

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2014/II/CRP

**Report of the Committee on the
Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Fifty-eighth session
(30 June – 18 July 2014)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 58/1

Statement on the situation of women in Gaza

On 18 July 2014, the Committee adopted a statement on the situation of women in Gaza. (Annex 1)

Decision 58/2

Simplified reporting procedure

On 18 July 2014, the Committee decided to offer on a pilot basis, the simplified reporting procedure to those States parties that wish to avail themselves of this procedure for the submission of their periodic reports as from 1 January 2015, provided that the States parties concerned have submitted an updated common core document, in accordance with the “Harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents”¹, which dates back no more than five years or less in case there have been significant political and/or socio-economic changes during the five-year period. It also decided to consider, at its fifty-ninth session in October 2014, the practical modalities of the implementation of the simplified reporting procedure, including its impact on the calendar of work of the Committee. (Annex 2)

Decision 58/3

Adoption of findings and recommendations in relation to Inquiry No. 2011/1

On 15 July 2014, the Committee adopted its findings and recommendations in relation to inquiry No. 2011/1 and decided to transmit them to the State party concerned.

Decision 58/4

Consideration of inquiries under article 8 of the Optional Protocol

On 18 July 2014, the Committee decided to discuss the modalities of its consideration of inquiries under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, including adequate time and resources and the issue of confidentiality, at an informal one-day meeting to be held outside the official meeting time during its fifty-ninth session. It requested the Secretariat to prepare a note on possible ways to make available additional time for the consideration of inquiries.

¹ HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1

Decision 58/5

Focal points for cooperation with the ASEAN Human Rights Commission

The Committee decided to appoint Yoko Hayashi, Ismat Jahan and Pramila Patten as focal points for the cooperation of the Committee with the ASEAN Human Rights Commission.

Decision 58/6

Pre-Session Working Group

The Committee also confirmed the members of the pre-session working group for the sixtieth session, i.e., Olinda Bareiro-Bobadilla, Hilary Gbedemah, Biancamaria Pomeranzi, Dubravka Simonovic and Xiaoqiao Zou.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

A. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the Optional Protocol

On 18 July 2014, the closing date of the fifty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 188 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/180 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980. In accordance with its article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. In addition, 69 Contracting States had accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, concerning the Committee's meeting time. 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.

As at the same date, there were 104 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/4 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 10 December 1999. In accordance with its article 16, the Optional Protocol entered into force on 22 December 2000.

The updated status of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and its Optional Protocol, including lists of States signatories and parties as well as the texts of declarations, reservations, objections and other relevant information can be found in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at <http://treaties.un.org>, maintained by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, which discharges the depositary functions of the Secretary-General.

B. Opening of the session

The Committee held its fifty-eighth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 30 June to 18 July 2014. The Committee held 19 plenary meetings, and also held 11 meetings to discuss agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex [...] to the present report.

The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Nicole Ameline, at its 1215th meeting on 30 June 2014.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/58/1) at its 1215th meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/58/1), which met from 21 to 25 October 2013, was introduced by Nicole Ameline at the 1215th meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 30 June and 7 July 2014, the Committee held closed meetings with representatives of specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, during which country-specific information was provided, as well as information on the efforts made by those bodies to support the implementation of the Convention.

Also on 30 June and 7 July 2014, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions who provided information on the implementation of the Convention in the States parties considered by the Committee at its fifty-eighth session.

On 30 June 2014, the Committee was briefed by the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, Lakshmi Puri, via video conference on the review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 (Beijing+20 process).

On 7 July 2014, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlström, briefed the Committee on the nexus between gender, disaster reduction and climate change.

On 8 July 2014, the Committee was briefed by the Chief of the Women's Rights and Gender Section, OHCHR, on relevant recent developments in the Human Rights Council, the review of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and on the Beijing+20 review.

On 16 July 2014, the Committee and the Human Rights Committee met for an informal consultation. At the meeting, hosted by the Geneva Academy for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, both Committees exchanged their respective jurisprudence on abortion and on a minimum age for marriage.

On 17 July 2014, the Committee sent a letter (see annex 3) to the co-chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the General Assembly, transmitting its comments on the revised zero draft on SDGs released on 30 June 2014, in particular on its stand-alone goal on gender equality (Goal 5).

On 18 July 2014, the Committee held an informal meeting with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, to exchange information on each other's work in addressing violence against women and to discuss the ongoing cooperation of both mechanisms as well as the recommendation in the report of the Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/26/38) that the

Council should undertake an inquiry into the normative gap in relation to violence against women.

F. Membership of the Committee

All members attended the fifty-eighth session, with the exception of Feride Acar and Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Nicole Ameline, from 7 to 11 July 2014; Barbara Bailey, on 30 June 2014; Niklas Bruun, on 9 and 10 July 2014; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, on 18 July 2014; Maria-Helena Pires, on 18 July 2014; Patricia Schulz, from 30 June to 4 July 2014; and Dubravka Simonovic, on 9 and 10 July 2014. A list of members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is annexed to the present report.

Chapter III

Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Committee

At the 1215th meeting, the Chairperson, Nicole Ameline, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the fifty-seventh session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

A. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

At its fifty-eighth session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the combined initial and second to fifth periodic reports of the Central African Republic; the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Georgia; the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of India; the fifth periodic report of Lithuania; the combined second and third periodic reports of Mauritania; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Peru; the combined initial and second periodic reports of Swaziland, and the second periodic report of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Committee prepared concluding observations on each of the reports considered. Those observations are available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol numbers indicated below:

Central African Republic (CEDAW/C/CAF/CO/1-5)

Georgia (CEDAW/C/GEO/CO/4-5)

India (CEDAW/C/IND/CO/4-5)

Lithuania (CEDAW/C/LTU/CO/5)

Mauritania (CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3)

Peru (CEDAW/C/PER/CO/7-8)

Swaziland (CEDAW/C/SWZ/CO/1-2)

Syrian Arab Republic (CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2)

It is noted that the consideration of the Central African Republic in the absence of a report had originally been scheduled for the fifty-third session. However, the Central African Republic submitted its combined initial to fifth periodic reports on 26 June 2012, and the consideration was subsequently postponed to the fifty-eighth session to allow for

the translation of the report as well as the establishment of an updated list of issues at the pre-session working group.

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

The Committee considered the follow-up reports from the following States parties:

- 1) Belarus (CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7/Add.1)
- 2) Laos (CEDAW/C/LAO/CO/7/Add.1)
- 3) Liechtenstein (CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/4/Add.1)
- 4) Mauritius (CEDAW/C/MUS/CO/6-7/Add.1)
- 5) Paraguay (CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/6/Add.1)
- 6) Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/7/Add.1)
- 7) Singapore (CEDAW/C/SGP/CO/4/Rev.1/Add.1)

The Committee also considered the additional information sent by:

- 1) Netherlands (CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/5/Add.2)
- 2) Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/6/Add.2).

The Committee sent first reminders to the following States parties whose follow-up reports were overdue:

- 1) Algeria
- 2) Grenada
- 3) Jordan
- 4) New Zealand
- 5) Republic of the Congo
- 6) Zimbabwe

The Committee sent second reminders to the following States parties whose follow-up reports were overdue:

- 1) Djibouti
- 2) Ethiopia
- 3) Nepal
- 4) Tunisia
- 5) Zambia

The Rapporteur on follow-up and her alternate met with a representative of Haiti, as the State party's follow-up report was overdue.

Chapter V

Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provides that the Committee shall include in its annual report under article 21 of the Convention a summary of its activities under the Optional Protocol.

A. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 2 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 14 and 16 July 2014. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its twenty-ninth session (see annex 4).

The Committee adopted final decisions with regard to two individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. The Committee adopted Views finding violations with regard to communication No. 47/2012 (*González Carreño v. Spain*), by consensus. It also adopted an inadmissibility decision on communication No. 30/2011 (*M v. the Philippines*), with two members abstaining and one member reserving her right to submit a dissenting individual opinion. The text of the Views and the decision are available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol numbers CEDAW/C/58/D/47/2012 and CEDAW/C/58/D/30/2011, respectively.

B. Follow-up to views of the Committee on individual communications

No follow-up progress report was prepared during the reporting period, but the Committee was informed that the Working Group, during its 29th session, had discussed the follow-up situation in each case where the follow-up dialogue is on-going and that it had agreed on the action to be taken. The Committee did not take a decision to put the follow-up dialogue to an end in any of the cases currently under follow-up examination. Of the 10 cases that are currently under follow-up examination, 1 relates to Belarus, 1 to Brazil, 3 to Bulgaria, 1 to Canada, 1 to Peru, 1 to the Philippines and 1 to Turkey;² and in the one case adopted at the fifty-eighth session in which the Committee found violations (concerning Spain), the State party was given six months to provide its follow-up reply.

C. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 8 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee was briefed on the status of all pending submissions and proceedings under the inquiry procedure.

On 18 July 2014, one of the two designated members for inquiry No. 2010/1, Pramila Patten, met with the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss the submission by the State party of its observations on the Committee's findings of the inquiry.

On 15 July 2014, the Committee adopted its findings and recommendations in relation to Inquiry No. 2011/1 and decided to transmit them to the State party concerned.

In relation to submissions Nos. 2011/2, 2011/3 and 2013/2, the Committee, in each case decided to defer to the fifty-ninth session of the Committee its decision on whether or not to designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry.

In relation to submissions Nos. 2011/4 and 2012/1, the Committee in each case decided to defer its decision on whether or not to request the State party concerned to submit

² The Chairperson of the Committee's Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol, Yoko Hayashi, and Niklas Bruun held one meeting to discuss follow-up matters on individual communications with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva on 11 July 2014, during the Committee's fifty-eighth session. During the meeting, the representatives of the Permanent Mission provided the Committee members with updated information regarding the measures taken to give effect to the Committee's recommendations in its Views on communication No. 28/2010 (*R.K.B. v. Turkey*), adopted on 24 February 2012 during the fifty-first session. The representatives of the State party were reminded of the need to address the Committee's recommendation regarding the issue of monetary compensation in the case.

observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

In relation to submission No. 2013/1, two members of the Committee met with a representative of the State party concerned on 15 July 2014 to discuss the submission by the State party of its observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol. The Committee decided to defer to the fifty-ninth session its decision on how to proceed with this submission.

In relation to submissions Nos. 2014/1, 2014/2 and 2014/3, received on 21 January and 5 and 11 June 2014, respectively, the Committee in each case decided to request the State party concerned to submit, within two months, observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

Chapter VI

A. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the status of submission of overdue reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

On 4 July 2014, the chair, Nicole Ameline, briefed the Committee about her participation in the twenty-sixth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies, held from 23 to 27 June 2014 in Geneva, during which the chairs discussed the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system in three areas: the simplified reporting procedure; the alignment of methodologies for constructive dialogue with States parties; and a common format for short, focused and actionable concluding observations.

On 30 June and 16 July 2014, the Secretariat informed the Committee about the outcome of the twenty-sixth meeting of chairpersons and on the way forward in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268.

B. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 7

Dates of future sessions of the Committee

In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates are confirmed for the Committee's fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions:

Fifty-ninth Session (Geneva)

Thirtieth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 15 to 17 October 2014

Fifty-ninth session: 20 October to 7 November 2014

Pre-session working group for the sixty-first session: 10 to 14 November 2014

Sixtieth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-first session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 9 to 12 March 2015 (tbc)

Sixtieth session: 16 February to 6 March 2015 (tbc)

Pre-session working group for the sixtieth session: 9 to 13 March 2015 (tbc)

Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee

The Committee confirmed that it will consider the reports of the following States parties at its fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions:

Fifty-ninth session:

- 1) Belgium
- 2) Brunei Darussalam
- 3) China
- 4) Ghana
- 5) Guinea
- 6) Poland
- 7) Solomon Islands
- 8) Venezuela

It is noted that the consideration of Solomon Islands in the absence of a report had originally been scheduled for the fifty-fourth session. However, Solomon Islands submitted its combined initial to third periodic reports on 30 January 2013, and the consideration was subsequently postponed to the fifty-ninth session to allow for the translation of the report as well as the establishment of an updated list of issues at the pre-session working group.

Sixtieth session:

- 1) Azerbaijan
- 2) Denmark
- 3) Ecuador
- 4) Eritrea
- 5) Gabon
- 6) Kyrgyzstan
- 7) Maldives
- 8) Tuvalu

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

Working Group on harmful practices

The working group met during the session and finalized the draft joint CEDAW/CRC general recommendation/comment on harmful practices.

The Committee completed its first reading of the draft general recommendation. It decided that all members should provide their comments on the draft general recommendation to the chair of the working group, Ms. Neubauer, by 10 August 2014.

Working Group on gender related dimensions of refugee status, asylum and statelessness

The working group met during the session and finalized the draft general recommendation on gender related dimensions of refugee status, asylum and statelessness.

On 18 July 2014, the Committee completed its first reading of the draft general recommendation. It decided that all members should provide their comments on the draft general recommendation to the chair of the working group, Ms. Simonovic, by 27 July 2014.

Working Group on women and access to justice

The working group met during the session and discussed a revised draft of the general recommendation on women's access to justice incorporating comments received inter-sessionally from other Committee members as well as from stakeholders. The Committee decided to schedule the first reading of the general recommendation to be held during its fifty-ninth session.

Working Group on rural women

The working group met during the session and was briefed by a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization on the FAO methodology for facilitating the implementation of article 14 of the Convention.

Working Group on gender equality in the context of climate change and natural disasters

The working group met during the session.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group met during the session.

On 7 July 2014, the Committee held a half-day of general discussion on girls'/women's right to education, with support from UNICEF and UNESCO, as part of the first phase in the elaboration of a general recommendation on the right to education of girls and women under article 10 of the Convention. The discussion was opened by Violeta Neubauer, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, followed by opening addresses by Navi Pillay, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Abdulaziz Almuzaini, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva; and Marie-Pierre Poirier, Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of the Independent States, UNICEF. The envisaged general recommendation on article 10 of the Convention was introduced by the Chair of the Committee's working group on the right to education, Barbara Bailey. The following seven expert speakers explored the different dimensions of girls' and women's right to education: Hannah Godefa, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador to Ethiopia; Maki Katsuno-Hayashikawa, Chief, Section for Basic Education, UNESCO; Mariam Khalique, former teacher of Malala Yousafzai, Pakistan; Mohamed Y. Mattar, Executive Director of the Protection Project, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, D.C.; Angela Melchiorre, Adviser, Right to Education Project; Vernor Muñoz, Education Adviser, Plan International; and Kishore Singh, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to education. After the interventions of the speakers, oral statements were made by the following States parties: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, France, Malta, Qatar, Slovenia and Thailand. Further statements were made by UNAIDS and by 15 civil society organizations (Autistic Minority International; Center for Reproductive Rights; Coalition HRE2020; European Roma Rights Centre; Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children; Global

Network for Rights and Development; Human Rights Watch; International Disability Alliance; International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; International Lesbian and Gay Association; International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific; Organization for Defending Victims of Violence; Organisation internationale pour le droit à l'éducation et la liberté d'enseignement; and Plan International). The representatives of 30 States parties and one State non-party (Holy See) attended the general discussion: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, France, Greece, Haiti, Jamaica, Kuwait, Malta, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom.

Working Group on working methods

The working group met during the session and considered the requirements for the application of the simplified reporting procedure.

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union met during the session.

CEDAW/Human Rights Committee Working Group

The CEDAW/Human Rights Committee working group met during the session.

Focal points on sexual and reproductive health and rights

The focal point and alternate focal points on sexual and reproductive health and rights met during the session.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session

The Committee considered the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-ninth session on 18 July 2014 and approved the following provisional agenda for that session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Follow-up to concluding observations of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Implementation of articles 21 and 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
8. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
9. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-ninth session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its fifty-eighth session and addenda on 18 July 2014 and adopted it as orally revised during the discussion.

[Annexes will be added to the final version of the text]

B. Composition of the working groups of the Committee

[To be added to the final version of the report]

Annexes

Annex 1

Statement of the CEDAW Committee on the situation in Gaza - July 2014

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) notes with deep concern the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Gaza, particularly the heavy civilian casualties, including large numbers of women and girls, since the beginning of the Israeli military operation “Protective Edge” on 7 July 2014. The hostilities, between the State of Israel and certain Palestinian armed groups, are taking place against a backdrop of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, chronic energy and water shortages in Gaza, which have further compounded the deprivation of women and children of access to basic amenities including food, medical care, education, adequate water and sanitation facilities, electricity and other infrastructures and means of livelihood.

The Committee is particularly concerned at the displacement of a significant number of women and girls, including older women and those with disabilities in Gaza, as a result of large scale destruction and damage to homes and civilian infrastructure.

While recognizing the right of the State of Israel to self-defence, the Committee urges full respect and strict adherence to international human rights and humanitarian law, including full respect for the principles of distinction between civilians and combatants, proportionality and the need to take precautions to avoid the targeting of civilians at all times and under all circumstances.

The Committee calls on the parties to the conflict to fully comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and to protect the rights of women in situations of armed conflict as spelled out in its General Recommendation No. 30 (2013) on “Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations”.

The Committee also emphasizes the urgent need to revive the peace process with the inclusion and the effective participation of women from both States Parties concerned, in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent relevant resolutions of the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security, as well as General Recommendation No. 30.

The Committee further calls on all States Parties and humanitarian actors to address the urgent humanitarian crisis in Gaza, facilitate the safe, rapid and unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and to mobilize adequate resources to assist the affected population taking into account the specific needs of women and children.

Annex 2

Decision of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee),

Bearing in mind that General Assembly resolution 68/268 encourages the human rights treaty bodies to offer to States parties for their consideration the simplified reporting procedure and to set a limit on the number of questions to be included;

Noting that the 26th Meeting of Chairpersons of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies recommended that the treaty bodies which consider periodic reports should consider making the simplified reporting procedure available as from 1 January 2015;

Noting further that under the simplified reporting procedure, as applied by other human rights treaty bodies, States parties may avail themselves of such procedure only for the submission of their periodic but not of their initial reports;

Considering the importance of the information of a general and factual nature relating to the implementation of the Convention contained in the common core document to be submitted by States parties under the “Harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents” (HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1);

Recalling that States parties should endeavour to update the common core document whenever they submit a treaty-specific document, and that a treaty body may request that the common core document be updated if it considers that the information it contains is out of date (HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1, paras. 18 and 27);

Decides:

To offer, on a pilot basis, the simplified reporting procedure to those States parties that wish to avail themselves of this procedure for the submission of their periodic (but not of their initial) reports as from 1 January 2015, provided that the States parties concerned have submitted an updated common core document, in accordance with the “Harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents”, which dates back no more than five years or less in case there have been significant political and/or socio-economic changes during the five-year period. The Committee will consider at its fifty-ninth session in October 2014, the practical modalities of the implementation of the simplified reporting procedure, including its impact on the calendar of work of the Committee.

Annex 3

Letter dated 17 July 2014 from the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

Excellencies,

I have the honour to address this letter to you at a time when the General Assembly’s Open Working Group (OWG) is concluding its work for 2014. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you for the laudable work and selfless commitment to build a strong foundation for future development. The release of the revised Zero Draft provides the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) with the

opportunity to present some essential contributions to the process on matters of women and development. The CEDAW Convention is not just the only nearly-universally ratified human rights instrument which provides for a comprehensive protection of women's rights, it is also an instrument for women's empowerment and equal participation as well as an international pillar for sustainable development.

It is acknowledged that women, who constitute more than fifty percent of the global population, are drivers of peace and sustainable development. It is, therefore, my sincere hope that this process will build on the lessons learnt from the process and outcome of the MDGs in seeking to improve women's rights and their empowerment.

You will recall that in February 2014, during my intervention at the eighth session of the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, I made a call that the targets should be more ambitious than those of the MDGs. I also called for the inclusion of a transformative stand-alone goal on gender equality. This call was reiterated by CEDAW in its comprehensive statement on the post-2015 development agenda and the elimination of discrimination against women, which was issued later in February 2014.

I have noted with great appreciation the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on gender equality and the attempts at mainstreaming gender equality in the goals in both the Zero Draft and the subsequent revised text released on 30 June 2014. I think we can now say that there is a general consensus that the post-2015 agenda and sustainable development goals promote gender equality and empower women with a view to delivering on the promise of ensuring freedom from fear and want for all women and men, without discrimination.

Let me express the appreciation of the Committee for the many positive elements of the Zero Draft which underline the centrality of human rights and particularly women's rights to the development agenda. The Zero Draft forms a good basis on which to strengthen respect for women's rights, and it is this spirit of strengthening the work of the Open Working Group that the Committee makes the following suggestions. The Committee is of the view that the systematic mainstreaming of women's rights and a gender perspective through the goals and targets would vastly strengthen the coherence of the Zero Draft.

First, the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on gender equality (Goal 5) is particularly welcomed as it maintains a positive element of the MDGs in the post 2015 architecture. The Committee feels the overall importance of women's rights to the text would be strengthened by explicit references to the CEDAW Convention in the *chapeau* of the Zero Draft, and in the goals and targets themselves. Moreover, the contents of Goal 5 itself could be strengthened to explicitly include the substantive aspects of gender equality and non-discrimination as spelled out under the Convention.

Second, the Committee welcomed the inclusion of 'sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights' in Goal 5 and the health-related goal in the Zero Draft released on 2 June 2014. Regrettably, in the revised version of the Zero Draft, the target on "the universal access to sexual and reproductive health" under the health goal has been deleted. The Committee cannot accept this deletion and would like to underscore the importance that the full concept of 'sexual and reproductive health and rights' be captured and reflected in the draft, with consistent wording between the health and gender goals.

Third, the integration of good governance and rule of law norms into the Zero Draft will support the goals' ability to advance the rights of women. Therefore, I hope that a correct wording on discrimination intrinsically linked to the women's access to justice, resources, and political decision-making, including in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution, as provided by the Convention, will be adopted under Goals 5 and 16.

Fourth, attention to the situations that are impacting on women runs through many of the goals in the Zero Draft. However there are crucial gaps, particularly those goals addressing the means of implementation, water management, economic growth, sustainable industrialization, climate change, consumption and production patterns and resilient cities.

Finally, the emphasis that the Zero Draft places on an accountability framework and of disaggregated data is a very welcome development. In this regard, the Committee notes that its mechanisms of periodic review of country reports, individual complaints and inquiries and its 30 years of experience in tracking women's rights in almost all Member States are an invaluable and unique resource that should complement and contribute to the accountability mechanism that will eventually be adopted for the goals. The Committee, therefore, strongly suggests to the Open Working Group to ensure that there is system-wide collaboration between the various actors within the United Nations system, at regional and national levels as well as the participation of civil society. The approach should prioritise the building of bridges between the human rights and development frameworks and communities.

Let me reaffirm the commitment of the CEDAW Committee to work with the Member States in this process with a view to ensuring the strongest possible integration of women's rights and gender in the post 2015 development architecture. I am deeply convinced that women's rights are an essential component for the attainment of sustainable development.

I thank you for the laudable work that you are undertaking, and I offer you the full support of the CEDAW Committee as we chart a new course of development founded on the normative standards accepted by the international community. Let me also reiterate my commitment and availability to provide input and continue our discourse on this important matter.

(Signed) Nicole **Ameline**
Chair

Annex 4

Report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on its twenty-ninth session

1. The Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its twenty-ninth session from 25 to 27 June 2014 in Geneva. Four members attended the session (Olinda Bareiro-Bobadilla, Niklas Bruun, Yoko Hayashi and Dubravka Šimonović).
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda as set out in the appendix to the present report.

3. The Working Group then reviewed the update on 13 new pieces of correspondence received since 7 February 2014, as prepared by the Secretariat.
4. The Working Group decided to register two new cases, No. 68/2014 against Canada, and No. 69/2014 against the Russian Federation. It decided to appoint Mr. Bruun as case rapporteur for communication No. 68/2014 and Ms. Hayashi as case rapporteur for communication No. 69/2014.
5. The Working Group then reviewed all unregistered correspondence received since its previous session. It took note of the action taken by the secretariat so far, and decided on a number of requests for clarifications/explanation or for replies to be sent to authors. It determined that five contact letters requesting further information from authors would be sent; that one follow-up letter would be sent; that no action would be taken in response to two pieces of correspondence; and that the Secretariat would seek an update regarding the status of one piece of correspondence.
6. The Working Group discussed three draft recommendations, in relation to communications No. 30/2011 against the Philippines (draft inadmissibility decision); No. 46/2012 against Denmark (draft admissibility decision); and No. 47/2012 against Spain (draft Views finding a violation), respectively. All three recommendations were adopted by consensus and will be referred to the Committee for adoption.
7. The Working Group members proceeded to an inventory of all case files for the communications for which they had been appointed case rapporteurs. The Working Group then reviewed the status of all pending cases registered and had a discussion on each of them. With regard to communication No. 63/2013 against Argentina, the Committee decided, in the light of the repeated extension requests by the State party, to ask the State party to provide its observations within two months, indicating that in the absence of such observations, the Committee will adopt a decision on the basis of the information contained in the file.
8. The Working Group further decided to reject the requests of the States parties concerned to consider the admissibility of the communication separately from the merits (split request) in relation to two communications (Nos. 54/2013 and 65/2014).
9. The Working Group requested the secretariat to prepare, on a priority basis, draft recommendations for the next session, bearing in mind the above-mentioned discussions. Thus, for its thirtieth session (15 to 17 October 2014), the Working Group requested the secretariat to prepare three draft recommendations in relation to communications Nos. 37/2012, 49/2013 and 59/2013.
10. The Working Group finally discussed the follow-up situation in eleven cases where the follow-up dialogue remained on-going, and agreed on the possible actions to be taken, for consideration by the Committee. It considered the follow-up dialogue with the States parties to be ongoing in all eleven cases under follow-up examination, namely, concerning Belarus (No. 23/2009), Brazil (No. 17/2008), Bulgaria (Nos. 20/2008, 31/2011, 32/2011), Canada (No. 19/2008), the Netherlands (No. 36/2011), Peru (No.22/2009), the Philippines (Nos. 18/2008 and 34/2011) and Turkey (No. 28/2010). The Working Group decided to reflect on the modalities to address situations where States parties have failed to fully or partly give effect to the Committee's recommendations in the context of follow-up. The Secretariat will provide the Working Group with examples of methods of work in

relation to follow-up on individual communications by other treaty bodies, for discussion during the next session of the Working Group.

11. The Working Group decided to request informal meetings during the Committee's fifty-eighth session (30 June to 18 July 2014) to discuss follow-up matters with representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva of the Philippines and Turkey.

12. The Working Group also held a discussion on working methods, in particular regarding the possible designation of one Working Group member to act as Special Rapporteur on interim measures.

Actions taken at the present session:

13. The Working Group decided:

(a) To refer for adoption to the Committee a recommendation in relation to the draft views (violation) on communication No. 47/2012 against Spain, with all members supporting the recommendation;

(b) To refer for adoption to the Committee a recommendation in relation to the draft decision (inadmissibility) on communication No. 30/2011 against the Philippines, with all members supporting the recommendation;

(c) To refer for adoption to the Committee a recommendation in relation to the draft decision (admissibility) on communication No. 46/2012 against Denmark, with all members supporting the recommendation;

(d) To reject the requests of the States parties concerned to examine the admissibility of the communication separately from the merits (split request) in relation to communications Nos. 54/2013 and 65/2014;

(e) To register a new communication as case No. 68/2014 and to appoint Niklas Bruun as case rapporteur;

(f) To register a new communication as case No. 69/2014 and to appoint Yoko Hayashi as case rapporteur;

(g) To request the secretariat to provide it with examples of methods of work in relation to follow-up on individual communications by other treaty bodies, for discussion during the thirtieth session of the Working Group;

(h) To request the secretariat to keep uploading on the Optional Protocol Extranet, academic resources that were cited in the note by the secretariat and to make available copies of excerpts as requested;

(i) To request the secretariat to arrange meetings with the representatives of the Permanent Missions of the Philippines and Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss on follow-up on views on individual communications during the fifty-eighth session of the Committee;

(j) To further reflect on the possible establishment of the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on interim measures of the Working Group, with effect from 2015.

14. The Working Group decided to hold its thirtieth session in Geneva, from 15 to 17 October 2014.

Appendix

Agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the Working Group

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
 2. Review of steps and activities undertaken since the previous session.
 3. New communications registered and appointment of case rapporteurs.
 4. Discussion on cases ready for adoption/split requests.
 5. Cases for discontinuance.
 6. Update on communications (registered cases).
 7. Update on follow-up to views.
 8. Discussion on cases ready for adoption and prioritization.
 9. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its twenty-ninth session.
-