



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

REFERENCE: BN/follow-up/Guatemala/92

25 February 2026

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 honor to refer to the examination of the tenth periodic report of Guatemala, at the Committee's eighty-sixth session, held in October 2023. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/GTM/CO/10](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 62 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Guatemala to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 17 (a), 29, 39 (a) and 45 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report ([CEDAW/C/GTM/FCO/10](#)) received on time on 22 October 2025 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its ninety-second session, held in February 2026, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 17 (a)** of the concluding observations that the State party "**recalling its general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, the Committee recommends that the State party, in cooperation with representatives of women's civil society organizations: (a) ensure the right to reparation for women victims of serious human rights violations that occurred during the internal armed conflict by implementing the Dignified and Transformative Reparation Policy and enforce the reparation measures ordered by the courts**":

The Committee notes the State party's efforts to comply with reparation measures in several emblematic cases, including the Sepur Zarco case, with exhumations, coordination of monitoring mechanisms by the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), educational infrastructure investments and scholarships, and the 2025 conviction in the Achí Women case with 18 reparation measures ordered. The Committee welcomes with satisfaction the public recognition on 26 February 2024, declared as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Sexual Violence, Sexual Slavery and Domestic Slavery committed during the internal armed conflict. The Committee also notes the President's commitment in 2024 to developing a National Dignification and Reparation Policy, ongoing investigations in other cases, and training activities by the judiciary and Office of the Public Prosecutor on reparation measures.

The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has not implemented the Dignified and Transformative Reparation Policy and that no reparation measures through administrative means have been implemented since 2020, despite the announcement of a National Dignification and Reparation Policy in 2024 for which the required Governmental Agreement and budget allocation remain pending.

H.E. Mr. José Francisco Calí Tzay
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations Office and
other international organizations in Geneva
Email: onusuiza@minex.gob.gt

The Committee expresses concern that reparation efforts have been partial, inadequately implemented, and lacking a victim-centred and gender-sensitive approach, with the centrality of victims' voices not adequately considered and stakeholders, particularly the surviving grandmothers, excluded from monitoring mechanisms such as the National Monitoring Committee for the Sepur Zarco case. The Committee notes with grave concern that institutional practices within the justice system have contributed to a climate of impunity in internal armed conflict cases, evidenced by the annulment of proceedings in major cases such as CREOMPAZ and the Ixil Genocide trial. The Committee further regrets that court-ordered reparation measures in conflict-related sexual violence cases face significant delays due to implementation being conditioned on the exhaustion of appeals, and that most reparation measures in the Achí Women case remain unimplemented four years after the January 2022 sentence, notwithstanding the advanced age of the victims and the historical nature of the violations.

The Committee considers that while the State party has taken some steps toward implementing certain reparation measures in specific cases, these efforts remain limited and fragmented in the face of grave and longstanding violations, and are undermined by institutional practices that obstruct justice and contribute to impunity in conflict-related sexual violence cases. The Committee considers that the State party has not ensured systematic enforcement of court-ordered reparations, with implementation remaining dependent on prolonged judicial proceedings while proceedings in major cases are simultaneously being annulled. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party describes activities undertaken by various institutions but lacks detail to demonstrate that women victims of serious human rights violations that occurred during the internal armed conflict have effective, timely and victim-centred access to dignified and transformative reparations. The Committee therefore considers that the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 17 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

Recalling its general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, the Committee recommends that the State party, in cooperation with representatives of women's civil society organizations: (a) ensure the right to reparation for women victims of serious human rights violations that occurred during the internal armed conflict by implementing the Dignified and Transformative Reparation Policy and enforce the reparation measures ordered by the courts.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 29** of the concluding observations recommending that the State party "**in line with its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to promote women's equal representation in Congress, occupancy of government posts, the judiciary and the public service at the national, State and local levels by adopting targeted measures, including temporary special measures, such as gender parity quotas and preferential recruitment of women to the public service, in particular at decision-making levels, and amending the Electoral and Political Parties Law to require gender parity in the structures of political parties and on electoral lists and provide for adequate sanctions in case of non-compliance; and prevent, protect women candidates from political violence and prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators**":



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

The Committee notes Governmental Decision No. 28-2024 amended regulations to require 50 per cent women as departmental governors, resulting in 11 women governors including 5 Indigenous women governors. The Committee also notes regulatory amendments to the Urban and Rural Development Councils framework, the establishment of the Electoral Updating and Modernization Committee with the participation of women's organizations, and the submission to Congress of Bill 6377 proposing reforms to the Electoral and Political Parties Law to introduce parity and alternation. The Committee further notes the implementation of a Gender Equality Policy and Protocol to Address Violence Against Women in the Political and Electoral Spheres by the Supreme Electoral Court, as well as capacity-building and civic education programmes targeting women, including Indigenous women.

The Committee regrets, however, that the reform of article 212 of the Electoral and Political Parties Law remains pending in Congress, and that the Electoral and Political Parties Law has not been amended to require gender parity in the structures of political parties and on electoral lists or to establish sanctions for non-compliance, allowing political parties to continue operating without enforceable obligations to ensure women's equal participation, particularly that of Indigenous women. The Committee notes with concern that women remain significantly underrepresented in elected positions, and that Garífuna, Xinka and Afro-descendant women remain largely excluded from decision making structures. The Committee expresses concern about the persistence of political violence against women, including women parliamentarians, candidates and Indigenous women leaders, and the absence of effective accountability, with complaints dismissed or archived and that no information provided on investigations, prosecutions or sanctions.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to implement the recommendation but that key aspects of the recommendation remain unaddressed, including the amendment of the Electoral and Political Parties Law to require gender parity in the structures of political parties and on electoral lists with adequate sanctions for non-compliance, and concrete measures to prevent, protect against and prosecute political violence against women candidates, with limited information provided on the implementation and effectiveness of the Protocol. The Committee further notes that no temporary special measures have been adopted for Congress or municipal elected positions, and that no preferential hiring mechanisms have been implemented in the public service. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is extensive and relates to the recommendation but focuses primarily on statistical data and awareness-raising activities, lacking sufficient detail on the implementation and effectiveness of the measures adopted and on the other aspects of the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 29** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

In line with its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, the Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to promote women's equal representation in Congress, occupancy of government posts, the judiciary and the public service at the national, State and local levels by adopting targeted measures, including temporary special measures, such as gender parity quotas and preferential recruitment of women to the public service, in particular at decision-making levels, and amending the Electoral and Political Parties Law to require gender parity in the structures of political parties and on electoral lists



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

and provide for adequate sanctions in case of non-compliance; and prevent, protect women candidates from political violence and prosecute and adequately punish perpetrators.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 39 (a)** of the concluding observations to **“in line with its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/GTM/CO/8-9, para. 37), general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health and targets 3.1 and 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are, respectively, by 2030, to reduce the global maternal mortality to less than 70 per 100,000 live births and, by 2030, to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) amend article 139 of the Penal Code to legalize abortion and decriminalize it in all cases and ensure that women and adolescent girls have adequate access to safe abortion and post-abortion services to ensure full realization of the rights of women, their equality and their economic and bodily autonomy to make free choices about their reproductive rights; and strengthen measures to counter the alarming rate of maternal mortality”**:

The Committee welcomes the State party's measures aimed at strengthening sexual and reproductive health services, including the operation of “friendly spaces” in 294 municipal districts providing comprehensive education in sexual and reproductive health and rights to adolescent girls and boys, the training of healthcare professionals, the promotion of modern contraceptives among adolescent girls, and the incorporation of education in sexual and reproductive health and rights at primary and secondary levels within the national curriculum. The Committee also notes the provision of technical assistance to departmental health services, the deployment of intercultural health facilitators, the translation of family planning and midwifery policy documents into Indigenous languages, and the implementation of protocols, clinical guidelines and monitoring tools related to maternal, neonatal and obstetric care. It further notes reported efforts to strengthen prenatal care coverage, recognize and support the role of midwives, and reduce institutional maternal mortality.

The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has not amended Article 139 of the Criminal Code and that abortion remains criminalized in all cases except therapeutic abortion, which requires double certification by two physicians. The Committee notes with grave concern that high numbers of girls continue to experience forced pregnancies annually, most as a result of rape that remains largely underreported and unsanctioned, and recalls the United Nations Human Rights Committee's decision in June 2025 in *Fátima v. Guatemala* ([CCPR/C/143/D/3629/2019](#)), finding that the State party forced a rape survivor into pregnancy and motherhood and that the denial of abortion constituted cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. The Committee expresses serious concern about maternal mortality underreporting, with deaths reclassified as “pre-existing conditions”, not fully representing the magnitude of the problem. The Committee further regrets that women, particularly rural and Indigenous women, face persistent barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health services, including due to insufficient availability of modern contraceptives. The Committee notes with concern that comprehensive education in sexual and reproductive health and rights has been blocked and politicized, and that regressive legislative bills were introduced in 2022 and 2025 that would further restrict sexual and reproductive health rights, including criminalizing abortion in all forms.

The Committee considers that the State party has taken some steps to strengthen maternal health services and provide family planning services but has failed to implement the core aspect of the recommendation to amend Article 139 of the Criminal code to legalize abortion and decriminalize it in all cases, and that serious gaps remain in ensuring access to modern contraceptives, addressing maternal



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

mortality, and guaranteeing women's and girls' bodily autonomy and reproductive rights. It therefore considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party does not address the recommendation to amend Article 139 of the Criminal Code to legalize abortion and decriminalize it in all cases, and focuses primarily on maternal health and family planning statistics. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 39 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

In line with its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/GTM/CO/8-9, para. 37), general recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health and targets 3.1 and 3.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are, respectively, by 2030, to reduce the global maternal mortality to less than 70 per 100,000 live births and, by 2030, to ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, the Committee recommends that the State party: (a) amend article 139 of the Penal Code to legalize abortion and decriminalize it in all cases and ensure that women and adolescent girls have adequate access to safe abortion and post-abortion services to ensure full realization of the rights of women, their equality and their economic and bodily autonomy to make free choices about their reproductive rights; and strengthen measures to counter the alarming rate of maternal mortality.

With regard to recommendation 39 (a), the Committee wishes to draw the State party's attention to its [inquiry report on Poland \(2024\) concerning access to abortion](#).

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 45** of the concluding observations to “**in the light of general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls, the Committee recommends that the State party protect Indigenous women, Garifuna women and women of African descent from illegal occupation and forced evictions from lands traditionally occupied or used by them, strengthen procedural safeguards against forced evictions and reparations for victims, provide for adequate sanctions and ensure that they CEDAW/C/GTM/CO/10 23-22256 13/17 participate equally in benefit sharing decision-making processes regarding the use of traditional lands**”:

The Committee notes the Police Action Protocol standardizing police action and prioritizing human rights and language communities, and the monitoring by the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEF) of precautionary measures and evictions through coordination of round tables. The Committee also notes land access programmes including the Land Fund, the Land Lease Programme, the State Land Regularization Programme and the Land Information Registry, with women representing a significant proportion of beneficiaries, including Indigenous women. The Committee further notes efforts to institutionalize gender- and intercultural-disaggregated data and training within land administration processes.

The Committee regrets, however, that the State party has not provided information on concrete measures to protect Indigenous women, Garifuna women and women of African descent women and girls from illegal occupation and forced evictions from lands traditionally occupied or used by them, or



UNITED NATIONS
**HUMAN RIGHTS
TREATY BODIES**

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org

on reparation measures for victims of forced evictions. The Committee also regrets that reported measures are largely procedural and reactive, focusing on the management of evictions rather than their prevention, and that the Agrarian Agreement signed in February 2024 does not include affirmative measures for Indigenous women's rights to participate in conflict resolution or to access land equally, with limited progress two years after its adoption. The Committee expresses concern that existing conflict-resolution mechanisms have not resulted in structural change, that institutional instability has weakened continuity and coverage of measures addressing land conflicts, and that women's participation in decision-making related to land governance remains limited. The Committee further regrets the absence of adequate sanctions, systematic reparations for victims of forced evictions, or effective accountability for private non-State actors involved in land dispossession.

The Committee considers that while the State party has taken steps to implement the recommendation through various programmes, coordination mechanisms and land titling initiatives, it has not sufficiently addressed the structural causes of forced evictions, unequal land access, lack of reparations and limited participation of Indigenous women, Garifuna women and African descent women in land-related decision-making to adequately implement the core aspects of the recommendation. It therefore considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and relates directly to the recommendation but focuses primarily on general land access programmes and lacks detail and evidence regarding the core objective of the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 45** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

In the light of general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls, the Committee recommends that the State party protect Indigenous women, Garifuna women and women of African descent from illegal occupation and forced evictions from lands traditionally occupied or used by them, strengthen procedural safeguards against forced evictions and reparations for victims, provide for adequate sanctions and ensure that they CEDAW/C/GTM/CO/10 23-22256 13/17 participate equally in benefit sharing decision-making processes regarding the use of traditional lands.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jelena Pia-Comella', written over a horizontal line.

Jelena Pia-Comella

Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women