



REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Ethiopia/56

15 November 2013

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the combined sixth and seventh periodic report of Ethiopia, at the Committee's forty-ninth session, held in July 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ETH/CO/6-7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 50 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Ethiopia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 21 and 37 of the concluding observations, namely:

“21. The Committee recalls its general recommendations No. 14 (1990), on female circumcision, and No. 19 (1992), on violence against women, and its previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/ETH/CO/4-5, paras. 252 and 256), as well as the recommendations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/ETH/CO/1, para. 32), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/ETH/CO/7-16, para. 16), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/ETH/CO/3, para. 60) and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and urges the State party to:

(a) Amend the Criminal Code (2005), with a view to increasing the penalties for female genital mutilation in articles 561-562, 567, 569 and 570; repealing article 563; criminalizing marital rape; and excluding the applicability in domestic violence cases of the extenuating circumstances set out in article 557(1)(b) (gross provocation, shock, surprise, emotion or passion);

(b) Effectively enforce the provisions of the Criminal Code (2005) criminalizing female genital mutilation and sexual and domestic violence, prosecute any such acts upon complaint by the victim or ex officio, and impose appropriate penalties commensurate with the gravity of the crime on perpetrators;

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(c) Provide mandatory training to judges, including local and sharia court judges, prosecutors and the police on the strict application of relevant provisions of the Criminal Code;

(d) Encourage women and girls to report acts of violence to the competent authorities, by continuing to raise awareness about the criminal nature and harmful effects of female genital mutilation and other forms of violence on their health, eradicating the underlying cultural justifications of such violence and practices, destigmatizing victims, and training law enforcement and medical personnel on standardized, gender-sensitive procedures for dealing with victims and effectively investigating their complaints;

(e) Enhance victim assistance and rehabilitation, by strengthening the legal aid services of the Ministry of Justice, providing psychological counselling, supporting local women's rights organizations which offer shelter and assistance to victims, and establishing victim support centres in the regional states;

(f) Expedite the adoption and implementation of the draft national strategic plan to combat violence against women and children prepared by the Ministry of Justice;

(g) Collect disaggregated data on the number of complaints against, prosecutions or convictions of, and sentences imposed on perpetrators of female genital mutilation and sexual and domestic violence, and provide such data to the Committee"; and

"37. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Effectively enforce women's equal right to land ownership, including by taking legal measures providing for the systematic inclusion of female spouses' names in landholder certificates;

(b) Facilitate rural women's access to credit and loans, by controlling microfinance repayment terms to preclude unfair payment periods and interest rates and by expanding gender-sensitive projects such as the Managing Environmental Resources (MERET) Programme and Iqqub;

(c) Ensure that land lease contracts with foreign companies do not result in the forced eviction and internal displacement, or the increased food insecurity and poverty, of local populations, including women and girls, and that such contracts stipulate that the company concerned and/or the State party must provide the affected communities, including pastoralist communities, with adequate compensation and alternative land;

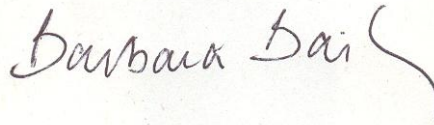
(d) Continue improving access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation in rural areas by building new wells, taps and sanitation facilities."

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2013, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Ethiopia on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. Please also send a Word electronic version of the information requested to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org. For ease reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by State parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women