

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

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

Sixty-eighth session

(23 October – 17 November 2017)

Annex II

**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.
