



ACFC/III(2013)001

**OUTLINE FOR THE STATE REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED
UNDER THE FOURTH MONITORING CYCLE, IN CONFORMITY
WITH ARTICLE 25 OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

**Adopted by the Committee of Ministers at the 1169th meeting
of the Ministers' Deputies
on 30 April 2013**

Rule 21 of Resolution Res(97)10 of the Committee of Ministers sets the periodical basis for transmission of State reports on the implementation of the Framework Convention at five years, calculated from the date on which the previous report was due. The States Parties to the Framework Convention in which the Convention entered into force on 1 February 1998 will have to submit a new State report before 1 February 2014. This date therefore sets the beginning of the fourth monitoring cycle under the Framework Convention for a number of States Parties.

In view of the above and on the basis of Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Committee, by virtue of which the latter may “suggest to the Committee of Ministers an outline for subsequent State reports to be submitted under Article 25, paragraph 3, of the Framework Convention”, a draft outline for State reports under the fourth monitoring cycle was prepared and approved by the Advisory Committee at its 46th plenary meeting on 8 March 2013.

The Advisory Committee proposes an Outline (appended hereto) comprising four main parts:

The first part deals with the practical arrangements made by States Parties to continue implementing the Framework Convention, to increase the involvement of civil society in the process and to pursue the dialogue with the Advisory Committee.

The second part requests information on all relevant measures taken to address the issues for immediate action identified in the third monitoring cycle and provides an opportunity for States Parties to make an assessment of any other core issues that are outstanding after three cycles.

The third part requests information on relevant developments on an article-by-article basis, paying particular attention to the further recommendations for action made in the third monitoring cycle.

The fourth part invites States Parties, where appropriate, to answer a number of specific questions which may arise from specific national circumstances.

Outline for State reports to be submitted under the fourth 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 21 of Resolution Res(97)10, 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 fourth 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 third 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 three thematic commentaries adopted by the Advisory Committee on the education, participation and language rights of persons belonging to national minorities.
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.
6. Should they have any questions, the authorities responsible for producing the State report are invited to contact the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Council of Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France; tel: +33 (0) 3 88 41 20 00; fax: +33 (0)3 90 21 49 18; e-mail: minorities.fcnm@coe.int).

Proposed structure of State reports

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

Please provide information about the following:

- a. Steps taken to publicise the results of the third 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 fourth 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 has 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 three 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, various findings and conclusions contained in the Advisory Committee's third Opinion.

States are encouraged to focus on up-to-date information on new developments since the submission of the third 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 which may arise from specific national circumstances.

Appendix

Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities – Due date of State reports 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th cycles

Updated: 13.05.2013

MEMBER STATES	1st cycle State Reports	2nd cycle State Reports	3rd cycle State Reports	4th cycle State Reports
Albania	Due 01/01/2001	Due 01/01/2006	Due 01/01/2011	Due 01/01/2016
Andorra				
Armenia	Due 01/11/1999	Due 01/11/2004	Due 01/11/2009	Due 01/11/2014
Austria	Due 01/07/1999	Due 01/07/2004	Due 01/07/2009	Due 01/07/2014
Azerbaijan	Due 01/10/2001	Due 01/10/2006	Due 01/10/2011	Due 01/10/2016
Belgium				
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Due 01/06/2001	Due 01/06/2006	Due 01/06/2011	Due 01/06/2016
Bulgaria	Due 01/09/2000	Due 01/09/2005	Due 01/09/2010	Due 01/09/2015
Croatia	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Cyprus	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Czech Republic	Due 01/04/1999	Due 01/04/2004	Due 01/04/2009	Due 01/04/2014
Denmark	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Estonia	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Finland	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
France				
Georgia	Due 01/04/2007	Due 01/04/2012	Due 01/04/2017	Due 01/04/2022
Germany	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014

Greece				
Hungary	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Iceland				
Ireland	Due 01/09/2000	Due 01/09/2005	Due 01/09/2010	Due 01/09/2015
Italy	Due 01/03/1999	Due 01/03/2004	Due 01/03/2009	Due 01/03/2014
Latvia	Due 01/10/2006	Due 01/10/2011	Due 01/10/2016	Due 01/10/2021
Liechtenstein	Due 01/03/1999	Due 01/03/2004	Due 01/03/2009	Due 01/03/2014
Lithuania	Due 01/07/2001	Due 01/07/2006	Due 01/07/2011	Due 01/07/2016
Luxembourg				
Malta	Due 01/06/1999	Due 01/06/2004	Due 01/06/2009	Due 01/06/2014
Republic of Moldova	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Monaco				
Montenegro	Due 06/06/2007	Due 06/06/2012	Due 06/06/2017	Due 06/06/2022
Netherlands	Due 01/06/2006	Due 01/06/2011	Due 01/06/2016	Due 01/06/2021
Norway	Due 01/07/2000	Due 01/07/2005	Due 01/07/2010	Due 01/07/2015
Poland	Due 01/04/2002	Due 01/04/2007	Due 01/04/2012	Due 01/04/2017
Portugal	Due 01/09/2003	Due 01/09/2008	Due 01/09/2013	Due 01/09/2018
Romania	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Russian Federation	Due 01/12/1999	Due 01/12/2004	Due 01/12/2009	Due 01/12/2014
San Marino	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Serbia	Due 01/09/2002	Due 01/09/2007	Due 01/09/2012	Due 01/09/2017
Slovak Republic	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014

Slovenia	Due 01/07/1999	Due 01/07/2004	Due 01/07/2009	Due 01/07/2014
Spain	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Sweden	Due 01/06/2001	Due 01/06/2006	Due 01/06/2011	Due 01/06/2016
Switzerland	Due 01/02/2000	Due 01/02/2005	Due 01/02/2010	Due 01/02/2015
“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”	Due 01/02/1999	Due 01/02/2004	Due 01/02/2009	Due 01/02/2014
Turkey				
Ukraine	Due 01/05/1999	Due 01/05/2004	Due 01/05/2009	Due 01/05/2014
United Kingdom	Due 01/05/1999	Due 01/05/2004	Due 01/05/2009	Due 01/05/2014