

REFERENCE: BJ/follow-up/North Macedonia /78

5 March 2021

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 honour to refer to the examination of the sixth periodic report of North Macedonia at the Committee's seventy-first session held in October 2018. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/MKD/CO/6](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 53 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested North Macedonia to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 12 (a) and 16 (a)–(c) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received in October 2020 ([CEDAW/C/MKD/FCO/6](#)) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-eighth session, held remotely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in February 2021, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 12 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**accelerate the adoption of the draft law on prevention of and protection from discrimination, ensuring protection from discrimination on the basis of sex and protection from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination**”:

The Committee welcomes the adoption of the Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination by the Assembly of North Macedonia and its publication in the Official Gazette in October 2020. The Committee takes note of the information that the law defines the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as grounds for discrimination that are prohibited and for which a procedure for prevention and protection is provided. The Committee notes the information that the mandate of the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination has been expanded to ensure prevention of discrimination. The Committee considers that the State party has provided evidence of the full implementation of all actions recommended by the Committee. Thus, it considers that the recommendation has been **implemented**.

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

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 16 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**strengthen the decision-making capacity and authority of the Department for Equal Opportunities and consider upgrading it to the ministerial level to effectively operate as the national machinery for the advancement of women**”:

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Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
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The Committee takes note of the information by the State party on the steps taken to review the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and that the revised draft would envisage promotion and strengthening of gender mechanisms and raising the level of responsibility and decision-making capacity and providing equal opportunities for all, including by upgrading the status of the Equal Opportunities Department. The Committee notes that, according to the State party, the timeframe for the adoption of the amended version is 2021. The Committee considers that the State party has provided evidence that it has taken substantial action towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that this action fails to respond fully to the recommendation. Thus, it considers that the recommendation has been **substantially implemented**.

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

With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 16 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**ensure the allocation of earmarked regular funding for entities comprising the national machinery at the national and local levels**”:

The Committee notes that the State party has taken no action to implement the recommendation. Thus, it considers that the recommendation is **not implemented**.

The Committee notes that the State party has not addressed the concern in the response. Therefore, it considers that **no response** has been provided.

Regarding the recommendation made in paragraph **16 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to “**accelerate the establishment of commissions for equal opportunities for women and men in all municipalities and develop a strategy, including through capacity-building programmes aimed at strengthening the role and performance of the commissions**”:

The Committee welcomes the information by the State party that commissions for equal opportunities for women and men have been established at the level of local self-government in all municipalities following the elections of 2017. Despite the mention by the State party that efforts are carried out to strengthen the capacities of the members of the commissions, no details have been provided about these capacity-building programmes and how they are implemented. The Committee notes the information by the State party on the challenges arising from the influence the municipal councils have on the work of the local self-government units and that a solution is being considered and would be included in the revised Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. The Committee considers that the State party has provided evidence that it has taken substantial action towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that this action fails to respond fully to the recommendation. Thus, 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 16 (a) – (c)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, in its **next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

1. **Expedite the revision and the adoption of the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men to ensure the strengthening of the decision-making capacity and authority of the Department for Equal Opportunities while considering upgrading it to the ministerial level;**



- 2. Ensure the allocation of earmarked regular funding for entities comprising the national machinery at the national and local levels;**
- 3. Develop and implement capacity-building programmes to strengthen the role and performance of the commissions for equal opportunities for women and men in all municipalities.**

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Louiza Chalal'.

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