



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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26 January 2016

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 88<sup>th</sup> session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Uzbekistan, pursuant to Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12, 14 and 20 of the Concluding Observations CERD/C/UZB/CO/8-9), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> periodic reports, at its 84<sup>th</sup> session in February 2014.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its 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 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> periodic reports to be submitted in a single document on 28 October 2018.

**Paragraph 12 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee thanks the State party for its response. While taking note of the information provided by the State party on efforts made to improve women's reproductive health, the Committee regrets that the State party has not conducted investigations into the allegations of forced sterilization of women. While the State party's measures regarding voluntary surgical contraception in specific cases may be welcomed, the State party has the duty to ensure that these measures are not discriminating against women or affecting their right over their own bodies and the right to fully make choices regarding their reproductive health. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party investigate all allegations of forced sterilization of women, provide effective remedies to victims and prevent the occurrence of sterilization without full and informed consent.

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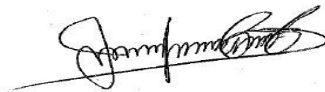
**Paragraph 14 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee thanks the State party for its reply which content shows that persons belonging to various ethnic groups in the State party are indeed active in the country's political sphere, such as in the Senate and the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and in political parties. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the representation of large ethnic groups in the judiciary and the public administration. While welcoming the work of the International Cultural Centre of Uzbekistan and the Makhallas on improving interethnic relations and preserving cultural traditions, the Committee regrets that the response of the State party does not show how these bodies allow the State party to systematically consult representatives of minority groups on all issues concerning them. It reiterates its recommendation that the State party provide information on the representation of all sizeable ethnic groups in elected and appointed position of national institution and administration.

**Paragraph 20 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee thanks the State party for the efforts undertaken to grant residence permits and citizenship to stateless persons and their children. The Committee takes note that the State party will gradually introduce measures aimed at improving institutional capacity to handle problems faced by stateless persons. Nonetheless, the Committee regrets the lack of urgent measures to improve the transparency of and expediting the naturalization process. It encourages the State party to amend national legislation or the procedure for granting citizenship to stateless persons and to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Uzbekistan, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



José Francisco Calí Tzay  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination