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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Concluding observations on the eighth periodic report of Paraguay*

1. The Committee considered the eighth periodic report of Paraguay (CEDAW/C/PRY/8) at its 3020th and 3021st meetings, held on 13 October 2026. The Committee's list of issues and questions is contained in CEDAW/C/PRY/Q/8 and the responses of Paraguay are contained in CEDAW/C/PRY/RQ/8.

A. Introduction

2. The Committee appreciates the submission by the State party of its eighth periodic report, the State party's follow-up report to the previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PRY/FCO/7) and its written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by the pre-sessional working group, as well as the oral presentation by the delegation and the further clarifications provided in response to the questions posed orally by the Committee during the dialogue.

3. The Committee commends the State party on its high-level delegation, which was headed by Her Excellency Ms. Alicia Pomata, Minister of Women's Affairs, and included representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Ministry of Public Defence, the High Court of Electoral Justice, the Chamber of Deputies, the Ministry for Children and Adolescents, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Paraguay to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

B. Positive aspects

4. The Committee welcomes the progress achieved since the consideration in 2017 of the State party's seventh periodic report (CEDAW/C/PRY/7) in undertaking legislative reforms, in particular the adoption of:

(a) Law No. 7605/2025, establishing the National Registry of Missing Persons (RENAPED) and the National Immediate Alert System for the Search for Missing Persons (MAFE);

(b) Law No. 7239/2024, declaring a social emergency in response to violence against women, girls, boys and adolescents and strengthening strategies to change sociocultural patterns that sustain inequality of women and men;

* Adopted by the Committee at its ninety-third session (5 - 30 October 2026).

(c) Law No. 6993/2022 on the free provision of menstrual management products to girls, adolescents and women;

(d) Law No. 6940/2022, establishing mechanisms and procedures to prevent and punish acts of racism and discrimination against persons of African descent;

(e) Law No. 6149/2018 on the Protection and Facilitation of Naturalization for Stateless Persons, which incorporates a gender- and age- approach.

5. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts to improve its institutional and policy framework aimed at accelerating the elimination of discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, such as the adoption and establishment of the following:

(a) The Jepytaso Mujer financial credit programme, providing preferential financing, extended repayment periods and technical assistance to women producers and entrepreneurs, in 2026;

(b) The first Action Plan of the National Care Policy for the period 2025–2030, in 2025;

(c) The Integrated Employment Formalization Strategy for the period 2025–2028, in 2025;

(d) INDERT Resolution No. 364/2023, establishing a zero per cent interest rate for the titling of land allocated to rural women and women heads of household, in 2025;

(e) The National Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan for the period 2024–2030, in 2024;

(f) The Plan for the Reduction of Maternal, Neonatal and Foetal Mortality for the period 2023–2030, in 2023;

(g) The National Poverty Reduction Plan for the period 2023–2030, adopted in 2023.

6. The Committee welcomes the fact that, in the period since the consideration of the previous report, the State party has ratified or acceded to the following international and regional instruments:

(a) The Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in 2025;

(b) The Part-Time Work Convention, 1994 (No. 175), of the International Labour Organization, in 2021;

(c) The Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), of the International Labour Organization, in 2021.

C. Sustainable Development Goals

7. **The Committee welcomes the international support for the Sustainable Development Goals and calls for the realization of de jure (legal) and de facto (substantive) gender equality, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, throughout the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee recalls the importance of Goal 5 and of mainstreaming the principles of equality and non-discrimination throughout all 17 Goals. It urges the State party to recognize women as the driving force of sustainable development in the State party and to adopt relevant policies and strategies to that effect.**

D. Parliament

8. **The Committee stresses the crucial role of the legislative power in ensuring the full implementation of the Convention (see A/65/38, part two, annex VI). It invites the National Congress of Paraguay, in line with its mandate, to take the necessary steps**

regarding the implementation of the present concluding observations between now and the submission of the next periodic report under the Convention.

E. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

Constitutional and legislative framework and definition of discrimination against women

9. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The State party's position that the terms "gender equality" and "gender perspective" are replaced by "equality between man and woman", taking as reference the terminology used in article 48 of the Constitution, thereby limiting the analytical frameworks necessary to identify, prevent and eliminate structural, direct, indirect and intersectional discrimination and to achieve substantive equality;

(b) The lack of a comprehensive strategy to strengthen the visibility and domestic application of the Convention, and its limited use by courts, insufficient dissemination in Guaraní, other Indigenous languages and accessible formats, and the lack of full alignment of SIMORE Plus with the Convention, limiting systematic monitoring of the implementation of the Committee's concluding observations;

(c) The continued failure to adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, despite the Committee's previous recommendations (CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/6, para. 13, and CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/7, para. 11), and the State party's assertion that constitutional guarantees suffice without implementing legislation;

(d) That, upon accession to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons in 2026, the State party made interpretative declarations restricting the concepts of gender identity and sexual orientation and subjecting older persons' sexual and reproductive health rights to restrictions under constitutional and domestic law.

10. **The Committee recommends that the State party, in accordance with article 2 of the Convention and general recommendation No. 28 (2010) on the core obligations of States parties under article 2 of the Convention:**

(a) **Ensure that domestic law, including constitutional provisions, are not applied or interpreted to restrict the State party's obligations under the Convention; review and, where necessary, amend its legal framework to ensure the use of gender-responsive analytical frameworks to identify and eliminate structural, indirect and intersectional discrimination and prevent retrogressions in women's rights, including through *ex ante* and *ex post* gender impact assessments and corrective actions;**

(b) **Strengthen the visibility and domestic application of the Convention through its use by courts and authorities, capacity-building for government officials, members of Congress, political and religious leaders and media, its dissemination in Guaraní, other Indigenous languages and accessible formats, and align SIMORE Plus with the Convention to ensure comprehensive monitoring and implementation of the Committee's concluding observations;**

(c) **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that contains a definition of discrimination against women prohibiting direct and indirect discrimination in the public and private spheres, including intersecting forms of discrimination and providing for complaint mechanisms, sanctions, and reparations;**

(d) **Review and withdraw its interpretative declarations made upon accession to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons and, in the meantime, ensure that they are not applied in a manner that restrict older**

women's rights to equality and non-discrimination, autonomy, family life and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Women, peace and security

11. The Committee notes with concern the lack of an updated national action plan on women, peace and security and the State party's narrow understanding of the WPS agenda, focused largely on women's participation in the armed forces and peacekeeping, and the insufficient attention to structural inequalities that heighten women's exposure to contemporary security challenges and to the differentiated impact of security policies on them.

12. **The Committee recommends that the State party adopt an updated national action plan on WPS that addresses contemporary security challenges from a gender perspective, promotes prevention, disarmament and non-proliferation in line with the constitutional prohibitions of genocide and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and ensures women's participation in peace and security processes. The State party should also address structural inequalities heightening women's exposure to security risks, assess the differentiated impact of security policies on women and girls, and ensure accountability for human rights violations committed during its implementation.**

Access to justice

13. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Persistent structural barriers to women's and girls' access to justice, including the limited geographical coverage of permanent Houses of Justice, inadequate resources allocated to justices of the peace, and linguistic, accessibility and procedural barriers for Indigenous women, women and girls with disabilities and other women facing intersecting forms of discrimination;

(b) The absence of a sufficiently specialized and gender-responsive justice system, that no protocol on institutional violence has been issued despite the recognition of this form of violence under Act No. 5777/16, as well as the revictimization, stigmatization and discriminatory treatment of women and girls' survivors of GBVAW, including Indigenous women, women with disabilities and LBTI women, in the justice system;

(c) Persistent impunity and inadequate investigations into disappearances and femicides of women and girls, including disappearances linked to trafficking, alleged enforced disappearances, and deaths involving State agents;

(d) The lack of confidential and accessible complaint and redress mechanisms, in particular in cases of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence, for women and girls in institutional, closed and segregated settings, including women and girls with disabilities in institutions, women deprived of liberty and girls in juvenile justice institutions.

14. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Allocate adequate resources to the justice system, including justices of the peace, expand the geographical coverage of permanent Houses of Justice, and ensure that Indigenous women, women and girls with disabilities and other women facing intersecting forms of discrimination have adequate access to interpretation in Indigenous languages, physically accessible infrastructures and reasonable and procedural accommodations;**

(b) **Establish a specialized, gender-responsive justice system to address all forms of violence against women, ensuring nationwide coverage, adequate resources and expedited procedures to prevent fragmentation, delays and revictimization; and adopt a protocol on institutional violence in accordance with Law No. 5777/16;**

(c) **Ensure independent and gender-sensitive investigations into disappearances and femicides of women and girls, including those linked to trafficking, alleged enforced disappearances, and deaths in State custody; prosecute those responsible, including State officials, and ensure reparations for victims;**

(d) **Establish confidential and accessible complaint, monitoring and redress mechanisms in places of detention and other institutional, closed and segregated settings where women are deprived of liberty and ensure the prompt and impartial investigation of gender-based violence in institutional settings.**

Equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems

15. The Committee recalls its general recommendation No. 40 (2024) and calls upon the State party to uphold women's right to equal and inclusive representation in all decision-making systems, in all areas and at all levels. It calls upon the State party to aim towards 50:50 parity as the standard for achieving equality in all areas where women remain underrepresented, and to ensure that women in all their diversity have equal access to, as well as equal voice, influence, and power within, decision-making systems.

National machinery for the advancement of women

16. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The continued consideration by the Senate of draft law S-2502050, "On the Creation of the Ministry of the Family", which would merge the Ministry of Women into a broader Ministry of the Family and risk weakening the national machinery for the advancement of women by diluting its mandate, ministerial rank and authority;

(b) The lack of human, technical and financial resources of the Ministry of Women, which undermines its central role in coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Convention, limits the geographical coverage of its branch offices as well as the provision of specialized services and shelters;

(c) The lack of information on the outcomes of the National Equality Plan 2018–2024 and the absence of a successor framework; the limited use of gender-responsive budgeting in the State party and the limited participation of women's organizations in gender equality policymaking.

17. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Withdraw draft law S-2502050 so as not to merge, downgrade or dilute the mandate of the Ministry of Women, and focus legislative and policy efforts on strengthening the national machinery for the advancement of women, preserving its mandate, ministerial rank and coordinating authority;**

(b) **Provide the Ministry of Women with sufficient resources to comply with its mandate on women's rights and gender equality; expand the geographical coverage of its branch offices and ensure nationwide access to specialized services and shelters for women and girls;**

(c) **Publish the evaluation of the National Equality Plan 2018–2024 and adopt a successor plan with measurable targets, clear responsibilities and accountability mechanisms; ensure the use of gender-responsive budgeting and the participation of diverse women's organizations, ensuring that their views are duly considered and that they can influence policy design and outcomes.**

National Human Rights Institution

18. The Committee notes that the UN Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions has accredited the *Defensoría del pueblo* with A-Status. However, it is

concerned at the *Defensoría's* insufficient guarantees of independence and its limited engagement on women's rights and gender quality.

19. **The Committee recommends that the State party guarantee the independence of the *Defensoría del Pueblo*, pursuant the Paris Principles, and strengthen its mandate to promote and protect women's rights and gender equality.**

Temporary special measures

20. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The limited use of temporary special measures as a strategy to accelerate substantive equality of women and men, particularly for women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, and the lack of information on the impact of existing temporary special measures;

(b) The absence of sex-disaggregated data on the beneficiaries of public employment quotas for persons with disabilities and Indigenous peoples, and the lack of information on temporary special measures for the advancement of women of African descent.

21. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Expand the use of temporary special measures, including targeted recruitment and support, with time-bound targets and regular impact assessments, particularly for women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, in line with article 4 (1) of the Convention and general recommendation No. 25 (2004);**

(b) **Collect and publish sex-disaggregated data on beneficiaries of public employment quotas, strengthen TSM for women with disabilities and Indigenous women, ensure that women constitute at least half of beneficiaries, and adopt temporary special measures to ensure the equal participation of women of African descent in political, public and economic life in the State party.**

Gender stereotypes

22. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Deeply rooted gender stereotypes assigning women and girls subordinate, domestic and caregiving roles, legitimizing child and forced unions, *criadazgo,* and the exploitation of girls in unpaid domestic and care work;

(b) Persistent victim-blaming stereotypes and male control over women's and girls' sexuality, including notions that girls' dress or behaviour "provokes" male violence, which normalize sexual and gender-based violence and contribute to revictimization and distrust of victims;

(c) The State party's reproduction and legitimization of stereotypes in educational materials and the lack of comprehensive sexuality education, undermining key tools for transforming discriminatory sociocultural patterns, preventing gender-based violence, sexual abuse and adolescent pregnancy;

(d) The State party's failure to assess the impact of gender stereotypes and of laws, policies and administrative measures restricting and weakening gender-equality protections on women's substantive equality and rights, including their impact on the prevalence of gender-based violence, early pregnancy, unequal care responsibilities, school dropout and women's economic exclusion.

23. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Develop a comprehensive strategy to transform stereotypes that normalize child and forced unions, *criadazgo* and the exploitation of girls in unpaid domestic and care work, targeting families, communities, schools and the media;**

(b) **Eliminate victim-blaming and credibility stereotypes in the justice system, including through mandatory gender-responsive and trauma-informed training for the judiciary to prevent revictimization;**

(c) **Introduce mandatory comprehensive age-appropriate sexuality education at all levels of education, and eliminate gender stereotypes from curricula, educational materials and teacher training, as a mean to prevent GBV and early pregnancy;**

(d) **Conduct and publish studies on the impact of gender stereotypes in the prevalence of gender-based violence, adolescent pregnancy, unequal care responsibilities, school dropout and women's economic exclusion.**

Harmful practices

24. The Committee notes with concern that, despite its previous recommendations [CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/7, para. 47 (a)]:

(a) The persistence of child and/or forced marriages and unions in the State party as well as informal or *de facto* unions, including in cases of pregnancies resulting from sexual violence, and the lack of data and preventive measures to identify and address them;

(b) That Law No. 5419/15 continues to permit marriages from 16 years of age, and that the amendment to establish 18 years as the minimum age of marriage without exception has still not been adopted in Congress, amid insufficient action to advance its adoption;

(c) The removal of children from the custody of mothers with disabilities, including forced separation and placement for adoption;

(d) Reports of forced sterilization of women with disabilities, particularly deaf women and women with intellectual disabilities, and the lack of accountability and remedies in such cases;

(e) That women with psychosocial disabilities continue to face involuntary treatment, confinement and coercive practices in psychiatric settings, and the lack of safeguards against sexual, disability-related and gender-based violence.

25. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt a comprehensive strategy to eliminate and monitor child and forced marriages and unions, including informal or de facto unions, by addressing their social acceptance, strengthening prevention, monitoring and data collection, protecting victims who file complaints, raising awareness of the harmful effects on adolescents' physical and mental health and well-being, and ensuring that marriage or union with the victim does not exempt perpetrators of sexual violence from criminal liability;**

(b) **Immediately amend Law No. 5419/15 to set the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for both women and men without exception and overcome the legislative, institutional and attitudinal barriers delaying the reform;**

(c) **Prevent and prohibit the removal of children from the custody of mothers with disabilities on the basis of disability, as well as forced separation and adoption, and ensure appropriate support for mothers with disabilities;**

(d) **Prohibit forced sterilization and all medical interventions without the free and informed consent of the woman with disabilities, ensure that consent is never substituted by third parties, and investigate and prosecute cases of forced sterilization and provide effective remedies, including compensation, to victims;**

(e) **Prohibit coercive practices, including involuntary treatment and confinement on the basis of disability, and all forms of disability- and gender-based violence against women and girls with disabilities; ensure respect for their free and informed consent; and establish independent monitoring of psychiatric settings and accessible mechanisms for reporting, investigating and remedying violence against them.**

Gender-based violence against women and girls

26. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That the definition of rape in article 128 of the Criminal Code is not based on the absence of free and voluntary consent, the lack of a definition of technology-facilitated gender-based violence covering harassment, threats, doxing and identity impersonation, and the lack of a legal framework to protect children from violence in the context of gender-based violence against their mothers;

(b) That draft law No. D-2482677 seeks to increase penalties for false reporting and risks deterring women and girls from reporting gender-based violence, particularly in a context of impunity, where reports that do not result in a conviction owing to shortcomings in the justice system may be treated as false;

(c) Revictimization of girls subjected to sexual violence due to repeated interviewing and ineffective criminal justice responses, as well as the lack of individualized risk assessments, shelters and comprehensive victim support services, particularly in rural areas, as well as inadequate safeguards in custody and visitation arrangements to protect women and children from continued gender-based violence;

(d) The incidence of femicide in cases where women had previously reported gender-based violence, the absence of multisectoral femicide reviews to identify institutional failures, ensure accountability and prevent recurrence, and the lack of adequate and timely reparations and support for children and other family members of victims of femicide;

(e) The lack of a comprehensive system for registering cases of gender-based violence against women and girls, despite the Committee's previous recommendations [CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/6, para. 20 and CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/7, para. 21 (e)].

27. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Amend the Criminal Code, including article 128, to ensure that the definition of rape is based on the absence of free and voluntary consent rather than use of force or resistance by the victim; extend technology-facilitated gender-based violence to harassment, threats, doxing and identity impersonation, with adequate measures for evidence preservation, and platform collaboration, and adopt legislation to protect children from violence in the context of gender-based violence against their mothers;**

(b) **Withdraw or repeal draft law No. D-2482677 and ensure that provisions on false reporting do not criminalize or deter women and girls who report gender-based violence, including when their complaints do not result in a conviction owing to flaws in the criminal justice system;**

(c) **Ensure that all acts of sexual violence are investigated, prosecuted and perpetrators punished through intersectional, gender-sensitive and survivor-centered procedures that are accessible and inclusive for all women, avoid repeated interviewing and provide adequate victim support services, particularly in rural areas; and ensure that custody and visitation arrangements do not expose women or children to continued gender-based violence;**

(d) **Conduct multisectoral femicide reviews to identify protection failures and prevent recurrence, including through the enforcement of protection orders, and ensure timely and adequate compensation for children and other family members of victims of femicide;**

(e) **Establish a comprehensive and disaggregated data system on all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls, including complaints, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sanctions.**

Trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution

28. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The persistence of domestic and cross-border trafficking in women and girls for sexual and labour exploitation, as well as gaps in victim identification, investigation,

prosecution, support and reparation, particularly for Indigenous and rural women and women and girls with disabilities;

(b) The persistence of *criadazgo*, whereby girls are informally placed in other households, often under the pretext that they may access education, while they are instead required to perform unpaid domestic and care work and are exposed to exploitation, violence and educational exclusion, and the lack of comprehensive studies and information on its prevalence, root causes and impact on girls;

(c) The State party's predominantly punitive approach to *criadazgo*, which fails to address its root causes, and the absence of comprehensive legislation and systematic, up-to-date data collection;

(d) Inadequate social protection for girls affected by *criadazgo* and insufficient mechanisms to identify and protect them and to ensure their access to education and social protection;

(e) The heightened risk of trafficking, sexual exploitation and other forms of gender-based violence faced by missing women and girls, and that the limited implementation of Law No. 7605/2025 impedes the early identification of such risks;

(f) The lack of protection of Indigenous girls from sexual exploitation online and in the tourism industry and of Indigenous and Afro-descendant women and women with disabilities from exploitation of prostitution.

29. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Strengthen the early identification and referral of victims of trafficking to appropriate services, effectively prosecute and punish traffickers, including complicit public officials, dismantle trafficking networks, ensure specialized victim support services that are culturally appropriate for Indigenous women, available in rural areas and accessible to women and girls with disabilities, and systematically collect disaggregated data;**

(b) **Conduct a nationwide study on the prevalence of criadazgo, its root causes and impact on girls, in consultation with women's rights organizations and survivors;**

(c) **Adopt comprehensive legislation to prevent and eliminate *criadazgo* ensuring the protection of affected girls and accountability for those responsible for exploitation and violence, while addressing its root causes, particularly poverty and social exclusion, without criminalizing affected girls or their familieson these grounds;**

(d) **Strengthen social protection for girls affected by *criadazgo* and promote their access to education, including by recording whether girls live with their families upon school enrolment, monitoring attendance, following up on cases of missing girls, ensuring the search, protection and reintegration of affected girls into education and social protection programmes, and establishing systematic data collection and monitoring mechanisms;**

(e) **Fully implement Law No. 7605/2025 by ensuring that all cases of disappearances of women and girls are effectively investigated, including from the outset an assessment of possible links to trafficking, sexual exploitation and other forms of gender-based violence;**

(f) **Strengthen measures to prevent the sexual exploitation of Indigenous girls, Afro descendant women and women with disabilities, including online and in the tourism industry, and ensure that women wishing to leave prostitution have access to exit programmes including alternative income generating opportunities and are not criminalized.**

Participation in political and public life

30. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Women's underrepresentation in elected and appointed decision-making positions, including in Congress, the Cabinet and municipal councils;

(b) The low representation of women in the diplomatic service and international organizations, particularly at ambassadorial and senior decision-making levels,

(c) That Circular No. 005/2022 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs directs officials in international negotiations to avoid, replace or qualify references to intersectionality, diversity, sexual and reproductive rights and women's autonomy in international fora;

(d) That the draft law to prevent, punish and eradicate gender-based political violence against women has still not been adopted, despite anti-gender narratives, stereotypes and hate speech, including in digital spaces, that deter women from participating in political and public life;

(e) Barriers to the effective implementation of Law No. 6279/2019 on the employment of Indigenous persons in public institutions and the persistent underrepresentation of Indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural women in political and public life;

(f) That Law No. 834/96 requires only a 20 per cent quota for women on internal party lists, without ensuring that this threshold is reflected in final electoral lists, limiting its impact on women's political representation and hindering 50:50 parity;

(g) The disproportionate impact of Law No. 7363/2024 and its regulations on women human rights defenders and women's organizations, including burdensome reporting requirements, sanctions, privacy intrusions and funding obstacles, potentially chilling their activities; and delays in adopting legislation to protect women human rights defenders and journalists, despite the Inter-American Court's judgment in *Leguizamón Zaván et al. v. Paraguay*.

31. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt legislation to ensure 50:50 parity in all elected and appointed decision-making positions, including by adopting parity requirements for all elections and appointments, as well as women's equal power within decision-making bodies;**

(b) **Achieve parity in the diplomatic service, particularly at ambassadorial and senior decision-making levels;**

(c) **Withdraw Circular No. 005/2022 on references to substantive equality, intersecting forms of discrimination, sexual and reproductive health and rights and women's autonomy in international fora, and related restrictions;**

(d) **Adopt a legal framework to prevent and address gender-based political violence against women, including technology-facilitated violence;**

(e) **Effectively implement Law No. 6279/2019 and remove barriers to the political and public participation of Indigenous, Afro-descendant and rural women, and collect and publish disaggregated data on their representation in political and public life;**

(f) **Amend Law No. 834/96 to ensure women's equal representation at equal ranks with men on final electoral lists of political parties, including through binding alternation requirements such as a zipper system, and extend 50:50 parity quotas to national and local/municipal elections and to the appointment to public service positions, including at decision-making levels;**

(g) **Amend Law No. 7363/2024 and its regulations, in consultation with women's organizations and women human rights defenders, to ensure proportionate transparency requirements, protect privacy and sensitive information, and safeguard**

access to funding; and adopt legislation to effectively protect women human rights defenders and journalists.

Nationality

32. The Committee notes with concern persistent gaps in birth registration and identity documentation, particularly in rural areas and Indigenous communities; reports of concealed births of children born to adolescent girls victims of rape or incest; the requirement that children born abroad to Paraguayan mothers reside in the State party to acquire nationality, exposing them to statelessness; and the insufficient data collection on stateless or naturalized women.

33. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure timely, affordable and easy-to-access birth registration, such as mobile civil registration services in Indigenous communities, including in Guaraní and other Indigenous languages; enable children born abroad to Paraguayan women to acquire nationality without residing in the State party, including through consular registration; and collect and publish data on birth registration, documentation, statelessness and naturalization, disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity and migration status, for inclusion in its next report.**

Education

34. The Committee is concerned about:

(a) Resolution No. 1.803/2025, which extends the restrictions introduced by Resolution No. 29.664/2017 and removes or replaces references to gender, gender equality and gender perspective in educational materials;

(b) Resolutions Nos. 1580/2024 and 1782/2024 approving the Education on Affectivity and Sexuality in Schools (EASE) materials, developed on the basis of the former "12 Ciencias" programme, which reinforce stereotyped and unequal gender roles, inadequately address consent, bodily autonomy, power relations and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and fail to provide comprehensive, age-appropriate, scientifically accurate and gender-responsive sexual and reproductive health and rights education;

(c) Persistent rural–urban disparities in access to education, barriers to inclusive education for girls and women with disabilities, and dropout linked to early pregnancy and child and forced unions, particularly among girls facing intersecting discrimination;

(d) The prevalence of gender-based discrimination and violence, including sexual harassment and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, in schools and universities, particularly against pregnant girls, LBTI women, Indigenous and Afro-descendant girls and women and women and girls with disabilities.

35. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Repeal Resolutions Nos. 1.803/2025 and 29.664/2017 and related restrictions, reinstate gender, gender equality and gender perspective in educational materials and teacher training and protect educators from reprisals for providing gender equality and age-appropriate education on sexual and reproductive health and rights;**

(b) **Review and amend Resolutions Nos. 1580/2024 and 1782/2024 and withdraw the associated Education on Affectivity and Sexuality in Schools (EASE) materials, developed on the basis of the former "12 Ciencias" programme, to eliminate gender stereotypes and ensure comprehensive, age-appropriate, scientifically accurate, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive sexuality education at all levels of education;**

(c) **Reduce rural–urban disparities, ensure inclusive education and reasonable accommodation for girls and women with disabilities, and prevent dropout linked to early pregnancy and child and forced unions through retention, re-entry and reinsertion programmes and adequate support for pregnant girls and young mothers to continue their education**;

(d) **Prevent and address gender-based discrimination and violence, including sexual harassment and technology-facilitated violence, in schools, through awareness raising and teacher training on the criminal nature of such acts, the enforcement of a zero tolerance policy and effective confidential reporting procedures, investigations, prosecutions, convictions and protection of girls and women from retaliation for having reported GBV.**

Employment

36. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The persistent gender pay gap, women's low labour force participation, occupational segregation, delays in adopting legislation to establish the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value, as well as the absence of effective objective job-evaluation and pay-monitoring mechanisms;

(b) The concentration of women in informal and low-paid employment, with limited access to labour protection and social security, particularly among women domestic workers, Indigenous and rural women, and barriers faced by women with disabilities in accessing formal employment, as well as the lack and insufficient implementation and monitoring of measures to promote women's transition from informal to formal employment;

(c) Women's disproportionate burden of unpaid domestic and care work and the lack of affordable childcare facilities and care policies;

(d) The prevalence and underreporting of gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace, the weak implementation of MTESS Resolution No. 195/2026 on workplace discrimination, violence and harassment and the absence of a comprehensive legal framework on gender-based violence in the workplace;

(e) The persistence of child labour, particularly among girls in rural areas and domestic work, including in the context of *criadazgo*.

37. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Expedite the adoption of legislation providing for the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value and establish objective gender-neutral job evaluations, wage audits and effective complaint and enforcement mechanisms;**

(b) **Accelerate women's transition from informal to formal employment through the implementation and monitoring of the 2025–2028 formalization strategy, strengthened labour inspections and access to minimum wages and social security; and adopt temporary special measures to promote the formal employment of women with disabilities and Indigenous women;**

(c) **Adopt a comprehensive care and support framework, building on the National Care Policy and Action Plan, to promote women's autonomy; expand affordable, accessible and quality childcare facilities and care services; and adopt time-bound measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid domestic and care work, including through equal sharing of family responsibilities, extended paid paternity and parental leave and strengthen the enforcement of maternity protection;**

(d) **Adopt a comprehensive legal framework prohibiting gender-based discrimination and violence in the workplace, including sexual harassment and discrimination based on pregnancy and maternity, in both the public and private sectors; and ensure the effective implementation of MTESS Resolution No. 195/2026,**

through accessible and confidential complaint mechanisms, effective investigations and protection of victims from retaliation and ratify ILO Convention No. 190;

(e) **Immediately withdraw girls involved in child labour, especially in rural areas and domestic labour, including in the context of *criadazgo*, ensure their reintegration into education and social protection systems.**

Health

38. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Persistent barriers to women's and girls' access to affordable and quality sexual and reproductive health services, particularly for Indigenous, rural and Afro-descendant women, women with disabilities and adolescent girls, including linguistic barriers, insufficient confidential and youth-friendly services, and requirements of adult accompaniment;

(b) The highly restrictive legal framework on abortion, which criminalizes abortion except where necessary to avoid a serious danger to the pregnant woman's life, including in cases of rape, forcing women and girls to carry unwanted pregnancies to term and resulting in unsafe abortions and preventable maternal morbidity and mortality, particularly among Indigenous, rural and adolescent women and girls;

(c) The high early pregnancy rate, resulting from, among others, rape of girls and young women and gaps in timely post-rape care and psychosocial support, as well as gaps in the prevention of sexual violence and in the provision of comprehensive care to child and adolescent victims;

(d) Persistent barriers to the prevention, early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer, as well as the insufficient investment in and uneven accessibility of public health services.

39. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure affordable confidential and culturally appropriate access to sexual and reproductive health services, including youth-friendly services without mandatory third-party authorization, to women and girls in the State party, including Indigenous, rural and Afro-descendant women and girls and women and girls with disabilities;**

(b) **Amend the Criminal Code to decriminalize abortion in all cases, with a view to progressively legalizing voluntary, safe and accessible abortion, and ensure access to safe abortion and post-abortion services, including treatment for complications resulting from unsafe abortion;**

(c) **Urgently adopt measures to reduce levels of morbidity and mortality among girls and young women victims of sexual violence, ensure the effective implementation of the National Programme for the Prevention and Care of Children and Adolescent Victims of Sexual Abuse, hold perpetrators accountable, and ensure timely referral, post-rape care, including post-exposure prophylaxis,emergency contraception, and specialized psychosocial support;**

(d) **Increase investment in the public health system and strengthen the availability and geographic coverage of prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment for breast and cervical cancer, particularly in rural and underserved areas.**

Women's economic empowerment and social benefits

40. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Persistent inequalities in women's access to credit, entrepreneurial support and housing loans, and the lack of disaggregated information on the extent to which existing

programmes benefit Indigenous and Afro-descendant women, women with disabilities, women in informal employment and women heads of household;

(b) Women's limited access to social protection and their low pension benefits, particularly for women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, and the lack of a gender perspective in the development and poverty-reduction strategies of the State party;

(c) The lack of information on measures to ensure women's equal participation in sport, leisure and cultural life, including women athletes' access to public funding, training, facilities and opportunities to participate in national and international competitions.

41. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Expand women's effective access to credit, entrepreneurship support and low interest housing loans, with targeted measures for Indigenous and Afro-descendant women, women with disabilities, women in informal employment and women heads of household, and publish disaggregated data on beneficiaries and outcomes;**

(b) **Ensure that women have adequate access to social protection and adequate pension benefits and integrate a gender perspective in its development and poverty-reduction strategies, prioritizing women facing intersecting forms of discrimination;**

(c) **Ensure women's and girls' equal access to sport, leisure and cultural life, including through equitable public funding, accessible facilities, training opportunities and support for women athletes, including professional athletes participating in national and international competitions.**

Rural women

42. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) Rural women's limited access to land, soft loans and financial credit, markets, including e-markets, technological tools, education, health services and adequate housing, while noting recent improvements in women's access to land titles;

(b) The adverse effects of land concentration, agribusiness expansion, inadequate oversight of agrochemical use and extractive activities on rural women's health, livelihoods and food security and that the comprehensive study on agrotoxic products previously recommended by the Committee remains outstanding;

(c) The disproportionate impact of climate change and disasters on rural women and their insufficient participation and leadership in decision-making on climate change and disaster-risk reduction, as well as the limited recognition and support for rural women's roles as first responders.

43. **Noting that the Human Rights Committee found violations of several rights arising from the State party's failure to regulate and monitor the use of agrochemicals and to protect affected communities from environmental contamination in *Portillo Cáceres et al. v. Paraguay* and *Oliveira Pereira et al. v. Paraguay*, the Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Ensure that rural women have equal access to land, low interest loans without collateral, markets, including e-markets, technological tools, financial credit, markets, education, health services, affordable housing and other basic services;**

(b) **Complete and publish the comprehensive study previously recommended by the Committee [CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/6, para. 33 and CEDAW/C/CO/7, para. 41, d)] on the misuse of agrochemicals and their impact on rural women; strengthen the monitoring and enforcement of regulations on agrochemicals production and use, require gender-responsive human rights and environmental impact assessments of agro-industrial and extractive activities, and provide effective remedies for gender-specific health, environmental and livelihood harms;**

(c) **Ensure rural women's equal participation in decision-making and leadership on climate change adaptation and disaster-risk reduction, including by recognizing and supporting their roles in disaster preparedness, response and recovery.**

Women facing intersecting forms of discrimination

Indigenous women and girls

44. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The continuing impact of deforestation, agrochemical contamination, agribusiness expansion and climate change on Indigenous women's health, communal lands, livelihoods, natural resources and traditional knowledge;

(b) The limited participation of Indigenous women in decision-making concerning their lands, natural resources and development or extractive projects, including weak safeguards to ensure their consultation and free, prior and informed consent;

(c) The limited participation of Indigenous women in the management and protection of their traditional knowledge, cultural heritage and data, including in emerging digital and artificial intelligence frameworks.

45. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Protect Indigenous women's rights to their lands, territories, natural resources, health and traditional knowledge and prevent and provide compensation for harm caused by deforestation, agrochemicals and large-scale development activities;**

(b) **Ensure Indigenous women's effective participation in decision-making concerning their lands, natural resources and development or extractive projects affecting their communities and require their free, prior and informed consent to such projects;**

(c) **Ensure Indigenous women's effective participation in the management, collection, protection and use of Indigenous traditional knowledge and data; protect their traditional knowledge, cultural heritage and collective intellectual property against unauthorized use; ensure adequate benefit sharing; and establish safeguards against their misuse in digital and artificial intelligence systems.**

Women survivors of Dictatorship-era sexual violence and sexual slavery

46. The Committee notes with concern the lack of comprehensive information on the investigation of dictatorship-era sexual violence against and sexual slavery of women and girls, including cases documented by the Truth and Justice Commission, and on survivors' effective access to the existing reparations framework.

47. **The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that women and girls subjected to sexual violence and sexual slavery during the dictatorship have effective access to truth, justice and comprehensive, gender-responsive reparations, including through transitional justice procedures before the Directorate of Truth, Justice, and Reparation, as well as compensation, rehabilitation, measures of memorialization and guarantees of non-repetition.**

Women deprived of liberty

48. The Committee notes the State party's commitments made during the dialogue to review individually the 632 cases of women in pretrial detention, prioritizing mothers with dependent children and women accused of minor drug-related offences, and to record women's caregiving responsibilities and number of dependent children in the relevant case-management system, and requests that it provides information on their implementation and results in the next periodic report. It nevertheless notes with concern:

(a) The excessive and prolonged use of pretrial detention for women, including women accused of minor drug offences, and the limited use of non-custodial measures for pregnant women, mothers and primary caregivers;

(b) The lack of gender-responsive mental-health and rehabilitation services in detention, prolonged isolation, insufficient menstrual hygiene products and the adverse impact of detention on women and their dependent children.

49. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Reduce the use and duration of pretrial detention for women and prioritize appropriate non-custodial measures, particularly for pregnant women, mothers, primary caregivers and women accused of non-violent offences, in accordance with the Bangkok Rules;**

(b) **Ensure gender-responsive conditions of detention, including adequate mental-health and rehabilitation services, safeguards against prolonged isolation and free and sufficient menstrual hygiene products, while protecting the rights and best interests of children of women in detention.**

Lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex women

50. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) The absence of legislation recognizing gender identity and ensuring legal gender recognition for transgender women;

(b) The lack of effective investigation and prosecution of violence against LBTI women and femicides against transgender women, the absence of disaggregated data on such violence and killings, and inadequate legislation to address hate speech against them;

(c) The lack of legal recognition of same-sex marriage and de facto unions and the inadequate family law protections for same-sex couples and their children.

51. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Adopt gender identity legislation ensuring accessible and non-discriminatory legal gender recognition based on self-identification;**

(b) **Ensure effective investigation, prosecution and punishment of violence and femicides against transgender women, systematically collect disaggregated data on such cases, and adopt legislation to address hate speech and incitement to violence against LBTI women;**

(c) **Amend articles 51 and 52 of the Constitution and related legislation to ensure the legal recognition of same-sex marriages and de facto unions and the equal protection of same-sex couples and their children under family law, including regarding parental, property and inheritance rights.**

Marriage and family relations

52. The Committee notes with concern:

(a) That Law No. 7371/2025 retains the concepts of legal incapacity and guardianship, and the lack of information on the review of existing interdictions required under article 6, while article 17 of Law No. 1/92 continues to prohibit marriage for persons with “chronic mental illness” and for deaf-mute, deaf-blind and blind-mute persons deemed unable to express their will “unequivocally”, restricting the legal autonomy of women with disabilities and their rights to marry, choose a partner, become mothers and exercise parental rights;

(b) Persistent barriers to publicly funded paternity testing and the lack of enforcement of maintenance obligations, including inconsistent registration in the Registry of Maintenance Debtors (REDAM) and the practice of calculating payments below the applicable legal standard;

(c) The exclusion of pension, insurance and other career-related benefits from marital property and the lack of recognition of women’s unpaid domestic and care work upon dissolution of a marriage, which disproportionately shift the economic consequences of family responsibilities and separation onto women.

53. **The Committee recommends that the State party:**

(a) **Amend Law No. 7371/2025 to abolish legal incapacity, guardianship and substituted decision-making, complete and publish the reviews of existing interdictions required under article 6, with data disaggregated by sex and disability, and establish accessible supported decision-making respecting the will and preferences of women with disabilities; repeal article 17 of Law No. 1/92 and all disability-based restrictions on marriage, ensuring that women with disabilities can freely choose a partner, marry, become mothers and exercise parental rights;**

(b) **Remove barriers to publicly funded paternity testing and ensure the effective enforcement of maintenance obligations, including the proper calculation of payments, consistent and automatic registration in the Registry of Maintenance Debtors whenever the legal conditions are met, as well as the effective recovery of outstanding maintenance payments;**

(c) **Ensure the economic protection of women upon separation or divorce by including pension, insurance and other career-related benefits in marital property and recognizing and compensating inequalities arising from women's unpaid domestic and care work; and address the gendered impact of non-payment and procedural obstruction that shift child- and care-related costs on women.**

Data collection and analysis

54. The Committee is concerned about fragmented, insufficiently disaggregated data across areas covered by the Convention, impeding identification of inequalities, policy evaluation and monitoring of gender-based violence and discrimination cases and outcomes, and the removal of Afro-descendant self-identification from the 2022 census.

55. **The Committee recommends that the State party improve its statistical system, harmonizing and publishing data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, ethnicity, migration and socioeconomic status; incorporating gender and intersectional indicators, harmonized disability classifications and cross-disaggregated data into the Disability Atlas; monitoring laws, policies and gender-based violence and discrimination cases and outcomes; and restoring Afro-descendant self-identification and statistical visibility of underrepresented groups.**

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

56. **Following the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Committee calls upon the State party to reaffirm its implementation and to re-evaluate the realization of the rights enshrined in the Convention in order to achieve substantive equality between women and men.**

Dissemination

57. **The Committee requests the State party to ensure the timely dissemination of the present concluding observations, in Spanish and Guaraní, to the relevant State institutions at the national, departmental and municipal levels, in particular the Executive, the National Congress and the judiciary, to enable their full implementation, and to civil society, including women's organizations and organizations representing women facing intersecting forms of discrimination, to raise awareness throughout the State party.**

Technical assistance

58. **The Committee recommends that the State party link the implementation of the Convention to its development efforts and that it avail itself of regional or international technical assistance in this respect.**

Follow-up to concluding observations

59. **The Committee requests the State party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 14 (b), 27 (b), 29 (d) and 35 (b) above.**

Preparation of the next report

60. **The Committee will establish and communicate the due date of the ninth periodic report of the State party in line with a future clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States parties (General Assembly resolution 79/165, para. 6) and following the adoption of a list of issues and questions prior to reporting, if applicable, for the State party. The report should cover the entire period up to the time of its submission.**

61. **The Committee requests the State party to follow the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents (HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6, chap. I).**