

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 62nd and 63rd sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Yoko Hayashi, Chairperson

Sixty-third session
15 February 2016

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

I would like to join Mr. Nowosad in welcoming you to the 63rd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Ms. Ameline and Ms. Acar will join us tomorrow and on Monday next week, respectively. Ms. Kaddari will not be able to attend the second week of our session.

I note that since our last session, the number of States parties having ratified or acceded to the Convention and the Optional Protocol has remained at 189 and 106, respectively. Similarly, the number of States parties having accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time has remained at 70. 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.

I am pleased to inform you that seven States parties have submitted their periodic reports since the beginning of our last session, namely Singapore, Kuwait, Guatemala, Montenegro, Paraguay, Nauru and Norway. In addition, Burkina Faso has submitted a report in hard copy version only.

Two States parties, Liechtenstein and Mauritius, have submitted requests during the last session to present their overdue periodic reports under the simplified reporting procedure. The Committee acceded to both requests, in the case of Mauritius provided that the State party will submit an updated common core document by July 2016.

After our sixty-second session, together with Ms. Acar, Ms. Bailey, Ms. Gabr and Ms. Haidar, I participated in a workshop on “Tackling Violence Against Women: International and Regional Approaches” as well as in an Expert Group Meeting on our draft general recommendation updating General Recommendation No. 19 on violence against women, both hosted by the Centre for Women, Peace and Security at the London School of Economics on 4 and 5 February, respectively. At the workshop, I spoke as a panellist on “Experiences of litigating violence against women”. Feride Acar, who will join us next Monday due to her responsibilities as President of GREVIO, spoke as Chair of the CEDAW Working Group in charge of updating General Recommendation No. 19 on a panel on “Perspectives on drafting legal instruments aimed at tackling violence against women”.

At both events, the CEDAW members were able to benefit from insights and inputs from internationally renowned experts, including Christine Chinkin, Director of the LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security, and Andrew Byrnes from the University of New South Wales. Our friend and former colleague Dubravka Simonovic participated in her capacity as Special Rapporteur on violence against women. I am particularly pleased that we are continuing to build on our partnership with her important mandate. Jane Connors, Patsili Toledo, the consultants for the draft GR, and Youssef Hamdan from the CEDAW Secretariat also attended both events.

On 30 and 31 January, Ms. Bailey as one of the Committee’s two designated members who conducted the inquiry visit to Canada in 2013 and Ms. Kaddari as Chair of the CEDAW Working Group on Inquiries participated in a “Symposium on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls” organized by several Canadian NGOs at the University of Ottawa, where they spoke on the findings and recommendations of the Committee’s inquiry report on Canada, which was published in March 2015. The meeting, which discussed the root causes of violence and discrimination against indigenous women and girls in Canada and the possible framework and structure of the planned national inquiry into the situation, was attended by the Chair of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as well as

by three special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, namely, the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women, the rights of indigenous peoples, and on the right to adequate housing.

On 1 February, the experts met with the three Canadian Ministers in charge of designing the official national inquiry into the murder and disappearance of reportedly nearly 1,200 indigenous women and girls over the past three decades and gave a press conference in the Parliamentary press gallery, which had nationwide media coverage.

Dear colleagues,

I know that several other members 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.

In concluding, I wish all of us success for our work during this session.

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.
