

Committee of the Parties



Council of Europe Convention
on preventing and combating violence
against women and domestic violence
(Istanbul Convention)

Framework for supervising the implementation of the recommendations addressed to state parties

IC-CP/Inf(2021)2

Adopted on 13 April 2021

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with Article 68, paragraph 12 of the Istanbul Convention, the Committee of the Parties (hereinafter “the CoP”) has been adopting, on the basis of the report and conclusions of GREVIO, recommendations addressed to states parties on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. The applicable procedure for issuing recommendations was settled by the CoP at its 4th meeting and is described in document IC-CP(2018)6. Under the agreed procedure, states parties are given a period of three years to implement the recommendations of the CoP and report back to the Committee.

2. According to Rule 1 paragraph 2b of the Committee of the Parties’ Rules of Procedure (RoP), the Committee “shall supervise the implementation of its recommendations addressed to the party concerned”. The purpose of the present document is to define the applicable procedure for supervising the implementation of recommendations addressed to states parties by the CoP.

II. Supervision procedure

A. Reporting format and scope of supervision

3. In view of guiding states and simplifying their reporting, the CoP decided to use, at its 9th meeting, a standardised reporting form. Questions comprise a mix of closed/multiple choice and open questions and correspond to evaluation indicators drawn from the standards of the convention and GREVIO’s baseline evaluation reports. This allows for an objective lens to be applied to the examination of all reports under review.

4. The reporting form focuses on eight areas of the convention, on which the Committee’s recommendations tend to concentrate. These areas relate to fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination (Article 4); comprehensive and co-ordinated policies implemented under the responsibility of an adequately mandated and resourced co-ordinating body (Articles 7 and 10); financial resources (Article 8); non-governmental organisations and civil society (Article 9); data collection and research (Article 11); custody, visitation rights and safety (Article 31); immediate response, prevention and protection (Article 50); emergency barring, restraining or protection orders (Articles 52 and 53). Questions of the form which are related to recommendations which were not addressed to the state concerned will not need to be answered.

5. In addition to these recommendations, two additional recommendations will be specifically selected by the Secretariat for each state, enabling the CoP to not only supervise the implementation of recommendations issued in the eight common areas selected in the reporting form, but also in other priority areas identified in relation to a specific state party. While bearing in mind each state’s specificities, particular attention will be paid to chapters of the convention which are not yet covered by the common selected provisions.

6. The supervision of the implementation of recommendations will hence be limited to a total of ten areas of the Convention instead of covering the full set of recommendations issued in respect of a state party.

B. Decision of the CoP

7. On the basis of the information provided by the authorities and any additional information obtained from non-governmental organisations, civil society and national institutions for the protection of human rights, the CoP will adopt conclusions on the implementation of the recommendations in relation to each state party under review, prepared by the Secretariat, and indicating the following cumulative points:

- a. the CoP welcomes the measures taken and the progress achieved by the state party under review in the implementation of specific recommendations;
- b. the CoP encourages the state party under review to take further measures in relation to specific recommendations;
- c. the CoP invites the state party under review to report back on the measures taken in relation to recommendations listed under point b, within a period of two years; and
- d. the CoP invites the state party under review to continue taking measures to implement the convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO's baseline evaluation report.

8. Following the submission of the reporting forms by states parties, the completed forms will be made public on the Istanbul Convention website (country monitoring page). Once the conclusions on the implementation of the recommendations are adopted by the CoP, the decision will also be published.

C. Role of non-governmental organisations, civil society and national institutions for the protection of human rights

9. Non-governmental organisations, civil society and national institutions for the protection of human rights are major partners in monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention. In mirroring the possibility which the Istanbul Convention offers to GREVIO and as set out in Article 68, paragraph 5, of the Istanbul Convention, the CoP may receive information on the implementation of the convention from non-governmental organisations and civil society, as well as from national institutions for the protection of human rights. In accordance with Rule 10 of the RoP, any relevant communications containing information submitted for the Committee's consideration shall be brought to the Committee's attention.

10. Upon receipt of such information, the Secretariat will notify the state party under review of submissions received and transfer them to the attention of the said state party.

11. The information submitted by non-governmental organisations, civil society and national institutions for the protection of human rights will be made available to the CoP and published on the Istanbul Convention website.

12. As regards parliamentary involvement, states parties are invited to share with their national parliament the conclusions on the implementation of the recommendation adopted by the CoP.

D. Role of GREVIO in the supervision process

13. The supervision of the implementation of the CoP recommendations is the prerogative of the Committee. Individual GREVIO members, in particular rapporteurs for the concerned states when they are still members of the Group, may be invited to attend meetings of the CoP, to answer any questions states parties may have and share their knowledge on the Istanbul Convention, its standards and principles. Such a participation would allow regular exchanges between GREVIO and the CoP and foster co-ordination and complementarity between the two bodies of the monitoring mechanism.

14. Upon adoption, the CoP will transmit its conclusions to GREVIO for its consideration, in particular in relation to the evaluation rounds following GREVIO's baseline evaluation procedure. Such transmission shall be ensured without prejudice to the decisions taken by GREVIO, including its assessment of the level of implementation of the Istanbul Convention by state parties. The two monitoring bodies would hence interact while remaining fully independent from each other.

Annex 1: timeline

| | Standardised reporting forms to be sent | Reporting to the CoP on measures taken | Conclusions adopted by the CoP | Reporting back to the CoP on further measures |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Albania, Austria, Denmark, Monaco | January 2021 | End of June 2021 | December 2021 | December 2023 |
| Montenegro, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey | June 2021 | End of January 2022 | June 2022 | June 2024 |
| Finland, France, Italy, Serbia, the Netherlands | June 2022 | End of January 2023 | June 2023 | June 2025 |
| Andorra, Belgium, Malta, Spain | June 2023 | End of January 2024 | June 2024 | June 2026 |
| Poland, San Marino, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Romania | June 2024 | End of January 2025 | June 2025 | June 2027 |
| Georgia, Germany, Estonia, Cyprus, Switzerland, Iceland | June 2025 | End of January 2026 | June 2026 | June 2028 |
| Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, North Macedonia | June 2026 | End of January 2027 | June 2027 | June 2029 |

Annex 2: Conclusions on the implementation of recommendations in respect of COUNTRY adopted by the Committee of the Parties

The Committee of the Parties to the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), acting under the terms of Article 68(12) of the Convention and Rule 1(2b) of the Committee of the Parties’ Rules of Procedure;

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 66(1) of the Convention concerning the monitoring role of the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter referred to as “GREVIO”);

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by COUNTRY on DATE;

Having regard to the Baseline Evaluation Report concerning the implementation of the Convention by COUNTRY adopted by GREVIO at its NUMBER meeting (DATE), as well as the comments of the Government received on DATE;

Having regard to the recommendation on the implementation of the Convention addressed to COUNTRY by the Committee of the Parties, published on DATE;

Bearing in mind the adoption, at its 9th meeting on 15 December 2020, of a reporting form which focuses on a maximum of ten areas of the Convention and which states are required to use to report back to the Committee of the Parties on measures taken to implement the recommendations addressed to their authorities;

Having examined the information provided by COUNTRY on the implementation of the recommendation addressed to its authorities, through the reporting form provided for that purpose, as well as the information submitted by non-governmental organisations, civil society, and national institutions for the protection of human rights;

- A. Welcomes the measures taken and progress achieved by COUNTRY in the implementation of recommendations for the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, noting in particular [...].
- B. Encourages the Government of COUNTRY to take further measures to implement the recommendations addressed to its authorities, in particular [...].
- C. Invites the Government of COUNTRY to report back on these measures by DATE.
- D. Invites the Government of COUNTRY to continue taking measures to implement the Istanbul Convention, particularly on the basis of the conclusions of GREVIO’s baseline evaluation report.