

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 67th and 68th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Dalia Leinarte, Chairperson

Sixty-eighth session
23 October 2017

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

I would like to join Ms. Edelenbos in welcoming you to the 68th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

First of all, I would to warmly welcome our new colleague Aruna Devi Narain from Mauritius and congratulate her on her appointment as a Committee member. Dear Ms. Narain, we are looking forward to working with you and wish you all the best for your term.

On behalf of the entire Committee, I wish to congratulate our colleague Feride Acar on her recent reelection as President of GREVIO for a second term of two years. Dear Feride, your reelection reflects your distinguished expertise and tireless commitment to the advancement of women's rights. We are all proud of you.

Unfortunately, Ms. Nwankwo will not be able to attend this session, for medical reasons. Ms. Jahan and Ms. Kaddari will join us next week, and Ms. Acar will not be with us during the second week and part of the third week of the session.

Since our last session, the number of States parties having ratified or acceded to the Convention has remained at 189. 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 71. 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. The number of States parties to the Optional Protocol has remained at 109.

I am also pleased to inform you that four States parties have submitted their periodic reports since the beginning of our last session, namely Lao People's Democratic Republic, Samoa, Serbia and Turkmenistan. In addition, Luxembourg has submitted its combined sixth and seventh periodic reports under the simplified reporting procedure.

Please let me now introduce my intersessional participation in events related to the implementation of women's rights.

Following our 67th session, I attended the day of general discussion on the right to equality and non-discrimination (article 5 of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) organized by the CRPD Committee in Geneva on 25 August. I participated in Panel 3 on "Distinguishing reasonable accommodation, special measures and obligations under accessibility".

On 11 September, I was invited to a seminar on "Women, equal pay and the future of work", hosted by the Government of New South Wales at the University of Sydney, Australia, where I participated in a panel on "Equal pay, and the future of work – Talking solutions".

At the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in Warsaw on 21 September, I participated in a panel entitled "Right down to the roots – what does it take to prevent violence against women?"

On 5 October, I presented our report to the Third Committee of the General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and engaged in an interactive dialogue with Member States. My presentation focused on our engagement in furthering the impact of the Sustainable Development Goals, our work on gender-based violence against women, and

the treaty body strengthening process, including the issue of limited resources to support the work of the treaty bodies.

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 those 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 the Committee members who participated in such events to please fill in the table on inter-sessional activities that will be distributed by the Secretariat.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that all our public meetings will be webcast on the UN website <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/>. I therefore take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all those who will be online observers during this session.

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

Thank you for your attention.
