



Téléfax: (41-22)-917 9008
Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Téléx: 41 29 62
Téléphone: (41-22)-917 9193
Internet: www.ohchr.org
E-mail: ghabtom@ohchr.org



Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: GH/st

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Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 76th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Togo, pursuant to Rule 65(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13, 17, and 18 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/TGO/CO/17, August 2008), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 6th to 17th periodic reports. The Committee thus appreciates the opportunity provided to continue the dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on action taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 18th to 19th periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by July 2011.

Paragraph 13 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee wishes to thank the State party for the information provided and makes note of the establishment of the 'Vérité-Justice et Réconciliation' commission. It wishes to encourage the inquiry and investigations of the past to ensure that human rights violations do not go unpunished. Further, the Committee wishes to recommend that the State party set up a monitoring mechanism for regular evaluation of progress of the Commission's work, especially in combating impunity. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party take the necessary measures to combat effectively any tendency, particularly on the part of political officials and the media, to stigmatize or stereotype persons on the basis of race, colour, descent and national or ethnic origin and would appreciate more detailed information on the measures taken in the State party's next report.

Mr. Sébadé Toba
Chargé d'affaires
Permanent Mission of the Togolese Republic to the UNOG
c/o Agence de coopération et d'information pour le commerce international (ACICI)
Rue de Varembe 9-11
1211 Geneva 20
Fax: +41 22 733 85 15

Paragraph 17 of Concluding Observations. The Committee expresses appreciation of the State party's initiatives to reform the land law, in the context of the Modernization of Justice Programme, but urges the State party to ensure that the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples is taken sufficiently into account throughout. The Committee takes note of the will of the State party to enhance the rights of indigenous people, and urges it to strengthen the rights of indigenous people and reiterates its recommendation to take account of the Committee's general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on the rights of indigenous peoples. The Committee encourages the State party to guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples and ensure the provision of domestic remedies in cases of violation of their rights.

Paragraph 18 of Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided and expresses appreciation of the new law on civil status (2009). The Committee wishes to encourage the State party to continue its efforts in combating discrimination of ethnic groups among public administration personnel, including the army and civil service and requests statistics and data on the impact of the measures taken to reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the country in the recruitment process of the army and armed forces.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee welcomes the opportunity to continue its constructive dialogue with the Government of Togo in a regular manner and looks forward to continued interaction, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Anwar Kemal
Chairperson of the Committee on the
Elimination of Racial Discrimination