

**[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]**

**CEDAW/C/2018/I/CRP**

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

**Sixty-ninth session  
(19 February – 9 March 2018)**

# Chapter I

## Matters brought to the attention of States parties

### Decisions

#### Decision 69/1

##### General recommendation No. 37 on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change

On 7 March 2018, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change ([CEDAW/C/GC/37](https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/c/cedaw/c/gc/37); <https://goo.gl/gvYHmz>), by consensus.

#### Decision 69/2

##### Statement on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change

The Committee also adopted a statement on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2018 (<https://goo.gl/5AEcJT>).

#### Decision 69/3

##### Joint statement by United Nations women's rights experts on the occasion of International Women's Day 2018

Also on the occasion of International Women's Day 2018, the Committee adopted a statement entitled "Confronting sexual violence, demanding equality" jointly with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice of the Human Rights Council (<https://goo.gl/5AEcJT>).

#### Decision 69/4

##### Draft general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration

The Committee decided to embark on the elaboration of a draft general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration and entrusted Dalia Leinarte with the preparation of a concept note. It also decided to elaborate draft general recommendations on gender stereotypes and on indigenous women at such time when the secretariat will have the capacity to support these processes.

#### Decision 69/5

##### Reinstatement of the simplified reporting procedure

Having reviewed its decision 65/5 to suspend the simplified reporting procedure, the Committee decided to reinstate this procedure. It also decided to amend decisions 58/2 and 59/4 by making the simplified reporting procedure available to all States parties, upon their request, irrespective of whether or not their respective periodic report is overdue, provided that the State party concerned: (1) previously submitted an initial report which was considered under the regular procedure; and (2) has submitted an updated common core document, in accordance with the "Harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents" (HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1), which dates back no more than, for the time being, five years. It decided to keep under review the practical modalities of the implementation of the simplified reporting procedure to ensure its effectiveness for all stakeholders. The Committee decided that this decision shall be communicated to all States parties.

## **Decision 69/6**

### Limitation of the number of invitations to follow-up meetings

The Committee decided to limit the number of invitations to follow-up meetings for a State party, whose follow-up report is overdue despite two reminders, to a maximum of two invitations. It also decided that failure of the State party concerned to submit a follow-up report after two invitations, irrespective of whether or not any meeting takes place, shall constitute non-collaboration under the follow-up procedure.

## **Decision 69/7**

### Follow-up methodology and information

The Committee decided to amend its decision 54/9 by introducing the following categories for assessing the quality of the follow-up information received in the follow-up methodology and information note for States parties and other stakeholders on the submission of reports under the follow-up procedure:

- “Satisfactory” indicates that the information received from the State party is thorough and extensive, and relates directly to the recommendations;
- “Partially satisfactory” indicates that the information received from the State party is thorough and extensive, but fails to respond fully to the recommendations;
- “Unsatisfactory” indicates that the information received from the State party is vague and incomplete and/or fails to address the recommendations;
- “No response” indicates that the State party has not addressed the concern or recommendations in the response.

## **Decision 69/8**

### Replacement of officers

The Committee elected Louiza Chalal to replace the late Theodora Nwankwo as Vice-Chair of the Committee, in accordance with rule 20 of its rules of procedure.

## **Decision 69/9**

### Working Group on Communications

The Committee elected Aruna Narain to replace the late Theodora Nwankwo as a member of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol.

## **Decision 69/10**

### Working group on sexual and reproductive health and rights

The Committee decided to transform the focal points on gender, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive rights into an open-ended working group on sexual and reproductive health and rights, to be chaired by Louiza Chalal.

## **Decision 69/11**

### Working group on CEDAW and national human rights institutions

The Committee decided to establish a working group on CEDAW and national human rights institutions, with a view to enhancing its interaction with national human rights institutions in a more structured manner, to be chaired by Nahla Haidar.

## **Decision 69/12**

### Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the seventy-first session, i.e., Marion Bethel, Hilary Gbedemah, Rosario Manalo, Lia Nadaraia and Patricia Schulz.

## 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 9 March 2018, the closing date of the sixty-ninth 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-ninth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 19 February to 9 March 2018. 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 1570th meeting on 19 February 2018. At the beginning of the session, the Committee paid tribute to the late Theodora Oby Nwankwo, who had passed away on 9 December 2017.

#### C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/69/1) at its 1570th meeting.

#### D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/69/1), which met from 24 to 28 July 2017, was introduced by Nahla Haidar at the 1570th meeting.

#### E. Organization of work

On 19 and 26 February 2018, 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 19 and 26 February 2018, 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-ninth session.

On 21 February, Christine Löw, Head of the UN Women Liaison Office in Geneva, briefed the Committee on the work of UN Women in promoting the implementation of the Convention and of the concluding observations of the Committee.

On 5 March, the Committee held an informal meeting with Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disabilities and Accessibility, who briefed the Committee on the evolving practice of the human rights treaty bodies in addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, including women with disabilities, and the role of the Sustainable Development Goals in promoting accessibility and inclusiveness.

## **F. Membership of the Committee**

### **Filling of casual vacancies**

On 11 December 2017, the Committee learned of the passing, on 9 December 2017, of Theodora Oby Nwankwo, who had been re-elected as a member of the Committee on 21 June 2016, for a term that was to expire on 31 December 2020. On 11 December 2017, the Chair extended the Committee's condolences to the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations Office at Geneva. On 13 December 2017, the Secretary-General requested the Government of Nigeria to appoint, within a period of two months, another expert from among its nationals to fill the vacancy that had occurred through the death of Ms. Nwankwo. On 26 January 2018, the Government of Nigeria informed the Committee of its decision to appoint Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia to serve as a member of the Committee for the remainder of the term of the late Ms. Nwankwo. On 1 March 2018, during its sixty-ninth session held in Geneva, the Committee decided to approve the appointment of Ms. Eghobamien-Mshelia, in accordance with article 17, paragraph 7, of the Convention.

### **Attendance of the sixty-ninth session**

All members attended the sixty-ninth session. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Feride Acar, from 19 to 23 February and from 8 to 9 March; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, from 28 February to 2 March and from 7 to 9 March; Yoko Hayashi, from 5 to 9 March; and Aruna Narain, on 8 and 9 March. 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-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the Committee**

At the 1570th meeting, the Chairperson, Dalia Leinarte, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the sixty-eighth session of the Committee.

## **Chapter IV**

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

At its sixty-ninth session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the seventh periodic report of Chile; the fifth periodic report of Fiji; the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Luxembourg; the combined third to fifth periodic reports of Malaysia; the combined initial to third periodic reports of Marshall Islands; the eighth periodic report of the Republic of Korea; the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Saudi Arabia; and the combined fourth to sixth periodic reports of Suriname.

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:

Chile (CEDAW/C/CHL/CO/7)

Fiji (CEDAW/C/FJI/CO/5)

Luxembourg (CEDAW/C/LUX/CO/6-7)

Malaysia (CEDAW/C/MAL/CO/3-5)

Marshall Islands (CEDAW/C/MHL/CO/1-3)  
Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/8)  
Saudi Arabia (CEDAW/C/SAU/CO/3-4)  
Suriname (CEDAW/C/SUR/CO/4-6)

**B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations**

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

- 1) Bolivia (CEDAW/C/BOL/CO/5-6/Add.1)
- 2) Croatia (CEDAW/C/HRV/CO/4-5/Add.1)
- 3) Mauritania (CEDAW/C/MRT/CO/2-3/Add.1)
- 4) Maldives (CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/4-5/Add.1)
- 5) Namibia (CEDAW/C/NAM/CO/4-5/Add.1)
- 6) Poland (CEDAW/C/POL/CO/7-8/Add.1)
- 7) Portugal (CEDAW/C/PRT/CO/8-9/Add.1)
- 8) Uzbekistan (CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/5/Add.1)

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

- 1) Lebanon
- 2) Liberia
- 3) Madagascar
- 4) Malawi
- 5) Russian Federation
- 6) Timor-Leste
- 7) United Arab Emirates

The Committee sent second reminders to Gambia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Senegal, whose follow-up reports were overdue.

The Rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Azerbaijan, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana and Uganda, 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 26 February and 5 March 2018. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its fortieth 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 a violation with regard to communications Nos. 88/2015 concerning Timor-Leste and 103/2016

concerning Finland (both concerning domestic violence), and two decisions declaring inadmissible communications Nos. 80/2015 and 85/2015 concerning Denmark (both concerning non-refoulement). 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 fortieth 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 possibilities to increase the visibility of the follow up procedure and further improve its follow-up working methods.

**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 7 March 2018. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its ninth session (see annex 2).

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

In relation to submission No. 2017/3, to invite the State party concerned to submit observations with regard to the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

The Committee adopted its findings, comments and recommendations in relation to inquiry No. 2014/1 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 send a final reminder to the State party concerned regarding the request of the Committee to undertake a visit to its territory;
- (b) To approve amendments to the standard operating procedures proposed by the Working Group on Inquiries.

## **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 seventieth and seventy-first sessions:

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 and 29 June 2018

Seventieth session: 2 to 20 July 2018

Pre-session working group for the seventieth session: 23 to 27 July 2018

Seventy-first Session (Geneva)

Forty-second session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 17 to 19 October 2018

Tenth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 18 and 19 October 2018 (tbc)

Seventy-first session: 22 October to 9 November 2018

Pre-session working group for the seventy-third session: 12 to 16 November 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 seventieth and seventy-first sessions:

#### 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

#### Seventy-first session:

- (1) Bahamas
- (2) The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- (3) Lao People's Democratic Republic
- (4) Mauritius (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- (5) Nepal
- (6) Republic of the Congo
- (7) Samoa
- (8) Tajikistan

## **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 to finalize the draft of the general recommendation.

On 7 March 2018, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 37 (2017) on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change

(CEDAW/C/GC/37) by consensus,<sup>1</sup> in accordance with rule 31 of the Committee's rules of procedure.

### **Working Group on working methods**

The Working Group met during the session and discussed and submitted to the Committee a draft decision on the reinstatement of the simplified reporting procedure (see decision 69/5).

### **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. The working group highlighted the strategic importance of women's increased representation in political processes for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. It invited the IPU to share statistical data on women's participation in elections. The working group underlined the Committee's commitment to promoting the implementation of specific quotas for women in parliament and stressed the importance of establishing mechanisms for that purpose.

### **CEDAW-UN Women/SDGs Working Group**

The working group invited Hoda Jaberian, Project Officer, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Division for Inclusion, Peace and Sustainable Development Education, UNESCO, who briefed the Committee on the development of SDG indicator 4.7.1 ("Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment"), for which UNESCO is the custodian agency. The working group underlined the value of including relevant recommendations of the Committee in the work of UNESCO on indicator development and data collection. The Committee and UNESCO agreed to strengthen their institutional collaboration.

The working group invited former Committee member Biancamaria Pomeranzi, in her capacity as consultant, who briefed the working group on the progress she had made in reviewing the treaty-specific reporting guidelines of the Committee (HRI/GEN/2/Rev.6) in light of the SDGs. The working group endorsed a draft proposal prepared by Ms. Pomeranzi and decided to work on further refining the guidelines in collaboration with Ms. Pomeranzi and to review the final draft during the seventieth session of the Committee.

The chair of the working group, Nicole Ameline, proposed a meeting of the Committee and the custodian agencies for the SDGs at the seventieth session, with a view to reinforcing the integration of the Convention in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular as regards the SDG targets relating to women's empowerment.

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

The task force met during the session and discussed the possibility of holding a panel discussion on women, peace and security during the seventy-first session of the Committee.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **Provisional agenda for the seventieth session**

On 9 March 2018, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its seventieth session:

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<sup>1</sup> 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, Lilian Hofmeister, Ismat Jahan, Dalia Leinarte, Rosario G. Manalo, Lia Nadaraia, Aruna Narain, Bandana Rana, Patricia Schulz, Wenyan Song and Aicha Vall Verges.

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-ninth and seventieth 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 seventy-first session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventieth session.

## **Chapter IX**

### **A. Adoption of the report**

The Committee considered the draft report on its sixty-ninth session and addenda on 9 March 2018 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]

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