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8 February 2011

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 third and fourth periodic reports of Lithuania at the Committee's forty-first session, held in June-July 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/4; part of A/63/38). You may recall that in paragraph 94 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Lithuania to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 75 and 81 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the information submitted by Lithuania on 20 October 2010 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/4/Add.1), and notes that it was received with a three-month delay.

At its forty-eighth session, held in January-February 2011 in Geneva, the Committee examined the information provided and noted that Lithuania had responded to all recommendations contained in paragraphs 75 and 81. The Committee considered that while some of its recommendations had been implemented by Lithuania, others had not been implemented or had only been partially implemented.

The following observations are made by the Committee in respect of the State party's replies:

- a. The Committee acknowledges the information provided by the State party that a draft Law on Protection against Domestic Violence was approved by the Government in July 2010 and presented to Parliament in September 2010.

.../...

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- b. The Committee notes that the budget for the implementation of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women has significantly decreased in 2009 and 2010. It also notes the lack of information on the monitoring of the results of the Strategy.
- c. While noting that shelters for women victims of violence, mostly run by NGOs, exist in all regions of the State party, the Committee regrets the lack of detailed information on the adequacy of the funding and capacity of such shelters, especially in rural areas. It also notes that only a relatively small number of complaints and reports of violence against women have been investigated, as well as the lack of information on the sentences imposed on perpetrators.
- d. The Committee notes the limited information on concrete measures to enhance women's access to health care. While acknowledging that emergency contraception is now accessible without prescription in the State party, the Committee regrets the lack of information on the affordability of contraceptives and on available family planning services. It also notes that more information is needed on awareness-raising about family planning, and regrets that school education on sexual and reproductive health and rights has not been made mandatory.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Lithuania on the implementation of the Convention and, in that context, to receiving further information on the measures taken by Lithuania to address the concerns indicated in sub-paragraphs b)-d) above. The Committee requests the State party, to the extent possible, to include this information in its next periodic report due on 17 February 2011.

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

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šimonović
Rapporteur on Follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women