

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

REFERENCE: OL
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Dear Mr. Wolokollie Tate,

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 Liberia, 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, current nationality law in Liberia, specifically the Aliens and Nationality Law of 1973, discriminates against women in that children born abroad to Liberian mothers are excluded from acquiring Liberian citizenship.

In this regard, the Working Group wishes to recall CEDAW's Concluding Observations on Liberia (CEDAW/C/LBR/CO/6), in which the CEDAW Committee noted with concern that certain provisions of the 1973 Revised Alien and Nationality Law discriminate against Liberian women. In particular, the Committee was concerned that, under this law, a child born abroad to a Liberian mother and a non-Liberian father is not automatically granted his/her mother's nationality. The Committee urged the State to remove all discriminatory laws relating to nationality, in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention.

The Working Group would like to draw to your attention the existence of wide spread good practices by States in your region which, in recent years, have repealed legislative provisions which discriminate against women in the matter of nationality.

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 Government may require.

This communication and your Government's response will be made available in a report to be presented to the Human Rights Council for its consideration.

Please accept, Mr. Wolokollie Tate, 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