

23 February 2023

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 eighth to tenth periodic reports of Egypt, at the Committee's eightieth session, held in November 2021. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-10](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 56 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Egypt to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs **18, 24 (a) and (d) and 32** of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/EGY/FCO/8-10](#)) received on time in November 2023 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its eightieth session, held in November 2021, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 18** of the concluding observations that the State party “**adopt an action plan for implementation of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women that clearly defines the competencies of the national and local authorities and establishes impact assessment mechanisms to ensure that the strategy and the other gender equality policies are properly monitored and evaluated and that their implementation is regularly assessed**”;

The Committee welcomes the launch in 2021 of the State party's first National Human Rights Strategy that is fully aligned with the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women with indicators reflecting commitments taken under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, The Committee notes the lack of information on how the competencies of national and local authorities are defined with regard to the National Strategy. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information regarding the methodology of data collection and analysis used by the Egyptian National Observatory for Women (ENOW), the monitoring mechanism for the Strategy.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 18** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Adopt an action plan for implementation of the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Egyptian Women that clearly defines the competencies of the national and local authorities and establishes impact assessment mechanisms to ensure that the strategy and the other gender equality policies are properly monitored and evaluated and that their implementation is regularly assessed.”

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 24 (a)** that the State party “**Repeal discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code, particularly articles 17, 60, 237, 274 and 277,**

which condone acts of violence against women, such as domestic violence and so-called “honour crimes”, by exempting perpetrators from punishment or reducing the sentences imposed, as well as article 61, which exempts from punishment medical doctors and personnel who commit female genital mutilation under the guise of performing cosmetic surgery or the necessity of protecting a third party from grievous harm”:

The Committee notes with interest the amendment to Law No. 10 of 2021, which modified the Penal Code regarding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by eliminating the clause on "medical necessity" and rejecting any legal justification for female circumcision by removing the reference to Article 61 of the Penal Code. The Committee also takes note that a draft law on protection from assault crimes within the family was submitted to cabinet in March 2022. The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has provided no specific information about the repeal of discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code, particularly articles 17, 60, 237, 274 and 277 which condone violence against women such as domestic violence and so-called “honour crimes”.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation. Thus, it considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 24 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Repeal discriminatory provisions in the Penal Code, particularly articles 17, 60, 237, 274 and 277, which condone acts of violence against women, such as domestic violence and so-called “honour crimes”.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 24 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party **“Ensure the effective implementation of Act No. 126 of 2008 on the minimum age of marriage for women and men, particularly in cases of child and forced marriage, and impose penalties on *ma’zoun* as perpetrators for contracting such marriages or failing to report them;”:**

The Committee takes note that a draft legislation criminalising early marriage and establishing clear penalties and procedures for anyone, including authorized individuals such as *Ma'zoun*, involved in such a crime, was approved by the Egyptian Cabinet and submitted to the parliament in 2022.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken steps to implement the recommendation. Thus, it considers that the recommendation has been **substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 24(d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Expedite the adoption of the draft law criminalising early marriages and imposing clear penalties for those involved in or facilitating such marriages.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 32** of the concluding observations that the State party **“ensure gender equality by eliminating any obstacles or delays faced by Egyptian women in transferring their nationality to their foreign husbands and children and registering their children’s birth.”:**

The Committee takes note of amendments in the law allowing foreign women who have acquired Egyptian nationality to pass the nationality on to their minor children. It also notes that Egyptian women have the right to register their children by virtue of law and have the right to issue a birth certificate for their newborn. However, the Committee notes the lack of information provided by the State party on the right of Egyptian women to transfer their nationality to foreign-born husbands.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 32** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Ensure gender equality by eliminating any obstacles or delays faced by Egyptian women in transferring their nationality to their foreign husbands.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Natasha Stott Despoja
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women