



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: YH/follow-up/Togo/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 sixth and seventh periodic reports of the Togolese Republic, at the Committee's fifty-third session, held in October 2012. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations (CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 47 on follow-up on the concluding observations, the Committee requested the Togolese Republic to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 and 21 of the concluding observations, namely:

“15. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party:

(a) Accelerate the finalization and adoption, within a clear and precise time frame and without delay, of the law reform to bring domestic provisions into line with the Convention; and

(b) Ensure that all discriminatory provisions are reviewed and repealed, including those in the Penal Code, the Code of Persons and Family, the Nationality Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, in order to achieve de jure equality and enable de facto equality for women in compliance with the State party's obligations under the Convention.”

“21. Recalling that combating negative gender stereotypes is one of the most important factors of social advancement, the Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party:

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(a) Put in place, without delay, a comprehensive strategy with a results-oriented approach, in conformity with articles 2 (f) and 5 (a) of the Convention, to eliminate stereotypes and harmful practices that discriminate against women, such as polygamy, pre-marriage, forced and early marriage, widowhood practices, levirate, sororate, female genital mutilation, denial of inheritance rights to women, bondage of young girls in voodoo convents and violence against children or old women believed to be witches. Such measures should include concerted efforts, within a clear time frame and with civil society, the school system, the media and traditional leaders, to educate and raise awareness about this subject, targeting women and men at all levels of society;

(b) Include in the revised Penal Code provisions prohibiting polygamy, pre-marriage, forced and early-marriage, widowhood practices, levirate, sororate, bondage, female genital mutilation and denial of inheritance rights to women, and provide adequate sanctions; and

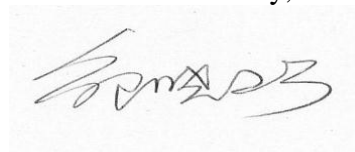
(c) Undertake an assessment of the impact of those measures in order to identify shortcomings and improve them accordingly within a clear time frame.”

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 Togolese Republic 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