



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

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

### Information received from Guatemala on follow-up to the concluding observations on its tenth periodic report\*

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\* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



## **I. Introduction**

1. The Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) is submitting the report of the Government of Guatemala on follow-up to the concluding observations in fulfilment of its mandate as an advisory and coordinating body for public policies to promote the holistic development of Guatemalan women and a culture of democracy, as well as in the exercise of its functions to ensure compliance with and application of constitutional provisions, ordinary laws, treaties and international conventions relating to women's rights, and in fulfilment of the commitments made by the Government of Guatemala to international organizations and in the Peace Agreements.
2. This document details the measures implemented with respect to recommendations 17 (a), 29, 39 (a) and 45 during the period from January 2024 to August 2025.

## **II. Additional information relating to the concluding observations (CEDAW/C/GTM/CO/10)**

### **A. Information relating to paragraph 17 (a)**

3. Sepur Zarco case. As a follow-up to the 16 reparation measures ordered in the judgment, the Office of the Public Prosecutor carried out exhumations in a number of municipalities and recovered nine sets of skeletal remains (one identified, eight pending identification). The Office is coordinating with additional plaintiffs to locate witnesses regarding other clandestine burial sites. The Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH) coordinates the national round table for the monitoring of reparation measures. The Ministry of Culture and Sports organizes sports and recreational activities as well as training and promotion of ancestral practices in handicrafts and art. The Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing invested in educational and health infrastructure, provided housing subsidies to women and their families and carried out road construction and improvement work to facilitate their access to basic services. The Land Information Registry conducted the registry and cadastral study of community property and participates in the round table on follow-up of precautionary measures. The Ministry of Education reports that the National Institute for Upper Secondary Education has 100 students in the three grades of the bilingual intercultural early childhood education teaching programme. In 2024, 940 scholarships were awarded at various levels and education centres, and the translated judgment was publicly presented to the surviving women elders and community leaders and published on the institution's website.

4. On 26 February 2024, the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Sexual Violence, Sexual Slavery and Domestic Slavery, and on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the Sepur Zarco case judgment, the Government of Guatemala publicly recognized the courage of the surviving women elders in their pursuit of justice and dignity for their community.

5. Achí sexual violence case. The judiciary enabled justice to be served with the judgment in the case, respecting the rights of the parties to the proceedings. In 2025, the High-Risk Crimes Court "B" handed down a conviction against three individuals for the criminal offence of crimes against humanity and ordered 18 reparation measures for the six victims and their families. The judgment is at the appeals stage.

6. Creompaz case. The Office of the Public Prosecutor identified two sets of skeletal remains of women, pending handover for ongoing legal proceedings.

7. Dos Erres massacre case. The appeals unit of the Office of the Public Prosecutor is managing the appeals process, and the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights conducted 15 judicial and administrative proceedings to move the investigation forward.

8. Molina Theissen case. The Office of the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights is engaged in investigations to identify and subsequently punish other potential perpetrators. Exhumations are still being carried out, but there have not yet been any genetic matches for Marco Antonio Molina Theissen.

9. In 2024, President Bernardo Arévalo reaffirmed his commitment to the developing a national plan for dignity and reparation to address the needs of the victims and their families through dialogue with representative organizations. The plan includes activities such as the recovery and digitalization of the archives of the defunct National Reparations Programme, the creation of the National Victims Registry and the establishment of effective reparation measures. COPADEH has structured the plan along three lines: the restoration of dignity and reparation to civilian victims, the search for missing persons and democratic memory. The Ministry of Social Development is the leading entity responsible for the approval process.

10. The judiciary enhanced supportive and protective measures and developed technical tools for jurisdictional management and specialized judicial procedures, in line with the Dignified and Transformative Reparation Policy and its associated plan for the period 2020–2025, Protocols for providing dignified and transformative support and reparation are being updated. The School of Judicial Studies trained 9,172 women and 4,745 men in reparation and protective measures.

11. The Office of the Public Prosecutor developed a catalogue of reparation terms and conditions for cases relating to violence against women, sexual offences and sexual assault so that prosecutors may record the relevant measures. Its mandatory nature was communicated, and prosecutors were trained.

12. The Office of the Public Prosecutor trained 8,691 individuals in technical, prosecutorial and administrative areas, including in dignified and transformative reparation.

13. COPADEH held training programmes, discussions and workshops on human rights and human rights and the use of force, with a national scope, and engaged in activities in 20 departments in the country geared towards various audiences, including staff, community leaders, youth and women's organizations. In total, 2,566 women and 2,486 men participated. It also led discussions in commemoration of the National Day of Dignity for Victims of the Internal Armed Conflict.

## B. Information relating to paragraph 29

14. In the 2023 elections, the electoral roll included 5.06 million women (54 per cent) and 4.3 million men (46 per cent). Consequently, a woman was elected Vice-President. There are 31 female members (19.4 per cent) of the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala, including an Indigenous woman. Of 340 municipalities, 12 are headed by women (3.5 per cent), including an Indigenous woman, and 210 women were elected councillors and 63 women were elected trustees.

15. In 14 ministries, six women (one Indigenous) hold ministerial positions, and four (one Indigenous) hold secretarial positions.

16. Governmental Decision No. 28-2024 amended Governmental Decision No. 461-2002 and the regulations of the Urban and Rural Development Councils Act, with the addition of articles 36 bis, ter and quarter and new requirements for electing

departmental governors. Women occupy 50 per cent of the positions (11 incumbent), five of whom are Indigenous women. This is the highest figure ever recorded.

17. In the judiciary, women represent 44 per cent of appeal court judges (69), 46 per cent of trial court judges (316) and 47 per cent of justices of the peace (237). Women occupy 49 per cent of decision-making administrative positions. The judiciary currently employs 7,082 men and 6,807 women.

18. Women occupy 45 per cent of the positions in the Constitutional Court. They head 6 of the 10 judiciary coordination offices and occupy three deputy secretary positions as well as one of four positions in the section coordination offices.

19. In the Office of the Public Prosecutor, women account for 41 per cent of technical, administrative and prosecutorial staff (5,023) and 49 per cent of decision-making roles (569). The 2024–2026 Equality Policy Implementation Plan is being applied, with a focus on gender and intersectionality in the management of human capital.

20. The Ministry of Defence presented the Women Service Members in the Guatemalan Army Policy to promote equality and meritocracy and the elimination of stereotypes, broadening representation throughout the hierarchy and in administrative and operational areas as well as in peace missions.

21. According to data from the National Civil Service Office, as at September 2025, women accounted for 55 per cent of the workforce in the executive branch and occupied 37 per cent of managerial positions.

22. In 2025, 26 per cent of the members of the National Urban and Rural Development Council of the Development Councils System (SISCODE)<sup>1</sup> are women (13 members).

23. According to data from the Planning and Programming Secretariat of the Office of the President, participation by women stands at 37 per cent in the regional urban and rural development councils and 29 per cent in the departmental development councils.

24. The Executive Coordination Secretariat of the Office of the President (SCEP) recorded of 26 per cent average participation by women in the municipal development councils.<sup>2</sup>

25. SEPREM leads 29 women's commissions (1 national, 6 regional and 22 departmental), which have strategic tools at their disposal.

26. In 2024, SEPREM organized the election of representatives to the departmental development councils, with 22 calls for candidature announced in the Official Gazette. In total, 1,463 people participated (1,393 women, 70 men): 684 Mayan, 7 Garífuna, 107 Xinka, 632 mestizo, 2 people of African descent and 31 from other groups.

27. The SCEP engaged in awareness-raising, capacity-building and strategic coordination activities to promote women's participation in SISCODE. It continued implementing the “Transferring Power to the People” communication for development strategy through campaigns to encourage women's representation in decision-making spaces and at three levels of SISCODE.

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<sup>1</sup> SISCODE is the mechanism for national, regional, departmental, municipal and community-wide coordination.

<sup>2</sup> Data from the municipal development councils are provided on SCEP portals for statistical purposes. They are primarily drawn from the 340 municipal implementing bodies responsible for generating and uploading data to the system.

28. In June 2025, Ana López, of the Presidential Secretariat for Women, presented the Management Policy Guidelines 2025-2029, oriented toward supporting and advising women representatives of women's organizations on SISCODE and prioritizing dialogue with organizations for Mayan, Garífuna, Afrodescendent, Xinka, mestizo and Ladino women on participation focused on human rights, intersectionality and territoriality.

29. In 2023, the 2023–2024 Electoral Updating and Modernization Committee was established, with the participation of 27 women's organizations. In 2024, the Supreme Electoral Court submitted to the Congress Bill 6377, which proposes reforms to the Elections and Political Parties Act, including reforms relating to parity and alternation.

30. The Supreme Electoral Court is implementing the Gender Equality Policy and the Protocol to Address Violence against Women in the Political and Electoral Spheres, raising awareness of women's inclusion and reaching 90 per cent of its personnel (609 women and 474 men).

31. The Supreme Electoral Court offered two diploma courses on political rights and the role of women in public administration, in which 266 women from political parties and civil society organizations participated.

32. In accordance with the Civic Education Strategic Plan 2024–2025 and the Civic Education Strategic Programme, 24,143 women were trained in civic, political and electoral issues, with an allocation of 415,000 quetzales in 2024 and 576,000 quetzales in 2025.

33. As part of the women and peace and security agenda, territorial dialogues and departmental strategies are being developed in El Quiché, Alta Verapaz and Huehuetenango, with the participation of women's organizations, public institutions and local governments. In addition, SEPREM is engaged in capacity-building in strategic planning and the women and peace and security agenda for the network of municipal women's directorates.

34. The Office of the Ombudsperson for Indigenous Women trained 4,679 Mayan, Xinka, Garífuna and mestizo women in human resources to promote participation, dialogue and advocacy.

### **C. Information relating to paragraph 39 (a)**

35. In 2024, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance operated friendly spaces in 295 municipal districts, where 113,316 adolescent girls and 97,061 adolescent boys received comprehensive sex education. In 2025, these spaces are operating in 294 districts, serving 44,925 women and 38,645 men. In both years, 85 per cent had at least one active space.

36. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance trained 282 health professionals in comprehensive sex education and distributed educational materials on comprehensive women's health, family planning and the prevention of violence and teenage pregnancy.

37. In 2024, 61,215 adolescent girls were recorded as users of contraceptive methods, while 34,544 were recorded as at August 2025.

38. Technical advice was provided to the departmental directorates of integrated health services in 22 health areas across the country. The directorates have intercultural health facilitators who help to strengthen alignment with the traditional

health system and improve maternal and neonatal health. They were trained in contraception for adolescent girls and in comprehensive sex education.

39. According to the 2023 National Survey of Living Conditions, 2.2 million women in urban areas are familiar with family planning methods, compared with 1.4 million in rural areas, and 972,000 Mayan, Garífuna and Xinka women have knowledge of contraception, compared with 2.7 million Ladino, Afrodescendent and foreign women.

40. The purview of the Ministry of Education includes incorporating sex and reproductive education at the primary and secondary levels in the national core curriculum, implementing the Inter-institutional “Prevention through Education” Cooperation Agreement and providing annual training to 2.3 million students at the national level.

41. The Guatemalan Social Security Institute promotes sexual and reproductive health, holding 4,788 events and 2,138 personalized counselling sessions. It approved the Family Planning Protocol and updated the Family Planning Clinical Practice Guide, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance.

42. The Academy of Mayan Languages of Guatemala translated documents on family planning and the National Midwives Policy for the Four Peoples of Guatemala 2015–2025 into various languages.

43. The Ministry of Health and Social Assistance reports that, according to the 2023 report on maternal mortality in Guatemala, the maternal mortality rate recorded for that year was 85 deaths per 100,000 live births. In 2024, there were 325 maternal deaths, 185 being Mayan women, and as at August 2025, there were 125 reported cases, 73 being Mayan women.

44. Minimum prenatal care of four consultations for pregnant women was strengthened, with coverage in areas of intervention of the “*Crecer Sano*” project reaching 84 per cent.

45. The Ministry of Health and Social Assistance operates a hospital production dashboard to monitor maternal morbidity and mortality, facilitate monitoring, generate early warnings and guide clinical and administrative decisions. It has protocols, manuals and guidelines on obstetric, maternal and neonatal care, emergency management, quality control and audits, use of misoprostol in the postpartum period, and maternal and neonatal health monitoring.

46. In accordance with the National Midwives Policy for the Four Peoples of Guatemala 2015–2025 and its Action Plan 2021–2025, recognition of the role of midwives and their contributions to maternal and neonatal health was strengthened through registrations, promotion of ancestral medicine, systematization of their work, and implementation of the General Plan for Intercultural Communication in Recognition of the Midwives Service for the Four Peoples of Guatemala.

47. The Guatemalan Social Security Institute reduced institutional maternal deaths from 46<sup>3</sup> in 2021 to 18 in 2024; it promotes minimum prenatal care of four consultations and safe childbirth, trains staff in obstetric emergencies, implements epidemiological surveillance, strengthens the institutional maternal death analysis committees, and reports that there were 248,000 cases where contraceptive methods were used.

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<sup>3</sup> That year, 73 per cent concerned COVID 19-induced respiratory infections.

#### **D. Information relating to paragraph 45**

48. The Police Action in Cases of Eviction of the Ministry of the Interior standardizes police actions and interventions, with priority given to respect for human rights and language communities. The Chief of Police coordinates pre-eviction inter-institutional actions, the Sub-Directorate General for Studies and Doctrine provides training on the Protocol, while the Inspectorate General verifies compliance with the Protocol.

49. The Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights, through its regional offices, assesses actions regarding precautionary measures and evictions, prioritizing the protection of human rights in contexts of social conflict. Through round tables, it coordinates inter-institutional actions to ensure comprehensive care for the affected population, especially Indigenous women, with institutions making commitments to provide medical and psychological care, ensure continuity in schooling, provide food and ensure adequate conditions in shelters.

50. The headquarters is monitoring the cases involving the Ana Shafer community, which concerned 405 families that had settled on a farm without legal certainty, and the El Pabellón community, where female heads of households, elderly persons and girls had been evicted.

51. In Cobán, it coordinates inter-institutional actions to ensure certain conditions during evictions and to manage humanitarian aid for families.

52. In Izabal, in coordination with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, it ensures the continuity of the school cycle and the provision of medical care in the communities of Chaab 'ilch' och, Buena Vista and Agua Caliente Lote 9. In coordination with institutions and municipalities, it implements economic empowerment programmes for women in order to enhance their productive capacities and the economic resilience of families. The Government of Guatemala is providing humanitarian support to 30 families in Buena Vista.

53. The Office of the Attorney General participates in evictions as an observer, to ensure that the human rights of vulnerable groups are upheld.

54. Through its programmes, the Land Fund, with an allocation of 32.5 million quetzales offered assistance to 14,162 families, 73 per cent of the beneficiaries being women.

55. The Land Lease Programme grants loans of 2,100 quetzales and a non-repayable grant of 475 quetzales per family to support productive projects, thus promoting agricultural, forestry or hydrobiological projects. In 2024, the Programme provided assistance to 9,541 families, with 85 per cent of the beneficiaries being women (8,069 heads of households) and 15 per cent being men (1,472 heads of households), with an investment for women of 20.8 million quetzales, representing 85 per cent of the total invested.

56. The Sustainable Agricultural Communities Development Programme empowers rural families to build their own agricultural communities dedicated to agropastoral, forestry and hydrobiological activities, with 22 per cent of the participants being women, and promotes women-led sub-projects.

57. The State Land Regularization and Allocation Programme provided assistance to 4,552 families (6,284 people), 55 per cent of whom were women and 45 per cent men, ensuring legal certainty and protection of the family unit by issuing of decisions in favour of owners and their spouses or partners. In addition, regularization and allocation decisions were issued in favour of 3,426 women, 40 per cent of whom were Indigenous women and 60 per cent were non-Indigenous women.

58. The Land Information Registry reported that, as at August 2025, 675,757 persons had received land titles, of whom 34 per cent were women, 57 per cent were men, and 9 per cent were legal persons.

59. In 2024, three communal land declarations were issued for 766 persons (419 men, 347 women), and as at August 2025, two new declarations had been issued in favour of 1,033 persons (508 men, 525 women).

60. Between September and December 2024, 22 men and 31 women benefitted from the special titling and registration process, and by June 2025, 22 men and 21 women had benefitted.

61. Under the Institutional Policy Focusing on Gender and Interculturality in the Land Titling Process, the Land Information Registry has institutionalized statistical reporting on historical land tenure by sex and has used that approach to improve the land titling process. Through the Territorial and Cadastral Training School, it has developed two training programmes in which 85 men and 68 women have participated.

### **III. Concluding remarks**

62. In the present report, the State of Guatemala acknowledges the challenges it faces in implementing the Committee's recommendations and reaffirms the commitment of the President of the Republic to implement public policies to promote the comprehensive development and dignified life of Mayan, Garífuna, Xinka, mestizo, Ladino and Afrodescendent women, recognizing them all as subjects with full rights.

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