



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Malta/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 fourth report of Malta, at the Committee's forty-seventh session, held in October 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/MLT/CO/4) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 44 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Malta to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 13 and 37 of the concluding observations, namely:

“13. The Committee urges the State party to expedite its efforts towards the withdrawal, within a concrete time frame, of its declaration to article 11, and its reservations to articles 13, 15 and 16, paragraph 1(e), of the Convention. The Committee recalls its position that reservations to article 16 are incompatible with the Convention and therefore impermissible.”; and

“37. The Committee urges the State party to introduce and to vigorously support legislation which permits divorce, allows women to remarry after divorce, and grants women and men the same rights to administer property during marriage and equal rights to property on divorce. It also recommends that women and men be granted equal rights to initiate divorce proceedings. The Committee encourages the State party to review its current legal system governing marriage and family relations with a view to extending existing legal provisions to couples living in de facto unions.”

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.

H. E. Mr. John Paul Grech
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta
to the United Nations
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The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Malta 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 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 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