



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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7 March 2014

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 84th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Finland, pursuant to Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12, 13 and 16 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/FIN/CO/20-22), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 20th to 22nd periodic report during its 81st session in August 2012.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues to be included in its twenty-third periodic report to be submitted in a single document on 13 August 2015.

Paragraph 12 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its response and its willingness to comprehensively address the issues contained in the recommendation. It encourages the State party to carry forward the initiatives mentioned in its response, and requests it to provide updated information in its next periodic report on the outcome of the work of the Working Group for the revision of the Act on the Sámi Parliament, the programme for the revitalization of Sámi languages, the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169, initiatives undertaken to increase the participation of indigenous children in the Sámi language and culture, as well as on any other initiative that the State party deems relevant.

Her Excellency Ms. Päivi Kairamo
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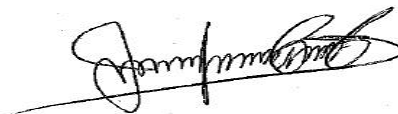
Paragraph 13 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for the inclusion in its response of diverging perspectives. It requests that the State party include further information in its next periodic report on the outcome of the legislative project aiming to clarify the legislation on the rights of the Sámi to participate in the decision-making regarding the use of land and water, in connection with the upcoming ratification of ILO Convention No. 169, as well as on the establishment and work of the working group tasked with steering the project. The Committee encourages the State party to adequately take into account the views of the Sámi Parliament at every stage of the process.

Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations: The Committee commends the State party for its detailed and thorough response which has involved broad consultations and benefited from input from various Ombudsmen, Advisory Boards and non-governmental organizations. While noting the extensive amount of information already provided, the Committee requests that the State party include in its next periodic report updated and case-by-case data on the outcomes of the various policies, programmes, action plans and strategies referred to in its response. The Committee further requests that the State party keep it updated in particular with regard to the drafting and eventual adoption of the new Non-Discrimination Act.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Finland, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



José Francisco Calí Tzay
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination