



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Excellency,

I would like to inform you that in the course of its 101st session, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considered information received under its early warning and urgent action procedure, related to the situation of indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians and quilombolas, in the context of COVID-19 in Brazil.

The information received claims that structural and pervasive discrimination affecting indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians and quilombolas has been exacerbated by the seriousness and magnitude of the spread of COVID-19. More specifically, the information claims that persisting challenges faced by these populations in accessing adequate employment; social security; adequate food, water and sanitation, health, and education have been aggravated in the context of the pandemic. Indigenous women, Afro-Brazilian and quilombolas women are disproportionately affected by the crisis, intensifying the multiple forms of discrimination already affecting them and exposing them to increased gender-based violence.

The information also reports that, indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians and quilombolas have faced discrimination in accessing adequate and culturally adapted information; quality and culturally adapted health care and medical services; COVID-19 tests; hygiene, cleaning and disinfection materials; as well as the emergency income aid. The information further claims that social exclusion, marginalisation and poverty has put indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians and quilombolas at a higher risk of contamination and transmissions of COVID-19, as reflected in the high number of cases among these groups, and the high mortality rates in comparison with the rest of the population.

H.E. Mrs. Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo
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According to the information received, during the COVID-19 crisis, land grabbing and conflicts over indigenous peoples' lands and territories have increased, exposing women and girls to increased violence by individuals aiming at grabbing their lands. Violence and excessive use of force against Afro-Brazilians, including women has also worsened. The information alleges that indigenous women, Afro-Brazilian and quilombolas women, as well as women human rights defenders have been victims of intimidation, threat and violence, including sexual, psychological and physical violence.

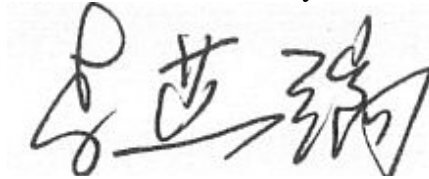
The information received also claims that, comprehensive and disaggregated data on the impact of the pandemic is not systematically collected at national or local levels, making difficult to assess the situation of these groups and to adopt informed and appropriate measures, policies and plans to effectively address their specific needs in the context of this crisis. With regard to the information received, the Committee would like to request the State party to provide information on the measures adopted:

- (a) To address the health and socioeconomic challenges of the pandemic and its adverse effects in the exercise and enjoyment of human rights of indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians and quilombolas, indicating whether such measures have been elaborated in consultation with these groups and taking into account their specific needs, culture and traditions;
- (b) To ensure that indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians and quilombola have access without discrimination to quality and culturally appropriate medical care and treatment, as well as COVID-19 testing; accurate and culturally adapted information; hygiene, cleaning and disinfection materials; as well as to the emergency income aid provided in the context of the pandemic;
- (c) To address the specific needs of indigenous women, as well as Afro-Brazilian and quilombolas women in the context of the pandemic, particularly to ensure their access to adequate employment, education and health services, including sexual and reproductive health; their participation in decision-making processes, as well as measures to combat gender-based violence against women in the context of the pandemic;
- (d) To collect comprehensive, disaggregated and reliable information on the impact of COVID-19 on indigenous peoples, Afro-Brazilians and quilombolas in order to assess their situation and inform the elaboration and implementation of specific policies and plans.

The Committee takes note of the efforts made by the State party to submit its 18th to 20th periodic report, due in 2008, which was received on 14 July 2020. In this regard, and in accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its Rules of Procedure, the Committee invites the State party to provide the information on the issues mentioned above and concrete measures adopted to address them during the upcoming review of the State party report.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Brazil, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Yanduan Li
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination