



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: registry@ohchr.org – cedaw@ohchr.org

REFERENCE: MK/follow-up/Eritrea /70

5 September 2018

Dear Mr. Woldeyohannes,

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 honor to refer to the examination of the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Eritrea, at the Committee's sixtieth session, held in February 2015. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ERI/CO/5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 50 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Eritrea to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 9 (b) and 25 (a), (c) and (e) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with a twelve-month delay in February 2018 (CEDAW/C/ERI/CO/5/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventieth session, held in July 2018 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 9** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**prevent, investigate, prosecute in criminal courts and punish all cases of violence against women and girls during their national service at the Sawa Military Training Centre and implement a policy of zero tolerance**”: The State party indicated that the defamatory statements of sexual abuse in the Sawa Education and Training Center have been refuted by repeated explanations, and that these allegations are unfounded. The State party presented the transformation of the Sawa Training Center into an Education and Training Center and requested the Committee to acknowledge and respect the exemplary participation of young girls in the national service.

The Committee takes note of the State party's position rejecting allegations of violence against women and girls during their national service and at the Sawa Military Training Center. The Committee considers that this rejection and the absence of measures taken to prevent, investigate, prosecute in criminal courts and publish all such cases, as well as to implement a policy of zero tolerance, reflect rejection of the recommendation. It considers that the state party **has failed to cooperate with the Committee** in respect of this recommendation.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is incomplete fails to address the recommendations. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

Mr. Bereket Woldeyohannes
First Secretary
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Eritrea
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Rue de Lausanne 80, 4th Floor
1202 Geneva

Email: eritrean.embassy@bluewin.ch

In relation to the recommendation urging the State party to “**provide legal aid, rehabilitation programmes and compensation to victims**”: The State party indicated that if sexual violence and rape occurs, appropriate punitive measures are taken by the relevant institutions, especially the courts. It did not provide information on measures taken to provide legal aid, rehabilitation programmes and compensation to victims.

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party that if sexual violence and rape occurs, the courts take appropriate measures. It however regrets the absence of information on measures taken to provide legal aid, rehabilitation programmes and compensation to victims. It considers that the State party has not taken sufficient steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State has failed to address the recommendations. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 9** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

1. **Prevent, investigate, prosecute in criminal courts and punish all cases of violence against women and girls during their national service at the Sawa Military Training Centre and implement a policy of zero tolerance.**
2. **Provide legal aid, rehabilitation programmes and compensation to victims.**

With regards to the recommendation made in **paragraph 25** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**expeditiously hold free and fair elections to the National Assembly and other elected bodies, ensuring that all women, including those from disadvantaged groups and those holding divergent opinions, can vote and stand for election**”: The State party indicated that affirmative action, as transitional measures aimed to close prevailing gender disparities in all aspects of development, is part of its 1994 Marco Policy and its National Charter.

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party that temporary special measures aimed to close prevailing gender disparities in all aspects of development is part of its national policies. Regretting the absence of measures taken to hold free and fair elections, ensuring that all women, including those from disadvantaged groups and those holding divergent opinions, can vote and stand for elections, it considers that the State party has not taken sufficient steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the information or measures taken **reflect rejection of the recommendation**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is incomplete and fails to respond to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

In relation to the recommendation urging the State party to “**intensify the use of effective temporary special measures, including statutory quotas with sanctions for non-compliance, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee ’ s general recommendation No. 25 on the subject**”: The State party indicated that that Proclamation No. 86/1996 introduces a women’s quota of 30% for all elections. It added that one seat is reserved for women in all administrative committees at village and locality levels, community courts, land distributing committees and local development projects.

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party regarding a women’s quota for elections and reserved seats for women at the local administrative level. It

regrets however the absence of measures taken to intensify the use of temporary special measures after the measures adopted in 1996, and to introduce sanctions for non-compliance with its statutory quotas. The Committee considers that the State party has not taken sufficient steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is incomplete and fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

With regards to the recommendation urging the State party to “**promote the equal representation of women in political and public life, in particular in elected and appointed political positions and in the judiciary, targeting decision-making levels**”: The State party indicated that women’s participation in public and political life in the elected and appointed positions, including in the judiciary, is showing progress. It added that to encourage and ensure girls’ participation in higher education, lower entrance requirements are requested for them.

The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party that women’s participation in elected and appointed positions, including in the judiciary, is showing progress. It regrets however the absence of information on precise figures and measures taken to promote their participation in appointed political positions and in the judiciary, targeting decision-making levels. The Committee considers that the State party has not taken sufficient steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is incomplete and fails to respond to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

Regarding the recommendation urging the State party to “**adopt, in cooperation with representatives of women’s organizations, a national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and ensure that it takes into consideration the full spectrum of the Council’s women and peace and security agenda as reflected in Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 2122 (2013)**”: The State party indicated that it sees the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) as a continuation of the Kampala Action Plan on Women and Peace (1993), the African Platform for Action, Dakar (1994), the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing (1995) and the Pan African Women’s Conference on a Culture of Peace, Zanzibar (1999), in which it took part. It added that it reiterates its commitment to collaborate with the United Nations to promote and strengthen the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts.

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party on its participation on a number of action plans on related to women and peace. However regretting the absence of measures taken, since the adoption of its concluding observations, to adopt a national plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in cooperation with representatives of women’s organizations, the Committee considers that the State party has not taken sufficient steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is incomplete and fails to respond to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.



The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 25** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

1. Expeditiously hold free and fair elections to the National Assembly and other elected bodies, ensuring that all women, including those from disadvantaged groups and those holding divergent opinions, can vote and stand for election.

2. Intensify the use of effective temporary special measures, including statutory quotas, and introduce sanctions for non-compliance.

3. Promote the equal representation of women in political and public life, in particular in elected and appointed political positions and in the judiciary, in targeting decision-making levels.

4. Expeditiously adopt, in cooperation with representatives of women's organizations, a national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Gbedemah
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women