



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 102nd session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Cuba, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 (d) and (e), 20 and 22 (c) and (f) of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/CUB/CO/19-21), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 19th to 21st periodic reports, at its 96th session, held in August 2018.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its combined 22nd to 26th periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document by 16 March 2023.

Paragraph 14 (d) and (e) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee thanks the State party for its response and requests the State party to provide the Committee with the provisions of the law relating to non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders, in particular those working in the field of racial discrimination, and explain to what extent this law is compatible with the Convention. The State party is also requested to provide information on how the Convention applies to the non-governmental organizations and human rights defenders. Furthermore, the State party is requested to provide examples of concrete measures taken to protect human rights defenders from any reprisals in exercise of their activities. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party indicating that the national media, in all formats, report on and promote the work of the

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legitimate representatives of Cuban civil society. However, the Committee requests the State party to include, in its next periodic report, details on awareness-raising campaigns initiated by the government of the State party, on the essential work carried out by human rights defenders. The Committee considers this request partially satisfactory.

Paragraph 20 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes the approval by the Council of Ministers in 2019, of a National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination and that a National Commission chaired by the President was established to coordinate the Programme's activities. The Committee also takes note that civil society organizations and human rights defenders, especially those working to combat racial discrimination, have played an active role in this process and are now represented, alongside the main agencies of the central State administration, in the National Commission set up to coordinate the Programme. However, the Committee regrets the absence of detailed information about the concrete involvement of people of African descent and of all those groups of national or ethnic origin who continue to face discrimination and social exclusion in the implementation of this Programme. The Committee also regrets that the State party did not provide information on mechanisms for assessing results of the Programme and on the allocation of the human, technical and financial resources required. The Committee considers that the response of the State party to this recommendation is partially satisfactory and requests the State party to include, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation, and an update on the status of the implementation of the National Programme against Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Paragraph 22 (c) and (f) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided on trainings to public officials, prosecutors, judges and law enforcement personnel, in particular trainings that cover the provisions of the Convention. The Committee welcomes information that the State party continues to evaluate possible further measures that could be taken to improve the initial and in-service training provided to public officials, prosecutors, judges, magistrates and law enforcement personnel, particularly in the area of citizens' rights. The Committee requests the State party to provide an update on these measures in its next periodic report. The Committee notes that the National Commission established to combat racism and racial discrimination will be reviewing the issue of tools for accessing information on crime and violence incorporating the variables of the victims' colour, national origin or ethnic origin and other relevant variables related to intersectional discrimination. The Committee requests the State party to include, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to introduce such tools and on how these tools are used. The Committee considers that this response by the State party is partially satisfactory.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Cuba, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Yanduan Li
Chair
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination