



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: DB/follow-up/62/Malawi/69

13 April 2018

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 seventh periodic report of Malawi, at the Committee's sixty-second session, held in November 2015. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/MWI/CO/7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 58 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Malawi to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 19 and 35 (a) and (c) of the concluding observations, namely:

“19. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the effective implementation of the quota system contained in the Gender Equality Act. The State party should also increase significantly the use of temporary special measures, including quotas, in all areas covered by the Convention in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged. Such measures should include specific targets and time frames, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, to ensure the achievement of substantive equality of women and men.”

“35. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Reduce maternal mortality by ensuring the provision of adequate sexual and reproductive health services, in particular access to antenatal, delivery and postnatal services, including in rural areas;

(c) Amend legal provisions regulating abortion to legalize it, ensuring its legal and practical availability, without restrictive reporting requirements, at least in cases in which the life and/or health of the pregnant woman or girl is at risk, and in cases of rape, incest and serious impairment of the fetus.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in November 2017, 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.

His Excellency
Mr. Robert Dufter Salama
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
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1202 Geneva

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The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Malawi 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 **4,000 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 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 States parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Hilary Gbedemah
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women