

INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURE

Introduction

The follow-up procedure aims at providing assistance to the State parties in the implementation of the Convention. Under this procedure the State party is requested to follow-up on recommendations as indicated in the four sub-paragraphs of the Concluding Observations adopted by the Committee. However, it should be noted that the Concluding Observations ultimately prevail over recommendations made by the Rapporteur on Follow-up because of the absence, in the follow-up procedure, of any interaction between the Committee and the State party, such as the issuance of a List of Issues and the holding of a constructive dialogue.

I- Criteria for the selection of follow-up recommendations

The Committee selects up to four sub-paragraphs from the Concluding Observations requiring follow-up information within one or two years. The selection of these sub-paragraphs is based on the following criteria: the issues selected for short-term action constitute a major obstacle to women's enjoyment of their human rights and would therefore constitute a major obstacle for the implementation of the Convention as a whole.

II- Terminology for determining the status of implementation of the recommendations

- "Implemented" indicates that the State party has provided evidence of the full implementation of all actions recommended by the Committee; in this case, the follow-up rapporteur requests no additional information from the State party;
- "Substantially implemented" indicates that the State party has provided evidence of substantial action taken towards the implementation of the recommendation made by the Committee; but that it fails to respond fully to

the recommendation; in this case the follow-up rapporteur requests no additional information from the State party;

- “Partially Implemented” indicates that the State party took some steps towards the implementation of the recommendation but needs to take further actions; in this case, the follow-up rapporteur requests additional information, within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report, on further steps taken by the State party to implement the recommendation;
- “Not Implemented” indicates that the State party has taken no action to implement the recommendation or the action taken has not directly addressed the situation; in this case, the follow-up rapporteur requests information, within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report, on steps taken to implement the recommendation;
- “Lack of sufficient information to make an assessment”; in this case, the follow-up rapporteur requests information on the measures taken to implement the recommendation within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report;
- “Information or measures taken are contrary to or reflect rejection of the recommendation” indicates that the State party has taken no steps, reinforcing the Committee’s concerns or shows that the State party rejects the recommendations made by the Committee; in this case, the follow-up rapporteur requests information on the measures taken to implement the recommendation within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report.

III- Guidelines on the drafting of follow-up reports by States parties

- The follow-up report shall be concise and focused on the recommendations identified by the Committee in the framework of the follow-up procedure;
- The follow-up report on the selected recommendations shall not exceed a maximum length of 4000 words;
- The State party is requested to provide information on all the measures taken subsequent to the issuance of the Concluding Observations on the respective recommendations, specifying their dates of adoption and status of implementation;
- The follow-up report shall be submitted within the deadline stipulated in the Concluding Observations;

- The State party is requested to submit the follow-up report in one of the official UN languages;
- The State party shall send an electronic version of its report in Word to the following email address: cedaw@ohchr.org
- When considering the follow-up report, if the Committee considers that further information is necessary, it will request the State party to provide additional information within a new deadline to be established by the Committee or to include the additional information in the next periodic report.

IV- Guidelines on the submission of follow-up reports by NGOs, National Human Rights Institutions and other organizations

- NGOs, National Human Rights Institutions or other organizations can submit alternative follow-up reports; these reports shall be as concise as possible and not exceed a maximum length of 3500 words;
 - The suggested deadline for the NGOs, National Human Rights Institutions or organizations to submit their alternative reports is one month after the State party's follow-up report is made public;
 - Reports from NGOs, National Human Rights Institutions and other organizations shall be transmitted to the Secretariat in electronic format (in Word) at the following email address: cedaw@ohchr.org.
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