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Mr. Henrik Dam Kristensen
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Geneva, 22 April 2022

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to you regarding your country's latest periodic report on measures taken to give effect to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This report was considered during the seventy-eighth virtual session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Geneva, 15 to 25 February 2021).

The Committee has published its concluding observations, which you will find enclosed and on the CEDAW website. In those observations, the Committee stresses the crucial role of parliaments in implementing the Convention, and invites your Parliament to take the necessary steps to facilitate the implementation of the concluding observations between now and the next reporting period under the Convention.

I wish to draw your attention to the subjects on which the Committee will require a progress report within two years. First, in paragraph 11(a), the Committee recommends consolidating the Danish social model in all parts of the country, as well as using it as a catalyst to redress long-standing inequalities between women and men in the context of COVID-19 and placing women and girls at the centre of recovery strategies. Second, in paragraph 15(b), the Committee calls for the adoption of a comprehensive definition of discrimination against women, including direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres as well as intersecting forms of discrimination. Third, in paragraph 21(a), the Committee recommends that the State define consent in the new criminal provision on rape, strengthen awareness-raising and education on the new definition of rape specifically targeting young people, and introduce the consent-based definition of rape in Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Finally, in paragraph 35(b), the Committee recommends collecting comprehensive data on the causes of the high prevalence of suicide, including among girls.

I am sure you will take steps to make the Committee's concluding observations available to members of your Parliament and to hold a debate to ensure adequate parliamentary follow-up. In recent years, the IPU has supported several parliaments in organizing such follow-up, including parliamentary debates with input from members of the CEDAW Committee. We would be pleased to extend similar support to your Parliament should you so wish.

I would be grateful if you could notify me of any follow-up action you take on this matter. I will certainly keep the CEDAW Committee and the IPU membership informed of such developments.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General

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