Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Fifty-fourth session
11 February – 1 March 2013

Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: Tanzania

Addendum

Information provided by the Government of Tanzania on the follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee (CEDAW/C/TZA/CO/6)*

* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not edited.
1. **Introduction**

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania (URT) submitted the 4th, 5th and 6th the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW) Country Report in 2008 to CEDAW Committee. CEDAW Committee required the State Party to implement issues of concern that were raised before the submission of the 7th and 8th in 2014. In this regard this report contains the principal areas of concern and recommendations as identified in paragraph 112 and 122 on amendments to the Marriage Act of 1971, inheritance laws and prohibition and elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as urged by the CEDAW Committee.

2. **The Status on Marriage Act of 1971 and Inheritance Laws**

The Government has taken appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including the process of ensuring that all discriminatory legislation such as Marriage Act of 1971 and Inheritance Laws is amended to eliminate sex based discrimination. The processes of amendments are still underway, i.e. the government has already submitted a cabinet paper for approval. After approval a white paper would be issued to invite for public opinion and stakeholders consultations. The views gathered from the consultations processes will inform the envisioned new law which will finally require the bill to be submitted to Parliament for enactment process.

3. **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

In the course eradicating FGM the government has been undertaking various measures on several areas follows:

i) Strengthened enforcement of the implementation of the existing legislation prohibiting FGM as well as adopting new legislation. Through the enforcement of the existing legislation the Government continued to punish perpetrator through the Penal Code Cap. R.E 2002 on Sexual offences which protects the dignity and integrity of women and children in matters pertaining to FGM and other harms subjected to women and children.

ii) The Parliament has passed the Law of Child Act No. 21 in 2009 which protects children less than 18 years of age from torture and degrading treatment. The law states that, a person shall not subject a child to torture or other cultural practices which dehumanized or injurious to physical and mental well being of a child. A person who commits an offence shall be liable to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to month or to both.

iii) The ministry of Community Development Gender and Children is currently reviewing its Women Development and Gender Policy (2000) to encompass among other things issues pertaining elimination of all forms of violence against women including FGM.

iv) Intensified education, training and awareness raising programmes or campaign focusing on elimination of FGM. The intervention involved girls at risk, women and men, clan elders, leaders of women group, mutilators, teachers, school children, community development and social workers, church leaders, health workers, ward councilors, members of Parliament, law enforcers i.e. police officers, judiciary, prison officers, ward and village executive officers. In addition Media
advocacy on FGM through the radio and televisions and cinema played a powerful role which accelerates for abandonment of practice of FGM is practiced.

v) The Multisectoral FGM committee has been formed to advice the Government on measure to be undertaken to abandon FGM.

vi) Each year on 6th February the Government in collaboration with other stakeholders has been commemorating the Zero Tolerance day to FGM whereby that opportunity have been used to educate and sensitize the public on the negative effects of FGM.

vii) The Government has launched the violence against children survey report on 9 August, 2011, hence its committed to develop a National Plan of Action to eliminate all forms of violence against children, including sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

4. SUCCESS

i) Through effective enforcement and sensitization on the law probiting FGM, (The Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act of 1998 (now incorporated in the Penal Code)), the trends showed that there is reduction of FGM practices from 18% in 2005 to 15% in 2010 (THDS, 2010). In addition the survey also showed that 92 percent of Tanzania women think that the practice should be discontinued while 6 percent believe the practice to continue and 2 percent were unsure. The result shows that, the practice finds greater support among rural women than women in urban areas.

ii) A close and commendable collaboration among all stakeholders (government and Non State Actors) in working towards combating FGM.

iii) The level of awareness as regards to negative effects of FGM has increased among the general public. This is evidenced by a number of the young girls running away to avoid mutilation and some of the mutilators declared and abandoned their practices of mutilation.

iv) The Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children Strategic Plan has been improved to spell out what exactly is needed to be done on the area of FGM in the year 2011-2016.

5. CHALLENGES

As we have seen above various promising measures or interventions have been or are being implemented by the government in collaboration with Civil Society organization. However, we are faced by challenges as follows:

(i) The processes for amendments of legislation (Marriage Act of 1971 and Inheritance Laws) takes long time to put the law in place.

(ii) The attitudes of some people towards previous FGM especially in rural areas is something acceptable.

(iii) Lack of enough and sustainable funding to finance planned programme and activities to fight FGM.
6. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

(i) To establish alternative source of income earnings among the multilators for instance provision loan to enable them to run small business

(ii) Challenging attitudes which perpetuate tolerance and condoning of FGM, in all settings especially at the family and household level. This is through improving knowledge, attitudes and practices. Possible actions could be Mass media campaigns on laws and rights and legal literacy training.

(iii) To speed up the process of reviewing the discriminatory Marriage and Inheritance laws.