

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2015/III/CRP

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

**Sixty-second session
(26 October – 20 November 2015)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 62/1

Statement on the refugee crises and the protection of women and girls

On 20 November 2015, the Committee adopted a statement on the refugee crises and the protection of women and girls (the statement is available on the website of the Committee: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Statements.aspx>).

Decision 62/2

New standard paragraph on “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

The Committee decided to replace the standard paragraph on the “Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development framework” in its concluding observations by the following new standard paragraph on the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”: “The Committee calls for the realization of substantive gender equality, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, throughout the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

Decision 62/3

Role of the Country Rapporteurs (CRs)

The Committee decided to amend Decision 50/2 as follows:

(a) Paragraph 1 is amended by inserting the following sentences at the end: “During the dialogue with the State party concerned, the CR shall ensure that all relevant issues are covered by systematically asking follow-up questions to raise issues not hitherto addressed. Directly following the dialogue, in closed meeting, the CR shall briefly highlight the main concerns to be reflected in the concluding observations and receive concise feedback from experts.”

(b) Paragraph 2, first sentence, is amended to read as follows: “CRs shall conduct informal bilateral consultations with the members and, if necessary, convene a coordination meeting of the country task force, in order to ensure full coverage of main areas of concern in the country, prevent any overlap, and make a proposal on the distribution of articles among the members of the country task force prior to the private lunch time briefing on the State party concerned.”

(c) Paragraph 4, first sentence, is amended to read as follows: “The CRs shall also provide the Country Briefing Notes as early as possible to the Secretariat, no later than one week prior to the dialogue with the State party concerned. The Country Briefing Notes should include a list of references as well as references to the relevant paragraphs of the State party’s report, its common core document, its written replies to the Committee’s list of issues, and other sources of information.”

Decision 62/4

Maximum length of concluding observations

The Committee decided that the length of concluding observations shall not exceed a maximum of 6,000 words.

Decision 62/5

Information from States parties on follow-up to concluding observations

The Committee decided that the length of written information from States parties on follow-up to concluding observations shall not exceed a maximum of 4,000 words.

Decision 62/6

Membership of country task forces

The Committee decided to amend Decision 52/7 to read as follows (thereby also amending Decision 50/1, paragraph 3, first sentence): “Country task forces should be composed of a minimum of nine experts (including the country rapporteur) and shall not exceed 12 experts.”

Decision 62/7

Summary records for consideration of inquiries

The Committee decided to request the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva to prepare summary records with restricted distribution for closed plenary meetings of the Committee where activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol (inquiry procedure) are being considered.

Decision 62/8

Pre-Session Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-session working group for the sixty-fourth session, i.e., Barbara Bailey, Lia Nadaraia, Theodora Oby Nwankwo, Patricia Schulz, 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

As at 20 November 2015, the closing date of the sixty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 189 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, 70 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 106 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.

Updated information on the status of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and its Optional Protocol, as well as lists of States signatories and parties and the texts of declarations, reservations, objections and other relevant information are available from the website of the United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>).

B. Opening of the session

The Committee held its sixty-second session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 26 October to 20 November 2015. The Committee held 26 plenary meetings, and also held 14 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, Yoko Hayashi, at its 1333rd meeting on 26 October 2015.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/62/1) at its 1333rd meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/62/1), which met from 9 to 13 March 2015, was introduced by Patricia Schulz at the 1333rd meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 26 October and 2 and 9 November 2015, 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 26 October and 2 and 9 November, 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 sixty-second session.

On 29 October, the Committee and the Human Rights Committee met for an informal consultation. At the meeting, both Committees continued their discussion on abortion that they had started at their previous joint meeting on 16 July 2014. The meeting was hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and sponsored by the Geneva Treaty Body Platform.

On 30 October, Ms. Patten briefed the Committee on the launch of the Global Study on implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security on 14 October during the High Level Review convened by the Security Council to assess 15 years of progress in implementing the resolution at global, regional and national levels. The Global Study was led by Radhika Coomaraswamy with the support of a High-Level Advisory Group of which Ms. Patten formed part. Ms. Patten also informed the Committee about the panel discussion on “Connecting CEDAW and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda”, to be organized by OHCHR in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Treaty Body Platform of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, on 19 November to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security.

On 9 November, the Committee was briefed by Augusto Lopez-Claros, Director, Global Indicators Group, Development Economics, World Bank, on the Women, Business and the Law dataset and related indicators of the World Bank.

On 12 and 19 November, the Committee held video conferences with Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women, and other UN Women colleagues, respectively, to discuss the Committee’s possible involvement in the follow-up and review of Target 5.1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On 13 November, the Committee held an informal meeting with Dubravka Simonovic, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to exchange information on each other’s work in addressing violence against women.

On 17 November, the Committee hosted the Geneva launch of the Guidelines on gender-based violence of the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee, organized by OHCHR and the IASC secretariat.

F. Membership of the Committee

All members attended the sixty-second session with the exception of Louiza Chalal. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Feride Acar, from 26 October to 2 November and from 17 to 20 November; Nicole Ameline, from 26 to 30 October, on 6 November and from 16 to 20 November; Niklas Bruun, on 5, 6 and 20 November; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, from 30 October to 6 November and on 20 November; Ismat Jahan, on 5 and 6 November; Dalia Leinarte, on 9 and 10 November; and Silvia Pimentel, from 26 to 30 October. 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 sixty-first and sixty second sessions of the Committee

At the 1333rd meeting, the Chairperson, Yoko Hayashi, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the sixty-second session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

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

At its sixty-second session, the Committee considered the reports of eleven States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Lebanon; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Liberia; the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Madagascar; the seventh periodic report of Malawi; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Portugal; the eighth periodic report of the Russian Federation; the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Slovakia; the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Slovenia; the combined second and third periodic reports of Timor Leste; the combined second and third periodic reports of United Arab Emirates; and the fifth periodic report of Uzbekistan.

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:

Lebanon (CEDAW/C/LBN/4-5)

Liberia (CEDAW/C/LBR/7-8)

Madagascar (CEDAW/C/MDG/6-7)

Malawi (CEDAW/C/MWI/7)

Portugal (CEDAW/C/PRT/8-9)

Russian Federation (CEDAW/C/RUS/8)

Slovakia (CEDAW/C/SVK/5-6)

Slovenia (CEDAW/C/SVN/5-6)

Timor Leste (CEDAW/C/TLS/2-3)

United Arab Emirates (CEDAW/C/ARE/2-3)

Uzbekistan (CEDAW/C/UZB/5)

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

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

- 1) Algeria (CEDAW/C/DZA/CO/3-4/Add.1)
- 2) Angola (CEDAW/C/AGO/CO/6/Add.1)
- 3) Austria (CEDAW/C/AUT/CO/7-8/Add.1)
- 4) Nepal (CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/4-5/Add.1)
- 5) Togo (CEDAW/C/TGO/CO/6-7/Add.1)

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

- 1) Afghanistan
- 2) Cape Verde
- 3) Central African Republic
- 4) Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 5) Dominican Republic
- 6) Serbia
- 7) Syrian Arab Republic

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

- 1) Comoros
- 2) Equatorial Guinea

The rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Côte d'Ivoire whose 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 2 and 9 November 2015. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its thirty-third session (see annex 1).

The Committee examined three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted three final decisions, finding a violation in one case concerning Denmark, and declared two other cases concerning Denmark and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, respectively, inadmissible. All decisions were adopted by consensus. The text of the final decisions of the Committee will be available once they have been finalized and sent to the respective parties. It can be found through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) or through the website (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Jurisprudence.aspx>) or the newly established database (<http://juris.ohchr.org/>) of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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

The Committee was informed that the Working Group, during its thirty-third session, had discussed the follow-up situation in each case where the follow-up dialogue was ongoing and that it had agreed on the action to be taken. Of the 11 cases under follow-up examination, one relates to Brazil, two to Bulgaria and one each to Canada, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, Spain and Tanzania. The Committee decided that in each of those cases the follow-up dialogue remains ongoing. In another case (No. 32/2011, *Jallow. v. Bulgaria*), the Committee decided to put the follow-up dialogue to a close with a finding of satisfactory resolution of the recommendations contained in its views in light of the compensation paid to the author (7000 BGN, equivalent to 3500 Euros). The Committee requested to have meetings arranged during its sixty-third session with the Permanent Missions of the Philippines, Peru and Spain to discuss follow-up matters.

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

The Committee discussed activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on 13 and 18 November 2015. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its second session (see annex 2).

The Committee adopted the following recommendations of the working group on inquiries in relation to pending inquiry proceedings:

- (a) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/3, not to conduct an inquiry; and
- (b) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/3, to defer to the third session of the Working Group its consideration whether or not to recommend to the Committee to conduct an inquiry.

The Committee ratified the following decisions made by the working group on inquiries:

- (a) In relation to inquiry No. 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, to entrust the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-fourth session of the Committee to include in the list of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of the Philippines questions on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee in its report of the inquiry;
- (b) In relation to inquiry 2011/1 concerning Canada, to wait for the State party's follow-up report due on 1 February 2016;
- (c) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2, the designated members met with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to discuss a proposed visit to its territory; the designated members will continue to engage with the State party on the proposed visit;
- (d) In relation to submission No. 2011/4, to request the sources of information for a translation of their submissions into the language of the State party, which is an official language of the United Nations, to transmit the translated documents to the State party, and to request it to submit its observations within two months from the date of receipt of said documents;
- (e) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, to grant an extension to the sources of information to provide additional information to the Committee;
- (f) In relation inquiry No. 2013/1, to defer the decision on the action to be taken to the third session of the working group;
- (g) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1, to request the designated members to propose new dates for a visit to the territory of the State party concerned in 2016;
- (h) In relation to submission No. 2014/2, to arrange a meeting during the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-fourth session of the Committee with representatives

of the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to the United Nations Office at Geneva to follow up on the Committee's request for observations;

(i) In relation to a communication that was referred to it by the Working Group on Communications of the Committee, to refer it back to the Working Group on Communications; and

(j) To request the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva to prepare summary records with restricted distribution for closed plenary meetings of the Committee where activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol (inquiry procedure) are being considered.

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 6 July 2015, Ms. Hayashi briefed the Committee on her intervention before the Third Committee at the 70th session of the General Assembly on 12 October 2015.

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 sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions:

Sixty-third Session (Geneva)

Thirty-fourth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 9 to 12 February 2016

Third session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol:
11 to 12 February 2016

Sixty-third session: 15 February to 4 March July 2016

Pre-session working group for the sixty-fifth session: 7 to 11 March 2016

Sixty-fourth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-fifth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 29 June to 1 July 2016

Fourth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol:
30 June to 1 July 2016

Sixty-fourth session: 4 to 22 July 2016

Pre-session working group for the sixty-sixth session: 25 to 29 July 2016

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 sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions:

Sixty-third session:

- 1) Czech Republic
- 2) Iceland
- 3) Japan
- 4) Haiti
- 5) Mongolia

- 6) Sweden
- 7) Tanzania
- 8) Vanuatu

Sixty-fourth session:

- 1) Albania
- 2) France
- 3) Mali
- 4) Myanmar
- 5) Philippines
- 6) Turkey
- 7) Trinidad and Tobago
- 8) Uruguay

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

Task force on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations

On 19 November, the Committee convened a panel discussion on “Connecting CEDAW and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda”, organized by OHCHR in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Treaty Body Platform of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. The panellists included Pramila Patten, member of CEDAW and of the High-level Advisory Group for the Global Study on implementation of UNSCR 1325, Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Chaloka Beyani, Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and Sarah Abu Assali, Member of the Syrian Women League. The Chairperson, Yoko Hayashi, and H.E. Ambassador Pascale Baeriswyl, Vice-Director of the Directorate of International Law of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, made welcoming remarks. Flavia Pansieri, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, opened the discussion, and Veronica Birga, OHCHR, moderated the panel. Felix Kirchmeier, Manager of Policy Studies of the Geneva Academy, made concluding remarks. 28 States parties to the Convention (Algeria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Uruguay) and one non-State party (Iran) attended the event. In addition, nine United Nations entities, specialized agencies, international and regional organizations (EU, FAO, IDLO, IOM, OIF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF) as well as one non-governmental organization (Women International League for Peace and Security) attended the event.

Working Group on rural women

The working group met during the session.

The Committee began adopting its draft general recommendation on rural women. The Committee members were invited to provide their comments on any paragraphs that had not yet been adopted in writing to the Chair of the working group by 30 November 2015 at the latest.

Working Group on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change

The working group met during the session.

The working group presented a draft concept note which was endorsed by the Committee, in principle. The Committee members were invited to provide their comments in writing to the Chair of the working group by 30 November 2015 at the latest. It was also confirmed that a half day of general discussion on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change will be held on 29 February 2016 during the sixty-third session. The working group also met with a representative of the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation to discuss preparations for the half-day of general discussion.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group met during the session.

Working Group on working methods

The working group met during the session and considered and submitted to the Committee draft decisions concerning a new standard paragraph on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the role of Country Rapporteurs, membership of country task forces, and the maximum length of concluding observations as well as of follow-up information from States parties (see decisions 62/3 to 62/8). The Committee took note of an indicative checklist on responsibilities of Country Rapporteurs prepared by the working group.

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group met during the session.

CEDAW-UN Women/SDG Working Group

The working group met during the session. It considered a proposal by UN Women concerning the Committee's involvement in the follow-up and review of a proposed indicator for Target 5.1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The working group prepared the video conferences held with UN Women to discuss the proposal on 12 and 19 November.

Working Group on violence against women

The Working Group met during the session.

The Working Group discussed a first draft of the general recommendation and decided to hold an expert meeting at the London School of Economics, Centre for Women, Peace and Security, in February 2016, with a view to further refining the draft.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixty-third session

On 20 November 2015, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its sixty-third 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 sixty-second and sixty-third 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 sixty-fourth session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-third session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its sixty-second session and addenda on 20 November 2015 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

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 thirty-third 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 thirty-third session from 20 to 23 October 2015 in Geneva. Five members attended the session (Ms. Gladys Acosta Vargas, Mr. Niklas Bruun (Chair), Ms. Nahla El Addal-Haidar, Ms. Dalia Leinarte and Ms. Pramila Patten (Vice-Chair)).
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted the agenda as set out in the appendix to the present report.
3. The Working Group then reviewed unregistered correspondence. It took note of the action taken by the Secretariat in this regard, and decided on a number of requests for clarifications and/or explanations or replies to be sent to the authors of such correspondence.
4. The Working Group also decided to register one new communication, No. 98/2015 concerning Australia.
5. The Working Group appointed case rapporteurs for all newly registered communications (Nos. 93/2015 to 98/2015). Out of 98 communications concerning 29 States parties registered since 2003, 46 are pending. In 19 cases, the Committee found violations and in one case no violation. 25 communications were declared inadmissible and seven were discontinued.
6. The Working Group discussed three draft recommendations, two concerning Denmark and one concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. All three recommendations were adopted by consensus and will be referred to the Committee, for adoption.
7. The Working Group noted the increased number of cases ready for decision, including where a request by the State party concerned to consider the admissibility of the communication separately from the merits (so-called split request) had been granted. At present, 16 cases are ready for adoption. In five of those cases, a split request was granted. While the backlog of cases is thus increasing, at present, the Secretariat is unable to prepare more than 3 to 4 draft recommendations per session. OHCHR is therefore invited to consider securing sufficient resources to the Petitions and Inquiries Section, Human Rights Treaties Division, in order to effectively address the problem, including in the framework of the review of the treaty body system pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/268.
8. For its thirty-fourth session, the Working Group requested the secretariat to prepare, on a priority basis, draft recommendations in relation to four communications: 2 against Denmark, one against the Russian Federation and another one against the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
9. The Working Group discussed the status of 12 cases in which the follow-up dialogue with the States parties concerned remained on-going, and agreed on the possible action to be taken:
 - (a) No. 17/2008 concerning Brazil;
 - (b) No. 19/2008 concerning Canada;
 - (c) No. 20/2008 concerning Bulgaria;
 - (d) No. 22/2009 concerning Peru;
 - (e) No. 24/2009 concerning Georgia;
 - (f) No. 31/2011 concerning Bulgaria;

- (g) No. 34/2011 concerning the Philippines;
- (h) No. 36/2012 concerning the Netherlands;
- (i) No. 45/2012 concerning Kazakhstan;
- (j) No. 47/2012 concerning Spain; and
- (k) No. 48/2012 concerning Tanzania.

10. In relation to communication No. 32/2011 concerning Bulgaria, the Working Group decided to suspend the follow-up dialogue and found a satisfactory implementation of its recommendations, in light of the compensation paid to the author in the amount of 7000 BGN (equivalent to 3500 Euro) and of counsel's comments in this regard. All information regarding the recommendations of general nature made in this case will be taken into account in the framework of the Committee's reporting procedure.

11. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to arrange meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of the Philippines, Peru and Spain to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to individual cases where violations of the Convention have been found.

Actions taken at the present session:

15. The Working Group decided:

- (a) To designate case Rapporteurs for communications Nos. 93/2015 to 98/2015;
- (b) To refer for adoption to the Committee three recommendations, two concerning Denmark, and one concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in each case by consensus;
- (c) To register one new communication (No. 98/2015 concerning Australia);
- (d) To put the follow-up dialogue to a close in relation to case No. 32/2011 (*Jallow v. Bulgaria*), with a finding of a satisfactory implementation of the Committee's recommendations;
- (e) To request the secretariat to arrange meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Peru, the Philippines and Spain to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to the Committee's views on individual communications concerning those States parties.

16. The Working Group decided to hold its thirty-fourth session from 9 to 12 February 2016 in Geneva.

APPENDIX

Agenda

Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol

33rd session (Geneva, 20 – 23 October 2015)

Room XVI, Palais des Nations

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Review of steps and activities undertaken since the last session.
3. New communications registered and appointment of case Rapporteurs.
4. Discussion on cases ready for adoption.
5. Update on communications (registered cases).
6. Update on follow-up to Views.
7. Discussion regarding cases ready for adoption and prioritization.
8. Adoption of the report concerning the Working Group's thirty-third session.

Annex 2

Report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on its second session

1. The Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its second session from 21 to 23 October 2015 in Geneva. Five members attended the session (Barbara Bailey, Hilary Gbedemah, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari (Chair), Ismat Jahan and Lia Nadaraia). Ms. Bailey was elected Vice-Chair of the Working Group until 31 December 2015.
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda.
3. The Working Group revised the standard operating procedures for inquiries in order to adapt them to the mandate of the Working Group and reflect the recent practice of the Committee in examining information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.
4. During the session, the Working Group reviewed, revised and adopted a checklist prepared by the Secretariat on preparation for country visits, and formulated a guidance note for source(s) of information on how to engage under the inquiry procedure.
5. The Working Group also discussed criteria for requesting observations from States parties and for conducting an inquiry.
6. The Working Group discussed a communication that was referred to it by the CEDAW Working Group on communications and the status of all pending inquiry proceedings and adopted recommendations for action to be taken by the Committee. The Working Group was briefed by OHCHR staff on recent developments in respect of information on specific inquiries that are under consideration by the Committee.
7. The Working Group was informed by the Secretariat that:
 - (a) In relation to inquiry 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-fourth session of the Committee will raise questions in the list of issues and questions on the measures taken by the State party to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the inquiry;
 - (b) In relation to inquiry 2011/1 concerning Canada, the time limit for the State party to submit information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the inquiry is 1 February 2016.
 - (c) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2, the State party requested additional time to consider the Committee's request for a visit and that the designated members would arrange a meeting with the Permanent Representative of the State party to discuss the request;
 - (d) In relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, the State party submitted its observations, that the designated members will meet the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, who plans to conduct a visit to the State party, and that the designated members will decide on the next course of action; and
 - (e) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1, the State party proposed a postponement of a visit to its territory to 2016, and that the designated members will propose new dates to the State party

Action taken at the second session

8. The Working Group decided:
 - (a) To refer for approval to the Committee the revised version of the standard operating procedures for inquiries taking into account the mandate of the Working Group and reflecting the recent practice of the Committee in examining information received

under article 8 of the Optional Protocol as well as the guidance note for sources of information;

(b) To continue at its next session the discussion on the development of criteria for informing decisions on grave and systematic parameters of violations prior to requesting observations from States parties and for taking decisions on conducting an inquiry;

(c) To refer for adoption to the Committee the following recommendations in relation to pending inquiry proceedings:

(i) In relation to submission No. 2011/3, not to conduct an inquiry; and

(ii) In relation to submission No. 2014/3, to defer to the third session of the working group its consideration as to whether or not to recommend to the Committee to conduct an inquiry.

(d) To inform the Committee of the following decisions taken by the Working Group:

(i) In relation to submission No. 2011/4, to request the sources of information to translate their submissions into the language of the State party which is an official language of the United Nations;

(ii) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, to extend the time limit for the sources of information to provide additional information until 15 November 2015;

(iii) In relation to submission No. 2014/2, to arrange a meeting during the Committee's sixty-second session with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to the United Nations Office at Geneva to follow up on the Committee's request for observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol and to take a decision thereafter;

(iv) In relation to a communication that was referred to it by the Committee's working group on communications under the Optional Protocol, to refer it back to the working group on communications; and

(v) To request the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva to prepare summary records with restricted distribution for closed plenary meetings of the Committee where activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol (inquiry procedure) are being considered.

9. The Working Group decided to hold its third session from 11 to 12 February 2016 in Geneva.
