



REFERENCE: 2023-61/CESCR/FU

6 November 2023

Excellency,

In our capacity as Chair and co-Rapporteurs for the follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, we have the honour to refer to the examination of the second periodic report submitted by the Republic of Latvia at the Committee's sixty-ninth Session held in 2021. In the concluding observations (E/C.12/LVA/CO/2), the Committee requested the Republic of Latvia to provide, within 24 months, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11, 33 (a), (b) and c), and 41 (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report (E/C.12/LVA/FCO/2) received in March 2023 under its follow-up procedure. The Committee examined the report at its seventy-fourth session, held from 25 September to 13 October 2023, and wishes to communicate the following assessment:

Paragraph 11: Climate Change – Assessment: Sufficient progress

The Committee welcomes the legislative, administrative and policy measures adopted by the State party to mitigate the impacts of climate change on economic, social and cultural rights. These include the establishment of the Ministry on Climate and Energy, as well as the adoption of the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change 2030, the National Development Plan (2021-2027) and the Guidelines for Environmental Policies (2021-2027). Furthermore, the Committee notes with interest the ongoing efforts towards the development of a comprehensive law on climate and encourages continued consultations for its enactment.

The Committee acknowledges the State party's commitment to the European Union's nationally determined contributions and the European Union climate law. It also commends the State party for its voluntary financial and technical contributions to support third countries in their endeavours to reduce emissions and address the challenges posed by climate change.

His Excellency
Mr. Bahtijors Hasans
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Consequently, the Committee concludes that there has been sufficient progress concerning the implementation of this recommendation.

Paragraph 33 (a-c): Poverty– Overall assessment: Partial progress

Para 33 (a) – Assessment: Partial progress. The Committee notes the measures taken by the State party to eradicate poverty. These measures include the adoption of sectoral policy frameworks, including its National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2030). However, the Committee regrets that the State party has not yet adopted a national action plan to eradicate poverty and address its root causes.

Para 33 (b) – Assessment: Sufficient progress. The Committee notes the immediate measures adopted, including providing financial support to affected individuals and households by raising minimum income thresholds for social benefits and pensions and extending unemployment and parental benefits.

Para 33 (c) – Assessment: Partial progress. The Committee notes the measures adopted, including increasing benefits and pensions, which particularly benefit low-income households, single-parent households and persons with disabilities. However, it regrets that the State party did not provide detailed information on the effectiveness of the measures nor disaggregated data concerning targeted support for migrants and Roma.

In conclusion, the Committee assesses the recommendations (a) as partial progress, (b) as sufficient progress, and (c) as partial progress. Therefore, the overall assessment of the recommendations contained in paragraph 33 (a-c) is partial progress. The Committee requests the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 33 (a-c) and the progress made thereby.

Paragraph 41 (a-e): Healthcare response to the COVID-19 pandemic – Overall Assessment: Sufficient progress

The Committee notes the various measures taken by the State party in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Para. 41 (a) – Assessment: Sufficient progress. The State party has taken measures to ensure healthcare resource availability through equipment repurposing and the expansion of healthcare facilities;

Para. 41 (b) – Assessment: Sufficient progress. The State party adopted measures to enhance COVID-19 testing capacity, adapting testing protocols and implementing a vaccination strategy targeting various priority groups;

Para. 41 (c) – Assessment: Sufficient progress. The State party has taken measures to disseminate accurate information to the public in various languages through dedicated COVID-19 webpages and regular publication of COVID-19-related statistics;

Para. 41 (d) – Assessment: Sufficient progress. The State party adopted measures to ensure the provision of essential healthcare services amidst the pandemic, including emergency and urgent medical aid and continuous care for pre-existing conditions;

Para. 41 (e) – Assessment: Sufficient progress. The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts made by the State party to promote universal, equitable and affordable access to COVID-19 vaccines and drugs, including its support of COVAX and participation in multilateral cooperation aimed at strengthening global health and security.

Consequently, the Committee assesses the recommendation (a) as sufficient progress, (b) as sufficient progress, (c) as sufficient progress, (d) as sufficient progress and (e) as sufficient progress. Therefore, the Committee assesses that there has been sufficient progress in relation to the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 41(a-e).

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

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



Asraf Caunhye



Mikel Mancisidor



Laura-Maria Crăciunean-Tatu

Co-Rapporteurs for follow-up

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural
Rights

Chair

Committee on Economic, Social
and Cultural Rights