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HUMAN RIGHTS
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PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/85/SãoToméandPríncipe/92

24 February 2026

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the combined initial and second to fifth periodic reports of São Tomé and Príncipe, at the Committee's eighty-fifth session, held in May 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/STP/CO/1-5) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 61 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested São Tomé and Príncipe to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 21, 25 (d), 27 (b) and 55 of the concluding observations, namely:

21: "The Committee recommends that the State party, as a matter of priority, establish an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, equip it with adequate human, technical and financial resources, and ensure that it has a strong mandate for the promotion and protection of women's rights and gender equality, and consider seeking technical assistance and advice from OHCHR to support that process, as appropriate."

25 (d): "The Committee recommends that the State party develop a comprehensive strategy to address gender stereotypes affecting girls, including at all levels of the education system, and promote the equal sharing of roles and responsibilities between girls and boys and women and men."

27 (b): "The Committee recommends that the State party establish mechanisms to detect, protect and provide necessary services and support to victims of child and forced marriage and de facto unions, criminalize child and forced marriage and de facto unions, ensuring that children involved are not criminalized, strengthen its efforts to prevent and combat these harmful practices and ensure the prosecution of those responsible, in line with joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019) on harmful practices and target 5.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals."

55: "The Committee recommends that the State party promote and build capacity for the collection of statistical data, including on the prevalence of gender-based violence, the prevalence of trafficking in persons, access to education and women's socioeconomic status, disaggregated

Mrs. Abigail Tiny Cosme Bonfim
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Email: missaopermanente.geneve@mne.gov.st

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by sex, age and socioeconomic background, for purposes of planning and for the design and implementation of tailored and gender-sensitive legislation, policies, programmes and budgets."

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in June 2025, it has not been received to date. Accordingly, I would be grateful for clarification as to the current status of your Government's response on the matters.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Sao Tome and Principe on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder **within one month of the date of this correspondence**.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,150 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. Please also send a **Word electronic version** of the information requested to the Secretariat of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by email to ohchr-cedaw@un.org.

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

Yours sincerely,

Jelena Pia-Comella
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women