

Mandates of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

Ref.: AL BRA 5/2024
(Please use this reference in your reply)

30 October 2024

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 45/24, 53/4, 52/9, 50/17, 52/36, 50/10, 50/7 and 50/18.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the killing of Ms. Marielle Franco and her driver, which took place on 14 March 2018 in Rio de Janeiro. We would also like to request further information about efforts to ensure access to justice and remedy for these human rights violations, as the trial of some of the alleged perpetrators of these crimes will reportedly commence on 30 October 2024.

The killing of Ms. Franco and her driver were the subject of two prior joint letter of allegation sent by UN Special Procedures on 22 March 2018 (ref. [BRA 3/2018](#)) and 31 December 2018 (ref. [BRA 15.2018](#)). We thank your Excellency's Government for the replies provided on 23 March 2018, 27 March 2018, 12 September 2018, 9 January 2019 and 20 February 2019. We take note of information provided about criminal investigations into the murder of Ms. Franco and her driver, led by the Civil Police, as well as about measures to try and ensure the protection of human rights defenders.

According to the information received:

Ms. Franco was an Afro-Brazilian human rights defender working to promote and protect the rights of women, people of African descent, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals, young people living in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro and other socially excluded communities. As a member of the City Council of Rio de Janeiro, she identified herself as a woman, as a feminist, as Black, as *favelada*, as bisexual and as married to another woman. Ms. Franco was elected against a backdrop of very low

political representation of Afro-Brazilian women in Brazil. In her political work, including after being elected to the City Council in 2016, Ms. Franco was committed to fighting racial discrimination, in particular the disproportionate impact of the ‘war on drugs’ on Black people living in favelas in urban peripheries in the city. She defended the rights of marginalized communities and individuals, including those who faced intersecting forms of discrimination and socio-economic exclusion. In the context of this work defending human rights, Ms. Franco denounced human rights violations perpetrated by Brazilian law enforcement officials and extrajudicial executions.

On 14 March 2018, Ms. Franco and her driver were shot dead in a car while returning from a public event named “Young Black Women Moving Structures”, which was set up to encourage Black women’s empowerment in Brazil. Reportedly, a car pulled up alongside the car in which Ms. Franco was travelling and opened fire. Thirteen shots were fired from inside the car that pulled up and Ms. Franco was hit multiple times in the head causing fatal injuries. Her driver was also killed by the gunfire. A press officer, who worked for Ms. Franco, was sitting in the back seat during the attack and was reportedly also injured. These killings took place within the context of pervasive violence, perpetrated by both State and non-State actors, in Rio de Janeiro against women, people of African descent, LGBT persons and/or human rights defenders.

Evidence suggests that multiple perpetrators were involved in the planning, execution and cover up of the crimes. The majority of those accused of involvement in the murders and attempts to cover them up had previously been entrusted with roles within law enforcement agencies, other public entities and political parties. On 30 October 2024 the popular jury hearing of two of the alleged perpetrators Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] (criminal action No. 0072026-61.2018.8.19.0001), is due to begin. Mr. [REDACTED], a former police officer, allegedly shot the victims. Mr. [REDACTED], a former military police sergeant, allegedly drove the car used by the perpetrators. Both defendants have negotiated plea bargains, the details of which are not currently publicly available.

Other perpetrators are alleged to have been involved in the murder of Ms. Franco and her driver. On 24 March 2024, a joint operation by the Federal Police, the Attorney General’s Office, and the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Rio de Janeiro arrested Mr. [REDACTED], who was a Councillor of the State Audit Court; Mr. [REDACTED], a federal parliamentarian for political party União Brazil and [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED]; and Mr. [REDACTED], former head of the Rio de Janeiro Civil Police. Mr. [REDACTED] was serving as the head of the Civil Police, at the time of the murders of Ms. Franco and her driver. Testimony provided by Mr. [REDACTED], in the context of his plea deal, included accusations that Mr. [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] had key roles in the planning and execution of the murder of Ms. Franco and her driver, as well as serious allegations of interfering with investigations to ensure impunity. Mr. [REDACTED] provided testimony that the alleged motive was related to Ms. Franco’s work to address intersectional and systemic discrimination and socio-economic exclusion, including her opposition to land acquisition projects that were likely to lead to the economic

enrichment of those with links to organised crime groups in the city, at the expense of marginalised communities. A federal police report also contained allegations that Mr. ██████ and the ██████ were the architects of the crime and commented on their alleged contempt for human life and the rule of law.¹ The three have not yet stood trial.

Some of those allegedly implicated in the murders of Ms. Franco and her driver, along with other individuals, have been accused and/or convicted of criminal charges relating to the destruction of evidence and other forms of obstruction of justice, during the investigation. For example, in 2019, the federal Attorney General at the time filed a complaint with the Superior Court of Justice accusing Mr. ██████, as well as his employees ██████, ██████ and ██████ of allegedly interfering with the murder investigations. All three of Mr. ██████ employees who were included in this complaint, had held positions within law enforcement agencies. In 2021, Mr. ██████, and other individuals, including Mr. ██████, were charged with destroying evidence. Mr. ██████, a former firefighter, was sentenced to four years in prison for destroying the car used by the perpetrators in the murder. He was arrested for further charges on 24 July 2023. Prosecutors who were part of the task force investigating the murders resigned in July 2021, citing external interference in the case.

Investigations into the murders of Ms. Franco and her driver have allegedly uncovered evidence of collusion between law enforcement agencies and organized crime groups in Rio de Janeiro. The report prepared by the federal police on the alleged culpability of Mr. ██████ and the ██████, established links between organized crime paramilitary groups and law enforcement agencies and political institutions in Rio de Janeiro.² In September 2022, Mr. ██████, who had served as Secretary of the Civil Police between 2020 and 2022, a crucial period in the investigation of the murders, was arrested on suspicion of involvement with organized crime groups. The evidence leading to his arrest alleged that he has a close relationship with Mr. ██████ one of the defendants who is facing trial on 30 October 2024. Later in 2022, Mr. ██████ was released and currently works at the Rio de Janeiro State Government Palace, reportedly continuing to wield significant influence within the Civil Police.

Since the murders of Ms. Franco and her driver in 2018 and the upcoming trial, the families of the victims have faced many other interrelated and mutually compounding barriers to accessing justice, leading to significant re-victimisation. The pace of investigations has been very slow. Over six years have passed between the murder and the upcoming trial of Mr. ██████ and Mr. ██████. Moreover, other perpetrators have yet to face trial, further prolonging the inability of the families to gain some sense of closure. The families have also had to contend with frequent changes in those responsible for the investigation, concomitant investigations by different agencies, a lack of access to key information and leaks of sensitive information regarding the case. In April 2024, several individuals, including Mr. ██████, were charged with criminal acts relating to the leaking of

¹ Please see <https://www.stf.jus.br/arquivo/cms/noticiaNoticiaStf/anexo/Relato769rioFinalCasoMarielleSTF.pdf>

² Ibid

information about the investigation. It is not clear whether the families of the victims have been able to access remedies, including measures of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantee of non-repetition.

The interrelated and mutually compounding barriers to accessing justice are perpetuating the irreparable harm suffered by the families of Ms. Franco and her driver. Moreover, they are contributing to systemic impunity for grave human rights violations in which State officials are implicated, including those from law enforcement agencies. The case of Ms. Franco and her driver is widely known across Brazilian society. Therefore, any failure to ensure full access to justice and remedy in the case of Ms. Franco and her driver has systemic implications, including deepening distrust amongst marginalised individuals and communities in law enforcement agencies, the justice system and other State institutions.

Whilst not wishing to prejudge the accuracy of the above information, grave concern is expressed at the killing of Ms. Franco and her driver, as well as the significant barriers to accessing justice faced by the families of the victims in the intervening years. The alleged facts in the case of Ms. Franco and her driver can be considered to be emblematic of many of the most serious human rights issues in Brazil. Ms. Franco had sat, like many other Brazilian women, at the harsh intersection between misogyny, racism, classism, and prejudice based on sexual orientation in Brazil. Her election to the City Council of Rio de Janeiro and effective defense of human rights represented the resistance and progress of human rights defenders fighting intersectional and systemic discrimination and socio-economic exclusion in Brazil. Her murder was a grave crime and human rights violation, aimed at silencing her voice and triggering a serious chilling effect for other human rights defenders, civil society and critical voices in the country. It, moreover, could be considered to represent attempts by powerful sectors of Brazilian society to achieve the symbolic annihilation of the population groups that Ms. Marielle Franco represented and their resistance against misogyny, racism, classism, socio-economic exclusion and bias based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, please refer to the **Annex on Reference to international human rights law** attached to this letter which cites international human rights instruments and standards relevant to these allegations.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide up to date information on the investigations that have been carried out in relation to the murder of Ms. Franco and her driver. Please include details about steps taken to ensure that all investigations are conducted in an independent, impartial and human rights-compliant manner and in line with international standards including the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of a Potentially Unlawful Death (2016).

3. Please address how effective access to justice and remedy is being ensured in the case of Ms. Franco and her driver, and other cases of violence in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil against women, people of African descent, LGBT persons, human rights defenders and/or other critical voices.
4. Please provide information about how it is being ensured that respect for the rule of law and due process will be upheld during the trial of Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED].
5. Please detail the steps that have been taken to provide reparations, including measures of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantee of non-repetition, have been provided by the Brazilian Government to the families of Ms. Franco and her driver.
6. Please provide information about whether federal or state-level policies to provide such reparations to other victims of violence are in place and, if so, how it is ensured that any policies are victim-centered
7. Please indicate what measures are being taken to ensure that human rights defenders, including those defending the rights of women, Afro-Brazilians, LGBT individuals and/or those facing socio-economic exclusion, are able to carry out their legitimate work without fear of threats or acts of intimidation and harassment. Please include up to date information about steps taken to improve the efficacy of the Protection Programme for Human Rights Defenders, and if there are any gender-sensitive measures in place in this respect.
8. Please clarify whether Mr. [REDACTED], Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] will face trial for their alleged role in the murder of Ms. Franco and her driver. Please include information about when it is expected that these individuals to face trial.
9. Please explain whether any other individuals are facing criminal charges in the case of Ms. Franco and her driver and detail the status of relevant cases in the justice system.
10. Please describe steps that have been taken to prevent, address and punish human rights violations within Brazilian law enforcement agencies, to address alleged collusion between these entities and organised crime groups and to develop a human rights-based approach to policing in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil.

We ask that this communication is passed as soon as possible to all relevant interlocutors in Rio de Janeiro.

We would appreciate receiving a response within 60 days. Past this delay, this communication and any response received from your Excellency's Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#). They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations.

We may publicly express our concerns in the near future as, in our view, the information upon which the press release will be based is sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. We also believe that the wider public should be alerted to the potential implications of the above-mentioned allegations. The press release will indicate that we have been in contact with your Excellency's Government's to clarify the issue/s in question.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

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Reem Alsalem
Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Laura Nyirinkindi
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Annex

Reference to international human rights law

In connection with above alleged facts and concerns, we would like to draw your attention to the following human rights standards:

The above mentioned allegations appear to be in contravention of article 6 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, acceded by Brazil on 24 January 1992, which provides for the right to life, security and not to be arbitrarily deprived of life.

In its general comment 6, paragraph 3, the Human Rights Committee noted that it considers article 6 (1) of the ICCPR to include that States parties should take measures to prevent and punish deprivation of life by criminal acts as well as to prevent arbitrary killing by their own security forces. In addition, in its general comment No. 31, the Committee stated that there is a positive obligation on States Parties to ensure the protection of the rights contained in the Covenant against violations by private persons or entities, which includes the duty to take appropriate measures to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible and repair the damage caused by private persons or entities (CCPR / C / 21 / Rev.1 / Add.13, paras. 8 and 18). In general comment 35, the Human Rights Committee recalled that the right to personal security obliges States parties to take appropriate measures to protect individuals from foreseeable threats to life or bodily integrity proceeding from any governmental or private actors. Further in general comment 36 the Committee observed that the duty to protect the right to life requires States parties to take special measures of protection towards persons in vulnerable situations whose lives have been placed at particular risk because of specific threats or pre-existing patterns of violence, including human rights defenders.

The Principles on Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions (Prevention and Investigation Principles), in particular principle 9, require that relevant State institutions have the responsibility to undertake thorough, prompt and impartial investigations in all suspected cases of extra-legal, arbitrary and summary executions. In general comment 36, the Human Rights Committee noted that investigations and prosecutions of potentially unlawful deprivations of life should be undertaken in accordance with relevant international standards, including the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death, and must be aimed at ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice, at promoting accountability and preventing impunity, at avoiding denial of justice and at drawing necessary lessons for revising practices and policies with a view to avoiding repeated violations. Investigations should explore, inter alia, the legal responsibility of superior officials with regard to violations of the right to life committed by their subordinates. The Minnesota Protocol further observes that investigators and investigative mechanisms must be, and must be seen to be, independent of undue influence (para 28) and that investigative processes and outcomes must be transparent, including through openness to the scrutiny of the general public and of victims' families (para 32). A failure to investigate and bring perpetrators of such violations to justice could in and of itself give rise to a separate breach of the ICCPR.

We further recall that the Minnesota Protocol observes that family members of victims of unlawful death have the right to equal and effective access to justice; to

adequate, effective and prompt reparation; to recognition of their status before the law; and to have access to relevant information concerning the violations and relevant accountability mechanisms. Full reparation includes restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, guarantees of non-repetition, and satisfaction. Satisfaction includes government verification of the facts and public disclosure of the truth, an accurate accounting for of the legal violations, sanctions against those responsible for the violations, and the search for the disappeared and for the bodies of those killed (para 10).

With regards to excessive use of force and extrajudicial killings targeting Afro-Brazilians, we would further like to remind your Excellency's Government of its obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), ratified by Brazil on 27 March 1968. Article 2(1) prohibits States Parties from engaging in any act or practice of racial discrimination and obliges them to ensure that all public authorities on the national and local levels act in conformity with this obligation. Article 5(b) requires States Parties to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law. This includes the right to personal security and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, regardless of whether harm is inflicted by government officials or by any individual group or institution. Pursuant to article 6, States must not only ensure the effective protection against racial discrimination of everyone within their jurisdiction, but also provide access to remedies and adequate reparation to victims or their families.

The right to remedy is also established by the 2005 Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law. This explicates that victims of serious human rights violations should be granted reparations that are appropriate and proportional to the gravity of the violation and the circumstances of each case. Reparations should include the following forms: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. Following their 2023 visit to Brazil, the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement stressed that with regard to reparations "a full comprehensive, holistic support from the State to victims is required". They stated that "Brazil should establish a specialized, victim-centred independent mechanism specifically designed to support affected individuals and communities in all states" (A/HRC/57/71/Add.1).

Article 19 of the ICCPR guarantees the right to freedom of opinion and the right to freedom of expression, which includes the right "to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media". This right encompasses "political discourse, commentary on one's own and on public affairs, canvassing, discussion of human rights, journalism, cultural and artistic expression, teaching, and religious discourse" (CCPR/C/GC/34, para. 11), applies online as well as offline and includes not only the exchange of information that is favourable, but also that which may criticize, shock, or offend.

The Human Rights Committee further asserts that there is a duty of States to put in place effective measures to protect against attacks aimed at silencing those exercising their right to freedom of expression (para. 23). Recognizing how journalists and persons who engage in the gathering and analysis of information on the human

rights situation and who publish human rights-related reports are frequently subjected to threats, intimidation and attacks because of their activities, the Committee stresses that “all such attacks should be vigorously investigated in a timely fashion, and the perpetrators prosecuted, and the victims, or, in the case of killings, their representatives, be in receipt of appropriate forms of redress” (para. 23).

We highlight in this regard Human Rights Council resolution 12/16 which calls upon States to ensure that victims of violations of the right to freedom of expression have an effective remedy, to investigate effectively threats and acts of violence and to bring to justice those responsible to combat impunity.

We also recall that article 22 of the ICCPR protects the right to freedom of association, including the rights of everyone to associate with others and to pursue common interests. Freedom of association is closely linked to the rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and is of fundamental importance to the functioning of democratic societies. These rights can only be restricted in very specific circumstances, where the restrictions serve a legitimate public purpose as recognized by international standards and are necessary and proportionate for achieving that purpose.

The CEDAW Committee considers that States parties are under an obligation to act with due diligence to investigate all crimes perpetrated against women and girls, to prosecute and punish perpetrators, and to provide effective reparations without delay. In general recommendation No. 35, the Committee clarifies that States parties are responsible for acts or omissions of its organs and agents that constitute gender-based violence against women. This includes the acts or omissions of officials in its executive, legislative and judicial branches. Furthermore, States are responsible for investigating, prosecuting and applying appropriate legal or disciplinary sanctions, as well as providing reparation, in all cases of gender-based violence against women, including those constituting international crimes, and in cases of failure, negligence or omission on the part of public authorities. The Committee also recommended States parties to ensure effective access for victims to courts and tribunals and that the authorities adequately respond to all cases of gender-based violence against women, including by applying criminal law and, as appropriate, ex officio prosecution to bring alleged perpetrators to trial in a fair, impartial, timely and expeditious manner and imposing adequate penalties. The CEDAW Committee has also highlighted the importance of considering the intersectionality of discrimination. Women may face multiple forms of discrimination based on their gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, disability, or other factors. The CEDAW Committee has called for measures to address these intersecting forms of discrimination, including in its General Recommendation No. 28 which underlines that States Parties to the Convention must legally recognize and prohibit intersecting forms of discrimination and ensure that all women, including those subject to discrimination based on sexual orientation enjoy, on an equal basis, all the rights guaranteed by the Convention.

Furthermore, in its general recommendation No. 33, the CEDAW Committee emphasized the importance of accessible and non-discriminatory justice systems for all women, including bisexual women.

We also wish to highlight that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls has indicated that some women in politics that may be more exposed

to gender-based violence than others, including: human rights defenders; LGBTI women and members of minority groups, and those voicing dissenting views. Such violence consists of any act of gender-based violence or threat of violence against women in politics because she is a woman and that affects women disproportionately and aims to preserve traditional gender roles and stereotypes and maintain structural as well as gender-based inequalities. In her report, the Special Rapporteur highlighted the many barriers to justice that women in politics faced, including re-victimization during the reporting and complaint process, resistance from law enforcement officials and inadequate legal protection or access to integrated services (A/73/301).

We would also like to recall to your Excellency's Government that the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, in its report on participation in public life (A/HRC/23/50) stated that women human rights defenders are often the target of gender-specific violence such as intimidation, attacks, and death threats which are sometimes condoned or perpetrated by State actors. The Working Group has further called upon States to eliminate all forms of violence against women in order to fulfil women's human rights and to improve the enabling condition for women's participation in political and public life.

We would like to further recall that the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls, in its report on girls' and young women's activism (A/HRC/50/25) expressed that young women activists face different types of obstacles, including those derived from structural discrimination based on sex, gender and age, rooted in discriminatory social norms and harmful stereotypes. The realization of girls' and young women's human right to participate in public and political life, including organizing and engaging actively with a variety of State and non-State actors, is essential for the protection of their human rights. The Working Group has called on States to take all appropriate measures to create safe and enabling spaces for girl and young women activists, where they can exercise their activism and express their views freely, equally, fully and meaningfully on all matters of relevance to them.

We would also wish to recall that the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls in its report on the gendered inequalities of poverty (A/HRC/53/39) has highlighted as well that criminal laws are disproportionately applied to women and girls because of their economic or social status, and due to the costs of accessing the formal justice system. Those particularly affected are women and girls living in poverty, women and girls human rights defenders, and members of LGBTIQ+ communities. Thus, it has recommended States to regularly collect and publicly disseminate disaggregated data and direct special attention to gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, including the targeting of women and girl human rights defenders.

Furthermore, we would also like to refer to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, also known as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. In particular, we would like to refer to articles 1 and 2 of the Declaration which state that everyone has the right to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels and that each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and

fundamental freedoms. We additionally take note of article 12 of this Declaration, which requires States “to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.”

In addition to these provisions, we would like to remind your Excellency’s Government of the General Assembly resolution 68/181, on the protection of women human rights defenders. Specifically, we would like to refer to articles 7, 9 and 10, whereby States are called upon to, respectively, publicly acknowledge the important role played by women human rights defenders, take practical steps to prevent threats, harassment and violence against them and to combat impunity for such violations and abuses, and ensure that all legal provisions, administrative measures and policies affecting women human rights defenders are compatible with relevant provisions of international human rights law.

Moreover, we refer to article 1 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women which defines "violence against women" as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Article 7 (c) of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women further requires that States Parties “take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, [...] ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right [...] to participate in non-Governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country”. In this context, we also refer to General Assembly resolutions 68/191 and 70/176 on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls. We also refer to the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, on gender-related killings (A/71/398).

Finally, we refer to article 3 of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, which provides that “Every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres”; and article 4 that provides for every woman “the right to have equal access to the public service of her country and to take part in the conduct of public affairs, including decision-making”.