

## ***CLOSING REMARKS***

***by***

***Ms. Nicole Ameline***

### ***Fifty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women***

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the fifty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, it is customary for the Committee's Chairperson to sum up the work completed.

Let me start from the beginning of this session and assess our results. We considered the reports of eight States parties. We held informal meetings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and also attended several lunchtime briefings organized by non-governmental organizations. The Committee was pleased by the high level of attendance of NGOs, both international and national, as well as of NHRIs, which once again made significant contributions to the work of the Committee.

The Committee is also thankful to those UN entities and other inter-governmental bodies which provided us with detailed information, and I encourage UN entities, NGOs and NHRIs to continue intensifying their engagement with the Committee both in providing country-specific information and in promoting the implementation of the Committee's recommendations. I particularly wish to thank the UN country teams that have contributed their reports through the Inter-Agency Group on CEDAW Reporting (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO and UN Women), as well as UNHCHR, ILO, UNESCO and IPU.

I am satisfied with the progress achieved in implementing General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system at the 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Chairpersons, as well as at our 58<sup>th</sup> session. We had an important discussion today on the simplified reporting procedure and I am pleased that we were able to reach consensus and adopted a decision on the principle to offer the simplified reporting procedure on a pilot basis to those States parties that wish to avail themselves of this procedure and which have submitted an updated common core document in accordance with the harmonized guidelines. I am sure that we will be able to reach agreement

on the practical modalities of the application of the SRP at our next session. In that regard, I would like to thank the working group on working methods and in particular the chair of the working group, Patricia Schulz, for the progress made.

I am satisfied that we were able to once again draw on our general recommendation No. 30 (2013) in adopting concluding observations on States parties where women's rights are at particular risk due to armed conflict. Through our partners on the ground, I am confident that it will be possible to feed our recommendations into humanitarian operations in countries such as Syria and the Central African Republic. I am also satisfied with our other review of the complex situation of women's rights in the other States parties considered during this session such as, for example, India.

One of the highlights of our session was the half day of general discussion on girls'/women's right to education that we held on 7 July. The many contributions from experts, UN bodies, States parties and NGOs that we have received will no doubt form a solid basis for embarking on the preparation of a draft general recommendation on the topic. I wish to congratulate our colleague Barbara Bailey, who ensured that this event was a true success. I would also like to thank UNICEF and UNESCO for their generous financial and substantive support.

Similarly, I wish to thank the Geneva Academy for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights for having hosted our lovely meeting with the Human Rights Committee, during which we engaged in an exchange on both Committees' jurisprudence on abortion and minimum age for marriage. I am convinced that this type of informal meetings is indispensable if the treaty bodies are to mutually inform their respective development of international human rights jurisprudence.

I would also like to highlight the usefulness of the briefings we received from Ms. Puri, the Executive Director of UN-Women, and from Ms. Wahlström, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction. We will be able to build on these briefings by further strengthening our cooperation with UN-Women and elaborating our draft general recommendation on gender equality in the context of climate change and natural disasters, respectively.

I think that our meeting this morning with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms. Rashida Manjoo, was indeed warranted, as it allowed us to exchange views and experiences on each other's activities in addressing violence against women, including on more controversial issues such as ours and her

assessment of the effectiveness of the international normative framework on violence against women. I am convinced that this type of open and frank exchange will lay a solid foundation for continuing our ongoing cooperation with the Special Rapporteur.

I am particularly delighted that we were able to adopt our findings and recommendations in relation to inquiry No. 2011/1 and wish to thank the designated members Ms. Bailey and Mr. Bruun for their tireless work on this report, which will be transmitted to the State party concerned for observations. It has once more come to the fore that our capacity to deal with inquiries is only limited, and the Task Force on Inquiries will organize a one-day informal meeting open to all Committee members during our 59<sup>th</sup> session to discuss innovative ways of remedying this situation, with a view to fully discharging our mandate under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

In addition to our review of States parties' reports and our work on inquiries, we reviewed information received from States parties under the follow-up procedure. We also continued our work under article 2 of the Optional Protocol with regard to individual communications. The Committee adopted Views finding violations in a case concerning Spain and one inadmissibility decision, albeit not by consensus, in a case concerning the Philippines.

The Committee held its first reading of the draft joint CEDAW/CRC general recommendation/comment on harmful practices as well as of its draft general recommendation on gender related dimensions of refugee status, asylum and statelessness. At this point, I would like to thank Ms. Neubauer and Ms. Simonovic for their relentless work on these drafts. Progress was also made with regard to other draft general recommendations which were discussed by the respective working groups.

Lastly, we were also able to adopt a statement on the current situation in Gaza.

Dear Colleagues,

May I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the States parties that engaged in excellent constructive dialogues with the Committee, often represented by very high-level delegations.

Before I conclude, please allow me to sincerely thank all experts for the hard work accomplished during the past three weeks, including the country

rapporteurs who have greatly contributed to our discussions during the dialogues with the representatives of the States parties. I am also grateful to my colleagues on the Bureau for their advice on the many issues that we have discussed.

I would like to extend the Committee's appreciation to our Secretariat, including our interns Domenico Zipoli and Jimena Sarmiento, for their dedication, efficiency and hard work. Of course, I also would like to thank the interpreters, précis writers, translators, conference room officers, technicians, press officers and all the others who made this session successful.

I wish you all a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you in Geneva in October for our fifty-ninth session.

Thank you very much.

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