



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 for 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 seventh and eighth periodic reports of Guyana at the Committee's fifty-second session, held in July 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/7-8). You may recall that in the concluding observations, the Committee requested Guyana to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 and 17 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with a 16-month delay in November 2015 (CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/7-8/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its sixty-fourth session, held in July 2016 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 11** of the concluding observations that the State party “place high priority on the process of fully incorporating the Convention, without any limitations, into its national legal system in order to give central importance to the Convention as the basis for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women”: The Committee considers that **it did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 11 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report overdue since July 2016**, information on further actions taken to:

1) Review article 154 A of the Constitution in order to fully incorporate the Convention, without any limitations, into its national legal system in order to give central importance to the Convention as the basis for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 17** of the concluding observations that the State party “clearly define the mandate and the responsibilities of the national machinery for the advancement of women”: The State party mentioned that the Women's Affairs Bureau (WAB)

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is a unit under the authority of the Ministry of Social Protection, which is the national focal point for gender and development. It further indicated that the WAB coordinates the programmes and projects which promote gender equality in collaboration with governmental, civil society and international organizations, and provides a forum for consultation and advocacy at the national and regional level. Moreover, it highlighted the functions of the WAB, which are the contribution to the formulation of a gender awareness policy for the advancement of women; the provision of administrative and technical assistance to non-governmental women's organizations; the provision of a referral system for women; the initiation of a gender-based research and the provision of disaggregated data for the formulation of gender policies and programmes. Besides, it reported that the work of the WAB is to a significant extent complementary to the Domestic Violence Unit and the Men's Affairs Bureau (MAB), which reaches out to boys and men directly to combat violence against women, and intervenes in schools, prisons and communities. The Committee welcomes the information provided by the State party on the mandate and the responsibilities of the national machinery for the advancement of women. The Committee considers that the State party took significant steps toward the implementation of the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party "expeditiously strengthen that machinery by providing it with adequate human, financial and technical resources for it to coordinate and work effectively for the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming": The State party reported that financial allocation to the national machinery for the advancement of women is less than one per cent of the national budget. However, activities relating to gender and women's rights have also been funded by the Canadian International Development Agency. It further indicated that coordination and promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming has also been financed by allocations to, inter alia, the Ministries of Health, Education and Public Service. Moreover, it stressed that the WAB has a very small number of staff, but it has been supplemented by the Women and Gender Equality Commission, which was established to support gender equality and the empowerment of women. The State party added that the WAB created the Inter-Ministry Committee, which offers technical advice to the WAB and helps shape gender-sensitive policies. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party regarding the resources allocated to the WAB. However, it considers that the State party did not take sufficient measures to strengthen the national machinery by providing it with adequate human, financial and technical resources for it to coordinate and work effectively for the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming. It considers that the recommendation **has not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party "provide training in women's rights to women and men working in the national machinery for the advancement of women": The State party reported, inter alia, on training provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in 2012, seminars on gender mainstreaming, visits made to several administrative regions to increase awareness on personal development of women, training conducted on HIV/AIDS, domestic violence and trafficking in persons, as well as initial work done towards updating the National Policy on Women. The Committee notes the various initiatives taken by the State party to inform and train certain stakeholders on some aspects of women's human rights. However, it considers that these initiatives do not specifically target women and men working in the national machinery for the advancement of women. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party "strengthen its impact assessment of measures taken so as to ensure that such measures achieve their goals and targets": The Committee considers that **it did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

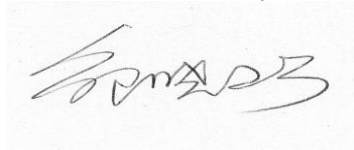
The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 17 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report overdue since July 2016**, information on further actions taken to:

- 1) Strengthen the national machinery for the advancement of women by providing it with adequate human, financial and technical resources for it to coordinate and work effectively for the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming;
- 2) Provide training on women's human rights to all men and women working in the national machinery for the advancement of women; and
- 3) Strengthen its impact assessment of measures taken so as to ensure that such measures achieve their goals and targets.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Finland on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Xiaoqiao Zou
Rapporteur on follow-up
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