



REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Panama/63

13 May 2016

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of the Republic of Panama at the Committee's forty-fifth session, held in January-February 2010. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/7). You may recall that in the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Panama to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13 and 41 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with a 42-month delay in August 2015 (CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/7/Add.1) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its sixty-third session, held in February-March 2016 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 13** of the concluding observations that the State party “take all necessary measures and allocate sufficient resources to implement, both de jure and de facto, all legal measures aimed at guaranteeing gender equality and non-discrimination; and allocate sufficient financial and human resources to monitor and evaluate the implementation of these legal measures”: The Committee considers that it **did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “take measures to address femicide in the Criminal Code and other relevant laws within a clear time frame”: The State party mentioned the adoption, in October 2013, of Law 82 amending the Criminal Code to criminalize femicide and punish violence against women. The law also establishes the National Committee for Violence against Women, attached to the National Institute for Women. The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Law 82 amending the Criminal Code to criminalize femicide and punish violence against women. It considers that the recommendation **has been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “collect reliable data on femicides”: The State party mentioned that in 2014, until November, 23 femicides and 14 attempted femicides had been registered at the national level. It also stated that prior to

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criminalizing femicide in the Criminal Code, the scope of the problem was highlighted through media monitoring and publishing of periodic reports by the Panamanian Observatory against Gender Violence, indicating that between 2009 and 2013, 317 violent deaths of women were registered, of which 204 were femicides. The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on the number of femicides and attempted femicides registered at the national level. It considers, however, that the State party did not indicate what concrete measures have been taken to collect reliable data on femicides. The Committee considers that it **did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 13 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

- 1) Ensure effective implementation of all legal measures aimed at guaranteeing gender equality and non-discrimination, both de jure and de facto, including through allocating sufficient human and financial resources to monitor and evaluate such implementation; and
- 2) Collect reliable data on femicides.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 41** of the concluding observations that the State party “take the necessary steps to overcome the stalemate surrounding draft law No. 442 and to promulgate it as soon as possible”: The State party mentioned that in August 2014, draft Law No. 61 was submitted to the National Assembly of Deputies. This draft law seeks to establish the general regulatory basis for the recognition, guarantee, protection and care of sexual and reproductive health. It also incorporates some of the propositions of draft Law 442, which was dropped in 2008, and enjoys the support of civil society organizations and of some public entities, such as the Ombudsman. The Committee notes that draft Law N. 442 was dropped in 2008 and replaced by draft Law No. 61, which was submitted to the National Assembly of Deputies for adoption. It considers, however, that the State party did not indicate to what extent draft Law No. 61 reflects all the provisions covered by draft Law No. 442 on sexual and reproductive health. The Committee considers that the State party took some measures towards the implementation of the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “improve family planning and reproductive health programmes and policies designed to give women and adolescent girls, in particular in rural areas, effective access to information on health-care services, including reproductive health-care services and contraception, in accordance with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 24 on women and health and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”: The Committee considers that it **did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “step up its efforts to incorporate age-appropriate sex education in school curricula and organize information campaigns aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies”: The State party mentioned the development of curriculum guidelines on comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education as a basis for the content of the programmes of the country’s public and private schools, with the aim of developing positive leadership skills among peers. It further noted the implementation of activities in schools, such as projects on life and work, the family, sexuality and dating, among others. The Committee welcomes the development of curriculum guidelines on comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education for public and private schools and other activities in schools in this regard. It notes, however, that the State party did not indicate whether it took concrete measures to organize information campaigns aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps towards the implementation of the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation that the State party “undertake a holistic and life-cycle approach to women’s health that includes an intercultural focus”: The Committee considers that it **did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

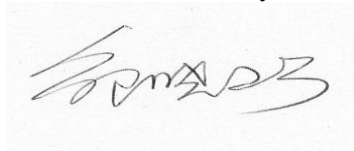
The Committee recommends that, in relation to paragraph 41 of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

- 1) Expeditiously adopt and enact legislation on sexual and reproductive health;
- 2) Improve family planning and reproductive health programmes and policies designed to give women and adolescent girls, in particular in rural areas, effective access to information on health-care services, including reproductive health-care services and contraception, in accordance with the Committee’s general recommendation No. 24 on women and health and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;
- 3) Organize information campaigns aimed at preventing teenage pregnancies; and
- 4) Undertake a holistic and life-cycle approach to women’s health that includes an intercultural focus.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of the Republic of Panama on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Rapporteur on follow-up
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