

Outline for State reports to be submitted under the fifth monitoring cycle of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

General guidelines

1. Under Article 25, paragraph 2 of the Framework Convention the Parties must each transmit to the Committee of Ministers, on a periodical basis and whenever the Committee of Ministers so requests, any information of relevance to the implementation of the Framework Convention.
2. In accordance with Rule 23 of CM/Res(2019)49, the periodical basis for transmission of State reports on the implementation of the Framework Convention is set at five years, calculated from the date on which the previous State report was due.
3. The preparation of the fifth State report provides an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes both positive and negative — Of legislative and policy measures implemented during previous monitoring cycles and, in particular, since the preparation of the fourth State report. The impact in practice on national minorities of these measures should therefore be examined. Minority representatives, and where appropriate other stakeholders, should be effectively consulted in its preparation to ensure that the information provided is as comprehensive as possible and adequately reflects the perspective of national minorities.
4. The report should follow the outline set out below and be submitted in one of the official languages Of the Council Of Europe, as well as in the original language. In order to avoid unnecessary repetition, the text of the report should focus on new developments and may refer to the information contained in previous State reports where appropriate. States are also encouraged to use, as a guiding tool, the four thematic commentaries adopted by the Advisory Committee.
5. It is essential that the report provide updated, reliable and relevant data on national minorities, set out wherever possible and appropriate by age, sex and geographical distribution. Such material, as well as relevant legislative and regulatory texts, may be provided in an appendix.

Proposed structure of State reports

I. Practical arrangements made at the national level for raising awareness Of the results of the fourth monitoring cycle and of the Framework Convention

Please provide information about the following:

- a. Steps taken to publicise the results of the fourth monitoring cycle (Opinion, State comments, Resolution): publication, dissemination and translation into the official language(s) and minority language(s) where appropriate;
- b. Any follow-up activities organised at national, regional and local levels, including activities organised jointly with the Council of Europe, such as discussions, seminars, evaluations, impact assessments, studies etc., and the outcomes of these events;
- c. Participation of minority organisations and other non-governmental organisations in the authorities' implementation and monitoring Of the Framework Convention, and their involvement in the preparation of the fifth report;
- d. Any other measures taken to promote awareness of the Framework Convention among national minorities, public officials and the general public.

II. Measures taken to address core issues

Please provide information on how each of the specific recommendations for immediate action included in Part 2 — "Issues for immediate action" of the Committee of Ministers' Resolution have been implemented. Indications on other policies, measures and needs assessments considered relevant in this context should also be provided.

Please make an assessment on any other core issues that remain outstanding after four monitoring cycles, and any obstacles encountered in addressing such issues.

III. Further measures taken to improve the implementation of the Framework Convention

Please provide information on an article-by-article basis on measures taken to enhance the implementation of the Framework Convention. Indications on other policies, measures and needs assessments considered relevant in this context should also be provided. Particular attention should be paid to:

- a. Measures taken to implement the recommendations included in Part 2 — "Further recommendations" Of the Committee of Ministers' Resolution;
- b. To the extent not already covered under points II and III.a. above, measures and policies adopted to implement all the detailed recommendations, the various findings and conclusions contained in the Advisory Committee's fourth Opinion.

States are encouraged to focus on up-to-date information on new developments since the submission of the fourth State report and to examine the impact in practice of the measures taken to date. States are also encouraged to provide information about any initiatives taken or considered beyond steps to implement the above recommendations, for example in response to or in anticipation of further new developments.

IV. Specific questions

As part of the continuing dialogue with the Advisory Committee, States Parties may be invited to provide answers to specific questions, including as to the state of affairs of gender equality, which may arise from specific national circumstances.