



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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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 ninth periodic report of Guyana, at the Committee's seventy-third session, held in July 2019. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 56 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Guyana to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10, 18 (a), 24 (c) and 42 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on time in November 2021 ([CEDAW/C/GUY/FCO/9](#)) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its eighty-first session, held in February 2022, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 10** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“translate the Convention into the Macushi and Wapishana languages and raise awareness among women, civil society organizations and religious and community leaders about the Convention, the Committee's general recommendations and women's rights under international and national law, including through audio recordings and radio broadcasts and in hinterland areas (CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/7-8, para. 9), in line with its general recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention”**:

The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to promote and preserve its nine indigenous languages, but regrets that the Convention could not yet be translated into Macushi and Wapishana. It notes with appreciation the efforts made to raise awareness among Amerindian communities, their elected leaders and Amerindian women and children on key human rights issues, including through the use of radio stations that also cover interior areas. Nevertheless, the Committee notes that there was no special focus on the CEDAW Convention and also there was no mention of other efforts to reach the wider civil society, the Women's Commission or state agencies and ministries. The Committee stresses the importance to adopt measures to address women, civil society organizations and religious leaders more broadly, in addition to the Amerindian communities, and to cover women's rights under national and international law, the Convention and its general recommendations more specifically in its awareness-raising activities.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

H.E. Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett  
Permanent Representative

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The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 10** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Strengthen its efforts to translate the Convention into the Macushi and Wapishana languages and raise awareness among women, civil society organizations and religious and community leaders about the Convention, the Committee's general recommendations and women's rights under international and national law, including through audio recordings and radio broadcasts and in hinterland areas.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 18 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“increase the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Gender Affairs Bureau and enhance the gender-specific expertise among its staff to enable it to coordinate efforts to promote gender equality, mainstream gender equality across government policies and introduce gender-responsive budgeting, in line with commitments made during the universal periodic review ([A/HRC/29/16](#), para. 130.9)”**:

The Committee welcomes the increase in the budget allocated to the Gender Affairs Bureau in 2020 and 2021. It also notes with appreciation the training on gender-specific issues that was provided to staff of the Bureau in 2019 and 2021, whose expertise was shared with the Regional Gender Affairs Committees and through an Inter-Ministry Gender Focal Point Committee. Nevertheless, the Committee notes the absence of information on the overall budget of the Gender Affairs Bureau and whether the training provided to staff of the Gender Affairs Bureau and through it to members of the Regional Affairs Committees is mandatory and recurrent. It also notes that it is not clear whether the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Gender Affairs Bureau effectively enable it to coordinate efforts to promote gender equality, mainstream gender equality across government policies and introduce gender-responsive budgeting, or whether the budgetary increases resulted in personnel and programme enhancement.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 18 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Ensure that the human, technical and financial resources allocated to the Gender Affairs Bureau enable it to properly coordinate efforts to promote gender equality, mainstream gender equality across government policies and introduce gender-responsive budgeting, and continue to strengthen the gender-specific expertise among its staff, in line with commitments made during the universal periodic review ([A/HRC/29/16](#), para. 130.9).**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 24 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“establish the minimum legal age of marriage for girls and boys at 18 years ([CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/7-8](#), para. 39 (a)), conduct comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns to challenge cultural attitudes that legitimize child marriage, in collaboration with the Childcare and Protection Agency, police and communities, and**

**ensure that all marriages are registered, including by facilitating affordable access to registration services in all regions”:**

The Committee notes the information shared by the State party on the provisions of the Marriage Act, the Age of Consent Act and the Sexual Offences Act. However, it is deeply concerned that marriages, where either party is under the age of 18 (and above the age of 16) remain legal with judicial authorization. While welcoming the awareness-raising activities undertaken by the Childcare and Protection Agency to challenge cultural attitudes that legitimize child marriage, the Committee notes the absence of information on any efforts taken to monitor and evaluate the impact of these activities. The Committee further regrets the lack of information on the measures taken by the State party to ensure that all marriages are registered.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 24 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Establish, without delay, the minimum legal age of marriage for girls and boys at 18 years ([CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/7-8](#), para. 39 (a)), strengthen its efforts to conduct comprehensive awareness-raising campaigns to challenge cultural attitudes that legitimize child marriage, monitor and evaluate such efforts, and ensure that all marriages are registered, including by facilitating affordable access to registration services in all regions.**

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 42** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**review its climate change and energy policies, particularly those relating to the extraction of oil and gas, and develop a disaster risk reduction strategy that takes into account the negative effects of climate change on gender equality and on the lives of women and their families, especially those living in areas below sea level, in line with its general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change**”:

The Committee notes that the State party has drafted a Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) 2030, to be finalized in March 2022. It also notes the development of a Gender-based Climate Resilience Analysis for Guyana and efforts to mainstream gender in the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy (2013), the Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience (EnGenDER) Project and in policies and programmes of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the implementation of recommendations contained in the Gender-based Climate Resilience Analysis for Guyana and on the steps taken to systematically monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the above-mentioned policies and activities.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.



The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 42** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Develop a disaster risk reduction strategy that takes into account the negative effects of climate change on gender equality and on the lives of women and their families, especially those living in areas below sea level, and systematically monitor and evaluate its impact.**

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Louiza Chalal'.

Louiza Chalal  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women