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7 March 2008

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Norway (CERD/C/NOR/CO/18/Add.1) pursuant to rule 65 (1) of its rules of procedure, at its 72nd session held from the 18 February to the 7 March 2008.

The Committee welcomes the submission of information, as requested, on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17, 19 and 21 of its concluding observations (CERD/C/NOR/CO/18) adopted following the consideration at its 69th session of the 17th to 18th periodic reports of Norway, submitted in one document.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity thus provided to continue its dialogue with the State party. In this spirit, the Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on action taken on these issues be included in the 6th and 7th periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document due on 5 September 2009:

- **Paragraph 17 of the concluding observations:** The Committee is grateful to the State party for the extensive information provided on the situation of the East Sámi. The Committee understands that a paper on the general principles governing Norwegian policies towards the Sámi people was to be submitted to the Norwegian Parliament at the end of 2007 and would appreciate receiving information on the contents of this paper as well as on the outcome of the submission. The Committee would also welcome information on the present status of the Draft Nordic Sámi Convention, as the necessary assessments by the relevant governments were to be carried out by October 2006. Finally, the State party is requested to supply information on its experience with respect to the

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new Finnmark Act, specifically on the composition and work of the Finnmark Commission.

- **Paragraph 19 of the concluding observations:** The Committee welcomes the information that language requirements for obtaining Norwegian citizenship can be satisfied by receiving 300 hours of Norwegian language training within three years.
- **Paragraph 21 of the concluding observations:** The Committee appreciates the information on the steps taken to ensure adequate health care in particular for asylum seekers and refugees and requests the State party to provide information on the impact of follow up action by the county governors in 2007 as recommended by the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs. Furthermore, the State party is requested to supply specific and concrete information on the implementation of the 2006 guidelines for psychiatric and psychosocial work among refugees, not least on the pilot project launched in 2007 to identify mental disorders in children and young people upon entering Norway.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue its constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's observations and request for further information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoria Dah
Chairperson of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination