

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 57th and 58th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Nicole Ameline, Chairperson

Fifty-eighth session
30 June 2014

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

I would like to join Mr. Salama in welcoming you to the 58th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and in congratulating the newly elected members of the Committee. I am delighted that all Committee members who stood for election were re-elected.

Ms. Acar and Ms. Zerdani will unfortunately not be able to join us during this session, both for personal reasons. Ms. Schulz will not be able to be with us this week due to a family emergency.

I am pleased to note that since our last session, the State of Palestine has acceded to the Convention on 2 April 2014, bringing the total number of States parties to 188. While the ratification status of the Optional Protocol has not changed since the beginning of our last session, Serbia has accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee on 18 June. There are now 69 States parties that have accepted the amendment. I am also pleased to inform you that four

States parties have submitted their periodic reports since our last session, namely Liberia, Lebanon, Eritrea and Slovenia.

Directly after our fifty-seventh session, I went to New York to participate in the opening of the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women and, in my capacity as CEDAW Chair, to deliver the statement that we had discussed at our 57th session. In particular, I conveyed our position on the centrality of women's rights and of a stand-alone gender-equality goal in the post-2015 development agenda to the CSW. I am heartened to see that both these core principles of our Convention figure prominently in the zero draft of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

In New York, I had the opportunity again to meet with the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, as well as with the new Executive Director of UN-Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. My meeting with the Secretary-General, and especially his acknowledgement of the importance of our general recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as of our recently adopted statement on the post-2015 agenda and the elimination of discrimination against women was once more truly encouraging. The Secretary-General also showed particular interest in our State reviews at this session.

My meeting with Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka was a very good starting point for our cooperation with UN-Women in reinforcing the implementation of the Convention and of our concluding observations. The Executive Director supported my suggestion to exchange ideas on ways to enhance the implementation of general recommendation 30 and the Convention in general, and I promised to make some concrete proposals after our present session. The Executive Director welcomed our support for a stand-alone goal in the post-2015 agenda and mentioned that the focus is now on what the content of the goal would be. Lastly, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka drew attention to the Beijing +20 process and invited our Committee to facilitate and contribute to the national and regional reviews. We will have an opportunity to further discuss these issues during our video conference with the Executive Director of UN-Women, Ms. Puri, this afternoon.

Also in New York, I had the chance to participate in a panel discussion on the "Empowerment of Women and Girls: Beyond Millennium Development Goals 2015", organized by the permanent Mission of Thailand

on 10 March, as well as in a panel on “Stereotypes and Women in Politics”, organized by IPU on 12 March.

On 30 April and 1 May, I was in Cairo, Egypt, to participate in the 2nd Meeting of the Permanent Arab-African Forum on Democracy and Human Rights, a space for permanent dialogue for civil society, parliamentarians, decision-makers, regional organizations, as well as specialized UN agencies, to discuss and rethink matters relating to the conditions of democracy and human rights in Africa and in the Arab world.

On 10 April 2014, I gave a presentation on the decriminalization of prostitution at a meeting organized by Amnesty International France and on 21 May, I delivered a statement at a conference organized by the OECD in Paris on gender equality in the context of development assistance.

From 12 to 15 June 2014, I participated in the “Nordic Forum Malmö 2014 – New Actions on Women’s Rights”, organized by the Nordic Women’s Movement. The conference was a continuation of Nordic conferences held in Oslo 1988 and in Turku (Åbo) 1994. My participation provided an excellent opportunity to call for a resurgence of the Convention in front of thousands of activists, organizations, politicians and other stakeholders gathered at the Malmö Arena.

At last week’s Annual Meeting of Chairpersons, I was able to get a sense of the trends within the treaty body system as regards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268 in the three areas for discussion, that is, the structure of the constructive dialogue, of concluding observations and the simplified reporting procedure. Of course, I was also able to contribute our views. We will need some time during our current session to discuss the outcome of the Chairs Meeting.

On Friday last week, Ms. Pomeranzi, Ms. Haidar, Ms. Gbedemah, Ms. Leinarte and I participated in an expert meeting on “Rooting the post-2015 development agenda’s gender equality goal in the norms and standards of CEDAW”. The meeting was organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, in cooperation with OHCHR, and discussed the zero draft text of the currently 17 Sustainable Development Goals from a women’s rights and specifically CEDAW perspective. I have asked Ms. Pomeranzi to provide the Committee with a detailed briefing on the meeting.

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 again that at this session, our public meetings will again be webcast live at the courtesy of 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.
