

REFERENCE: AA/Follow-up/Russia/54

19 March 2013

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 sixth and seventh periodic report of the Russian Federation at the Committee's forty-sixth session, held in July 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's Concluding Observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/USR/CO/7). You may recall that in paragraph 55 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Russian Federation to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 25 and 31 of the Concluding Observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on 10 July 2012, under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/7/Add.1). At its fifty-fourth session, held in February 2013 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 25** of the Concluding Observations “to take immediate action to ensure the protection of the human rights of women in the Northern Caucasus, including the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation.”: The State party indicated that it had introduced a weekly newspaper in the Chechen Republic and a legal education programme aimed at promoting the ideas of human rights among State and municipal employees and staff of the law enforcement system. The State party also indicated that it made efforts in awareness-raising in order to eradicate the practice of bride abduction. The Committee considers that the measures taken by the State party are not sufficient. In addition, the Committee notes the existence of public and reliable reports of recent and serious human rights violations in the Northern Caucasus. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to end the impunity for violence against and killings of women and girls in the Northern Caucasus, by ensuring that such cases are fully and promptly investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice, regardless of whether they are State or non-State actors”: The State party stated that a criminal case is open on every established case of violent crime against women in the Northern Caucasus. The State party further mentioned that disciplinary measures have been taken by prosecutorial agencies against officials responsible for violations committed during the reporting, recording or reviewing of information on crimes. It added that investigative officers are trained to rigorously respect the rights and legal interests of all participants in criminal proceedings. However, the Committee notes the existence of various public and reliable reports denouncing the persistence of impunity in the Northern Caucasus. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

H. E. Mr. Alexey BORODAVKIN
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations
Avenue de la Paix 15
1211 Geneva 20

E-mail: mission.russian@vtxnet.ch

Regarding the recommendation “to ensure the provision of adequate reparation to the surviving victims, including the families of the deceased, and to send a clear message that human rights abuses will not be tolerated and will be addressed through human rights complaints, thorough investigations, fair trials and punishment of the perpetrators”: The State party stated that the courts can award damages to women recognized under the Code of Criminal Procedure as victims of violent crimes. It mentioned 45 criminal cases considered by the court and mentioned that, in these cases, claims in violent crimes were met fully or partially. However, the State party failed to provide sufficient information on the kind of reparation provided to the victims of violent crimes. It also failed to provide information on whether reparations were provided to the families of the deceased. In addition, the Committee again notes the existence of various public and reliable reports denouncing the persistence of impunity in the Northern Caucasus. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to take the necessary measures to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, following her visit to the Russian Federation in December 2004”: While the State party provided information on measures taken for social and economic development of the Northern Caucasus, it failed to provide information on most of the aspects raised by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, including the adoption of legislation on violence, the measures taken against gender biases in law enforcement and the judiciary, the establishment of shelters for victims of violence and the establishment of a machinery for the advancement of women. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to adopt programmes which are aimed at reintegrating women into development processes in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation”: The State party provided information on measures taken for social and economic development of the Northern Caucasus from which women benefit”: The State party indicated that it is making considerable efforts to promote the social and economic development of the Northern Caucasus, theretofore a special Commission was set up and a federal programme has been adopted. The State party stated that federal and regional maternity and child allowances are given. However, except for the maternity allowances, the State party failed to mention specific measures taken to improve the reintegration of women into development processes. The Committee considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **by August 2013**, additional information on actions taken to:

- 1) End the impunity for violence against and killings of women and girls in the Northern Caucasus, by ensuring that such cases are fully and promptly investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice, regardless of whether they are State or non-State actors; and
- 2) Ensure the provision of adequate reparation to the surviving victims, including the families of the deceased, and send a clear message that human rights abuses will not be tolerated and will be addressed through human rights complaints, thorough investigations, fair trials and punishment of the perpetrators;

The Committee also recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on the actions taken to:

- 1) Ensure the protection of the human rights of women in the Northern Caucasus, including the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation;



- 2) Implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, following her visit to the Russian Federation in December 2004; and
- 3) Adopt programmes which are aimed at reintegrating women into development processes in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation.

Regarding the recommendation made **in paragraph 31** of the Concluding Observations “to pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making in all areas of public, political and professional life”: The State party failed to provide information on the pursuance of sustained policies aimed at the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to fully utilize the Committee’s general recommendation No. 23 and to adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, in order to accelerate the full and equal participation of women in public and political life”: The State party indicated that the Committee on Family, Women’s and Children’s affairs is working on a draft law on State guarantees of equal rights and freedoms, as well as equal opportunities for men and women in the Russian Federation. However, the State party failed to indicate whether this draft law provides for temporary special measures. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to implement awareness-raising activities on the importance of the participation of women in decision-making for society as a whole and to develop targeted training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office, as well as programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders”: The State party failed to provide information on this recommendation. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to carefully monitor the effectiveness of measures taken and results achieved and to inform the Committee thereof”: As the State party failed to provide information on the measures taken regarding the participation of women in decision-making and the adoption of temporary special measures (see above-mentioned recommendations), it also failed to provide information on the monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures and the results achieved. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on actions taken to:

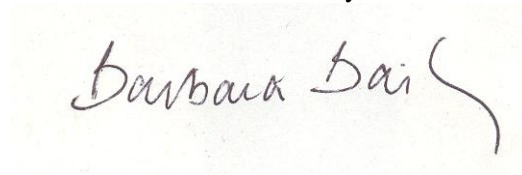
- 1) Pursue policies aimed at the promotion of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making especially in the area of the political life;
- 2) Adopt the bill on State guarantees of equal rights and freedoms and equal opportunities for men and women in the Russian Federation and ensure that it contains temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation No. 25, in order to accelerate the full and equal participation of women in public and political life;
- 3) Implement awareness-raising activities on the importance of the participation of women in decision-making for society as a whole and the development of targeted training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office, as well as programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders; and

4) Carefully monitor the effectiveness of measures taken and results achieved.

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

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

Yours sincerely,



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