



Forest Peoples Programme

Compilation:

General Recommendations and Concluding Observations relevant to the rights of INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Adopted by the

**Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination Against Women
(CEDAW)**

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A. General Comments

1. General Recommendation No. 16: Unpaid women workers in rural and urban family enterprises

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind articles 2 (c) and 11 (c), (d) and (e) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and general recommendation No. 9 (eighth session, 1989) on statistical data concerning the situation of women,

Taking into consideration that a high percentage of women in the States parties work without payment, social security and social benefits in enterprises owned usually by a male member of the family,

Noting that the reports presented to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women generally do not refer to the problem of unpaid women workers of family enterprises,

Affirming that unpaid work constitutes a form of women's exploitation that is contrary to the Convention,

Recommends that States parties:

(a) Include in their reports to the Committee information on the legal and social situation of unpaid women working in family enterprises;

(b) Collect statistical data on women who work without payment, social security and social benefits in enterprises owned by a family member, and include these data in their report to the Committee;

(c) Take the necessary steps to guarantee payment, social security and social benefits for women who work without such benefits in enterprises owned by a family member.

2. General Recommendation No. 19: Violence against women

6. The Convention in article 1 defines discrimination against women. The definition of discrimination includes gender-based violence, that is, violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. Gender-based violence may breach specific provisions of the Convention, regardless of whether those provisions expressly mention violence.

7. Gender-based violence, which impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms under general international law or under human rights conventions, is discrimination within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention. [...].

21. Rural women are at risk of gender-based violence because traditional attitudes regarding the subordinate role of women that persist in many rural communities. Girls from rural communities are at special risk of violence and sexual exploitation when they leave the rural community to seek employment in towns.

3. General recommendation No. 24: Article 12 of the Convention (women and health)

6. While biological differences between women and men may lead to differences in health status, there are societal factors that are determinative of the health status of women and men and can vary among women themselves. For that reason, special attention should be given to the health needs and rights of women belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, such as migrant women, refugee and internally displaced women, the girl child and older women, women in prostitution, indigenous women and women with physical or mental disabilities.

4. General Recommendation No. 27 on older women and protection of their human rights

13. The discrimination experienced by older women is often multidimensional, with the age factor compounding other forms of discrimination based on gender, ethnic origin, disability, poverty levels, sexual orientation and gender identity, migrant status, marital and family status, literacy and other grounds. Older women who are members of minority, ethnic or indigenous groups, internally displaced or stateless often experience a disproportionate degree of discrimination.

5. General Recommendation No. 28: Article 2 of the Convention (on the core obligations of States parties)

18. Intersectionality is a basic concept for understanding the scope of the general obligations of States parties contained in article 2. The discrimination of women based on sex and gender is inextricably linked with other factors that affect women, such as race, ethnicity, religion or belief, health, status, age, class, caste and sexual orientation and gender identity. Discrimination on the basis of sex or gender may affect women belonging to such groups to a different degree or in different ways to men. States parties must legally recognize such intersecting forms of discrimination and their compounded negative impact on the women concerned and prohibit them. They also need to adopt and pursue policies and programmes designed to eliminate such occurrences, including, where appropriate, temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25.

B. Concluding Observations

1. ARGENTINA

Argentina: CEDAW/C/ARG/CO/6, 16 August 2010

15. The Committee is concerned that, while women's access to justice is provided for by legislation, their ability in practice to exercise that right and to bring cases of discrimination before the courts is limited by such factors as lack of information about their rights, language barriers, particularly for indigenous women, and other structural difficulties in accessing the courts. The Committee is also concerned about gender stereotyping by the justice system and its lack of knowledge on discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender as well as on violence against women.

16. The Committee requests that the State party take all appropriate measures to remove impediments women may face in gaining access to justice and to put in place measures to ensure women's access to justice. It specifically recommends that the State party enhance women's awareness of their rights, inter alia in rural areas and among the most disadvantaged groups, including indigenous communities, through legal literacy programmes and legal assistance so that they can gain knowledge of available legal remedies for discrimination and abuse and claim all their rights under the Convention. It further urges the State party to ensure that the judiciary, including judges, lawyers, prosecutors and public defenders, is familiar with the rights of women and the obligations of the State party under the Convention. The Committee also encourages the State party to provide training on gender awareness to all members of the justice system, including law enforcement agencies, and to monitor the results of such efforts.

41. While acknowledging efforts aimed at decentralizing and providing training opportunities, relatively extensive health care and substantial credit loans, including to rural families, the Committee remains concerned about the situation of rural women, particularly older women and indigenous women, in view of their extreme poverty, marginalization and frequent lack of access to health care, education, credit facilities and community services.

42. The Committee urges the State party to continue to pay special attention to the needs of rural women, including older women and indigenous women, ensuring that they participate in decision-making processes and have full access to education, health services and credit facilities.

Argentina: A/57/38, Part III, 16 August 2002

356. The Committee is concerned at the situation of women resulting from the growing increase in poverty, and extreme poverty, which has spread to more than half the population, and which can have a disproportionately heavy impact on the female population. Of special concern are women heads of household who are living in poverty and unemployed, with dependent children, and women from rural areas, indigenous populations and the most vulnerable sectors of the population.

357. The Committee recommends that the State party should pay special, ongoing attention to the situation of women and should take the necessary measures to prevent women, especially those from rural areas, indigenous populations and the most vulnerable sectors of the population, from bearing the heaviest burden of the crisis. It also requests the State party to ensure that the Programme for unemployed heads of household with children under 18 or disabled children includes a gender perspective in order that the few resources that are available for social allowances may be distributed without discrimination.

2. AUSTRALIA

Australia: CEDAW/C/AUL/CO/7, 30 July 2010

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for its combined sixth and seventh periodic report, which was well structured and followed the Committee guidelines for the preparation of reports. The Committee appreciates that, in response to its previous concerns about insufficient disaggregated data, the State party provided information on the steps taken to improve the collection of data by the Office for Women and the development of indicators on gender equality, including data for indigenous people, people with disabilities and people from lower socio-economic and rural and remote backgrounds. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for the written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by

its pre-session working group, its oral presentation and the further clarifications to the questions posed orally by the Committee.

4. The Committee notes with appreciation that the report was prepared through a participatory process involving government institutions, non-governmental organizations and extensive community consultations at the State and Territory levels. It further notes with satisfaction that specific consultations were also held with women with disabilities, indigenous women, migrant and refugee women and women from remote or rural communities in response to the expressed concerns of the Committee about the lack of information on these groups of women in previous reports. It commends the State party for providing financial support to various non-governmental and civil society organizations to assist them in preparing alternative reports for the Committee.

12. The Committee welcomes Australia's endorsement of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and commends the Australian Parliament's motion of apology to Australia's indigenous peoples for the laws and policies of successive governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss. The Committee also welcomes the nomination and election of the first Australian indigenous woman as a member of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

13. The Committee welcomes the State party's commitment to work with indigenous communities to "close the gap" with regard to the disadvantaged situation of Australia's indigenous peoples and the forums created to allow indigenous people's voices to be heard, including an independent Indigenous Steering Committee and the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples — with gender-balanced representation — and the continuing support for the National Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Women's Gathering.

26. The Committee notes with concern that, despite a large number of policies and programmes adopted by the State party to address underrepresentation of certain vulnerable groups of women, including indigenous women, women with disabilities, migrant women, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and women from remote or rural communities, there has been slow progress in ensuring their equal participation in leadership and decision-making positions, in public and political life and their equal access to education, employment and health. The Committee continues to be concerned that the State party does not favour adoption of temporary special measures in the form of compulsory targets and quotas to address the underrepresentation of women in decision-making bodies, in political and public life and the persistent inequality of their access to education, employment opportunities and health-care services.

27. The Committee reiterates its recommendation in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/AUL/CO/5, para. 17) that the State party fully utilize the Sex Discrimination Act and consider the adoption of temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, to increase further the number of women in political and public life and to ensure that the representation of women in political and public bodies reflect the full diversity of the population, including indigenous women and women from ethnic minorities.

36. The Committee notes that a number of well-resourced initiatives have been undertaken to eliminate discrimination against girls and women at all levels in the education system. The Committee is, however, concerned that information, as provided, does not always allow for a full understanding of ways in which multiple forms of discrimination impact outcomes for specific groups such as indigenous women and girls. The Committee is also concerned with segregation of fields of study in higher education and vocational training, which ultimately results in occupational sex segregation of the labour market.

38. The Committee is concerned about the labour force, which continues to be segregated by gender; the persistence of the pay gap with women working full time earning 18 per cent less than their male counterparts; the caring responsibilities, which continue to affect women's labour force participation and the limited access to job opportunities for women with disabilities and indigenous women. The Committee also notes that, despite the provisions in the Sex Discrimination Act, sexual harassment continues to be a serious problem in the workplace. The Committee welcomes the first paid parental leave scheme, which will come into operation on 1 January 2011, but notes that it does not include superannuation, which impacts on the major gender gap in retirement savings and economic security between older women and men, that the leave is of limited duration (18 weeks), and that compensation is limited to an amount equal to the federal minimum wage and subject to other conditions.

40. The Committee notes with concern that, despite strengthened efforts to address the issue since the last report, socio-economic indicators consistently show that the Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander communities continue to be among the most disadvantaged among Australians, with indigenous women being particularly disadvantaged. The Committee is concerned that indigenous women and girls face the highest levels of violence, especially at home where indigenous women are 35 times as likely to be hospitalized as a result of family violence-related assaults as non-indigenous females. The Committee also continues to be concerned that indigenous women have fewer opportunities and more restricted access to quality education, health care and legal aid services.

41. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation that the State party adopt and implement targeted measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, to improve indigenous women's enjoyment of their human rights in all sectors, taking into account their linguistic and cultural interests. It urges the State party to implement specific strategies within the national plan to address violence against Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander women, including funding culturally appropriate indigenous women's legal services in urban, rural and remote areas of Australia. It recommends that the State party pay particular attention to ensuring access to quality education, including post-graduate education, vocational training, adequate health and social services, legal literacy and access to justice.

Australia: CEDAW/C/AUL/CO/5, 3 February 2006

16. While noting that the Sex Discrimination Act allows for the adoption of special measures to ensure equality of opportunity or in order to meet the special needs of women, the Committee is concerned that the State party does not support the adoption of targets or quotas to promote greater participation of women, particularly indigenous women and women belonging to ethnic minorities, in decision-making bodies.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party fully utilize the Sex Discrimination Act and consider the adoption of quotas and targets, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, to further increase the number of women in political and public life and to ensure that the representation of women in political and public bodies reflect the full diversity of the population, particularly indigenous women and women belonging to ethnic minorities.

18. While noting the efforts of the State party to address violence against women at all levels of authority, the Committee remains concerned about the continuing prevalence of violence against women, as well as by the low rates of reporting, prosecutions and convictions in sexual assault cases. It is concerned that laws that protect victims of violence and require perpetrators of domestic violence to leave the family home are not regularly enforced. It is also concerned about the high levels of violence against women, particularly domestic violence, in indigenous, refugee and migrant communities.

19. The Committee calls on the State party to take steps to fully and consistently implement and enforce laws on violence against women and to ensure that all women victims of violence, including indigenous, refugee and migrant women, are able to benefit from the legislative framework and support systems in place. It calls upon the State party to ensure that all violence against women is effectively prosecuted and adequately punished. It requests that adequate statistics be collected in a consistent manner. It requests that the State party provide information in its next report on the number of cases of violence reported to the police and other relevant authorities, and on the number of convictions. It further recommends that public officials, especially law enforcement officials, the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women. The Committee calls upon the State party to create public awareness of violence against women as an infringement of women's human rights that has grave social and financial costs for the whole community.

30. The Committee is concerned about the ongoing inequalities suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, whose enjoyment of human rights remains unsatisfactory in many areas, particularly with regard to employment, education, health and political participation. The Committee is particularly concerned about the lower life expectancy among indigenous women. It is also concerned about the disproportionately large number of indigenous women in prisons.

31. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt and implement targeted measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to improve indigenous women's enjoyment of their human rights in all sectors, taking into account their linguistic and cultural interests. It recommends that the State party increase indigenous women's access and awareness of the availability of targeted social services in all sectors. It further recommends that the State party take steps to increase indigenous women's legal literacy and improve their access to remedies for claims of discrimination. The Committee urges the State party to examine the reasons for the high rate of incarceration of indigenous women and take steps to address its root causes. It calls on the State party to continue to review and monitor the fulfilment of the provisions of the Convention in respect of indigenous women in all sectors and provide in its next report specific and analytical information and disaggregated data on these issues.

Australia: A/52/38/Rev.1, Part II, 12 August 1997

390. The Committee was aware that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women continued to face discrimination and disadvantages in terms of access to rights, opportunities and resources.

394. [...] It noted the absence of data concerning violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and assessment of programmes directed at reducing such violence.

397. The Committee was concerned at the continuing adverse situation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Major causes of concern included a higher incidence of maternal mortality, lower life expectancy, reduced access to the full range of health services, a high incidence of violence, including domestic violence, and high unemployment rates. Their situation, as well as that of migrant women, was further compromised by an apparent rise in racism and xenophobia.

404. The Committee encouraged the Government to collect statistical data on the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the workforce, in decision-making, in politics and administration, and in the judiciary with a view to enhancing programmes that would benefit them. It suggested that the Government might include representatives of those communities when it presented its next report to the Committee.

405. The Committee recommended that, in the light of the *Mabo* and *Wik* judgements of the High Court, the Government should develop the necessary legislative and policy measures to ensure women's equal access to individual ownership of native land.

Australia: A/50/38, 31 May 1995

597. The Committee expresses its concern about indigenous women, migrant women and particularly women from aboriginal groups and Torres Strait Island who are the most disadvantaged people in Australian society. The Government has been frank in its information to the Committee about these women. However, the status of these women is significantly different from other women living in Australia. Violence, life expectancy, unemployment and the health situation among aboriginal women are remaining problems.

598. The Committee urges that in the next report the Government provide more specific data concerning aboriginal women and about remaining obstacles that impede their progress to full equality.

599. The Committee also asks for information about improvements for the aboriginal women after the court decision *Mabo and Others v. The State of Queensland*. Will that decision permit aboriginal women to receive redistributed land on an equal basis with aboriginal men?

3. BANGLADESH

Bangladesh: CEDAW/C/BGD/CO/7, 22 March 2011

37. The Committee is concerned at the very limited information and statistics provided on disadvantaged groups of women and girls, including minority women such as Dalit women, migrant women, refugee women, older women, women with disabilities and girls living on the streets. The Committee is also concerned that those women and girls often suffer from multiple forms of discrimination, especially with regard to access to education, employment and health care, housing, protection from violence and access to justice.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party:

[...] Collect disaggregated data on the situation of disadvantaged groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination and adopt proactive measures, including temporary special measures, to eliminate such discrimination and protect them from violence and abuse;

4. BELIZE

Belize: CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4, 10 August 2007

15. The Committee is concerned that the widespread poverty among women — the poverty rate stands at 33.5 per cent — is among the causes of the violation of women's rights and discrimination against them, particularly in the rural areas and among Mayan women. It is concerned that there has been no evaluation of several multimillion-dollar projects designed to combat poverty in the rural areas since 1996. The Committee is concerned at the large number of women who are heads of household and who are particularly vulnerable to poverty.

16. The Committee urges the State party to make the promotion of gender equality an explicit component of all its national development strategies, policies and programmes, in particular those aimed at poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The Committee also invites the State party to place emphasis on the promotion and protection of women's human rights in all

development cooperation programmes with international organizations and bilateral donors so as to address the socio-economic causes of discrimination against women. The Committee recommends that the State party put in place evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to assess the impact of its poverty reduction strategies on women, including those in the rural areas, and provide information in its next report. It calls on the State party to pay special attention, and provide targeted support, to women heads of household in all its poverty-eradication efforts, including in the rural areas and among Mayan women.

5. BOLIVIA

Bolivia: CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/4, 8 April 2008

11. The Committee is concerned at the persistence of high levels of poverty and social exclusion among Bolivian women, particularly among women living in rural areas, indigenous women, older women and women with disabilities, and their insufficient access to land, housing and basic social services. The Committee notes that the free market economy without a social dimension, which has contributed to the increase in poverty, may have a greater impact on the poverty situation of women. The poverty conditions of women are reflected in their high illiteracy rates, low school enrolment and completion rates, poor access to health care, including sexual and reproductive health, leading to high rates of maternal mortality, and lack of access to land, housing, income-generating training opportunities and basic social services.

13. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that all poverty eradication policies and programmes integrate a gender perspective and explicitly address the structural nature and various dimensions of poverty faced by women, in particular women living in rural areas, indigenous women, older women and women with disabilities. It recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to implement nationwide effective educational programmes in the areas of functional literacy, skills and income-generating training, including the provision of microfinance schemes, as a means of poverty alleviation, and adopt measures to ensure women's equal access to land, housing, healthcare and basic social services.

18. While noting the State Party's efforts, the Committee is concerned that there is still a considerable number of women, particularly indigenous women in rural areas, older women and women with disabilities, who do not have identity documents and can therefore have neither access to public institutions nor to the relevant social services and benefits.

19. The Committee calls on the State party to continue to expedite and facilitate the process of registration of women, particularly indigenous women in rural areas, older women and women with disabilities, and issue birth certificates and the relevant identity documents. The Committee urges the State party to establish concrete goals and timetables for this process and provide information on the progress achieved in its next report.

22. While congratulating the State party for its recognition of cultural diversity and the differences and specificities of indigenous communities in legislation, the Committee is concerned that the emphasis placed on such specificities might detract from compliance with the provisions of the Convention relating to non-discrimination and formal and substantive equality between men and women. The Committee is particularly concerned that, while the recognition of community justice by the State party might make it easier for the indigenous and rural people to have access to justice, it might operate to perpetuate stereotypes and prejudices that discriminate against women and violate the human rights enshrined in the Convention.

23. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that indigenous concepts and practices are in conformity with the legal framework of the Convention and to create the conditions for a wide intercultural dialogue that would respect diversity while guaranteeing full compliance with the

principles, values and international norms for the protection of human rights, including women's rights.

32. While noting the State party's efforts to reduce illiteracy and improve boys' and girls' access to education and ensure that they remain in school, for example, through the "Juancito Pinto" scholarship or the "Yo sí puedo" ("Yes I Can") Literacy Programme, the Committee is concerned at the low level of education of rural and indigenous women and girls, who continue to be at a serious disadvantage in terms of access to and quality of education, as well as the number of years they attend school, basically owing to the lack of infrastructure, distance, the risk of violence, the cost of transport and language.

33. The Committee urges the State party to adopt all necessary measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures, with a view to reducing girls' illiteracy and school dropout rates, particularly in rural and indigenous areas, and to provide an education, whether formal or informal, and in the relevant languages, to these women and girls.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party integrate a gender perspective into its national health policy in line with general recommendation 24 and improve access to health services to the most vulnerable groups of women, in particular rural and indigenous women. [...]

6. BRAZIL

Brazil: CEDAW/C/BRA/CO/7, 23 March 2012

16. The Committee acknowledges that the State party has adopted temporary special measures aimed largely at achieving equality among its population, such as quotas based on race and ethnicity to increase the number of Afro-descendent and indigenous students enrolled in higher education programmes, for example those related to science and technology. Even though women might benefit from these measures, the Committee is concerned about the lack of specific assessment of their impact on women to evaluate how effectively these measures have contributed to the acceleration of the substantive equality of women. It is further concerned at the apparent inefficiency in the use of temporary special measures targeting different groups of women.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party take further steps to expand the understanding of the concept of temporary special measures and the use of these measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and general recommendation 25 (2004), as part of necessary strategy towards the achievement of women's substantive equality, in particular for women with disabilities, Afrodescendent, indigenous and rural women, in fields such as political participation, health, education and employment.

22. The Committee takes note of the efforts of the State party aimed at increasing the participation in political and public life of women, such as the adoption of Law No. 12034/2009 which requires that political parties maintain a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 70% representation of women or men in their candidate lists and the launch of the permanent campaign "More Women in Power" in 2008. However, it regrets that the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes as well as the lack of mechanisms to ensure the implementation of temporary special measures adopted, continue to impede women's participation in parliament and in decision-making positions at the state and municipal levels of the public administration. It is further concerned at the low representation of women in the highest instances of the Judiciary and in top managerial positions in the private sector, despite

the increasing number of women with judicial careers as well as the increasing number of women who participate in the labour market.

23. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

(b) Adopt and implement temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004), in order to accelerate women's full and equal participation in public and political life, in particular with respect to disadvantaged groups of women, such as Afro-descendent and indigenous women, and women with disabilities;

26. The Committee notes the establishment, in 2008, of the Commission for Equal Opportunities on the basis of Gender, Race, and Ethnic origin and for Persons with Disabilities and to Combat Discrimination by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. However, it notes with concern that despite the increased participation of women in the labour market, the achievement of equality between men and women in the field of employment remains challenge in the State party. It is concerned that the wage gap between men and women fluctuates between 17% and 40% depending on the race, ethnicity and education of women. It is also concerned that stereotypes related to gender and race contribute to the segregation of Afro-descendent and indigenous women into lower quality jobs. It is further concerned at the lack of information regarding measures to protect women from sexual harassment in the workplace as well as about the persistence of the exploitation of women and children as domestic workers.

27. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Prioritize the adoption of the Equality in the Workplace Bill (No. 6653/2009), which provides for the creation of mechanisms to prevent and prohibit discrimination against women in the field of employment;

(b) Adopt effective measures in the formal labour market, including temporary special measures, to eliminate occupational segregation based on stereotypes related to gender, race and ethnicity; to narrow and close the wage gap between women and men; and to ensure the application of the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value, and equal opportunities at work;

(c) Include in its next periodic report legislative and other measures taken to protect women from sexual harassment in the workplace and to protect women's rights in the informal sector; and

(d) Continue to take measures to improve the protection of domestic workers, including the ratification of International Labour Organization Convention No. 189 concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

30. The Committee takes note of various measures in place aimed at ensuring that rural women participate in and benefit from rural development, such as the Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Policy for Women (ATER) aimed at, inter alia, promoting agroecology and ecologically based production and, the Women's National Programme for the Strengthening of Family Agriculture (PRONAF-Women), which provides women farmers with access to credit. However, it is concerned at the disadvantaged position of women in rural and remote areas, who often are the most affected by poverty and extreme poverty, face greater difficulties in obtaining access to health and social services and rarely participate in decision-making processes, due to patriarchal attitudes prevalent in rural communities. The Committee is further concerned about the impact of agro-industrial and development projects on rural women's living conditions and regrets the lack of information in this regard in the report.

31. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

- (a) Take the necessary measures to ensure the participation of rural women in the design and implementation of local development plans, in particular those which will have an impact on the economic structure and dynamics of their communities;
- (b) Ensure that rural women, and in particular women heads of households, participate in decision-making processes and have improved access to health, education, clean water and sanitation services, fertile land and income-generating projects; and
- (c) Provide detailed information in its next periodic report on the impact on the living conditions of rural women of the major agro-industrial and development projects in place in the State party.

32. The Committee expresses its concern about the significant increase in the number of women and girls in prison in the State party. It takes note that large proportion of them have been imprisoned for committing drug trafficking-related offences, in particular for having transported drugs (as “mules”) at the request of their partners. The Committee is further concerned at the precarious conditions and overcrowding of some detention facilities; the difficulties faced by women prisoners with access to justice, including the lack of interpretation services for indigenous women; the increasing reports of sexual violence in the prisons; and the lack of adequate health facilities and services for female inmates, in particular pregnant women.

33. The Committee urges the State party to:

[...]Take measures to reduce the number of women in conflict with the law, including through targeted prevention programmes aimed at addressing the causes of women's criminality;

(b) Address the situation of women and girls in detention through the development of comprehensive gender-sensitive policies, strategies and programmes aimed at facilitating their access to justice and ensuring compliance with their fair trial guarantees, in particular for indigenous women; and providing educational, rehabilitative and resettlement programmes for women and girls; and

(c) Improve the conditions of women's detention facilities in accordance with international standards, to solve the problems of overcrowding in the prisons, guarantee separate accommodation for men and women inmates; and ensure the provision of adequate health facilities and services, in particular for pregnant women.

Brazil: CEDAW/C/BRA/CO/6, 10 August 2007

11. The Committee is concerned about the persistent gap between the de jure and de facto equality of women and men, particularly among the most vulnerable sectors of society, such as women of African descent and indigenous women, and other marginalized groups, which is exacerbated by regional, economic and social disparities.

12. The Committee encourages the State party to enhance its efforts to close the gap between de jure and de facto equality of women and men by ensuring full implementation of laws, plans and policies and through regular, effective monitoring and impact assessment, especially in regard to the most disadvantaged groups of women. It recommends that the State party ensure that those charged with responsibility for implementation of such laws and policies at all levels are fully aware of their obligations.

35. The Committee is concerned at the lack of sufficient data about women of African descent, indigenous women and other vulnerable and marginalized groups, who often suffer from multiple forms of discrimination. The Committee notes that this lack of sufficient information

and statistics has prevented it from forming a comprehensive picture of the de facto situation of these women in all areas covered by the Convention and the impact of governmental policies and programmes aimed at eliminating discrimination against them.

36. The Committee requests the State party to enhance collection of data disaggregated by sex, race and age, where appropriate, in all areas covered by the Convention and to include adequate statistical data and analysis, disaggregated by sex, race and age, and by urban and rural areas, in its next report so as to provide a full picture of the implementation of all the provisions of the Convention. It also recommends that the State party regularly conduct impact assessments of its legislation, policies, plans and programmes to ensure that measures taken lead to the desired goals, and that it inform the Committee about the results achieved in the implementation of the Convention in its next report.

Brazil: A/58/38, 7 July 2003

110. The Committee is concerned about the impact of poverty on Brazilian women of African descent, indigenous women, female heads of household and other socially excluded or marginalized groups of women and about their disadvantaged position with respect to access to education, health, basic sanitation, employment, information and justice.

111. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that its poverty eradication measures give priority attention to Brazilian women of African descent, indigenous women, female heads of household and other socially excluded or marginalized groups of women through adequately funded programmes and policies addressing their specific needs.

114. The Committee is concerned about reports that indigenous women are being sexually abused by military units and prospectors (gold miners) on indigenous lands. The Committee notes that the Government is considering developing a code of conduct to regulate the presence of the armed forces on indigenous lands.

115. The Committee calls upon the State party to take necessary measures to raise awareness of the situation of indigenous women and girls and ensure that sexual violence against them is prosecuted and punished as a grave crime. It also urges the State party to adopt preventive measures, including swift disciplinary inquiries and human rights education programmes for the armed forces and law enforcement personnel.

134. The Committee requests the State party to respond in its next periodic report, due in 2005, to the issues covered in the present concluding comments. It also requests the State party to improve the collection and analysis of statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age, race and ethnicity, and to report on the results of programmes and policies, planned and undertaken, in its next periodic report to the Committee.

7. CANADA

Canada: CEDAW/C/CAN/CO/7, 7 November 2008

13. The Committee notes that federal funds to support social assistance are provided to provinces and territories through the Canada Social Transfer (CST) and welcomes information indicating that the CST budget increased in the past year and will continue to increase in future. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned at the fact that decisions on expenditure of funds from the CST are completely at the discretion of the provinces and territories and that there is no federal accountability mechanism to ensure minimum standards across the country for the provision of funding to social assistance programmes for women. The Committee is also concerned at reports of cuts in social assistance schemes in many provinces and at the resulting

negative impact on the rights of vulnerable groups of women, such as single mothers, aboriginal women, Afro-Canadian women, immigrant women, elderly women and disabled women, who rely on social assistance for an adequate standard of living.

14. The Committee calls upon the State party to establish minimum standards for the provision of funding to social assistance programmes, applicable at the federal, provincial and territorial levels, and a monitoring mechanism to ensure the accountability of provincial and territorial governments for the use of such funds so as to ensure that funding decisions meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups of women and do not result in discrimination against women. The Committee also calls upon the State party to carry out an impact assessment of social programmes related to women's rights.

17. The Committee is concerned that the Convention has not been fully incorporated into domestic law and that discriminatory legislation still exists. In particular, the Committee is concerned at the fact that the Indian Act continues to discriminate between descendants of Indian women who married non-Indian men and descendants of Indian men who married non-Indian women with respect to their equal right to transmit Indian status to their children and grandchildren. It is also concerned that section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act, although repealed, still provides clauses stating that the Indian Act should be applied in a manner that gives due regard to First Nations legal traditions and customary laws, balancing individual rights and collective rights.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure the full incorporation of all substantive provisions of the Convention into domestic law. The Committee recommends that the State party take immediate action to amend the Indian Act to eliminate the continuing discrimination against women with respect to the transmission of Indian status, and in particular to ensure that aboriginal women enjoy the same rights as men to transmit status to children and grandchildren, regardless of whether they have married out or of the sex of their aboriginal ancestors. It also recommends that the State party find measures to ensure that section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act is interpreted and applied in a way that provides full protection for aboriginal women against discrimination and full redress for any human rights violations.

19. The Committee is concerned that the division of matrimonial property in case of divorce does not apply to aboriginal women living on reserves, owing to the application of the Indian Act, which does not address the issue of matrimonial property. The Committee regrets that Bill C-47, aimed at addressing property rights on reserves, is no longer under discussion following the dissolution of Parliament.

20. The Committee urges the State party to ensure the speedy passage through Parliament and entry into force of legislation addressing the discriminatory provisions of the matrimonial property rights of aboriginal women living on reserves.

25. Although noting the State party's indication that the restructuring of Status of Women Canada (SWC) involved only the closure of administrative offices and that funds had been reallocated to programmes for women, the Committee expresses concern that this has resulted in the closure of a number of the body's regional offices and has consequently made access to the services provided by SWC more difficult for women, in particular in remote and rural areas.

26. The Committee urges the State party to carry out an assessment as to whether or not the closure of SWC offices has had a negative impact on the implementation of the Convention and on access to services by women, in particular aboriginal and rural women. If that is the case, the Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to remedy the situation.

29. The Committee welcomes initiatives at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to address violence against women, in particular domestic violence, and initiatives such as the

Sisters in Spirit Initiative and the Aboriginal People's Programme, which specifically address violence against aboriginal women, as well as the participation of men in the process of combating violence against women, as demonstrated by the White Ribbon Campaign. [...]

30. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to give priority attention to combating violence against women, in accordance with general recommendation 19, on violence against women. The Committee also recommends that the State party enact legislation specifically addressing domestic violence against women, making it a criminal offence and ensuring that women who are victims of domestic violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished, and that it put in place "primary aggressor" policies. The Committee further recommends that adequate shelters and appropriate support services be provided in all jurisdictions for women and adolescent girls who are victims of violence, and that the shelter and services needs of aboriginal women, women with disabilities, immigrants, refugees and trafficked women and rural and northern women be addressed. The State party is also urged to implement legislation requiring that domestic violence convictions be taken into account in child custody or visitation decisions.

31. Although the Committee notes that a working group has been established to review the situation relating to missing and murdered women in the State party and those at risk in that context, it remains concerned that hundreds of cases involving aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in the past two decades have neither been fully investigated nor attracted priority attention, with the perpetrators remaining unpunished.

32. The Committee urges the State party to examine the reasons for the failure to investigate the cases of missing or murdered aboriginal women and to take the necessary steps to remedy the deficiencies in the system. The Committee calls upon the State party to urgently carry out thorough investigations of the cases of aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in recent decades. It also urges the State party to carry out an analysis of those cases in order to determine whether there is a racialized pattern to the disappearances and take measures to address the problem if that is the case.

35. While welcoming the high number of women judges on the Canadian Supreme Court and other levels of the judiciary at the federal, provincial and territorial levels, and noting that efforts have been made at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to increase the number of women in public office, including through the provision of support to women who are underrepresented, such as immigrants, aboriginal women and seniors, the Committee notes with regret that the level of political participation by women remains low.

36. The Committee urges the State party to take sustained measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, to accelerate an increase in the representation of women in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life, with a particular focus on high-level posts in the foreign civil service.

39. While the Committee notes that the minimum wage rate has increased in a number of provinces and territories, it remains gravely concerned at the fact that poverty is widespread among women, in particular aboriginal women, minority women and single mothers. While noting that the Government of Canada provides support for families through the Universal Child Care Plan, which includes the Universal Child Care Benefit and support for childcare spaces, the Committee remains concerned at lack of affordable quality childcare spaces. The Committee notes with interest the State party's indication that federal spending on housing has never been higher, but regrets the absence of a national housing strategy and expresses concern at the current severe housing shortage, in particular in aboriginal communities, and at the high costs of

rent and the impact thereof on women. The Committee is particularly concerned at the impact of the lack of affordable childcare and affordable housing on low-income women with families.

40. The Committee urges the State party to step up its efforts to provide a sufficient number of affordable childcare spaces and affordable and adequate housing options, including in aboriginal communities, with priority being given to low-income women, who are particularly disadvantaged in those areas. The Committee also recommends that the State party carry out a cost-benefit analysis to assess the impact of current living standards, housing and childcare situations on the economic empowerment of women and present the findings in its next report to the Committee. Such an analysis should have a special focus on low-income women, taking into account the amount of social assistance they receive from the State compared with the actual cost of living, including housing and childcare.

41. The Committee welcomes the Women's Health Indicators initiative, aimed at promoting the inclusion of gender and diversity perspectives in health reporting, the 2005 federal initiative to address HIV/AIDS, the establishment of the Aboriginal Women's Health and Healing Research Group in 2003 and the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Programme. The Committee is concerned, however, that the aboriginal population is particularly affected by HIV/AIDS, which has a greater impact on women. It is also concerned about the situation of elderly women, who are often disadvantaged with regard to care for age-specific health problems.

42. The Committee encourages the State party to carefully monitor the delivery of health services in order that it may respond in a gender-sensitive and age-sensitive manner to all health concerns of women, and in this regard it invites the State party to utilize the Committee's general recommendation 24 as a framework for action to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into all health policies and programmes. The Committee also recommends that the State party include information in its next report to the Committee on any projects and activities undertaken under the Women's Health Indicators initiative.

43. The Committee is concerned at the fact that aboriginal women and women of various ethnic and minority communities continue to suffer from multiple forms of discrimination, particularly in terms of access to employment, housing, education and health care. The Committee notes the existence of a number of programmes, policies and activities aimed at addressing discriminatory treatment of aboriginal women. Nevertheless, it notes with regret that aboriginal women in Canada continue to live in impoverished conditions, which include high rates of poverty, poor health, inadequate housing, lack of access to clean water, low school-completion rates and high rates of violence. They are underrepresented in all areas of the labour market, in particular in senior or decision-making positions, have higher rates of unemployment and face a greater pay gap in terms of their hourly earnings compared with men. The Committee also notes with concern that women from ethnic and minority communities are also exposed to a high level of violence and are significantly underrepresented in political and public life.

44. Recalling its previous recommendations of 2003, the Committee encourages the State party to take measures, including temporary special measures in line with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, to eliminate de jure and de facto discrimination against aboriginal, ethnic and minority women, both in society at large and in their communities, in particular with respect to the remaining discriminatory legal provisions and equal enjoyment of their human rights to education, employment and physical and psychological well-being. It also recommends that the State party develop a specific and integrated plan for addressing the particular conditions affecting aboriginal women, both on and off reserves, and of ethnic and minority women, including poverty, poor health, inadequate housing, low school-completion rates, low employment rates, low income and high rates of violence, and that it take effective and proactive measures, including awareness-raising

programmes, to sensitize aboriginal, ethnic and minority communities about women's human rights and to combat patriarchal attitudes and practices and the stereotyping of roles. The Committee also urges the State party to ensure that aboriginal, ethnic and minority women are empowered, through encouragement, mentoring opportunities and funding, to participate in the necessary governance and legislative processes that address issues impeding their legal and substantive equality.

45. While welcoming the efforts of child and family services to place greater emphasis on prevention services, the Committee remains concerned at the fact that a disproportionately high number of aboriginal children, including girls, are being taken into State custody.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party take all necessary measures to address the issue of the separation of aboriginal children from their parents. In this regard, the State party should give particular attention to contributing factors such as poverty, lack of housing, violence and drug abuse.

Canada: A/58/38, 23 January 2003

357. While appreciating the federal Government's various anti-poverty measures, the Committee is concerned about the high percentage of women living in poverty, in particular elderly women living alone, female lone parents, aboriginal women, older women, women of colour, immigrant women and women with disabilities, for whom poverty persists or even deepens, aggravated by the budgetary adjustments made since 1995 and the resulting cuts in social services. The Committee is also concerned that those strategies are mostly directed towards children and not towards these groups of women.

361. While appreciating the federal Government's efforts to combat discrimination against aboriginal women, including the pending amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act, and to achieve substantive equality for them, the Committee is seriously concerned about the persistent systematic discrimination faced by aboriginal women in all aspects of their lives. The Committee is concerned that aboriginal women, among other highly vulnerable groups of women in Canada, are over-concentrated in lower-skill and lower-paying occupations, they constitute a high percentage of those women who have not completed secondary education, they constitute a high percentage of women serving prison sentences and they suffer high rates of domestic violence. The Committee is further concerned that the First Nations Governance Act currently under discussion does not address remaining discriminatory legal provisions under other Acts, including matrimonial property rights, status and band membership questions which are incompatible with the Convention.

362. The Committee urges the State party to accelerate its efforts to eliminate de jure and de facto discrimination against aboriginal women both in society at large and in their communities, particularly with respect to the remaining discriminatory legal provisions and the equal enjoyment of their human rights to education, employment and physical and psychological well-being. It urges the State party to take effective and proactive measures, including awareness-raising programmes, to sensitize aboriginal communities about women's human rights and to combat patriarchal attitudes, practices and stereotyping of roles. It also recommends to the State party to ensure that aboriginal women receive sufficient funding in order to be able to participate in the necessary governance and legislative processes that address issues which impede their legal and substantive equality. It also requests the State party to provide comprehensive information on the situation of aboriginal women in its next report.

377. While commending the State party's efforts towards bringing aboriginal women into improved income-generating positions, the Committee is concerned that the focus on entrepreneurship may not lead to aboriginal women's economic independence.

378. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that income-generating activities for aboriginal women provide for a sustained and adequate income, including all necessary social benefits.

Canada: A/52/38/Rev.1, 12 January 1997

333. The Committee was concerned that programmes directed at aboriginal women might have discriminatory effects.

341. A comprehensive picture of the situation of aboriginal women should be provided, including their educational situation, their position in the labour force and a description and evaluation of past and present federal and provincial programmes for aboriginal women. Programmes directed at aboriginal women should be monitored for possible discriminatory effects. The plight of aboriginal women in prison is of urgent concern.

8. CHILE

Chile: CEDAW/C/COL/CO/6, 2 February 2007

6. The Committee welcomes the fact that, in the period since the consideration of the previous report, the State party has ratified or acceded to the following international and regional instruments: [...]

(d) International Labour Convention (ILO) No. 169 (1989) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (2008); [...]

14. The Committee notes with concern that the Parliament has refused to include affirmative action in the new anti-discrimination law and thus deprives the State party of the means to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality between women and men in all areas of the Convention, especially in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged.

15. The Committee calls on the State party to consider using temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures, as a necessary strategy to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality in all areas of the Convention, in particular in political and public life where women are underrepresented, as well as in education and employment, to which migrant and indigenous have limited access.

16. While welcoming the recent legislation providing for parental leave for men (Act No. 20.545), the Committee remains concerned about the persistence of traditional stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society, which overemphasize the traditional roles of women as mothers and spouses and continue to affect their educational and professional choices. Furthermore, the Committee is gravely concerned that, as acknowledged by the delegation during the dialogue, certain groups of women face multiple forms of discrimination and violence on grounds such as sexual orientation, gender identity, indigenous origin, or being HIV/AIDS positive.

17. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Increase its efforts to assist women and men in striking a balance between family and employment responsibilities, inter alia, through awareness-raising and education initiatives for both women and men on adequate sharing of care of children and domestic tasks;

(b) Transform its recognition of the problem of multiple forms of discrimination into a comprehensive strategy to modify or eliminate stereotypical attitudes, in order to implement the new anti-discrimination law.

20. The Committee is concerned at the lack of measures taken by the State party to address other forms of violence, such as femicide outside the family sphere and sexual violence. It is also concerned about the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent femicides. Furthermore, the Committee is particularly concerned at the reported disproportionate use of violence by the police, including sexual abuse, against female students during social protests and against women during Mapuche protests. It regrets the absence of prosecution of perpetrators and the failure of the State party to provide access to justice to women victims of such violence.

21. The Committee urges the State party to:

(a) Take measures to encourage women to report all incidents of violence, both within and outside the family sphere, including sexual violence;

(b) Establish a comprehensive strategy and action plan to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including in the Mapuche and other indigenous communities, and an effective institutional mechanism to coordinate, monitor and assess the effectiveness of the measures taken;

(c) Study all cases of femicides in order to increase the effectiveness of protective measures for women victims of domestic violence;

(d) Develop a system of data collection with regard to all forms of violence against women and inform the Committee, in its next periodic report, of the number of prosecutions undertaken and the number of convictions, sentences and disciplinary measures issued in cases of violence perpetrated by State agents;

(e) Ensure that all forms of violence committed by, or resulting from, actions or omissions by State agents at all levels, including the police, are systematically and duly investigated, that perpetrators are effectively prosecuted and punished with adequate sentences and disciplinary measures, and that victims, especially indigenous women, are provided with reparation or compensation;

(f) Strengthen its judicial system to ensure that women, in particular disadvantaged groups such as indigenous women, have effective access to justice.

24. While commending the State party's effort to strengthen female political leadership through the establishment of the "600 women leaders for Chile" Programme, the Committee is concerned about the low participation of women in Government, in both chambers of Parliament, the diplomatic service and the judiciary, as well as in the function of mayor and municipal councillor. It regrets that the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes and the lack of temporary special measures continue to impede women's participation in Parliament and in decision-making positions at the State and municipal levels, including indigenous women. Furthermore, the Committee reiterates its concern that the binominal electoral system unfavourably impacts women's political representation (CEDAW/C/CHI/CO/4, para. 14).

25. The Committee calls on the State party to:

(a) Consider adopting, wherever necessary, temporary special measures, in order to accelerate the full and equal participation of women in public and political life;

(b) Strengthen its efforts aimed at increasing the participation of women in political life at the national and municipal levels, including by conducting awarenessraising campaigns which also target indigenous women, by providing incentives for political parties to nominate equal numbers of women and men as candidates and adequately funding campaigns of women candidates;

(c) Take all necessary measures to initiate the reform of the binominal electoral system and ensure that the study requested from the Office of the Minister and Secretary-General of the Office of the President with a view to formulating a proposal in this regard is undertaken within a clear time frame.

28. The Committee welcomes the State party's legislative and institutional measures to promote the continuing school attendance of pregnant teenagers, in particular the introduction of a penalty for schools which exclude students on the ground of pregnancy, the introduction of sex education at secondary level and the establishment of the Adolescent Pregnancy Protection Board. However, the Committee is deeply concerned about the increasing number of teenage pregnancies causing high rates of school dropout; the persistence of school expulsions on the grounds of pregnancy and the limited number of complaints filed thereafter, which translates a lack of awareness of pregnant students; the lack of systematic sex education in school curricula and the persistence of stereotypical bias in the teaching content of two of the seven existing programmes on sex education. The Committee is further concerned about the high illiteracy rates amongst rural and indigenous women.

29. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(a) Intensify its efforts to ensure that pregnant students stay in and return to school during and after pregnancy, including by establishing monitoring mechanisms, enforcing sanctions, informing pregnant students of their rights under the new legislation and enhancing its awareness-raising campaigns;

(b) Include comprehensive programmes on sexual and reproductive health and rights as a regular part of the school curriculum, targeting adolescent girls and boys, including in vocational training schools, with special attention to the prevention of teenage pregnancies;

(c) Provide gender training to teachers at all levels of the educational system and remove stereotypes based on gender or sex from the teaching content of all programmes on sex education;

(d) Step up its efforts to establish programmes specifically designed to eradicate female illiteracy among rural and indigenous women and to implement equal education opportunities for rural and indigenous girls.

32. While noting the State party's efforts to provide training to women in traditionally male-dominated areas, the Committee remains concerned at the low female participation in the labour market – especially with regard to migrant and indigenous women, the persistent wage gap between women and men and the failure of the State party to incorporate the principle of equal pay for work of equal value into Act No. 20.348 (2009) on the right to equal remuneration, in conformity with ILO standards. While noting that Act No. 20.348 establishes a complaint mechanism, the Committee is particularly concerned about the limited number of complaints filed.

33. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(a) Consider amending its legislation to include the principle of equal pay for work of equal value to narrow the wage gap between women and men in accordance with ILO Convention No. 100 (1951) concerning Equal Remuneration;

(b) Establish effective enforcement mechanisms in order to implement Act No. 20.348;

(c) Increase its efforts to develop measures and programmes aimed at improving the situation of women in the labour market, including for the integration of migrant and indigenous women.

42. The Committee regrets the lack of detailed information in relation to disadvantaged groups of women, such as migrant women, rural women, indigenous women and other women facing multiple forms of discrimination.

43. The State party is invited to provide comprehensive information and statistical data, in its next periodic report, on the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, in particular migrant women, rural women and indigenous women.

Chile: A/54/38, 9 July 99

232. The Committee requests the Government to include in its next report data on progress in the situation of rural and indigenous women, especially as regards their health, employment and educational status.

9. COLOMBIA

Columbia: CEDAW/C/COL/CO/6, 2 February 2007

22. While noting the steps taken by the State party to enhance women's health, including sexual and reproductive health, such as the establishment of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy and decision C-355 of May 2006 of the Constitutional Court, which decriminalized abortion in cases where the pregnancy represents a risk to the life or health of the mother, in cases of serious malformation of the foetus or in cases of rape, the Committee expresses its concern about the high rate of maternal mortality, especially among poor, rural and indigenous and afrodescendent women.

23. [...] The Committee recommends that the State party give priority attention to the situation of adolescents and rural, indigenous and afrodescendent women, and that it provide appropriate sex education with special attention to the prevention of pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, including as part of the regular education curriculum.

26. While recognizing the efforts made to increase the representation of women in public administration at the national and local levels, including through the Quota Act, the Committee is concerned about the under representation of women, including indigenous and afrodescendent women, in elected bodies at all levels, and in particular about the recent decline in women's representation in Parliament and in the Judiciary.

27. The Committee calls upon the State party to expand its efforts towards achieving women's full and equal participation in all areas, and in particular in elected bodies and in the Judiciary. In this regard, the Committee encourages further use of temporary special measures to accelerate the advancement of women, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations 25 and 23. Particular efforts should be made to increase the number of indigenous and afrodescendent women in political and public life and in decision-making positions in all fields. It encourages the State party to enhance efforts to provide leadership training programmes for women, including indigenous and

afrodescendent women, in order to strengthen their roles in leadership and decision-making positions in society. It encourages the State party to monitor progress made and results achieved.

10. CONGO

Congo: CEDAW/C/COG/CO/6, 1 March 2012

41. While welcoming the adoption of the law of 25 February 2011 prohibiting traffic and sexual exploitation of indigenous children and women, the Committee is concerned that indigenous women and girls are extremely vulnerable to sexual violence. It is further concerned about reports of discrimination against indigenous women by health workers. The Committee is also concerned that the State party did not provide adequate information on this issue.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party:

[...] Take, without delay, concrete actions to protect indigenous women and girls from all forms of violence, establish mechanisms for redress and rehabilitation and take steps to investigate, prosecute and punish all perpetrators of violence against them;

(b) Pay special attention to the needs of indigenous women and girls to ensure that they have access, without discrimination, to health, education, clean water, sanitation services and employment; and

(c) Provide information in the next periodic report on efforts undertaken in this regard and results achieved.

11. COOK ISLANDS

Cook Islands: CEDAW/C/COK/CO/1, 10 August 2007

14. While noting efforts undertaken to raise awareness of the Convention throughout the Cook Islands, including in partnership with non-governmental organizations, the Committee is concerned about women's lack of knowledge of their rights and their lack of access to justice and ability to obtain redress in the courts, including because of costs and the availability of legal aid only for those unable to defend themselves in criminal prosecutions. The Committee notes that non-governmental organizations provide some free legal assistance to women.

15. The Committee encourages the Cook Islands to widely disseminate and raise awareness about the Convention and other legislation in both English and Cook Islands Maori, in particular the meaning and scope of direct and indirect discrimination, and formal and substantive equality of women. The Committee invites the Cook Islands to enhance women's awareness of their rights through legal literacy programmes and to expand legal assistance to women wishing to bring claims of discrimination or enforce their rights to equality. The Committee calls upon the Cook Islands to ensure that gender sensitivity and women's rights be made an integral part of the education and training of law enforcement and judicial officers, including judges, lawyers and prosecutors, so as to establish firmly in the country a legal culture supportive of women's equality and non-discrimination.

12. COSTA RICA

Costa Rica: EDAW/C/CRI/CO/5-6, 2 August 2011

24. [...] It is further concerned at the lack of temporary special measures in place aimed at ensuring the participation in political and public life of disadvantaged groups of women, such as women with disabilities, indigenous women and women of African descent.

25. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(b) Adopt, wherever necessary, temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004), in order to accelerate women's full and equal participation in public and political life, in particular with respect to disadvantaged groups of women, such as women with disabilities, indigenous women and women of African descent.

38. While acknowledging initiatives such as the celebration of the first forum of indigenous women in 2007 aimed at improving the status of indigenous women, the Committee notes with concern that indigenous women continue to have limited opportunities and restricted access to quality education, health care and legal aid services. The Committee is further concerned about the limited information provided by the delegation regarding measures to improve the status of women of African descent in the State party.

39. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt concrete, targeted measures to accelerate the improvement of conditions of indigenous women and women of African descent in all spheres of life. It calls upon the State party to ensure that both groups of women have full access to education, health services and credit facilities and can fully participate in decision-making processes. It requests the State party to include in its next periodic report information and data on the situation of indigenous women and women of African descent and on the impact of measures taken to overcome multiple discrimination against them.

Costa Rica: CEDAW/C/CRI/CO/5-6, 29 July 2011

24. The Committee notes with satisfaction the amendment of the Electoral Code (2009) which changed the system of quotas for women's participation in political life to a system based on gender parity (50 per cent women and 50 per cent men). However, the Committee is concerned that the amendment only applies to posts elected under the system of proportional representation (National Assembly seats) and not to those elected under the majority system (Executive posts), where most of the key decision-making posts are located. It is further concerned at the lack of temporary special measures in place aimed at ensuring the participation in political and public life of disadvantaged groups of women, such as women with disabilities, indigenous and afro descendant.

25. The Committee recommends the State party to: [...]

(b) Adopt, wherever necessary, temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004), in order to accelerate women's full and equal participation in public and political life, in particular with respect to disadvantaged groups of women, such as women with disabilities, indigenous and afro descendants.

38. While acknowledging initiatives, such as the celebration of the first Forum of indigenous women (2007) aimed at improving the status of indigenous women, the Committee notes with concern that indigenous women continue to have limited opportunities and restricted access to quality education, health care and legal aid services. The Committee is further concerned about

the limited information provided by the delegation regarding measures to improve the status of afro-descendant women in the State party.

39. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt concrete, targeted measures to accelerate the improvement of conditions of indigenous and afro-descendant women in all spheres of life. It calls upon the State party to ensure that both groups of women have full access to education, health services and credit facilities and can fully participate in decision-making processes. It requests the State party to include information and data on the situation of indigenous and afro-descendant women and on the impact of measures taken to overcome multiple discrimination against them in its next periodic report.

Costa Rica: A/58/38, 9 July 2003

62. The Committee notes with concern that although the Constitution guarantees the right to work and the principle of non-discrimination in the employment sphere, norms and practices still exist that discriminate against working women, and that there is a wage gap, to the disadvantage of women, which has greater impact in the private sector than in the civil service; it also notes with concern the precarious working and living conditions of women domestic workers, including migrant workers, as well as of salaried women workers, rural women, women in the informal sector and indigenous women.

63. The Committee requests the State party to continue promoting the approval of the reforms to the Labour Code contained in the draft Law on Gender Equity, and requests it to include in its next report information on the results of activities aimed at neutralizing the negative effects of free-trade agreements on female employment and the quality of life of women, as indicated by the State party. The Committee also requests the State party to adopt the legislative, administrative or other measures needed to ensure that women domestic workers, including migrant workers, temporary wage earners, women in the informal sector and rural and indigenous women have access to social security and other employment benefits, including paid maternity leave.

67. The Committee requests the State party to pay specific attention to households headed by women and to groups of women in a vulnerable situation, as well as to rural women, older women, indigenous women and disabled women, in drawing up and implementing programmes to combat poverty, and to seek to ensure their access to production resources, education and technical training.

13. DENMARK

Denmark: CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/7, 7 August 2009

2. The Committee commends the State party for the submission of its seventh periodic report, which followed the Committee's former guidelines for the preparation of periodic reports and took into account its previous concluding observations. The Committee also commends the State party for the written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by the pre-session working group and for the oral presentation and responses to the questions posed by the Committee. The Committee regrets, however, that information in the report about the situation of women in the Faroe Islands and Greenland is still too limited.

4. The Committee welcomes the State party's recognition of the positive contribution made by non-governmental human rights and women's organizations to the preparation of the State party's report but regrets that it has not received information regarding the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

10. The Committee recalls the State party's obligation systematically and continuously to implement all the provisions of the Convention, and views the concerns and recommendations identified in the present concluding observations as requiring the State party's priority attention between now and the submission of the next periodic report. Consequently, the Committee urges the State party to focus on those areas in its implementation activities and to report on action taken and results achieved in its next periodic report. It calls upon the Governments of Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland to submit the present concluding observations to all relevant ministries, to the Parliament and the judiciary, so as to ensure their full implementation.

13. While reaffirming that the Government has the primary responsibility and is particularly accountable for the full implementation of the State party's obligations under the Convention, the Committee stresses that the Convention is binding on all branches of Government, and it invites the State party, including the Faroe Islands and Greenland, to encourage its Parliament, in line with its procedures, where appropriate, to take the necessary steps with regard to the implementation of these concluding observations and the Government's next reporting process under the Convention.

14. While recognizing that some of the State party's domestic laws reflect the articles enshrined in the Convention, the Committee is concerned at the decision taken by the State party not to incorporate the Convention into its domestic legal order. It also reiterates the concerns expressed in its previous concluding observations that the Convention's provisions and rights have not been fully incorporated in the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Furthermore, given the special status of the self-governing and autonomous territories of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, the Committee considers that the incorporation of the Convention into the Constitution or other appropriate legislation would provide full protection to all citizens under the Danish Realm. The Committee notes that under Home Rule legislation the Danish Parliament has delegated legislative and executive powers to the authorities of the Faroe Islands and Greenland. It underlines, however, that the State party bears the primary responsibility of ensuring the full implementation of the Convention within the Danish Realm and dividing responsibilities with self-governing and autonomous territories in that regard. In addition, while noting the existence of gender equality machineries and regulations in Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland, the Committee is concerned that there is inadequate effective coordination of the application of the Convention in all Territories of the State party and of reporting as required under article 18 of the Convention.

15. The Committee calls on the State party to reconsider its decision not to incorporate the Convention into its domestic legal order, with a view to ensuring that all rights protected under the Convention are given full effect in domestic law. It recalls the State party's obligation, as stated in article 2 (a) of the Convention, to embody the principle of the equality of men and women in its national Constitution or other appropriate legislation. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that full implementation of the Convention is achieved throughout the State party's entire territory, including the Faroe Islands and Greenland. It also requests that an efficient division of responsibilities and reporting under the Convention is guaranteed through the establishment of effective coordination and reporting mechanisms.

16. The Committee takes note of the efforts made by the State party to increase the visibility of the Convention and the Optional Protocol, but remains concerned that the Convention and its Protocol have not received a high degree of visibility and importance, and are therefore not regularly used as the central legal basis for measures, including legislation, aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women and the promotion of gender equality in the State party, including in the Faroe Islands and Greenland. The Committee is further concerned that the provisions of the Convention have been used only once in a court case, which may indicate a lack of awareness of the Convention among the judiciary and the legal profession.

17. The Committee calls upon the State party, including the Faroe Islands and Greenland, to place greater emphasis, in their efforts to eliminate discrimination against women, on the Convention as a central legally binding women's human rights instrument. It also calls upon the State party to take proactive measures to enhance awareness of the Convention and its Optional Protocol at all levels, in particular among the judiciary and the legal profession, political parties, Parliament and Government officials, including law enforcement officials, as well as the general public, in order to strengthen the use of the Convention in the development and implementation of its legislation, policies and programmes aimed at the practical realization of the principle of equality between women and men. The Committee encourages the State party to systematically promote knowledge and understanding of the Convention and its Optional Protocol, as well as the Committee's general recommendations and the views adopted on individual communications and enquiries, and to ensure that they are made an integral part of educational curricula, including legal education and the training of the judiciary.

19. The Committee calls upon the State party to establish a dedicated coordination mechanism and to introduce at all levels — ministerial, regional and municipal — effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy, as well as to include sanctions for non-compliance in such mechanisms. The Committee also recommends that the State party apply the gender impact assessment of all new bills in order to ensure that implementation of laws does not have an adverse impact on achieving de facto gender equality. The Committee recommends that the Governments of the Faroe Islands and Greenland also envisage the adoption of a gender mainstreaming strategy.

21. The Committee recommends that the State party, including the Faroe Islands and Greenland, take concrete measures, including temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25 to accelerate the practical realization of women's de facto equality with men.

23. [...] The State party therefore urges the State party to adopt appropriate temporary special measures in order to increase the number of women in politics, in particular at the regional and local levels, in the State party, including the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

14. DOMINICA

Dominica: CEDAW/C/DMA/CO/7, 26 January 2009

8. The Committee also noticed some lack of conceptual clarity on issues contained in the Convention, such as the definition of temporary special measures, some concepts related, inter alia, to education, health and violence against women, and urges the State party to update its understanding of the concepts as elaborated in the Committee's general recommendations, in particular, general recommendations 5, 12, 19, 21 and 23 to 25. The Committee requests the State party to include in its report statistical and detailed information, disaggregated by sex and other variables, such as rural and urban areas, on all the substantive provisions contained in the Convention. The Committee also requests the State party to provide information on the situation of indigenous Carib women as well as other vulnerable groups.

15. ECUADOR

Ecuador: CEDAW/C/ECU/CO/7, 7 November 2008

12. The Committee recognizes the important role played by CONAMU in advancing gender equality and women's rights in Ecuador. The Committee further welcomes efforts at creating institutional and legal equal opportunity mechanisms at local level and within some ministries.

The Committee, however, remains concerned that the functional structure, composition, legal basis, powers and resources of CONAMU do not allow it to direct a genuine and cross-cutting integration of a gender perspective into the overall structure of the State and into public policies.

13. While noting with satisfaction that the new Constitution provides for the existence of a specific mechanism to promote gender equality — the Council for Equality — the Committee recommends that the Council be functionally integrated in the Government structure and be given the necessary mandate and legal authority, through specific secondary legislation, to mainstream gender and women's rights in all policies and structures of the State party. It also recommends that the Council be provided with an adequate budget to perform its activities in an effective manner. In addition, the Committee recommends an adequate representation of indigenous women and of women of African descent in the Council.

18. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of high levels of poverty and social exclusion of Ecuadorean women, especially indigenous women and women of African descent, and about obstacles to their access to basic social rights. [...]

19. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that economic and social policies and public investment take into specific account the situation of women. It recommends that the nation's system of social indicators be strengthened and allow for disaggregated data on the situation of indigenous women and women of African descent, in particular in rural areas, and that this information in turn inform relevant policies. [...]

22. [...] The Committee is equally concerned at reports according to which indigenous women and women of African descent may be particularly vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation.

24. The Committee is concerned about the situation of indigenous women and women of African descent. It notes that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (see A/HRC/4/32/Add.2) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD/C/ECU/CO/19) have concluded that indigenous women continue to experience double discrimination, based on their sex and ethnic origin, and violence, which constitute an obstacle to their de facto enjoyment of their human rights and full participation in all spheres of life. The Committee is concerned that indigenous women and women of African descent are disproportionately affected by poverty, have lower level of access to higher education, higher school drop-out rates, higher rates of maternal mortality and early pregnancies, higher rates of unemployment and underemployment, lower wages and a lower level of participation in public life than the rest of the population of Ecuador.

25. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt, in the context of its policies and programmes, concrete, targeted and time-bound measures, with evaluation criteria, to accelerate the improvement of conditions of indigenous women and women of African descent in all spheres of life. It calls upon the State party to ensure that indigenous women and women of African descent have full access to education and health services and can fully participate in decision-making processes. It requests the State party to include information and data, including trends over time, on the situation of indigenous women and women of African descent and on the impact of measures taken to overcome multiple discrimination against them in its next periodic report.

30. The Committee, while welcoming efforts by the Ministry of Education and Culture to eliminate illiteracy, including through programmes such as “Yes, I can”, notes with concern the high level of illiteracy among rural women speaking indigenous languages. Notwithstanding the State party's efforts to achieve equality between men and women in formal education and the progress made in this direction, the Committee remains concerned about high drop-out rates among women and girls, especially indigenous girls, and discrepancies between men and

women in access to higher education. The Committee also notes with concern that higher education choices continue to reflect stereotypical notions of appropriate fields of study for women.

31. The Committee encourages the State party to strengthen its efforts to eradicate illiteracy, in particular among rural women speaking indigenous languages. It also urges the State party to take measures, including studies, to address the root causes of school dropouts, including poverty and factors related to gender discrimination and stereotypical gender roles, and to promote women's access to higher education, including through scholarship funds. The Committee further encourages the State party to strengthen efforts to promote the inclusion of women in non-traditional careers. The Committee requests the State party to provide, in its next report, information on budget allocations for public education compared with other sectors. It also requests information on levels of access to school, permanence and grade disaggregated by sex and ethnic group.

36. The Committee is concerned at cases of gender discrimination in the workplace, including dismissals related to maternity, and at discriminatory labour practices against women, especially indigenous and migrant women and those of African descent.

37. The Committee urges the State party to undertake legislative and administrative measures to prevent sex-based discrimination in the workplace including by making public all cases in which there were convictions. The Committee further urges the State party to take further measures to educate the general public about the value of women in the workplace. The Committee recommends that the State party ratify Convention No. 183 of the International Labour Organization concerning the revision of the Maternity Protection Convention (No. 103).

38. The Committee remains concerned at the high rate of pregnancy among teenage and young women, particularly in rural areas. The Committee is also concerned at the high incidence of maternal mortality. The Committee notes with concern that the second leading cause of maternal mortality is abortion and is concerned that the magnitude of unsafe abortion in the country and its effects on maternal mortality are under recorded and unknown. The Committee welcomes the enactment of the Free Maternity Care Act and the establishment of committees of users to monitor its implementation. However, the Committee is concerned at the lack of resources for the full implementation of the Act, especially in rural areas.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen measures to address teenage pregnancy, especially among indigenous girls and those of African descent, including the allocation of adequate and targeted resources to the Plan for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy and programmes to assist teenage boys and girls during pregnancy. [...]

40. The Committee is concerned at the increasing number of women contracting HIV/AIDS and at the lack of information on the incidence of HIV/AIDS among indigenous women and women of African descent. The Committee is also concerned at the low percentage of women screened for early detection of uterine, cervical or breast cancer.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party assess the incidence of HIV/AIDS in indigenous women and women of African descent, as well as migrants and refugee women. It further urges the State party to strengthen the preventive approach to HIV/AIDS and to uterine, cervical and breast cancer. The Committee further invites the State party to include in its next report further information, especially trends over time and addressing the life cycle of women, on women's general and reproductive health, including rates and causes of morbidity and mortality of women in comparison with men; contraceptive prevalence rates; spacing of children; diseases affecting women and girls, in particular various forms of cancer; and the efforts of the State to improve women's access to health-care services, including family planning and services directed towards cancer prevention and treatment. The Committee

recommends that the State party strengthen the role of local governments and promote an intercultural perspective in the provision of health-care services.

42. The Committee welcomes the Political Participation Act and notes with appreciation that for the first time since its enactment it was fully implemented during the elections for the Constituent Assembly in 2007. The Committee further welcomes progress in the representation of women in all spheres of public life. However, the Committee remains concerned at the persistence of structural, political, cultural and socio-economic obstacles to the participation of women, especially indigenous women and women of African descent, in many spheres of public life.

43. The Committee urges the State party to ensure consistent application of legislation aimed at ensuring the participation of women in public life and to take other measures in this direction, especially targeting indigenous women and women of African descent. The Committee encourages the State party to take temporary special measures in line with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25. The Committee invites the State party to provide comprehensive data concerning the participation of women in all spheres of public life in the next periodic report.

Ecuador: A/58/38, 11 July 2003

304. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen the regulatory and normative role of the National Council for Women by adopting a law institutionalizing and regulating its activities and giving it a more active role in monitoring the enforcement of standards to promote gender equality, and to allocate to it the financial resources necessary for its operation and the exercise of its functions. Furthermore, the Committee encourages the State party to appoint a director to head the National Council for Women. The Committee encourages the State party to ensure the participation of civil society in the Council and to promote the participation of movements of indigenous women and women of African descent.

307. The Committee is concerned at the high levels of poverty and extreme poverty among women, and notes in particular the situation of rural and indigenous women. Despite the existence of isolated anti-poverty plans, the Committee is concerned at the lack of a general and comprehensive poverty eradication policy specifically targeting rural and indigenous women.

308. The Committee urges the State party to develop a general poverty eradication policy incorporating a gender perspective and focusing particularly on rural and indigenous women.

329. While acknowledging efforts made by the State party to establish gender-disaggregated indicators, the Committee notes that the reports submitted contain an insufficient amount of gender-disaggregated data and insufficient information concerning rural and indigenous women.

330. The Committee recommends a broader and more exhaustive compilation of gender-disaggregated data and urges the State party to include in its next report statistics indicating the status of programmes and their impact on the country's female population, in particular rural and indigenous women.

16. EL SALVADOR

El Salvador: CEDAW/C/SLV/CO/7, 7 November 2008

11. While noting with appreciation that according to Article 144 of the Constitution, international treaties concluded by El Salvador with other States or with international organizations constitute laws of the Republic on entry into force and can be directly invoked in

national courts, the Committee is concerned at the limited awareness, including among legal professionals, of the provisions of the Convention, as shown by the limited case law where these have been used. The Committee is also concerned at the limited awareness of women of their rights, in particular vulnerable groups of women, namely rural and indigenous women, migrant women, domestic workers and women working in the “maquiladora” industry (assembly plants).

12. The Committee recommends that educational programmes on the Convention, including its Optional Protocol and case law, as well as programmes on women's rights be introduced, in particular for all legal professionals, including judges, lawyers, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel, and for the public at large. It further urges the State party to take special measures, including comprehensive legal literacy programmes to enhance women's awareness of their rights, aimed at vulnerable groups of women in particular, so that they may be able to exercise those rights.

17. The Committee regrets that the report did not provide sufficient statistical data on the situation of women in all areas covered by the Convention or information on the impact and results of measures taken to achieve equality between women and men.

18. The Committee calls upon the State party to put in place a comprehensive system of data collection, including measurable indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and progress towards women's de facto equality over time. It invites the State party to seek international assistance, as necessary, for the development of such data collection and analysis efforts. The Committee also requests the State party to include in its next report statistical data and analysis, disaggregated by sex and by rural and urban areas, indicating the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in order to illustrate more comprehensively the situation of women in several areas, in particular with respect to the issue of violence. The Committee invites the State party to give special attention to the collection of data in respect of the most vulnerable groups of women, including rural and indigenous women, migrant women, domestic workers and women working in the maquila industry.

37. While welcoming the State party's initiatives and social programmes aimed at empowering women living in extreme poverty, the Committee is concerned at the persistence of high levels of poverty and social exclusion of Salvadoran women, especially rural, indigenous and migrant women, as well as at obstacles in their access to basic social rights.

38. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen initiatives aimed at encouraging women's economic empowerment, such as the Solidarity Network Programme (Programa Red Solidaria), keeping in mind the specific situation of different groups of women. The Committee also encourages the State party to establish mechanisms to monitor regularly the impact of social and economic policies on women.

El Salvador: A/58/38, 23 January 2003

261. The Committee is concerned at the high level of poverty among women, especially rural and indigenous women.

262. The Committee urges the State party to develop a poverty eradication strategy that gives priority attention to rural and indigenous women through the allocation of budgetary resources, and to take appropriate measures to inform itself about their situation with a view to formulating effective specific programmes and policies to improve their socio-economic situation and ensure that they receive the services and support they need.

263. Although the overall illiteracy rate has declined, the Committee is concerned that the problem persists, especially in rural areas. It is also concerned at the high drop-out rates among girls, especially in rural and indigenous areas.

264. The Committee recommends that efforts to address this problem should be intensified, through sustainable plans and programmes, particularly in rural and indigenous areas.

275. The Committee observes a lack of gender-disaggregated data in the reports, as well as insufficient information on indigenous women.

276. The Committee recommends the comprehensive and exhaustive compilation of sex-disaggregated data and urges the State party to include relevant statistics that show the evolution and impact of programmes on the country's female population, particularly indigenous women, and to include the data in its next periodic report.

17. ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia: CEDAW/C/ETH/CO/6-7, 27 July 2011

8. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party to promote women's and girls' access to education, in particular in rural and pastoralist areas, such as:

- (a) The introduction of girls' scholarship programmes and the supply to girls of education materials and uniforms, with the support of NGOs;
- (b) The introduction of girl-friendly schools as well as the construction of separate latrines for girls and boys in schools;
- (c) Providing incentives to parents in pastoralist areas who send their daughters to school; and
- (d) Training and taking affirmative action to raise the share of female teachers in primary and secondary schools to 50 percent and to increase the number of female college and university instructors.

20. The Committee notes the State party's efforts to combat violence against women, including FGM and sexual and domestic violence, e.g. by revising its Criminal Code, establishing special investigation and prosecution units and victim-friendly benches in the federal court system, and providing some legal aid and assistance to women and children victims of violence. However, while noting that FGM is declining among younger women and in urban areas, the Committee notes with concern that FGM remains highly prevalent in rural and pastoralist areas (with the highest rates in the Afar (91.6 percent) and Somali (79 percent) Regions) and that the penalties for FGM stipulated in Articles 561-563, 567 and 569-570 of the Criminal Code (2005) are too lenient. [...]

30. The Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party to increase women's and girls' access to all levels of education, such as affirmative action, awarenessraising, support to disadvantaged girls, and incentives for parents to send their daughters to school, in particular in rural and pastoralist areas. However, it remains concerned about:

- (a) Regional disparities and low enrolment rates of women and/or girls in primary education in rural and pastoralist areas and in secondary and higher education, as well as in traditionally male dominated fields of technical and vocational education;
- (b) The high drop-out and low retention and completion rates of girls, in particular at the primary level, which seriously impact enrolment at the secondary level;
- (c) The limited access of poor girls, girls in pastoralist areas, and girls with disabilities to education due to economic and socio-cultural barriers such as indirect costs of schooling, unfavourable attitudes by male students and teaching staff, verbal and physical abuse and harassment, and long distances to schools; and
- (d) The low female literacy rate (38 percent in 2004), especially in rural areas.

31. The Committee calls on the State party to continue taking measures to address regional disparities and ensure equal access of girls and women to all levels of education such as measures to:

(a) Ensure enrolment, retention and completion of women and girls at all levels of education, especially in rural and pastoralist areas, including by making primary education compulsory and taking affirmative action such as further training and recruitment of female teachers and quota for female university students and; [...]

(d) Strengthen support services, including scholarships, transport and tutorial support, for disadvantaged girls such as poor girls, girls in pastoralist areas and girls with disabilities, as well as incentives and subsidies for their families. [...]

37. The Committee recommends that the State party: [...]

(c) Ensure that land lease contracts with foreign companies do not result in forced evictions and internal displacement, nor increased food insecurity and poverty, of local populations, including women and girls, and that such contracts stipulate that the company concerned and/or the State party must provide the affected communities, including pastoralist communities, with adequate compensation and alternative land; [...]

38. The Committee is concerned about the lack of disaggregated data on the situation of women who are reportedly among the most vulnerable and neglected groups of women in the State party and typically face multiple forms of discrimination, such as older women, women with disabilities, pastoralist women, and refugee and internally displaced women.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Collect disaggregated data on the situation of women facing multiple forms of discrimination, such as older women, women with disabilities, pastoralist women, and refugee and internally displaced women, and include such information in its next periodic report; [...]

18. FIJI

Fiji: A/57/38 (Part I), 7 May 2002

48. The Committee is concerned that the Social Justice Act and the “Blue Print”, which propose affirmative action for the indigenous Fijian population, do not integrate a gender perspective.

49. The Committee recommends that the Social Justice Act and the “Blue Print” be evaluated for their impact on both ethnicity and gender, to ensure respect for gender equality, and human rights in Fiji’s multicultural plural society. The Committee urges the State party to introduce an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure that these programmes conform with fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the Convention’s concept of temporary special measures, and contributes to the elimination of discrimination against all Fijian women.

19. FINLAND

Finland: CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/6, 18 July 2008

191. While acknowledging the increased supportive measures for Sami women regarding social and health services and the implementation programme drawn up by municipalities together with the Sami council, the Committee is concerned that Sami women continue to face multiple discrimination, including difficulty in accessing adequate health care due to lack of doctors in

the Northern part of Finland. The Committee notes in particular the absence of gender perspective in Sami politics and the inadequate political representation of Sami women both in their communities and at the national level.

192. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that Sami women are provided with adequate social and health services, including reproductive health services. The Committee requests the State party to ensure that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in all policies and programmes regarding Sami people. It encourages the State party to develop measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against Sami women, including engaging proactively with the Sami community and drawing up plans to increase women's representation in both their communities and in Finnish society at large.

Finland: A/56/38, 2 February 2001

305. The Committee expresses its concern at the continuing discrimination against immigrant and minority women living in Finland, particularly Roma and Sami women, who suffer from double discrimination, based on both their sex and ethnic background.

20. GABON

Gabon: CEDAW/C/GAB/CC/2-5, 15 February 2005

38. The Committee is concerned about the situation of rural women, particularly in view of their geographic isolation and lack of access to adequate nutrition and sanitation, health care, education and income-generating opportunities. This situation leads to multiple forms of discrimination against rural women. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of statistical information related to rural and indigenous women.

39. The Committee urges the State party to implement, on a priority basis, measures to ensure that rural women have full access to adequate nutrition and sanitation, health-care services, education and income-generating opportunities. The Committee invites the State party, as necessary, to seek the assistance from relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations to improve the standard of living of rural women.

21. GUATEMALA

Guatemala: CEDAW/C/GUA/CO/7, 10 February 2009

3. The Committee commends the State party for its high-level delegation headed by the Minister of the Presidential Secretariat for Women, and composed of representatives of the Supreme Court, the Institute of Public Criminal Defence, the National Coordinating Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, the Presidential Human Rights Commission, the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights, the Guatemala Beijing Committee and Guatemala's Permanent Mission in Geneva. The Committee appreciates the open and constructive dialogue that took place between its members and the delegation.

6. The Committee also welcomes the reinforcement of the Presidential Secretariat for Women, the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights and the National Coordinating Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, by providing these institutions with additional human and financial resources.

11. While noting with appreciation that international treaties prevail over domestic laws and can be directly invoked in national courts, the Committee remains concerned that a prohibition

of all forms of discrimination against women in line with articles 1 and 2 b of the Convention, including sanctions for such documentation, has not yet been adopted. [...] The Committee is also concerned at the lack of awareness of women, in particular rural and indigenous women, domestic workers and women working in the maquiladora industry and agro-industrial companies, of their rights.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party prohibit discrimination against women in line with articles 1 and 2 b of the Convention, including sanctions, in relevant national legislation. [...] It further urges the State party to take proactive measures, including comprehensive legal literacy programmes to enhance women's awareness of their rights. These measures should be adapted and take into account the illiteracy and the multilingual character of the population, and should also target all vulnerable groups of women, so that they may know and be able to exercise their rights.

17. While acknowledging the important work undertaken by the National Coordinating Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women to eradicate domestic violence and violence against women, as well as the work of the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights to protect and promote the rights of indigenous women, and the key role of the Presidential Secretariat for Women as the highest national machinery for the advancement of women and the executive branch's leading organ for the promotion of public policies for gender equity and equality, the Committee is concerned about weak coordination of the work of these different bodies, as well as the possible overlap in their work.

18. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the existing machinery for gender equality by providing it with adequate visibility, power and human and financial resources at all levels, in order to increase its effectiveness, and enhance its capacity to coordinate and monitor actions at the national and local levels for the advancement of women and the promotion of gender equality.

27. While welcoming the introduction of free education and the efforts made to encourage bilingual and multicultural education, the Committee is concerned at the significant level of illiteracy among indigenous and rural women, the difficulties of accessibility of schools, and the poor quality of education, in particular in rural areas. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of information provided by the State party on vocational education and training for girls and women in professions traditionally occupied by men.

28. The Committee calls on the State party to continue to take proactive measures to reduce the illiteracy rate among indigenous women and to continue to provide education, both formal and informal, to all women and girls, especially in rural areas. The Committee recommends that the State party accelerate the process of training bilingual teachers and the extension of bilingual education to all indigenous communities.

33. The Committee recognizes the efforts made by the State party to initiate and support community projects which promote women's economic empowerment, but remains concerned at the effects and the sustainability of these programmes, the persistence of high levels of poverty and social exclusion of women, especially in rural areas. The Committee is also concerned about issues relating to access to land for women in general and in particular women belonging to indigenous communities, who can be displaced as a result of new economic development plans.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party to ensure that economic and social policies and public investment take into specific account the situation of women and monitor the impact resulting from these programmes. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen initiatives aimed at encouraging women's economic sustainable empowerment, in particular promote women's access to land and to credits.

41. While welcoming various initiatives by the State party to improve the status of indigenous women, the Committee is concerned about the precarious situation of indigenous women and the lack of information provided by the State party on Maya, Xinca and Garifuna women, who experience multiple and intersectoral discrimination, based on their sex, ethnic origin and social status.

42. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt concrete, targeted and timebound measures, with evaluation criteria, to accelerate the improvement of conditions of indigenous women in all spheres of life. It calls upon the State party to ensure that maya, xinca and garifuna women have full access to land, education and health services and can fully participate in decision-making processes.

Guatemala: CEDAW/C/GUA/CO/6, 2 June 2006

3. The Committee commends the State party for its high-level delegation headed by the Minister of the Presidential Secretariat for Women, which included the Minister of Education and representatives from the Ministries of Health and Social Assistance, Planning and Programming, the legislature, and the Defender of Indigenous Women, contributing to the quality of the constructive dialogue that was held between the delegation and the members of the Committee.

4. The Committee welcomes the efforts of the State party to achieve greater coordination among the various institutions for the advancement of women, including the Presidential Secretariat for Women, the National Office for Women's Affairs, the Indigenous Women's Defense Unit and the First Lady's Social Work Secretariat.

25. The Committee is concerned about the prevalence of domestic violence against women, the lack of effective access to justice for women, particularly indigenous women, who also face language barriers, and the lack of social awareness about and condemnation of violence against women and girls in the country.

27. While noting the efforts to amend the Act on Elections and Political Parties to impose a quota of 44 per cent for women's participation, the Committee remains concerned about the under representation of women, in particular indigenous women, in political and public positions at all levels. The Committee is also concerned about the persistence and pervasiveness of patriarchal attitudes and deep rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society, which constitute a significant impediment to the participation of women in decision-making at all levels and a root cause of women's disadvantaged position in all spheres of life.

28. The Committee calls upon the State party to accelerate amending of the Act on Elections and Political Parties and strengthen the use of temporary special measures, including quotas, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, to increase the number of women, in particular indigenous women, in political and public life and in decision-making positions. It suggests that the State party implement leadership training programmes aimed at women to help them participate in leadership and decision-making positions in society. The State party is urged to carry out awareness-raising campaigns aimed at women and men to help ensure the elimination of stereotypes associated with men's and women's traditional roles in the family and in society at large and enhance women's political empowerment.

31. The Committee observes with concern the possible adverse impact that the free trade agreements may have on the living and working conditions of Guatemalan women.

32. The Committee suggests that the State party undertake a study to determine the impact of the free trade agreements on the socio-economic conditions of women and to consider the adoption of compensatory measures that take into consideration women's human rights.

35. Noting that the majority of the Guatemalan population are indigenous peoples, the Committee expresses concern about the situation of indigenous women, who lack enjoyment of their human rights and are vulnerable to multiple forms of discrimination. It is also concerned about the absence of statistical information related to the situation of indigenous women.

36. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt concrete, targeted measures to accelerate the improvement of conditions of indigenous women in all spheres of life. It calls upon the State party to ensure that indigenous women have full access to bilingual education, health services and credit facilities and can fully participate in decision-making processes. It requests the State party to include information and data on the situation of indigenous women and on the impact of measures taken to overcome the multiple discrimination against them in its next periodic report.

Guatemala: A/57/38 (Part III), 12 August 2002

188. While the Committee welcomes the development by the National Office for Women's Affairs of a methodology for eliminating sexual stereotypes in teaching materials and school textbooks, and the creation of a multisectoral commission for the application of the methodology, it expresses concern at the persistence of stereotypes concerning the role of women in the family and society. It notes that those stereotypes are particularly strong within the indigenous population. The Committee is also concerned that, notwithstanding the various efforts being made to achieve equality between women and men through legislative reform, the execution of gender-sensitive programmes, the training of officials and the creation of national machineries, the persistence of such stereotypes will impede the advancement of women in Guatemala, in particular among indigenous women, and the enjoyment of their human rights.

189. The Committee urges the State party to make the raising of awareness among the general public of the rights of women a priority in its strategy for the advancement of women by building upon existing media campaigns and introducing new awareness-raising and education campaigns on various women's human rights issues. Such campaigns must target men as well as women at all levels of society in particular among the indigenous population.

198. The Committee notes with concern the persistence of illiteracy among certain groups of women in Guatemala, particularly among the indigenous population.

199. The Committee calls on the State party to enhance its efforts to combat illiteracy, especially in the rural areas and among indigenous people, and to develop more programmes to address illiteracy among adult women.

Guatemala: A/49/38, 12 April 1994

81. In short, the members of the Committee commented that women did not appear to be a priority for the Government, that there was far-reaching legal discrimination, and that there was no information on initiatives to combat discrimination resulting from highly stereotyped cultural patterns or on the actual situation of women among indigenous ethnic groups. In general, they regarded the report as inadequate in the light of the recommendations made by the Committee in that connection. They expressed the view that the very wording of the report was sometimes discriminatory; that showed that the Government needed to review and adjust its approach so as to improve the situation of Guatemalan women.

22. GUYANA

Guyana: CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/7-8, 27 July 2012

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the adoption of its previous concluding observations in 2005, including the legislative reforms that have been undertaken and the adoption of a range of legislative measures. Specific reference is made to the:

a. Amerindian Act (2006) [...]

8. The Committee is concerned at the general lack of awareness of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations in the State party, in particular, among the judiciary and other law enforcement officials, and among the population at large. It is further concerned that women themselves, especially those in rural and remote areas, are not aware of their rights under the Convention, and thus lack the necessary information to claim their rights.

9. The Committee calls on the State party to:

(a) Take the necessary steps to ensure the adequate dissemination of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations among all stakeholders, including Government ministries, parliamentarians, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, and religious and community leaders, so as to create awareness of women's human rights and establish firmly in the country a legal culture supportive of women's equality and non-discrimination; and

(b) Take all appropriate measures to enhance women's awareness of their rights and the means to enforce them, including through providing women with information on the Convention in languages accessible to them in all regions of the State party, in particular in hinterland and rural areas and among the Amerindian communities, emphasizing ways to utilize the available legal remedies for violations of their rights.

26. The Committee notes that female representation in the State party's parliament increased from 18.5 per cent in 1992 to 32 per cent in 2012. The Committee is, however, concerned that obstacles to the advancement of women remain in political and public life, such as the lack of an effective quota system, the absence of temporary special measures, limited financial resources, insufficient affirmative action in the form of capacity-building for potential candidates, the persistence of the gender-biased views and poor socioeconomic status that prevent women from gaining full access to the right to participate in public life, in particular at the level of decision-making. While noting with appreciation that in 2008 the first female and also the first Amerindian was appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, and further that there are now 4 Amerindian women in Parliament, the Committee is concerned at the slow progress in ensuring the equal participation of Amerindian women in leadership and decision-making positions in public and political life.

27. The Committee calls upon the State party:

(a) To strengthen its efforts to amend or adopt legislation aimed at increasing the de facto participation of women in political and public life and to pursue sustained policies aimed at the promotion of women's full and equal participation in decision-making as a democratic requirement in all areas of public, political and professional life by giving effect to general recommendation No. 23 of the Committee, on women in political and public life;

(b) To adopt and implement temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25 of the Committee, in order to accelerate women's full and equal participation in political and public life, in particular with regard to Amerindian women; and

(c) To carry out awareness-raising campaigns targeting both men and women aimed at eliminating patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding roles for men and women and at highlighting the importance of women's full and equal participation in political and public life and in decision-making positions in the public and private sectors and in all fields.

36. While welcoming the enactment in 2006 of the new Amerindian Act, granting legal title to 135 Amerindian communities of 14% of Guyana's land mass, and while noting the establishment of a special fund for the development of Amerindian communities and the launch of the Rural Electrification Programme, the Committee expresses its concern at the disadvantaged position of women in hinterland, rural and remote areas who form the majority of women in the State party, and who are characterized by poverty, difficulties in access to health and social services and a lack of participation in decision-making processes at the community level.

37. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

(a) Pay special attention to the needs of rural women to ensure that they have access to health, education, clean water and sanitation services and income-generation projects; and

(b) Address negative customs and traditional practices, especially in rural areas, which affect the full enjoy

Guyana: CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/3-6, 22 July 2005

34. In the light of its general recommendation 19, the Committee urges the State party to accord priority attention to the effective enforcement and monitoring of legislation on domestic violence to ensure that all women who are victims of violence, including Amerindian women and those living in rural and hinterland areas, have access to immediate means of redress and protection, including protection orders, legal aid and shelters in sufficient numbers. The Committee calls on the State party to provide adequate funding for such protection and support measures. The Committee requests the State party to strengthen its efforts to train the police and ensure that public officials, especially law enforcement officials, the judiciary, health-care providers and social workers, are fully sensitized to all forms of violence against women and adequately equipped to support victims of such violence. The Committee also calls on the State party to take measures, through the media and public education programmes, towards changing social, cultural and traditional attitudes that remain permissive of all forms of violence against women, including sexual violence against young girls. The Committee requests that the State party provide in its next report comprehensive information, including statistical information, on all forms of violence against women and measures to prevent and eradicate

36. The Committee recommends that a broad framework for health services in line with the Committee's general recommendation 24 on article 12, on women and health, be put in place, and that access by women, especially Amerindian women and other women living in rural and hinterland areas, be monitored. It also recommends that the State party provide information on women's access to health services in its next periodic report.

39. While noting that women are disproportionately affected by poverty and the existence of a National Development Strategy and a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the Committee is disappointed that these policies insufficiently address the gender dimensions of poverty, nor do they target women specifically, notwithstanding the participation of women's groups in consultations for their preparation. The Committee is especially concerned about the consequences of this omission for Amerindian women and women living in rural and hinterland areas.

40. The Committee urges the State party to make the promotion of gender equality an explicit component of its national development strategies and in particular those aimed at poverty alleviation and sustainable development. It encourages the State party to include programmes that target vulnerable groups of women, such as Amerindian women and poor women living in rural and hinterland areas. The Committee invites the State party to strengthen these policies so as to enhance compliance with the Convention, especially article 14 on rural women. It encourages the State party to place emphasis on implementation of the Convention and women's human rights in all development cooperation programmes with international organizations and bilateral donors. It also recommends that the State party channel resources available through the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative towards the empowerment of women especially Amerindian women and women in rural and hinterland areas. It also requests the State party to provide in its next periodic report data on how women have benefited from the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy paper.

Guyana: A/56/38, paras.145-184, 31 July 2001

158. The Committee welcomes the appointment of a young woman of Amerindian descent to a ministerial office, for the first time in the history of Guyana, assigned with the portfolio of Amerindian Affairs.

175. The Committee encourages the Government to give full attention to the needs of rural women and Amerindian women and to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes in all areas, in particular access to decision-making, health, education and social services. The Committee requests that the Government provide detailed information in that regard in its next periodic report.

23. HONDURAS

Honduras: CEDAW/C/HON/CO/6, 10 August 2007

12. While appreciating the establishment of the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Women, the Committee is concerned that women's ability to bring cases of discrimination before the courts is limited by factors such as poverty, lack of assistance in pursuing their rights, lack of information about their rights and attitudes of law enforcement and judicial officials that create obstacles for women seeking access to justice.

13. The Committee recommends that sustained awareness-raising and legal literacy campaigns targeting women, including rural and indigenous women and women of African descent, on gender equality be undertaken to encourage and empower women to use available procedures and remedies relating to violations of their rights under the Convention. The Committee urges the State party to provide legal aid services for women, including rural and indigenous women and women of African descent, and to remove all impediments women may face in gaining access to justice, including costs related to filing and pursuing court cases and lengthy delays in legal proceedings. The Committee further urges the State party to make women aware of their right to file complaints against government officials who fail to apply the relevant laws for the benefit of women and to monitor the outcome of such complaints. The Committee encourages the State party to seek assistance from the international community in order to implement measures that will strengthen women's access to justice. The Committee requests the State party to provide information about women's access to justice, including the legal aid provided, in its next periodic report.

31. The Committee calls upon the State party to include in its next report statistical data and analysis on the situation of women, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and rural and urban

areas, indicating the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in the practical realization of women's substantive equality.

24. INDIA

India: CEDAW/C/IND/CO/3, 2 February 2007

14. The Committee regrets that the report does not provide sufficient statistical data, disaggregated by sex, caste, minority status and ethnicity, on the practical realization of equality between women and men in all areas covered by the Convention and does not provide information on the impact of, and results achieved by, various legal and policy measures described in the report.

15. The Committee requests the State party to set benchmarks and to include adequate, appropriate and comparative statistical data and analysis, disaggregated by sex, caste, minority status and ethnicity, in its next report so as to provide a full picture of the implementation of all the provisions of the Convention and trends over time in the practical realization of equality between women and men. In particular, it calls upon the State party to review and monitor the fulfilment of the provisions of the Convention in respect of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, backward class and minority women in all sectors. [...]

18. While noting that poor women are entitled to receive free legal aid under the Legal Services Authority Act and that the National Legal Service Authority aims to enhance legal literacy for women and provide access to justice, the Committee is concerned about the quality and scope of the free legal services provided and the access of women in rural and tribal areas to such services.

19. The Committee urges the State party to provide free legal services to poor and marginalized women in rural and tribal areas in addition to urban areas and to monitor the quality and impact of such services in regard to ensuring women's access to justice. It requests the State party to provide information about access of women, including scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, backward class and minority women, to free legal services and the scope and effectiveness of such services in its next periodic report.

21. The Committee calls upon the State party to develop, in consultation with women's groups, a coordinated and comprehensive plan to combat all forms of violence against women taking a life cycle approach. It urges the State party to take steps in partnership with states and union territories to fully and consistently implement and enforce the Domestic Violence Act and to ensure that all women victims of domestic violence, including scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, backward class and minority women, are able to benefit from the legislative framework and support systems in place and that perpetrators are effectively prosecuted under the Penal Code and adequately punished. [...]

32. While appreciating the additional data provided by the State party during its dialogue with the Committee, which indicates improvements in enrolment rates of women in primary education, and while commending the State party's future plans of focusing efforts on education of marginalized sections of the population, the Committee is concerned about the continuing disparities in the educational status of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and Muslim women and the limited access of these groups of women to higher education.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party provide, in its next periodic report, comparable data disaggregated by sex, caste, minority status and ethnicity, on the enrolment and retention rates of girls and women at all levels of education, and trends over time. Given the particularly disadvantaged situation of Muslim women and girls, the Committee requests the

State party to provide information in its next periodic report about the action taken on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee with regard to the education of Muslim women and girls. It urges the State party to increase efforts to enable scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and Muslim women to access higher education. [...]

46. The Committee expresses grave concern about the displacement of tribal women owing to the implementation of megaprojects and the influence of global economic trends. While the Committee appreciates the need for economic growth, it is concerned that the human rights of vulnerable groups such as tribal populations may be adversely affected by large-scale economic projects.

47. The Committee urges the State party to study the impact of megaprojects on tribal and rural women and to institute safeguards against their displacement and violation of their human rights. It also urges the State party to ensure that surplus land given to displaced rural and tribal women is cultivable. Moreover, the Committee recommends that efforts be made to ensure that tribal and rural women have individual rights to inherit and own land and property.

India: A/55/38, 1 February 2000

74. The Committee is concerned with the continuing discrimination, including violence, suffered by women of the Dalit community, despite the passage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (prevention of atrocities) Act of 1989.

75. The Committee urges the Government to enforce laws preventing discrimination against Dalit women and prohibiting the devadasi system. It urges the Government to introduce affirmative action programmes in such areas as education, employment and health so as to provide life chances to Dalit women and girls and create an environment conducive to their progress. The Committee calls upon the Government to set a time-frame for those interventions and provide information on the progress made in the next report.

25. INDONESIA

Indonesia: CEDAW/C/IDN/CO/6-7, 27 July 2012

45. The Committee is deeply concerned about:

(a) The disadvantaged position of rural and indigenous women, which is characterized by poverty; their difficulties in accessing education and health and social services; and the existence of discrimination with respect to ownership and inheritance of land;

(b) Cases of discrimination, violence and sexual intimidation specifically targeting women who belong to religious minorities, such as Ahmaddiyah, Christians, Buddhists and Baha'is, as well as indigenous women; and cases of violation of the rights of indigenous women to access their land, water and natural resources; and

(c) Reports of sexual abuse of women in police detention, the absence of provisions in the Criminal Procedure Code that provide protection to women in custody and the difficulties they face in lodging complaints about police misconduct.

46. The Committee urges the State party to:

a) Pay special attention to the needs of rural women to ensure that they have access to health, education, clean water, sanitation services and income-generating projects; and eliminate discrimination in women's ownership and inheritance of land;

b) Implement effective measures to eliminate discrimination and violence, including sexual violence and intimidation, against women belonging to religious minorities, such as Ahmaddiyah, Christians, Buddhists and Baha'is, and indigenous women; ensure their security and enhance their enjoyment of human rights and ensure access to land and natural resources for indigenous women, through all available means, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1 of the Convention, and general recommendation no. 25 (2004) on temporary special measures; and

c) Improve the conditions of women in detention facilities in accordance with international standards to: (i) solve the problems of overcrowding in the prisons, (ii) guarantee separate accommodation for men and women inmates; and (iii) ensure the provision of adequate health facilities and services, in particular for pregnant women; (iv) ensure that women are able to file reports of misconduct against police officers, including with respect to sexual violence, intimidation or harassment, and that these are promptly, independently and impartially investigated and prosecuted and the perpetrators punished; and consider setting up an independent police complaints mechanism that can receive and deal with complaints from the public.

26. JAPAN

Japan: CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6, 7 August 2009

51. The Committee regrets the lack of information and statistical data about the situation of minority women in the State party, who suffer from multiple discrimination based on gender and ethnic origin, both in society at large and within their communities. The Committee further regrets the absence of any proactive measures, including a policy framework for each minority group, to promote the rights of minority women.

52. The Committee urges the State party to take effective measures, including the establishment of a policy framework and the adoption of temporary special measures, to eliminate discrimination against minority women. To this end, the Committee urges the State party to appoint minority women representatives to decision-making bodies. The Committee reiterates its previous request (A/58/38, para. 366) that the State party include information on the situation of minority women in Japan, especially with regard to education, employment, health, social welfare and exposure to violence, in its next periodic report. In this context, the Committee calls upon the State party to conduct a comprehensive study on the situation of minority women, including indigenous Ainu, Buraku and Zainichi Korean and Okinawa women.

27. LAOS

Laos: CEDAW/C/LAO/CC/1-5, 15 February 2005

21. While noting that 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, the Committee is deeply concerned about the pervasive poverty and underdevelopment of women, especially in rural and ethnic minority communities. The Committee is also concerned that ethnic minority women, without having any alternative sources of income, depend on production of opium poppies for their livelihood. While welcoming the reinvestigation into the matter of land titling, the Committee is concerned that the current reinvestigation and the re-issuance of land titles are limited to nine provinces. The Committee is also concerned that while rural women carry out more than half of total agricultural production in every field, the additional workloads of housework and child-rearing also fall primarily on the shoulders of women. The Committee is

very concerned that rural women are not fully represented in important decision-making regarding development programmes, nor on the village council.

22. The Committee urges the State party to accelerate its plan to eradicate poverty among women, especially rural and ethnic minority women, by more actively seeking international assistance and at the same time by applying gender perspectives in all development programmes and fully integrating women into decision-making on those programmes, as well as in their implementation processes. The Committee also urges the State party to step up its efforts to provide ethnic minority women who depend on opium poppy production with alternative and sustainable means of livelihood. The Committee recommends that the reinvestigation and re-registration of land titles be carried out in all provinces, with the expected result of eradicating discrimination against women, and requests the State party to provide detailed information about the results achieved in its next report. The Committee also recommends that the State party take measures to ease the double burden of women, including by providing new technologies for women farmers and educating men regarding the sharing of family responsibilities. The Committee strongly recommends that the State party ensure the full and equal representation of rural women on the various committees at the village level.

28. MALAYSIA

Malaysia: CEDAW/C/MYS/CO/2, 31 May 2006

29. [...] the Committee is concerned that the report did not provide information about the position of women from various ethnic groups in all areas covered by the Convention. In addition, the Committee regrets that the information provided on rural women was out of date and did not present a current picture of the situation of rural women.

30. The Committee urges the State party to include in its next report, data disaggregated by sex and ethnicity in all areas covered by the Convention and current sex-disaggregated data and information on the de facto position of rural women in all sectors.

29 MEXICO

Mexico: CEDAW/C/MEX/CO/7-8, 7 August 2012

22. The Committee notes that the State party has made substantial progress to ensure women's equal participation with men in political life at the federal level. However, it is concerned about gaps in the federal and state electoral legal frameworks which may lead to the non-compliance of the gender quota system to register candidates in a proportion of 40:60 and that this quota system has not yet been incorporated in all the states' electoral legislation. It is further concerned about the low number of indigenous women participating in the political life of the State party.

23. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Ensure that political parties are complying with the federal and state electoral legal frameworks, including by amending or repealing discriminatory provisions against women, such as paragraph 2 of article 219 of the Federal Code of Electoral Institutions and Procedure and by establishing sanctions in cases of non-compliance with the gender quota;

(b) Eliminate the obstacles preventing women from participating in the political life of their communities, in particular indigenous women, including by conducting awareness-raising

campaigns aiming at increasing the participation of women in political life at the state and municipal levels;

(c) Ensure that the political parties comply with their obligation to allocate 2 per cent of the public funding received to the promotion of women's political leadership, especially of indigenous women at the municipal level.

34. The Committee notes that the Convention has been translated into 10 indigenous languages. It notes as well the creation of indigenous women's centres whose objectives are the prevention and treatment of violence and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights for indigenous women. However, it remains concerned about the high levels of poverty, illiteracy and multiple forms of discrimination against indigenous rural women, in particular in Chiapas, Guerrero and Oaxaca. It is also concerned about harmful cultural practices within the indigenous legal systems that are based on gender-stereotyped roles for men and women, such as the "bride price", and that perpetuate discrimination against indigenous women and girls. It is further concerned about the lack of indigenous rural women's access to land, property and justice. It is also concerned about information indicating that the State party's public security policy against organized crime has had a negative impact on indigenous rural women, who have since been subjected to higher levels of violence, including femicide, by the security forces.

35. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendations and calls upon the State party:

(a) To ensure that all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty include a gender perspective and an intercultural approach, with a view to eliminating discrimination against indigenous rural women;

(b) To adopt temporary special measures to address the disparities that indigenous rural women face with regard to access to land and property, as well as basic social services, including education and health, and participation in decision-making processes;

(c) To put in place a comprehensive strategy aimed at the elimination of harmful practices that discriminate against indigenous rural women, including by conducting awareness-raising campaigns targeting indigenous communities in collaboration with civil society and women's organizations, with a view to enhancing a positive and non-stereotypical portrayal of women;

(d) To take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of relevant legislation to prevent violence against indigenous women, to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of violence against indigenous women and to ensure that victims have effective and prompt access to justice, including redress mechanisms;

(e) To adopt appropriate measures to ensure that the army and law enforcement officials who are in or near communities of indigenous peoples respect the human rights of indigenous women.

Mexico: CEDAW/C/MEX/CO/6, 25 August 2006

20. The Committee is concerned that neither the report nor the constructive dialogue provided a clear picture of the extent to which gender perspectives have effectively been mainstreamed in all national policies, including the National Development Plan 2001-2006 and the Plan Contigo, aimed at eradicating poverty. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of clarity about the linkages between these plans and the National Programme for Equality of Opportunities and Non-Discrimination against Women. The Committee regrets that insufficient information was provided about the gender-specific impact on women of macroeconomic policies, in particular about the effects of regional trade agreements such as the Puebla Panama Plan and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

21. The Committee urges the State party to put in place an effective strategy for mainstreaming gender perspectives into all national plans and to strengthen the linkages between the national plans for development and poverty eradication and the National Programme for Equality of Opportunities and Non-Discrimination against Women with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of all the provisions of the Convention. The Committee requests the State party to include information about the effects of macroeconomic policies, including the regional trade agreements, on women, particularly on women living in rural areas and employed in agricultural activities, in its next periodic report.

32. The Committee remains concerned about the level of maternal mortality rates, particularly those of indigenous women, which are a consequence of the insufficient coverage of, and access to, health services, including sexual and reproductive health care. [...]

34. While welcoming the establishment of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee is concerned about the higher levels of poverty and illiteracy and multiple forms of discrimination experienced by indigenous and rural women. The Committee is concerned about the large disparities between them and women in urban areas and from non-indigenous groups in access to basic social services, including education and health, and participation in decision-making processes.

35. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that all poverty eradication policies and programmes explicitly address the structural nature and various dimensions of poverty and discrimination that indigenous and rural women face. It recommends that the State party use temporary special measures to address the disparities that indigenous and rural women face with regard to access to basic social services, including education and health, and participation in decision-making processes. The Committee requests the State party to include in its next periodic report comprehensive information on the measures taken and their impact, accompanied by data disaggregated by urban and rural areas, by states and by indigenous populations.

Mexico: A/57/38 (Part III), 6 August 2002

433. The Committee is concerned that while the State party has implemented poverty reduction strategies, poverty constitutes a serious obstacle to enjoyment of rights by women, who make up the majority of the most vulnerable sectors, especially in rural and indigenous areas.

434. The Committee calls on the State party to give priority to women in its poverty eradication strategy, with special attention to women in rural and indigenous areas; in this context, measures and specific programmes should be adopted to ensure that women fully enjoy their rights on an equal footing in the areas of education, employment and health, with special emphasis on joint work with non-governmental organizations and on women's participation not only as beneficiaries, but also as agents of change in the development process.

Mexico: A/53/38, 14 May 1998

372. The Committee notes that the Mexican Government's report and its replies to the Committee's questions offer valuable, comprehensive information on the various programmes implemented and planned by the Government of Mexico. The Committee considers the specific information provided on the situation of indigenous women in Chiapas to be extremely important.

389. The Committee expresses its concern with regard to the discrimination faced by indigenous women, where the health, education and employment indicators are below the national average. It also expresses concern about the situation of rural women living in poverty and in extreme poverty.

390. The Committee expresses concern with regard to the situation of indigenous women and children, particularly in the state of Chiapas since, in conflict zones where the police or armed forces are operating, women are often the innocent victims of violence.

403. The Committee recommends that the Mexican Government continue its efforts to reduce poverty among rural women, particularly indigenous women, and to work together with non-governmental organizations, making special efforts to promote education, employment and health programmes conducive to the integration of women into the development process, both as beneficiaries and as protagonists. In view of the relatively high growth levels of the Mexican economy that have been mentioned, the Committee would welcome a more equitable redistribution of wealth among the population.

425. The Committee recommends that the Government of Mexico pay special attention to safeguarding the human rights of women, including indigenous women and women in conflict zones, especially where police and armed forces are operating.

30. MYANMAR

Myanmar: CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/3, 07 November 2008

2. [...] the Committee regrets that the information provided in the report in many aspects was too general and lacked the disaggregated data pertaining to, inter alia, the various ethnic groups, as requested in the previous concluding observations, necessary to permit the Committee to evaluate the specific situation of women. [...]

10. [...] Furthermore, the Committee is concerned that legislation and customary laws that discriminate against women and are incompatible with the Convention remain in force in Myanmar, in particular with regard to discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity and within the ethnic groups.

24. The Committee expresses its deep concern at the high prevalence of sexual and other forms of violence, including rape, perpetrated by members of the armed forces against rural ethnic women, including Shan, Mon, Karen, Palaung and Chin women. The Committee is also concerned at the apparent impunity of the perpetrators of such violence — although a few cases have been prosecuted — and at reports of threats against and intimidation and punishment of the victims. The Committee regrets the lack of information on mechanisms and remedies available to victims of sexual violence as well as measures to bring perpetrators to justice.

25. The Committee urges the State party to take immediate steps to put an end to those violations, to prosecute and punish the perpetrators, including military personnel, and to carry out human rights education and gender sensitization training for all law-enforcement and military personnel. The Committee urges the State party to document cases of rape and sexual assault, including all complaints filed, investigations, prosecutions and convictions. Such information, especially when it involves military and senior officials, would facilitate a better understanding of the situation. The State party should take due account of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in armed conflict and is encouraged to put in place an action plan for the full implementation of those resolutions, taking into account article 2, article 4, paragraph 1, articles 5, 7 and 8 of the Convention. The Committee requests the State party to include information on the steps taken to eliminate sexual violence, including the results achieved, in the next periodic report.

30. The Committee regrets the limited information provided on the entitlements to acquire Myanmar citizenship under the 1982 citizenship law, including with respect to women acquiring

citizenship based on their marital status and passing citizenship to their children born outside the country, as well as children with non-national fathers.

31. The Committee calls upon the State party to review the 1982 citizenship law and repeal or amend it, as appropriate, in order to bring it fully into compliance with article 9 of the Convention. It also calls on the State party to provide more information on Myanmar citizenship rights, including on birth certificates of children born in Myanmar, in particular children of ethnic groups, in its next periodic report.

31. NEPAL

Nepal: CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/4-5, 11 August 2011

23. The Committee welcomes the 33 per cent representation of women in the Constituent Assembly. However, it is deeply concerned about the extremely low representation of women, in particular Dalit and indigenous women, in high-level decision-making positions, public service, the judiciary and the diplomatic service; in the National Human Rights Commission; and at the local level.

24. The Committee recommends that:

[...] The quota system for women's representation in the Constituent Assembly be increased in the future Parliament;

(b) The State party fully utilize the Committee's general recommendation No. 23 and adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25, in order to accelerate the full and equal participation of women in public and political life. To this end, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(i) Establish concrete goals and timetables in order to accelerate the increase in the representation of women, including Dalit and indigenous women, in elected and appointed bodies in all areas of public life from the local level, including the Village Development Committee, to the national and diplomatic levels;

(ii) Implement awareness-raising activities on the importance of the participation of women in decision-making for society as a whole, and develop targeted training and mentoring programmes for women candidates and women elected to public office, and programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders.

27. While welcoming the overall increase in gender parity in primary and secondary education, the Committee is concerned about the minimal increase in female enrolment, the extremely high drop-out rate for girls, the urban/rural disparities in access to education and illiteracy rates, and the low literacy rate for female adults. The Committee is further concerned about the extremely low number of female teachers at all levels of education.

28. The Committee urges the State party to enhance its compliance with article 10 of the Convention and to raise awareness of the importance of education as a human right and as the basis for the empowerment of women. To this end, it urges the State party to:

[...] Strengthen its efforts to achieve universal provision of quality education for girls at each level of the education system in urban, rural and remote areas and to provide access to education to girls with disabilities through the improvement of infrastructures and the provision of support systems, with special attention to girls from Dalit, indigenous and other disadvantaged groups;

29. While welcoming the prohibition of so-called bonded labour, the Committee is concerned about reports that this practice still exists among the indigenous Tharu community. It is further concerned about the high rate of child labour, particularly among girls between the ages of 8 and 14; the high proportion of women in the informal sector; and the widespread prevalence of sexual harassment in the workplace. The Committee notes with concern that the draft law on sexual harassment has been pending before Parliament since 2009.

30. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure equal opportunities for women in the labour market, in accordance with article 11 of the Convention. To this end, it recommends that the State party:

[...] Strengthen its efforts to eradicate bonded labour and child labour and ensure effective implementation of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (Convention No. 105);

(b) Regulate the informal sector to ensure that women in this sector are not exploited;

(c) Align the draft law on sexual harassment in the workplace with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19, enact it without delay and ensure its effective implementation;

(d) Develop a confidential and safe system of filing complaints, facilitate access to justice for victims of sexual harassment and conduct awareness-raising campaigns targeting working women in particular, to break the culture of silence surrounding sexual harassment;

(e) Consider ratifying the ILO Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (Convention No. 189).

39. The Committee is deeply concerned about the multiple forms of discrimination against disadvantaged groups of women such as Dalit and indigenous women, widows and women with disabilities.

40. The Committee urges the State party to prioritize combating multiple forms of discrimination against women from various disadvantaged groups through the collection of data on the situation of these women and the adoption of legal provisions and comprehensive programmes, including public education and awareness-raising campaigns involving the mass media and community and religious leaders.

32. NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand: CEDAW/C/NZL/CO/7, 27 July 2012

6. The Committee welcomes the appointment of the first Asian woman Minister and three Māori women Ministers.

14. The Committee is deeply concerned about the State party's tightened funding and proposed eligibility criteria for legal aid, which have led to fewer applications by women and which may probably continue to have a negative impact on women's access to justice, especially as 65 per cent of legal aid users in the State party are women. The Committee is also concerned that migrant women lack access to appropriate legal services because of cultural, financial and linguistic barriers, and that the proportion of Māori women prosecuted and convicted for crimes as well as among victims of crime is disproportionately high. Furthermore, while the Committee welcomes the role of the Human Rights Commission in providing a mechanism to hear discrimination complaints, it is concerned that information about this complaints mechanism

has not been sufficiently disseminated and that the Human Rights Commission lacks sufficient resources.

15. The Committee urges the State party:

(a) To facilitate women's access to justice, including by providing free legal aid to women without sufficient means and to increase efforts to make sure that migrant women and Māori women are not discriminated against in the administration of justice;

(b) To implement systematic training to the legal profession and non-governmental organizations on the application of legislation prohibiting discrimination, including in the area of access to justice, in the light of its obligations under the Convention and its Optional Protocol;

(c) To enhance awareness-raising initiatives for women on how to utilize available legal remedies against discrimination, including with regard to the Human Rights Commission, and to ensure that the Commission is adequately resourced.

23. While the Committee notes the work of the Task Force for Action on Violence within Families, it is concerned at the lower level of representation among its members. The Committee also notes that many of the recommendations in the report of the Task Force for Action on Sexual Violence have not yet been implemented. The Committee also notes the increase in the number of Family Violence Courts, and the adoption of several awareness-raising initiatives such as the "It's not OK" campaign, aimed at decreasing rates of family violence. Despite these positive developments, the Committee is concerned about the continued high and increasing levels of violence against women and the low rates of reporting and conviction, particularly relating to sexual violence. The Committee notes with concern insufficient statistical data on violence against women, especially on violence against Māori women, migrant women and women with disabilities.

24. The Committee calls upon the State party:

(a) To take the necessary measures to encourage the reporting of domestic and sexual violence cases, including by ensuring that education professionals, health-care providers and social workers are fully familiar with relevant legal provisions and are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and are capable of complying with their obligation to report cases;

(b) To strengthen training for the police, public prosecutors, the judiciary and other relevant government bodies on domestic and sexual violence;

(c) To provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence, including Māori and migrant women, by ensuring that they receive the necessary legal and psychosocial services;

(d) To improve the level of representation on the Task Force for Action on Violence within Families and ensure appropriate resourcing with a view to enhancing the perception of its status within the State party;

(e) To ensure systematic collection and publication of data, disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, type of violence, and by the relationship of the perpetrator to the victim; to collect data on the number of women killed by partners or ex-partners; and to monitor the effectiveness of legislation, policy and practice relating to all forms of violence against women and girls.

29. The Committee welcomes several positive trends within the State party in the field of education, including an increase in the number of children in early childhood education, higher

retention rates for girls attending secondary school, and a steady increase in the number of women who obtain graduate degrees. The Committee further welcomes the information provided by the State party indicating that more women than men are participating in tertiary education and more Māori and Pacific Islander women are participating at the certificate, diploma, degree and post-graduate levels as compared to either their European or their Asian counterparts. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned that the State party has not taken sufficient action to clarify and publicize the voluntary nature of school fees as recommended in previous concluding observations. The Committee is therefore concerned that parents may be under considerable pressure to pay school fees, which places a financial burden on low-income families and single-headed households. The Committee is also concerned that the overall dropout rate for Māori girls has increased in recent years despite their improvement at the tertiary level. Further, the Committee is concerned about the continuation of gender-segregated thematic subjects, which affects future employment opportunities and perpetuates occupational segregation.

30. The Committee recommends the State party:

- (a) To develop a systematic programme to ensure that parents understand the voluntary nature of payments requested by schools and monitor schools' practices regarding the collection of fees from parents;
- (b) To collect data on the real cost of education to parents;
- (c) To implement measures to decrease dropout rates among Māori girls and to reintegrate them into the educational system;
- (d) To introduce measures to desegregate gender thematic subjects with a view to ensuring that women and girls equally access non-traditional thematic subject areas, widening their opportunities for future employment and breaking the trend of occupational segregation.

33. The Committee commends the State party for its advocacy on the protection of women's sexual and reproductive health rights and prevention of maternal mortality. The Committee notes with concern, however, the convoluted abortion laws which require women to get certificates from two certified consultants before an abortion can be performed, thus making women dependent on the benevolent interpretation of a rule which nullifies their autonomy. The Committee is also concerned that abortion remains criminalized in the State party, which leads women to seek illegal abortions, which are often unsafe. The Committee appreciates measures taken by the State party to improve mental health services for young women, but notes with concern the prevailing high level of suicide among young women, particularly minority and migrant youth. The Committee acknowledges the State party's comprehensive health coverage and recent successful health education campaigns, such as the campaign to promote cervical cancer screening and good practice guidelines on health services for lesbian women and transgendered persons, but remains concerned about the access to and quality of these health services. The Committee also remains concerned about inequalities in access to health care by minority women. In particular, the Committee is concerned about the high rates of teenage pregnancy among Māori women and the lack of access to effective ageappropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Furthermore, the Committee is concerned about reports that some health practitioners perceive HIV testing of pregnant women as mandatory and are testing women without their consent.

34. The Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To review the abortion law and practice with a view to simplifying it and to ensure women's autonomy to choose;

(b) To prevent women from having to resort to unsafe abortions and remove punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo an abortion;

(c) To take the necessary measures to address the deteriorating mental health situation of young girls, to prevent and combat the abuse of alcohol and use of drugs, and to prevent girls' suicide, especially girls from migrant and minority communities;

(d) To increase efforts to improve health-care services, including mental health care, for minority women, especially Māori and Pacific women; (e) To improve access and quality of health services for lesbian women and transgendered persons;

(f) To promote widely education on sexual and reproductive health rights, particularly with regard to the prevention of teenage and unwanted pregnancies, and to strengthen measures to support pregnant girls;

(g) To take steps to ensure that pregnant women are informed that HIV testing is not mandatory and ensure that, when they are tested, their informed consent is obtained.

35. The Committee is concerned about the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, including women with disabilities, women of ethnic and minority communities, rural women and migrant women, who may be more vulnerable to multiple forms of discrimination with respect to education, health, social and political participation and employment. As noted in the report of the State party, disabled women are disproportionately represented among those who lack qualifications, those who do not work, and those on low incomes. The Committee is concerned that the new social security legislation will likely predominantly affect Māori women and reduce their social benefits. The Committee is further concerned that there are few education and employment programmes targeted at women and girls with disabilities. The Committee notes with concern the impact of the Christchurch earthquake on women, particularly rural women and older women, including their reported higher degrees of stress, anxiety and depression as well as their resulting higher numbers of displacement and unemployment.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Provide in its next report data and information on the situation of women with disabilities, rural women, older women and women from ethnic minority groups, including with regard to their access to education, employment and health-care services;

(b) Ensure that the ongoing welfare reforms do not discriminate against disadvantaged groups of women and that an independent evaluation of their gendered impact is made;

(c) Ensure the gender mainstreaming of policies relating to the process of recovery from the 2011 earthquake, and engage in analysis of their gender impact by using data disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and other status.

New Zealand: CEDAW/C/NZL/CO/6, 10 August 2007

24. While appreciating the steps taken by the State party, such as the establishment of the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families and the 2006 report on violence within families, the Committee is concerned about the continued prevalence of violence against women, particularly Maori, Pacific and minority women, and the low rates of prosecution and convictions for crimes of violence against women. The Committee also remains concerned that analysis on issues relating to violence against women remains inadequate for the purposes of identifying the causes of violence against women, monitoring trends and evaluating the

appropriateness and impact of policy and law enforcement efforts. The Committee also expresses concern that the number of protective orders granted to women is declining.

25. The Committee calls upon the State party to consistently implement and enforce the Programme of Action on Violence within Families and to revise its Domestic Violence Act of 1995 in order to protect all women victims of violence, including Maori, Pacific, Asian, immigrant, migrant and refugee women, and women with disabilities. It calls upon the State party to ensure that all violence against women is effectively prosecuted and adequately punished in line with the Committee's general recommendation 19. The Committee recommends that training be enhanced for the judiciary, public officials, law enforcement personnel and health-service providers in order to ensure that they can adequately respond to it. It calls on the State party to ensure that adequate data is collected on all forms of violence against women and urges the State party to conduct research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against all groups of women to serve as the basis for comprehensive and targeted intervention. In particular, it encourages the State party to study the reasons for the decline in the issuance of protective orders and to consider putting in place additional protective measures for women, such as enabling the police to issue protective orders. It invites the State party to include information on the results of such measures in its next periodic report.

30. While welcoming the recent ascension of women to the highest constitutional positions in New Zealand, the Committee is concerned that the number of women in local government and political decision-making positions is actually declining, and that women remain underrepresented in local government, district health boards, statutory boards and the judiciary. The Committee is also concerned that Maori, Pacific, Asian and other minority women are underrepresented at most levels of public and political life.

31. The Committee requests the State party to take concrete action and establish goals and time frames to increase the number of women in decision making positions at the local level, in civil service, political parties, district health boards, statutory boards and the judiciary. It also urges the State party to implement measures to increase the participation of Maori, Pacific and minority women in political decision-making positions at all levels, including temporary special measures in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation 25.

34. The Committee is concerned about the disadvantaged situation of women, including Maori, Pacific and minority women, and the discrimination faced by women in employment, especially in the private sector where fewer equality provisions apply. In particular, the Committee is concerned about the increasing wage gap between women and men, the high levels of occupational segregation, the concentration of women in low-wage occupations and the very low rate of women's participation in management and decision-making positions in the private sector.

35. The Committee requests the State party to take all appropriate measures, including temporary special measures and the strengthening of equality mechanisms, to address women's disadvantaged situation in the labour market, including the situation of Maori, Pacific and minority women. It recommends that efforts be intensified to eliminate occupational segregation, both horizontal and vertical, and to narrow and close the wage gap between women and men. It calls upon the State party to monitor the impact of measures taken and results achieved in both the public and private sectors and to report thereon in its next periodic report.

36. While the Committee welcomes the measures taken by the State party to support women's participation in the labour force, the Committee is concerned that the rates of participation for mothers of young children and single mothers remain below the average for States members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The Committee also expresses concern that seasonal and temporary workers remain ineligible for paid parental leave. The Committee is also concerned about the low rate of participation of men in paid parental leave

programmes and about the barriers to access to childcare and parental leave policies faced by rural women, as well as Maori, Pacific and other minority women.

37. The Committee requests that the State party act expeditiously to amend eligibility criteria to ensure that seasonal and temporary workers are eligible for paid parental leave. It also urges the State party to undertake further measures to increase the participation rate of mothers of young children and single mothers in the labour force by strengthening parental leave programmes for men and encouraging men to share child-rearing responsibilities with women. The Committee further requests that the State party analyse and assess the barriers that rural and Maori, Pacific and minority women face in accessing childcare and parental leave, and implement measures to reduce these barriers and increase their access to such services.

New Zealand: A/58/38, 14 July 2003

397. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts in implementing the "Treaty of Waitangi", which aim to "strengthen national identity and uphold the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi". It also commends the State party for the adoption of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act, 2000, which includes a section on the Treaty, intended to achieve the Act's objectives for the health of Maori women.

423. While recognizing the State party's efforts to address the needs of Maori and Pacific women and girls through the "Reducing Inequalities" programme, the Committee is concerned that the situation of Maori and Pacific women and girls remains unsatisfactory in many areas, particularly with regard to employment, political participation, decision-making positions in the public and private sector, the judiciary and tertiary education and economic independence. The Committee is also concerned about Maori and Pacific women and girls' unfavourable health situation, including their limited access to health care and their high mortality rate as well as the high incidence of domestic violence and of arranged marriages. The Committee is also concerned that the Human Rights Act, 1993, does not explicitly cover non-discrimination on the basis of language and the cultural field, which are of particular relevance to Maori and Pacific women.

424. The Committee urges the State party to continue to implement the "Treaty of Waitangi" and to monitor the impact of measures taken through the "Reducing Inequalities" programme on Maori and Pacific women and girls, in particular in the social, economic and political areas and in criminal justice. It also recommends that the State party implement targeted measures to respond to the needs of Maori and Pacific women and girls, and to continue to invest in Maori and Pacific women and girls, taking into account their linguistic and cultural interests.

New Zealand: A/53/38/Rev.1, 9 July 1998

260. The Committee commends the Government's sensitivity to the situation of Māori women, and its efforts to overcome obstacles to Māori women's achievement of equality.

278. The Committee recommends that the Government reconsider the content of the De Facto Relationships (Property) Bill with a view to bringing it in line with the Matrimonial Property Amendment Bill, especially since de facto relationships are more common among the Māori population and are growing among the population in general.

279. The Committee is concerned that the situation of Māori women remained unsatisfactory in many areas, including in respect to the high percentage of Māori girls leaving school early, higher-than-average teenage pregnancy rates, the continuing low number of Māori women in tertiary education, their employment situation, their absence from the judiciary and political decision-making, their health situation and access to health services and higher-than-average incidences of domestic violence.

280. The Committee urges the Government to continue its efforts to implement fully the Treaty of Waitangi, with particular emphasis on achieving equality for Māori women in all areas covered by the Convention.

281. The Committee urges the Government to translate, as a matter of priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into the Māori language, and to distribute it widely in Māori communities, so as to increase New Zealand women's awareness of their rights.

33. NICARAGUA

Nicaragua: CEDAW/C/NIC/CO/6, 2 February 2007

17. The Committee expresses its concern about the inadequate recognition and protection of the reproductive health and rights of women in the State party, especially among poor, rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent women. [...]

19. While noting steps taken to combat violence against women and girls and to enhance women's access to justice, the Committee remains concerned about the prevalence of all forms of violence against women and girls, and the lack of social awareness about and condemnation of such violence in the country. The Committee notes with concern the lack of enforcement of laws and prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, and women's lack of access to justice in cases of violence, especially women and girls from poor and rural areas, as well as indigenous and Afro-descendent women. [...]

20. [...] It urges the State party to ensure that all women victims of violence, including poor, rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent women, have access to immediate means of redress, protection, support and legal aid. [...]

31. The Committee is concerned about the situation of indigenous and Afrodescendent women and the multiple forms of discrimination they face, which limit their de facto enjoyment of their human rights and full participation in all spheres of life.

32. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt concrete, targeted measures to accelerate the improvement of conditions of indigenous women and women of African descent in all spheres of life. It calls upon the State party to ensure that indigenous women and women of African descent have full access to appropriate education and health services and can fully participate in decision making processes. It requests the State party to include information and data and trends over time on the situation of indigenous women and women of African descent and on the impact of measures taken to overcome multiple discrimination against them in its next periodic report.

Nicaragua: A/56/38, 31 July 2001

314. The Committee expresses concern about the lack of information in the reports on the migration of women and girls, women working in the maquiladora factories and free trade zones, older women and minority and indigenous women, prostitution, and trafficking of women and girls.

315. The Committee requests the Government to provide in its next report information on [...] indigenous women, especially as regards their health, employment and educational status [...].

34. NORWAY

Norway: CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8, 9 March 2012

31. While acknowledging the increased supportive measures for Sami women regarding social and health services, the Committee is concerned that Sami women continue to face multiple discrimination, including difficulty in accessing adequate health care due also to the unavailability of adequate services for the Sami women living outside the defined Sami area. [...]

32. The Committee calls upon the State party to:

[...] Ensure that all Sami women are provided with adequate social and health services, including mental health services;

(b) Ensure that gender perspectives are mainstreamed in all policies and programmes regarding the Sami people; [...]

35. PANAMA

Panama: CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/7, 5 February 2010

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for its combined fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh periodic report, which followed the Committee's previous guidelines for the preparation of reports but it regrets that the report did not refer to the previous concluding observations or the Committee's general recommendations. It also regrets the absence of sufficient statistical data disaggregated by sex on the situation of women, in particular Afro-descendant and indigenous women, with respect to all areas covered by the Convention. The Committee appreciates the frankness of the report in assessing challenges to the implementation of the Convention. It regrets, however, that the absence of regular reports during the period under consideration made it more difficult to monitor progress towards the achievement of gender equality.

15. The Committee calls upon the State party to undertake all necessary measures to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are sufficiently known and applied by all branches of Government and the judiciary as a framework for all laws, court decisions and policies on gender equality and the advancement of women. It recommends that the State party raise awareness of the Convention among women themselves, particularly rural and indigenous women. [...] It further recommends that the State party take all appropriate measures to make the provisions of the Convention and the Optional Protocol part of the educational system, at all levels and available in the different indigenous languages, so that they are accessible to all women and girls.

34. The Committee, while welcoming efforts by the State party to eliminate illiteracy, including through campaigns such as "Muévete por Panamá", notes with concern the high level of illiteracy among rural women speaking indigenous languages. The Committee also notes with concern that higher education choices continue to reflect stereotypical notions of appropriate fields of study for women.

35. The Committee encourages the State party to strengthen its efforts to eradicate illiteracy, in particular among rural women speaking indigenous languages, taking into account the plurality of languages in the country. It also urges the State party to take measures and carry out studies with a view to addressing the root causes of gender discrimination and stereotypical gender

roles in the field of education, and encourages the State party to strengthen its efforts to promote the inclusion of women in non-traditional careers.

42. The Committee notes with concern the high rate of maternal mortality in the State party, caused mainly by the lack of provision of appropriate medical care, in particular to rural and indigenous women and adolescents girls. The Committee is further concerned that, owing to difficulties in enforcing existing legislation in the State party, many women are unable to obtain a legal abortion and are therefore forced to resort to an illegal abortion. The Committee is also concerned at the lack of programmes that include measures to raise victims' awareness of the importance of seeking medical treatment after a sexual assault and reporting the incident.

43. The Committee urges the State party to improve access to health services for all women and in particular for the most vulnerable groups of women, such as indigenous, Afro- and Asian-descendant women. It also urges the State party to adopt without delay effective measures to resolve the problem of the high rate of maternal mortality by guaranteeing adequate prenatal, childbirth, and post-natal care and ensuring access to health-care facilities and medical assistance provided by trained workers in all parts of the country, particularly in rural areas. The Committee urges the State party to adopt regulations aimed at enforcing existing legislation on women's right to abortion and to give women access to high-quality services for the treatment of complications resulting from unsafe abortions. It invites the Ministry of Health to undertake a thorough investigation or study of unsafe abortions and their impact on women's health, in particular those resulting in maternal mortality, which will serve as the basis for legislative and policy action. It also urges the State party to facilitate a national dialogue on women's right to reproductive health, including on the consequences of restrictive abortion laws. It further recommends that the State party establish programmes that include measures aimed at raising victims' awareness of the importance of seeking medical treatment after an assault and reporting the incident.

44. The Committee regrets the lack of information available on the issue of HIV/AIDS, as well as on the apparent feminization of the disease in the State party, particularly among rural and indigenous women and girls.

46. While welcoming the State party's initiatives and social programmes aimed at empowering women living in extreme poverty, the Committee is concerned at the persistence of high levels of poverty and the social exclusion of women in Panama, especially rural and indigenous women, as well as obstacles preventing them from enjoying basic rights.

47. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen initiatives aimed at encouraging women's economic empowerment, keeping in mind the specific situations of different groups of women. The Committee also encourages the State party to establish mechanisms to monitor regularly the impact of social and economic policies on women.

53. The Committee recommends that the State party step up its efforts to establish a comprehensive and unified system of sex-disaggregated information in all areas covered by the Convention. The Committee also recommends that the State party include in its next report statistical data and analysis, disaggregated by sex and by rural and urban areas, indicating the impact of measures taken and results achieved in order to illustrate more comprehensively the situation of women in several areas, in particular with respect to the issue of violence. The Committee invites the State party to give special attention to the collection of data in respect of the most vulnerable groups of women, including rural and indigenous women, migrant women and domestic workers, particularly girls.

Panama: A/53/38/Rev.1, 2 July 1998

199. The Committee is concerned that 53 per cent of the female population is illiterate, the majority of these being indigenous women. It also expresses concern at the persistence of gender stereotypes, which results in a large number of adolescent girls terminating their education at an early age to marry or to undertake domestic work.

200. The Committee recommends that, as a matter of urgency, the Government of Panama should mount an aggressive educational campaign designed to ensure that all Panamanian girls and women have a full education and to reduce sharply the number of adolescent girls leaving school early to work in unskilled employment or to marry.

36. PARAGUAY

Paraguay: CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/6, 8 November 2011

12. The Committee is concerned that, despite the prohibition contained in article 48 of the Constitution, the State party's legislation does not provide definition of discrimination in accordance with article 1 of the Convention. The Committee is further concerned that, despite the preparation of draft laws on equality and against all forms of discrimination against women, endorsed by ministerial entities, several commissions of the legislative branch and civil society, these drafts have not been approved by the legislature. The lack of comprehensive law disproportionately affects disadvantaged groups of women, including indigenous and rural women, lesbians and transsexuals, who are particularly vulnerable to discrimination. The Committee is further concerned at the persistence of discriminatory provisions in the legislation which denotes need to further harmonize domestic legislation with international instruments ratified by the State party.

13. The Committee reiterates its recommendation to the State party to take effective steps to prohibit discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention through the adoption of appropriate national legislation, such as the drafting of comprehensive law on discrimination that awaits the approval of parliament. The Committee also recommends that the State party review its domestic legislation in order to harmonize it with the Convention.

26. [...] The Committee is further concerned about the gap with regard to the education of indigenous girls.

27. The Committee recommends the State party to:

(d) Step up its efforts towards implementing equal education opportunities for indigenous girls.

32. The Committee welcomes the efforts by the State party to implement action to improve institutional services for rural women, such as the drafting of the Specific Policy for Rural Women (Política Específica para Mujeres Rurales). However, the Committee remains concerned about the disadvantaged position of women in rural areas, who are most affected by poverty, challenges in access to health and social services and lack of access to land, not due to legal impediments, but to traditional practices and cultural patterns, which are stronger in rural areas and indigenous communities. The Committee is further concerned that, despite the measures implemented to regulate the use of agro-toxic products, their misuse in agriculture can negatively impact on the health of rural women.

33. The Committee recommends the State party to:

[...] Implement specific policies with a view to advancing the realization of women's rights, including through effective temporary special measures to accelerate the achievement of substantive equality;

(b) Strengthen its efforts to implement comprehensive nationwide health and educational programmes, including programmes in the areas of functional literacy, enterprise development, skills training and microfinance, as means of poverty alleviation; and

(c) Undertake a comprehensive study on the probable negative causes of the misuse of agro-toxic products in agriculture in order to implement the necessary measures to eradicate their impact on the health of women and their children.

34. The Committee welcomes the efforts by the State party to improve the living conditions of indigenous women, including monolingual Guaraní women. However, the Committee reiterates its concern about the persistence of illiteracy, low school enrolment rates, poor access to health care and significant levels of poverty. The Committee is deeply concerned about the high levels of vulnerability in relation to the right to adequate food and to safe drinking water, especially in the Chaco region, which has been repeatedly affected by droughts. The Committee is also concerned about indigenous women's wages, which are usually below the national average.

35. The Committee recommends the State party to:

[...] Adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004) to accelerate the realization of the rights of indigenous women;

(b) Ensure that indigenous women have easy access to schools and health services, in an affordable manner – both physically and financially – with bilingual services, which take into account the special needs of women from monolingual indigenous communities; and

(c) Strengthen its efforts to realize the right to adequate food and water in a consultative and participatory manner, involving indigenous women in order to achieve culturally adequate outcomes.

Paraguay: CEDAW/C/PAR/CC/3-5, 15 February 2005

36. The Committee is concerned about the poor conditions of indigenous women, including monolingual Guaraní women, reflected in their high illiteracy rates, which surpass the national average, low school enrolment rates, poor access to health care and significant levels of poverty that lead them to migrate to urban centres where they are even more vulnerable to suffer from multiple forms of discrimination.

37. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that all policies and programmes explicitly address the high illiteracy rates and the needs of indigenous women, including monolingual Guaraní women, and to actively seek their participation in the formulation and implementation of sectoral policies and programmes. It recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to implement bilingual educational programmes at all levels of education and to ensure indigenous women's access to education and health care. The Committee also encourages the State party to adopt temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, on temporary special measures, to accelerate such access for indigenous women. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its programmes of dissemination, education and training on the Convention and its Optional Protocol for indigenous women, including monolingual Guaraní women.

38. The Committee urges the State party to establish a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of the current plans and policies aimed at realizing equality for women and to take such corrective action as may be necessary if they are found to be inadequate to achieve their intended goals. The Committee invites the State party to include in its next report an evaluation, including statistics, on the impact on women, including indigenous women, monolingual Guaraní women and women from rural areas, of the actions, measures, policies and studies undertaken to achieve de facto equality between women and men.

Paraguay: A/51/38, 9 May 1996

124. The Committee acknowledged the State party's initiatives to provide bilingual education but expressed its concern at the inadequacy of those initiatives, which posed a major obstacle to women's access to social and economic opportunities, since a large percentage of the female population spoke only Guaraní, the predominant aboriginal language. The high illiteracy and drop-out rates were considered major impediments to the advancement of women.

133. The Committee recommended the wide dissemination of the Convention, primarily among women, and in particular among rural and indigenous people.

37. PERU

Peru: CEDAW/C/PER/CO/6, 2 February 2007

32. The Committee notes with concern the large number of women, particularly indigenous and rural women, who do not have any documentation registering their births and consequently cannot claim nationality and social benefits in the State party.

33. The Committee encourages the State party to expedite and facilitate the process of registration of women without documentation and issue birth certificates and identity documents. The Committee urges the State party to establish concrete goals and timetables for these women to be able to document their nationality, particularly in the rural areas, and provide information on the progress achieved in its next report.

36. The Committee is concerned about the situation of rural, indigenous and minority women which is characterized by precarious living conditions and lack of access to justice, health care, education, credit facilities and community services. The Committee is concerned that widespread poverty and poor socio-economic conditions are among the causes of the violation of women's human rights and discrimination against rural, indigenous and minority women. The Committee is further concerned about racism and multiple forms of discrimination against Afro-Peruvian women.

37. The Committee urges the State party to pay special attention to the needs of rural, indigenous and minority women, ensuring that they participate in decision-making processes and have full access to justice, education, health services and credit facilities. The Committee invites the State party to place emphasis on women's human rights in all development cooperation programmes, including with international organizations and bilateral donors, so as to address the socio-economic causes of discrimination against rural, indigenous and minority women through all available sources of support. The Committee encourages the State party to take more effective measures to eliminate discrimination against Afro-Peruvian women and to strengthen its efforts to combat and eliminate racism against women and girls in Peru.

Peru: A/57/38 (Part III), 15 August 2002

484. The Committee notes with concern that, in the period covered by the report, mention is made of numerous cases of sterilization of women without prior informed consent, using psychological violence or the promise of financial incentives, thus affecting women's right to decide the number and spacing of their children. The Committee is also concerned that, although the Deputy Defender for Women's Rights and other organs have condemned these practices, those responsible have not been punished.

485. The Committee recommends that all necessary measures should be taken to continue to provide the service of surgical sterilization so as to give women the right of free choice as regards their reproductive health, after they have been duly informed of the medical details and consequences of the operation and have given their consent. The Committee also recommends that a recurrence of these incidents should be avoided in the future. It further recommends that efforts should be continued to bring before the courts the persons responsible for this violation of the right to health.

494. Although the Committee recognizes that the State party is taking action in the Amazon region, through the National Institute for Family Well-Being, primarily for children and adolescents living in situations of risk or abandonment, it is concerned that there are no specific programmes for indigenous women.

495. The Committee recommends that the State party should strengthen the current programme and set up specific programmes for indigenous women in order to improve their economic, social and family situation and develop their economic skills, and to promote respect for their rights on an equal footing with men.

Peru: A/53/38/Rev.1, 8 July 1998

310. One of the main obstacles to full implementation of the Convention is poverty, which affects 44 per cent of Peruvian women. The situation is worsening, with 18 per cent of women living in extreme poverty. [...] Notwithstanding the national strategy for poverty alleviation introduced by the Government, the feminization of poverty is a reality in the country, and is worsening in rural areas and indigenous settlements, as well as in areas declared emergency zones. [...]

327. [...] Moreover, the Committee is deeply disturbed by the instances of sexual violence against rural and indigenous women and the high rate of sexual abuse of teenagers and girls in emergency zones.

329. The Committee emphasizes the vital importance of education in improving the situation of women. It notes with concern that drop-out rates among girls are very high, particularly in poor urban areas and in rural and indigenous areas.

330. The Committee recommends that programmes be undertaken to curb and reverse that trend and, where such programmes exist, it recommends that they should be made more systematic.

341. The Committee expresses concern at the lack of information and lack of access to adequate contraception among poor women in urban and rural areas, indigenous women and teenage girls.

342. The Committee recommends the establishment of family planning programmes that emphasize sex education, use of adequate contraception and responsible use of sterilization services where necessary, with the patient's express authorization and after the consequences of such procedure had been fully explained.

Peru: A/50/38, 31 May 1995

438. The Committee raised concern about reports of rape, gang rape and custodial rape which had been documented by human rights organizations, especially those occurring in the “emergency zones” and affecting indigenous and peasant women.

38. THE PHILLIPINES

The Philippines: CEDAW/C/PHI/CO/6, 25 August 2006

5. The Committee notes with appreciation the adoption of laws which contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Convention. They include the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, the Anti-Violence against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, the Family Courts Act of 1997, the Rape Victims Assistance Act of 1998, the Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997 and the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act of 1997.

23. While acknowledging that the President, five Supreme Court justices, 17 appellate court justices and two justices in the Court of Tax Appeals in the Philippines are women, the Committee is concerned about the low level of participation of women in elected and public bodies.

24. The Committee calls upon the State party to establish concrete goals and timetables and to take sustained measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25 on temporary special measures, to accelerate women's equal participation in political and public life and ensure that the representation of women in political and public bodies reflects the full diversity of the population, particularly indigenous women and Muslim women. [...]

29. The Committee expresses its concern about the precarious situation of rural and indigenous women, as well as the Muslim women in the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao, who lack access to adequate health services, education, clean water and sanitation services and credit facilities. The Committee is also concerned about women's limited access to justice in cases of violence, especially in the conflict zones, and the lack of sanctions against the perpetrators of such violence. The Committee is furthermore concerned that the practice of early marriage is persistent among Muslim women.

30. The Committee calls upon the State party to pay special attention to the needs of rural women, indigenous women and Muslim women living in the autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao, ensuring that they have access to health care, social security, education, clean water and sanitation services, fertile land, income-generation opportunities and participation in decision-making processes. The Committee recommends that the State party ensure women's access to justice through the provision of legal aid and take steps to prosecute the perpetrators of violence against them. It also encourages the State party to provide increased educational opportunities to Muslim girls to discourage early marriages. The Committee requests the State party to include in its next report sex-disaggregated data and information on the de facto position of rural, indigenous and Muslim women, and on the impact of measures taken and results achieved with policies and programmes implemented for these groups of women.

39. SURINAME

Suriname: : CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/3, 2 February 2007

25. While noting the increase in the representation of women in the National Assembly, from 17.6 per cent in 2000 to 25 per cent in 2005, the Committee is concerned about the continuing under representation of women in public and political life and in decision-making positions, including in the National Assembly, the Government, diplomatic services and regional and local/municipal bodies.

26. The Committee encourages the State party to take sustained measures, including temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations 23 and 25 to accelerate women's full and equal participation in elected and appointed bodies, including at the international level. Such measures should extend to indigenous and other racial minority women and include: establishing benchmarks, numerical goals and timetables; conducting training programmes on leadership and negotiation skills for current and future women leaders; and regular monitoring of progress made and results achieved. It further urges the State party to undertake awareness-raising campaigns about the importance of women's participation in public and political life and at decision-making levels for society as a whole.

27. The Committee continues to be concerned about discrimination against women in the field of employment and, in particular, with regard to the non-availability of paid maternity leave in the private sector, especially for women working in small businesses. The Committee is also concerned about childcare facilities, which lack regulation of any sort. It is concerned about the occupational segregation between women and men in the labour market and the persistent wage gap, as well as the high level of unemployment among women.

28. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party ensure that all women workers have working conditions equal to those of men, including freedom from sexual harassment and social security benefits and provision for paid maternity leave for all working women, including those working in small businesses. [...]. It also recommends that efforts be strengthened to ensure access by women, including indigenous and other racial minority women, to vocational training. [...]

31. The Committee reiterates its concern about the precarious situation of rural women and women in the interior, in particular indigenous Amerindian and Maroon women, who lack access to adequate health services, education, clean water and sanitation services and to credit and other facilities and infrastructure.

32. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the State party give full attention to the needs of rural women and women in the interior, particularly Amerindian and Maroon women, and ensure that they have access to health care, education, social security, clean water and sanitation services, fertile land, income-generating opportunities and participation in decision making processes. It requests the State party to provide, in its next report, a comprehensive picture of the de facto situation of rural women in all areas covered by the Convention and on the impact of measures taken and results achieved in the implementation of policies and programmes that are targeted to enhancing the situation of these women.

Suriname: A/57/38 (Part II), 13 June 2002

65. The Committee is concerned about the situation of rural women, in particular the indigenous Amerindians and the Maroons, in the coastal plain and in the interior of Suriname, who are disadvantaged by poor infrastructure, limited markets, obstacles in availability and accessibility of agricultural land and agricultural credit, low literacy rates, ignorance of existing

regulations, lack of services and environmental pollution. It notes with concern the serious absence of specific policies in all these areas, including on family planning and preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. The Committee is also concerned that women's work in rural areas is not considered productive labour and that they are hardly represented at all in local government bodies. The Committee is also concerned about the absence of detailed information on the situation of older women in rural areas.

66. The Committee urges the State party to give full attention to the needs of rural women, including older women, particularly Amerindian and Maroon women, to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes in all areas, in particular access to health, education, social services and decision-making. The Committee requests the State party to provide detailed information in this regard in its next periodic report.

40. SWEDEN

Sweden: CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, 8 April 2008

38. While noting the measures taken with the aim of enhancing integration of immigrant, refugee and minority women into the Swedish society and of including the women in the labour market, the Committee continues to be concerned about their human rights situation and the fact that they continue to suffer from multiple forms of discrimination. The Committee notes that the 2007 action plan on violence recognizes women of immigrant or foreign origin as a particularly vulnerable group requiring special protection, but remains concerned at the violence and discrimination on the grounds of sex that they face in their own communities. The Committee is also concerned about a 2007 regulation demanding that a foreign national be accompanied by a close relative when obtaining identification documents, which may negatively affect abused foreign women, but notes the statement by the delegation that this regulation will be reviewed. While noting the appointment of a Delegation for Roma Issues, the Committee continues to be concerned at the remaining forms of discrimination experienced by Saami and Roma women in various contexts.

39. The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to eliminate discrimination against immigrant, refugee and minority women. It encourages the State party to be proactive in its measures to prevent discrimination against those women, both within their communities and in society at large, to combat violence against them, and to increase their awareness of the availability of social services and legal remedies as well as to familiarize them with their rights to gender equality and non-discrimination. The Committee also urges the State party to take effective measures to integrate them into the Swedish labour market. The Committee further urges the State party to review the 2007 regulation on identification documents. In addition, the Committee calls upon the State party to conduct regular and comprehensive studies on discrimination against immigrant, refugee and minority women, to collect statistics on their situation in employment, education and health and on all forms of violence that they may experience, and to submit such information in its next periodic report.

Sweden: A/56/38, 31 July 2001

356. Taking note of the efforts of the Government to combat discrimination, the Committee expresses concern about the continuing discrimination against immigrant, refugee and minority women in Sweden, including in education and employment, and at the gender-based discrimination and violence that they face in their own communities. The Committee also expresses concern about discrimination against Sami and Roma women.

41. THAILAND

Thailand: CEDAW/C/THA/CO/5, 3 February 2006

33. The Committee is concerned about the situation of rural and hill tribe women, particularly in view of their lack of access to adequate nutrition, sanitation, healthcare services, education and income-generating activities.

34. The Committee requests the State party to address the needs of rural and hill tribe women in an urgent and comprehensive manner and to implement measures to ensure that rural and hill tribe women have full access to adequate nutrition, sanitation, health-care services, education and income-generating activities.

37. While welcoming the efforts made by the State party in granting Thai citizenship to 80 per cent of the hill tribe people and approving it for 140,000 displaced persons, the Committee remains concerned about the complexity of the procedure for obtaining citizenship by hill tribe women. It is also concerned that many refugee women do not enjoy legal status in the country.

38. The Committee urges the State party to adopt measures that will facilitate and accelerate the process for obtaining citizenship by hill tribe women, including by addressing any corrupt practices by public officials responsible for determining the citizenship of applicants. It also calls on the State party to take steps that will ensure that refugee women can obtain legal status.

Thailand: A/54/38, 2 February 1999

239. The Committee expresses concern about hill-tribe women and girls, whose rights may not be effectively protected by national laws.

240. The Committee recommends the introduction of legislation and other measures to protect effectively the rights of hill-tribe women and girls.

42. UGANDA

Uganda: CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7, 22 October 2010

39. Despite the existence of the State party's National Development Plan (2010/11-2014/15) and the reduction of poverty from 56 per cent to 31 per cent in 2006, including as a result of the former Poverty Eradication Action Plan, the Committee expresses its concern at the fact that 31 per cent of the Ugandan population still lives below the poverty line, the majority of whom are women. The Committee is also concerned that female-headed households are more disproportionately represented among the chronically poor and households moving into poverty. The Committee is further concerned that, according to research studies, women experience severe constraints, including limited access to the key factors of production, such as land, capital and micro finance facilities, as well as several legal and administrative obstacles that constrain their level of entrepreneurship. The Committee also notes with concern the particularly marginalized situation of the Batwa women.

40. The Committee urges the State Party to continue to intensify the implementation of gender-sensitive poverty reduction and development programmes in rural and urban areas and to pay particular attention to the Batwa women in the development of such programmes. The Committee also reiterates its recommendation that the State party continue to develop targeted policies and support services for women aimed at alleviating and reducing poverty.

43. VENEZUELA

Venezuela: CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/6, 31 January 2006

8. The Committee commends the State party for the nationwide implementation of education, literacy, health and economic programmes, which will have a positive impact on the status of women, particularly indigenous women and women of African descent.

16. The Committee recommends that the State party, in its policies and programmes, clearly distinguish between general social and economic policies and programmes, which also benefit women, and temporary special measures under article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, which are necessary to accelerate the achievement of de facto equality for women in various areas, as clarified by the Committee in general recommendation No. 25. It also encourages the State party to strengthen the application of temporary special measures to accelerate de facto equality between women and men. The Committee urges the State party, in particular, to take such measures to accelerate the achievement of de facto equality of indigenous women and women of African descent in the fields of education, employment, health and public and political life.

18. The Committee urges the State party to establish effective monitoring mechanisms, through inter-institutional involvement at all levels, in order to systematically assess the implementation and impact on the status of women of gender equality policies and national programmes in all regions and to strengthen the interaction with non-governmental organizations in this process. Based on such assessments, the Committee invites the State party to undertake corrective measures whenever necessary. The Committee recommends that the State party develop, adopt and implement, at the national level, a comprehensive and coordinated plan of action to ensure gender mainstreaming at all levels and in all areas. The Committee requests that the State party provide, in its next report, statistical data and analysis, disaggregated by sex, on the impact of its programmes and policies on women and men in urban and rural areas and on indigenous groups and groups of African descent.

24. The Committee urges the State party to increase its efforts to address stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men that perpetuate direct and indirect discrimination against women and girls. These should include educational measures at all levels, beginning at an early age; and awareness-raising campaigns directed at both women and men, designed, whenever possible, with the involvement of the media and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to address stereotypes regarding the roles of women and men with a view to combating discrimination against women, in particular against indigenous women and women of African descent. The Committee also calls upon the State party to periodically review the measures taken, especially their impact, to identify shortcomings, to adjust and improve those measures accordingly and to report thereon to the Committee in its next report.

26. The Committee urges the State party to take immediate effective measures to eliminate any obstacles that may be encountered by women victims of violence in obtaining precautionary measures against perpetrators of violence and to ensure that such measures remain easily accessible to them. The Committee underscores the need for the State party to place high priority on the comprehensive implementation and evaluation of the Violence against Women and the Family Law and to make it widely known to public officials and society at large. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that perpetrators of violence against women are prosecuted and adequately punished. It encourages the State party to enhance effective access to legal aid for women from all regions, including indigenous women and women of African descent. [...]

32. The Committee recommends that the State party pay special attention to the effective implementation and monitoring of the national plan of action on sexual and reproductive health.

The State party should place higher priority on the provision of family planning services, including information on contraceptives and their wide and easy availability in all regions of the country, as well as the provision of sex education, addressing both young women and men. The Committee urges the State party to ensure effective access of women to such information and to sexual and reproductive health services, particularly to young women, women from rural areas, indigenous women and women of African descent. [...]