



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Equatorial Guinea/60

20 April 2015

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 sixth periodic report of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, at the Committee's fifty-third session, held in October 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/GNQ/CO/6) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 53 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 26 and 44 of the concluding observations, namely:

“26. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to:

- (a) Expedite the adoption of the Comprehensive Protection Bill to Prevent, Punish and Eliminate Violence against Women and ensure strict enforcement;
- (b) Develop a national strategic action plan for the prevention, protection and punishment of violence against women and, accordingly, revise and implement the Multisectoral Programme to combat gender-based violence;
- (e) Provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, in particular psychosocial rehabilitation and an adequate number of shelter facilities;
- (f) Collect comprehensive statistical data on violence against women, disaggregated by sex, age and relationship between the victim and perpetrators, including data on the number of complaints, prosecutions and convictions, and on the sentences imposed on perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence and include such data in its next report.”

Mr. German Ekuia Sima Abaga
First Secretary
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“44. The Committee calls upon the State party to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage, family relations and succession by:

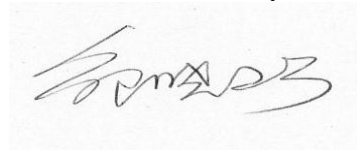
(a) Revising the draft Personal and Family Code along with the Bill on Customary Marriages with the view to eliminating possible inconsistencies and overlapping between them and ensuring that they, inter alia, prohibit polygamy, raise the minimum age of marriage for women to 18 years, guarantee equal inheritance and succession rights to women and recognize the full legal capacity of women, in line with the Convention.”

Although the information sought by the Committee was due in October 2014, 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 the Republic of Equatorial Guinea 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 reference, please find attached a document providing information on the follow-up procedure, which includes guidelines on the drafting of Follow-up reports by States parties.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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