



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/Namibia/68

28 November 2017

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 honor to refer to the examination of the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Namibia, at the Committee's sixty-first session, held in July 2015. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/4-5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 48 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Namibia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 and 15 of the concluding observations, namely:

“11. The Committee calls upon the State party:

(a) To adopt a comprehensive legal definition of discrimination in line with article 1 of the Convention, covering all prohibited grounds of discrimination, including marital and other status, either by amending article 10 of the Constitution or by adopting other appropriate legislation;

(b) To urgently adopt pending bills, such as those on marriage, recognition of customary marriages, procurement, marital property, divorce and intestate succession”

“15. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that adequate funding is provided to the legal aid fund and that women, in particular women pursuing divorce and gender-based violence cases, have effective access to justice in all parts of the State party”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in July 2017, only the 2016-2020 National Plan of Action for the implementation of the concluding observations made by the UN Committee that monitors the CEDAW has been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response and implementation on the above cited matters.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Namibia on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder within one month of the date of this correspondence.

Her Excellency  
Ms. Sabine Böhlke-Möller  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia  
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Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **4000 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. 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](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). For ease of reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of follow-up reports by States parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hilary Gbedemah'.

Hilary Gbedemah  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women