

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/81/Gabon/88

25 June 2024

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honor to refer to the examination of the seventh periodic report of Gabon, at the Committee's eighty-first session, held in February 2022. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 47 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Gabon to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11, 31 (a), 31 (b) and 39 (f) of the concluding observations, namely:

“11. Recalling paragraph 12 of its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/6) and the links between articles 1 and 2 of the Convention and target 5.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, the Committee recommends that the State party adopt, under the administrative and civil law framework, a definition of discrimination against women, in accordance with article 1 of the Convention, encompassing direct and indirect discrimination, as well as intersecting forms of discrimination, in both the public and private spheres. It also recommends that the State party adopt specific and comprehensive legislation to combat all forms of discrimination against women in all areas covered by the Convention.”

“31. In line with its general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase its health expenditure and improve coverage of and access to health services throughout its territory by allocating sufficient budgetary resources for the establishment of adequately equipped hospitals, in particular in rural and remote areas, ensuring, in particular, the provision of free pre- and postnatal care for all women and girls, without exceptions;

(b) Amend the relevant provisions of the Penal Code on abortion to remove the requirement for the procedure to be performed before the tenth week in a hospital by a doctor and to remove the criminal liability for women who attempt or procure an abortion;”

“39. Recalling its general recommendation No. 21 (1994) on equality in marriage and family relations and its general recommendation No. 29 (2013) on the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(f) Amend the Civil Code to prohibit polygamy and ensure the protection of the economic rights of women in existing polygamous marriages;”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2024, 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.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of Gabon on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder within one month of the date of this correspondence.

Please note that this response should be precise and should not exceed a maximum length of **3,500 words**, including footnotes. You may attach a limited number of annexes containing statistical data only which are not counted for the word limit. 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 ohchr-cedaw@un.org.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women