

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 64th and 65th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Yoko Hayashi, Chairperson

Sixty-fifth session
24 October 2016

**Distinguished representatives,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to join Mr. Salama in welcoming you to the 65th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and in paying tribute to our colleagues Ms. Al-Dosari, Ms. Bailey, Mr. Bruun, Ms. Pimentel, Ms. Pomeranzi and Ms. Zou, for whom this will be the last session with CEDAW. We will miss them as experts and friends on the Committee, but I am sure that we will stay in touch on CEDAW-related and personal matters.

Ms. Ameline is unable to attend the 65th session. Ms. Ms. Kaddari will join us tomorrow, and Ms. Bailey and Ms. Nwankwo next Monday. In addition, Ms. Acar, Ms. Kaddari and Ms. Pimentel will not be able to attend the fourth week of the session.

I note that since our last session, the number of States parties having ratified or acceded to the Convention has remained at 189. Similarly, the number of States parties having accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time has remained at 70. 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.

I am pleased to note that the Central African Republic has acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on 11 October 2016, bringing the total number of States parties to the Optional Protocol to 108.

I am pleased to inform you that Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have submitted their periodic reports and Marshall Islands has submitted its initial report since the beginning of our last session. In addition, Antigua and Barbuda submitted its periodic report which was returned to the State party as it exceeded the word limit established in General Assembly resolution 68/268.

Following our 64th session, I participated in a meeting organized by the Gender and Law Society of Japan at Waseda University in Tokyo on 8 September 2016. At the meeting, Professor Andrew Byrnes presented the pros and cons of a new treaty on violence against women, and I briefed participants on the process of updating General Recommendation No. 19.

On 10 October, I presented the statement that I had shared with you before to the 3rd Committee of the General Assembly. During the interactive dialogue, Member States welcomed our General Recommendations on women's access to justice and on rural women as well as our work on SDGs and on updating General Recommendation No. 19 on violence against women. They asked about our contribution to monitoring SDG target 5.1 on non-discriminatory legal frameworks and our position on issues such as reprisals, cooperation with Member States in implementing the SDGs, and the impact of the treaty body strengthening process on our work and cooperation with other treaty bodies and NGOs.

In New York, I also met with UN Women on 13 October to discuss possible CEDAW input on data relating to the different areas of law covered by the proposed SDG indicator 5.1.1, to be collected by the World Bank and SIGI/OECD and to be assessed by the UN Statistical Division. Among other issues discussed were our work on updating General Recommendation No. 19 and stronger CEDAW involvement in the CSW, including by holding a side event during the CSW in March 2017 in order to enhance the visibility of CEDAW, and by using the CSW as a platform for an informal exchange of views with Member States.

Also on 13 October, I met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, who

briefed me about the successful “Children, Not Soldiers” campaign she had launched together with UNICEF.

Dear colleagues,

I know that several other members have been involved in CEDAW-related activities since our last session, such as conferences, workshops and seminars.

On 6 October, Ms. Haidar and Ms. Schulz met with the Executive Director of UN Women, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, on the occasion of the inauguration of the UN Women Liaison Office in Geneva. On 6 and 7 October, Ms. Kaddari and Ms. Gbedemah participated in a workshop on the inquiries procedure process of the treaty body system organized by OHCHR to look at possible ways of harmonizing the different inquiry procedures; and on 17 and 18 October, Ms. Pimentel and Ms. Gbedemah participated in a UN Women expert group meeting on women’s access to justice in New York to share their experiences on General Recommendation No. 33.

I would now be delighted to hear from them as well as from other Committee members who have participated in meetings and events of relevance to the promotion and protection of women’s rights. I would also kindly ask those Committee members who participated in such events to please fill in the table on inter-sessional activities that will be distributed by the Secretariat.

Lastly, I would like to announce that all our public meetings will be webcast on the UN website <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/>. I therefore take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all those who will be online observers during this session.

In concluding, I wish all of us success for our work during this session.

Thank you for your attention.
