

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Portugal/90

10 March 2025

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 tenth periodic report of Portugal, at the Committee's eighty second session, held in June 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/PRT/CO/10](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 47 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Portugal to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 (c), 15 (a), 23 (d) and 41 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/PRT/FCO/10](#)) received with more than five months delay on 12 December 2024 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its ninetieth session, held in February 2025, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 11 (c)** of the concluding observations which urged the State party **“to ensure that discrimination against women and its aggravated and intersecting forms are adequately considered in the legislation and policies of the State party related to all areas covered by the Convention for the benefit of women in vulnerable situations”**:

The Committee notes with regret that the State party does not provide any information on action taken since the adoption of the concluding observations to implement the above-mentioned recommendation.

The Committee considers that the State party has not taken any steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is vague and incomplete. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is only **partially satisfactory**.

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 that discrimination against women and its aggravated and intersecting forms are adequately considered in the legislation and policies of the State party related to all areas covered by the Convention for the benefit of women in vulnerable situations.

H.E. Mr. João António Mira Gomes
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In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 15 (a)** that the State party **“Strengthen its mandate with measures for the advancement of women and for the human rights of women on equal terms with men;”**:

The Committee welcomes the adoption in August 2023 of the new Action Plan for equality between women and men for 2023 to 2026 which aims to mainstream gender equality in public policies, education, research, the labour market, work-life balance, health, poverty reduction, and cultural representation. It also notes that the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality provides technical support to various public and private entities in Portugal for developing gender equality plans, with 195 out of 308 municipalities voluntarily adopting such plans despite no legal mandate. It further notes with appreciation the steps towards incorporating gender perspectives in the State party’s policies and budgeting processes.

The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been implemented**.

The Committee considers 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**.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 23 (d)** of the concluding observations that the State party **“implement the Committee’s previous recommendations for follow up (CEDAW/C/PRT/CO/8-9, para. 23 (c)) to establish a mechanism for ensuring effective cooperation and coordination between family courts and criminal courts in order to ensure that women have immediate recourse to civil protection orders and injunctions against abusive partners, without the need to engage in criminal proceedings.”**:

The Committee takes note of the State party’s position that its legislation already entails a comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of domestic violence and that the necessary communications mechanisms are in place to ensure victim’s protection against the aggressor. It further notes that no recourse to civil courts to obtain criminal protection measures against aggressors is envisaged.

The Committee considers that the State party took no steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers 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**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 23 (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on any actions taken to:

Implement the Committee’s previous recommendations for follow up (CEDAW/C/PRT/CO/8-9, para. 23 (c)) to establish a mechanism for ensuring effective cooperation and coordination between family courts and criminal courts in order to ensure that women have immediate recourse to civil protection orders and injunctions against abusive partners, without the need to engage in criminal proceedings.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 41 (c)** of the concluding observations that the State party **“Ensure the full, free and informed consent of women with disabilities for any intervention or medical treatment, train health professionals on human rights, dignity, autonomy and the needs of women with disabilities, and promulgate ethical standards for public and private health care.”**:

The Committee takes note of the information provided that it can be considered informed consent when such consent is given by the legal representative or judicial authority in the case of persons with disabilities. The Committee also notes that information on informed consent in the field of sexual and reproductive health has been translated into a number of languages but regrets

that no information is provided on translation into media that can be accessed by women with disabilities. [It] regrets, however, the lack of information on how access to this information is provided to women and girls with disabilities [to] guarantee full, free and informed consent for medical interventions and treatments. While noting with interest the existence of generic protocols of action for intervention with regard to the prevention of violence across the NHS at primary and hospital care levels and that the Clinical Registry of Violence in Adults programme provides training and awareness activities on gender-sensitive issues for health professionals, the Committee regrets the lack of information on training programmes that address the rights and needs of women with disabilities.

The Committee considers that the State party has not taken any steps to implement the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

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

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 41 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, further information on actions taken to:

Ensure the full, free and informed consent of women with disabilities for any intervention or medical treatment, train health professionals on human rights, dignity, autonomy and the needs of women with disabilities, and promulgate ethical standards for public and private health care.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women