



REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Cuba/63

13 May 2016

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for 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 seventh and eighth periodic reports of the Republic Cuba at the Committee's fifty-fifth session, held in July 2013. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/CUB/CO/7-8). You may recall that in the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Cuba to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17 and 41 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with a three-month delay in October 2015 (CEDAW/C/CUB/CO/7-8/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its sixty-third session, held in February-March 2016 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 17** of the concluding observations that the State party “establish State machinery for the advancement of women and enhance coordination between the Federation of Cuban Women and government agencies, in particular through the provision of adequate financial and human resources”: The State party mentioned that it recognizes the Federation of Cuban Women as the national machinery for the advancement of women since 1997. It further indicated that the Federation formed relationships of coordination with governmental agencies and institutions to advance gender issues on the national agenda and that its Secretary General, as member of the Council of State, is regularly invited to meetings of the Council of Ministers. In addition, the National Assembly of People's Power has a standing Commission on Children, Youth and Women's Rights and Equality, which is presided over by a high-ranking officer of the Federation of Cuban Women. With regard to the availability of human and financial resources, the State party stated that the Federation of Cuban Women has the distinctive feature of being self-financing, although it still receives financial support from the Cuban Government. The Committee notes that the State party has not yet taken measures to establish a distinct State machinery for the advancement of women, given that the Federation of Cuban Women, designed as the national machinery for the advancement of women, has the status of a non-governmental organization. It further notes that the State party did not indicate whether it took concrete steps to enhance coordination between the Federation of Cuban Women and

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government agencies since the issuance of the previous concluding observations. Moreover, it considers that the State party did not provide sufficient information on the steps taken to allocate adequate financial and human resources to the Federation of Cuban Women. The Committee considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “use the Convention as the legal framework for the design of a comprehensive national plan of action to promote gender equality and put in place monitoring mechanisms to regularly assess the progress made towards the achievement of established goals”: The State party mentioned that it has developed in 1997 a National Action Plan for Follow-up on the Fourth World Conference on Women, which takes into account commitments assumed by the Cuban Government, including the Convention and its concluding observations. In this regard, it highlighted correspondence between the National Action Plan and certain articles of the Convention. It further indicated that the Council of State and Council of Ministers convene national evaluation seminars on advances made and challenges faced in implementing the National Action Plan. The Committee welcomes the implementation and periodic evaluation of the National Action Plan for Follow-up on the Fourth World Conference on Women. However, it notes that the National Action Plan does not take into account important articles of the Convention, namely articles 2, 4, 6, 9, 13 and 14, as well as violence against women. Moreover, it notes that the State party did not indicate whether existing monitoring mechanisms regularly assess the progress made towards the achievement of established goals. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps towards the implementation of the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 17 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

- 1) Establish a distinct State machinery for the advancement of women and enhance coordination between the Federation of Cuban Women and government agencies, in particular through the provision of adequate financial and human resources; and
- 2) Amend the National Action Plan for Follow-up on the Fourth World Conference on Women to ensure that it is comprehensive and fully in line with the Convention, and to guarantee its regular assessment by existing monitoring mechanisms.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 41** of the concluding observations that the State party “enhance the collection, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive data, disaggregated by sex, age, race, ethnicity, location and socioeconomic status, and the use of measurable indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and progress towards the realization by women of substantive equality in all areas covered by the Convention; and develop gender-sensitive indicators which could be used in the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and, when necessary, review of women’s and gender equality policies, in line with general recommendation No. 9 on statistical data concerning the situation of women”: The State party indicated that the National System of Statistical Information provides for the compilation, analysis and dissemination of demographic data through surveys and censuses, which includes information relating to the situation of women in all areas covered by the Convention. It further mentioned the formation in 2011 of a technical committee on demographic information, which has developed strategies and actions to gradually improve the compilation, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated data. Moreover, it stated that the National Office of Statistics and Information, the Federation of Cuban Women and the Centre for Women’s Studies are conducting joint activities to ensure a gender approach in the country’s statistical information, as shown in the preparatory work for the Gender Survey to be carried out in 2016. The Committee welcomes the efforts of the State party to gradually improve and promote a gender-sensitive approach in the compilation, analysis and dissemination of disaggregated demographic data. However, it considers that the State party has not taken sufficient measures to enhance the collection, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive data, disaggregated by sex, age, race, ethnicity, location and

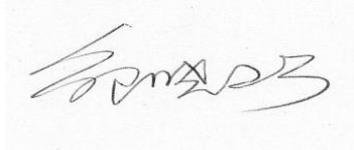
socioeconomic status, and the use of measurable and gender-sensitive indicators, which could be used in the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and, when necessary, review of women's and gender equality policies, to assess trends in the situation of women and progress towards the realization by women of substantive equality in all areas covered by the Convention. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps towards the implementation of the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 41 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to enhance the collection, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive data, disaggregated by sex, age, race, ethnicity, location and socioeconomic status, and the use of measurable and gender-sensitive indicators, which could be used in the formulation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and, when necessary, review of women's and gender equality policies, to assess trends in the situation of women and progress towards the realization by women of substantive equality in all areas covered by the Convention.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of the Republic of Cuba on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Xiaoqiao Zou
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women