



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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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 eighth periodic report of Cyprus, at the Committee's seventieth session, held in July 2018. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/CYP/CO/8](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 55 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Cyprus to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 (c), 19 (d), 27 (b) and 39 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received in July 2020 ([CEDAW/C/CYP/FCO/8](#)) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-eighth session, held remotely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in February 2021, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 11 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“give the highest priority to the meaningful and inclusive participation of women at all stages of the peace process, as well as in transitional justice processes, in particular decision-making, at the national and local levels”**:

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party on the participation of women in the negotiation of the conflict settlement on various levels as leaders, negotiators and members of committees and working groups, as well as the integration of gender perspective in substantive issues such as the possibility to introduce quota on women's participation in the Parliament in the settlement provisions. The Committee also welcomes the participation of women in the daily management of the conflict and conflict mitigation, stability and dialogue including the religious and humanitarian tracks of the peace process. It also notes the efforts to develop, with the participation of different stakeholders, the four-year national action plan on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325, which is expected to be adopted by the Council of Ministers by the end of 2020. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on measures taken by the State party to provide strengthen the participating of women in continuing peace negotiation efforts such as outreach to communities and quota for women's participation in different positions related to the peace process. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

His Excellency Mr. George C. Kasoulides
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The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 11 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Ensure the provision of capacity building programs and leadership training to women in order to ensure their effective participation.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 19 (d)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**expedite the adoption and effective implementation of the third national action plan on gender equality for the period 2018–2021 and ensure that gender mainstreaming is consistently applied in the formulation and implementation of all laws, regulations and programmes across all ministries and decentralized government structures**”:

The Committee welcomes the adoption in September 2019 of the national action plan on equality between women and men (2019 – 2023), with gender mainstreaming as one of its actions and the call upon different ministries, public bodies, academic and research centres, non-governmental organisations, and local authorities to implement the actions and measures within their spheres of influence. The Committee notes the information on the introduction of a mandatory questionnaire for all ministries to assess the impacts on gender equality of proposed bills to the Parliament. The Committee also takes note with appreciation of the adoption of a manual on gender mainstreaming in public policies, the establishment of a Steering Group to prepare an action plan for training of public officers on gender mainstreaming, as well as the design of educational programs aimed at government officials at all levels and competent officers who prepare and implement the State budget and the strategic development plans on gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting questions. The Committee considers that the State party has provided evidence of the full implementation of all actions recommended by the Committee. It considers that the recommendation has been **implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and that it relates directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 27 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**expedite the adoption of the bill criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence against women, incorporating the Istanbul Convention into national law, and the bill on harassment and stalking**”:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on the measures taken to draft a bill to incorporate the Istanbul Convention into national law that is being reviewed by the Attorney-General’s Office, the request by Cyprus to the Council of Europe to provide technical support and guidance in aspects related to the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, and the creation of “Woman’s House” which functions as a crisis centre for women victims of violence and their children. The Committee also welcomes the adoption of a special risk assessment protocol by the police for cases related to intimate partner violence, as well as the provision of specialized training programmes to police officers dealing with domestic violence and newly recruited officers. However, the Committee regrets that the bill criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence against women and incorporating the Istanbul Convention into national law is not adopted yet, as well as the lack of information on the steps taken by to accelerate the adoption the bill on harassment and stalking. Thus, the Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.



The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 27 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Accelerate the adoption of the bill criminalizing all forms of gender-based violence against women and the bill on harassment and stalking.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 39 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**enforce the right of women migrant domestic workers to change employers legally and ensure regular labour inspections of workplaces and employment contracts**”

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on the provisions of contract of employment that regulate the possible options to terminate the contract between the employee and the employer. The Committee further notes the information that in case of labour dispute the employee and the employer could submit a written complaint to the District Aliens and Immigration Unit of the Police, as well as the Department of Labour Relations for examination by the Labour Disputes Committee. However, the Committee regrets the lack of information on measures taken to ensure regular labour inspections of workplaces and contracts. Thus, the Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information received from the State party fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 39 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

Ensure regular labour inspections of workplaces and employment.

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

Yours sincerely,

Louiza Chalal
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women