

**Mandate of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination  
against women in law and in practice**

REFERENCE: OL  
BRN 1/2015:

8 May 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/7.

On behalf of the Working Group, I would like to thank you for your response of 18 March 2015 by which the Working Group received additional information on the domestic legal provisions relating to gender equality in nationality laws.

The Working Group appreciates the information on the constructive cooperation your Excellency's Government extended during the UPR process. It is also pleased to learn that your Government accepted a number of recommendations including recommendation 113.79. In this regard the Working Group would be grateful to receive additional information on the actions that have been taken so far to incorporate the obligations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into the national legal system.

In particular and in follow up to communication BRN 1/2014 of 25 September 2014 sent by the Working group jointly with other special procedures mechanisms, it would like to receive information on the extent to which the implementation of the above recommendation envisages the reform of the Syariah Penal Code Order, 2013 (SPC) which contained a number of discriminatory provisions on the basis of sex and indirectly discriminated against women through its rules. The Working Group takes note of your Government's reply dated 11 March 2015 and reiterates the Working Group's interest in receiving additional details on the measures envisaged to address the specific concerns it raised in the communication of September 2014 with regard to discrimination against women, especially concerning provisions on adultery, witchcraft, the punishment of stoning, termination of pregnancy and mandatory dress codes.

The Working Group would wish to continue this dialogue with your Excellency's Government and would appreciate receiving a response within 60 days.

Your Excellency's Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Emna Aouij  
Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against  
women in law and in practice