

23 February 2024

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 tenth periodic report of Ecuador, at the Committee's eightieth session, held in October and November 2021. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/ECU/CO/10](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 52 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Ecuador to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 22 (a) and (d), 28(c) and 34 (a) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/ECU/FCO/10](#)) received on time in December 2023 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its eighty-seventh session, held in February 2024, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 22 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party “**Ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Comprehensive Organic Act to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women and articles 141 and 142 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code by allocating the resources necessary and providing systematic and recurrent training to judges, prosecutors, the police and other law enforcement officers on their strict enforcement and strengthen measures to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence against women**”:

The Committee notes with appreciation the efforts of the State party to address the issue of gender-based violence against women. It also takes note of the information provided on the allocation of budgetary resources to gender equality. It notes with concern however, reports that cases of femicide have increased since 2021. The Committee regrets the lack of information specific to the effective implementation of articles 141 and 142 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code and regarding budgetary allocations for implementation of the Comprehensive Organic Act to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women and articles 141 and 142 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code. Additionally, the Committee notes that the information provided on training does not specify whether training has been provided to judges, prosecutors, the police or other law enforcement officers on enforcement of the above-mentioned legislation.

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. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 22 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of the Comprehensive Organic Act to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women and articles 141 and 142 of the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code, in particular through the allocation of the resources necessary and the provision of systematic and recurrent training to judges, prosecutors, the police and other law enforcement officers on their strict enforcement and**

**strengthen measures to prevent, combat and punish all forms of gender-based violence against women”.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 22 (d)** that the State party **“Strictly enforce the Labour Code to Prevent Workplace Harassment and other relevant legislation to ensure that victims of sexual harassment in the workplace and in educational settings have access to reparation, strengthen the accountability of employers and require them to regularly review their company culture, and ensure the establishment of a whistle-blower hotline for reporting sexual harassment;”:**

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party on its efforts to address sexual harassment. In particular, it welcomes the entry into force in 2022 of the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190), of the International Labour Organization. The Committee notes with regret, however, that the State party has not provided any information on measures to enforce the Labour Code to Prevent Workplace Harassment and other relevant legislation to ensure reparation for sexual harassment victims and to increase accountability of employers and require them to regularly review their company culture. It further regrets that the State party has not given any indication as to whether a whistle-blower hotline for reporting sexual harassment has been established.

The Committee considers that State party has taken no action to directly implement the recommendation and therefore the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information received from the State party fails to address the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 22 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Strictly enforce the Labour Code to Prevent Workplace Harassment and other relevant legislation to ensure that victims of sexual harassment in the workplace and in educational settings have access to reparation, strengthen the accountability of employers and require them to regularly review their company culture, and ensure the establishment of a whistle-blower hotline for reporting sexual harassment.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 28 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party **“Continue to improve the accessibility and quality of education for all children, in particular disadvantaged and marginalized groups of girls, and address the disproportionately high rates of illiteracy among migrant girls, girls with disabilities and girls living in rural and remote areas and those living in poverty”:**

The Committee takes note with appreciation of the efforts undertaken by the State party to improve accessibility of education for children, including the *Everyone in the Classroom* strategy, which actively searches for children and adolescents who have remained outside the educational system, the implementation of a computerized system to facilitate enrolment and transfers without the need for identity documents, and the establishment of a unique student code number for children and adolescents lacking identity documents. It also notes the availability of remote tutoring to improve the quality of education. The Committee regrets, however, the lack of information on efforts specific to vulnerable groups and efforts to address illiteracy among migrant girls, girls with disabilities, girls living in rural and remote areas and girls living in poverty. It furthermore expresses concern at reports that school enrolment has decreased in recent years.

The Committee considers that the State party took 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 fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 28 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Continue to improve the accessibility and quality of education for all children, in particular disadvantaged and marginalized groups of girls, and address the disproportionately high rates of illiteracy among migrant girls, girls with disabilities and girls living in rural and remote areas and those living in poverty.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 34 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party **“Legalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, threat to the life or health of the pregnant woman or severe fetal impairment, decriminalize it in all other cases and provide women with access to safe abortion and post-abortion services, in particular in cases of complications resulting from unsafe abortions”**:

The Committee welcomes the decriminalisation by the State party of abortion in cases of rape while at the same timing noting with concern the possible impact of the presidential veto. However, in light of the information provided, it regrets that there is no indication that abortion in cases of incest, severe foetal impairment or risk to the life and health of the mother has been legalised nor that it has been decriminalised in all other cases. The Committee further regrets the lack of information on measures to provide safe abortion and post-abortion services.

The Committee considers that the State party took 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 is thorough and extensive but fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 34 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

**Legalize abortion in cases of incest, threat to the life or health of the pregnant woman or severe fetal impairment, decriminalize it in all other cases and provide women with access to safe abortion and post-abortion services, in particular in cases of complications resulting from unsafe abortions.**

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

Yours sincerely,



Natasha Stott Despoja  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women