



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Comoros/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 combined initial to fourth periodic reports of the Union of the Comoros, at the Committee's fifty-third session, held in October 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/COM/CO/1-4) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 50 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Union of the Comoros to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 16 and 24 of the concluding observations, namely:

“16. The Committee encourages the State party to:

(a) Take all necessary measures to strengthen its national machinery, namely the General Office for Solidarity and Gender Advocacy, by raising its institutional rank to the Cabinet level and by providing it with adequate human, financial and technical resources to coordinate and work effectively for the promotion of gender mainstreaming and the achievement of gender equality;

(b) Continue its collaboration with the United Nations system, in particular through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) with the aim of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Government at the national and island levels to implement policies and programmes, including the National Policy of Gender Equality and Equity.”

“24. Recalling its general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, the Committee urges the State party to continue and strengthen its collaboration with the United Nations agencies and development partners in order to:

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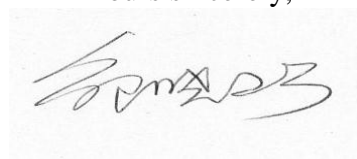
- (a) Elaborate and adopt a comprehensive law on violence against women, which recognizes that such violence is a form of discrimination against women and therefore constitutes a violation of their human rights under the Convention, and ensure that the legislation criminalizes all forms of violence against women, including rape;
- (b) Develop a national strategic action plan for the prevention of all forms of violence against women, protection of victims and punishment of perpetrators and ensure its full implementation;
- (c) Conduct awareness-raising campaigns to encourage reporting of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls and ensure that all such reports are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished adequately;
- (d) Provide systematic training on women's rights and on combating violence against women, including domestic and sexual violence, for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers as well as for health professionals;
- (e) Ensure that there is an adequate number of shelter facilities and that together with established counselling centres for women victims of violence, there is a provision of adequate assistance and protection to victims, in particular psychosocial rehabilitation at the national and island level;
- (g) Provide detailed information about the mandate and activities of the Observatory on gender-based violence."

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 Union of the Comoros 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