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10 August 2011

Excellency,

In my capacity as Rapporteur for Follow-up on Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), I have the honour to refer to the examination of the sixth and seventh periodic report of Portugal at the Committee's forty-second session, held in October-November 2008. At the end of that session, the Committee's concluding observations were transmitted to your Permanent Mission (CEDAW/C/PRT/CO/7). You may recall that in paragraph 54 of the concluding observations, the Committee requested Portugal to provide, within two years, further information regarding the specific areas of concern identified by the Committee in paragraphs 21 and 41 of the concluding observations.

The Committee welcomes the information submitted by Portugal on 18 April 2011 under the CEDAW follow-up procedure (CEDAW/C/PRT/CO/7/Add.1), with a five-month delay.

At its forty-ninth session, held in July 2011 in New-York, the Committee examined the information provided and noted that Portugal had responded to the all the recommendations contained in paragraphs 21 and 41. The Committee considered that while some of its recommendations had been fully implemented by Portugal, others had only been partially implemented.

The Committee recommends that the State party provide in its next (combined eighth and ninth) periodic report additional information on:

- a) Further steps taken to consistently apply gender mainstreaming procedures in the decision-making processes of all ministries.

.../...

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- b) Further progress achieved in ensuring that all 308 municipalities appoint local gender equality advisers.
- c) The outcome of the effective enforcement of legal mechanisms to eliminate occupational segregation in the labour market.
- d) Updated sex-disaggregated data regarding the type and extent of wage differentials.
- e) Incentives for employers to reduce the prevalence of fixed-term contracts and other measures to counteract the adverse consequences of fixed-term work for women's job security, salary levels and pension and retirement benefits.
- f) The results achieved through monitoring the adoption and implementation of equality plans by the State-owned enterprises and any steps taken to extend the legal obligation to adopt such plans to private enterprises.
- g) The status of submission to Parliament of the Annual Reports on the Progress of Equality between Men and Women at Work for 2009 and subsequent years.

The Committee looks forward to pursuing its constructive dialogue with the authorities of Portugal on the implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Dubravka Šimonović
Rapporteur on follow-up
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women