



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

Serbia

The pre-session working group considered the combined second and third periodic report of Serbia (CEDAW/C/SRB/2-3).

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

1. Please provide information on any court cases in which the Convention has been invoked by individuals or directly applied or referred to in court proceedings and on cases in which women are claiming their rights in courts by invoking provisions on non-discrimination against women and gender equality in domestic legislation. Please also provide information on complaints lodged with the Deputy Ombudsman for Gender Equality by women in cases of alleged discrimination on the grounds of sex and gender.

2. Please provide information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the provisions of the Law on Gender Equality, which define the mandates, functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, its Directorate for Gender Equality and local gender-equality institutional mechanisms. Please also provide information on financial and human resources available to those institutional mechanisms, as well as on budgetary allocations from the State party for the implementation of the above law and for the implementation of the National Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Women and Promotion of Gender Equality. Please submit to the Committee, if available, the English version of the Law on Gender Equality.

Temporary special measures

3. The report refers generally to temporary special measures aimed at increasing the employment of women in the private sector and the representation of women in elective offices, as well as to measures to promote a gender-balanced composition of the delegations

appointed to represent Serbia (paras. 98, 132, 133, 135-139 and 144^{*}). Please indicate whether the State party is taking any additional steps to adopt temporary special measures aimed at increasing the participation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as Roma women and women with disabilities, in the labour market and in decision-making positions.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

4. The State party acknowledges in paragraphs 100 and 105 of its report that traditional views on the role of women and their status in society persist, and that in the media discrimination against women remains an issue. Please provide information on measures taken to change negative gender stereotypes, as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SCG/CO/1, para. 20). Please also provide information on the enforcement of article 41 of the Law on Gender Equality, mentioned in paragraph 103 of the report.

Violence against women

5. Please provide detailed information on efforts made to adopt a domestic violence law that consolidates provisions that are currently found in the Criminal Code and Family Law, in accordance with the Committee's previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SCG/CO/1, para. 22). Please also provide updated information on the preparation of the national strategy for combating gender-based violence and on the implementation of the project on combating sex-based and gender-based violence, mentioned in paragraphs 313 and 314 of the report.

6. In paragraph 307 of the report it is indicated that progress has been made in the collection of data relating to the extent and consequences of domestic violence, especially in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. Please provide information on the incidence of gender-based violence at the national level, including sexual and domestic violence, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, and the number of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators and sanctions imposed on them, as well as on remedies, including compensation, provided for victims. Please indicate measures in place to establish a systematic and regular collection and analysis of data and information on all forms of violence against women, including sexual harassment and domestic violence, at the national level.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

7. According to paragraph 122 of the report, the State party has adopted the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (2009-2011). Please provide information on the results achieved, and indicate whether a mechanism to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking was established, as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SCG/CO/1, para. 26). Please also indicate how the State party cooperates with civil society organizations specialized in assisting women victims of trafficking and to what extent it provides financial support for their programmes.

* Unless otherwise indicated, paragraph numbers refer to the combined second and third periodic report of the State party (CEDAW/C/SRB/2-3).

Participation in political and public life

8. According to paragraph 143 of the report, Serbian women are represented at senior decision-making positions. Please provide data showing the percentage of women, including minority women, in managerial positions in public administration at all levels, and their participation in advisory and other bodies established by the Government.

9. According to information received, article 35 of the Law on Gender Equality obliges political parties, trade unions and branch associations to adopt plans, including special measures, aimed at promoting equal representation of women and men in their internal decision-making bodies. Please provide information on the adoption of such plans, as well as on the mechanisms used to measure the effectiveness of such plans of action.

10. In paragraph 142 of the report, the State party indicates that the preparation of a national plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) of the Security Council is under way. Please provide detailed information on the status of the said national plan of action and indicate its main objectives and priorities, the time frame for their achievement, the role of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process and in the implementation, and the mechanism in place to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the plan of action.

Education

11. Please provide updated data, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnic origin and regions, on the drop-out rates of girls at all levels of education, in particular primary education. Please also provide information about access to education for disadvantaged groups of women and girls, such as rural women, refugees, internally displaced women and Roma women and girls, as well as women and girls with disabilities.

12. Please provide data on the professional and academic choices of women and men at all relevant educational levels, and describe efforts made by the State party to promote the diversification of educational and vocational choices for women and men.

Employment

13. The State party notes in paragraphs 183 and 205 of its report that pregnant women and mothers are discriminated against in the employment sector. Please provide information on measures taken to encourage women to seek redress for violations of their rights under article 11 of the Convention. Please also provide information on the measures implemented to allow parents and caregivers to balance family obligations with work, and to promote equal sharing of family responsibilities between parents.

14. According to the report, the number of women working in the lowest paid jobs is increasing, the work done by women is not recognized or assessed and women are considerably less represented in high-management and decision-making positions in the private sector (paras. 204 and 209-210). Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure equal access for women and men to management positions and to address horizontal and vertical labour-market segregation. Please also indicate whether there are any planned initiatives aimed at implementing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

Health

15. The State party indicates, in paragraphs 233 and 235 of its report, that the long-term results of the National Programme of Health Care for Women, Children and Youth are directed at narrowing the gaps in access to and use of health-care services between rural areas and towns, among administrative counties, between women and men, and in relation

to disadvantaged groups of the population. Please provide detailed information on the programmes and initiatives in place aimed at achieving these results. Please also indicate how the effectiveness of such programmes and initiatives is monitored and evaluated.

16. According to paragraph 227 of the report, the percentage of women of reproductive age who undergo preventive gynaecological examinations and use family planning services is very low. Please provide detailed information on the cause for the low usage of such services and on awareness-raising initiatives in place to increase such usage and to address sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning. Please also indicate if the school curricula at all levels includes education on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Rural women

17. The State party acknowledges in paragraphs 255 and 257 of its report that inequalities exist between rural and urban populations with respect to standards of living and employment. Please indicate what impact these inequalities have on rural women, including older women, and how they have been addressed to ensure equal access for rural women to health, education, employment and microcredit. The State party also acknowledges, in paragraph 264 of the report, the persistence of de facto discrimination against rural women with respect to owning property. Please provide information on the measures taken to change the traditional and social patterns by which male spouses predominate as titleholders, and indicate what efforts have been employed to inform and empower rural women to claim their rights, such as those to property.

Disadvantaged groups of women

18. In paragraph 73 of the report, it is indicated that women refugees and internally displaced women encounter problems with regard to protection of their rights due to a lack of systematic State monitoring of their status in various fields of social life and to the scarcity of data for those groups. Please provide information on the status of the draft revised National Strategy on Resolution of Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons developed in November 2009, mentioned in paragraph 76 of the report. Please also provide information on the efforts undertaken to collect data on refugees and internally displaced persons.

Marriage and family relations

19. The State party indicates in paragraph 71 of its report that early marriage is still persistent in the country, especially among the Roma population. Following the Committee's previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/SCG/CO/1, para. 36), please provide information as to how the legal minimum age of marriage, which is set at 18, is enforced. Please also provide detailed information on the measures taken to raise awareness throughout the country on the negative effects of early marriage on women's enjoyment of their human rights, especially their right to health and education.

Amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention

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