

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 58th and 59th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Nicole Ameline, Chairperson

Fifty-ninth session
20 October 2014

**Dear colleagues,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to join Ms. Pansieri in welcoming you to the 59th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

We were all deeply touched by the sad news about the passing, on 6 September 2014, of Ms. Kheira Mahdjoub-Ouiguini from Algeria, who had been elected as a member of the Committee on 26 June 2014, for a mandate to begin on 1 January 2015 and to expire on 31 December 2018. A condolence letter was sent to the Permanent Mission of Algeria and the Permanent Mission was informed of the procedure for appointing another expert to serve the term of Ms. Mahdjoub-Ouiguini.

I know that you were also saddened by the decision of our former colleague Noor Al-Jehani to resign from the Committee. She took this decision in August, and after a reflection period, the Government of Qatar was invited on 2 September 2014 to appoint, within a period of two months, another expert to serve for the remainder of Noor's term, i.e. until 31 December 2016.

We are looking forward and attach great importance to working with our new colleagues to be appointed by the Governments of Algeria and Qatar, respectively.

I wish to inform you that Ms. Bailey and Ms. Zerdani will unfortunately not be able to be with us during this last session of her mandate, for personal reasons. Ms. Pomeranzi will not be able to be with us this week due to prior professional commitments. Ms. Acar and Ms. Jahan will join us tomorrow and Ms. Simonovic on Thursday this week.

I am pleased to note that since the beginning of our last session, Tajikistan has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on 22 July 2014, bringing the total number of States parties to 105. The ratification status of the Convention has not changed and remains at 188. Similarly, the number of States parties having accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee remains at 69. I am also pleased to inform you that seven States parties have submitted their periodic reports since the beginning of our last session, namely Malawi, Slovakia, United Arab Emirates, Iceland, Russian Federation, Sweden and Japan.

Shortly after our fifty-eighth session, on 5 August 2014, I met with the former United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali to inform him about the proposal to nominate CEDAW for the Peace Nobel Prize. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali also participated in a conference on “Women, Peace and Development” organized on 22 September at the French National Assembly, of which I was one of the initiators.

On the 1st of September, I was interviewed on the mandate and work of our Committee by Radio France Internationale for a broadcast with the title “7 billion neighbours”.

On 10 September, I met with the French Public Defender for Human Rights, Mr. Jacques Toubon, former Minister of Culture and Minister of Justice of France. I informed him about the possibility to submit country-specific information to the Committee.

The planned side event on CEDAW and the Sustainable Development Goals in New York was postponed until closer to the New Year when the

inter-governmental negotiations will resume after the UN Secretary General has presented his synthesis report combining all inputs to the process.

Directly after our session, I will participate in an event on the dynamism of the treaty body system that will be organized on 10 November by Emmanuel Decaux, Chairperson of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, who will be chairing the Meeting of Chairpersons in 2015.

I am also planning to meet with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi while in Myanmar to attend the Women's Forum Myanmar-ASEAN from 5 to 6 December 2014, to which I was personally invited in my capacity as Chairperson of CEDAW.

Earlier this month, I went to New York to present our report to the Third Committee of the General Assembly on 13 October 2014. In my statement that I had shared with all of you, I reiterated our support for the outcome of the treaty body strengthening process, our call for explicit references to the CEDAW Convention and systematic mainstreaming of women's rights and a gender perspective in the Sustainable Development Goals, and underlined the role of our Convention and that of the Committee for shaping and implementing a culture of peace and addressing the rights of women in conflict situations.

In New York, I also stressed the importance of our partnership with UN-Women which is second only to our natural link with OHCHR. I am confident that we will be able to come up with a proposal on how to further strengthen and formalize our relationship with UN-Women at the end of this session. This proposal will hopefully form the basis for an even closer cooperation with UN-Women in 2015, especially as regards the Beijing +20 and post-2015 processes.

Dear colleagues,

Since our last session, some of you have been involved in CEDAW-related activities such as conferences, workshops and seminars, both in your capacity as CEDAW members as well as in your personal capacity. I would kindly ask those Committee members who participated in such events to please fill in the table on inter-sessional activities that will be distributed by

the Secretariat and to provide copies of their statements to the Secretariat so that they can be distributed to the Committee during the session.

I would now be delighted to hear from Committee members who have participated in meetings and events of relevance to the promotion and protection of women's rights.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that our public meetings will again be webcast live by the NGO Coalition on the website www.treatybodywebcast.org. I therefore take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all those who will be our online guests during this session.

Thank you for your attention.
