

CLOSING REMARKS

by

Ms. Yoko Hayashi

Sixty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the sixty-fourth 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. Our dialogues with France and Turkey took place just before the recent tragic events in those countries. With assistance from Conference Services, we managed to accommodate the late request of one State party to hold its dialogue with the Committee via videoconference.

We held informal meetings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and also attended several lunchtime briefings organized by NGOs. The Committee was pleased by the high level of attendance of local NGOs, many of them supported by the global to local programme of IWRAW-Asia Pacific, which – like the NHRIs – 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. I am pleased to note that UN Country Teams have contributed their reports through the Inter-Agency Group and that four UNCTs sent representatives to attend the session and one engaged with us via VCT.

I am satisfied with our discussions on the academic initiative regarding the 2020 treaty body review process and on the implementation of GA resolution 68/268

on treaty body strengthening, as well as with our frank and open exchange with one State party on our working methods.

We were also able to review the draft joint CEDAW/CMW/OHCHR/UN Women statement on gender in large-scale mixed migration flows, propose parameters for our future cooperation with UN Women on the follow-up and review of SDG indicator 5.1.1 thanks to the initiative taken by our CEDAW-UN Women/SDG working group, and decide on the agenda for our informal meeting with States parties to be held during the 65th session in October/November this year.

Good progress was made by the working group on gender-based violence against women in refining the first draft of the update of GR 19 to be posted on the CEDAW website between now and the 65th session for stakeholders' comments, by the working group on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change on the first draft of the general recommendation, and by the working group on the right to education in planning the way ahead for finalizing the draft general recommendation on the topic.

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 fourth time prior to this session, we were able to make progress in revising our standard operating procedures on inquiries as well as on a number of pending inquiry proceedings.

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 seven follow-up assessments at this session.

During this session, we received a private briefing from Amnesty international on their new sex workers policy and hosted a side event on the human and labour rights of women migrant workers organized by UN-Women.

Tragically, the night after the generous reception at the Permanent Mission of France on 14 July, our session was overshadowed by the heinous attack against ordinary innocent people celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, France, resulting in more than 80 casualties, including many children. On behalf of the Committee, I wish to express our full solidarity with the victims of this attack and their families, as well as with those of the recent attacks in Baghdad, Brussels, Dhaka, Istanbul, Medina and Orlando, to name but a few.

Dear Colleagues,

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 guided our dialogues with the representatives of the States parties and drafted the concluding observations on sometimes very complex legal issues, as well as the adoption of our third ever LOIPR on Romania. 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 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 colleagues from the Secretariat, including the interns Zelda, Alazne and Armando, who again provided excellent support to us. Lastly, I wish to thank 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 look forward to seeing you in Geneva in October for a long sixty-fifth session.
