

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 63rd and 64th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Yoko Hayashi, Chairperson

Sixty-fourth session
4 July 2016

**Dear Deputy High Commissioner,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to join the DHC in welcoming you to the 64th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and in congratulating the newly elected members of the Committee who will join us next year starting from the 66th session.

Ms. Hofmeister is unable to attend the 64th session. Ms. Acar will join us tomorrow. In addition, Ms. Acar will not be able to attend the third week of our session.

I note that 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 70. 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.

I am pleased to note that Monaco has acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on 3 May 2016, bringing to total number of States parties to the Optional Protocol to 107.

I am pleased to inform you that Kenya, Oman, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, New Zealand and Fiji have submitted their periodic reports and Monaco has submitted its initial report since the beginning of our last session. In addition, Burkina Faso and Montenegro have submitted the electronic version of their periodic reports previously submitted in hard copy version only. Mauritius has submitted its updated common core document and now meets the criteria decided by our Committee for presenting its overdue eighth periodic report under the simplified reporting procedure.

Following our 63rd session, on 14 March, I participated in the opening of the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in my capacity as CEDAW Chair and delivered the statement that we had discussed at the 63rd session. Also in New York, I met with the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, on 18 March to brief him on our dialogues during the 63rd session as well as on our work on the SDGs, gender-based violence against women, and disaster risk reduction and climate change. Moreover, I participated in a number of panel discussions during the first week of the CSW.

From 22 to 26 May, I participated as a resource person in a regional training of trainers workshop on treaty reporting, organized by OHCHR in Bangkok as part of the treaty body capacity building programme under GA resolution 68/268 which in paragraph 17(d) requests OHCHR to provide direct assistance to States parties at the national level by building and developing institutional capacity for treaty reporting. Representatives from 15 countries in the region participated in the workshop, reflecting the strong interest of States parties in such capacity building, including States parties that have recently submitted their CEDAW reports such as Thailand, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Directly after the training of trainers, I attended the 28th annual meeting of Chairpersons, held from 30 May to 3 June in New York. At the meeting, the Chairs discussed their role in relation to procedural matters, including with respect to formulating conclusions on issues related to working methods, and follow-up to GA resolution 68/268. As the General Assembly will review the treaty body system in 2020 pursuant to paragraph 41 of this resolution, the Chairpersons meeting reiterated the need for OHCHR to have the material and human resources necessary for the treaty bodies to perform their work. This Committee also needs these resources in

order to implement the full mandate of ours under the Convention, including those activities under the Optional Protocol. The Chairs also discussed the implementation of the Addis Ababa guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies and of the San José guidelines against intimidation or reprisals, as well as the engagement of treaty bodies with national human rights institutions. This afternoon, we will have an opportunity to discuss these issues in more detail, in closed meeting.

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.

On 14 and 15 June, Ms. Bailey as well as Ms. Ameline and Ms. Haidar participated in a UN Women workshop in New York on monitoring SDG indicator 5.1.1 relating to legislative frameworks to end discrimination against women.

I would now be delighted to hear from them as well as from other 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 those Committee members who participated in such events to please fill in the table on inter-sessional activities that will be distributed by the Secretariat and to provide copies of their statements to the Secretariat so that they can be sent to the Committee during the session.

In concluding, I wish all of us success for our work during this session.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that our dialogues with States parties will again be webcast live by the NGO Coalition on the website www.treatybodywebcast.org. I therefore take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all those who will be online observers during this session.

Thank you for your attention.
