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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Nepal/56

15 November 2013

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Nepal, at the Committee's forty-ninth session, held in July 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/4-5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 49 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Nepal to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 26 and 36 of the concluding observations, namely:

"26. The Committee strongly urges the State party to:

- (a) Ensure that the new Constitution provides for equal and full citizenship rights for women, including the right to transfer citizenship to their children and foreign husband;
- (b) Implement training programmes for Government officials at all levels on legal provisions relating to the transfer of citizenship;
- (c) Conduct a second comprehensive national campaign to issue citizenship certificates, taking into account the difficulties faced by women in securing proof of nationality;
- (d) Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;
- (e) Ensure that children born in the territory of Nepal who would otherwise be stateless be granted Nepalese citizenship"; and

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"36. The Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Prioritize the consideration of the draft laws on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Inquiry on Disappearances; ensure that the Commissions are gender-sensitive, independent and authoritative and that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission deals with sexual violence; and pay particular attention to the social and security dimension of public testimony for victims of sexual violence;
- (b) Investigate, prosecute and punish all acts of violence, including acts of sexual violence perpetrated by the armed forces, Maoist combatants and private actors, through transitional and restorative justice, and ensure that, under the draft law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the statute of limitations on filing complaints relating to rape and other forms of sexual offences during the conflict does not preclude women's access to justice;
- (c) Initiate a thorough and complete investigation into the perpetration of sexual abuse during the armed conflict and post-conflict periods;
- (d) Ensure women's access to justice and make legal aid available and accessible to all women affected by the conflict, including women victims of sexual violence during the conflict and post-conflict periods;
- (e) Ensure the protection of victims and witnesses and provide shelter homes for victims of sexual violence, including in rural and remote areas;
- (f) Ensure the effective implementation of the national plan of action on Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) and ensure that victims of sexual crimes receive appropriate reparations, rehabilitation and counselling;
- (g) Establish counselling centres for women to address their traumatic experiences, specifically with regard to sexual violence, and provide adequate access to health-care services;
- (h) Enhance the inclusion and representation of women survivors in peacebuilding institutions and mechanisms at the decision-making, policymaking and implementation levels."

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2013, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Nepal on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. Please also send a Word electronic version of the information requested to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org. For ease reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by State parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Darbara Dais

Barbara Bailey Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women