

## ***CLOSING REMARKS***

*by*

*Ms. Dalia Leinarte*

### ***Seventy-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women***

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the seventy-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, it is customary for the Chair to sum up the work completed during this session.

Let me start from the beginning of this session and assess our results. We considered the reports of eight States parties and adopted concluding observations on these States.

We held informal meetings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 1 national human rights institutions (NHRI) and also attended several lunchtime briefings organized by NGOs. The Committee was pleased by the high level of engagement with Nepal's NHRI and local NGOs. Many of the latter were supported by the global to local programme of IWRAW-Asia Pacific and once again made significant contributions to the work of the Committee.

The Committee is also thankful to those UN entities and other inter-governmental bodies which provided us with detailed information, including the Inter-Agency Group on CEDAW Reporting (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO and UN Women), as well as OHCHR desk officers, UNHCR, IOM and IPU. I am pleased to note that UN Country Teams have contributed their reports through the Inter-Agency Group and that two UNCTs sent a representative who briefed the Committee in person. I also note that 2 field offices of UNHCR and 1 UNCT briefed us via video link.

We made good progress in endorsing the concept note for the General Recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration and in discussing its scope and content.

I commend our Working Group on SDGs, in particular Nicole Ameline, who presented revised reporting guidelines. The revised reporting guidelines will go a long way in tracking progress on the implementation of the SDGs.

I also wish to thank Hilary Gbedemah and Lia Nadaraia for their important work as Rapporteur and alternate Rapporteur on follow-up which enabled us to adopt eight follow-up assessments at this session, as well as improvements to our follow-up working methods.

We also made good progress in our work under the Optional Protocol on individual communications. Thanks to the excellent drafts prepared by our Working Group on Communications under the able guidance of its chair, Patricia Schulz, we were able to adopt two final decisions and a document on working methods for individual communications. We issued a press release on the decision of the Spanish Supreme Court with respect to the binding nature of our Views. We also amended the rule 64 paragraph 2 of the Rules of Procedure. We further made progress in relation to the confidential inquiry procedure by approving the amendments to the standard operating procedures on inquiries. I thank the Working Group and its Chair, Hilary Gbedemah, for the high quality work.

During the session, we again had interesting exchanges with the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice; the Human Rights Committee, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women its causes and consequences, Dubravka Simonovic. These meetings are important in ensuring that we continue the cross-fertilization of ideas within the treaty body system.

Dear Colleagues,

Before I conclude, please allow me to sincerely thank all experts for the hard work accomplished during the past three weeks, including the country rapporteurs who guided our dialogues with the representatives of the States parties and drafted the concluding observations on sometimes very complex legal issues. I also wish to acknowledge the active participation of country task force members in the constructive dialogues with States parties. It is also gratifying to note that we adopted a recommendation on the issue of surrogacy as we embark to clarify our position on this important issue.

Lastly, I thank all our colleagues from the Secretariat who again provided excellent support to us Orest, Daniela, Miki, Helen, Chanmi, Catherine, Christina, Britta, Nina, Kellie, Irene, and Anganile. I also wish to thank the tremendous assistance provided by our interns Johanna and Sarah-Anne.

Since this is Irene's last session with the Committee after close to 10 years of dedicated service, I would like pay special tribute to her for her stellar performance. The Committee truly appreciates your work Irene and we will dearly miss you. Your success over the years is not an accident but a reflection of your immeasurable sacrifice, perseverance and determination to produce the best work. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the interpreters, précis writers, press officers, translators, conference room officers, technicians, research assistants and all others who made this session successful.

In concluding, I wish you a safe journey home, a nice end of autumn, and I look forward to seeing you in Geneva in February for our seventy-second session. For our 7 outgoing members, see you soon in various fora.

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