

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/France/93

3 August 2026

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 ninth periodic report of France, at the Committee's eighty-sixth session, held in October 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/FRA/CO/9](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 52 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested France to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 (a), 22 (c), 38 (f) and 40 (d) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/FRA/FCO/9](#)) received under the CEDAW follow-up procedure on 30 April 2026, five months after the two-year reporting period. The Committee examined the follow-up report during the intersessional period and adopted the following assessment on 31 July 2026.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 12(a)** of the concluding observations that the State party **“provide systematic capacity-building and training for judges, prosecutors, the police and other law enforcement officials, government officials, as well as lawyers, on the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations”**:

The Committee notes the State party's indication that training programmes on gender equality and the prevention of violence against women have been strengthened across multiple sectors under the 2023-2027 Interministerial Plan for Gender Equality “Toutes et tous égaux”, including for internal security forces, judicial personnel, labour inspectors and asylum officials, and that a common knowledge framework is being finalized to harmonize training content across public and private sector professionals.

The Committee notes, however, that none of the measures described demonstrate that training explicitly, systematically and on a mandatory basis covers the Convention, the Optional Protocol or the Committee's general recommendations across all relevant professional categories identified in the recommendation. The Committee further notes that the information provided focuses predominantly on training related to gender-based violence and does not allow the Committee to assess whether the entire Convention framework is consistently integrated in the

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training programmes described. The Committee also notes that training programmes insufficiently integrate an intersectional approach, resulting in limited attention to women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

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 relates to the recommendation but does not demonstrate the explicit and systematic inclusion of the Convention, its Optional Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations across all relevant professional categories. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 12(a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Provide systematic capacity-building and training for judges, prosecutors, the police and other law enforcement officials, government officials, as well as lawyers, on the Convention, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Committee's general recommendations.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 22 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**amend the Penal Code to ensure that the definition of rape is based on the absence of consent, covers any non-consensual sexual act and takes into account all coercive circumstances, in line with international human rights standards**”:

The Committee welcomes the adoption of Law No. 2025-1057 of 6 November 2025, which amends the definition of rape and sexual assault by explicitly incorporating the concept of consent into the Criminal Code, defining consent as free, informed, specific, prior and revocable, and clarifying that consent cannot be inferred from silence or lack of resistance. The Committee further welcomes the retention of coercive circumstances, including, *inter alia* violence, coercion, threat or surprise, as indicators of the absence of consent, as well as the extension of the scope of acts constituting rape to include oral and anal acts. It also notes the ongoing legislative efforts to abolish the notion of “marital duty”, thereby reinforcing the principle that consent is required within marriage.

The Committee considers that the State party has provided evidence of the full implementation of all actions recommended by the Committee and therefore considers that the recommendation has been **fully 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**.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 38 (f)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**conduct a rigorous, transparent and gender-sensitive impact assessment of nuclear testing on women's health in French Polynesia and accelerate the processing of claims for the compensation of victims**”:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on scientific assessments on the health consequences of nuclear testing in French Polynesia, and that the National Cancer Institute has been requested to develop proposals for further etiological studies on cancers with higher incidence rates in French Polynesia, including cancers affecting women. The Committee further notes the ongoing legislative reforms aimed at revising eligibility criteria and strengthening redress mechanisms for victims of nuclear testing.

The Committee notes, however, that none of the scientific assessments described incorporate a gender-sensitive methodology, which constitutes the core of the recommendation, and that no sex- and gender-disaggregated data have been collected or analysed on the specific effects of radiation exposure on women's health, including reproductive health and cancer incidence. The Committee further notes that proposed reforms to improve compensation remain pending and have not yet produced tangible results, and that the existing compensation mechanism remains limited in its accessibility and effectiveness due to restrictive eligibility criteria and low rates of admissibility of claims.

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 relates to the recommendation but does not fully address its core elements. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 38(f)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Conduct a rigorous, transparent and gender-sensitive impact assessment of nuclear testing on women's health in French Polynesia and accelerate the processing of claims for the compensation of victims.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 40 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**strengthen mechanisms and regulatory provisions to stimulate private sector support for and investment in women's sporting skills and talents and utilize the preparations for the 2024 Olympic Games to raise the profile of women's sporting potentials and promote private sector investment in women and sports**”:

The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts made in the context of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games to enhance the visibility of women athletes and ensure greater gender balance in participation and events, including through the application of the “Terrain d'égalité” state label. The Committee further notes that an economic study of women's sports is under way, scheduled for publication in 2026.

Nevertheless, the Committee notes that the information does not demonstrate sufficiently targeted mechanisms or regulatory provisions specifically designed to stimulate private sector support for and investment in women's sporting skills and talents. The Committee notes the absence of evidence of targeted economic strategies or incentives to mobilize private sector actors, including in areas such as sponsorship and funding for women athletes, particularly those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and notes that the pending economic study has not yet produced results that would allow an assessment of progress in this regard.



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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, while relating to the recommendation, does not address its core elements and lacks information on concrete outcomes or measurable impacts of the measures taken. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 40 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Strengthen mechanisms and regulatory provisions to stimulate private sector support for and investment in women's sporting skills and talents and promote private sector investment in women and sports.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Comella', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jelena Pia-Comella

Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women