

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Albania/93

3 August 2026

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 fifth periodic report of Albania, at the Committee's eighty-sixth session, held in October 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/5](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 55 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Albania to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 (a), 24 (b), 28 (b) and 36 (d) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#)) received under the CEDAW follow-up procedure on 9 April 2026, four months after the two-year reporting period. The Committee examined the follow-up report during the intersessional period and adopted the following assessment on 31 July 2026.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 12 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**consider revising Law No. 9970/2008 on gender equality in society, in accordance with the commitment made in the National Strategy on Gender Equality, 2021–2030, to accelerate the realization of de jure (legal) and de facto (substantive) gender equality**":

The Committee welcomes that the State party has adopted Law No. 64/2025 "On Gender Equality", which entered into force on 25 December 2025, in implementation of its National Strategy on Gender Equality 2021-2030. It takes note that the new law "aims to ensure the right of every individual to gender equality and effective protection from gender-based discrimination in both public and private life; to establish general and specific measures across all sectors based on differentiated gender needs; and to clearly define the responsibilities of public authorities in promoting and achieving gender equality" ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), para. 5). The Committee further notes that the new law addresses gender equality in a variety of

H.E. Ms. Vasilika Hysi
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Albania to the United Nations Office and
other international organizations in Geneva
Email: mission.geneve@mfa.gov.al

sectors in the public and private spheres and addresses, among others, gender mainstreaming, gender-responsive budgeting, gender-sensitive language, data collection and analysis, and gender parity in decision-making ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 7-10).

Moreover, it welcomes that several steps are ongoing to ensure the implementation of the law, such as the finalization of the necessary secondary legislation, the institutionalization of a National Council on Gender Equality and the establishment of an inter-institutional working group on gender statistics ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 15-16). The Committee notes the inclusive nature of the drafting process, the launch of an awareness-raising campaign and the financial resources dedicated to capacity-building, training, monitoring and the collection and analysis of statistical data ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 11-12, 14 and 16). To ensure the effective implementation of the law, it underlines the importance of timeliness of, and broad participation in, the drafting process of secondary legislation, of the application of gender-responsive budgeting, and of providing the necessary human, technical and financial resources to the institutions in place at all levels to implement substantive gender equality measures, including for women facing intersecting forms of discrimination. The Committee further recommends the strengthening of awareness-raising and protection measures, in the context of opposition against the law, including before the Constitutional Court, and of attacks against women human rights defenders and civil society representatives who defended the law.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken important steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 24 (b)** of the concluding observations that the State party **"amend the Criminal Code to incorporate a definition of rape based on lack of consent that covers any non-consensual sexual act and takes into account all coercive circumstances, in line with international human rights standards"**:

The Committee welcomes the adoption of a new law No.11/2026 "on the Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence", that was published on 12 February 2026. It takes note that the law aims to provide "a comprehensive legal framework addressing all forms of violence against women", that it covers "both public and private spheres, including environments mediated by technology, and applies broadly to all victims" and that it is underpinned by the allocation of financial resources ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 17 and 21). The Committee further notes that a review of the Criminal Code is ongoing, with a view of incorporating a consent-based definition of rape ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), para. 22). It regrets that such an incorporation was not included in recent amendments to the Criminal Code and recalls for any new definition of rape to cover any non-consensual sexual act and to take into account all coercive circumstances, in line with international human rights standards. The Committee notes the significance of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities on

relevant international human rights standards to ensure an effective implementation of a revised definition of rape in the Criminal Code and to inform public debates.

While the Committee recognizes that the State party is taking legislative steps to introduce a consent-based definition of rape, it considers that at this stage the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 24 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Amend the Criminal Code to incorporate a definition of rape based on lack of consent that covers any non-consensual sexual act and takes into account all coercive circumstances, in line with international human rights standards.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 28 (b)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**adopt temporary special measures, such as statutory quotas and a gender parity system, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, to ensure the equal representation of women, including rural women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, in Parliament and municipal legislative bodies, the Government, the civil service and the foreign service, in particular at decision-making levels**":

The Committee notes the adoption of Law No. 64/2025 "On Gender Equality" and welcomes that it introduces a 50/50 parity objective and a minimum threshold for women's equal representation in different decision-making structures ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 24-26). It equally takes note of the temporary special measures enshrined in the Electoral Code, and other measures in place to support and protect women in political and public life, such as capacity-building and awareness-raising initiatives, as well as the legal framework and prevention efforts in place to address violence and hate speech ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 27-28, 33 and 35). The Committee further notes the representation of women in the 2025 parliamentary elections at levels of 38.5% among candidates and of 35% among elected members of parliament, and their representation at nearly 50% among candidates in the 2023 local elections and as 8 out of 61 mayors ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 30-32).

However, the Committee notes with regret the lack of information on temporary special measures benefitting specifically rural women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women. It further notes the importance of monitoring and enforcing the effective implementation of quotas enshrined in the Gender Equality Law and the Electoral Code, of protecting women from gender-based hate

speech, harassment and violence in the political sphere, and of collecting disaggregated data on the participation of women, including women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, in political and public life.

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**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates to the recommendation but offers no information on women facing intersecting forms of discrimination. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

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

Adopt and implement temporary special measures, such as statutory quotas and a gender parity system, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, to ensure the equal representation of women, including rural women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities and lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women, in Parliament and municipal legislative bodies, the Government, the civil service and the foreign service, in particular at decision-making levels.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 36 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**strictly enforce the prohibition of sex-selective abortions and establish services, including helplines, for women who are pressured into undergoing sex-selective abortion**":

The Committee notes that the legislation of the State party prohibits sex-selective abortion and that women who receive pressure related to their reproductive decisions can receive help through the gender-based violence mechanisms and helplines ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 36-38 and 45). It welcomes that the State party provides reproductive health services and age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), paras. 39-40 and 43). Nevertheless, the Committee regrets that the State party finds that there is "no evidence of systematic sex-selective practices" and offers no information on how the prohibition of sex-selective abortion is being enforced ([CEDAW/C/ALB/FCO/5](#), para. 41). It notes the importance of thorough monitoring of, and data collection on, births and abortions to detect any sex-selective abortions, and of ensuring that all women who are pressured to undergo sex-selective abortions have access to services.

The Committee considers that there is a **lack of sufficient information to make an assessment**.



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party relates partially to the recommendation but fails to address enforcement mechanisms for the prohibition of sex-selective abortions. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 36 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Strictly enforce the prohibition of sex-selective abortions and establish services, including helplines, for women who are pressured into undergoing sex-selective abortion.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jelena Pia-Comella". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jelena Pia-Comella

Rapporteur on follow-up

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women