



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: AA/follow-up/South Africa/55

27 August 2013

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 honour to refer to the examination of the combined second to fourth periodic report of South Africa, at the Committee's forty-eighth session, held in February 2011. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/ZAF/CO/4) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 48 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested South Africa to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 15 and 42 of the concluding observations, namely:

“15. The Committee calls on the State party to expedite the consultations on the Green Paper towards a Gender Equality Bill in order to submit it as soon as possible for adoption to the Parliament, and achieve de jure equality for women and compliance with the State party's international treaty obligations. It also urges the State party to fully incorporate into the Gender Equality Bill the principle of equality between women and men in accordance with article 2(a) of the Convention, as well as to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, in line with article 1 and other relevant provisions of the Convention.”; and

“42. The Committee recommends that the State party increase support for law reform, in line with its Constitutional principles, with regard to non-discrimination, and to comply with its international obligations through partnerships and collaboration with religious and community leaders, lawyers, judges, civil society organizations and women's non-governmental organizations. To this end, the Committee urges the State party to:

- a) Expedite discussion of the Customary Law of Succession and Related Amendment Bill, with the aim of adopting it; and
- b) Prepare a unified family code in conformity with the Convention, in which unequal inheritance rights, property and land rights and polygamy are addressed, with the aim of abolishing them, including the option of civil provisions available for all women.”

H. E. Mr. Abdul Samad Minty
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa
to the United Nations
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Although the information sought by the Committee was due in February 2013, 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, and as to when the information requested will be forthcoming.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing the constructive dialogue it has started with the authorities of South Africa on the implementation of the Convention. In this context, the Committee seeks to receive your response to this reminder without further delay. 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 cedaw@ohchr.org. For ease of reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by State parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

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