

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 70th and 71st sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Dalia Leinarte, Chairperson

Seventy-first session
22 October 2018

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

I would like to join the Chief of the Human Rights Treaties Branch, Mr. Salama, in welcoming you to the 71st session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

I also wholeheartedly join Mr. Salama in paying tribute to the **outgoing members of the Committee** whose terms expire at the end of this year: Ms. Ayse Feride ACAR; Ms. Magalys AROCHA DOMINGUEZ; Ms. Ruth HALPERIN-KADDARI; Ms. Yoko HAYASHI; Ms. Lilian HOFMEISTER; Ms. Ismat JAHAN; and Ms. Patricia SCHULZ. I am pleased to have served on this Committee with you. We have not only forged friendships but also untiringly advanced the cause for the rights of women and girls. This Committee will continue to count on your expertise as we deepen our engagement with the international community on women's rights.

Dear colleagues

Since our last session, the number of States parties having ratified or acceded to the Convention has remained at 189. The number of States parties having accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time has increased from 72 to 74 after Paraguay and Malaysia accepted the amendment on 24 and 30

July 2018. 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 three States parties have submitted their periodic reports since the beginning of our last session, namely Iraq, Lithuania and Pakistan. Following our decision adopted at the end of our 69th session to reinstate the simplified reporting procedure, 22 States parties have indicated that they wish to avail themselves of the simplified reporting procedure. Of these, 12 States parties qualify to be reviewed under the simplified reporting procedure.

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

On 28 September, I delivered a keynote address at a conference on sexual and reproductive rights at the University of Cambridge. I spoke about the Committee's jurisprudence on the issue, focusing on the findings of the Committee under the inquiry procedure in relation to the Philippines and United Kingdom. On the latter, I highlighted our findings on the impact of the restrictive laws on access to abortion services in Northern Ireland. I also introduced the joint statement of the Committee and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities titled "Guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women, in particular women with disabilities" which the two Committees adopted on 29 August this year.

On 2 October, I participated in a meeting of regional and international mechanisms on violence against women at the University of Colorado, Boulder, which was initiated and coordinated by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Dubravka Simonovic. The meeting was organized under the auspices of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission public hearings with the objective to share good practices and jurisprudence among different entities.

On 5 October, I delivered a statement and engaged in an interactive dialogue with the Third Committee during the 73rd session of the General Assembly. I highlighted the Committee's engagement on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the strengthening of the Committee's institutional collaboration with UN Women, UNESCO, FAO, the World

Bank and the OECD; the signing of a Framework of Cooperation with the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict. I also raised the issue of reprisals and intimidation faced by women human rights defenders for engaging or cooperating with the Committee. On treaty body strengthening, I mentioned the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268, while referring to the significant challenges faced by the Committee in implementing its mandate, mostly due to lack of adequate human and financial resources, affecting in particular its individual communications and inquiry procedures. A number of delegates welcomed the adoption of General Recommendation No. 37 on gender related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change and asked about the status of general recommendations on gender stereotypes and indigenous women, as well as a possible General Recommendation on gender equality in the digital age.

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.
