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HAUT-COMMISSARIAT



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

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**Subject: General Assembly resolution A/68/268 implications for State party documentation to human rights treaty bodies**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presents its compliments to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva and has the honour to refer to resolution A/RES/68/268 of the United Nations General Assembly entitled, "Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system".

In its resolution 68/268, adopted on 9 April 2014, the General Assembly "[Also] decides to establish word limits for all State party documentation submitted to the treaty body system, including State party reports, for initial reports (31.800 words), subsequent periodic reports (21.200 words) and common core documents (42.400 words), as endorsed by the treaty bodies [...]" (paragraph 16). This provision applies to the nine treaty bodies of the system that have a reporting procedure.

Based on the General Assembly resolution, all States parties are kindly requested to submit documentation to the human rights treaty bodies within the prescribed word limits. Please note that only documents submitted in Microsoft Word format can be accepted.

In case a State party document exceeds the established word limit (or is not submitted in Microsoft Word format), the United Nations will have to return it to the State party for shortening and/or re-formatting. However, State party documentation received prior to this Note Verbale will continue to be processed as submitted.

For more information, please contact the Human Rights Treaties Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at [hrttd-obh@ohchr.org](mailto:hrttd-obh@ohchr.org)

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.



14 May 2014