

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 61st and 62nd sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Yoko Hayashi, Chairperson

Sixty-second session
26 October 2015

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

I would like to join Mr. Nowosad in welcoming you to the 62nd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and also wish him a warm welcome to the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, I first of all wish to congratulate Feride Acar, who cannot be with us today, on her election as President of the GREVIO, the Council of Europe body monitoring the Istanbul Convention.

Ms. Acar, Ms. Ameline and Ms. Pimentel will join us next Monday. In addition, Ms. Chalal will not be able to attend the 62nd session for personal reasons.

I am pleased to note that since our last session, Sri Lanka has accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee, bringing the number of States parties having accepted the amendment up to 70. The number of States parties having ratified or acceded to the Convention and the Optional Protocol remain at 189 and 106, respectively.

I am pleased to inform you that eight States parties have submitted their periodic reports since the beginning of our last session, namely

Rwanda, Barbados, Micronesia, Niger, Republic of Korea, Costa Rica, Nigeria and Italy. In addition, two States parties (Ukraine and Germany) re-submitted reports that had previously been returned to them because they exceeded the limit of 21,200 words established by General Assembly resolution 68/268. No requests have been received from States parties wishing submit their next periodic reports under the simplified reporting procedure.

Following our sixty-first session, on 28 August 2015, I moderated a panel discussion on “Multiple Stakeholders of International Cooperation” at the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) in Tokyo, organized by the Government of Japan.

Also in Tokyo, on 29 August, I made a presentation on “Empowerment of Survivors of Violence against Women” at the Equal Futures Partnership meeting, which is a coalition of 26 countries and the European Union.

On 12 October, I presented our statement to the Third Committee of the General Assembly at UNHQ in New York, in which I focused on CEDAW and the 2030 Agenda, economic empowerment of women, gender-based violence against women, as well as women’s access to justice. In the name of our Committee, I also called on States to reach a strong universal climate agreement at the Paris 2015 Conference in order to reduce the risk of natural disasters, especially for women.

I also participated in a “Workshop on Regional and Sub-regional Courts” organized by OHCHR from 20 to 22 October in Strasbourg, where I spoke on women’s access to justice and, in particular, on how CEDAW’s jurisprudence has created synergy effects with that of regional human rights mechanisms.

Dear colleagues,

I know that many of you have been involved in CEDAW-related activities since our last session, such as conferences, workshops and seminars. I would now be delighted to hear from other Committee members who have participated in meetings and events of relevance to the promotion and protection of women’s rights. I would also 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 sent to the Committee during the session.

I would like to congratulate our colleague Oby Nwankwo who is one of the six recipients of the 2015 Women Have Wings Award, a monetary award for women of courage sponsored by the Tides Foundation, San Francisco, USA. She was nominated for the award for her work on women's access to justice and legal literacy by the Global Fund for Women, one of the six organizations who partner with Women Have Wings.

In concluding, I wish all of us success for this first-ever four-week session of CEDAW. In line with GA resolution 68/268, taking on the additional workload will be for the benefit of reducing the backlog of reports of the Committee, which currently stands at 52 reports.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that our dialogues with States parties 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 online observers during this session.

Thank you for your attention.
