

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2018/II/CRP

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

**Seventieth session
(2 – 20 July 2018)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 70/1

Joint statement on “Guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women, in particular women with disabilities” by the Committee and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

On 19 July 2018, the Committee adopted a joint statement on “Guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and right for all women, in particular women with disabilities”, subject to approval by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at its twentieth session ([future link](#)).

Decision 70/2

Guidelines on reprisals

On 20 July 2018, the Committee, further to decision 61/2, endorsed the guidelines against intimidation or reprisals (“San José Guidelines”) adopted at the twenty-seventh meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies.

Decision 70/3

Rapporteur and alternate rapporteur on intimidation or reprisals

On 17 July 2018, the Committee appointed Nahla Haidar as rapporteur and Gladys Acosta Vargas as alternate rapporteur on intimidation or reprisals, in accordance with the San José Guidelines, amending decision 60/8, which had entrusted the Chair, at the request of the Bureau, to address allegations of intimidation or reprisals.

Decision 70/4

Framework of cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict

On 13 July 2018, the Committee endorsed a framework of cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict (<https://bit.ly/2MIIZFC>).

Decision 70/5

New section and standard paragraph on Sustainable Development Goals

Amending decision 62/2, the Committee decided to replace the standard paragraph on the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” with the following new standard paragraph on “Sustainable Development Goals” in its concluding observations to be placed as a new section C before “Parliament” to become section D:

“The Committee welcomes the international support for the Sustainable Development Goals and calls for the realization of de jure and de facto (substantive) gender equality, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, throughout the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee recalls the importance of goal 5 and the mainstreaming of the principles of equality and non-discrimination throughout all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It urges the State party to recognize women as the driving force of the sustainable development of their country and to adopt relevant policies and strategies to that effect.”

Decision 70/6

States parties to be considered under the simplified reporting procedure

The Committee decided to limit the number of States parties for which lists of issues prior to reporting will be prepared at any pre-sessional working group session to a maximum of three. It also decided that the following States parties having requested to submit their periodic reports under the simplified reporting procedure and meeting the eligibility criteria stipulated in decision 69/5 will be considered under that procedure: Dominican Republic (eighth periodic report), Germany (ninth periodic report), Mongolia (tenth periodic report), Norway (tenth periodic report), Panama (eighth periodic report), Sweden (tenth periodic report), Switzerland (sixth periodic report), Tunisia (seventh periodic report), Ukraine (ninth periodic report) and Uruguay (tenth periodic report).

Decision 70/7

Working Group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration

The Committee decided to establish a working group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, to be chaired by Dalia Leinarte, with a view to elaborating a draft general recommendation on the topic.

Decision 70/8

Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the seventy-second session, Magalys Arocha, Lilian Hofmeister, Lia Nadaraia, Wenyan Song and Aicha Vall Verges.

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 20 July 2018, the closing date of the seventieth 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 seventieth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 2 to 20 July 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 Chair of the Committee, Dalia Leinarte, at its 1600th meeting on 2 July 2018.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/70/1) at its 1600th meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/70/1), which met from 20 to 24 November 2017, was introduced by Nicole Ameline at the 1600th meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 2 and 9 July 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 2 and 9 July 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 seventieth session.

On 16 July, the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Victor Madrigal-Borloz briefed the Committee via video conference on his mandate and work to protect lesbian, bisexual and transsexual women and intersex persons from gender-based violence and intersecting forms of discrimination.

On 17 July, the Committee held an informal meeting with officials of the World Health Organization to discuss substantive and policy issues relevant to women's health. The meeting was hosted by the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations Office at Geneva, His Excellency Mr. Andrius Krivas.

F. Membership of the Committee

Filling of casual vacancies

On 2 July 2018, Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia who had been appointed to serve as a member of the Committee for the remainder of the term of the late Theodora Oby Nwankwo (i.e. until 31 December 2020) following the passing of the latter on 9 December 2017, took the solemn declaration as provided for in Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

Attendance of the seventieth session

All members attended the seventieth session. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Ismat Jahan, from 9 to 17 July; and Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, 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-ninth and seventieth sessions of the Committee

At the 1600th meeting, the Chairperson, Dalia Leinarte, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the sixty-ninth session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

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

At its seventieth session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the eighth periodic report of Australia; the combined second and third periodic reports of Cook Islands; the eighth periodic report of Cyprus; the fifth periodic report of Liechtenstein; the ninth periodic report of Mexico; the eighth periodic report of New Zealand; the initial report of the State of Palestine; and the fifth periodic report of Turkmenistan.

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:

- Australia (CEDAW/C/AUS/CO/8)
- Cook Islands (CEDAW/C/COK/CO/2-3)
- Cyprus (CEDAW/C/CYP/CO/8)
- Liechtenstein (CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5)
- Mexico (CEDAW/C/MEX/CO/9)
- New Zealand (CEDAW/C/NZL/CO/8)
- State of Palestine (CEDAW/C/PSE/CO/1)
- Turkmenistan (CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/5)

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

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

- 1) Czech Republic (CEDAW/C/CZE/CO/6/Add.1)
- 2) Eritrea (CEDAW/C/ERI/CO/5/Add.1)
- 3) Kyrgyzstan (CEDAW/C/KGZ/CO/4/Add.1)
- 4) Slovakia (CEDAW/C/SVK/CO/5-6/Add.1)
- 5) Sweden (CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/8-9/Add.1)
- 6) Uganda (CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7/Add.1)
- 7) Venezuela (CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8/Add.1)
- 8) Viet Nam (CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8/Add.1)

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

- 1) Haiti
- 2) Iceland

The Committee decided to discontinue the preparation of summaries and inclusion of follow-up information received from State parties as well as from other sources in its follow-up letters to the States parties concerned.

The Committee also decided to include the following reference in follow-up letters to States parties having submitted their follow-up information with a delay of four years or more:

“The Committee regrets the delay in the submission by the State party of the written information under the follow-up procedure of the Committee received with a xx-[year] [month] delay in [month] [year]. At its xx session, held in [month] [year] in Geneva, the Committee examined the follow-up report of the State party and adopted the following assessment: [...]”

The Committee further decided to limit the number of reminders and invitations to follow-up meetings sent to State parties with overdue follow-up reports to one each.

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 9 July 2018. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its forty-first session (see annex 1).

The Committee examined three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted two final decisions, declaring inadmissible communications Nos. 76/2014 concerning Denmark (non-refoulement case) and 92/2015 concerning Turkey (concerning a child custody dispute). It also declared admissible one communication concerning Denmark (non-refoulement case). The Committee further discontinued its consideration of communications Nos. 113/2017 concerning Denmark and 115/2017 concerning Switzerland (both non-refoulement cases). The text of the final decisions of the Committee will be available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) once they have been finalized and sent to the respective parties, through the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights under the link to the relevant session of the Committee, 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 forty-first 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. The Committee decided to put the follow-up dialogue to a close in relation to Communications No. 17/2008 (*Pimentel v Brazil*), with a finding of a satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in its views; No. 19/2011 (*Kell v. Canada*), with a finding of a partially satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in its views; No. 34/2011 (*R.P.B. v. the Philippines*), with a finding of a non-satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in its views; and No. 46/2012 (*M. W. v. Denmark*), with a finding of a non-satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in its views. Of the 13 cases under follow-up examination, two relate to the Russian Federation and one each relates to Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Moldova, the Netherlands, Peru, Slovakia, Spain, Tanzania and Timor-Leste. The Committee appointed rapporteurs for each case. It also considered possibilities to increase the visibility of the follow up procedure and further improve its follow-up working methods. The Committee requested the Secretariat to arrange for meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Moldova, Slovakia and Tanzania to discuss follow-up to views on individual communications.

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 17 July 2018. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its tenth session (see annex 2).

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

In relation to inquiry No. 2017/3, to designate Nicole Ameline and Dalia Leinarte to conduct the inquiry and to seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory;

In relation to inquiry No. 2016/1, to designate Gunnar Bergby and Rosario Manalo to conduct the inquiry and to seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory;

In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to invite the State party at an appropriate time to provide information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the inquiry report (CEDAW/C/OP.8/GBR/1, paras. 85 and 86) not in the context of the consideration of its eighth periodic report but separately, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol.

The Committee also adopted the following decisions:

(a) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/2, to designate Aruna Narain as an additional member to conduct the inquiry;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, to designate Esther Eghobamien as an additional member to conduct the inquiry;

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2012/1, to defer the decision of the Committee to seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory until the State party has submitted relevant information under the procedure on follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee in relation to its last periodic report;

(d) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/4, to designate Aicha Vall Verges as an additional member to conduct the inquiry; and

(e) To approve amendments to the standard operating procedures proposed by the Working Group on Inquiries as well as a guidance note on the structure of inquiry reports.

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 seventy-first and seventy-second sessions:

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

Seventy-second Session (Geneva)

Forty-third session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 12 to 15 February 2019

Eleventh session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 14 and 15 February 2019 (tbc)

Seventy-second session: 18 February to 8 March 2019

Pre-session working group for the seventy-fourth session: 11 to 15 March 2019

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 seventy-first and seventy-second sessions:

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

Seventy-second session:

- 1) Angola
- 2) Antigua and Barbuda
- 3) Botswana
- 4) Bulgaria (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 5) Colombia
- 6) Ethiopia
- 7) Serbia
- 8) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

Working Group on working methods

The Working Group met twice during the session. The Committee approved the recommendation of the working group that the time limit for States parties to submit their written replies to lists of issues prior to reporting shall be extended from six months to one year.

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group met with representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) during the session who informed the working group that IPU will organize a workshop on family law on 19 October 2018 and extended an invitation to the Committee members. The working group and the IPU representatives agreed to adopt a joint declaration on parity in politics on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the Convention, with a view to increasing women's representation in political processes for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5, target 5.5 ("Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life").

CEDAW-UN Women/SDGs Working Group

The working group invited UN Women, the World Bank Group and the OECD Development Centre to provide an update to the Committee on recent developments related to Sustainable Development Goal 5, target 5.1 (end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere) and 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), for which UN Women is the custodian agency. The working group underlined the value of including relevant recommendations of the Committee in the work of the three entities on indicator development and data collection, and agreed further to strengthen institutional collaboration.

The working group met with Biancamaria Pomeranzi, consultant, to present the final draft of her contribution to the revised treaty-specific reporting guidelines on the form and content of initial and periodic reports to be submitted to the Committee, taking into account the gender-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 5, target 5.1 and indicator 5.1.1.

The chair of the working group, Nicole Ameline, proposed reinforcing the integration of the Convention in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the informal meeting of the Committee with States parties during the seventy-first session of the Committee.

Working group on cooperation with national human rights institutions

The Working group met twice during the session. At its first meeting, the working group discussed the purpose and objectives of its work, in the presence of Orest Nowosad, Chief, Groups in Focus Section, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR, and Vladen Stefanov, Chief, National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, OHCHR. At its second meeting, it adopted the terms of reference proposed by the chair of the working group. It further decided that a representative of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions shall be invited to one of its meetings during the seventy-first session of the Committee.

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

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

Working Group on sexual and reproductive health and rights

The working group met during the session with other members designated to finalize the draft joint statement by the Committee and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Working Group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration

The working group met twice during the session. At its first meeting, the Working Group was briefed by the Chair, Ms. Leinarte, about the Expert Group meeting held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 25 and 26 June 2018. The working group members were informed about the funds made available by OHCHR for the development of a concept note for the draft general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration and that additional funding shall be sought for, inter alia, the organization of regional stakeholder consultations. The members were also informed about the progress made in relation to the recruitment of a consultant for the preparation of the concept note. At the second meeting, the working group agreed on the content and form of the concept note and the timeline for the development of the draft general recommendation. It further decided to coordinate with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in the preparation of the draft general recommendation.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the seventy-first session

On 20 July 2018, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its seventy-first session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chair on activities undertaken between the seventieth and seventy-first 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 on 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-second session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its seventy-first session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its seventieth session and addenda on 20 July 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]
