



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/90/DemocraticRepublicoftheCongo/93

4 August 2026

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the report of Democratic Republic of the Congo under the exceptional reporting procedure, at the Committee's ninetieth session, held in February 2025. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/COD/EP/CO/1](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 51 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Democratic Republic of the Congo to provide, within one year, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 20, 26 (a), 32 (c) and 44 (b) of the concluding observations, namely:

"20. The Committee, in line with Security Council resolutions [1888 \(2009\)](#) and [2106 \(2013\)](#), emphasizes the interdependence between the elimination of conflict related sexual violence and the achievement and stabilization of peace and that gender equality and the elimination of conflict-related sexual violence must be key components of peace efforts. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, and its general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, as well as Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) and subsequent resolutions, including resolutions [1889 \(2009\)](#) and [2122 \(2013\)](#), and underlines women's crucial role as a driving force of sustainable peace in conflict prevention, management and resolution. It recommends that the State Party make every possible effort, in cooperation with international partners and through renewed diplomatic engagement in the region, direct dialogue and negotiations with all State and non-State parties, including armed groups, to prevent and punish the commission of conflict-related sexual violence, implement a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, and achieve and sustain lasting and gender-sensitive peace, and that it ensure women's equal leadership in and ownership of conflict resolution and peace processes. It also recommends that the State Party:

(a) Ensure the allocation of the required funds, estimated at \$26 million, for the implementation of the new national action plan on women and peace and security, from the national budget and by seeking international assistance;

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(b) Ensure parity in all processes, including in the Luanda and Nairobi peace processes, and at all levels and stages of conflict resolution, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and peace maintenance, including in formal and informal peace negotiations, mediation, transitional justice and reconstruction processes, intercommunity dialogues and transitional decision-making bodies, including truth and reconciliation processes, national, international, regional and hybrid commissions, councils, monitoring bodies, verification mechanisms and monitoring groups, election preparation and political processes, demobilization and reintegration programmes, security sector and judicial reforms and wider post-conflict reconstruction processes;

(c) Remove all obstacles to 50/50 parity between women and men, including by ensuring adequate childcare services, security and flexibility in the location chosen for negotiations, and provide active support to women, for example by securing funding for the representation of women's civil society organizations in peace processes, in line with Security Council resolution 2242 (2015);

(d) Develop, in collaboration with women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, tailored measures to ensure their protection from additional conflict-related risks and ensure their full involvement in humanitarian assistance and conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and peacebuilding, and in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of women and peace and security-related legal and policy frameworks and initiatives;

(e) Allocate the necessary resources to adopt and enforce relevant legislation and implement the national action plan for the control of small arms and light weapons, in line with Security Council resolutions 2117 (2013), 2467 (2019) and 2616 (2021), in order to stop the proliferation of small firearms and ensure parity and the strict application of the women and peace and security agenda in the regulation and implementation of arms control, including the non-proliferation of weapons."

"26. The Committee recommends that the State Party ensure full accountability for human rights violations, in particular conflict-related sexual violence, and:

(a) Adopt an investigation and prosecution strategy for conflict-related sexual violence that ensures the accurate treatment of conflict-related sexual violence as an international crime, so as to support the effective collection of evidence and the successful prosecution of cases, and increase the number of court cases, including by dismantling barriers to reporting, strengthening the capacity of the judiciary and prosecutors, eliminating bureaucracy and cooperating with humanitarian actors."

"32. The Committee recommends that the State Party: [...]

(c) Ensure adequate human, technical and financial resources for the effective implementation of Law No. 22/065 and the national reparations fund, including through the establishment of a dedicated budget line, the mobilization of international support and the transparent allocation of funds to guarantee timely reparations for victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence."

"44. The Committee recommends that the State Party: [...]

(b) Significantly strengthen the provision of food and of water, sanitation and hygiene, security and humanitarian aid for internally displaced persons by prioritizing rapid food distribution mechanisms, water distribution centres, restoring electricity, enhancing cooperation with humanitarian organizations and integrating protection measures against sexual exploitation in food assistance programmes."

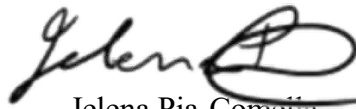
Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2026, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Democratic Republic of the Congo on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder **within one month of the date of this correspondence**.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,150 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. 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 [ohchr-
cedaw@un.org](mailto:ohchr-
cedaw@un.org).

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

Yours sincerely,



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Rapporteur on follow-up
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