

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2017/III/CRP

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

**Sixty-eighth session
(23 October – 17 November 2017)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 68/1

General recommendation No. 36 on girls' and women's right to education

On 16 November 2017, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 36 (2017) on girls' and women's right to education (CEDAW/C/GC/36), by consensus.

Decision 68/2

Exceptional report of Myanmar

In accordance with Article 18, paragraph 1 (b), of the Convention and its decision 21/I, the Committee decided to request the Government of Myanmar to submit an exceptional report, within six months, on the ongoing situation of Rohingya women and girls in northern Rakhine State.

Decision 68/3

Consideration of Yemen

The Committee recalled its decision to postpone, at the request of the State party, its consideration of the combined seventh and eighth periodic report of Yemen (CEDAW/C/YEM/7-8), received in June 2013, and decided to determine the modalities for the urgent consideration of the situation of women and girls in Yemen at its sixty-ninth session.

Decision 68/4

Reference to follow-up reports in concluding observations

The Committee decided to amend the second introductory paragraph in its concluding observations by inserting a reference to the submission, if any, by the State party of written information on the steps taken to implement the recommendations identified for immediate action in the previous concluding observations of the Committee. In the alternative that the State party failed to submit such follow-up report, the Committee decided to express regret about such failure in the standard paragraph on follow-up in the concluding observations.

Decision 68/5

Reference to the submission, assessment or non-submission of follow-up information in country briefing notes

The Committee decided to amend its decision 52/II by including in the country briefing note prepared by the country rapporteur a reference to the submission or non-submission by the State party concerned of written information on the steps it has taken to implement the recommendations identified for immediate action in the previous concluding observations of the Committee concerning that State party. In case of submission, the Committee decided also to refer to the assessment of such follow-up report by the Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations in the briefing note of the country rapporteur.

Decision 68/6

Follow-up methodology and information

The Committee decided to amend its decision 54/IX by introducing the following two new assessment categories in the follow-up methodology and information note for States parties and other stakeholders on the submission of reports under the follow-up procedure:

- “Substantially implemented” indicates that the State party has provided evidence of substantial action taken towards the implementation of the recommendation made by the Committee; but that it fails to respond fully to the recommendation; in this case the follow-up rapporteur requests no additional information from the State party;
- “Information or measures taken are contrary to or reflect rejection of the recommendation” indicates that the State party has taken no steps, reinforcing the Committee’s concerns or shows that the State party rejects the recommendations made by the Committee; in this case, the follow-up rapporteur requests information on the measures taken to implement the recommendation within a specific time frame or in the next periodic report.

Decision 68/7

Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the seventieth session, i.e., Gladys Acosta Vargas, Nicole Ameline, Lia Nadaraia, Bandana Rana and Aicha Vall Verges (replacing Theodora Oby Nwankwo).

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 17 November 2017, the closing date of the sixty-eighth 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, 72 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-eighth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 23 October to 17 November 2017. The Committee held 29 plenary meetings, and also held 11 meetings to discuss agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex [...] to the present report.

The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Dalia Leinarte, at its 1530th meeting on 23 October 2017.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/68/1) at its 1530th meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/68/1), which met from 6 to 10 March 2017, was introduced by Naela Gabr at the 1530th meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 23 and 30 October and 7 November 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 23 and 30 October and 7 November 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-eighth session.

On 3 November, the Committee met with Alda Facio, Chair of the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice, to discuss strengthened cooperation between both mechanisms.

On 8 November, the Committee held an informal meeting with UNAIDS and WHO where it was briefed on “Women, HIV and AIDS in the context of CEDAW”.

On 14 November, the Committee convened an expert panel discussion, organized by OHCHR, to launch general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19.

F. Membership of the Committee

Filling of casual vacancies

On 23 October 2017, Aruna Devi Narain who had been appointed to serve as a member of the Committee for the remainder of the term of Pramila Patten (i.e. until 31 December 2018) following the latter’s resignation from the Committee, took the solemn declaration as provided for in Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

Attendance of the sixty-eighth 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, from 30 October to 3 November, from 6 to 8 November and on 17 November; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, from 23 to 27 October and on 3 and 17 November; Yoko Hayashi, from 15 to 17 November; Ismat Jahan, from 23 to 27 October; and Aicha Vall Verges, on 2 November. 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-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions of the Committee

At the 1530th meeting, the Chairperson, Dalia Leinarte, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the sixty-seventh session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

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

At its sixty-eighth session, the Committee considered the reports of twelve States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the seventh periodic report of Burkina Faso; the combined second to fourth periodic reports of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Guatemala; the sixth periodic report of Israel; the eighth periodic report of Kenya; the fifth periodic report of Kuwait; the combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Monaco; the combined initial and second periodic reports of Nauru; the ninth periodic report of Norway; the combined second and third periodic reports of Oman; the seventh periodic report of Paraguay; and the fifth periodic report of Singapore.

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:

Burkina Faso (CEDAW/C/BFA/CO/7)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/PRK/CO/2-4)

Guatemala (CEDAW/C/GTM/CO/8-9)

Israel (CEDAW/C/ISR/CO/6)

Kenya (CEDAW/C/KEN/CO/8)

Kuwait (CEDAW/C/KWT/CO/5)

Monaco (CEDAW/C/MCO/CO/1-3)

Nauru (CEDAW/C/NRU/CO/1-2)

Norway (CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/9)

Oman (CEDAW/C/OMN/CO/2-3)

Paraguay (CEDAW/C/PRY/CO/7)

Singapore (CEDAW/C/SGP/CO/5)

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

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

- 1) Benin (CEDAW/C/BEN/CO/4/Add.1)
- 2) Brunei Darussalam (CEDAW/C/BRN/CO/1-2/Add.1)
- 3) Slovenia (CEDAW/C/SVN/CO/5-6/Add.1)
- 4) Spain (CEDAW/C/ESP/CO/7-8/Add.1)

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

- 1) Bolivia
- 2) Croatia
- 3) Gambia
- 4) Namibia
- 5) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- 6) Senegal
- 7) Vietnam

The Committee sent second reminders to Azerbaijan, Eritrea, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan and Tuvalu whose follow-up reports were overdue.

The Rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Uganda and the Central African Republic, 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 6 November 2017. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its thirty-ninth session (see annex 1).

The Committee examined three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted three final decisions, including views finding a violation with regard to communication No. 91/2015 concerning the Russian Federation (domestic violence) and two decisions declaring inadmissible communications Nos. 79/2014 and 95/2015 concerning Denmark and Ukraine, respectively. The Committee also decided to discontinue its consideration of communication No. 93/2015 concerning Denmark. 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-ninth 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 15 cases under follow-up examination, two relate to the Russian Federation and one each relates to Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Moldova, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, Slovakia, Spain, and Tanzania. The Committee appointed rapporteurs for each of those cases. It also considered using the assessment criteria used by the Human Rights Committee in relation to follow-up to views.

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 15 November 2017. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its eighth session (see annex 2).

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

In relation to submission No. 2017/2, to discontinue its examination of the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

The Committee finalized the first reading of its draft findings, comments and recommendations in relation to inquiry No. 2014/1.

The Committee also adopted the following decisions:

(a) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/4, to accept the withdrawal of Naela Gabr as one of the members designated to conduct the inquiry;

(b) In light of the lack of cooperation by certain States parties, to mandate the Working Group on Inquiries to consider the elaboration of guidelines for conducting inquiries without a visit to the territory of the State party concerned; and;

(c) To defer the consideration of amendments to the standard operating procedures proposed by the Working Group on Inquiries to the sixty-ninth session of the Committee.

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-ninth Session (Geneva)

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

Ninth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 15 to 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

Seventieth Session (Geneva)

Forty-first session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 27 to 29 June 2018

Tenth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 28 to 29 June 2018

Seventieth session: 2 to 20 July 2018

Pre-session working group for the seventieth session: 23 to 27 July 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-ninth and seventieth sessions:

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

Seventieth session:

- 1) Australia
- 2) Cook Islands
- 3) Cyprus
- 4) Liechtenstein (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 5) Mexico
- 6) New Zealand
- 7) State of Palestine
- 8) Turkmenistan

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 in the context of climate change

The working group met during the session and finalized an advanced draft of the general recommendation on gender-related aspects of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change.

On 17 November 2017, the Committee completed its first reading of the draft general recommendation.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group met during the session to finalize the draft of the general recommendation. It held two informal consultations with former Committee member Barbara Bailey, international expert on education, one via video link and the other in the presence of Ms. Bailey.

On 16 November 2017, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 36 (2017) on girls' and women's right to education (CEDAW/C/GC/35) by consensus,¹ in accordance with rule 31 of the Committee's rules of procedure, and in the presence of Barbara Bailey, former member of the Committee former Chair of its Working Group on the right to education.

Working Group on working methods

The Working Group met during the session and discussed a draft decision concerning time management during the constructive dialogue. It also discussed and submitted to the Committee a draft decision on inter-sessional adoption of joint statements. The Committee postponed the adoption of a decision to its sixty-ninth session and requested the working group to develop of a set of criteria to determine urgent situations on which the Committee shall adopt statements both during and between sessions.

The Working Group discussed the simplified reporting procedure, and considered that if and when the procedure resumes, the requirement that its periodic report must be overdue for a State party to avail itself of the procedure (see decision 59/IV) should be repealed. It also

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, Lilian Hofmeister, Ismat Jahan, Dalia Leinarte, Rosario G. Manalo, Lia Nadaraia, Aruna Narain, Bandana Rana, Patricia Schulz, Wenyan Song and Aicha Vall Verges

decided to explore assessments of the simplified reporting procedure undertaken by other treaty bodies and requested the Secretariat to make available to the Working Group relevant research papers written by other treaty body members or academics.

The membership of the Working Group was extended to include Aruna Narain and Wenyan Song. The Working Group elected Ms. Narain as Vice-Chair.

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group met with a representative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) during the session who briefed the working group on past and future activities of the IPU at the national and regional levels focusing on the Convention and gender equality, including the IPU Assembly held in St. Petersburg in October 2017 and the Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament to be held in Bolivia in December 2017. The working group discussed the possibility of a meeting with Parliamentarians during the next IPU Assembly to be held in Geneva from 13 to 17 October 2018, including a high-level meeting with the new IPU President, Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barrón from Mexico. The working group invited the IPU representative to suggest questions for inclusion in the Country Rapporteur's briefing note on measures taken by the State party to increase the representation of women in political processes. The working group also invited the IPU to consider ways of integrating the gender-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals into its work.

CEDAW-UN Women/SDGs Working Group

The working group held a telephone conference with representatives of UN Women, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Bank who briefed it on developments relating to SDG indicator 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"). The working group raised the following priority issues: (a) ways to increase the public visibility of the Committee as a full partner in the development and monitoring of indicator 5.1.1; and (b) the need to develop a strategy to raise awareness about the interconnectedness between the commitment of States parties to achieving the SDG targets relating to women's empowerment and their obligations under the Convention.

The working group invited Luis Mora, Chief, Gender, Human Rights and Cultural Branch, Technical Division, United Nations Population Fund, to brief the Committee on the development of SDG indicators 5.6.1 ("Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care") and 5.6.2 ("Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education"), for which UNFPA is the lead custodian agency. The working group underlined the value of including relevant recommendations of the Committee in the work of UNFPA on indicator development and data collection. UNFPA and the Committee agreed on a future course of strengthened institutional collaboration.

The Chair of the Working Group, Nicole Ameline, proposed the organization of a side-event at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2018, with a view to disseminating the Committee's work in reinforcing the implementation and promotion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its inextricable linkage to the Convention.

The Working Group noted that the recruitment of a consultant to review the reporting guidelines of the Committee is in its final stages.

Working Group on gender-based violence against women

The working group met during the session.

On 14 November 2017, the Committee convened an expert panel discussion to launch general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19. The panellists included Hina Jilani, Human Rights Lawyer, the Elders; Shilan Shah-Davis, Senior Lecturer, University of the West of England; Anthony Keedi, Masculinities Technical Adviser, ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality;

Carmen Barroso, Co-chair, Independent Accountability Panel, Every Woman Every Child; Dubravka Šimonoviæ, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; and Jane Connors, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Victims' Rights Advocate. Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, moderated the discussion.

A number of States parties to the Convention attended the event, as well as representatives of United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations. Representatives welcomed general recommendation No. 35 and expressed their continued commitment to combatting gender-based violence against women.

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

The task force met during the session to discuss a framework of cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for sexual violence in conflict, Pramila Patten.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth session

On 17 November 2017, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its sixty-ninth 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-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Follow-up to concluding observations of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Implementation of articles 21 and 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
8. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
9. Provisional agenda for the seventieth session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-ninth session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its sixty-eighth session and addenda on 17 November 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]

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-ninth session

1. The Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its thirty-ninth session from 18 to 20 October 2017 in Geneva. Four members² attended the session: Gladys Acosta Vargas (Vice-Chair), Yoko Hayashi, Lia Nadaraia, and Patricia Schulz (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 expressed concern about its current situation with only four members being able to attend the sessions, and decided to re-assign cases among the four members present (an updated table of communications and case rapporteurs is appended to the present report).
4. The Working Group also discussed the possibility of appointing alternate members in case one of the Working Group members is unable to attend a session.
5. The Working Group noted with concern that certain States parties insist that submissions from authors submitted in an official language of the United Nations other than the language used by the State party concerned must be transmitted in the official language used by that State party, with the result that the onus is on authors to translate their submissions, resulting in delays in the procedure and inequality of arms. The Working Group decided to request the Secretariat to explore possible solutions to this situation.
6. The Working Group reviewed the 44 communications, which are currently registered and pending consideration. It decided to register one new communication concerning Spain (trafficking), for which Ms. Acosta Vargas was appointed as case rapporteur.
7. The Working Group decided to discuss at its fortieth session four draft recommendations in relation to communications Nos. 80/2015 and 85/2015 both concerning Denmark (non-refoulement), No. 88/2015 concerning Timor Leste (domestic violence), and No. 103/2016 concerning Finland (domestic violence).
8. The Working Group discussed three draft recommendations: Two draft inadmissibility decisions in relation to communications Nos. 79/2014 (Rapporteur Ms. Hayashi) and 95/2015 (Rapporteur Ms. Nadaraia) concerning Denmark and Ukraine, respectively, as well as draft views finding a violation in relation to communication No. 91/2015 concerning the Russian Federation (domestic violence; Rapporteur Ms. Schulz). The Working Group adopted these recommendations by consensus and decided to refer them to the Committee for adoption.
9. The Working Group also discussed the status of pending communications, and decided to publish on the OHCHR webpage for the Committee a list of pending communications (without the names of authors), indicating the State party and the thematic issue concerned (following the model of CESCR).
10. The Working Group decided to suspend its consideration of communication No. 68/2014 concerning Canada until the State party has submitted additional observations on legislative amendments on the issue of First Nations.

² Ms. Oby Nwankwo did not participate in the session for health reasons.

11. The Working Group decided to discontinue its consideration of communication No. 93/2015 concerning Denmark as counsel for the author was no longer aware of the whereabouts of the author.

12. The Working Group decided to maintain its request for interim measures in relation to communication Nos. 81/2015 and 109/2016 both concerning Denmark and to lift its request for interim measures in relation to communication No. 108/2016 concerning Denmark.

13. The Working Group reiterated its concern about the growing backlog of cases of non-refoulement, primarily concerning Denmark, and resolved to engage in a broader reflection on effective ways to address each of these cases, taking into account relevant legal standards under the communications procedure as well as the phenomenon of global migration and insecurity. The Working Group expressed the wish to engage in a discussion with other treaty-bodies on this issue, and to harmonize relevant procedures and jurisprudence with that of other Committees.

14. The Working Group reviewed cases currently under the follow-up procedure and appointed rapporteurs for each of those cases. It also decided to consider the possibility of using the assessment criteria developed by the Human Rights Committee in relation to follow-up to views and to take a decision at its fortieth session in this regard.

15. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to seek updated information from both the State party and the author on the status of implementation of the views of the Committee in relation to communication No.17/2008, *Pimentel v. Brazil*, with a view to closing the follow-up dialogue in the near future.

16. The Working Group decided to request meetings with representatives of the permanent Mission of Spain during its fortieth session to discuss follow-up to the views of the Committee in relation to communication No. 47/2012, *Gonzales Carreño v. Spain*, and to raise the possibility of ex gratia payments to compensate the author.

17. The Working Group decided to send a letter to Moldova under the follow-up procedure concerning the views of the Committee in relation to communication No. 58/2013, *L.R.*, asking the State party to provide the author with an apartment of her own so as to protect her from violence from her ex-spouse.

Actions taken at the present session:

18. The Working Group decided:

(a) To refer, for adoption by the Committee, three recommendations: Two draft inadmissibility decisions in relation to communications Nos. 79/2014 (Rapporteur Ms. Hayashi) and 95/2015 (Rapporteur Ms. Nadaraia) concerning Denmark and Ukraine, respectively, as well as draft views finding a violation in relation to communication No. 91/2015 concerning the Russian Federation (domestic violence; Rapporteur Ms. Schulz).

(b) To request the Secretariat to prepare for the fortieth session of the Working Group four draft recommendations in relation to communications Nos. 80/2015 and 85/2015 both concerning Denmark (non-refoulement), No. 88/2015 concerning Timor Leste (domestic violence), and No. 103/2016 concerning Finland (domestic violence).

(c) To discontinue the Committee's consideration of communication No. 93/2015 concerning Denmark.

(d) To suspend the Committee's consideration of communication No. 68/2014 concerning Canada.

(e) To register one new communication concerning and to appoint Ms. Acosta Vargas as case rapporteur.

(f) To maintain its request for interim measures in relation to communication No. 81/2015, concerning Denmark.

(g) To maintain its request for interim measures in relation to communication No. 109/2016 concerning Denmark.

(h) To lift its request for interim measures in relation to communication No. 108/2016 concerning Denmark.

19. To request the Secretariat to arrange for a meeting with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Spain for during its fortieth session to discuss follow-up to the Committee's views in relation to communication No. 47/2012.

20. To publish on it's the OHCHR webpage for the Committee a list of pending cases (without the names of authors), indicating the State party and the thematic issue concerned.

21. The Working Group decided to hold its fortieth session from 13 to 16 February 2018 in Geneva.

Appendix I

Agenda

Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol

39th session (Geneva, 18-20 October 2017)

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. Requests to lift interim measures
5. Requests for suspension
6. Cases for discontinuance
7. Update on communications (registered cases)
8. Update on follow-up to Views
9. Adoption of draft recommendations
10. Discussion on working methods
11. Adoption of the report concerning the thirty-ninth session of the Working Group

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 eighth 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 eighth session from 19 to 20 October 2017 in Geneva. Five members attended the session (Hilary Gbedemah, Chair; Marion Bethel, Vice-Chair; Nahla Haidar; Gunnar Bergby; and Dalia Leinarte).
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 efforts to re-allocate resources to ensure meeting time for future sessions of the Working Group on Inquiries.
4. The Working Group was informed by the Secretariat:
 - (a) In relation to submission No. 2016/1, that following the transmission of a Note verbale inviting the State party to cooperate in the examination of and submit its observations on the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, the State party concerned had been granted a one-month extension of the time limit to submit its observations;
 - (b) In relation to submission No. 2017/2, that the sources of information had not yet given their consent to the disclosure of their identity to the State party concerned in case the Committee decided to proceed with the examination of the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol; and
 - (c) In relation to inquiries Nos. 2014/3, 2014/2, 2013/1, and 2011/4, that none of the States parties concerned has responded to the requests of the Committee seeking their consent to undertake visits to their respective territories.
5. The Working Group continued revising the standard operating procedures for inquiries in order to adapt them to the mandate of the Working Group and to reflect the recent practice of the Committee in examining information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol. The Working Group also began the elaboration of guidelines for conducting inquiries on the own initiative of the Committee.

Action taken at the seventh session

6. The Working Group decided:
 - (a) To refer for adoption to the Committee the following recommendations:
 - (i) In relation to submission No. 2017/2, that the Committee should discontinue its examination of the information received because the threshold under article 8 of the Optional Protocol had not been met; and
 - (ii) In relation to the standard operating procedures, to adopt a number of proposed amendments.
 - (b) To inform the Committee of the following decision taken by the Working Group:

To mandate the Chair of the Working Group on Inquiries to meet the Chair of the Working Group on Communications to discuss the modalities for the re-allocation of available resources in order to ensure meeting time for future sessions of the Working Group on Inquiries.
 7. The Working Group decided to hold its ninth session from 15 to 16 February 2018 in Geneva.
-