

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2016/II/CRP

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

**Sixty-fourth session
(4 – 22 July 2016)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 64/1

Time limit for submission of follow-up information and number of follow-up issues

The Committee decided to confirm the time limit for the submission of follow-up information from States parties which must be submitted within two years, and exceptionally within one year, from the date of adoption of the concluding observations concerned and to amend decision 54/IX by limiting the number of issues in the concluding observations designated by the Committee for follow-up to a maximum of four issues/sub-paragraphs.

Decision 64/2

Adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting under the simplified reporting procedure

The Committee decided to amend decision 59/IV as follows: Only members having submitted comments in writing within ten days from the receipt at the beginning of a session of draft lists of issues prior to reporting prepared under the simplified reporting procedure (see decision 58/II) by the pre-sessional working group, to be convened after each regular session, shall be able to propose amendments for discussion during the adoption of such lists in plenary at the Committee's next regular session. Lists of issues prior to reporting shall be limited to a maximum of 25 paragraphs, including one standard paragraph asking States parties to provide information on the measures taken to implement the Committee's previous concluding observations, and shall not raise more than 75 questions.

Decision 64/3

Continuation of operation in country task forces

The Committee, having evaluated as positive the impact of the establishment of country task forces for the constructive dialogue with States parties, in line with decision 50/I, decided to continue operating in country task forces on a permanent basis.

Decision 64/4

Running list of questions for the constructive dialogue

The Committee decided to request the Secretariat to create a folder entitled "documents for the constructive dialogue" under "background information" on the CEDAW extranet, where members are encouraged to regularly upload good questions for use in constructive dialogues, and to upload the questions contained in the discussion paper entitled "Sub-Dimensions of Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 5.1.1" as well as the checklist of questions for States parties reporting to CEDAW contained in table (c) of the UN Women "Guidebook on CEDAW General Recommendation No. 30 and the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security" in that folder.

Decision 64/5

Informal meeting with States parties

The Committee decided to hold an informal meeting with the States parties to the Convention on 17 November 2016 during its sixty-fifth session to update States parties on its working methods and thematic priorities.

Decision 64/6

Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-sixth session, i.e., Gladys Acosta Vargas, Hilary Gbedemah, Nahla Haidar, Lia Nadaraia and Biancamaria Pomeranzi.

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 22 July 2016, the closing date of the sixty-fourth 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.

At the same date, there were 107 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-fourth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 4 to 22 July 2016. The Committee held 20 plenary meetings, and also held 8 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 1403rd meeting on 4 July 2016.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/64/1) at its 1403rd meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/64/1), which met from 23 to 27 November 2015, was introduced by Theodora Oby Nwankwo at the 1403rd meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 4 and 11 July 2016, 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 4 and 11 July, 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-fourth session.

On 8 July, Amnesty international briefed the Committee on its new sex workers policy in an informal private meeting.

On 21 July, the Committee and the Committee on Migrant Workers co-hosted a public side event co-organized by OHCHR and UN Women on “Promoting and protecting women migrant workers’ labour and human rights through CEDAW”.

F. Membership of the Committee

All members attended the sixty-fourth session with the exception of Lilian Hofmeister. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Feride Acar, on 4, 11, 12 and from 18 to 22 July; Nicole Ameline, from 20 to 22 July; Niklas Bruun, on 21 and 22 July; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, on 8 and 22 July, Ismat Jahan, on 11, 14 and 15 July; and Lia Nadaraia, on 20 July. 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-third and sixty-fourth sessions of the Committee

At the 1403rd meeting, the Chairperson, Yoko Hayashi, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the sixty-third session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

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

At its sixty-fourth session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the fourth periodic report of Albania; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of France; the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Mali; the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Myanmar; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of the Philippines; the combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of Trinidad and Tobago; the seventh periodic report of Turkey; and the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Uruguay.

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:

Albania (CEDAW/C/ALB/CO/4)

France (CEDAW/C/FRA/CO/7-8)

Mali (CEDAW/C/MLI/CO/6-7)

Myanmar (CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/4-5)

Philippines (CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8)

Trinidad and Tobago (CEDAW/C/TTO/CO/4-7)

Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/7)

Uruguay (CEDAW/C/URY/CO/8-9)

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

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

- 1) Cambodia (CEDAW/C/KHM/CO/4-5/Add.1)
- 2) Finland (CEDAW/C/FIN/CO/7/Add.1)
- 3) Guyana (CEDAW/C/GUY/CO/7-8/Add.1)
- 4) Moldova (CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/4-5/Add.1)
- 5) Pakistan (CEDAW/C/PAK/CO/4/Add.1)
- 6) Syria (CEDAW/C/SYR/CO/2/Add.1)
- 7) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (CEDAW/C/GBR/CO/7/Add.2)

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

- 1) Cameroon
- 2) Kazakhstan
- 3) Sierra Leone

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

- 1) Cape Verde
- 2) Central African Republic
- 3) Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 4) Dominican Republic

The rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Equatorial Guinea 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 11 and 19 July 2016. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its thirty-fifth session (see annex 1).

The Committee examined three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted three final decisions, declaring inadmissible one communication concerning Austria for lack of victim status and non-exhaustion of domestic remedies, and two communications concerning Denmark for lack of substantiation and for non-exhaustion of domestic remedies, respectively. The text of the final decisions of the Committee will be available once they have been finalized and sent to the respective parties through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) or through the juris database of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (<http://juris.ohchr.org/>).

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

The Committee was informed that the Working Group, during its thirty-fifth 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 10 cases under follow-up examination, one each relates to Brazil, Canada, Denmark, 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. 53/2013, A.S. v. Denmark), the Committee decided to put the follow-up dialogue to a close with a finding of a satisfactory resolution of the recommendations contained in its Views in light of the fact that the author had obtained a staying permit following the adoption of the Committee's Views. The Committee requested to have meetings arranged during its sixty-fourth session with the Permanent Missions of the Netherlands and Tanzania 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 20 and 21 July 2016. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its fourth session (see annex 2).

The Committee adopted the following recommendations of the Working Group on Inquiries:

(a) To approve certain revisions to 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; and

(b) In relation to submission No. 2014/2, to designate members to conduct an inquiry and to request the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory.

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

(a) In relation to submission No. 2011/4, that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on inquiries shall meet representatives of the State party concerned on the side lines of the consideration of its periodic report to discuss the submission of the State party's observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(b) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, to request the assistance of three members of the Committee to examine the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol and to make a recommendation on action to be taken to the Working Group in time for its fifth session in October 2016;

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1, to arrange a meeting during the sixty-fourth session of the Committee with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to follow up on its request to conduct a visit to the territory of the State party in September 2016; and

(d) In relation to submission 2016/1, to request additional information from the source of information and from representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations entities in the State party concerned.

The Committee further decided:

(a) In relation to inquiry 2011/1 concerning Canada, to mandate the designated members to assess information received from the State party pursuant to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol on the measures it had taken in response to the Committee's inquiry inter-sessionally, and to make a recommendation to the Committee at the sixty-fifth session.

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.

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-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions:

Sixty-fifth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-sixth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 19 to 21 October 2016

Fifth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol:

20 to 21 October 2016

Sixty-fifth session: 24 October to 18 November 2016

Pre-session working group for the sixty-seventh session: 21 to 25 November 2016

Sixty-sixth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-seventh session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 7 to 10 February 2017

Sixth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol:

9 to 10 February 2017

Sixty-sixth session: 13 February to 3 March 2017

Pre-session working group for the sixty-sixth session: 6 to 10 March 2017

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-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions:

Sixty-fifth session:

- 1) Antigua and Barbuda (in the absence of a report)
- 2) Argentina
- 3) Armenia
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) Belarus (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 6) Bhutan
- 7) Burundi
- 8) Canada
- 9) Estonia
- 10) Honduras
- 11) The Netherlands
- 12) Switzerland

Sixty-sixth session:

- 1) El Salvador

- 2) Germany
- 3) Ireland (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 4) Jordan
- 5) Micronesia
- 6) Rwanda
- 7) Sri Lanka
- 8) Ukraine

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

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

The working group met during the session and discussed a first draft of the general recommendation on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change which was presented to the Committee on 22 July 2016 and will be shared online with stakeholders inter-sessionally.

The working group requested the Committee to postpone the first reading of the draft general recommendation to the sixty-sixth session.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group met during the session and discussed the draft general recommendation on women's and girls' right to education.

Working Group on working methods

The working group met during the session and submitted to the Committee draft decisions concerning the time limit for the submission of follow-up information and the maximum number of follow-up issues, the adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting under the simplified reporting procedure, the continuation of operation in country task forces, and a running list of model questions for the constructive dialogue.

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group met during the session and discussed the priorities for its cooperation with the IPU, namely with regard to increasing the representation of women in political and public life, through: the SDG process, in particular the measurement of indicator 5.1.1; the establishment of independent national accountability mechanisms to oversee elections; delivering technical assistance to countries to better understand the link between development and human rights; and its recommendations on quotas for political parties.

CEDAW-UN Women/SDGs Working Group

The working group met during the session. It discussed the outcome of the workshop on monitoring SDG indicator 5.1.1 relating to legislative frameworks to end discrimination against women organized by UN Women on 14 and 15 June 2016 in New York, and decided to continue its cooperation with UN Women on the matter inter-sessionally.

Working Group on gender-based violence against women

The Working Group met during the session and finalized the first draft of the general recommendation on gender-based violence against women (updating general

recommendation No. 19) which was presented to the Committee on 15 July 2016 and will be shared online with stakeholders inter-sessionally.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session

On 22 July 2016, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its sixty-fifth 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-fourth and sixty-fifth 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-sixth session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-fifth session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its sixty-fourth session and addenda on 22 July 2016 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-fifth 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-fifth session from 29 June to 1 July 2016 in Geneva. All 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. 105/2016 concerning the Republic of Moldova.
5. The Working Group appointed case rapporteurs for all newly registered communications (Nos. 98/2016 to 105/2016). Out of 105 communications concerning 29 States parties registered since 2003, 46 are pending. In 22 cases, the Committee found violations and in two cases no-violation. 27 communications were declared inadmissible and 8 were discontinued.
6. The Working Group discussed four draft recommendations concerning Denmark (Nos. 57/2013 and 64/2013), Austria (No. 67/2014) and Mexico (No. 75/2014). Three of the four recommendations were adopted by consensus and it was decided to refer them to the Committee, for adoption. The decision on communication No. 75/2014 was postponed to the thirty-sixth session of the Working Group in order to request additional information from the parties.
7. The Working Group discussed the status of all pending cases registered. It decided to reject the State parties' requests for the Committee to consider the admissibility of a communication separately from the merits (so-called split request) in relation to communications Nos. 82/2015 concerning Denmark, 87/2015 concerning Ukraine, 92/2015 concerning Turkey, as well as 94/2015 and 96/015 concerning Denmark. It also decided to maintain its requests for interim measures in relation to communications Nos. 61/2013 and 82/2015, 84/2015, 85/2015 and 96/2015 (all concerning Denmark).
8. The Working Group expressed concern at the increased number of cases ready for decision, including where split request had been granted. At present, 23 cases are ready for adoption. In five of those cases a split was granted. While the backlog of cases is thus increasing, the Secretariat is unable to prepare more than 3 to 4 draft recommendations per session in light of the resources available. The Working Group therefore urged OHCHR to secure sufficient resources to the Petitions and Inquiries Section, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, in particular in the context of the review of the effectiveness of the measures taken under General Assembly Resolution 68/268, in order to effectively address the problem.
9. For its thirty-sixth session, the Working Group requested the Secretariat to prepare, on a priority basis, draft recommendations in relation to six communications (including one where split was granted): Nos. 54/2013 and 61/2013 concerning Denmark, No. 58/2013 concerning Moldova, No. 65/2014 concerning the Russian Federation, No. 66/2014 concerning Slovakia and No. 74/2014 concerning Norway.

10. The Working Group discussed the status of eleven cases in which the follow-up dialogue with the States parties concerned remained ongoing, and agreed on the possible action to be taken:

- (a) 17/2008 concerning Brazil (case Rapporteurs Ms. Acosta Vargas/Ms. Patten);
- (b) 19/2008 concerning Canada (case Rapporteurs Mr. Bruun/Ms. Haidar);
- (c) 22/2009 concerning Peru (case Rapporteurs Ms. Patten/Ms. Leinarte);
- (d) 24/2009 concerning Georgia (case Rapporteur Ms. Patten);
- (e) 34/2011 concerning the Philippines (case Rapporteur Ms. Patten);
- (f) 36/2012 concerning the Netherlands (case Rapporteur Mr. Bruun);
- (g) 45/2012 concerning Kazakhstan (case Rapporteur Mr. Bruun);
- (h) 46/2012 concerning Denmark (case Rapporteur Ms. Patten);
- (i) 47/2012 concerning Spain (case Rapporteur Ms. Acosta Vargas);
- (j) 48/2012 concerning Tanzania (case Rapporteur Ms. Patten); and
- (k) 60/2013 concerning the Russian Federation (case Rapporteur Mr. Bruun).

11. In relation to communication No. 53/2013, *A.S. v. Denmark*, the Working Group decided to suspend the follow-up dialogue and found a satisfactory resolution of its recommendations, in light of the granting of a permit for the author to stay in Denmark. 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.

12. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to arrange meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of the Netherlands and Tanzania to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to views on individual communications finding violations of the Convention. It also requested the Secretariat to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Denmark to discuss a number of issues in relation to individual communications.

Actions taken at the present session:

13. The Working Group decided:

- (a) To register communication No. 105/2016 concerning the Republic of Moldova.
- (b) To designate case rapporteurs for communications Nos. 98/2015 to 105/2016;
- (c) To reject the requests of the respective States parties for the Committee to consider the admissibility separately from the merits in relation to communications Nos. 82/2015, 94/2015 and 96/2015 concerning Denmark, No. 87/2015 concerning Ukraine, and No. 92/2015 concerning Turkey;
- (d) To maintain its request for interim measures in relation to communications Nos. 61/2013, 82/2015, 84/2015, 85/2015 and 96/2015 (all concerning Denmark);
- (e) To discontinue the consideration of communication No. 90/2015 concerning Denmark;
- (f) To refer for adoption to the Committee three recommendations in relation to communications Nos. 57/2013 and 64/2013 concerning Denmark and No. 67/2014 concerning Austria, in each case by consensus;
- (g) To postpone to the thirty-sixth session of the Working Group its decision on the admissibility and merits of communication No. 75/2014 concerning Mexico in order to request additional information from the parties;

(h) To request the Secretariat to prepare draft recommendations in relation to communications Nos. 54/2013 and 61/2013 concerning Denmark, No. 58/2013 concerning Moldova, No. 65/2014 concerning the Russian Federation, No. 66/2014 concerning Slovakia and No. 74/2014 concerning Norway;

(i) To put the follow up dialogue to a close in relation to communication No. 53/2013, *A.S. v. Denmark*, with a finding of a satisfactory implementation of the Committee's recommendations;

(k) To request the Secretariat to arrange meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of the Netherlands and Tanzania to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to the Committee's views on individual communications; and with the Permanent Mission of Denmark to discuss a number of issues in relation to individual communications.

14. The Working Group decided to hold its thirty-sixth session in Geneva from 19 to 21 October 2016.

ANNEX

Agenda

Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol

35th session (Geneva, 29 June – 1 July 2016)

Room XVIII, 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. Working methods.
8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its thirty-fifth 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 fourth 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 fourth session from 30 June to 1 July 2016 in Geneva. Four members attended the session (Hilary Gbedemah, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari - Chair, Ismat Jahan and Lia Nadaraia). Barbara Bailey (Vice-Chair) was unable to attend the meeting for medical reasons.
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda.
3. The Working Group was briefed by the Chief of the Groups in Focus Section, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR, on the initiative of the Secretariat to streamline procedures among those treaty bodies with a mandate to conduct inquiries, where applicable.
4. The Working Group continued to revise 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.

5. The Working Group was informed by the Secretariat:

(a) In relation to inquiry 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, that the Committee will follow up on the recommendations it made in its report of the inquiry during the consideration of the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of the Philippines scheduled to take place on 5 July 2016 during the sixty-fourth session of the Committee;

(b) In relation to inquiry 2011/1 concerning Canada, that the Committee should assess information received from the State party on 11 March 2016 on the measures it had taken in response to the Committee's inquiry and that it should decide on the next steps to be taken. The State party's combined eighth and ninth periodic reports will be considered during the Committee's sixty-fifth session in October 2016;

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2, that the State party concerned had agreed to a visit to its territory but that it had not formally confirmed the dates proposed by the designated members for such visit;

(d) In relation to submission No. 2011/4, that no observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol due on 3 March 2016 had been received from the State party concerned;

(e) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, that no additional information had been received from the sources of information, despite several reminders;

(f) In relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences had conducted a visit to the State party concerned and had presented a visit report to the Human Rights Council;

(g) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1, that the State party concerned had not formally confirmed the dates in September 2016 proposed by the designated members for a visit to its territory; and

(h) In relation to submission No. 2014/2, that no observations, due since 3 March 2016, with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol had been received from the State party concerned despite several reminders and meetings with the representatives of the Permanent Mission of the State party.

Action taken at the fourth session

6. The Working Group decided:

(a) To refer for approval to the Committee proposed amendments to the standard operating procedures;

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

(i) In relation to submission No. 2014/2, that the Committee's decision to conduct an inquiry shall be transmitted to the State party concerned together with a request to conduct a visit to its territory.

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

(i) In relation to submission No. 2011/4, that the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Working Group on inquiries shall meet representatives of the State party concerned on the side lines of the consideration of its periodic report to discuss the submission of the State party's observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(ii) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, to request the assistance of three members of the Committee to examine the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol and to make a recommendation on action to be taken to the Working Group in time for its fifth session in October 2016;

(iii) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1, to arrange a meeting during the sixty-fourth session of the Committee with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to follow up on the Committee's request to conduct a visit to the territory of the State party in September 2016; and

(iv) In relation to submission 2016/1, to request additional information from the source of information and from representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations entities in the State party concerned.

7. The Working Group decided to hold its fifth session from 20 to 21 October 2016 in Geneva.
