



REFERENCE: CERD/101st session/FU/MJA/ks

24 September 2020

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 101st session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Japan, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 10 and 32 of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/JPN/CO/10-11), adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 10th and 11th periodic reports, at its 96th session, held in August 2018.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its combined 12th to 14th periodic reports, to be submitted in a single document by 14 January 2023.

Paragraph 10 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee notes the establishment of the Human Rights Bureau and its subordinate bodies within the Ministry of Justice, which provide a wide range of human rights counseling and are engaged in investigation and resolution of human rights violation cases and remedy procedures. The Committee regrets, nevertheless, that appropriate action has not been taken to implement its recommendation and considers that the response of the State party is not satisfactory. The Committee reiterates its recommendation to establish a national human rights institution with a broad mandate to promote and protect human rights, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

His Excellency Mr. Kazuyuki Yamazaki
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations Office
Geneva
mission@gv.mofa.go.jp

Paragraph 32 of the Concluding Observations

The Committee thanks the State party for the information on the on-site inspections of supervising and implementing organizations carried out by the Organization for Technical Intern Training in an effort to ensure that the system adequately protects technical intern trainees, as well as on their outcome. It is, however, concerned about information that the licensing system introduced by the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and the Protection of Technical Intern Trainees is not strictly enforced, as illustrated by the fact that only one supervising organization's license has been revoked to date. It is also concerned at information regarding the insufficient human and financial resources allocated to the Organization for Technical Intern Training for its on-site inspections, as well as the lack of transparency regarding the publication of its findings. Moreover, it notes the efforts of the State party to improve the technical intern training programme by implementing the recommendations made by a project team of the Ministry of Justice, which conducted surveys on cases of disappearance and death of technical intern trainees and reviewed the operation status of the current system. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned at reports that technical intern trainees are subjected to poor working conditions, abusive and exploitative practices, and bonded-labour-type situations, which shows the need for a further revision and a more thorough Government oversight of the programme. It also regrets the lack of information on the implementation and impact of the Act. The Committee considers that the response to this recommendation is partially satisfactory and requests the State party to provide, in its next periodic report, detailed information on further steps taken to ensure that the technical intern training programme is properly regulated, in line with the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees, and that it is adequately monitored by the Government. The Committee also requests the State party to include information on the implementation and impact of the Act.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Japan, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

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

Yours sincerely,



Yanduan Li
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination