



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Panama/52

17 September 2012

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 honour to refer to the examination of the combined fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh periodic reports of Panama, at the Committee's forty-fifth session, held in January-February 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PAN/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 Panama to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13 and 41 of the concluding observations, namely:

“13. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures and allocate sufficient resources to implement, both de jure and de facto, all legal measures aimed at guaranteeing gender equality and non-discrimination. In this regard, it calls upon the State party to allocate sufficient financial and human resources to monitor and evaluate the implementation of these legal measures. The Committee also urges the State party to take measures to address femicide in the Criminal Code and other relevant laws within a clear time frame, and to collect reliable data on femicides.”

“41. The Committee urges the State party to take the necessary steps to overcome the stalemate surrounding draft law No. 442 and to promulgate it as soon as possible. The Committee also urges the State party to improve family planning and reproductive health programmes and policies designed to give women and adolescent girls, in particular in rural areas, effective access to information on health-care services, including reproductive health-care

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services and contraception, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 24 on women and health and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Committee also recommends that the State party step up its efforts to incorporate age-appropriate sex education in school curricula and organize information campaigns aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies. It further recommends that the State party undertake a holistic and life-cycle approach to women's health that includes an intercultural focus."

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2012, 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, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Panama on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder. Please send a Word electronic version of the information to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to cedaw@ohchr.org.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Bailey
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women