



Téléfax: (41-22) 917 90 08
Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Téléc: 41 29 62
Téléphone: (41-22) 9179193
Internet www.ohchr.org
E-mail: ghabtom@ohchr.org



Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: GH /cbr

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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 78th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Finland, 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 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/FIN/CO/19), adopted following the consideration of the State party's 17th to 19th periodic reports in March 2009. 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 actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 20th to 22nd periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 13 August 2011.

Paragraph 14 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee thanks the State party for the information provided and appreciates the frankness of its response. The Committee welcomes the efforts taken by the State party to enact laws which take into account the rights of Sámi. In particular, the Committee notes with appreciation that the Mining and Water Acts contain provisions to strengthen the right to participate of the Sámi as indigenous peoples and allow them to appeal against decisions which do not take into account their rights. The Committee encourages the State party to continue with legislative reforms reinforcing the rights of the Sámi and requests the State party to include updated information in its next periodic report on the reforms implemented.

H.E. Mr. Hannu Himanen
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Finland to UNOG
Rue du Pré-de-la-Bichette 1
1211 Geneva 20
Fax: +41 22 740 02 87

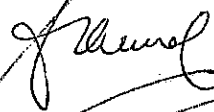
The Committee regrets the absence of information on the proposed establishment of a new preparatory body in charge of reaching a solution for the issue of the right to land use in the Sámi Homeland. In this regard, the Committee encourages the State party to take into account the Committee's general recommendation No. 23 on the rights of indigenous peoples which calls upon States parties to recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples to own, develop, control and use their communal lands, territories and resources and requests further information to be included in the next periodic report.

Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee is grateful to the State party for the extensive information provided and wishes to congratulate the State party on the steps taken in initiating the process of ratification of the Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Cybercrime. The Committee encourages the State party to quickly finalize this process and to continue combating racial discrimination by all means including on the Internet and requests to provide, in its next periodic report, an update on this ratification process.

Paragraph 19 of the Concluding Observations. The Committee notes with appreciation information provided by the State party, especially with regard to the ongoing legislative efforts to facilitate and support the integration of immigrants as well as the new and innovative pilot programme to promote the integration of immigrants with a right of residence into the labour market. The Committee notes with interest the framework of the *Equality is Priority* project and requests additional information in the next periodic report on the implementation of this project and its impact on increasing the acceptance of cultural diversity within the public administration. The Committee would also be grateful to receive, in the next periodic report of the State party statistical data and the emerging trends relating to its efforts in facilitating the integration of immigrants.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Finland, 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