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COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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10 November 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 third periodic report of Estonia at the Committee's sixty-fifth session, held in 2019. In the concluding observations (E/C.12/EST/CO/3), the Committee requested Estonia to provide, within 24 months, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11, 15 (a) and (b) and 45 (d) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report (E/C.12/EST/FCO/3) received in March 2021 under its follow-up procedure. The Committee examined the report at its seventieth session, held from 27 September to 15 October 2021, and wishes to communicate the following assessment:

**Paragraph 11: Amendments to the Equal Treatment Act (ETA) – Assessment: Insufficient progress.** The State party's follow up report in respect of this recommendation indicates that the ETA has not yet been amended, albeit noting amendments are under preparation. It further indicates that the budget allocations for the Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner have increased consistently from 2015 to 2020, however increase since 2019 and further is not clearly demonstrated. The Committee therefore assesses that the progress to date is insufficient and requests the State party to provide more information in the next periodic report.

**Paragraph 15 (a): Accelerate the acquisition of Estonian citizenship by persons with undetermined citizenship - Assessment: Sufficient progress.** In its follow up report, the State party confirms that the procedure for applying for citizenship was simplified, including for persons in vulnerable situations, such as minors, older persons and persons with disabilities. It is further indicated that amendments to the Citizenship Act (2019) enable free-of-charge language classes for those wishing to apply for Estonian citizenship. The Committee thus assesses that there was sufficient progress in the implementation of this recommendation.

Her Excellency  
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**Paragraph 15 (b): Grant Estonian citizenship to stateless children born in the State party regardless of their parents' legal status - Assessment: Sufficient progress.** The Committee notes the information in the follow-up report that, since 2016, children of parents with undetermined citizenship automatically acquire Estonian citizenship. The Committee also notes that, according to information at its disposal, as a result of the measures taken, the number of children who have benefited therefrom has greatly increased. The Committee thus assesses that there was sufficient progress in the implementation of this recommendation.

**Paragraph 45 (d): Development of a gender-sensitive drug policy – Assessment: Sufficient progress.** The Committee notes with appreciation the range of measures taken by the State party in relation to this recommendation in 2020, aiming to improve the quality and accessibility of services for people who abuse alcohol and use drugs. In particular, the gender sensitive elements of the services are welcome. In light of the above, the Committee assesses that there has been sufficient progress in the implementation of this recommendation.

The Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the State party, with a view to providing it with guidance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Covenant.

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



Heisoo Shin  
Rapporteur for follow-up  
Committee on Economic, Social  
and Cultural Rights



Mohamed Ezzeldin Abdel-Moneim  
Chair  
Committee on Economic, Social  
and Cultural Rights