



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Papua New Guinea/53

27 November 2012

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 combined initial, second and third report of Papua New Guinea, at the Committee's forty-sixth session, held in July 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PNG/CO/3) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 60 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Papua New Guinea to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 28 and 34 of the concluding observations, namely:

“28. The Committee urges the State party to take immediate and effective measures to investigate the incidences of torture and killings of women and girls, especially old women, based on accusations of witchcraft or sorcery, to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of such acts and to prevent their reoccurrence in the future. The Committee calls on the State party to accelerate its review of the law on sorcery and sorcery-related killings and to strengthen the enforcement of relevant legislation. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its awareness-raising and educational efforts, targeted at both women and men, with the support of civil society and the involvement of community and village chiefs and religious leaders, to eliminate this practice”; and

“34. The Committee urges the State party to expeditiously adopt, through its Parliament, the Equality and Participation Bill with 22 reserved seats for women in Parliament. The Committee also calls on the State party to take all appropriate measures to increase the number of women in elected and appointed office at all levels, so as to comply with articles 7 and 8 of the Convention. The Committee encourages the State party to take concrete measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Committee's general recommendations Nos. 23 and 25, and to establish

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concrete goals and timetables in order to accelerate the increase in the representation of women in all spheres of public life. It also encourages the State party to implement awareness-raising campaigns, including on the purpose of introducing temporary special measures as a necessary strategy for accelerating realization of women's de facto equality, such as quotas, and to highlight the importance to society as a whole of women's full and equal participation in leadership positions in all sectors and at all levels. The Committee also calls on the State party to take measures to empower women in the outer islands so that they can participate in island matters on an equal footing. The Committee recommends that the State party carefully monitor the effectiveness of measures taken and results achieved and encourages it to continue to use targets and quotas, where appropriate, in this respect.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2012, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Papua New Guinea on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. Please send a Word electronic version of the information to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Bailey
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women