



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 honor to refer to the examination of the combined second and third periodic reports of Oman, at the Committee's sixty-eighth session, held in November 2017. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/OMN/CO/2-3) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 62 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Oman to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in 10 (a), 16 (a), 24 (a) and 40 (b) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with a four-month delay in March 2020 (CEDAW/C/OMN/FCO/2-3) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-sixth session, held remotely due to COVID-19 pandemic in July 2020, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 10 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“complete the steps for the withdrawal of its reservation to article 15 (4) of the Convention”**:

The Committee welcomes the Royal Decree 3/2019, which approved the State party's withdrawal of its reservation to article 15 (4) of the Convention, and that the State party informed the Secretary-General the withdrawal on 6 February 2019. The Committee considers that the State party took significant steps to implement the recommendations. It considers that the recommendation **has been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and responds directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 16 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“provide detailed information on the mandate, status and authority of the National Commission for Family Affairs and its relationship with relevant ministries and women's non-governmental organizations to promote gender mainstreaming throughout all government bodies and participatory planning for the advancement of women; on the human, technical and financial resources allocated from the**

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national budget to the Commission; and on the presence of the Commission at the governorate and local levels in order to enable the Committee to assess the effectiveness of the Commission as the national machinery for the advancement of women”:

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party that the National Commission for Family Affairs is composed of the representatives of eight bodies/ ministries and the Commission proposes policies and programs relating to family care, monitors the implementation in coordination with relevant authorities, and conducts research on family affairs. It also notes that the State party allocates funds from the national budget to the Commission, and the local authorities contribute to the Commission’s activities. The Committee notes further that the most recent seminar on family cohesion, which was organized in 2018 focused on the role of women in promoting family cohesion and the impact of social media on moral conduct.

However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on: (a) the legal framework regulating the Commission’s relationship with women’s non-governmental organizations and whether those organizations can participate in planning for the advancement of women; (b) human and technical resources allocated to the Commission; and (c) the details of the contribution from local authorities to the Commission to enable the Committee to assess the effectiveness of the Commission. The Committee considers that there is a **lack of adequate information to make an assessment**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is incomplete and does not 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 16 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on:

The National Commission for Family Affairs’ relationship with relevant women’s non-governmental organizations to promote participatory planning for the advancement of women; on the details of the human, technical and financial resources allocated from the national budget to the Commission; and on the presence of the Commission at the governorate and local levels in order to enable the Committee to assess the effectiveness of the Commission as the national machinery for the advancement of women.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 24 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“undertake a national study on the prevalence of harmful practices and continue to take measures to eliminate all harmful practices in the State party, including female genital mutilation and child and/or forced marriage, especially in rural areas”:**

The Committee welcomes that the implementing regulations of the Child Act promulgated by Decision 125/2019 of the Ministry of Social Development, in Article (4), identifies female genital mutilation as one of the harmful practices to the health of the girl child. The Committee notes with appreciation that such mention in the Regulations is an outcome subsequent to the review of medical reports by joint meeting between the Committee to Monitor Implementation of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee to Monitor Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the status of implementation of this recommendation through any endeavour across the State party, especially with emphasis upon eliminating the practice of female genital mutilation in the rural areas.

On child and/or forced marriage, the Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party that the Personal Status Law still allows marriage of a person below 18 years of



age upon the approval of a competent judge who verifies the consent of the parties. The Committee expresses concern that no step has been taken corresponding to the recommendation to assess the prevalence of the practice of child marriage which could help introduce targeted measures to address the problem.

The Committee therefore considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation on eliminating female genital mutilation but it has failed to take any step towards elimination of child and/or forced marriage. 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 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on:

1. Further actions taken to undertake a national study on the prevalence of harmful practices and continue to take measures to eliminate all harmful practices in the State party, including female genital mutilation and child and/or forced marriage, especially in rural areas;

2. The details of recommendations made by the National Committee to Monitor Implementation of the Convention and the National Committee to Monitor Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its status of implementation.

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 40 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**extend the application of the Labour Law to domestic workers and adopt a specific law regulating domestic employment, with adequate sanctions for employers engaging in abusive practices**”:

The Committee takes note of awareness-raising activities for migrant workers and their employers, including domestic workers, on their employment rights and the availability of such brochures in 22 languages. However, it regrets the absence of information on the State party's measures to implement the Committee's recommendation in paragraph 40 (b). The Committee considers that the State party did not take steps to adopt and implement a specific law regulating domestic employment. It considers therefore that the recommendation **has not been 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 40 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

Extend the application of the Labour Law to domestic workers and adopt a specific law regulating domestic employment, with adequate sanctions for employers engaging in abusive practices.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



2. Nadaraia

Lia Nadaraia
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women