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Excellency,

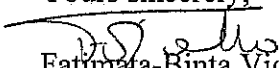
The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination wishes to thank the Government of Australia for its timely reply of 30 July 2009 to the Committee's letter dated 13 March 2009.

The Committee appreciates the information provided on progress in the drafting of redesigned Northern Territory Emergency Response measures and the lifting of the suspension of the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*. The Committee notes that sincere efforts have been made to make adjustments to the Emergency Response measures with a view to addressing their discriminatory aspects. At the same time, the Committee takes note of the assessment by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of indigenous peoples following his recent visit to Australia that the Emergency Response, as currently configured and carried out, is still incompatible with Australia's obligations under the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Committee encourages the State party to give due consideration to the findings of the Special Rapporteur and continue its efforts to bring measures undertaken within the framework of the Emergency Response in full compliance with the provisions of the Convention. Noting that Australia's periodic report to the Committee fell due on 30 October 2008, the Committee requests the State party to include information on these efforts in this report and to submit the report as soon as possible, and in any event before the Committee's forthcoming session commencing on 15 February 2010.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to engaging in a constructive dialogue with the Government of Australia, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Yours sincerely,

  
Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah  
Chairperson of the Committee on the  
Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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