

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2015/I/CRP

**Report of the Committee on the
Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Sixtieth session
(16 February – 6 March 2015)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 60/1

Election of the Chair

On 16 February 2015, the Committee elected Yoko Hayashi as the Chair of the Committee.

Decision 60/2

Election of Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur

On 16 February 2015, the Committee also elected the other officers of the Committee as follows: Barbara Bailey, Vice Chair; Naela Gabr, Vice Chair; Dalia Leinarte, Vice-Chair; and Patricia Schulz, Rapporteur.

Decision 60/3

Working Group on Communications

The Committee elected the members of the working group on communications as follows: Gladys Acosta Vargas, Niklas Bruun, Nahla Haidar, Dalia Leinarte, and Pramila Patten.

Decision 60/4

Working Group on Inquiries

The Committee elected the members of the working group on inquiries as follows: Barbara Bailey, Hilary Gbedemah, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Ismat Jahan, and Lia Nadaraia.

Decision 60/5

Global Study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325

On 6 March 2015, the Committee decided to send an open letter to Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, the leading author for the Global Study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security (see annex 1).

Decision 60/6

Guidance note for States parties on the constructive dialogue

The Committee decided to adopt the guidance note for States parties on the constructive dialogue with the human rights treaty bodies, as recommended by the twenty-sixth meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies held in Geneva from 23 to 27 June 2014 (A/69/285, Annex I), on the understanding that:

- (a) The Committee will continue to hold its constructive dialogues with States parties in two consecutive meetings of up to three hours which take place on one and the same day;
- (b) The current level of documentation pertaining to State party reviews that is put at the disposal of Committee members in paper format will be

maintained and will continue to be made available to them in the future with no reduction in the types of documents that are placed in hard copy in the documentation boxes in the conference room.

Decision 60/7

Framework for concluding observations

The Committee decided to adopt the Framework for Concluding Observations, as recommended by the twenty-sixth meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies held in Geneva from 23 to 27 June 2014 (A/69/285, Annex II), on the understanding that the practice of the Committee is that only issues discussed during the constructive dialogue with the State party concerned may be raised in the concluding observations.

Decision 60/8

Allegations of reprisals

The Committee, while reaffirming its commitment to the protection of individuals who communicate with it, be it in the context of the procedure for the examination of reports of States parties or under the Optional Protocol, decided to mandate its Chair and Bureau to deal with cases of allegations of ill-treatment, intimidation, harassment or other reprisals against individuals as a consequence of their communicating or seeking to communicate with the Committee. Accordingly, the Committee decided that the Chair, at the request of the Bureau, shall bring the matter to the attention of the State party concerned and seek from it written explanations and/or clarifications in relation to allegations received that the State party has failed to ensure that individuals under its jurisdiction are not subjected to any such reprisals.

Decision 60/9

States parties to be considered under the simplified reporting procedure

The Committee decided that the following States parties having requested to submit their periodic reports under the simplified reporting procedure and meeting the eligibility criteria stipulated in decisions 58/2 and 59/4 will be considered under that procedure: Belarus (eighth periodic report), Ireland (combined sixth to eighth periodic reports), Israel (sixth periodic report), Luxembourg (combined sixth and seventh periodic reports) and Romania (combined seventh to ninth periodic reports).

Decision 60/10

General discussion on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change

The Committee decided to hold a half-day general discussion on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change during its sixty-third session.

Decision 60/11

Pre-Session Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-session working group for the sixty-second session, i.e., Barbara Bailey, Nahla Haidar, Dalia Leinarte, Pramila Patten, and Patricia Schulz.

Decision 60/12Working Group on General Recommendation No. 19

On 6 March 2015, the Committee decided to update its General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women, with support from the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and to establish an open-ended working group for this purpose, to be chaired by Feride Acar and comprising Barbara Bailey, Naela Gabr, Nahla Haidar, Lilian Hofmeister, Dalia Leinarte, Pramila Patten, and Silvia Pimentel.

Decision 60/13Task force on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations

The working group on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations was expanded to include Dalia Leinarte and Lia Nadaraia, in addition to the existing members Nicole Ameline, Niklas Bruun, Nahla Haidar, Ismat Jahan, Theodora Oby Nwankwo, Pramila Patten (Chair) and Biancamaria Pomeranzi.

Decision 60/14Working Group on working methods

The working group on working methods was expanded to include Magalys Arocha Dominguez, Louiza Chalal and Lia Nadaraia, in addition to the existing members Nahla Haidar, Dalia Leinarte, Biancamaria Pomeranzi, Patricia Schulz (Chair), and Xiaoqiao Zou.

Decision 60/15Working Group on rural women

The working group on rural women was expanded to include Lilian Hofmeister, in addition to the existing members Barbara Bailey, Niklas Bruun, Naela Gabr (Chair), Ismat Jahan, Theodora Oby Nwankwo, Biancamaria Pomeranzi, and Xiaoqiao Zou.

Decision 60/16Working Group on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change

The working group on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change was expanded to include Lilian Hofmeister, in addition to the existing members Feride Acar, Hilary Gbedemah, Nahla Haidar, Yoko Hayashi (Chair), Ismat Jahan, and Xiaoqiao Zou.

Decision 60/17Working Group on the right to education

The working group on the right to education was expanded to include Niklas Bruun, Bakhita Al-Dosari and Louiza Chalal, in addition to the existing members Feride Acar, Barbara Bailey (Chair), Naela Gabr, Hilary Gbedemah, and Xiaoqiao Zou.

Decision 60/18

CEDAW/UN-Women Working Group

The CEDAW/UN-Women working group was expanded to include Gladys Acosta Vargas, Dalia Leinarte and Biancamaria Pomeranzi, in addition to the existing members Feride Acar, Nicole Ameline (Chair), Naela Gabr, Nahla Haidar, and Silvia Pimentel.

Decision 60/19

CEDAW/IPU Working Group

The CEDAW/IPU working group was expanded to include Magalys Arocha and Lia Nadaraia, in addition to the existing members Nicole Ameline (Chair), Nahla Haidar, Ismat Jahan, Pramilla Patten, and Patricia Schulz.

Decision 60/20

Focal points on sexual and reproductive health and rights

The Committee decided to confirm Patricia Schulz and appoint Louiza Chalal as co-focal points on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Decision 60/21

Gender and HIV/AIDS Focal Point

The Committee decided to confirm Theodora Oby Nwankwo as gender and HIV/AIDS focal point.

Decision 60/22

Working Group on cooperation with other treaty bodies

The Committee decided to transform its CEDAW/Human Rights Committee working group into a working group on cooperation with other treaty bodies, with equitable regional representation and open membership, to initiate and maintain regular exchanges with other treaty bodies.

Decision 60/23

Working Group on cooperation with regional human rights mechanisms

The Committee decided to transform its focal points for cooperation with the ASEAN Human Rights Commission into a working group on cooperation with regional human rights mechanisms, with equitable regional representation and open membership, to establish and maintain regular contacts and information exchange with regional human rights mechanisms.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

A. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the Optional Protocol

On 6 March 2015, the closing date of the sixtieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 188 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its

resolution 34/180 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980. In accordance with its article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. In addition, 69 Contracting States had accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, concerning the Committee's meeting time. A total of 126 States parties to the Convention are currently required to accept the amendment in order to bring it into force, in accordance with its provisions.

As at the same date, there were 105 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/4 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 10 December 1999. In accordance with its article 16, the Optional Protocol entered into force on 22 December 2000.

The updated status of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and its Optional Protocol, including lists of States signatories and parties as well as the texts of declarations, reservations, objections and other relevant information can be found in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at <http://treaties.un.org>, maintained by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, which discharges the depositary functions of the Secretary-General.

B. Opening of the session

The Committee held its sixtieth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 16 February to 6 March 2015. The Committee held 19 plenary meetings, and also held 11 meetings to discuss agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex [...] to the present report.

The session was opened by the outgoing Chairperson of the Committee, Nicole Ameline, at its 1275th meeting on 16 February 2015.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/60/1) at its 1275th meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/60/1), which met from 21 to 25 July 2014, was introduced by Xiaoqiao Zou at the 1275th meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 16 February 2015, the Committee elected Yoko Hayashi as Chair of the Committee, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee. The following members were also elected as officers of the Committee: Barbara Bailey, Vice Chair; Naela Gabr, Vice Chair; Dalia Leinarte, Vice-Chair; and Patricia Schulz, Rapporteur.

The following newly elected members of the Committee assumed their duties and took the solemn declaration as provided for in Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on 16 February: Gladys Acosta Vargas, Bakhita Al-Dosari, Magalys Arocha Dominguez, Louiza Chahal, Lilian Hofmeister, and Lia Nadaraia.

On 16 and 23 February 2015, the Committee held closed meetings with representatives of specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, during which country-specific information was provided, as well as information on the

efforts made by those bodies to support the implementation of the Convention.

Also on 16 and 23 February, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions who provided information on the implementation of the Convention in the States parties considered by the Committee at its sixtieth session.

On 16 February, the Committee met with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, and exchanged views on the impact of extremism on women's rights and the Committee's working languages and resources.

On 2 March, the Committee was briefed by the Chief of the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, OHCHR, on relevant recent developments in the Human Rights Council and regarding Beijing +20, as well as on the work of OHCHR on women's rights.

On 5 March 2015, the Committee held an informal meeting with representatives of UNHCR to discuss strengthened cooperation, including with regard to the dissemination and implementation of its general recommendation No. 32 (2014) on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women.

F. Membership of the Committee

All members attended the sixtieth session, with the exception of Theodora Oby Nwankwo. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Feride Acar, on 24 February 2015; Bakhita Al-Dosari, from 23 February to 6 March; Nicole Ameline, from 26 February to 2 March and on 4 March; Niklas Bruun, on 19 and 20 February; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, on 27 February and 5 and 6 March; Yoko Hayashi, from 4 to 6 March; and Ismat Jahan, from 16 to 20 February. A list of members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is annexed to the present report.

Chapter III

Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the Committee

At the 1275th meeting, the outgoing Chairperson, Nicole Ameline, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the fifty-ninth session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

A. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

At its sixtieth session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the fifth periodic report of Azerbaijan; the eighth periodic report of Denmark; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Ecuador; the fourth and fifth periodic reports of Eritrea; the sixth periodic report of Gabon; the fourth periodic report of Kyrgyzstan; the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Maldives; and the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Tuvalu.

The Committee prepared concluding observations on each of the reports considered. Those observations are available through the Official

Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol numbers indicated below:

Azerbaijan (CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/5)

Denmark (CEDAW/C/DNK/CO/8)

Ecuador (CEDAW/C/ECU/CO/8-9)

Eritrea (CEDAW/C/ERI/CO/5)

Gabon (CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/6)

Kyrgyz Republic (CEDAW/C/KGZ/CO/4)

Maldives (CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/4-5)

Tuvalu (CEDAW/C/TUV/CO/3-4)

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

The Committee considered the follow-up reports from the following States parties:

- 1) Bahamas (CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/1-5/Add.1)
- 2) Bulgaria (CEDAW/C/BGR/CO/4-7/Add.1)
- 3) Jordan (CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/5/Add.1)
- 4) New Zealand (CEDAW/C/NZL/CO/7/Add.1)
- 5) United Kingdom (CEDAW/C/GBR/CO/7/Add.1)

The Committee sent first reminders to the following States parties whose follow-up reports were overdue:

- 1) Comoros
- 2) Equatorial Guinea
- 3) Togo

The Committee sent second reminders to the following States parties whose follow-up reports were overdue:

- 1) Algeria
- 2) Congo
- 3) Grenada
- 4) Zimbabwe

The rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Tunisia and Zambia, as the follow-up reports of these States parties were overdue.

Chapter V

Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provides that the Committee shall include in its annual report under article 21 of the Convention a summary of its activities under the Optional Protocol.

A. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 2 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 23 February and 2 March 2015. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its thirty-first session (see annex 2).

The Committee adopted decisions with regard to three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted two final decisions, finding a violation in one case concerning discriminatory customary inheritance laws, and declaring one case concerning non-refoulement inadmissible. A third case also concerning non-refoulement was declared admissible. All decisions were adopted by consensus. The text of the final decisions of the Committee can be found through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>), the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (<http://www.ohchr.org>, at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Jurisprudence.aspx>), or through the newly established database of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (<http://juris.ohchr.org/>). The text of the final decisions adopted at this session will be available once they have been finalized and sent to the respective parties.

B. Follow-up to views of the Committee on individual communications

The Committee was informed that the Working Group, during its thirty-first session, was briefed by the Secretariat on the situation in each case where the follow-up dialogue is on-going and that it had agreed on the action to be taken.

The Committee decided that in all cases under follow-up examination, the follow-up dialogue shall continue. 10 cases that are currently under follow-up examination: 1 relates to Brazil, 3 to Bulgaria, 1 to Canada, 1 to the Netherlands, 1 to Peru, 1 to the Philippines, 1 to Spain and 1 to Turkey. The Committee also decided that meetings with the Permanent Missions of Canada and Peru to the United Nations Office at Geneva shall be arranged during the Committee's sixty-first session.

C. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 8 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee was briefed on the status of all pending submissions and proceedings under the inquiry procedure. It decided that pending submissions will be considered by the working group on inquiries (see decision 59/6), established under rule 82(3) of the rules or procedure of the Committee.

In relation to inquiry No. 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, the Committee decided, on 6 March 2015, to make public its full report of the inquiry together with the State party's observations thereon, should the State party consent to such publication by 20 March 2015. The Committee also decided that, in the absence of such consent, it would include a summary of the inquiry, including the Committee's findings and recommendations, in its annual report to the General Assembly, in accordance with article 12 of the Optional Protocol.

In relation to inquiry No. 2011/1 concerning Canada, the Committee received the observations of the State party on its report of the inquiry and concluded the proceedings under article 8 of the Optional Protocol. The report of the inquiry and the State party's observations thereon can be found through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol numbers

CEDAW/C/OP.8/CAN/1 and CEDAW/C/OP.8/CAN/2, respectively, and on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (<http://www.ohchr.org>).

In relation to submission No. 2013/1, the Committee decided to extend by two months the time limit for the State party concerned to submit observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

In relation to submission No. 2014/1, the Committee decided to conduct an inquiry and to transmit its decision to the State party.

Chapter VI

A. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the status of submission of overdue reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

On 17 February 2015, the Committee was briefed on the informal meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, held at Wilton Park, United Kingdom, from 16 to 18 January 2015, in which Nicole Ameline participated.

On 4 March 2015, the Committee discussed its working methods and decided to adopt, with certain clarifications (see decisions 60/6 and 60/7), the guidance note for States parties on the constructive dialogue and the framework for concluding observations, recommended by the twenty-sixth meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies held in Geneva from 23 to 27 June 2014 for common use by all treaty bodies (A/69/285, Annexes I and II).

B. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 7

Dates of future sessions of the Committee

In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates are confirmed for the Committee's sixty-first and sixty-second sessions:

Sixty-first Session (Geneva)

Thirty-second session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 30 June to 3 July 2015

First session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 1 to 3 July 2015

Sixty-first session: 6 to 24 July 2015

Pre-session working group for the sixty-third session: 27 to 31 July 2015

Sixty-second Session (Geneva)

Thirty-third session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 20 to 23 October 2015

Second session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 21 to 23 October 2015

Sixty-second session: 26 October to 20 November 2015

Pre-session working group for the sixty-fourth session: 23 to 27 November 2015

Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee

The Committee confirmed that it will consider the reports of the following States parties at its sixty-first and sixty-second sessions:

Sixty-first session:

- 1) Bolivia
- 2) Croatia
- 3) Gambia
- 4) Namibia
- 5) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- 6) Senegal
- 7) Spain
- 8) Vietnam

It is noted that the consideration of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the absence of a report had originally been scheduled for the fifty-sixth session. However, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines submitted its combined fourth to eighth periodic reports on 5 August 2013, and the consideration was subsequently postponed to the sixty-first session to allow for the translation of the report as well as the establishment of an updated list of issues at the pre-session working group.

Sixty-second session:

- 1) Lebanon
- 2) Liberia
- 3) Madagascar
- 4) Malawi
- 5) Portugal
- 6) Russia
- 7) Slovakia
- 8) Slovenia
- 9) Timor Leste
- 10) United Arab Emirates
- 11) Uzbekistan
- 12) Yemen

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

Task force on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations

The task force met during the session to discuss the Committee's contribution to the Global study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

Working Group on women and access to justice

The working group met during the session and further improved the draft general recommendation on women's access to justice.

On 6 March 2015, the Committee held another first reading of the draft general recommendation.

Working Group on rural women

The working group met during the session and discussed a first draft of the general recommendation which will be shared with other stakeholders inter-sessionally.

Working Group on gender equality in the context of gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change

The working group met with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) during the session to discuss coordination and procedures relating to the draft concept note. The working group also discussed the participation of some of its members in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015. It is expected that the concept note will be tabled by the working group for endorsement by the Committee at its sixty-second session. A day of general discussion is tentatively scheduled for the sixty-third session.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group met during the session.

Working Group on working methods

The working group met during the session and considered and submitted to the Committee draft decisions the adoption of the guidance note for States parties on the constructive dialogue with the human rights treaty bodies and the framework for concluding observations (see decisions 60/6 and 60/7).

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union met during the session.

CEDAW/UN-Women Working Group

The CEDAW/UN-Women working group met during the session.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session

The Committee considered the draft provisional agenda for its sixty-first session on 6 March 2015 and approved the following provisional agenda for that session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the sixtieth and sixty-first sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Follow-up to concluding observations of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

6. Implementation of articles 21 and 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
8. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
9. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-first session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its sixtieth session and addenda on 6 March 2015 and adopted it as orally revised during the discussion.

[Annexes will be added to the final version of the text]

B. Composition of the working groups of the Committee

[To be added to the final version of the report]

Annexes

Annex 1

6 March 2015

Dear Ms Coomaraswamy,

I have the honour to address this letter to you as part of the contribution of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) which you are leading.

The Committee welcomes Security Council Resolution 2122 (2013) and the timely High-level Review in 2015 to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). The Global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) to highlight good practices examples, implementation gaps, challenges, and emerging trends and priorities for action, is also timely. The Committee appreciates your invitation to provide its input to this study which presents an opportunity for the United Nations system and all stakeholders/partners to build on good practice, generate new action, where needed, and address current and emerging concerns.

The Committee reaffirms that sustainable peace requires an integrated approach based on coherence between political and security measures, development and human rights agendas, including gender equality and the rule of law. The Committee further notes the convergence of the High-Level Review with other major global policy events, such as the post-2015 development framework and the 20-year review of the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

The Committee acknowledges the efforts of UN Member States, the UN system, international, regional and sub-regional organizations and civil society groups in furthering the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. It particularly notes a number of recent achievements at the normative level, including the two resolutions adopted by the Security Council in 2013-2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013); two high-level political commitments to combating sexual violence in conflict; a declaration on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC/7/OC/3), the inclusion of a criterion on gender-based violence in article 7 (4) of the Arms Trade Treaty, as well as General Recommendation No. 30 adopted in 2013 by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on "Women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations".

The Committee, however, stresses that in spite of all these efforts numerous challenges remain at the implementation level and in sustaining progress. While acknowledging some progress towards the implementation of the Resolution over the last 15 years, it is also important to highlight the gaps between the aspiration of the Resolution and the reality on the ground. Women's continued marginalization from formal peace processes, as well as increasing levels of insecurity and violence against women and girls in conflict zones, constitute evidence of gaps in implementing the Resolution. Further, the Committee notes that despite the decisive role played by resolution 1325 (2000) in highlighting the issues of women in peace and security, the Resolution has fallen short in terms of addressing systemic violence against women as well as structural discrimination.

Grave abuses and violence against women, including sexual violence and rape, continue to be a common occurrence in conflict and post-conflict settings all around the world. Other developments of concern include targeted violence and human rights violations linked to terrorism committed against women and girls, violent extremism and transnational organized crime, together with growing tensions, political violence and

restrictions on human rights in countries and regions that were progressing on a path towards peace. Similarly, the “increased representation of women at all decision-making levels” as affirmed in UNSCR 1325, as well as increased inclusion of women in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict, have not become the norm, but remain marginal. This can be partly explained by cultural and institutional barriers to women’s participation – especially the existence of patriarchal values, which tend to impede women’s advancement. Preventing violent conflict and identifying non-violent means of resolving tensions as part of the broader prevention aspects of resolution 1325 (2000) and related policy commitments still remain the least explored, with this area of work remaining seriously underfunded.

While injustices and inequalities embedded in gender relations are a long-term threat to development and stability, gender equality represents a safeguard to the spread of radicalization and violent extremism. It is critical, therefore, that women’s leadership be tapped into as a critical resource for peace.

In General Recommendation No. 30 (2013), the Committee reaffirms the synergy between the CEDAW Convention and Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and highlights in particular the strong linkages with Security Council Resolutions, 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 1983 (2011) and 2106 (2013). All these resolutions which are important political frameworks for advocating regarding women, peace and security, unfortunately do not include any clear mechanisms for monitoring implementation so as to ensure accountability as well as full implementation of the principles enshrined therein. At the same time, as all the areas of concern addressed in these resolutions find expression in the substantive provisions of the Convention, their implementation must be premised on a model of substantive equality and cover all rights enshrined in the Convention.

The CEDAW Convention is the authoritative legal instrument on women’s human rights and a binding source of international law for those 188 States that have ratified or acceded to it. It is also one of the critical tools for moving the gender equality agenda forward in conflict and post conflict situations. The Preamble of the Convention together with its 16 substantive provisions establish the requisite normative framework for the full protection of women in armed conflict and the advancement of their fundamental human rights in post-conflict contexts. As stated in the Committee’s General Recommendation No. 30, “protecting women’s human rights at all times, advancing substantive gender equality before, during and after conflict and ensuring that women’s diverse experiences are fully integrated into all peacebuilding, peacemaking and reconstruction processes are important objectives of the Convention”.

In addition to the substantive rights guarantees, the Convention contains a periodic reporting and review process under its article 18, which requires all States parties to report on measures they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention including in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. Under Article 18(1), States parties undertake to submit a report within one year of ratification, and thereafter at least every four years “and further whenever the Committee so requests”.

The Committee commends the recognition by the Security Council of the need for a significant implementation shift, without which, women and women’s perspectives will continue to be underrepresented in conflict prevention, resolution, protection and peacebuilding for the foreseeable future. The Committee is of the view that full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda requires profound paradigmatic shifts in political and technical processes across all institutions.

Referring to the CEDAW Convention, specifically articles 2, 3, 5, 7 and 18, and to General Recommendation No. 30 (2013), the Committee is pleased to make the following submission to the global study on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000):

i) Substantive equality approach - Emphasizing the need for a concerted and integrated approach that places the implementation of the Security Council Agenda on Women, Peace and Security into the broader framework of the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol, the Committee recommends that the implementation of Security Council commitments reflects a model of substantive equality and takes into account the impact of conflict and post-conflict contexts, including violations concerning conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, on women's equal enjoyment of all rights enshrined in the Convention,.

ii) Monitoring and reporting - States parties are urged to provide information to the CEDAW Committee as well as to other treaty bodies on the implementation of the Security Council Agenda on Women, Peace and Security, in particular Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013), including by specifically reporting on compliance with any agreed United Nations benchmarks or indicators developed as part of that agenda. Using the CEDAW reporting procedure to include information on the implementation of Security Council commitments can consolidate the Convention as well as the Security Council agenda and broaden, strengthen and operationalize gender equality.

iii) Capacity building for women in peace and security - Build a critical mass of female experts in peace and security to drive the UNSCR 1325 agenda forward and ensure the same through continuous and concerted efforts towards capacity building and specialized training for women on mediation, negotiation and conflict transformation;

Develop a database of female experts in the field that support the implementation of UNSCR 1325;

iv) Participation of women - Appoint more women to high-level decision-making positions and peace processes as Special Envoys, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs), mediators, negotiators and peacekeepers;

Ensure that the terms of reference and mandates of all mediators and peace building actors are gender-sensitive and incorporate a gender perspective, thus ensuring that there is, from their part, accountability towards the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

v) Regional dialogue, collaboration and strategic networking - Establish/build synergies among peace and security practitioners, experts, governments and regional bodies and enhance their collaboration towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 through sharing experiences;

vi) Earmarking special funding and resources for UNSCR 1325 - Provide special funding for UNSCR 1325 initiatives and ensure that both national and international peacebuilding and development agencies mobilize funds that are earmarked for the needs of women and children;

Given the serious implications of the lack of financial support to civil society on the sustainability of peace, provide specific funding targeted for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at all levels;

Ensure that funds targeted at peacebuilding incorporate gender equality considerations;

Develop mechanisms to ensure the availability of flexible funding specifically for the protection of women in armed conflict, the increased participation and involvement of women in senior-level decision-making processes, and other UNSCR 1325-related activities;

Encourage international agencies and donors to set aside urgent action funds to facilitate rapid responses by women in crisis situations.

The Committee makes the following specific recommendations to national Governments and international, regional and sub-regional organizations:

- a) For national Governments that have not yet done so, to develop as a collaborative effort with civil society, including women's rights movements and organizations, National Action Plans on the implementation of Resolution 1325(2000) which include a clear roadmap, indicators, timelines and modalities towards implementing and operationalizing the resolution ;
- b) Work together with civil society in developing regional Action Plans on UNSCR 1325, in particular, where necessary, to address current conflict or post-conflict situations;
- c) Boost women's capacities to participate in and contribute to formal and informal peace talks and dialogue processes by investing in skill development of women leaders, including women from marginalized populations, including through the establishment of rapid, intensive training units;
- d) Generate dedicated funding earmarked for activities aimed at improving the security situation of women in conflict zones;
- e) Situate counter terrorism and violent extremism responses within the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and, in the design of measures, engage women as leaders and partners in prevention and response frameworks;
- f) Introduce/adopt and implement quota for women's participation in relevant positions in foreign and security policy;
- g) Increase investment in building the capacity of women's organizations and local civil society networks working in conflict and post-conflict settings and on non-violent means of resolving tensions and addressing their root causes;
- h) Strengthen early warning mechanisms and risk assessments with gender-sensitive indicators;
- i) Use and report on gender-sensitive early warning indicators for conflict prevention as developed by the UN and civil society organizations and increasingly involve women in early warning and crisis management mechanisms, supported by latest modern information and communication technologies.

I thank you for the laudable work that you are undertaking, and I offer you the full support of the CEDAW Committee. Let me also reiterate my commitment and availability to provide further input and continue our discourse on this important matter.

(Signed) Yoko **Hayashi**
Chair

Annex 2

Report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-first session

1. The Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its thirty-first session from 12 to 13 February 2015 in Geneva. Five members attended the session (Mr. Niklas Bruun, Ms. Nahla Haidar, Ms. Dalia Leinarte, Ms. Pramila Patten and Ms. Silvia Pimentel). Mr. Bruun was elected as the Chair of the Working Group for this session.
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda as set out in the annex to the present report.
3. The Working Group decided that the Rapporteurs of the newly registered communications would be assigned during the plenary session of the Committee.
4. The Working Group then reviewed all unregistered correspondence processed since its last session. It took note of the action taken by the Secretariat so far, and decided on a number of requests for clarification/explanations or replies to be sent to authors of communications. It determined that two letters requesting further information from authors would be sent; the Working Group decided to register one new communication concerning Ukraine.
5. The Working Group discussed three draft recommendations regarding three communications. The first two recommendations were adopted by consensus and will be referred to the Committee for adoption. The Working Group discussed extensively the third communication and requested the Secretariat to finalize the draft to be further examined by the Working Group later during the session before its examination by the Committee.
6. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to prepare, on a priority basis, draft recommendations for the next session. Thus, for its thirty-second session, the Working Group requested the Secretariat to prepare four draft recommendations, namely, concerning communications Nos 24/2009, 45/2012, 50/2013 and 52/2013.
7. The Working Group also discussed the follow-up situation in 10 cases where the follow-up dialogue remained on-going, and agreed on the possible actions to take. It considered the follow-up dialogue with the States parties to be ongoing in all these cases: Brazil (No. 17/2008), Bulgaria (Nos. 20/2008, 31/2011, 32/2011), Canada (No. 19/2008), the Netherlands (No. 36/2012), Peru (No. 22/2009), the Philippines (No. 34/2011), Spain (No. 47/2012) and Turkey (No. 28/2010).
8. The Working Group decided to hold informal meetings during the Committee's sixty-first session (July 2015) to discuss follow-up matters with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Canada and Peru.

Actions taken at the present session:

9. The Working Group decided:
 - (a) To refer for adoption to the Plenary of three recommendations in relation to draft views, draft inadmissibility and draft admissibility decisions, with all members supporting the recommendation;

- (b) To register a new communication concerning Ukraine;
 - (c) To request the Secretariat to keep uploading on the Optional Protocol Extranet, academic resources that were cited in the Note by the Secretariat and make copies available of excerpts as requested;
 - (d) To request the Secretariat to arrange a meeting with the representatives of the Permanent Missions of Canada and Peru to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to Views on individual communications during the Committee's sixty-first session;
10. The thirty-second session of the Working Group will take place from 30 June to 3 July 2015.

Annex

Agenda

Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol

31st session (Geneva, 12 – 13 February 2015)

Room XVI, Palais des Nations

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 2. Review of steps and activities undertaken since the last session.
 3. New communications registered.
 4. Discussion on cases ready for adoption.
 5. Update on follow-up on Views.
 6. Discussion regarding cases ready for adoption and prioritization.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its thirty-first session.
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