



REFERENCE: CERD/98th session/FU/MJA/ks

10 May 2019

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 98th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, 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 of the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 20 and 32 (c) of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/ECU/CO/23-24), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 23rd to 24th periodic reports, at its 93rd session held in August 2017.

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 25th periodic report, to be submitted in a single document by 1 January 2020.

Paragraph 13 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee appreciates the information provided by the State party on the consideration of a bill on the coordination and cooperation between indigenous and ordinary justice, yet regrets that the National Assembly has not yet undertaken pre-legislative consultations. The Committee urges the State party to expedite the adoption of that and inform the Committee on the expected deadlines of its adoption.

Paragraph 20 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes information provided by the State party on measures taken to protect human rights defenders, to prevent violence against them and to diversify the police force as well as information that some indigenous leaders were granted presidential pardons. It notes that a combined bill was proposed to establish an

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organization to promote and protect rights of individuals and groups, which is being considered by the Standing Committee on Collective Rights as of July 2018. The Committee requests information on the status of this bill in the State party's next periodic report. The Committee requests further updated information on measures taken to ensure the effective protection and personal safety of human rights defenders, including leaders and defenders of the rights of Montubio, Afro-Ecuadorian and indigenous peoples. The Committee urges the State party to conduct investigations, and to prosecute persecution of and violence against human rights defenders and provide information on this in its next periodic report.

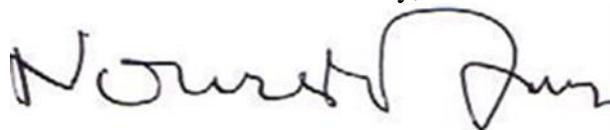
Paragraph 32 (c) of the Concluding Observations

The Committee welcomes information provided by the State party on efforts to eliminate administrative barriers faced by refugees. The Committee also welcomes actions to eliminate administrative barriers to employment for refugees such as the reinstatement by the Ministry of Labour of the Human Mobility Committee in April 2017, which established focus areas to ensure access to employment. The Committee further welcomes information that foreign students do not face barriers in access to schools because of identity documentation and students without documentation are enrolled with their name, as well as information provided on the other measures taken to assist foreign students to register. Moreover, the Committee welcomes the "graduation models" pilot program to improve the quality of life of refugees and asylum seekers, and requests updated information on the implementation and impact of this project on refugees. The Committee takes note of progress in expediting consideration of applications for refugee status, and requests updated information on the impact of these measures. The Committee notes that social security is limited to those who are employed, and requests information on progress towards ensuring equal access to these benefits for refugees without a job or identity documents. The Committee welcomes information on the provision of healthcare, and requests further information on whether all persons are able to access healthcare, despite refugee status or lack of identity documentation. The Committee recommends that the State party continue measures to eliminate administrative barriers faced by refugees and requests updated information in the State party's next periodic report on the implementation and impact of these measures on the ability of refugees to access health care, employment, and education.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, 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,



Nouredine Amir
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination