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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered, at its 72nd session held from the 18 February to the 7 March 2008, the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Mexico (CERD/C/MEX/CO/15/Add.1) pursuant to rule 65 (1) of its rules of procedure.

The Committee welcomes the submission of information, as requested, on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11, 12 and 17 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/MEX/CO/15) adopted by the Committee following the consideration at its 68th session of the 12th to 15th periodic reports of Mexico, submitted in one document.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity thus provided to continue its dialogue with the State party. In this spirit, the Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on action taken on these issues be included in the 16th and 17th periodic reports:

- **Paragraph 11 of the concluding observations:** The Committee welcomes the information on the estimated number of persons belonging to communities of African descent and commends the initiatives taken to include people of African descent as a specific category in the next census. The Committee invites the State party to present the main points of the 2006 study *Persons of African descent in Mexico – Survey and proposals to prevent discrimination* and to report on steps taken on the basis of this study.

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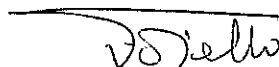
- **Paragraph 12 of the concluding observations:** While welcoming the important information on the legislative framework and the structure of the advisory board of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (CDI), the Committee regrets that no information on the actual programmes and strategies carried out or supported by CDI has been supplied. The Committee would appreciate such information, in particular on the specific steps taken to "*foster regional development in the indigenous areas and to upgrade their living conditions*", one of the stated purposes of the constitutional reform with respect to indigenous rights. Finally, the Committee would appreciate receiving information on the number and nature of cases on indigenous rights decided by the National Human Rights Commission.
- **Paragraph 17 of the concluding observations:** The Committee welcomes the extensive overview of the rules and programmes in place to supply family planning and reproductive health services to the population. The Committee would further appreciate receiving information on any cases where health officials or others have been found to violate rules requiring informed consent.

As the National Human Rights Commission appears to be the main recipient of complaints in cases covered by paragraphs 12 and 17, the State party is requested to supply general information on the activities and competencies of the National Human Rights Commission, in particular with respect to complaints.

In the latest concluding observations, the State party was requested to submit its 16th and 17th periodic reports jointly on 22 March 2008. In light of the above requests specific information on various issues to be included in the next periodic report, the Committee has decided to postpone the deadline for submission of the report to 22 June 2008, so as to provide the State party with sufficient time to gather the requested information.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue its constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's observations and request for further information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoria Dah
Chairperson of the Committee for the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination