

REFERENCE: AA/Follow-up/Switzerland/54

19 March 2013

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the third periodic report of Switzerland at the Committee's forty-fourth session, held in August 2009. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/3). You may recall that in the Concluding Observations, the Committee requested Switzerland to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 28 and 44 of the Concluding Observations.

The Committee welcomes the follow-up report received on 2 July 2012, although it was received with an eleven-month delay, under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/CHE/CO/3/Add.1). At its fifty-fourth session, held in February 2013 in Geneva, the Committee examined this follow-up report and adopted the following assessment.

Regarding the recommendation made in **paragraph 28** of the concluding observations “to continue to intensify its efforts to address the issue of violence against women and girls”: The State party mentioned various activities carried out to intensify its efforts to address this issue. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to enact comprehensive legislation against all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, as soon as possible; such legislation should sanction all forms of violence against women and should ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators are prosecuted and punished, but should also provide for the establishment of additional support services for victims, including shelters, as well as the provision of government funding for such services”: While the State party took some steps by commissioning a legal report on the possibility of enacting a national law on protection against violence, the Committee considers that the steps taken towards the enactment of a comprehensive legislation against all forms of violence against women remain extremely limited. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

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Regarding the recommendation “to expand the training activities and programmes for parliamentarians, the judiciary and legal and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel and health-service providers, in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to victims”: While the State party described some measures taken in several cantons as regard training activities and programmes for professionals, it failed to provide information on the measures taken in the other cantons. In addition, while the State party provided some examples of training provided to the judiciary, law enforcement personnel and health-service providers, it failed to provide information on training provided to parliamentarians and legal and public officials. The Committee considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**

Regarding the recommendation “to expand the public awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women”: While the State party described the significant measures taken in some cantons as regard public awareness-raising campaigns, it failed to provide information on the measures taken in the other cantons. The Committee considers that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to standardize data and trends on the prevalence of various forms of violence, as well as on the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions of cases”: The State party provided data concerning the various forms of violence. However, it failed to provide information on actions taken to standardize data and trends on prevalence of various forms of violence and on the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions of cases. The Committee considers that it **did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on actions taken to:

- 1) Take steps towards the enactment of a comprehensive legislation against all forms of violence against women;
- 2) Expand training activities and programmes in the entire country for parliamentarians, the judiciary and legal and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel and health-service providers, in order to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to victims;
- 3) Continue the expansion of public awareness-raising campaigns on all forms of violence against women in all the cantons; and
- 4) Ensure that data and trends on the prevalence of various forms of violence, and the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions of cases are standardized.

Regarding the recommendation made **in paragraph 44** of the Concluding Observations “to take effective measures to eliminate discrimination against women of ethnic and minority communities and migrant women, irrespective of country of origin, both in society at large and within their communities”: The State party focussed its answer on measures taken to encourage integration of migrant women. The Committee considers that measures to encourage integration cannot be considered as measures to eliminate discrimination and that the State party failed to provide information on measures taken to eliminate discrimination against women of ethnic and minority communities and migrant women. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation “to be proactive in its measures, including through the development of targeted programmes and strategies, to increase women’s awareness of and access to education, health and social services, training and employment, as well as to familiarize them with their rights to gender equality and non-discrimination”: The State party focused its answer on measures taken to encourage integration of migrant women and failed to provide information on

measures taken to increase women's awareness of and access to education, health and social services, training and employment, as well as to familiarize them with their rights to gender equality and non-discrimination. The Committee considers that the recommendation has **not been implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation "to collect data and conduct regular and comprehensive studies on the situation of such women and to provide such information in its next report": The State party indicated that the statistical portal furnishes a number of data which are updated every year. The State party also indicated that it is currently working on the deployment of measures that will improve statistical material and permit gender-specific analysis. It added that a system of indicators on the integration of the population originating from migration is also being prepared. The Committee considers that the State party is taking some steps to improve its statistical material and gender-specific analysis and that the recommendation has been **partially implemented**.

Regarding the recommendation "to keep under review and carefully monitor the impact of its laws and policies on women of ethnic and minority communities and on migrant women, with a view to taking remedial measures that effectively respond to the needs of those women": The State party failed to provide information on measures taken to keep under review and carefully monitor the impact of its laws and policies on women of ethnic and minority communities and on migrant women. The Committee considers that it **did not receive sufficient information** to assess whether the recommendation has been implemented.

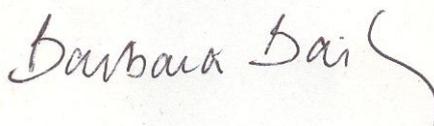
The Committee recommends that the State party provide, **in its next periodic report**, additional information on steps taken to:

- 1) Take effective measures to eliminate discrimination against women of ethnic and minority communities and migrant women, irrespective of country of origin, both in society at large and within their communities;
- 2) Be proactive in its measures, including through the development of targeted programmes and strategies, to increase women's access to education, health and social services, training and employment; take proactive measures towards the private sector to increase women's access to employment; and familiarize them with their rights to gender equality and non-discrimination;
- 3) Continue its efforts to improve the collection of data and to conduct regular and comprehensive studies on the situation of such women and to provide such information in its next report; and
- 4) Keep under review and carefully monitor the impact of its laws and policies on women of ethnic and minority communities and on migrant women, with a view to taking remedial measures that effectively respond to the needs of those women.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Switzerland on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women