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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Uganda/55

27 August 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 fourth to seventh report of Uganda, at the Committee's forty-seventh session, held in October 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 55 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Uganda to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 12 and 32 (b) of the concluding observations, namely:

"12. The Committee calls upon the State party to accelerate its law review process to harmonize its domestic legislation with its constitutional principles relating to nondiscrimination and equality between women and men and with its obligations under the Convention without delay and within a clear time frame. To this end, the Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Expeditiously enact the Marriage and Divorce Bill, the Sexual Offences Bill and the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Bill;

(b) Raise the awareness of legislators about the need to give priority attention to legal reforms in order to achieve de jure equality for women and compliance with the State party's international treaty obligations; and

(c) Continue to increase support for law reform through partnerships and collaboration with religious and community leaders, lawyers, judges, unions, civil society organizations and women's non-governmental organizations."; and

"32. The Committee urges the State party to enhance its compliance with article 10 of the Convention and to raise awareness of the importance of education as a human right and the basis for the empowerment of women. To this end, it urges the State party to:

H. E. Mr. Christopher Aparr OnyangaPermanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United NationsRue Antoine Carteret 6 bis1202 Geneva

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(a) Take the necessary measures to ensure safe transportation to and from schools and safe educational environments free from discrimination and violence, strengthen awareness-raising and training of school officials and students, sensitization of children through the media and the establishment of reporting and accountability mechanisms to ensure that perpetrators of all sexual offences against schoolgirls are prosecuted."

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in October 2012, 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 Uganda 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 <u>cedaw@ohchr.org</u>. 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,

Barbara Dais

Barbara Bailey Rapporteur on follow-up Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women