



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT 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: registry@ohchr.org – cedaw@ohchr.org

REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/Ecuador/51

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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 sixth and seventh periodic report of Ecuador 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/ECU/CO/7). You may recall that in paragraph 49 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Ecuador to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 13 and 15 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on 25 August 2011 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/ECU/CO/7/Add.1). At its fifty-first session, held in February 2012 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in paragraph 13 of the concluding observations that the Council for Equality "be functionally integrated in the Government structure": while the State party indicated that a genuine process is under way to establish the Council on Gender Equality as a structural part of the Government, it failed to provide details on the timeframe and the steps taken to establish the Council on Gender Equality. The Committee considered that this recommendation had been partially implemented.

Regarding the recommendation that "the State party be given the necessary mandate and legal authority, through specific secondary legislation, to mainstream gender and women's rights in all policies and structures of the State party": while the State party indicated that an Organization Act had been submitted to the authorities in November 2010 and that this draft law would strengthen the future National Council on Women and Gender Equality by including mechanisms for gender mainstreaming, compliance and changing cultural patterns, the draft law has not yet been adopted. The Committee considered that this recommendation had been partially implemented.

Concerning the recommendation that "the State party be provided with an adequate budget to perform its activities in an effective manner": no information has been provided. The Committee considered that the recommendation had not been implemented.

Concerning the recommendations that "an adequate representation of indigenous women and women of African descent be included in the Council on Women and Gender Equality": no information has been provided. The Committee considered that this recommendation had not been implemented.

H. E. Mr. Luis GALLEGOS CHIRIBOGA
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations
Rue de Lausanne 80 – 82 (4th Floor)
1202 Geneva

Fax: 022 732 48 34

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

- a) The timeframe for the establishment and the operationalization of the Council on Gender Equality as a structural part of the Government;
- b) Actions taken to adopt the Organization Act that strengthens the future national Council on Women and Gender Equality;
- c) Actions taken to provide the Council on Gender Equality with an adequate budget to perform its activities in an effective manner; and
- d) Actions taken to ensure an adequate representation of indigenous women and of women of African descent in the Council.

Regarding the recommendation made in paragraph 15 of the concluding observations, “to ensure that the Equal Opportunity Plan (2005-2009) and its implementation be provided with a legal basis through the adoption of the draft Equal Opportunities Act”: the Equal Opportunities Act has not been drafted. The Committee considered that this recommendation had not been implemented.

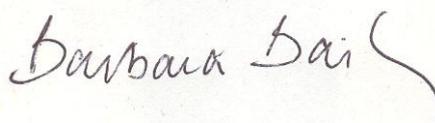
Concerning the recommendation that the “Equal Opportunity Plan (2005-2009) be provided with the necessary political visibility and resources to promote a systemic and inclusive approach of all agencies, organizations and services, public and private, at the central and local levels, in order to ensure the validity, universal exercise, enforceability and protection of the principle of gender equality and of women’s rights”: while the State party indicated that the Government is establishing an equality agenda and that women’s rights are currently being made part of the Government’s macropolicy, it did not indicate whether the necessary resources have been provided to the Equal Opportunity Plan. The Committee considered that this recommendation had been partially implemented.

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

- a) The timeframe for the development of a new Plan for Equality, given that the Equal Opportunity Plan (2005-2009) was supposed to end in 2009, and the extent to which the new plan will cover the rights of women and sex and gender diverse persons;
- b) Actions taken to ensure that the implementation of the new Plan be provided with a legal basis; and
- c) Whether the necessary resources will be provided to this new Plan.

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

Yours sincerely,



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