



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
27 March 2012

Original: English

**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

Turkmenistan

The pre-session working group considered the combined third and fourth periodic report of Turkmenistan (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4).

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

1. The report indicates that, at the time of the preparation of the report (2011), the State party was in the process of bringing the entire body of domestic legislation into line with the new version of the Constitution, norms of international conventions and the recommendations of United Nations treaty bodies (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 22) and was elaborating a plan of action on the introduction of legislative acts in conformity with international requirements and gender-sensitive principles (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 74). Please provide information on the current status of the domestic legislation regarding the implementation of the Convention.

National machinery for the advancement of women

2. In its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/2, paras. 16–19), the Committee expressed its concern about the absence of a specific national machinery for the advancement of women, the limited scope of the National Plan of Action of 1999 and the absence of assessment or impact analysis of past policies, programmes and action plans. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 59) that an interdepartmental council has been established to implement the national action plan on the advancement of women. Please provide detailed information on the mandate, human and financial resources and current gender composition of the Council. Please explain whether the plan has been updated and its scope expanded. Please also provide information on measures taken to conduct assessment or impact analysis of past policies, programmes and action plans on gender equality.

Temporary special measures

3. The report states that domestic legislation does not have any provisions on temporary special measures for the achievement of women's de facto equality with men in the enjoyment of their basic human rights and freedom (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 75). Please provide information on whether the State party has considered adopting temporary special measures as part of domestic legislation and/or introducing them into national programmes or policies, in order to achieve women's de facto equality.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

4. The report acknowledges the existence of gender stereotypes in the country and states that the State party is taking all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 85). Please provide detailed information on the cultural patterns, traditional practices and the ways of life that hamper women's advancement in society in the State party. Please indicate what steps the State party has taken to educate and encourage men to share family responsibilities with women.

5. The report provides information on initiatives taken by the State party to combat stereotypical attitudes. Please provide information on the impact of these initiatives in eliminating the stereotypes. What efforts have been made to address stereotypical attitudes towards women experiencing multiple forms of discrimination on the grounds of their ethnicity, age, disability or other characteristics? Have any temporary special measures been introduced or planned in this regard?

6. In its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/2, para. 15), the Committee urged the State party to take educational measures at all levels to address directly the stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men, and to revise school textbooks and curricula. Please provide information on educational and other measures aiming to change the stereotypical attitudes of men towards women, and indicate the progress made in revising and updating the school curricula.

7. In its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/2, paras. 40 and 41), the Committee called upon the State party to enforce its law on polygamy and to take comprehensive measures to eliminate that practice. The report does not indicate any measure taken by the State party to address this issue. Please provide information on steps taken or planned to eradicate polygamy and related stereotypes.

Violence against women

8. In its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/2, paras. 24 and 25), the Committee expressed its concern that the State party lacked specific legislation on violence against women. The report does not mention the existence of violence against women in the country or contain any information on this issue, despite all the previous concerns and recommendations of the Committee. The report also lacks data on the extent of violence against women. Please provide information on whether legislation on violence against women exists, including on domestic violence and marital rape, the number of cases in the judicial system regarding domestic violence, the steps taken to prevent violence and protect

women therefrom, and the prosecution of persons responsible for committing acts of domestic violence.

9. Please give details on how violent behaviour between spouses is perceived by women and men in the State party. Are there any public awareness-raising campaigns on violence against women that attempt to change men's stereotypical attitudes towards women?

Political participation and participation in public life

10. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para.141) that only 17 per cent of members of Parliament are women, but does not provide data on the participation of women in political and public life at national and international levels. Please provide information on measures taken, such as the use of a quota system, to increase the participation of women in decision-making positions at all levels.

Nationality

11. The report does not refer to transmission of nationality from parents to children, in particular, from mothers to children. Please provide information on the current legislative provisions in this area and whether they are in line with the provisions of the Convention.

Education

12. Please provide data disaggregated by sex on dropout rates at all levels of education, and give details of causes of discontinuation of girls' and women's education in urban and rural areas. The report makes no reference to access by rural women to higher education. Please provide information on the number of women enrolled in higher education. Are measures taken to overcome stereotypical choices in the field of education and address obstacles to the education of girls, such as early marriages?

Employment

13. The report acknowledges (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 196) the existence of a wage gap between men and women in the State party and indicates that it is due to differences in the average level of wages in "masculine" and "feminine" forms of employment. Please provide information on whether the State party has considered adopting legislative and other measures to establish equal pay for work of equal value in order to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Convention under article 11.

14. The report indicates (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 231) that the State party does not currently collect regular data, disaggregated by sex, on wages. Please provide information as to whether the State party has planned collection of data, disaggregated by sex, on wages.

15. The report makes no mention of the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace. Please provide information on domestic laws to prohibit sexual harassment and any mechanism in place for women to report the incidents of sexual harassment at workplace in a confidential manner. Please also provide information on data collected in order to evaluate the extent of the problem.

Health

16. The report notes that the national programme on safe motherhood 2007–2011 has made good progress (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 260). Please give further details on the impact of the national programme on maternal and child health and maternal mortality. Please also indicate whether the national programme has been extended beyond 2011.

17. Please provide information on the level of use of modern methods of contraception in the State party. Please indicate what major actions the State party has taken to increase access to contraception, particularly in the rural areas.

18. According to information before the Committee, a survey in 2006 showed that among women of 15–49 years old, less than 9 per cent were aware of HIV/AIDS and its causes. Please provide information on measures taken to raise awareness among women and girls about HIV/AIDS and its prevention.

19. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure that all health care and services provided to women and girls with disabilities, including mental health care and services, are based on the free and informed consent of the person concerned, and that involuntary treatment and confinement are not permitted by law.

Marriage and family life

20. The report refers (CEDAW/C/TKM/3-4, para. 345) to a new draft family code, which would adopt a provision for the conclusion of a marriage contract by Turkmen citizens. Please provide updated information on the current status of the new family code with regard to this provision. Please also provide information on the provisions of the new family code with regard to inheritance rights, the right to choose a spouse and child custody after dissolution of marriage.

Amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention

21. Please indicate any progress made towards acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention.
