



# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**  
Pre-session working group  
Forty-seventh session  
4 - 22 October 2010

## List of issues and questions in the absence of initial and periodic reports

### Lesotho

The pre-session working group decided, in accordance with the decision of the Committee at its thirty-seventh session (15 January to 2 February 2007), and in the absence of the State party's initial report due in 1996, as well as its second, third and fourth periodic reports, to proceed with the preparation of the present list of issues and questions.

#### General

1. Please provide information on why the State party has not yet submitted its initial and subsequent periodic reports to the Committee, as required by article 18 of the Convention, and describe any efforts undertaken to date in order to prepare the reports. Please further explain whether the State party has requested technical assistance from any of the entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system for the preparation and submission of the CEDAW report as soon as possible.
2. Please submit updated general and factual information about the country relevant to the areas covered by the Convention, in accordance with the harmonized reporting guidelines under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a core document and treaty-specific documents (HRI/MC/2006/3).

#### Data collection

3. Please provide information on the status of collection, availability and analysis of data in the country in general, and in particular with regard to the situation of women, disaggregated by age, sex, rural and urban areas. Please indicate how the Government intends to improve the collection and analysis of such data pertaining to the areas of the Convention and the general recommendations of the Committee so as to support policymaking and programme development and to measure progress towards implementation of the Convention.

**Legal status of the Convention and incorporation of its provisions in domestic law and policies**

4. Please provide information on the status of the Convention in the domestic legal order. Please provide information on whether the Convention is directly applicable and on cases where the Convention has been cited by domestic courts.

5. Please provide information on laws or policies that define acts of discrimination against women. Please indicate whether the definition is sufficiently broad so as to include prohibition of any act by public and private actors which causes, or results in, distinctions, exclusions or restrictions on enjoyment or exercise by women, on equal basis with men, of human rights in all areas and under each provision of the Convention. Please provide information on any sanctions imposed for discrimination against women, their nature and actual application. Please also provide information on remedies available to women whose rights have been violated on the ground of discrimination.

**National machinery for the advancement of women**

6. Please explain the functions of the Ministry of Gender and Youth and Sports and Recreation and district gender officers and their level of funding and staffing. Please provide information on other institutions, such as commissions and/or ombudspersons established to promote and protect human rights, including the rights of women, and/or to oversee the Convention's implementation. Please explain the measures that the Government has taken or intends to take to provide the national machinery for the advancement of women with adequate decision-making capacity and financial and human resources for the implementation of its activities, and explain the coordinating and monitoring mechanisms in place.

**Programmes and action plans**

7. Please indicate to what extent the National Gender and Development Policy and its implementation plan ensure the implementation of the Convention or its specific articles. Please also provide information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and gender equality elements of the Millennium Development Goals.

**Temporary special measures**

8. Please explain whether any temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1 of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25, either in the form of affirmative action, or otherwise, have been adopted to accelerate the achievement of equality of women with men. Please include information, including statistical information, on the inequalities that these measures aim at redressing, and on whether they are enforced and monitored and the results achieved.

**Stereotypes and cultural practices**

9. Please provide information on cultural and traditional practices or ways of life which hamper women's advancement in society. Please provide information on legislation, policies and measures adopted to change social and cultural patterns that lead to stereotyping, reproducing or reinforcing the traditional roles of women and men within the family and society in general, and to eliminate customs and cultural practices which discriminate against women.

**Violence against women**

10. Please provide information, including statistical data, on the prevalence of violence against women in all its forms, including domestic violence. Please further provide

information on any law enacted or measures, including awareness-raising campaigns, taken to combat violence against women. Please inform the Committee about measures taken or envisaged by the State party to encourage women to report incidences of domestic violence. Please also indicate the extent to which women who are victims of violence have access to counsel and legal aid services.

11. Please provide information on the remedies and assistance available for victims of domestic violence, including rehabilitation and shelter services. Please indicate whether there are enforcement units in place to deal with domestic violence. Please inform the Committee whether marital rape is a crime in the State party's legislation. Is corporal punishment prohibited in both education and home environments?

### **Trafficking**

12. Please provide information on the prevalence of trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls in the country. Please indicate what legislation is aimed at preventing trafficking in women and girls and, in particular, whether such legislation provides for adequate sanctions for trafficking and whether it is implemented effectively. Please provide information on any legislation which protects women and girls from labour agencies which are essentially engaged in trafficking as well as information on the policies and programmes addressing prevention, protection, assistance and legal support for victims of trafficking.

### **Participation in decision-making and representation at the international level**

13. Please provide information on concrete measures taken or envisaged to achieve women's full and equal participation and representation at all levels of decision-making in the public sectors and institutions and at the international level, taking account of article 4, paragraph 1 of the Convention as well as the Committee's general recommendations No. 23 and 25.

### **Nationality**

14. Please inform the Committee whether Lesotho has legislation that provides for equality of women and men with respect to acquiring, changing or retaining nationality based on their marital status and transmission of their nationality to their children, in accordance with article 9 of the Convention.

### **Education**

15. Please provide information, including updated statistical data, on girls' school enrolment, performance and dropout at primary, secondary and higher education. Should school enrolment and dropout among girls be a problem in Lesotho, please inform the Committee of their causes, the measures taken to address them and the results achieved hitherto. Please also provide information on measures taken to provide equal opportunities for women and girls at all levels of education, including higher education.

16. Please indicate if any measures have been taken to combat gender stereotyping in the education system, including the revision of academic curricula.

17. Please provide information on the situation of violence and sexual harassment of girls in schools and measures in place to address these issues.

### **Employment**

18. Please provide updated statistical information, disaggregated by sex, on women's participation in the labour force, including employment, wages and benefits, and job

seekers. Please provide information on legal provisions as well as concrete measures taken or envisaged by the State party to combat discrimination against women and sexual harassment in employment.

19. Please provide information and data on the percentage of women working in the informal sector and unpaid work in the home and indicate measures taken by the State party to support them. Please also provide information on measures taken by the State party to address the economic and social situation of single women heads of households.

### **Health**

20. Please provide information and statistical data on women's health status, including reproductive and mental health, as well as disability. What are the main causes of mortality and morbidity among women in Lesotho?

21. Please provide information on accessibility and affordability of health-care facilities by women, in particular with regard to maternity, family planning and post-natal care, including for particular groups such as adolescent girls and rural women. Please provide information on the use of contraceptives by women and on the rate of abortion, including unsafe abortions, in Lesotho.

22. Please inform the Committee on the extent to which the activities currently funded by donors for the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, can be funded in the future through the State party's budget.

### **Social and economic benefits**

23. Please provide information on the social security framework in the country as well as the specific social benefits afforded to women. Please inform the Committee what percentage of the population is covered by social security.

24. Please provide information on the number of women that have benefited from the following initiatives since their launch and the type of revenue-generating activities developed by them: (a) the Gender Credit Programme and (b) the Moliko Micro Credit Trust Project.

### **Rural women, vulnerable groups of women**

25. Please indicate the percentage of women living in rural areas and whether this percentage is increasing. Please inform the Committee of any significant disparity in the enjoyment of rights between urban and rural women. Please provide information on any rural development strategy, including how it incorporates a gender perspective and includes targeted support for rural women to increase their access to health, education, justice, employment, economic development initiatives and ownership of land, and to promote their participation in decision-making. Please inform the Committee on the extent to which rural women are aware of their rights under the Convention and whether there are information strategies to that effect in place.

26. Please provide more information on the human rights situation of elderly women, including widows, in respect of education, employment, health-related issues and access to health services, as well as protection from violence.

### **Equality before the law**

27. Please explain whether women are treated equally with men under the law with respect to their legal capacity to conclude contracts and administer property, as well as in court. Please indicate whether the State party has given effect to the obligations in article 15,

paragraph 3 of the Convention, which requires that all contracts and other instruments aimed at restricting women's legal capacity be deemed null and void.

**Family relations**

28. Please explain which law (civil law, customary law, or a combination of these) govern family relations. Please explain whether women are treated equally with men under these laws, including in relation to children and inheritance.

29. Please explain if upon dissolution of marriage women have the same rights as men with respect to custody of children and property.

**Optional Protocol and amendment to article 20, paragraph 1**

30. Please indicate any progress made with respect to ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention and acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1.

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