

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2017/II/CRP

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

**Sixty-seventh session
(3 – 21 July 2017)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 67/1

General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19

On 18 July 2017, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, (CEDAW/C/GC/35), by consensus. The Committee decided to hold a high-level public event during its sixty-eighth session to launch general recommendation No. 35, to be organized by the OHCHR Human Rights Treaties Branch with the support of the Women's Rights and Gender Section.

Decision 67/2

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration

On 13 July 2017, the Committee endorsed the "Recommendations for addressing women's human rights in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration" (goo.gl/tA152h) adopted at an expert meeting hosted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN-Women on 21 and 22 November 2016 in Geneva.

Decision 67/3

Working Group on Communications

The Committee appointed Theodora Oby Nwankwo to replace Pramila Patten as a member of the working group on communications. It also endorsed the election of Patricia Schulz as the new Chair of the working group and of Gladys Acosta Vargas as Vice-Chair.

Decision 67/4

Working Group on Inquiries

The Committee appointed Dalia Leinarte to replace Theodora Oby Nwankwo a member of the working group on inquiries.

Decision 67/5

Coverage of issues in concluding observations

The Committee decided to amend its current practice of including only issues in its concluding observations that were raised during the constructive dialogue with the State party concerned (see decision 60/7), with a view to enabling experts to reduce the number of questions they ask during the dialogue. It decided that issues included in the list of issues and questions/list of issues prior to reporting of the Committee may also be included in the concluding observations. The Committee requested the Secretariat to inform States parties about the new practice in the Notes verbales transmitting the lists of issues and questions and the lists of issues prior to reporting.

Decision 67/6

Membership of country task forces

The Committee recalled decision 55/9 that each expert shall sign up for a minimum of four country task forces per session and further decided that country rapporteurs shall additionally sign up for a minimum of two country task forces, in case of a session where eight States parties' reports are considered. It also decided that in the event of a four-week session, where 12 States parties' reports are considered, each expert shall sign up for a minimum of six country task forces, with the exception of country rapporteurs who shall additionally sign up for a minimum of three country task forces, to the extent possible. The Committee further decided that the list of country task forces shall be finalized at the respective preceding session of the Committee, to the extent possible.

Decision 67/7

Designation of country rapporteurs

The Committee decided that each member should volunteer as rapporteur for one country per year, to the extent possible, with a view to ensuring equal sharing of work, and that members should indicate their preferences to the Bureau member from the regional group of the State party concerned. It also decided that country rapporteurs should be designated during the year preceding the year when the States parties concerned are scheduled for consideration.

Decision 67/8

Period to be covered in overdue periodic reports

The Committee decided to revise decision 65/2 and to further amend the standard paragraph in its concluding observations on the date for the submission of the next periodic report of the State party concerned as follows: "The Committee requests the State party to submit its [xxx] periodic report, which is due in [month] [year]. The report should be submitted on time and cover the entire period up to the time of its submission."

Decision 67/9

Fourth official language of the Committee

In accordance with rule 24 of its rules of procedure as amended by decision 59/5, the Committee decided that based on its composition, Arabic shall remain its fourth official language until 31 December 2018, to be used on an exceptional basis to facilitate communication among the members (see General Assembly resolution 68/268, para. 30).

Decision 67/10

Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-ninth session, i.e., Marion Bethel, Hilary Gbedemah (replacing Theodora Oby Nwankwo), Nahla Haidar, Lilian Hofmeister and Lia Nadaraia.

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 21 July 2017, the closing date of the sixty-seventh 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, 71 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 109 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-seventh session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 3 to 21 July 2017. The Committee held 20 plenary meetings, and also held 10 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, Dalia Leinarte, at its 1500th meeting on 3 July 2017.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/67/1) at its 1500th meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/67/1), which met from 21 to 25 November 2017, was introduced by Patricia Schulz at the 1500th meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 3 and 10 July 2017, 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 3 and 10 July 2017, 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-seventh session.

On 7 July, the Committee held an informal meeting with Renée Chartres, Land and Gender Legal Specialist, and Anastasia Giadrossi, Gender and Land Rights Intern, Food and Agriculture Organization, who briefed the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 5.a.2 relating to women's land rights.

On 10 July, the Committee held an informal meeting with Ann Blomberg, Human Rights Specialist, UN-Women, who briefed the Committee on the outcome of the expert meeting to discuss strategies for integrating women's rights into the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, hosted by OHCHR and UN-Women on 21 and 22 November 2016 in Geneva.

On 12 July, the Committee met with the members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Human Rights Council for an informal consultation. The meeting was hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and sponsored by the Geneva treaty body platform.

On 14 July, the Committee was briefed via video conference by Akiko Sakaue, Programme Analyst for Human Rights and Gender, Gender, Human Rights and Culture Branch, Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and Emilie Filmer-Wilson, Human Rights Technical Adviser, UNFPA on women's rights issues related to surrogacy.

On 19 July, the Committee held an informal meeting with Sarah Iqbal, Programme Manager, Women, Business and the Law Project, World Bank, and Keiko Nowacka, Gender Coordinator, OECD Development Centre, who briefed the Committee on data collection for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.1.1 relating to legal frameworks to end discrimination against women. Begoña Lasagabaster, Chief, Human Rights Section; Ginette Azcona, Policy Specialist; and Caitlin Boyce, Human Rights Legal Policy Specialist, all UN-Women, participated remotely in the meeting via video link.

F. Membership of the Committee

Filling of casual vacancies

Pramila Patten resigned from the Committee on 16 May 2017. On 17 May 2017, the Secretary General requested the Government of Mauritius to appoint, within a period of two months, another expert from among its nationals to serve for the remainder of Ms. Patten's term. On 21 June 2017, the Government of Mauritius informed the Committee of its decision to appoint Aruna Devi Narain to serve as a member of the Committee for the remainder of the term of Ms. Patten, i.e. until 31 December 2018. On 21 July 2017, the Committee decided to approve the appointment of Ms. Narain, in accordance with article 17, paragraph 7, of the Convention.

Attendance of the sixty-seventh session

All members attended the sixty-seventh session with the exception of Theodora Oby Nwankwo. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Feride Acar, on 10 and 14 July; Louiza Chalal, on 6 July; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, on 21 July; and Dalia Leinarte, on 21 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-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions of the Committee

At the 1500th meeting, the Chairperson, Dalia Leinarte, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the sixty-sixth session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

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

At its sixty-seventh session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the combined fifth to eighth periodic reports of Barbados; the seventh periodic report of Costa Rica; the seventh periodic report of Italy; the second periodic report of Montenegro; the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Niger; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Nigeria; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Romania; and the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Thailand.

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:

Barbados (CEDAW/C/BRB/5-8)

Costa Rica (CEDAW/C/CRI/7)
Italy (CEDAW/C/ITA/7)
Montenegro (CEDAW/C/MNE/2)
Niger (CEDAW/C/NER/3-4)
Nigeria (CEDAW/C/NGA/7-8)
Romania (CEDAW/C/ROU/7-8)
Thailand (CEDAW/C/THA/6-7)

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

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

- 1) Belgium (CEDAW/C/BEL/CO/7/Add.1)
- 2) China (CEDAW/C/CHN/CO/7-8/Add.1)
- 3) Denmark (CEDAW/C/DEN/CO/8/Add.1)
- 4) Ecuador (CEDAW/C/ECU/CO/8-9/Add.1)
- 5) Egypt (CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/7/Add.1)
- 6) Kazakhstan (CEDAW/C/KAZ/CO/3-4/Add.1)
- 7) Oman (CEDAW/C/OMN/CO/1/Add.1)
- 8) Solomon Islands (CEDAW/C/SLB/CO/1-3/Add.1)
- 9) Swaziland (CEDAW/C/SWZ/CO/1-2/Add.1)

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

- 1) Azerbaijan
- 2) Eritrea
- 3) Gabon
- 4) Kyrgyzstan
- 5) Maldives
- 6) Tuvalu

The Committee sent second reminders to Brunei Darussalam, Ghana, Guinea, India, Mauritania and Poland whose follow-up reports were overdue.

The Rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Benin, Cape Verde and Sierra Leone, whose follow-up reports were 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 10 July 2017. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its thirty-eighth session (see annex 1).

The Committee examined four individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted four final decisions, including views finding no violation with regard to communications Nos. 70/2014, 77/2014 and 78/2014 concerning Denmark (non-refoulement) and views finding a violation with regard to communication No. 75/2014 concerning Mexico (gender-based violence, and impunity). 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 had not been provided with updated information on the follow-up situation in relation to views due to the reduced capacity of the Secretariat and that it intended to meet with representatives of Brazil and Peru, with a view to closing the follow-up dialogue with regard to communications Nos.17/2008 and 22/2009, respectively, in the near future.

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 19 July 2017. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its seventh session (see annex 2).

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

(a) In relation to submission No. 2017/1, to discontinue its examination of the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(b) In relation to submission 2016/1, to invite the State party to submit observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/3, to designate Gunnar Bergby, Nahla Haidar and Bandana Rana to conduct an inquiry and to seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory;

(d) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, to designate Gladys Acosta Vargas and Marion Bethel to conduct an inquiry and to seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory; and

(e) In relation to submission No. 2011/4, to designate Nicole Ameline, Marion Bethel, Naela Gabr and Patricia Schulz to conduct an inquiry and to seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory.

The Committee adopted its findings, comments and recommendations in relation to inquiry No. 2011/2 and decided to transmit them to the State party concerned.

The Committee also adopted the following decisions:

(a) In relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, to designate Lilian Hofmeister to replace Pramila Patten as one of the members designated to conduct the inquiry following Ms. Patten's resignation from the Committee;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/2, to designate Marion Bethel to replace Nahla Haidar and Aicha Vall Verges to replace Pramila Patten as members designated to conduct the inquiry; and

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2012/1, to postpone the visit to the territory of the State party concerned until after the consideration of the State party's periodic report.

In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1, Lia Nadaraia introduced the report of the inquiry.

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-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions:

Sixty-eighth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-ninth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 18 to 20 October 2017

Eighth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 19 to 20 October 2017

Sixty-eighth session: 23 October to 17 November 2017

Pre-session working group for the seventieth session: 20 to 24 November 2017

Sixty-ninth Session (Geneva)

Fortieth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 13-16 February 2018

Sixty-ninth session: 19 February to 9 March 2018

Pre-session working group for the seventy-first session: 12 to 16 March 2018

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-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions:

Sixty-eighth session:

- 1) Burkina Faso
- 2) Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- 3) Guatemala
- 4) Israel (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 5) Kenya
- 6) Kuwait
- 7) Monaco
- 8) Nauru
- 9) Norway
- 10) Oman

- 11) Paraguay
- 12) Singapore

Sixty-ninth session:

- 1) Chile
- 2) Fiji
- 3) Luxembourg (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 4) Malaysia
- 5) Marshall Islands
- 6) Republic of Korea
- 7) Suriname
- 8) Saudi Arabia

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 reviewed the revised text of the draft general recommendation following the integration of stakeholders' comments inter-sessionally.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group met during the session and finalized an advanced draft of the general recommendation on the right to education of girls and women. It held an informal consultation via video link with former Committee member Barbara Bailey, international expert on education.

On 21 July 2017, the Committee completed its first reading of the draft general recommendation.

Working Group on working methods

The working group met during the session and submitted to the Committee draft decisions concerning the coverage of issues in concluding observations, the membership of country task forces, the designation of country rapporteurs, and the period to be covered in overdue periodic reports (see decisions 67/5 to 67/8).

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group met with a representative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union during the session who briefed the working group on the global activities of IPU, its work on violence against women and its other activities to promote the Convention and the recommendations of the Committee at the national and regional levels. The working group continued discussing the priorities for its cooperation with the IPU, namely with regard to a joint meeting at the next IPU Assembly in Geneva in March 2018 and with regard to further improving the standard paragraph on Parliaments in the concluding observations of the Committee.

CEDAW-UN Women/SDGs Working Group

The working group met with representatives of the World Bank, the OECD, UN-Women and the FAO during the session to discuss the Committee's participation in the refinement of the methodology of and collection of data on indicators 5.1.1. ("Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex") and 5.a.2 ("percentage of countries where the legal framework, including customary law, guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control"), respectively.

The Committee agreed to establish a Steering Committee with the World Bank, the OECD and UN Women to reinforce the exchange of information on progress made in refining the methodology of SDG indicator 5.1.1, its testing and data collected. It further requested the representatives from both the World Bank and the OECD to submit country-specific information for its consideration of States parties' reports, in particular prior to the adoption of the list of issues by the pre-sessional working group of the Committee.

The working group, in coordination with the working group on working methods, also provided input for the terms of reference for a consultant to be recruited to revise the CEDAW reporting guidelines in order to increase their relevance in light of data collection efforts to measure the achievement of SDG targets.

Working Group on gender-based violence against women

The working group met during the session.

On 18 July 2017, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19 (CEDAW/C/GC/35) by consensus,¹ in accordance with rule 31 of the Committee's rules of procedure, and in the presence of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

Taskforce on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations

The task force met during the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions. At the sixty-eighth session, it discussed the possibility of a framework of cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for sexual violence in conflict, former Committee member Pramila Patten.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session

On 21 July 2017, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its sixty-seventh 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-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Committee.

¹ The following members were present during the adoption: Ayse Feride Acar, Gladys Acosta Vargas, Nicole Ameline, Magalys Arocha Dominguez, Gunnar Bergby, Marion Bethel, Louiza Chalal, Náela Gabr, Hilary Gbedemah, Nahla Haidar, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Yoko Hayashi, Lilian Hofmeister, Ismat Jahan, Dalia Leinarte, Rosario G. Manalo, Lia Nadaraia, Bandana Rana, Patricia Schulz, Wenyan Song and Aicha Vall Verges

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-ninth session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-eighth session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its sixty-seventh session and addenda on 21 July 2017 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]
