



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

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 86th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Russian Federation, 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 12(b), 13, 15(b), 20(b) and 20(c) of the concluding observations (CERD/C/RUS/CO/20-22), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 20th to 22nd periodic report during its 82nd session in February-March 2013.

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 23rd and 24th periodic reports to be submitted in a single document on 6 March 2016.

Paragraph 12(b) of the concluding observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its response, but regrets the State party's failure to fulfil its commitment made during the dialogue to follow-up on the dismissal of court cases against the mayor of Sochi, Mr. Pakhomov. Although a pretrial inquiry found that Mr. Pakhomov's words had been wrongly interpreted, the Committee calls the State party's attention to audio recordings and information from media sources, which provide evidence of the mayor's statements that all Roma and homeless persons should be expelled from Sochi and sent to perform involuntary work.

His Excellency
Mr. Alexey Borodavkin
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
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The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party follow-up on the dismissals of Mr. Pakhomov's court cases. While expressing its concern about the case of Mr. Pakhomov, the Committee commends the strong statements made by various government officials condemning xenophobia and inter-ethnic hatred, as well as applauds the State party for increased legislative protections against interethnic and interreligious discrimination.

Paragraph 13 of the concluding observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its detailed response, but reiterates its concern that the definition of "extremist activity" in federal legislation remains overly broad and vague. The Committee continues to encourage the State party to amend the definition along the lines indicated in its concluding observations. The Committee continues to recommend that the State party review and revise the Federal Law on Non-commercial Organizations so as not to interfere with or undermine the work of NGOs to protect rights contained in the Convention, as well as in the UNDRIP. The Committee is also concerned by recent directives from the Ministry of Justice expanding the range of activities which constitute "political activities" under the Federal Law on Non-commercial Organizations.

Paragraph 15(b) of the concluding observations: The Committee thanks the State party for its detailed response and commends the State party for noted improvements in the issuance of identity documents and passports to Roma, as well as the increased registration of Roma individuals and civil society organizations. The Committee also notes with satisfaction that implementing agencies, timelines, and monitoring processes have been established for the action plan for the socioeconomic and ethnocultural development of the Roma in the Russian Federation. The Committee requests more specific information on implementing strategies, timeframes, evaluation mechanisms, and concrete features of the action plan to be included in the next periodic report. The Committee notes that Roma have equal access to all rights and benefits guaranteed by the State party to all individuals residing in the Russian Federation, but reiterates its recommendation that the State party establish special measures to facilitate Roma access to residence registration, citizenship, education, adequate housing, and other economic, social, and cultural rights. The Committee notes with regret the State party's assertion that establishing special measures to facilitate access to citizenship for Roma would violate the equality of rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. The Committee further regrets a lack of information on the specific situation and rights of Roma women in the State party's follow-up report and requests that such information be included in the next periodic report.

Paragraph 20(b)(c) of the concluding observations: The Committee regrets the State party's failure to establish any federally protected territories under the 2001 Federal Law on Territories of Traditional Land Use of Numerically Small Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East, as well as the State party's failure to discuss the status of TTNUs in its follow-up report. The Committee expresses continued concern about the draft law mentioned in paragraph 20(c) of the concluding observations (CERD/C/RUS/CO/20-22) and its diminishing effect on the status of

protected territories, which allows protected territories to be expropriated and used by third-parties, including extractive industries. The Committee strongly reiterates its recommendation that the State party immediately take all necessary steps to establish federal TTNUs and ensure the protection of such territories from third party entities. The Committee again calls on the State party to ensure that all legislative changes enhance, rather than diminish, the rights of indigenous peoples.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of the Russian Federation, 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,



José Francisco Calí Tzay
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination