



REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Congo/58

10 September 2014

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on 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 sixth periodic report of the Republic of the Congo, at the Committee's fifty-first session, held in February-March 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/COG/CO/6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 52 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of the Congo to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 20 (a), (b) and (c) and 24 (a), (b) and (d) of the concluding observations, namely:

“20. In accordance with its general recommendation No. 6 and the guidance provided in the Beijing Platform for Action, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Raise awareness of decision-makers on the empowerment of women as a mean to advance democracy, combat poverty and implement sustainable development;
- (b) Strengthen the national machinery for the empowerment of women at the national and local levels by:
 - (i) Promoting an institutional network covering a large part of the country;
 - (ii) Significantly increasing the financial resources of the national machinery for the empowerment of women and allocating a higher percentage of the national budget and the international funding to gender issues;

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- (iii) Providing it with the necessary human and technical resources for its effective functioning in all areas of women empowerment; this should, in particular, include capacity for enhanced cooperation with civil society; and
 - (iv) Strengthening the capacity of its staff;
- (c) Promote gender mainstreaming throughout all governmental bodies.

“24. The Committee urges the State party to:

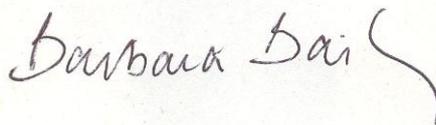
- (a) Adopt within a clear timeframe a comprehensive law addressing violence against women, which prohibits and introduces adequate sanctions for domestic violence and sexual harassment and criminalizes female genital mutilation and marital rape;
- (b) Adopt, without delay, a comprehensive strategy and an emergency plan of action against gender-based violence;
- (d) Encourage women and girls victims of violence to report cases to the police, by raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts, de-stigmatizing victims and training the police, law enforcement and medical personnel on standardized, gender-sensitive procedures for dealing with victims and effectively investigating complaints.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in March 2014, 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, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of the Republic of the Congo on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. 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 cedaw@ohchr.org. For ease reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by State parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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