

Annex 4: Summary of CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations on PNG State Party's Report (2010)

The CEDAW Committee produced a full report, detailed their recommendations for action by the PNG Government. Most are still relevant and have been summarized below:

- Incorporate the principle of equality between women and men and a prohibition of discrimination against women into domestic legislation;
- Accelerate the process of establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and to ensure that the institution will be provided with a broad mandate in respect of human rights, as well as sufficient human, financial and technical resources for its effective functioning, and that its composition and activities will be gender-sensitive and will fully address the issue of the promotion and protection of women's human rights;
- Strengthen the... Office for the Development of Women, by providing it with adequate human, financial and technical resources and the authority and decision-making power that are necessary for it to coordinate and work effectively for the promotion of gender equality and gender mainstreaming;
- Expediently adopt, through its Parliament, the Equality and Participation Bill with 22 reserved seats for and take all appropriate measures to increase the number of women in elected and appointed office at all levels;
- Strengthen the legal complaints system to ensure all women have effective access to justice;
- Ensure that the Convention and related domestic legislation are an integral part of the education and training of law enforcement and judicial officers, including judges, lawyers and prosecutors, in order to establish firmly in the country a legal culture supportive of women's equality and non-discrimination;
- Take immediate and effective measures to investigate the incidences of torture and killings of women and girls, especially old women, based on accusations of witchcraft or sorcery, to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of such acts and to prevent their reoccurrence;
- Ensure that women and girls who are victims of violence have access to immediate and effective means of redress and protection, including shelters and safe houses and implement training for the judiciary and public officials, in particular law enforcement personnel and health-service providers, to ensure that they are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and can provide adequate support to victims;
- Ensure that preventive health-care information and services, especially sexual and reproductive health care, is adequately addressed (including by providing comprehensive, youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health-care services) and review laws on abortion;
- Ensure equal opportunities for women in the labour market, including by: (i) reviewing labour laws and ensuring that employment legislation applies to and is enforced in the public and private sectors; (ii) providing a regulatory framework for the informal sector, with a view to providing access to social protection and benefits; and (iii) providing further data disaggregated by sex on women in the formal and informal sectors and measures taken to realise equal opportunities for women in employment and entrepreneurship;
- Make the promotion of gender equality an explicit component of its national development plans and policies, in particular those aimed at poverty alleviation and sustainable development and pay special attention to the needs of rural women, ensuring their participation in decision-making processes and full access to justice, health care, inheritance, education and community services;

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women with respect to ownership and inheritance of land and to ensure women participate in decision-making processes and have access to income-generation opportunities, including access to training, markets and credit;
- Harmonize its civil, religious and customary law with article 16 of CEDAW and accelerate reform in respect of the laws relating to marriage and polygamy to comply with CEDAW;
- Consider applying various types of temporary special measures in areas in which women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, including through the allocation of additional resources;
- Take effective steps to overcome traditional attitudes that may constitute obstacles to girls' and women's education, and take necessary measures to ensure equal access of girls and women to all levels of education and their retention;
- Raise awareness of women's rights among the general public, including members of the village courts, law enforcement agencies and women;
- Put in place without delay a comprehensive strategy, including legislation, to modify or eliminate customary practices and stereotypes that discriminate against women;
- Use innovative measures to target young people and adults to strengthen understanding of the equality of women and men, and work through the educational system, both formal and informal, as well as with the mass media, to enhance a positive and non-stereotypic portrayal of women;
- Ensure women's involvement in the establishment of peace and reconciliation in Bougainville, including through their equal opportunity and participation in the decision-making processes in all spheres of development;
- Continue to enhance the collection of comprehensive data disaggregated by sex and of measurable indicators to assess trends in the situation of women and progress towards the realization of women's de facto equality;
- Widely disseminate the present concluding observations in PNG in order to make the people, including government officials, politicians, parliamentarians and women's and human rights organizations, aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure de jure and de facto equality of women, as well as the further steps that are required in that regard.