



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND  
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org) – [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org)

REFERENCE: BJ/follow-up/Suriname/79

19 July 2021

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 honour to refer to the examination of the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Suriname, at the Committee's sixty-ninth session, held in March 2018. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6](#)) were transmitted to your Permanent Mission. You may recall that in paragraph 62 on follow-up to the concluding observations, the Committee requested Suriname to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 11 (c), 11 (d), 15 (a) and 15 (b) of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received in September 2020 ([CEDAW/C/SUR/FCO/4-6](#)) under the CEDAW follow-up procedure. At its seventy-ninth session, held remotely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in June 2021, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 11 (c)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“adopt the draft law on the equal treatment of women and men and ensure that it includes a definition of discrimination against women, including intersecting forms of discrimination, and prohibits direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, in line with article 1 of the Convention and the Committee's previous concluding observations ([CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/3](#), para. 12)”**:

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party that the draft Bill on equal treatment regarding labour matters was submitted to the National Assembly in July 2019 and placed on its agenda as per January 2020. However, it regrets that the draft Bill is still pending at the National Assembly. The Committee considers that the State party has taken no action to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party information received from the State party is incomplete and that it fails to provide the reasons of non-implementation of the recommendation, nor does it explain the reasons for the delays in the adoption of the draft Bill. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **unsatisfactory**.

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 11 (d)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“conduct, within the next 24 months, mandatory capacity-building for parliamentarians, policymakers and government officials on the importance of comprehensive, consistent and coherent legal reform to achieve substantive**

Her Excellency  
Ms. Kitty Sweeb  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Representative of Suriname  
to the United Nations

Email: [suriname@un.int](mailto:suriname@un.int)



**equality of women and men, with a view to building consensus for the immediate adoption of the various draft laws and policies for the advancement of women's rights;"**:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party on some activities taken in order to raise awareness for policy makers and government officials on the importance of comprehensive, consistent and coherent legal reform to achieve substantive equality of women and men, as well as the information about some planned activities. The Committee considers that the State party took steps towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that it needs to take further action to implement all measures recommended by the Committee. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is extensive, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 11 (c) and (d)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on further actions taken to:

- (a) **Adopt, without delay, the draft law on the equal treatment of women and men and ensure that it includes a definition of discrimination against women, including intersecting forms of discrimination, and prohibits direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, in line with article 1 of the Convention and the Committee's previous concluding observations; and**
- (b) **Provide, in the next periodic report, information on measures taken to provide mandatory capacity building training for parliamentarians, policymakers and government officials on the importance of comprehensive, consistent and coherent legal reform to achieve substantive equality of women and men, with a view to building consensus for the immediate adoption of the various draft laws and policies for the advancement of women's rights.**

In relation to the recommendation made in **paragraph 15 (a)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to "**finalize, without delay, the organizational structure of the Bureau for Gender Affairs and ensure that it has adequate decision-making power and human, technical and financial resources to effectively promote the advancement of women's rights and gender equality in the State party**":

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party indicating that in January 2019, a draft with recommendations from the Minister of Home Affairs was submitted but was not approved in June 2019, and that a new concept of the organizational structure, linked to the implementation of the Gender Vision Policy document 2021-2035, was drafted and resubmitted to the Minister for approval in September 2019. However, the Committee regrets that the information on whether the new concept of the organizational structure was approved, is missing. The Committee considers that the State party took steps towards the implementation of the recommendation, but that it needs to take further action to implement all measures recommended by the Committee. It considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

The Committee notes that the information provided by the State party is thorough, but it fails to respond fully to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **partially satisfactory**.



With regard to the recommendation made in **paragraph 15 (b)** of the concluding observations, urging the State party to **“accelerate the formulation and adoption of the national gender policy plan, 2018–2021, through specific and measurable targets and indicators;”**:

The Committee notes the information provided by the State party that the Ministry of Home Affairs launched its Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 in July 2019, as well as the Development Plan of Suriname for the period 2017 – 2021 (OP2017 – 2021), which introduces gender policy in Chapter X, Paragraph 1.

The Committee considers that the State party took substantial steps to implement the recommendation. It considers that the recommendation **has been substantially implemented**.

The Committee considers that the information provided by the State party is thorough and extensive, and responds to the recommendation. It thus considers that the quality of the information provided is **satisfactory**.

The Committee recommends that, in relation to **paragraph 15 (a) and (b)** of the concluding observations, the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, information on actions taken to:

- (a) **Finalize, without delay, the organizational structure of the Bureau for Gender Affairs, as well as on measures taken to ensure that it has adequate decision-making power and human, technical and financial resources to effectively promote the advancement of women’s rights and gender equality in the State party;**
- (b) **Assess the Development Plan of Suriname based on measurable targets and indicators for the period 2017 – 2021 (OP2017 – 2021), which introduces gender policy, as well as information on activities undertaken under the Gender Vision Policy Document 2021 – 2035 since its adoption.**

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

Yours sincerely,

Louiza Chalal  
Rapporteur on follow-up  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women