

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 69th and 70th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Dalia Leinarte, Chairperson

Seventieth session
2 July 2018

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

I would like to join the Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Gilmore, in welcoming you to the 70th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

First of all, on behalf of all Committee members, I warmly welcome our new colleague Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia from Nigeria and congratulate her on her appointment as a Committee member. Dear Ms. Eghobamien-Mshelia, we are looking forward to working with you and wish you all the best for your term.

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 72. 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. The number of States parties to the Optional Protocol has remained at 109.

I am also pleased to inform you that ten States parties have submitted their periodic reports since the beginning of our last session, namely Andorra, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire,

Guyana, Kazakhstan, Mozambique, Seychelles and Zimbabwe. In addition, Mauritius has submitted its eighth periodic report under the simplified reporting procedure. Following our decision adopted at the end of our 69th session to reinstate the simplified reporting procedure, 14 States parties have indicated that they wish to avail themselves of the simplified reporting procedure.

Please let me now introduce my intersessional participation in events related to the implementation of women's rights.

Immediately after our 69th session, on 12 March, I participated in the opening of the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in my capacity as CEDAW Chair and delivered the statement that we had discussed at the 69th session. Also on 12 March, I participated in a consultation on cooperation between international and regional mechanisms on violence against women organized by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Dubravka Simonovic. On 13 March, I spoke on the High-Level Panel on "Strengthened Cooperation between Global and Regional Independent Mechanisms dealing with Violence and Discrimination against Women. Also on 13 March, I made a presentation on "CEDAW's practice in combating violence against women in politics" at a side event on violence against women politicians as well as a presentation at a side event entitled "Advancing research on violence against women for policy formulation", co-organized by UNFPA and OSCE. At another side event, on 15 March, I presented our new General Recommendation No. 37 (2018) on gender-based dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change.

On 23 and 24 May, I participated in a workshop on human rights defenders organized by OHCHR and the International Service for Human Rights in New York, where I made an intervention highlighting the importance that the Committee attaches to the recognition and protection of women human rights defenders in its concluding observations.

From 28 May to 1 June, I attended the 30th annual Meeting of Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies in New York, on which I will brief you during this session.

On 8 June, I moderated a plenary session at the High-level Global Summit for Women Global Leaders, organized by the Council of Women World Leaders in Vilnius, Lithuania.

From 9 to 11 June, I delivered a keynote address on “Global women’s rights and local anti-genderism” as well as three lectures at the Venice School for Human Rights (European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization) on “The Women, Peace and Security agenda in a growing extremist and militarized world”; “CEDAW’s transformative potential: the Optional Protocol”; and “CEDAW’s approach and practice on combating trafficking in women and girls”.

Last week, on 25 and 26 June, a workshop on “Trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration” that I had initiated took place in Vilnius with the generous support of the Government of Lithuania. Ms. Gabr, Ms. Haidar and Ms. Jahan also participated in the workshop. Participants discussed international legal standards and preventive strategies to combat trafficking in women and girls in the context of voluntary and forced migration. The objective of the workshop was to define the main points to be covered in the concept note for our draft general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration. I presented an overview of the concluding observations we adopted over the past two years (2016-2018), as well as of all general recommendations and statements of the Committee, in order to identify trends in the concerns raised by the Committee relating to trafficking in women and girls.

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. I would now be delighted to hear from those 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 the 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 remind you 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.
