



REFERENCE: 2021-18/CESCR/FU

18 May 2021

Excellency,

In our capacity as Chair and Rapporteur for follow up to concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights respectively, we have the honour to refer to the examination of the sixth periodic report of Germany at the Committee's sixty-fourth session, held in September 2018. In the concluding observations (E/C.12/DEU/CO/6), the Committee requested Germany to provide, within 24 months, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs in paragraphs 49, 51 and 55(b) and (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report (E/C.12/DEU/FCO/6) received in October 2021 under its follow-up procedure. The Committee examined the report at its sixty-ninth session, held in March 2021, and wishes to communicate the following assessment:

Paragraph 49: care services for older persons – Sufficient progress. The Committee notes with appreciation the new legislative, administrative, financial and promotional measures taken to bring fundamental reforms and to reorganize the care services for older persons, as described in the follow-up report. These include, for example, the adoption of the 2019 Nursing Staff Reinforcement Act which sets new standards for staffing levels and working conditions in nursing and geriatric care, the 2020 Nursing Professions Act which aims to improve nursing training programmes, and the adoption of minimum wages for professions in the nursing care sector. The Committee also notes that nursing homes and care services are audited annually, with repeat inspections or special, unannounced, audits when necessary. The findings of such audits are made public. The State party reports that, as a result of these measures, situations in nursing homes, both for the cared and the caring staff, have significantly improved. In light of the above, the Committee assesses that there has been “sufficient progress” in the implementation of this recommendation.

His Excellency

Mr. Michael Freiherr von UNGERN-STERNBERG

Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany

to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

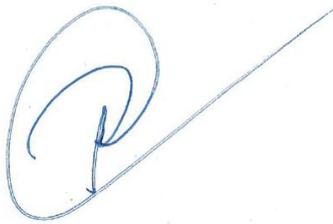
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Paragraph 51: child poverty – Sufficient progress. The Committee notes with appreciation the numerous measures taken by the State party to tackle child poverty, including the Education Package and the increase in the amount of the child benefit, as well as the removal of obstacles to accessing social benefits. The Committee also welcomes the allocation of additional funding to *Länders* and to subsidize childcare. The Committee notes that, as a result of the legislative and policy measures taken, the amounts of benefits as well as the number of children that have benefited therefrom have greatly increased. The Committee thus assess that there was “sufficient progress” in the implementation of this recommendation.

Paragraph 55(b) and (c): right to housing – Sufficient progress. The Committee notes that the Housing Campaign adopted by State party jointly with *Länders* and municipalities has led to a significant increase in public spending on housing. It also notes the positive change to the conditions for tenants to claim a rent refund under the Act to Extend and Improve Regulations on the Permitted Rental Price at the Start of a Rental Agreement of 19/3/2020 and the Act to Extend the Reference Period for Standard Local Comparative Rents, including as regards the threshold for housing reimbursement. The Committee thus concludes that there has been sufficient progress in relation to the implementation of this recommendation.

The Committee notes with appreciation the information provided by the State party on measures taken to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 on children and older persons as well as on housing rights. It looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the State party, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Covenant.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.



Renato Zerbini Ribeiro Leão
Chair
Committee on Economic, Social
and Cultural Rights



Heisoo Shin
Rapporteur *a.i.* for follow-up
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