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14 March 2008

Dear Mr. Obidov,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, at its 72<sup>nd</sup> session held from 18 February to 7 March 2008, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Uzbekistan (CERD/C/UZB/CO/5/Add.2) pursuant to rule 65 (1) of its rules of procedure.

The Committee welcomes the submission of information on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 6, 12, 13 and 15 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/UZB/CO/5) adopted by the Committee following the consideration of the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Uzbekistan at its 68<sup>th</sup> session.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity thus provided to continue its dialogue with the State party. In this spirit, the Committee would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on action taken on these issues be included in the sixth and seventh periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document due on 28 November 2008:

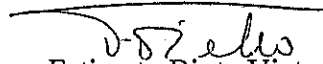
- **Paragraph 6 of the concluding observations:** The Committee welcomes the information regarding the adoption in May 2007 of the national action plan for implementation of the concluding observations and wishes to receive information on the contents of the action plan and the status of implementation. Furthermore, the Committee would appreciate receiving information on the extent to which NGOs were involved in drafting the action plan, including information on the NGOs involved and the nature of their involvement.

Mr. Badriddin Obidov  
First Secretary, Chargé d'affaires a.i.  
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- **Paragraph 12 of the concluding observations:** The Committee is grateful for the extensive information on the appointment of judges but notes that the reply does not seem to contain any information as to which concrete steps the State party has taken to further secure the impartiality and independence of the judges following the recommendation by the Committee. The Committee would appreciate receiving such information, in particular on any steps taken to secure the impartiality of judges in cases involving non-Uzbeks.
- **Paragraph 13 of the concluding observations:** The Committee takes note of the explanation provided in the follow-up report on provisions regarding the right to free interpretation in criminal cases and requests similar information with respect to civil cases. The Committee also requests the State party to provide statistics on the number of trials at which free interpretation has been made available.
- **Paragraph 15 of the concluding observations:** The Committee commends the State party for its decision to start devising the necessary procedures and tools to report as recommended by para. 15 and looks forward to receiving the requested information on the participation of national and ethnic minorities in state institutions in the next periodic report. In particular, the Committee would appreciate receiving information on the ethnic origin of female Parliamentarians and that of women working within the justice sector.

Allow me, Excellency, to reiterate the wish of the Committee to pursue its constructive dialogue with your Government, and to underline that the Committee's observations and request for further information are made with a view to assisting your Government in the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,



Fatimata-Binta Victoria Dah  
Chairperson of the Committee for the  
Elimination of Racial Discrimination