

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

## Participation by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

**55<sup>th</sup> session (8 – 26 July 2013) and  
Pre-session for the 57<sup>th</sup> session (29 July – 2 August 2013)  
Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XVI**

### I. Consideration of Reports by States Parties

The Committee will examine the reports of the following States parties during its 55<sup>th</sup> session: **Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Serbia and United Kingdom.**

### II. Documentation

The reports of the States parties to be considered at the 55<sup>th</sup> session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/55/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws55.htm>.

### III. Venue

The 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in conference room XVI. The pre-session working group for the 57<sup>th</sup> session will also take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in conference room XVI.

### IV. NHRI Reports

In order to ensure that it is as best informed as is 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. **Due to the volume of documentation received, such reports should not exceed 10 pages, and should highlight priority concerns and suggest country-specific recommendations to facilitate the work of the Committee.**

### V. Reports for the Session (8 – 26 July 2013)

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 **28 copies** in hard copy format.

All submissions should be received two weeks prior to the beginning of the session by the Secretariat of the Committee, i.e., **no later than 24 June 2013**. The Word version 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 10  
Switzerland

NHRIs are also 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 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 (29 July – 2 August 2013)**

The Pre-Session Working Group will prepare list of issues for the following States parties that are scheduled to be considered at the 57<sup>th</sup> session: **Bahrain, Cameroon, Finland, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Sierra Leone, Qatar and Senegal** (in the absence of report). 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 **no later than 17 June 2013**. (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 10  
Switzerland

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

The Committee has set aside time at its 55<sup>th</sup> session for NHRIs to provide oral information in respect of countries being considered during the session. These meetings are scheduled on 8 July 2013 from 16:30 to 17:30 for countries that will be considered the first week (**Cuba, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Dominican**

**Republic**), and on 15 July 2013 from 16:00 to 17:00 for countries that will be considered the second week (**Cape Verde, the United Kingdom, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina**). The meetings will take place in conference room XVI and are open to the public. For the schedule of consideration of States parties' reports, please contact the Secretariat.

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 **45 copies of their oral statements** at least 15 minutes in advance of the meeting 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 57<sup>th</sup> session. This meeting will take place on **29 July 2013** following the meeting with non-governmental organizations scheduled from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm 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** prior to the meeting 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 "Conference Registration Form" (<http://goo.gl/261iF>). This form must include the full title of the NHRI; the name and date of birth of the representative; the country of origin of the applicant's passport or national identity document with date of expiration; telephone number, e-mail and address; occupation; and address in Geneva. **The form, which must be dated, should be submitted by e-mail to [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org) no later than 15 June 2013** 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.

In order to receive A 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 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, Pregny Gate, United Nations Office at Geneva, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, Geneva, Switzerland. The office hours are 8:00 to 17:00, Monday through Friday. Please note that NHRI representatives must bring their passport (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, upon request, the Secretariat can provide, 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.

## **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>
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