Annex

 Guidelines on independent monitoring frameworks and their participation in the work of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

 I. Introduction

1. Since 2009, when it was established, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has regularly interacted with independent monitoring frameworks, including national human rights institutions that monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which have made effective contributions to the Committee’s reporting and inquiry procedures. In September 2014, the Committee held its first meeting with independent monitoring frameworks to discuss how efforts to strengthen activities to promote implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels could be mutually reinforced. Between September 2014 and November 2015, several informal consultations and one formal consultation were held with the purpose of collecting the views of independent monitoring frameworks on a set of guidelines for such collaboration, the time frame for developing the guidelines and the modalities of the consultation process.

2. Along with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is one of the human rights treaties that expressly requests States parties to establish a framework for monitoring its provisions at the national level. The Convention goes even further than the Optional Protocol, and is unique in this regard among human rights treaties, in requiring that, in establishing a monitoring framework, States parties take into account the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights (the Paris Principles) and that members of civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, fully participate in the monitoring process.

3. States parties are called upon to monitor the implementation of the Convention at both the international and national levels. At the international level, implementation is monitored through the reporting, communication and inquiry procedures of the Committee. At the national level, and pursuant to article 33 (2) of the Convention, States parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing such framework and mechanisms, States parties shall take into account the Paris Principles. Article 33 (3) of the Convention establishes that civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.

4. The Committee recognizes the importance of establishing, maintaining and furthering a close interaction and relationship with independent monitoring frameworks and national human rights institutions at all stages and in all aspects of the Committee’s work. International- and national-level monitoring should be complementary and mutually reinforcing in order for human rights to be realized in a manner consistent with international human rights instruments. Activities to monitor implementation of the Convention should reflect the principles, the object and the purpose of the Convention, as well as a paradigm shift to the human rights model of disability, according to which persons with disabilities are considered rights-holders and their dignity and contribution to society are fully acknowledged, promoted and protected.

5. The Committee acknowledges the important role that national human rights institutions play, inter alia, in promoting the harmonization of national legislation and policies with the Convention and the ratification of the Convention, in raising awareness of its provisions, in providing advice to the authorities tasked with implementing its provisions and, when the enabling legislation allows, in carrying out investigations into and handling individual and group complaints alleging violations of the rights guaranteed under the Convention. The Committee recognizes the important role of national human rights institutions in monitoring implementation of the Convention to promote compliance at the national level. The Committee acknowledges the role of national human rights institutions in creating bridges between national entities, including State institutions and civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, and the international system for the protection and promotion of human rights. The Committee acknowledges the importance of national human rights institutions being established, accredited and strengthened in compliance with the Paris Principles. The Committee fully endorses the efforts made by the human rights treaty bodies to enhance and ensure the effective participation of national human rights institutions at all relevant stages of their work. The Committee is committed to making that participation meaningful and to ensuring the most effective contributions by national human rights institutions. The Committee welcomes the recommendation of the General Assembly that treaty bodies harmonize their engagement with national human rights institutions (see Assembly resolution 70/163).

6. The Committee supports and further encourages all treaty bodies to adopt a common approach aimed at promoting the effective participation, at all stages of their work, of national human rights institutions that are compliant with the Paris Principles. References in the present guidelines to national human rights institutions build upon general comments, guidelines and directives already adopted by other treaty bodies, in particular the Human Rights Committee (CCPR/C/106/3), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (general comment No. 2 (2002) on the role of independent national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child), the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED/C/6), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (general comment No. 10 (1998) on the role of national human rights institutions in the protection of economic, social and cultural rights) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (general recommendation (1993) No. 17 on the establishment of national institutions to facilitate the implementation of the Convention).

7. The present guidelines are applicable to both formally appointed monitoring frameworks, whether they consist of or include a national human rights institution, and to national human rights institutions that, in line with their mandates as defined in national and domestic legislation, monitor the implementation of the Convention, irrespectively of whether they have been formally appointed with reference to article 33 (2) of the Convention.

 II. Scope of article 33 (2) and (3) of the Convention

8. Article 33 requires States parties that have not done so before the entry into force of the Convention to designate or establish an independent framework that includes one or more mechanisms with the competence to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the Convention. The designation or establishment of the independent monitoring framework should be done at the earliest possible opportunity after the entry into force of the Convention. Article 33 requires that States parties undertake a broad, inclusive consultation process with civil society organizations, in particular with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in order to designate or establish an independent monitoring framework.

9. While there is no specific formal requirement for designating or establishing such frameworks, and States parties can proceed with their designation or establishment in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, article 33 requires States parties to ensure that the monitoring frameworks are independent from the focal points appointed under article 33 (1) of the Convention.

10. If a monitoring framework is already in place at the time of the entry into force of the Convention, article 33 requires that States parties maintain and strengthen it.

11. Article 33 also requires all States parties to maintain and strengthen their monitoring framework, a duty that includes the obligation to ensure that the framework has a stable institutional basis that allows it to operate properly over time and that it is appropriately funded and resourced (with technical and human expertise) through allocations from the national budget.

12. The duty to maintain and strengthen also obliges States parties to ensure that the independent monitoring framework can properly discharge its functions. This means that the framework must have expeditious and full access to information, databases, records, facilities and premises, both in urban and rural or remote areas; that it must have unrestricted access to and interaction with any persons, entities, organizations or governmental bodies with which it requires to be in contact; that its requests are addressed properly and in a timely manner by implementing bodies; and that training is available to its staff on a continuous basis.

13. Article 33 should be read as requiring States parties to refrain from directly or indirectly restricting, limiting or interfering with activities carried out by the independent monitoring framework in the promotion, protection and monitoring of the implementation of the Convention. Promotion activities include raising awareness, building capacity and training; regularly scrutinizing existing national legislation, regulations and practices, as well as draft bills and other proposals, to ensure that they are consistent with Convention requirements; carrying out or facilitating research on the impact of the Convention on national legislation; providing technical advice to public authorities and other entities on the implementation of the Convention; issuing reports at the initiative of the frameworks themselves, when requested by a third party or a public authority; encouraging the ratification of international human rights instruments; contributing to the reports that States are required to submit to United Nations bodies and committees; and cooperating with international, regional and other national human rights institutions. Protection activities include taking into consideration individual or group complaints alleging breaches of the Convention; conducting inquiries; referring cases to the courts; participating in judicial proceedings; and issuing reports related to complaints received and processed. Monitoring activities include developing a system to assess the impact of the implementation of legislation and policies; developing indicators and benchmarks; and maintaining databases containing information on practices related to the implementation of the Convention.

14. States parties have a margin of appreciation to decide whether or not their independent monitoring framework consists of one or more monitoring mechanisms. When a single entity is appointed as a monitoring mechanism, it is required to be independent from the executive branch of government and to comply with the Paris Principles. If the monitoring framework consists of one or more mechanisms, all mechanisms are required to be independent from the executive branch and at least one of them must be compliant with the Paris Principles. When the monitoring framework comprises two or more mechanisms, article 33 requires States parties to ensure appropriate and close cooperation between all the entities that make up the monitoring framework.

15. States parties should respect both the functional and the substantive independence of monitoring frameworks. In order to respect their substantive independence, States parties should ensure that the mandate of the frameworks is appropriately and sufficiently broadly defined to encompass the promotion, protection and monitoring of all rights enshrined in the Convention and that it is set out in a constitutional or a legislative text; they should also ensure that the frameworks are empowered and entrusted with a wide range of responsibilities, including those referred to in paragraph 14 above. In order to respect the functional independence of the monitoring frameworks, States parties shall ensure that each constituent mechanism is independent from the executive branch of the State party and that the monitoring frameworks: (a) have members appointed in a public, democratic, transparent and participatory manner; (b) have sufficient funding and technical and skilled human resources; (c) have autonomy in the management of their budget; (d) have autonomy in deciding and considering which issues fall within its scope; (e) can maintain and develop relations and engage in consultations with other bodies; and (f) may hear and consider complaints put forward by individuals or groups alleging violations of their rights under the Convention.

16. States parties shall give due consideration to the recommendations issued by the monitoring framework in their annual, thematic or specific reports and to the framework’s decisions and views regarding individual cases. Appropriate follow-up should be provided to the monitoring framework’s recommendations, including through the submission of timely follow-up reports when they are requested or due. States parties are encouraged to implement the recommendations effectively and in a timely manner.

17. States parties are also encouraged to appoint their Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institution as the monitoring framework or the mechanism forming part of the monitoring framework and to equip it with additional and adequate budgetary and skilled human resources to appropriately discharge its mandate under article 33 (2) of the Convention.

18. States parties with federal or decentralized administrations should ensure that the central monitoring framework can properly discharge its functions at the federal, state, provincial, regional and local levels. When monitoring frameworks exist at those levels, States parties shall ensure that the federal or national monitoring framework can properly interact and coordinate its activities with the state, provincial, regional, local or municipal monitoring frameworks. Where an independent monitoring framework does not solely consist of a Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institution, States parties are encouraged to mandate the institution with facilitating and coordinating interaction between the monitoring framework and its regional and local counterparts.

19. In cases in which the framework is composed of one or more monitoring mechanisms, States parties shall provide the appropriate support, upon the request of the framework, so that the framework can regularly and adequately operate and discharge its functions.

20. The independent monitoring framework should ensure the full involvement and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in all areas of its work. The Committee considers organizations of persons with disabilities to be organizations with a majority of members being persons with disabilities (at least half of its membership) and that are governed, led and directed by persons with disabilities. Involvement and participation should be meaningful and take place at all the stages of the monitoring process, which should be accessible, respectful of the diversity of persons with disability and gender- and age-sensitive. Article 33 (3) of the Convention, read in conjunction with article 4 (3), requires States parties to provide persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including organizations of women with disabilities and organizations of children with disabilities, with appropriate funding and resources to enable the effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the monitoring framework.

21. States parties shall ensure that monitoring frameworks can interact, in a regular, meaningful and timely manner, with focal points and coordinating mechanisms appointed pursuant to article 33 (1) of the Convention for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, in order to ensure that the views and recommendations of the monitoring framework are duly considered in decision-making processes. States parties are encouraged to formalize the process of engagement between entities established pursuant to article 33 (1) and (2), whether through legislation, regulations or a duly authorized executive agreement and directive. When a national mechanism for reporting to international human rights mechanisms and for following up on their recommendations has been appointed, States parties should ensure that independent monitoring frameworks are meaningfully involved and participate, in an independent capacity, in the activities of those national mechanisms.

22. Advisory bodies such as disability councils or committees comprising representatives of departments and units involved in the implementation of the Convention should not be involved or in any manner take part in the activities of the monitoring framework. States parties should ensure that effective procedures are in place to prevent, regulate and resolve potential conflict of interest or undue influence resulting from the interaction of the above-mentioned bodies and the monitoring framework.

 III. Participation of independent monitoring frameworks
in the proceedings of the Committee

 A. Reporting procedure

23. The Committee encourages independent monitoring frameworks to become actively engaged in and to contribute as soon as possible and at all stages of the reporting procedure, including by:

(a) Raising awareness about States’ obligations under the Convention, including reporting obligations;

(b) Encouraging timely reporting by States parties;

(c) Encouraging States to consult broadly with independent monitoring frameworks, civil society and organizations of persons with disabilities when drafting their initial and periodic reports. Monitoring frameworks can contribute to the process of drafting initial and periodic reports by, inter alia, disseminating, in a timely manner, information in accessible formats among stakeholders at the national level on upcoming reviews by the Committee of States parties’ obligations under the Convention; encouraging the departments or units responsible for drafting the reports to ensure participatory and transparent consultation processes; providing written contributions, as appropriate; informing civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, of the opportunities they have for participating in the official drafting process or of their options for preparing and submitting alternative reports; and supporting civil society organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities in drafting those alternative reports;

(d) Submitting to the Committee an alternative report not exceeding 10,700 words. For initial State party reports, alternative reports should include an executive summary and information related to each of the first 33 articles of the Convention. For periodic reports, alternative reports should also include an executive summary and refer to: follow-up measures taken for implementing previous concluding observations; new developments that have occurred in the State party since the previous review; gaps in implementation and possible measures for overcoming them; and information about the situation of women, children, the elderly, persons belonging to minority groups, internally displaced persons, migrants, refugees, indigenous persons, persons with albinism or any other category of persons with disabilities;

(e) To the maximum extent possible, providing stakeholders involved in the reporting process with statistics collected by the responsible authorities of the State party and/or data collected and research conducted by the monitoring framework on the institutional and normative framework to ensure implementation of the Convention, on the policies, programmes and activities in place to achieve implementation, and on their impact. When feasible, data shall be disaggregated by sex, age, type of impairment, ethnicity and any other relevant category;

(f) Contributing to the preparation of lists of issues, both for the general and the simplified reporting procedures, by, inter alia, providing updated and reliable information on progress made in the implementation of the Convention by the State party and by identifying and analysing the main implementation gaps and proposing concrete questions and issues that the Committee could take up with a view to improving the quality of the dialogue with the State party. Independent monitoring frameworks can submit written contributions not exceeding 5,000 words and participate in private briefings with the Committee while it is in session or with a pre-session working group, either on their own or, upon previous agreement, with civil society organizations;

(g) Submitting independent written contributions commenting on the State party’s replies to the list of issues, both for the general and the simplified reporting procedures, aimed at complementing the information provided by the State party;

(h) Participating in the dialogue between the Committee and the delegation of the State party. The Committee provides monitoring frameworks with the opportunity to make an opening statement immediately after the opening statement of the delegation and a closing statement after the closing statement of the delegation, and to respond to questions addressed to them by the Committee. To this end, independent monitoring frameworks should approach the Committee prior to the session in which the State party’s report will be considered and request to participate, in an independent role, during the dialogue with the delegation of the State party. The Chair of the Committee will decide whether the request should be granted. Paris Principles-compliant national human rights institutions too can participate in the dialogue in an independent capacity, using the above-mentioned modalities, following a request to the Committee;

(i) Requesting a private, closed dialogue with the Committee in preparation for the dialogue with the State party;

(j) Encouraging the relevant State party authorities to translate, as appropriate, the concluding observations of the Committee and to disseminate them in accessible formats and through alternative means and modes of communication among the broadest possible range of stakeholders at the national level, in particular among persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

(k) Advocating and raising awareness, including among departments and units involved in the implementation of the Convention, about the importance of giving due consideration to the Committee’s concluding observations, and to reflect, mainstream and incorporate the Committee’s recommendations into national policies, programmes and activities related to the implementation of the Convention;

(l) Contributing to the Committee’s follow-up procedure on recommendations issued by the Committee in its reporting procedure. That could be achieved by, inter alia, disseminating information on the existence of the procedure among a broad range of stakeholders at the national level; organizing follow-up consultations; supporting organizations of persons with disabilities to familiarize themselves with the procedure and to make timely contributions; and making written contributions that contain an assessment of whether the Committee’s recommendations have been properly addressed and implemented by the State party;

(m) Providing written submissions or addressing the Committee in private briefings whenever the Committee decides to examine a State party in the absence of a report pursuant to article 36 (2) of the Convention;

(n) Facilitating and promoting the meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities in the reporting process.

 B. Days of general discussion and general comments

24. The Committee encourages independent monitoring frameworks to make contributions to the days of general discussion organized by the Committee and to participate in the consultation processes related to the preparation of the Committee’s general comments.

25. The Committee also encourages independent monitoring frameworks to encourage the relevant State party authorities to have translated, as appropriate, the Committee’s general comments and to have them disseminated in accessible formats and through alternative and augmentative means and modes of communication. Independent monitoring frameworks are encouraged to use the general comments in their national advocacy efforts for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.

 C. Communications procedure (Optional Protocol)

26. The Committee encourages independent monitoring frameworks to:

(a) Provide support and assistance, including legal advice, when feasible, to individuals, groups of individuals and organizations of persons with disabilities alleging a violation of the rights guaranteed under the Convention and wishing to submit a communication to the Committee;

(b) Avail themselves of the possibility of making a third-party intervention pursuant to rule 72, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure or to promote and provide advice to other stakeholders making third-party interventions;

(c) Encourage the relevant State party authorities to have translated the Views of the Committee and to have them disseminate in accessible formats and through alternative and augmentative means and modes of communications, in particular among organizations of persons with disabilities;

(d) Monitor and assist victims in monitoring the implementation of the Committee’s Views by the State party, including by providing advice to the State party on legislative, administrative and other measures or reforms;

(e) Submit follow-up information on the implementation of the Committee’s Views, when appropriate, within 180 days of their adoption.

 D. Inquiry procedure (Optional Protocol)

27. The Committee encourages independent monitoring frameworks to:

(a) Address the Committee when there is reliable information indicating grave or systematic violations by the State party of rights set forth in the Convention;

(b) Provide information, when requested by the Committee pursuant to rule 83, paragraph 3, of the Committee’s rules of procedure;

(c) Cooperate with the Committee, in particular when the inquiry procedure entails a visit to the territory of a State party;

(d) When appropriate, provide follow-up information on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in its report on the inquiry.

 E. Capacity-building activities (art. 37 (2) of the Convention)

28. Whenever independent monitoring frameworks consider it appropriate for the enhancement of national capacities for the implementation of the Convention, they may consider requesting the Committee to provide advice on the compatibility of draft legislation, policies and programmes with the Convention.

29. Requests should be made in writing, indicating the value added by the advisory services provided by the Committee. In making the request, independent monitoring frameworks should also provide the text of relevant draft legislation, policies and programmes, in English, in accessible formats.

 F. Reprisals

30. The Committee encourages independent monitoring frameworks to:

(a) Monitor States parties’ responses to allegations of reprisals against individuals, groups or organizations of persons with disabilities that have contributed to the work of, or interacted with, the Committee;

(b) When feasible, share with the Committee, on a regular basis, States parties’ good practices related to the early detection, risk assessment and assistance and protection schemes adopted or promoted in cases of reprisal, intimidation, harassment or persecution of individuals, groups or organizations of persons with disabilities that have contributed to the work of, or interacted with, the Committee;

(c) Support alleged victims of reprisals in approaching and interacting with the Committee and other human rights mechanisms dealing with allegations of reprisals;

(d) Monitor States parties’ measures to follow up on the recommendations of the Committee and other human rights mechanisms dealing with allegations of reprisals in specific cases.

31. The Committee recognizes that national human rights institutions and their respective members and staff should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of activities undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting on serious or systematic violations in their countries (see General Assembly resolutions 68/171 and 70/163 on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights).

32. The Committee also recognizes the role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing cases of reprisal by supporting cooperation between their respective States parties and the United Nations in the promotion of human rights, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.

33. The Committee emphasizes that any case of alleged reprisal or intimidation against national human rights institutions and their respective members and staff or against individuals who cooperate or seek to cooperate with national human rights institutions should be promptly and thoroughly investigated, and the perpetrators brought to justice.

 IV. Monitoring implementation of the Convention at the national level

34. The Committee recognizes the importance of the role of independent monitoring frameworks in promoting, protecting and monitoring implementation of the Convention at the national level. Unlike the Committee, monitoring frameworks consist of, or are composed of, mechanisms that operate on a permanent basis and have a close connection with the national, regional and local setting in which the Convention is implemented.

35. The Committee also recognizes the challenges associated with monitoring implementation of the Convention at the national level, such as the limited availability of reliable data by State party institutions; the lack of data disaggregated by sex, age or type of disability; the variety of methods and systems in place for assessing disability in different regions, states and provinces and in different ministries, departments and units; the lack of or insufficient participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the design and implementation of national census and household surveys; and the prevalence of inadequate systems for the collection of data and the fact that data collection systems are often based on outdated approaches to disability, such as the medical model of disability. These factors have regularly prevented policymakers from properly assessing the situation of persons with disabilities and prevented the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of mainstream or disability-specific development policies and programmes.

36. The Committee acknowledges the initiatives taken at the international, regional and national levels to develop indicators and benchmarks for measuring the implementation of the Convention. The Committee welcomes the fact that data related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, will be disaggregated, including on the basis of disability. The Committee also acknowledges that several United Nations agencies have developed indicators or are in the process of doing so, and welcomes, in particular, the development of human rights disability-friendly indicators to monitor the implementation of the Convention with the active involvement and contribution of civil society and, in particular, of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

37. The Committee observes that data on the situation of persons with disabilities have not been systematically and regularly collected in national statistics systems and that baselines, indicators and benchmarks have not been regularly used or reflected in data collection and analysis efforts at the national level.

38. The Committee considers that collective, coordinated and continuous efforts by national statistical commissions, the focal points and coordination mechanisms appointed under article 33 (1) of the Convention, United Nations agencies, international cooperation entities, regional organizations, independent monitoring frameworks, civil society organizations and persons with disabilities through their representative organizations are required to improve the systems for collecting and analysing data and, therefore, for monitoring the implementation of the rights set forth in the Convention.

39. The Committee considers that the design, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes by bodies appointed under article 33 (1) of the Convention, as well as monitoring activities carried out under article 33 (2), should be guided by the following principles:

(a) The Convention, being at the same time a human rights and a development instrument, is the legal framework that should be taken into account in the design, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of all development policies and programmes falling within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, in relation to persons with disabilities should take into account the relevant international human rights framework and, in particular, the Convention;

(c) Policies and programmes should be designed, implemented, evaluated and monitored taking into account the human rights model of disability enshrined in the Convention and should be aimed at identifying and bridging the gaps that prevent persons with disabilities — as rights holders — from fully enjoying their rights, as well as the gaps that infringe on duty bearers to fully discharge their legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities;

(d) The twin-track approach to disability should be reflected in the monitoring of policies and programmes; monitoring activities should aim to measure the impact of mainstream policies and programmes on persons with disabilities, as well as the impact of disability-specific policies. The twin-track approach combines the use of disability-specific policies aimed at supporting and empowering persons with disabilities with the mainstreaming of disability rights across general policies and programmes;

(e) Persons with disabilities, through their representative organizations and as individual experts, should participate meaningfully and be involved in the design, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of policies and programmes;

(f) Data must be disaggregated by sex, age and type of disability in order to ensure that at all the stages of policy planning, implementation and monitoring no one is excluded;

(g) Monitoring activities should not only focus on the results or outcomes of policies and programmes but also take into account the structural and policy frameworks and the processes in place to achieve such results. In that regard, the Committee encourages independent monitoring frameworks to take into account the human rights-based approach to indicators developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

40. The Committee encourages independent monitoring frameworks, in carrying out their monitoring activities, to take into account:

(a) The recommendations made by the Committee in its concluding observations and its Views on communications, which are regularly compiled and summarized in biennial reports to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council;

(b) When available, the recommendations contained in reports on inquiries carried out by the Committee;

(c) The Committee’s general comments and guidelines related to the provisions of the Convention;

(d) The guidelines on the simplified reporting procedure, which reflect the developments of the jurisprudence of the Committee and take stock of efforts made by the United Nations and at the regional level to develop baselines, indicators and benchmarks for measuring implementation of the Convention.

41. The above-mentioned tools can be used by monitoring frameworks to, inter alia, design and implement monitoring plans, to assess the extent to which State party legislation, policies and programmes are consistent with the Convention and to carry out advocacy, awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts.

42. The Committee encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in cooperation with independent monitoring frameworks, national human rights institutions and their global and regional networks, to develop and maintain a database on international, regional and national good practices for the development of indicators and benchmarks for measuring implementation of the Convention.