



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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**Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women**
Fifty-third session
1–19 October 2012

List of issues and questions with regard to the consideration of periodic reports

Equatorial Guinea

The pre-session working group considered the sixth periodic report of Equatorial Guinea (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6).

General

1. In the report, it is acknowledged that the lack of systematic collection and analysis of sex disaggregated data constitutes one of the main obstacles to development in the State party (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 11). Please indicate any advancement in the development of a specific system for the collection of data disaggregated by sex and its analysis besides the national census. Please also indicate the methodology used by the State party to assess the de facto situation of women.

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

2. Please provide updated information with respect to the status of the draft bill on equality and equity between men and women and indicate whether it contains a definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, paras. 39 and 42). Please provide updated information on the status of the bills mentioned in the report that have been submitted to public consultations prior to their adoption (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 47).

National machinery for the advancement of women

3. Please provide detailed information about the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Status of Women (MINASPROM), such as its role in the design and implementation of the national policy to promote women, and indicate the human and financial resources allocated to it to effectively discharge its multiple tasks. Please indicate whether MINASPROM is represented at all levels of the political administration of the State party and whether there is a mechanism in place to coordinate the implementation of the national policy to promote women at the national and decentralized levels of the public administration.

Complaint mechanisms

4. Please describe the mechanisms and remedies available to women who have been discriminated against on the grounds of their sex and gender, including independent complaint mechanisms. Please provide information on whether the Convention has been directly applied or referred to in domestic courts.

Temporary special measures

5. Please explain why the State party has not adopted any temporary special measures to increase the participation of women in political decision-making positions, the judiciary and the civil service, as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (A/59/38, part two, para. 202), or to protect disadvantaged groups of women and promote their participation in all areas covered by the Convention.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

6. The report mentions a number of awareness-raising activities that have been implemented to eliminate harmful practices, and it indicates that progress has been made towards their elimination (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, paras. 51 and 53). Please provide detailed information on the method of assessment used by the State party to measure this progress. Please also indicate whether the State party is envisaging the design and implementation of a comprehensive education programme and awareness-raising and information strategies, including through the media, to overcome negative gender-stereotyped roles of women in the family and in society.

Violence against women

7. Please provide updated information on the status of the comprehensive draft bill on the elimination of violence against women, which according to the report, has been presented to the Parliament (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 40). Please also provide detailed information on the content of the draft bill, including the definition of violence against women, the different types of violence contained therein and the sanctions, as well as remedies and reparations envisaged for the victims. Are the provisions in line with the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women?

8. Please provide detailed information on the results of the national study on domestic violence and indicate which types of actions are envisaged to address the findings of the study (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 53 (a)). What is the connection between this study and the multisectoral programme to combat gender-based violence (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 138)? Please also provide information on the impact of the multisectoral programme in the fight against sex- and gender-based violence.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

9. The report acknowledges the lack of a regulatory framework and human resources to address the phenomenon of exploitation of prostitution, which contributes to the increase of the phenomenon in the State party (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, paras. 64-65). Please indicate whether the State party is envisaging enacting specific legislation to prevent and punish the exploitation of prostitution. Please also provide information on measures taken to enhance the capacity of the relevant staff dealing with the issue and to raise awareness among the public in general to address and prevent the exploitation of prostitution. Please also indicate the measures taken to discourage the demand for prostitution, including sexual tourism, as well as exit and rehabilitation programmes offered for women and girls who wish to leave prostitution.

10. While the cases of trafficking in persons noted during the last consideration of the State party were reported as isolated, the current rapid economic development in the State party sets the conditions for the settlement of networks of traffickers in the State party for the purposes of employment and prostitution. Please provide detailed information on the extent of the phenomenon of trafficking in women and girls, its roots and consequences and measures to suppress, prevent and punish trafficking in women and girls.

Nationality

11. Please provide updated information on the amendments to the Nationality Act, including the provision that precludes foreign women from retaining their own nationality upon marriage to a national of the State party (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 78).

Participation in political life

12. According to the report, during the period 2007-2009, the number of women judges significantly increased, from 8 per cent to 18 per cent and, during the same period, the percentage of women holding seats in Parliament dramatically decreased, from 23 per cent to 10 per cent (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 70). Please explain the possible reasons for such disparities and provide information on measures taken to promote women's political participation, including quotas or other temporary special measures. Please also provide information on measures to promote women's participation in decision-making positions in other fields of the public sector.

Education

13. Please provide detailed information on the national literacy programme for women and girls in place since 2008, including on the results so far achieved. Please also provide detailed information on the measures in place that, according to the report, have contributed to the decrease in the school drop-out rate for girls (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 84). Please also provide updated data on the literacy and school drop-out rates, disaggregated by sex and by urban and rural areas.

14. Please indicate what further plans, programmes and strategies are envisaged to ensure that girls and women have equal rights with men in the field of education, in particular with respect to access to technical and higher education.

Employment

15. Please provide data (disaggregated by sex and, where possible, by ethnic group and urban and rural area) on the participation of women in the public and private employment sectors. Please also provide information on the situation of women working in the informal sector, particularly on the types of legal, social, and other services and protection available to women. Please indicate the measures taken, including temporary special measures, to ensure the participation of women in the emerging sectors of the economy and also to eliminate discriminatory practices against women in the field of employment, such as inflexible working conditions and pay differentials. Please also provide information on the complaint mechanisms available to women whose rights have been violated or who have been victims of sexual harassment in the workplace.

Health

16. Please provide detailed information on measures in place to improve women's awareness of and access to health-care facilities, clinics and maternity care services, including prenatal and post-natal care and family-planning information. Please provide information on the percentage of maternal mortality due to illegal and unsafe abortions.

Please also provide detailed information on the results of the activities of the Social Development Fund to decrease the maternal mortality rate in the State party (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, paras. 34 and 105).

17. Please provide information on measures in place aimed at lowering the high rate of teenage pregnancies and at preventing sexually transmitted diseases, including reproductive and sexual health and rights education in the school curricula and de facto access to all family planning services and devices, such as contraceptives. Please also provide information about programmes in place to prevent and treat sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

Rural women

18. Please provide detailed information on specific measures to address discrimination against rural women in their access to education, health and employment, as well as detailed information on the results of the second phase of the Rural Women's Self-Employment Project (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 118). Please also provide information on strategies in place to guarantee rural women's access to justice.

Marriage and family relations

19. Please provide updated and detailed information on the draft family code bill and on the bill on customary marriage. How do the provisions of these bills reconcile the existing dual legal system of civil and customary law in the State party and with the Convention? Please indicate if and how the content of these bills eliminate discrimination against women in the field of marriage and family relations in line with the provisions of the Convention. Please also provide information on the public consultations held during the discussions of these bills (CEDAW/C/GNQ/6, para. 47).

20. Please, in particular, provide detailed information on specific measures taken to prohibit and discourage polygamy in practice and to ensure women's equal rights with men on issues related to inheritance and child custody, as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (A/59/38, part two, para. 192).
