

# COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

## Participation by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

**50<sup>th</sup> session (3 to 21 October 2011) and  
Pre-session for the 52<sup>nd</sup> session (24 to 28 October 2011)  
Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XVI**

### **I. Consideration of Reports by State Parties**

The Committee will examine the reports of the following eight States parties during its 50<sup>th</sup> session: **Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritius, Montenegro, Oman and Paraguay**, with respect to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the Convention).

### **II. Documentation**

The reports of the eight States parties to be considered at the 50<sup>th</sup> session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2011/50/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws50.htm>.

### **III. Venue**

The 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in room XVI. The pre-session working group for the 52<sup>nd</sup> session will also take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in room XVI.

### **IV. NHRI Reports**

In order to ensure that it is as best informed as possible, the Committee and the pre-session working group welcome representatives of NHRIs to provide country-specific information on issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention by the State parties under consideration. This can be done orally and/or in writing. **Written reports should not exceed 20 pages, and should contain an executive summary.**

### **V. Reports for the Session (3 to 21 October 2011)**

NHRIs wishing to submit reports to the Committee are required to:

- Identify the full name of the NHRI;
- Indicate the country to which the information relates;
- Indicate whether or not the submission can be posted on the CEDAW website for public information purposes; and
- Submit the report in Word and pdf format by e-mail and thereafter submit **30 copies** in hard copy format.

All submissions should arrive two weeks prior to the beginning of the session to the Secretariat of the Committee, i.e., **no later than 19 September 2011**. The Word and pdf versions of the report should be sent to the following e-mail address: [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). Hard copy submissions should be mailed to:

CEDAW Secretariat  
OHCHR - Palais Wilson  
52, rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva  
Switzerland

NHRIs not attending a session are urged to ensure that the requisite number of hard copies of their reports/information reach OHCHR in time for the respective session. Due to the large volume of information received from NHRIs and other stakeholders, OHCHR does not photocopy reports received from NHRIs.

In regard to the above, it is noted that the Committee has the prerogative to take into account all information submitted to it until the consideration of a report by a State party has been concluded.

#### **VI. Reports for the Pre-Session Working Group (24 to 28 October 2011)**

The Pre-Session Working Group will prepare list of issues for the following States parties that are scheduled to be considered at the 52<sup>nd</sup> session: **Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand and Samoa**. NHRIs wishing to submit reports to the pre-session working group should follow the same requirements for submission of reports for the session as indicated above. NHRIs should send **10 copies** of their reports two weeks prior to the beginning of the pre-session working group, i.e., **no later than 10 October 2011**. (The pre-session working group prepares lists of issues and questions for the States scheduled to be reviewed two sessions subsequent to the current session.) The Word and pdf versions of the report should be sent to the following e-mail address: [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). Hard copy submissions should be mailed to:

CEDAW Secretariat  
OHCHR - Palais Wilson  
52, rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva  
Switzerland

#### **VII. Meetings with NHRIs**

The Committee has set aside time at its 50<sup>th</sup> session for NHRIs to provide oral information in respect of countries being considered during the session. This meeting is scheduled on 3 October 2011 from approximately 4:30 to 5:30 pm in room XVI.

Oral interventions by NHRIs must be concise. On average, not more than 10 minutes are allocated for the NHRIs wishing to intervene on one particular country. NHRIs making oral interventions should ensure that they bring **35 copies of their oral statements** on the morning of the presentation for circulation to the Committee and for interpretation purposes in addition to any reports. Prior to the presentation, NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statements in Word and pdf format to: [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org).

The pre-session working group also provides an opportunity for NHRIs to address the Committee concerning all countries that will be taken up at the 52<sup>nd</sup> session, namely **Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand and Samoa**. This formal meeting will take place on 24 October 2011 from approximately 10:15 to 11:30 am in room XVI. The paragraph above relating to the oral interventions by NHRIs is applicable to the pre-session working group as well, except that NHRIs need only bring **15 copies of their oral statement** on the morning of the presentation for circulation to the working group and for interpretation purposes in addition to any reports. Prior to the presentation, NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statements in Word and pdf format to: [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org).

## **VIII. Registration**

NHRI representatives who wish to attend any sessions of the Committee or pre-session working group are required to be duly registered. In order to register, all NHRIs representatives must fill-out and submit the United Nations Office at Geneva “Conference Registration Form”, which can be obtained from the CEDAW Secretariat ([cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org)). This form must include the full title of the NHRI, the name of the representative (as the name appears on the national passport) and the dates of attendance which usually correspond to the dates of the session. **The form must be submitted by e-mail to [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org) no later than 19 September 2011** so that arrangements can be made for the issuance of United Nations ground passes to enter United Nations premises. Representatives who submit forms that are illegible, incomplete or after the deadline may not be accredited.

To receive the ground pass, all applicants, in addition to sending the form by e-mail to [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org), are required to bring the signed original of the Conference Registration Form, a valid national passport or government issued ID bearing a photograph, and appear in person at United Nations Pass and Identification Unit, located at Pregny Gate, United Nations Office at Geneva, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, Geneva, Switzerland. The office hours are 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday through Friday. Please note that NHRI representatives must bring their passports (or government issued photo ID) every time they wish to enter UN premises.

Please note that OHCHR will not provide letters of invitation to NHRIs to attend CEDAW sessions for the purposes of obtaining visas. However, to help obtain a visa, the Secretariat can provide, upon request, a general “to whom it may concern” letter specifying that an individual has requested and obtained accreditation to a meeting. Please also note that OHCHR is unable to assist with travel and/or accommodation costs relating thereto.

## **IX. Additional Information**

For further information about the treaty bodies in general, specific information on CEDAW and on the participation and role of civil society with respect to human rights instruments, please consult the following links:

- <http://www2.ohchr.org>; and
- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>