

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 68th and 69th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Dalia Leinarte, Chairperson

Sixty-ninth session
19 February 2018

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

I would like to join Mr. Abdelmoula in welcoming you to the 69th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

I thank Mr. Abdelmoula for his kind words and the minute of silence in remembrance of our dear friend Oby Nwankwo, whose humanity, friendship and expertise we will greatly miss on our Committee. We will have several gatherings this year to pay tribute to her. Oby's empty place in this room gives us an idea of the immense gap that she has left behind.

I should like to remind you that the Government of Nigeria has nominated a candidate to fill the casual vacancy occasioned through the passing of the late Oby Nwankwo. We will have an opportunity to approve the candidate during this session, if appropriate, in accordance with article 17, paragraph 7, of the CEDAW Convention.

Unfortunately, Ms. Acar will not be able to attend the first week of this session, as she will be chairing the 13th meeting of GREVIO in Strasbourg. Ms. Acar, Ms. Hayashi and Ms. Kaddari will not be with us during 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. IN October 2017, Monaco accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time, bringing the total number of States parties having accepted the amendment to 72. 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 nine States parties have submitted their periodic reports since the beginning of our last session, namely Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Cape Verde, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Qatar and the United Kingdom. In addition, Liechtenstein has submitted its fifth periodic report 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 68th session, I participated in an international conference on comparative indicators for measuring the progress in the field of human rights in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 21 and 22 November 2017, organized by OHCHR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). At the conference, I made a presentation on "The importance of SDG 5 and the CEDAW Committee's practice".

On 7 December, I was invited to an international conference on measures preventing violence against women, organized by OHCHR in Moscow. The title of my presentation was "The CEDAW Committee's jurisprudence and practice in the field of violence against women".

Directly after this session, I will attend the opening of the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York on 12 March. We will have an opportunity to discuss the CEDAW statement to the CSW during our present session.

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.
