



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Costa Rica/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 fifth and sixth periodic report of Costa Rica, at the Committee's forty-ninth session, held in July 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/CRI/CO/5-6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 46 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Costa Rica to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 and 33 of the concluding observations, namely:

“15. The Committee urges the State party to consider reassigning ministerial rank to the Executive President of the National Institute for Women with a view to making the Institute more visible and effective, enhancing its capacity to influence the formulation, design and implementation of public policies and strengthening its coordination role at all levels of government, in particular at the ministerial level”; and

“33. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Prioritize the adoption of the amendment to the General Health Act, which envisages the introduction of a chapter devoted to sexual and reproductive rights, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on article 12 of the Convention (women and health);

(b) Consider lifting the ban on in vitro fertilization and adopting legislative measures aimed at facilitating and expanding women's right to decide freely and responsibly on the number of their children in accordance with article 16 (e) of the Convention, and ensure access to assisted reproductive services, including in vitro fertilization, in line with the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2010;

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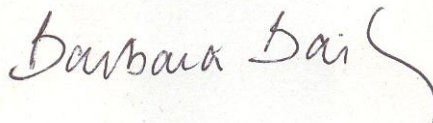
- (c) Elaborate clear medical guidelines on access to legal abortion and disseminate them widely among health professionals and the public at large;
- (d) Consider reviewing the law relating to abortion, with a view to identifying other circumstances under which abortion could be permitted, such as abortions in cases of pregnancies resulting from rape or incest;
- (e) Take measures aimed at making accessible and available technologically advanced contraceptive methods to women.”

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 Costa Rica 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,



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