

United Nations

CEDAW

Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the State party's initiative in establishing a National Plan of Action to implement the recommendations made by the Committee in the previous concluding comments.
5. The Committee commends the State party for reaching gender parity in primary, basic secondary and vocational education and meeting one of its national targets under goal 3 (promoting gender equality and empowering women) of the Millennium Development Goals.
6. The Committee commends the State party on the 2004 amendment to article 22 of the Election Law to institute a requirement that women make up at least 30 per cent of candidates nominated by political parties for election to Parliament; and the adoption of the new Family Code in 1998, which has strengthened a number of rights of women in the family.
7. The Committee welcomes the creation of monitoring mechanisms, including the Consultative-Analytical Council, intended, under the Ombudsman conjointly with the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, to analyse and monitor the implementation of the Convention at the regional and local level and hold regular parliamentary hearings on the results of such monitoring.

Principal areas of concern and recommendations

8. **The Committee notes the State party's obligation for the systematic and continuing implementation of all the provisions of the Convention. At the same time, it is the Committee's view that the concerns and recommendations identified in the present concluding comments require the State party's priority attention between now and the submission of the next periodic report. Consequently, the Committee calls upon the State party to focus on these areas in its implementation activities and to report on actions taken and results achieved in its next periodic report. It calls upon the State party to submit the present concluding comments to all relevant ministries and to Parliament so as to ensure their full implementation.**
9. The Committee is concerned about the lack of progress in the law reform process. In particular, it expresses concern that several draft laws and amendments to laws initiated by the State party in response to the Committee's previous concluding comments still await parliamentary approval and that others have not yet been completed, thus allowing for the persistence of discriminatory provisions that deny women equal rights with men.
10. **The Committee urges the State party to place high priority on completing the necessary legislative reforms and to step up the process of adopting the law on equal rights and equal opportunities, the law on prevention of trafficking in and exploitation of persons, including the related programme of measures to prevent trafficking in and exploitation of persons, the amendments to relevant legislation to make gender-based violence a criminal offence, and the law on domestic violence, within a clear time frame. To this end, the Committee calls upon the State party to increase its efforts to sensitize the Parliament as well as**

public opinion regarding the importance of legal reform which, according to article 2 of the Convention, has to be undertaken without delay.

11. While noting the State party's assertion that all provisions of the Convention have been completely incorporated into national law, the Committee is concerned that the State party could not confirm that the draft law on equal rights and equal opportunities submitted to Parliament in 2004 contains a definition of discrimination Tje-ine with article 1 of the Convention, as recommended by the Committee in Tts previous concluding comments.

12. The Committee urges the State party to ensure that the law on equal rights and equal opportunities, or other appropriate national legislation, contains a definition of discrimination Tje-ine with article 1 of the Convention, encompassing both direct and indirect discrimination. It also encourages the State party to raise awareness with respect to the nature of indirect discrimination and the concept of substantive equality among Government officials, the judiciary and the public.

13. While welcoming the fact that the Convention has been translated into the Uzbek language and disseminated through a number of women's non-governmental organizations, the Committee is concerned that the provisions of the Convention and the general recommendations of the Committee are not widely known by judges, lawyers and prosecutors, as indicated by the absence of any court decisions that referred to the Convention.

14. The Committee recommends that the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations be made an integral part of legal education and training of judges, lawyers and prosecutors, and Government officials at all levels. It further recommends that Tts general recommendations be translated into the Uzbek language and widely disseminated.

15. While appreciating the State party's efforts at strengthening the Uzbek Women's Committee, a non-governmental organization, as the national machinery for the advancement of women through a Presidential Decree and a Cabinet Ordinance and through Tts membership Tjea standing commission which is to coordinate activities of State agencies and civic organizations, the Committee remains concerned that the institutional status of the Uzbek Women's Committee may not be sufficient to exert Tts influence within the Government structure.

16.

non-governmental organizations whose work had been beneficial to Uzbek women since the country's independence.

18. The Committee requests the State party to review its funding criteria and practice relating to women's non-governmental organizations in order to ensure a plurality of constructive efforts towards the implementation of women's human rights through the civil society sector.

19. The Committee continues to be deeply concerned about the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted cultural stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society in Uzbekistan, as expressed in the previous concluding comments. While noting the State party's stated goals to ensure women's equal opportunities in political and public life and in the labour market, these stereotypes, including the State party's explicit recognition of women's alleged primary responsibility in rearing children, providing care to family members and providing moral advice in the community, present a significant impediment to the implementation of the Convention and are a root cause of the disadvantaged position of women in a number of areas. In addition, the Committee is concerned that educational programmes developed under the National Plan of

The Committee urges the State party to collect and analyse data from the police and international sources, prosecute and punish traffickers, and ensure the protection of the human rights of trafficked women and girls. It also recommends that the State party address the root cause of trafficking by increasing its efforts to improve the economic situation of women, thereby eliminating their vulnerability to exploitation and traffickers, and to take measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of women and girls who are victims of exploitation and trafficking. The Committee further calls on the State party to take all appropriate measures to suppress exploitation of prostitution of women, including discouraging the male demand for prostitution.

27. While noting the State party's efforts at creating new employment opportunities for women through the creation of new jobs, including "in-house" jobs with social security and entrepreneurships based on microcredits, as well as wage increases in female-dominated employment sectors such as education and health, the do 6cdne0 2.ge13l as8t7

non-governmental organizations during, the preparation of its next report. It encourages the State party to involve Parliament in a discussion of the report before its submission to the Committee.

35. The Committee urges the State party to utilize fully, in its implementation of the obligations under the Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which reinforce the provisions of the Convention, and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report.

36. The Committee also emphasizes that a full and effective implementation of the Convention is indispensable for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It calls for the integration of a gender perspective and the explicit reflection of the provisions of the Convention in all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report.

37. The Committee notes that States' adherence to the seven major international human rights instruments¹ enhances the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects of life. Therefore, the Committee encourages the Government of Uzbekistan to consider ratifying the treaty to which it is not yet a party, namely, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.