

Mandate of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice

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14 November 2014

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.

The Working Group is following up on the information on Somalia, published by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in its 2014 annual note regarding **gender equality in legal provisions in nationality laws**. According to this information, the 1962 Somali Citizenship Law provides that only children of Somali fathers acquire Somali citizenship.

The Working Group would also like to recall the recommendations made in the context of the Universal Periodic Review of Somalia, which are under consideration or are supported by Somalia, which called for Somalia to further protect the rights of women through ratifying CEDAW and its optional protocol, put in place a comprehensive plan on gender equality and make progress in providing gender equality that is inclusive and explicitly rejects historical discrimination (see recommendations 98.2, 98.4, 98.5, 98.6, 98.7, 98.8, 98.9, 98.15, 98.56 & 98.58 in A/HRC/18/10).

In order to clarify the measures being taken by your Excellency's Government to repeal the discriminatory legislative provisions on nationality, the Working Group would be grateful if you could address the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information on the current status of the relevant legislation with regard to the right of women to pass their nationality to the children on an equal footing with men;
2. Please provide information on any measures that your Excellency's Government has taken or intend to take in order to implement the recommendations by UN human rights mechanisms, referred to above, and to bring its legislation into compliance with international human rights law.

The Working Group would appreciate a response within 60 days and remains available for any type of technical advice on legislative reform that your Excellency's Government may require.

This communication and 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.

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