



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: SS/

3 September, 2012

Dear Ms. Yoon,

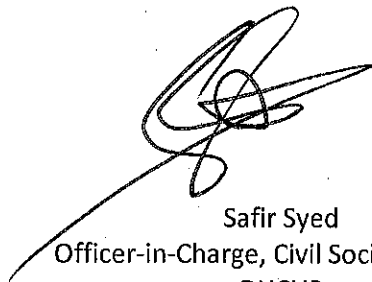
I refer to your letter dated 29 August 2012 addressed to Ms. Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights, relating to the decision to discontinue the New York sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee).

Please be assured that this was a very difficult decision which was taken after much thought and consideration. Unfortunately, due to severe budgetary pressures that the Office is facing, the decision to move both the CEDAW Committee and the Human Rights Committee to Geneva was unavoidable.

The High Commissioner and the entire Office values the vital role of civil society in playing an active role in supporting the treaty bodies, which further advances our common objectives of promoting and protecting human rights. It is hoped that your organization and affiliate organizations continue to support the CEDAW Committee during its sessions in Geneva.

Mr. Ibrahim Salama, Director of the Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD), and Ms. Wan-Hea Lee, Chief of the Groups in Focus Section (HRTD) will be in New York from 9 to 17 September and would be available to meet with you to discuss the matter further should you so desire.

Sincerely,



Safir Syed
Officer-in-Charge, Civil Society Section
OHCHR

Ms. Soon-Young Yoon, Chair
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