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Excellency,

The Committee has the honour to state that, at its 72<sup>nd</sup> session, held from 18 February to 7 March 2008, it gave further consideration to the situation of the Maya people in Belize and their land claims.

The Committee regrets that it has not received as requested replies to the questions in its letters dated 9 March and 24 August 2007. Furthermore, the Committee has received new information according to which the State party reportedly continues to deny customary land rights to the Maya community, despite a decision by the Supreme Court of Belize of October 2007, which confirmed the recommendation of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights to delimit, demarcate, and title the traditional territory of the Maya people.

In this context, the Committee, acting in accordance with article 9 (1) of the Convention and article 65 of its rules of procedure, reiterates its requests to the State party to provide answers to the questions raised in its letters dated 9 March and 24 August 2007. It also requests the State party to provide detailed information on how it intends to implement the above mentioned decision issued by the Supreme Court of Belize. The Committee wishes to receive a detailed response to these issues as a matter of urgency, and **no later than 1 July 2008**.

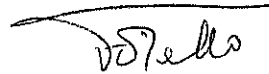
Furthermore, the Committee, noting that it has not received the State party's overdue reports, reiterates that in case of non-receipt of the reports, to be submitted in a single document, by **1 July 2008**, it will proceed with the full review of the implementation of the Convention in Belize and adopt concluding observations in the absence of a report and in light of information received from other sources, including non-governmental organizations, at its 73<sup>rd</sup> session, to be held from 28 July to 15 August 2008.

H.E. Mr. Stewart Warren Leslie  
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Pending receipt and examination of the overdue periodic reports of Belize, the Committee respectfully insists that priority consideration be paid the the issue raised in this and the previous letters.

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

Yours sincerely,



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