

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Azerbaijan/89

13 November 2024

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 honor to refer to the examination of the sixth periodic report of Azerbaijan, at the Committee's eighty-second session, held in June 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/6](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 45 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Azerbaijan to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 (d), 14 (e), 16 (b) and 32 (a) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/AZE/FCO/6](#)) received on time in July 2024 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its eighty-ninth session, held in October 2024, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 12 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party ensure “**free legal aid to all women, in particular to victims of domestic violence, regardless of their level of income.**”:

The Committee notes that amendments made the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan provide that compensation for free legal assistance provided to a victim of domestic violence will be covered by the funds from the State budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan. It notes with interest that free legal aid is provided to all women victims of violence but regrets, that there is no indication that such aid is provided to all women regardless of their income level.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers 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**.

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In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 14 (e)** that the State party “**Ensure the integration of cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building of international organizations aimed at expediting the process of post-conflict restoration and the full integration of women in the process**”:

The Committee notes with interest the collaboration between the State party and UNDP and the World Bank in projects linked with bringing relief and building community resilience in the districts that were affected by the war. It regrets, however, that there was no indication in the information provided that women were fully integrated in post-conflict restoration processes.

The Committee considers that the State party took some steps towards the implementation of the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation was **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information received from the State party is thorough and extensive, but that 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 14 (e)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Ensure the integration of cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building of international organizations aimed at expediting the process of post-conflict restoration and the full integration of women in the process.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 16 (b)** that the State party “**adopt, without further delay, the draft national action plan on gender equality for the period 2022–2025 and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources, including gender-responsive budgeting, for its implementation**”:

The Committee notes with interest that the Government is currently working on finalizing the draft of the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for the years of 2025-2028. It regrets, however, that no information was provided on the national action plan on gender equality for 2022–2025, nor on the allocation of resources for its implementation or the implementation of the upcoming National Action Plan.

The Committee considers that the State party has provided some information, but that there is a **lack of sufficient information to make an assessment** as to whether the recommendation has been implemented.

The Committee considers that that the information received from the State party is vague and incomplete. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 16 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for the period 2022-2025 and on further actions taken to:

Adopt the draft national action plan on gender equality for the period 2025–2028 and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources, including gender-responsive budgeting, for its implementation.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 32 (a)** that the State party “**Abolish the list of non-recommended occupations restricting women’s access to certain**

professions and jobs; facilitate women’s access to such occupations; and ensure that any restrictions are proportionate and applied on a case-by-case basis and not to all women”:

The Committee takes note of the State party’s indication that the number of restrictions on women’s work has been reevaluated and significantly reduced from 674 professions and workplaces where women were previously prohibited from working to 204 and that the remaining restrictions apply only to women who are pregnant or have a child under one year old. The Committee notes with regret however, that the list of non-recommended occupations for women continues to exist and that while it does not apply to all women, it does apply to certain categories of women. It further notes that the information provided does not indicate a case-by-case application of the remaining restrictions.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information received from 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**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 32 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Abolish the list of non-recommended occupations restricting women’s access to certain professions and jobs; facilitate women’s access to such occupations; and ensure that any restrictions are proportionate and applied on a case-by-case basis and not to all women.

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

Yours sincerely,



Natasha Stott Despoja
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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women