



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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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 seventh periodic report of Paraguay, at the Committee's sixty-eighth session, held in October 2017. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 52 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested Paraguay to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in 9 (a), 15 (a), 23 (b) and 35 (c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received with a three-month delay in February 2020 (CEDAW/C/PRY/FCO/7) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-sixth session, held remotely due to COVID-19 pandemic in July 2020, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 9 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“take measures to combat the attacks against gender equality in the public discourse and repeal decision No. 29664 of the Ministry of Education and Science”**:

The Committee welcomes the adoption of the National Equality Plan (2018-2024), which aims to eliminate discriminatory stereotypes and change the society by removing barriers to the achievement of substantive equality, as a primary measure to combat the attacks against gender equality in the public sphere. While taking note of the information provided by the State party that the review of administrative decisions relating to education, including decision 29664/17, is one of the priorities by the Committee for the Project for the Design of Educational Transformation, which has been established in 2019, the Committee considers that the State party has not yet taken actual measures to repeal the decision. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and responds directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 9 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

Take further measures to combat the attacks against gender equality in the public discourse and repeal decision No. 29664 of the Ministry of Education and Science.

His Excellency
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In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 15 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**give priority to the mandate of the Ministry of Women and substantially increase the human, technical and financial resources allocated thereto, allowing it to effectively carry out its mandate to monitor the situation of women, implement policies and legislation relating to gender equality in all administrative units of the State party and ensure their effective coordination**”:

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party that the Ministry of Women’s Affairs works closely with other bodies at the national and municipal levels to ensure gender-responsive budgeting and gender mainstreaming in the State party. While welcoming the increase of the Ministry’s budget through the National Programme for Prevention, Suppression and Support for Victims of Trafficking in 2018, the Committee notes that the State party acknowledges the need for increasing the proportion of the national budget allocated to the Ministry to implement strategic initiatives relating to gender equality. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and responds directly to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 15 (a)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

Continue efforts to give priority to the mandate of the Ministry of Women and substantially increase the human, technical and financial resources allocated thereto, including the proportion of national budget allocated to the Ministry, allowing it to effectively carry out its mandate to monitor the situation of women, implement policies and legislation relating to gender equality in all administrative units of the State party and ensure their effective coordination.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 23 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**expedite the establishment of a specialized inter-institutional mechanism coordinating the action against trafficking in persons (art. 44 of the Act against trafficking in persons) and allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources for it to address the particular vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking**”:

The Committee notes that the Inter-Institutional Committee for Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking specified under article 44 of the Act against trafficking in person (No. 4788/12) has been operated since 2004. It also notes with appreciation that the National Programme for Prevention, Suppression and Support for Victims of Trafficking in Persons established by the Ministry of Women’s Affairs is operating to intensify the coordination among relevant authorities. Furthermore, the Committee welcomes that the State party included a national investment fund in the national budget for 2018, for the first time, to allocate resources to the National Programme and the Ministry of Women’s Affairs as of the submission of the State party’s follow-up report. Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the absence of information on human and technical resources allocated to the National Programme for Prevention, Suppression and Support for Victims of Trafficking in Persons. The Committee considers that the State party took substantial steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been substantially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 23 (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

Allocate adequate human and technical resources for the National Programme for Prevention, Suppression and Support for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in the Ministry of Women's Affairs to address the particular vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking.

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 35 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**expedite the adoption of the bill criminalizing the practice of unpaid domestic child labour and monitor and eradicate this practice, including by raising awareness through the media and public education programmes on the situation of girls performing domestic work and on their rights**”:

The Committee welcomes the development and adoption of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and for the Protection of Adolescent Workers (2019-2024), which aims to protect children from labour through monitoring, training, income-generating activities for parents and guardians and awareness-raising on child rights. It also takes note with appreciation that the State party has conducted awareness-raising campaigns and education programs, including a press campaign by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, across the State party to tackle child labour. However, the Committee regrets the bill criminalizing the practice of unpaid domestic child labour has not yet been adopted. It is also interested to know whether the State party raised awareness on the specific situation of girls performing domestic work and on their rights. The Committee considers that the State party took some steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 35 (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

1. Expedite the adoption of the bill criminalizing the practice of unpaid domestic child labour and ensure the effective implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and for the Protection of Adolescent Workers (2019-2024) in monitoring and eradicating this practice;

2. Ensure that awareness-raising campaigns and education programs on child labour cover the situation of girls performing domestic work and on their rights.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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