



Téléfax: (41-22) 917 90 08
Téléphone: (41-22) 917 9301
Internet www.ohchr.org
E-mail: cedaw@ohchr.org



Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Myanmar/50

4 November 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 combined second and third periodic report of Myanmar at the Committee's forty-second session, held in October-November 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/3). You may recall that in paragraph 56 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Myanmar to provide, within one year, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 29 and 43 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up information submitted by Myanmar on 14 June 2010, 25 October 2010 and 31 August 2011 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its fiftieth session, held in October 2011 in Geneva, the Committee examined the additional information provided on 31 August 2011 (CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/3/Add.3) and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 29** of the concluding observations to "offer training programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leader and monitor the effectiveness of measures taken and results achieved": while the State party indicated that training programmes had been provided for future women leaders, women representatives from ministries and women entrepreneur, and that a programme on women's rights is being provided at Public Service University, it did not indicate whether it monitored the effectiveness of the measures taken and the results achieved. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

.../...

H. E. Mr. Maung WAI
Permanent Representative of the Union
of Myanmar to the United Nations
Avenue Blanc 47
1202 Geneva

Fax: 022 732 89 19

Concerning the recommendation to “pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of women’s full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of public, political and professional life; fully utilize general recommendation 23 concerning women in public life, and adopt, wherever necessary, temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee’s general recommendation 25, in order to accelerate women’s full and equal participation in public and political life, in particular at high levels of decision-making”: while providing details on the increased number of women at decision-making positions and referring to programmes aimed at empowering women in professional life, the number of women at decision-making positions remains low and the State party failed to provide information on the development of sustained policies and the adoption of temporary special measures to accelerate women’s participation in public and political life. The Committee considered that this recommendation **had not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendations to “implement awareness-raising activities about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making for society as a whole and the development of targeted training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office; to use the formulation of its new electoral law as an opportunity to include women, in accordance with the provisions on non-discrimination in its Constitution, and to increase women’s political participation.; and to use targets and quotas, as appropriate, in this respect”: Due to the absence of information received, the Committee considered that these recommendations **had not been implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on:

- a) Pursuance of sustained policies aimed at the promotion of women’s full and equal participation in decision-making in all areas of public, political and life and adoption, wherever necessary, of temporary special measures in order to accelerate women’s full and equal participation in public and political life.
- b) Monitoring the effectiveness of training programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders and the results achieved in this regard;
- c) Implementing awareness-raising activities about the importance of women’s participation in decision-making for society as a whole and the development of targeted training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office; and
- d) Include in its electoral law provisions to increase women’s political participation.

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 43** of the concluding observations to “improve access of persons living in northern Rakhine, especially women and children, to primary health care and basic education”: While the State party provided numerous examples of activities carried out with regard to health care and education in the region, it gave no indication of sustainable measures taken by the government to address adequate access to primary health care and basic education in northern Rakhine State. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had not been implemented**.

With regard to the recommendations to “eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women in northern Rakhine State”, “alleviate the heavy restrictions on the movement of residents within northern Rakhine State, especially women and girls”, and “lift the orders concerning marriage authorization and restriction of pregnancy, which violate the human rights of those women”: the State party did not provide information. The Committee considered that these recommendations **had not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation to “continue to collaborate with the international community, especially UNHCR and the United Nations Population Fund, in those efforts”, the State party indicated some programmes implemented in cooperation with the international community but efforts need to be continued. The Committee considered that the recommendation **had been partially implemented**.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **within one year**, additional information on:

- a) Improving access of persons living in northern Rakhine State, especially women and girls, to primary health care and basic education, in collaboration with UNESCO;
- b) Eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women in northern Rakhine State ;
- c) Alleviating the heavy restrictions on the movement of residents within northern Rakhine State, especially women and girls;
- d) Lifting the orders concerning marriage authorization and restriction of pregnancy, which violate the human rights of women in northern Rakhine; and
- e) Continuing to collaborate with the international community, especially UNHCR and the UNFPA, in those efforts.

The Committee recommends that the State party seek technical support, if needed, from the international community for the preparation of its Replies and the implementation of the Committee’s recommendations. The Committee also requests a country visit by Committee members, aimed at providing further guidance on the implementation of the above recommendation on women in northern Rakhine.

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

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