property, children, and nationality, and their right to buy and sell land on their own behalf;
- b) the guarantee that women and girls have equal access to economic resources, education, training, and life skills for income generation, and employment;
- c) implementing women's right to equal remuneration for work of equal value alongside men and elimination of gender pay gaps;
- d) provision of paid maternity leave, benefits and continuation of service once leave is completed and prohibition of pregnancy-related dismissal;
- e) establishment of new or strengthening existing monitoring bodies such as labor inspection to hold private and public employers accountable, creation of a monitoring and evaluation framework, and collection and analysis of disaggregated data so as to generate informed decision-making.

10) States shall recognize that VAWG through *harmful practices* exists in all spheres including public, private, formal, informal, rural, urban, community, customary and educational settings and that harmful practices can depend on or relate to the region, country, and culture. In order to curtail and ultimately eradicate harmful practices, States shall:

- a) acknowledge that harmful practices are not social issues but criminal offenses to be prohibited and enact legislation to provide remedies, including but not limited to criminal and civil remedies, for any instances in which harmful practices cause harm to any girl or woman of any age;
- b) ensure that such national legislation to eradicate harmful practices shall apply regardless of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, nationality, national or social origin, ethnicity and indigenous status, property, marital status or widowhood, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status, migrant or refugee status, age or disability or any other characteristic;
- c) ensure that survivors of harmful practices are able to fully exercise their right to justice and legal remedy.

Article 26: State Obligations and Due Diligence

- 1) States shall exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish, and provide mechanisms for legal redress and reparation for violence against women and girls in accordance with the present Convention.
- 2) States shall refrain from engaging in acts of violence against girls and women and ensure that all its officials, agents, authorities, and institutions act in conformity with this obligation. States shall act with due diligence to ensure accountability for State-sponsored violence and undertake expeditious investigations and impose penalties when State-sponsored violence is identified.
- 3) States have a positive obligation to:
 - a) develop, implement, periodically review, and update if necessary, relevant legislation and policies, and prevention strategies and programs regarding violence against women and girls;
 - b) monitor judicial proceedings to assess access to justice for the survivors and victims' families and the appropriateness of convictions of perpetrators.

Article 27: Budget

- 1) States shall mandate the allocation of a budget for implementation of this Convention by assigning a minimum of percentage of Gross Domestic Product, in the form of:
 - a) creating a general obligation to provide adequate budget at national, provincial, and local levels for the realization of the relevant activities;
 - b) allocating funding for a specific activity through, for example, the creation of a specialized prosecutor's office and police units;
 - c) allocating a specific budget to non-governmental organizations for a specified range of activities related to its implementation, including permission of non-governmental organizations to receive additional local and international funding;
 - d) establishing specific reparation funds for survivors in accordance with Article 18(2).
- 2) States shall provide financial resources in order to enable and support the design and implementation of anti-violence interventions including:
 - a) implementation of laws, policies, national action planning, and programs in the form of an effective multi-sectoral community response and measurement of the reduction in rates of violence against women and girls;
 - b) effective access to justice mechanisms for all women and girls;
 - c) appropriate social, health, psychological, legal, and other support services and financial aid for survivors;
 - d) training and capacity building for relevant State and non-State actors dealing with complainants/survivors or perpetrators;

- e) education and awareness-raising campaigns on violence against women and girls;
- f) data gathering, analysis, research, and monitoring of violence against women and girls;
- g) funding of materials for journalists and other media entities that report on violence against women and girls with due respect for their independence and freedom of expression.

Article 28: Access to Justice

- 1) States shall take all necessary measures to guarantee justiciability, availability, accessibility, accountability, and quality of justice systems. These systems must provide effective remedies and integrated approaches to ensure that survivors have full access to justice.
- 2) States shall ensure:
 - a) safe, affordable and effective access through legal standing as individuals with legal identity for women and girls to all existing legal systems in the country whether State, quasi-State and traditional/non-State systems or alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;
 - b) the removal of institutionalized restrictions related to religious, social, and cultural barriers on the rights of women and girls based on their origin, citizenship, social, marital, work, or another status;
 - d) execution of effective punitive action and corrective measures against perpetrators;
 - e) special support measures for facilitating effective access to justice for women and girls from marginalized groups and those at risk to include older women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, and widows.
- 3) In particular, States shall uphold the right to protection of indigenous women and girls through integration of indigenous and customary law with laws of the State, clarification of the relationship with existing laws on jurisdictional indigenous domain, and well-funded access to justice for indigenous survivors of violence.
- 4) Protection measures shall include services to prevent further violence following immediate risk assessment and safety management analysis and appropriate multi-sectoral referral mechanisms, staffed by appropriately trained female personnel.
- 5) States shall prohibit retaliation for whistle-blowing, lodging complaints, and engaging in judicial proceedings to redress violence against women and girls.
- 6) States shall ensure that the legally provided sentences are commensurate with the gravity of violence perpetrated against women and girls and that sentencing is applied consistently.
- 7) Legislation shall:
 - a) contain enhanced penalties for repeated or aggravated crimes of violence, including but not limited to cases of harmful practices, non-State torture, and multiple violations of protection orders;

b) remove existing provisions that allow for reduced penalties or excuse perpetrators in cases of so-called “honor” crimes or exculpate the perpetrator if that person subsequently marries the survivor.

Article 29: Protective procedures in criminal and civil hearings

1) States shall enact legislation that ensures timely and expedited legal proceedings and fast-tracking of cases of violence against women and girls where appropriate.

2) The judicial system should provide for free legal aid and court support, including independent legal counsel and intermediaries in order to ensure access to justice and avoid secondary victimization. Court support shall include:

a) the right to be accompanied and represented in court by specialized support or an intermediary that is free and without prejudice to their case;

b) free access to a qualified, impartial interpreter and translation of legal documents, where requested or required;

c) the complainant/survivor’s right to decide whether or not to appear in court or to submit evidence by alternative means, non-confrontation of perpetrator through separate waiting areas for complainants and defendants and staggered arrival and departure times;

d) the possibility of closed courtroom proceedings, a gag on all publicity, and testifying only as many times as is necessary;

e) a ban on the tabling of evidence of complainant/survivor's sexual history;

f) measures to ensure the timely testing of collected medical and forensic evidence.

3) Legislation should abolish the cautionary warning/corroboration rule with regard to complainants in cases of sexual violence by either stating that “it shall be unlawful to require corroboration of the complainant’s evidence” or “the credibility of a complainant in a sexual violence case is the same as the credibility of a complainant in any other criminal proceedings”.

Article 30: Response, Protection, and Support Services

States shall adopt policy and legislative measures to:

1) address risk factors that increase exposure to serious forms of violence, including access to weapons, such as acid and firearms;

2) at the expense of the State, provide for immediate safe access to comprehensive and integrated services, including pregnancy testing, emergency contraception, treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, geriatric health, treatment for all types of injuries, post-exposure prophylaxis, and psycho-social support, for survivors of sexual violence;

3) mandate screening for violence, abuse, and neglect, particularly for girl children, older women, indigenous women, women with disabilities, and widows, as part of all primary health care facilities using for such screening disseminated guidelines;

4) establish crisis centers and shelters that include qualified counselors, legal support and

specialized services for all women and girls who are subjected to violence;

5) locate such services so as to allow equitable access for women and girls in indigenous, rural, remote, and marginalized populations, as well as for women and girls with disabilities;

6) Establish statewide, round-the-clock, free, confidential helplines to provide advice and support to women and girl callers who have experienced violence;

7) prohibit discrimination in housing against women and girls who have survived violence, including by prohibiting landlords from evicting a tenant, or refusing to rent to a prospective tenant, because she has survived an incident of violence.

PART 5 - Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms

Article 31: Supervisory Committee

1) There shall be established a 20-person supervisory committee of experts on the field of eliminating VAWG, of high moral standing and respecting gender, geographical, and principal legal system balance.

2) The experts shall be elected by States Parties by secret ballot from a list of women and men nominated by States Parties, each State Party having one name to nominate if they so wish, and nominees shall serve in their personal capacity.

3) The initial election shall be held within two months of the entry into force of this Convention, following a call from the UNSG within a week of the date of entry into force (by traditional communication methods and online). At the end of 3 weeks from the date of the call, the UNSG shall close the call and prepare an alphabetical list by name of persons so nominated with an indication of the State proposing them and through online arrangements expedite the vote itself. Two-thirds of State Parties are required for a quorum on the vote.

4) The 20 women and men receiving the highest number of votes of the States Parties participating in the quorum shall be announced by the UNSG as elected. The term is four years, with a shorter term of two years for the first 10 members elected thereby permitting a rotation of members.

5) Remuneration - filling of casual vacancies - OHCHR staffing - website

6) Arrangements of first and subsequent meetings; normally held at UN premises, Geneva.

7) The committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure, and elect its officers (Chair, Vice-Chairs, and Reporter as well as any sub-committees that are provided for in the committee's rules) for a period of two years.

Article 32: Reports of States Parties

1) States parties shall submit a report on the law and practice for complying with this Convention as follows:

a) within one year from the date of entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned;

b) every four years after that first report.

2) State Party's reports shall follow an outline established by the supervisory committee, developed at its first meeting, and made available online.

PART 6 - Final Clauses

Article X: Minimum standards

Nothing in this Convention shall prevent a State from imposing stricter requirements that are consistent with its provisions and are in accordance with international human rights law.

Article XX: Entry into force after X ratifications registered

Article XXX: Disputes as to interpretation or application of this Convention

Article XXXX: Authentic copies & deposit of this Convention.
