



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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22 December 2016

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 91<sup>st</sup> session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Guatemala, pursuant to Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the timely submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 8, 9 and 16 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/GTM/CO/14-15), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> periodic reports, at its 86<sup>th</sup> session in May 2015.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> periodic reports to be submitted in a single document on 20 December 2017.

**Paragraph 8 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee appreciates the information received on measures taken to collect data disaggregated, among others, by gender and population group. The Committee regrets however the lack of information on the envisaged timeline for carrying out a national census and requests the State party to provide such information in its next periodic report.

**Paragraph 9 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee reiterates its recommendation and requests the State party to accelerate the adoption of all pending draft legislation with an impact on indigenous peoples, and provide an updated status of such pending legislation in its next periodic report. The Committee regrets the delays in the full implementation of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and requests that the State party include up-to-date information on this in its next periodic report, including the status of the draft bill on constitutional reform in the area of justice that was presented to the Guatemalan Congress on 5 October 2016.

Her Excellency Ms. Carla Maria Rodriguez Mancia  
Permanent Representative of Guatemala  
to the United Nations Office  
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**Paragraph 16 of the Concluding Observations:** The Committee appreciates the measures taken by the State party in the context of the International Decade for People of African Descent and invites the State party to pursue such efforts. The Committee however regrets that its recommendation remains in large unimplemented. It recommends that the State party takes effective measures, including awareness raising campaigns, aimed at facilitating political participation of indigenous peoples and persons of African descent, among others by incorporating quota systems in domestic laws. The State party is further requested to provide information on the results of measures taken by the National Registry Office to ensure that all citizens hold identity documents, and provide updated data thereof in its next periodic report.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Guatemala, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Anastasia Crickley  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination