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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Sixty-third session

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under
article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms
of Discrimination against Women**

List of issues in relation to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Sweden

Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework

1. Please inform whether the State party intends to conduct further reviews of the Constitution (paragraph 25 of the report)¹ to ensure that it is in full accordance with the provisions of the Convention as previously recommended by the Committee (CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/7, para. 15), in particular as regards the definition of non-discrimination against women. Please provide further information on the measures taken to adequately address all compounding forms of discrimination against women belonging to disadvantaged groups.

Access to justice

2. The Committee notes that the State party recently carried out large investment in the justice system (para. 88). In the framework of the judicial reforms, please provide information on the specific measures taken to ensure women's equal access to justice and inform whether a study on the obstacles for women's access to justice has ever been undertaken and which have been the results. Please, provide detailed information on the current legal aid available to support women victims of discrimination and violence in gaining access to justice, including for migrant women.

National machinery for the advancement of women

3. Please provide updated information on the national machinery for the advancement of women. In particular, explain how the Minister for Gender Equality ensures in practice the coordination and supervision of all ministries so they adequately address the rights of women within their areas of responsibility (para. 8). Please also explain whether a study on the impact of the merging of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman with the Equality Ombudsman (Core Document, para. 83) on the effective

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, paragraph numbers refer to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Sweden.

protection and promotion of women's rights, including the development of relevant laws, policies and programmes, has ever been conducted.

4. Please provide information on the mechanisms of evaluation and results obtained so far with the implementation of the strategy for work on gender mainstreaming in the Government Offices 2012-2015 (para. 7-12) and whether the State party intends to continue with such a strategy. Please provide updated information on the draft third strategy for human rights (para. 56) and explain how women's rights and gender equality are included in it. Please provide, if possible, an English copy of the strategy for work on gender mainstreaming in the Government Offices 2012-2015.

5. Please provide information on the mechanisms and measures adopted to ensure an equal participation of women in the entire process of elaboration and adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Temporary special measures

6. Please provide specific information on temporary special measures that are in place or envisaged, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 on temporary special measures, to accelerate de facto equality between men and women in all areas covered by the Convention where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged, in both the public and private sectors, particularly for women suffering from multiple forms of discrimination.

Stereotypes and harmful practices

7. Please provide detailed information on the results achieved so far through the implementation of the Bill on Education and accessibility-public service broadcasting 2014-2019 (para. 125) concerning the promotion of gender equality and the elimination of gender stereotypes. Please provide information on the measures taken or envisaged to address the widespread use of sexist images and gender stereotypes in advertising. Considering the information provided by alternate sources that, in spite of some measures taken by the State party to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women (para. 129-133), while men avail themselves of their paternity leave, women continue to take the major part of parental leave and perform more unpaid domestic work, please provide information on further measures envisaged to ensure that women and men share equal parental responsibilities and equal share of unpaid work.

8. Please provide updated information on the concrete results achieved through the commissions of the Östergötland County Administrative Board and the National Board on Health and Welfare to prevent female genital mutilation and child and forced marriages (102-106). Please clarify why the Administrative Boards of other counties are not involved on these preventive activities and provide further information and disaggregated data on the prevalence of these practices in all counties.

Violence against women

9. Please provide updated information on the final report of the national coordinator against violence in close relationship (para. 63), as well as on the continuity of that appointment, and clarify which entity is currently in charge of coordinating the work related to violence against women, including violence outside close relationships. Please provide updated information on the status of the inquiry appointed to draw up a national strategy to eliminate men's violence against women (para. 64). Please provide detailed information on the current legislation related to sex crimes (para. 66), including the definition of sexual consent, and on the interpretation by the judiciary of sexual consent.

10. Please provide updated information on the various commissions tasked to evaluate the support services for victims of violence or at risk, including Roma women, girls and

young women, and women with disabilities, (paras. 80-81, 84, 108-109) and on the recent measures taken to ensure that victims of violence, including migrant women, have access to quality protection and support services, including shelters and rehabilitation programmes.

11. Please provide information whether an assessment about the causes of violence against women has been carried out. The Committee notes the information on crime statistics (para 116). Please provide additional disaggregated data on the: (a) forms and prevalence of violence against women and girls (specifying the types of honour-related crimes); (b) number of cases of violence against women investigated and prosecuted, including information on the punishment received by the perpetrator; (c) number of women victims of violence assisted and rehabilitated; (d) number of women victims compensated; and (e) number of non-contact orders (restraining orders) rendered as a percentage of the total number of orders requested.

Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution

12. Please provide detailed information on the concrete results achieved through the implementation of the Action plan against prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes (para. 135), and whether the State party intends to review it or to continue with its implementation. Please indicate the measures envisaged to overcome the existing obstacles to assess the prevalence of trafficking and to ensure disaggregated data concerning exploitation of prostitution and trafficking (para. 145 and 148).

13. Please provide updated information on the results of the commissions of the National Board of Health and Welfare (para. 149) and the Stockholm County Administrative Board (para. 150) regarding the scope of exploitation of prostitution, including exploitation of young women through the internet, as well as the support services available to victims. Please update the information on the results of the commission of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (para 138) established to identify and support women victims of trafficking or in prostitution.

Participation in political and public life

14. Please indicate the measures envisaged to increase the representation of women in executive committees of municipalities and county councils and to prevent sex-segregation in the distribution of policy areas of committees at the municipal level (para. 165). Please provide updated information on the results of the 2014 general elections in terms of the gender composition of municipal and county council assemblies (para. 155). Please inform whether the State party intends to use quotas and other temporary special measures to increase the number of women in: (a) managing director posts and management teams within state owned companies (para. 171); (b) boards, managing director posts and management teams within municipal owned companies; (c) chairing public boards; (d) high positions within foreign affairs, including UN and EU institutions.

Education

15. Please provide updated information on the total number of education providers whose equal treatment plans have been audited as a percentage of the total number of education providers, the concrete results of the audits and whether any of these institutions has ever been subjected to financial penalties or other sanctions (paras. 189 and 191). Please update the information provided according to which 11.8 per cent of all pupils do not meet the requirements to enrol in a national programme (Core document para. 16), and explain which percentage among them are girls, particularly immigrant girls, and which measures are envisaged to decrease this percentage. Please provide disaggregated data on the number of asylum-seekers girls that are not enrolled in school (Core document, para. 15). Please provide disaggregated data on the prevalence of sex-segregation in vocational

education and higher education (para. 204 and 208) as well as updated information on the measures taken to eliminate it.

Employment

16. It is indicated that in 2013, 30 % of women worked part time as compared to 11 % of men (para 250). Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that women have equal access to full time employment. Please provide updated information on the extent of vertical and horizontal occupational segregation and whether the State party intends to use quotas and other temporary special measures to eliminate it. Please provide updated data on the employment rate of migrant women (para. 245) and women with disabilities (para. 249) and inform whether an evaluation of the measures taken so far to increase their access to employment, including the provision of social benefits (“vardnadsbidrag”), have ever been conducted and which have been the results.

17. Considering the persistent gender pay gap, please provide updated information on how many pay surveys and action plans for equal pay have been audited by the Equality Ombudsman since 2012 and 2013 respectively, which have been the concrete results of those evaluations, whether any employer has ever been sanctioned for not drawing such an action plan, not carrying out pay surveys or not taking effective active measures (paras. 266 and 273) and which further measures are envisaged to eliminate the gender pay gap.

Health

18. According to the report of the State party more women than men report discrimination based on the ground of sex in their access to health (para. 299). Please provide information on the outcome of the complaints, including information on the sanctions imposed on those responsible for the violation and the compensation received by the victims, if any. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that women receive the same quality health care as men, including an update on the results achieved so far through the implementation of the Strategy for Quality and more Equality in Healthcare 2012-2016, and include specific information on the situation of women and girls with disabilities. Please provide updated information on the prevalence of mental health problems among girls and young women (para. 305), including an analysis on why girls are over-represented in the group of patients subjected to compulsory measures, as well as inform on the measures taken to prevent and treat mental health problems among girls and young women. Please provide information on the results achieved by the two commissions established to analyse Roma’s women and girls access to health, and ensure their access to sexual and reproductive health information (para. 309-310).

Rural women

19. Please indicate whether the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (para 354) includes specific measures to ensure that rural women and girls have equal access to health, education, land ownership and management, agricultural support and economic opportunities, including income-generating projects and credit facilities, on an equal basis with men and with their urban counterparts. Please inform on the monitoring mechanisms of the Programme in order to ensure its adequate implementation in all rural areas of the State party. Please provide data on the current situation of rural women and girls regarding all areas covered by the Convention.

Disadvantaged groups of women

20. Please provide:

(a) Updated information on the implementation of the Strategy for Roma inclusion in 2012-2032 (para. 34) and refer to the results achieved through the commission

undertaken by the Stockholm County Administrative Board to analyse gender equality issues among Roma (para. 38);

(b) Disaggregated data on access to education (at all levels), employment, health and political and public life as well as on incidents of violence, forced prostitution and trafficking of: (a) Roma women and girls; (b) women and girls with disabilities; (c) Sami women and girls and (d) migrant women.

Marriage and family relations

21. The State party mentions that as of 1 July 2014 the crime of “coercion to marry” was introduced and that it is no longer possible for children under the age of 18 to marry (para. 364). Please provide information on the number of cases of forced marriage and child marriage that have been prosecuted since 2014 and on the support services and compensation received by the victims. Please indicate whether the legislation provides for any exception to child marriage, and if so, provide detailed information on the exceptions and on how these have been interpreted by the judiciary.
