



REFERENCE: CERD/FU/GH/fm

15 May 2015

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 86th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Albania, pursuant to Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 6, 7 and 14 of the concluding observations (CERD/C/ALB/CO/5-8), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 5th to 8th periodic report during its 79th session in August-September 2011.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 9th to 11th periodic reports to be submitted in a single document in June 2015.

Paragraph 6 of the concluding observations: The Committee thanks the State party for having addressed one of the issues raised in the recommendation through the insertion of optional questions on ethnic origin during the 2011 census. However, it regrets the information regarding calls for a boycott of the census following the amendments to the legislation made three months before the census. The Committee notes that this may have hampered the principle of free self-identification of persons belonging to minority groups.

Her Excellency Ms. Filloreta Kodra
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While expecting receiving disaggregated statistical data based on the census regarding the demographic composition of the population in the next periodic report, the Committee encourages the State party to ensure better organization of future censuses and carry onward other initiatives that will facilitate collection of accurate data on the composition of its population.

Paragraph 7 of the concluding observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its response on legislative measures that are in place in Albania. It however regrets that its recommendation was not implemented and notes the ongoing lack of comprehensive legislation on minorities that reaffirm the principle of non-discrimination across minority groups and that clarify the legal criteria required for recognition as a national minority. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt such legislation ensuring there is no indirect discrimination against some minority groups and consulting with the groups concerned.

Paragraph 14 of the concluding observations: The Committee notes numerous efforts undertaken to improve the situation of Roma in terms of personal documentation, in particular efforts made to ensure the registration of Roma children. It commends the State party for having adopted necessary legislative changes that not only prevented, but also tackled existing cases, and enhanced collaboration with other institutions. The Committee commends the State party for implementing policies that reimburse financial value of ID cards considering the economic situation of the Roma. It however notes that efforts still need to be made regarding the registration of Roma in the Civil Registry.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Albania, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



José Francisco Calí Tzay
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination