

Report CEDAW, 82nd session (June 13 – July 1, 2022)

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The Committee reviewed the reports of Türkiye, Portugal, Azerbaijan, UAE, Morocco, Namibia, Mongolia, and Bolivia

The Chair of CEDAW opened the 82nd session on June. For the first time in almost 2 years Civil Society had the opportunity to be present in person at the UNOG. They presented very strong reports about the terrible situations of women and girls in Türkiye, Portugal, Azerbaijan and Namibia and they also briefed the Committee about the situation/status of women in Bolivia, Mongolia, Morocco, and UAE. All comments were noted in the report of the Committee and will be reviewed.

Reviews:

- Türkiye: the Committee welcomed the new name of the State. A lot of questions on interpretation and legislation of GBV and non-discrimination against women. Concern by the experts about the State Party's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention and the problematic around early marriage as well as the growing data around domestic abuse. Raising awareness and campaigning about gender equality and discrimination in all areas of the society, including in religious life, is recommended.
- The commission was very pleased with Azerbaijan's support for rural women and the draft national action plans promoting gender equality. Still questions around the lack of adaptation of non-discrimination legislation and the existing VAW, including the domestic violence. Another concern is the trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution, the underrepresentation of women in the political arena and in public life. The Committee also noted that the amended laws affecting foreign grants for NGO's and requested State Party to address these issues immediately.
- Namibia was congratulated on the adoption of its first national action plan on "Women, Peace and Security". A lot of questions about gender parity in politics and concerning the problematic around early marriage.
- Portugal was praised for its Anti-Discrimination Laws; still questions about absence of Law Prohibiting Femicide and the increase in dismissals of pregnant women in the workspace. A lot of questions about gender parity in politics and the lack of financial support for women in public life, free legal aid. The need to strengthen the efforts to ensure women & girls are participating in non-traditional fields of study and careers.
- Morocco was recognised for its new legislation on prohibiting discrimination. Moreover, it has introduced laws against VAW, on combatting trafficking in human beings and for the protection of domestic workers. The delegation had the opportunity to give an explanation about measures against high mortality and illiteracy rates in rural areas. The Committee applauded the fact that the maternal mortality rate had fallen by 35%. However, medical care for pregnant women in rural areas had worsen. A national plan is in place to improve medical care in rural areas through measures e.g., mobile clinics serving over 70,000

pregnant women. New commitment is needed for the eradication of illiteracy. Dedicated education for girls and boys will support the combat on this issue, especially for the young adolescents. Still need for extra measurements to improve equal participation of women in political and public life.

- Bolivia: great work around the fight against gender stereotyping; still concerns about the approach of VAW and human trafficking in general. Also concern about the absence of laws who protect women and will gave them equal rights in the legal system. Raising awareness around gender equality is a must.
- Mongolia was praised for its efforts in promoting gender equality, eliminating discrimination against women and the implementation of the National Program on gender equality. Still concern about the absence of women in the political and public arena, the lack of special programs to include rural and indigenous women and the absence of equal financial support for unpaid care work. Data is needed for school dropout of girls as well as a dedicated policy on re-entry programs for girls after dropouts.
- UAE: was praised for the establishment of a National Human Rights Institute and moreover for its good work concerning VAW by adaptation of different laws e.g., honor killings, violence at the workspace, protection of domestic workers, etc. Still a big concern for the Committee is the lack of the full implementation of the CEDAW convention and the inequality between men and women in private, public, and political life, due to religion and tradition. Also concerns around human trafficking, the absence of good women's health care (free choices about their lives and life plans), the free involvement of women in NGO's working on women's human rights and gender equality, the inequality around nationality and family relations, the sex-based discrimination in education and training, the women migrant domestic workers.

Committee Vice-Chair, Ms. Haidar closed the 82nd session in absent of Ms. Acosta and congratulated the Committee for the great work and achievements. Firstly, she mentioned the statement of the Committee supporting American women's access to safe and legal abortions. This [statement](#) reflects the Committee's position on this very concerning issue. Secondary, Ms. Haidar talked about the final draft of the General Recommendation 39 (the rights of indigenous women and girls). The Committee had organised 5 regional meetings (19-31 May) to finalise the draft of general recommendation No.39. Former indigenous women from 7 socio-cultural regions of the indigenous world had participated and their experiences have been welcomed. [Recommendation No. 39](#) will be the first binding instrument to focus on the rights of indigenous women and girls and the adoption of the General Recommendation is scheduled for CEDAW's October 2022 session.

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