

## ***CLOSING REMARKS***

*by*

*Ms. Yoko Hayashi*

### ***Sixty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women***

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the sixty-second 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 eleven 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 local NGOs 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, including the Inter-Agency Group on CEDAW Reporting (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO and UN Women) which coordinates the submission of country-specific information by UN country teams, as well as IPU and UNESCO. I am pleased to note that UN Country Teams have contributed their reports through the Inter-Agency Group and that several UNCTs sent representatives to attend the session.

I am satisfied with the progress we have achieved in implementing General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening, in particular our decision on enhanced coordination by country rapporteurs aiming at further enhancing the structure of dialogues. 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.

One of the highlights of this session was yesterday's panel discussion on "Connecting CEDAW and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda", organized

by OHCHR in collaboration with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Treaty Body Platform of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. Our Committee was very ably represented by Pramila Patten, who had contributed to the conceptual work on Women, Peace and Security as a member of the High-level Advisory Group for the Global Study on implementation of UNSCR 1325. It is my firm belief that the event, which was attended by numerous States and UN entities, specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, greatly contributed to raising the Committee's visibility and placing our General Recommendation No. 30 higher on the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of Naela Gabr, assisted by the working group on rural women, as well as other members, we made progress by starting to adopt draft General Recommendation No. 34 on rural women which, once adopted, will represent a milestone in the promotion and protection of the human rights of this very large and disadvantaged group of women. I am confident that with Ms. Gabr's able guidance, we will be able to adopt the GR at the next session of the Committee.

Our session was overshadowed by the terrible attacks in Paris, Beirut, on the Russian airplane and just today in Mali, which shocked all of us and had an even stronger impact on our colleagues Nicole Ameline and Nahla Haidar. Ms. Ameline had to return to Paris before the end of the session, and I would like to thank Biancamaria Pomeranzi for having taken leadership in our subsequent discussions with UN Women on the Committee's involvement in the follow-up and review of a proposed indicator for Target 5.1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I would also like to thank Pramila Patten and Patricia Schulz for stepping in for Ms. Ameline during the adoption of our concluding observations on Lebanon, as well as all other colleagues for having shown our solidarity with Ms. Ameline and Ms. Haidar.

I also wish to acknowledge the good progress we have made by adopting three decisions on individual communications, based on the quality drafts from the Working Group on Communications. Thanks to the preparatory work of the Working Group on Inquiries, which met for the second time prior to this session, we also made progress in our work on a number of pending inquiry proceedings and submissions.

Special thanks go to Xiaoqiao Zou and Hilary Gbedemah for their diligent work as Rapporteur and alternate Rapporteur on follow-up which enabled us to adopt five follow-up assessments at this session.

Thanks to the hard work of the drafting Committee composed of Ms. Schulz, Ms. Jahan and Ms. Gabr, we were able to adopt the very timely statement on the situation of women in the refugee crisis.

During this session, we again had interesting exchanges, such as our meeting with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, our former colleague Dubravka Simonovic, our discussion with Mr. Lopez-Claros, Director of the Global Indicators Group of the World Bank on global indicators on gender equality, and our joint informal meeting with the Human Rights Committee hosted by the Treaty Body Platform of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, where both Committees continued their discussion on abortion.

Dear Colleagues,

Before I conclude, please allow me to sincerely thank all experts for the hard work accomplished during the past four weeks, including the country rapporteurs who guided our dialogues with the representatives of the States parties and drafted the concluding observations as well as our first ever LOIPR on Belarus. I also wish to acknowledge the active participation of country task force members in the constructive dialogues with States parties, which again were represented by high-level delegations with relevant expertise.

I would also like to thank all of you for your support and my colleagues on the Bureau for their invaluable advice during this session.

Lastly, I thank our Secretariat, including the new colleagues Orest, Katrin and Sana, and the interpreters, précis writers, press officers, translators, conference room officers, technicians and all others who made this session successful.

I wish you a safe journey and Happy Holidays and look forward to seeing you in Geneva in February for our sixty-third session.

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