

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2016/I/CRP

**Report of the Committee on the
Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Sixty-third session
(15 February – 4 March 2016)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 63/1

General recommendation on the rights of rural women

On 4 March 2016, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women, by consensus (see <http://goo.gl/09gdP7>).

Decision 63/2

Statement on the occasion of International Women's Day 2016

On 4 March 2016, the Committee issued a statement in the form of a press release on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2016 focussing on rural women (see <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Statements.aspx>).

Decision 63/3

Enhanced constructive dialogue

The Committee decided to amend the time allocation for interventions during the constructive dialogue as follows, thereby amending decision 50/I, paragraph 4:

"5 minutes shall be allocated for interventions on gender-based violence against women, to be made under article 5 of the Convention directly after 'Stereotypes'."

Decision 63/4

Uniform language for concerns and recommendations

The Committee decided to systematically use the term "recommends" in the recommendations in its concluding observations.

Decision 63/5

Revised standard paragraph on "Dissemination"

The Committee decided to shorten the standard paragraph on "Dissemination" in its concluding observations as follows:

"The Committee requests the State party to ensure the timely dissemination of the present concluding observations, in the official language(s) of the State party, to the relevant state institutions at all levels (national, regional, local), in particular to the Government, the ministries, the Parliament and to the judiciary, to enable their full implementation."

Decision 63/6

New sub-heading on "Gender-based violence against women"

The Committee decided to replace the sub-heading "Violence against women" in its concluding observations with "Gender-based violence against women".

Decision 63/7

Sustainable Development Goals

The Committee decided to include references to the Sustainable Development Goals in its lists of issues and concluding observations relating to States parties' reports under article 18 of the Convention, where appropriate and without prejudice to the legally binding nature of

States parties' obligations under the Convention, as well as in lists of issues prior to reporting adopted under the simplified reporting procedure, where relevant.

Decision 63/8

Streamlined process of assessment of States parties' follow-up reports

The Committee decided to review and streamline the process of assessing States parties' follow-up reports by establishing a system through which country rapporteurs will be able to provide their comments on draft assessments electronically to the Rapporteur on follow-up, the alternate Rapporteur on follow-up and the Secretariat focal point for follow-up rather than systematically organising meetings between them.

Decision 63/9

Public list of individual cases registered under the Optional Protocol

The Committee decided to request the Secretariat (Petitions and Inquiries Section) to post and regularly update on the Committee's public web page on the OHCHR website a list of all individual communications registered under the Optional Protocol, by registration number and State party, including a short description of the subject matter of each case, with a view to facilitating the submission of interventions by third parties.

Decision 63/10

Reminders to States parties with long overdue reports

The Committee decided to request the Secretariat to send reminders to all States parties whose reports are more than five years overdue.

Decision 63/11

Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-fifth session, i.e., Magalys Arocha, Lilian Hofmeister, Ismat Jahan, Dalia Leinarte and, as a substitute for Pramila Patten who was unable to participate in the pre-sessional working group, Lia Nadaraia.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

A. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the Optional Protocol

As at 4 March 2016, the closing date of the sixty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 189 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/180 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980. In accordance with its article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. In addition, 70 Contracting States had accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, concerning the Committee's meeting time. 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.

At the same date, there were 106 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/4 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 10 December 1999. In accordance with its article 16, the Optional Protocol entered into force on 22 December 2000.

Updated information on the status of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and its Optional Protocol, as well as lists of States signatories and parties and the texts of declarations, reservations, objections and other relevant information are available from the website of the United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>).

B. Opening of the session

The Committee held its sixty-third session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 15 February to 4 March 2016. The Committee held 21 plenary meetings, and also held 9 meetings to discuss agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex [...] to the present report.

The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Yoko Hayashi, at its 1373rd meeting on 15 February 2016.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/63/1) at its 1373rd meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/63/1), which met from 27 to 30 July 2015, was introduced by Ismat Jahan at the 1373rd meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 15 and 22 February 2016, the Committee held closed meetings with representatives of specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, during which country-specific information was provided, as well as information on the efforts made by those bodies to support the implementation of the Convention.

Also on 15 and 22 February, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations who provided information on the implementation of the Convention in the States parties considered by the Committee at its sixty-third session.

On 24 February, the Committee held a private expert consultation with Mary Honeyball, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Member United Kingdom Labour Party, and Patrick Eba, Human Rights and Law Adviser, UNAIDS, to discuss different approaches to trafficking, exploitation of prostitution and prostitution. The expert meeting was hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights under the Geneva Treaty Body Platform.

F. Membership of the Committee

All members attended the sixty-third session. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Feride Acar, from 15 to 19 February and from 2 to 4 March; Nicole Ameline, on 15 February; Niklas Bruun, on 1 March; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, on 19 and from 22 to 26 February and on 4 March; and Pramila Patten, from 2 to 4 March. A list of members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is annexed to the present report.

Chapter III

Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of the Committee

At the 1373rd meeting, the Chairperson, Yoko Hayashi, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the sixty-second session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

A. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

At its sixty-third session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the sixth periodic report of Czech Republic; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Iceland; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Japan; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Haiti; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Mongolia; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Sweden; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Tanzania; and the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Vanuatu.

The Committee prepared concluding observations on each of the reports considered. Those observations are available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol numbers indicated below:

Czech Republic (CEDAW/C/CZE/CO/6)

Haiti (CEDAW/C/HTI/CO/8-9)

Iceland (CEDAW/C/ISL/CO/7-8)

Japan (CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/7-8)

Mongolia (CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/8-9)

Sweden (CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/8-9)

Tanzania (CEDAW/C/TZA/CO/7-8)

Vanuatu (CEDAW/C/VUT/CO/4-5)

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

The Committee considered the follow-up reports from the following States parties:

- 1) Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEDAW/C/BIH/CO/4-5/Add.1)
- 2) Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/CO/7-8/Add.1)
- 3) Greece (CEDAW/C/GRC/CO/7/Add.1)
- 4) Panama (CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/7/Add.1)
- 5) Samoa (CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5/Add.1)
- 6) South Africa (CEDAW/C/ZAF/CO/4/Add.1)
- 7) Tajikistan (CEDAW/C/TJK/CO/4-5/Add.1)

The Committee also considered additional follow-up information received from Lesotho (CEDAW/C/LSO/CO/1-4/Add.2)

The Committee sent first reminders to the following States parties whose follow-up reports were overdue:

- 1) Andorra
- 2) Benin

The rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Indonesia whose follow-up report was overdue.

Chapter V

Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provides that the Committee shall include in its annual report under article 21 of the Convention a summary of its activities under the Optional Protocol.

A. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 2 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 22 and 25 February 2016. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its thirty-fourth session (see annex 1).

The Committee examined three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted three final decisions, finding violations in cases concerning Denmark, with one member appending a dissenting opinion, and the Russian Federation, by consensus, respectively, and declared one case concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland inadmissible, by consensus. The text of the final decisions of the Committee will be available once they have been finalized and sent to the respective parties. It can be found through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) or through the juris database of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (<http://juris.ohchr.org/>).

B. Follow-up to views of the Committee on individual communications

The Committee was informed that the Working Group, during its thirty-fourth session, had discussed the follow-up situation in each case where the follow-up dialogue was ongoing and that it had agreed on the action to be taken. Of the 10 cases under follow-up examination, one each relates to Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, Spain and Tanzania. The Committee decided that in each of those cases the follow-up dialogue remains ongoing. In two other cases (No. 20/2008, *V.K. v. Bulgaria*, and No. 31/2011, *V.P. v. Bulgaria*), the Committee decided to put the follow-up dialogue to a close with findings of a satisfactory resolution of the recommendations contained in its views in light of the compensation paid to the authors (5000 BGN, equivalent to 2500 Euros, and 10000 BGN, equivalent to 5000 Euros, respectively). The Committee requested to have meetings arranged during its sixty-third session with the Permanent Missions of Canada, Peru, the Philippines, Spain and Tanzania to discuss follow-up matters.

C. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 8 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee discussed activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on 1 and 2 March 2016. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its third session (see annex 2).

The Committee adopted the following recommendations of the Working Group on Inquiries in relation to pending inquiry proceedings:

(a) In relation to submission No. 2011/3, to respond to a request of the sources of information to be informed of the grounds on which the Committee had based its decision not to designate members to conduct an inquiry as well as of whether or not such decision is confidential; and

(b) In relation to submission No. 2014/3, to defer to the seventh session of the Working Group its decision on whether or not to recommend to the Committee to designate members to conduct an inquiry.

The Committee ratified the following decisions taken by the working group on inquiries:

(a) In relation to inquiry 2011/1 concerning Canada, to grant a two-month extension of the time limit to the State party concerned to submit information on follow-up to the Committee's concluding observations;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2, further to a meeting of the designated members with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to discuss the modalities of a visit to its territory, that the designated members should continue to engage with the State party on such modalities;

(c) In relation to submission No. 2011/4, to grant a one-month extension of the time limit to the State party concerned to submit its observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(d) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, to grant a final extension until 30 April 2016 to the sources of information to provide additional information, failing which the Working Group would proceed based on the information at its disposal;

(e) In relation inquiry No. 2013/1, to defer the decision on whether or not to conduct a visit to the territory of the State party concerned to the fourth session of the Working Group so as to enable the Working Group first to analyse the visit report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to be released in June 2016;

(f) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1, to request the designated members to propose new dates for a visit to the territory of the State party concerned in September 2016; and

(g) In relation to submission No. 2014/2, to grant, on an exceptional basis, a one-month extension of the time limit to the State party concerned to submit its observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

Chapter VI

A. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the status of submission of overdue reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

B. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 7

Dates of future sessions of the Committee

In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates are confirmed for the Committee's sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions:

Sixty-fourth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-fifth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 29 June to 1 July 2016

Fourth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol:
30 June to 1 July 2016

Sixty-fourth session: 4 to 22 July 2016

Pre-session working group for the sixty-sixth session: 25 to 29 July 2016

Sixty-fifth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-sixth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 19 to 21 October 2016

Fifth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol:
20 to 21 October 2016

Sixty-fifth session: 24 October to 18 November 2016

Pre-session working group for the sixty-seventh session: 21 to 25 November 2016

Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee

The Committee confirmed that it will consider the reports of the following States parties at its sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions:

Sixty-fourth session:

- 1) Albania
- 2) France
- 3) Mali
- 4) Myanmar
- 5) Philippines
- 6) Turkey
- 7) Trinidad and Tobago
- 8) Uruguay

Sixty-fifth session:

- 1) Antigua and Barbuda (in the absence of a report)
- 2) Argentina
- 3) Armenia
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) Belarus (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 6) Bhutan
- 7) Burundi
- 8) Canada
- 9) Estonia
- 10) Honduras
- 11) The Netherlands
- 12) Switzerland

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

Working Group on rural women

The working group met during the session.

On 4 March 2016, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women by consensus,¹ in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the

¹ The following members were present during the adoption: Gladys Acosta Vargas, Bakhita Al-Dosari, Nicole Ameline, Magalys Arocha Domínguez, Barbara Bailey, Niklas Bruun, Louiza Chalal, Náela Gabr, Hilary Gbedemah, Nahla Haidar, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Yoko Hayashi, Lilian Hofmeister, Ismat Jahan, Dalia Leinarte, Lia Nadaraia, Theodora Oby Nwankwo, Silvia Pimentel, Biancamaria

Committee. The text of the general recommendation will be available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol number CEDAW/C/GC/34.

Working Group on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change

The working group met during the session.

On 29 February 2016, the Committee held a half-day of general discussion on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change, with support from the United Nations Office on Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES), Geneva Office, as part of the first phase in the elaboration of a general recommendation on the topic. The discussion was opened by Yoko Hayashi, Chairperson of the Committee, followed by opening remarks by Ibrahim Salama, Director, Human Rights Treaties Division, OHCHR; Robert Glasser, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), UNISDR; and Hubert René Schillinger, Director, FES Geneva Office. The envisaged general recommendation was introduced by the Chair of the Committee's working group on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change, Nahla Haidar. The following five expert speakers explored the different gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change, including from various regional perspectives: Margareta Wahlström, former SRSG, UNISDR; Elena Manaenkova, Assistant Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization; Keiko Ikeda, professor and expert on earthquake disasters and gender, Shizuoka University, Japan; Asha Kambon, public policy expert, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, Trinidad and Tobago; and Palash Mondal, CARE Bangladesh. After the interventions of the speakers, oral statements were made by the following States parties: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, France, Gabon, Japan and Peru. Further statements were made by eight civil society organizations (Amnesty International; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights (joint statement); Human Rights Watch; International Baby Food Action Network; International Disability Alliance; Sightsavers). The representatives of 18 States parties attended the general discussion: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Gabon, Haiti, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Switzerland, and Zambia.

The working group requested the Committee to schedule a first reading of the draft general recommendation on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change during the sixty-fourth session.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group met during the session.

Working Group on working methods

The working group met during the session and submitted to the Committee draft decisions concerning an enhanced structure of the constructive dialogue and uniform language for the concerns and recommendations, as well as a revised standard paragraph and sub-heading, in concluding observations.

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group met during the session.

CEDAW-UN Women/SDG Working Group

The working group met during the session. It continued its consideration of possible ways and means for the Committee to engage in the follow-up and review of relevant Goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Working Group on gender-based violence against women

The Working Group met during the session.

The Chair of the Working Group briefed the other members about a public symposium on international and regional approaches in tackling violence against women and a private expert group meeting on updating general recommendation No. 19, organized by the London School of Economics, Centre for Women Peace and Security, on 4 and 5 February 2016, respectively, which were both attended by Feride Acar, Barbara Bailey, Naéla Gabr, Nahla Haidar and Yoko Hayashi. The Working Group discussed an advanced draft of the general recommendation, as refined during the expert group meeting in London.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session

On 4 March 2016, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its sixty-fourth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Follow-up to concluding observations of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Implementation of articles 21 and 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
8. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
9. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fifth session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-fourth session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its sixty-third session and addenda on 4 March 2016 and adopted it as orally revised during the discussion.

[Annexes will be added to the final version of the text]

B. Composition of the working groups of the Committee

[To be added to the final version of the report]

Annexes

Annex 1

Report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-fourth session

1. The Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its thirty-fourth session from 9 to 12 February 2016 in Geneva. All five members attended the session: Ms. Gladys Acosta Vargas, Mr. Niklas Bruun (Chair), Ms. Nahla El Addal-Haidar, Ms. Dalia Leinarte and Ms. Pramila Patten (Vice-Chair).
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted the agenda as set out in the appendix to the present report.
3. The Working Group reviewed unregistered. It took note of the action taken by the Secretariat in this regard, and decided on a number of requests for clarifications and/or explanations or replies to be sent to the authors of such correspondence.
4. The Working Group also decided to register three new communications, No. 99/2016 concerning Bulgaria, No.100/2016 concerning the Russian Federation, and No. 101/2016 concerning Denmark.
5. The Working Group appointed case rapporteurs for all newly registered communications (Nos. 98/2015, 99/2016, 100/2016 and 101/2016). Out of 101 communications concerning 29 States parties registered since 2003, 46 are pending. In 20 cases, the Committee found violations and in one case no violation. 27 communications were declared inadmissible and seven were discontinued.
6. The Working Group discussed three draft recommendations concerning Denmark (No. 46/2012), the Russian Federation (No. 60/2013) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (No. 62/2013). All three recommendations were adopted by consensus and it was decided to refer them to the Committee, for adoption.
7. The Working Group expressed concern about the increased number of cases ready for decision, including where a request by the State party concerned to consider the admissibility of the communication separately from the merits (so-called split request) had been granted. At present, 22 cases are ready for adoption. In four of those cases a split request was granted. While the backlog of cases is thus increasing, the Secretariat is unable to prepare more than 3 to 4 draft recommendations per session in light of the resources available. The Working Group therefore reiterated that OHCHR should secure sufficient resources to the Petitions and Inquiries Section, Human Rights Treaties Division, including in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the treaty body system to be submitted to the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, in order to effectively address the problem.
8. The Working Group also discussed the possibility of posting on the Committee's public web page on the OHCHR website a list of all individual communications registered under the Optional Protocol, by registration number and State party, including a short description of the subject matter of each case, with a view to facilitating the submission of interventions by third parties.
9. For its thirty-fifth session, the Working Group requested the secretariat to prepare, on a priority basis, draft recommendations in relation to six communications: Nos. 57/2013, 61/2013 and 64/2014 concerning Denmark; No. 67/2014 concerning Austria; No. 74/2014 concerning Norway; and No. 75/2014 concerning Mexico.
10. The Working Group finally discussed the follow-up situation in all twelve cases where the follow-up dialogue with the States parties was on-going, and agreed on the possible actions to take.

11. The Working Group discussed the status of ten cases in which the follow-up dialogue with the States parties concerned remained ongoing, and agreed on the possible action to be taken:

- (a) No. 17/2008 concerning Brazil (case rapporteurs Ms. Acosta Vargas/Ms. Patten);
- (b) No. 19/2008 concerning Canada (case rapporteurs Mr. Bruun/Ms. Haidar);
- (c) No. 22/2009 concerning Peru (case rapporteurs Ms. Patten/Ms. Leinarte);
- (d) No. 24/2009 concerning Georgia (case rapporteur Ms. Patten);
- (e) No. 34/2011 concerning the Philippines (case rapporteur Ms. Patten);
- (f) No. 36/2012 concerning the Netherlands (case rapporteur Mr. Bruun);
- (g) No. 45/2012 concerning Kazakhstan (case rapporteur Mr. Bruun);
- (h) No. 47/2012 concerning Spain (case rapporteur Ms. Acosta Vargas);
- (i) No. 48/2012 concerning Tanzania (case rapporteur Ms. Patten).

12. In relation to communications No.20/2008, V.K. v. Bulgaria, and No. 31/2011, V.P. v. Bulgaria, the Working Group decided to suspend the follow-up dialogue and found a satisfactory resolution of the its recommendations, in light of the compensation paid to the authors in the amounts of 5,000 BGN (equivalent to 2,500 Euro) and 10,000 BGN (equivalent to 5,000 Euro), respectively. All information regarding the recommendations of general nature made in this case will be taken into account in the framework of the Committee's reporting procedure.

13. The Working Group requested the secretariat to arrange meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Canada, Peru, the Philippines, Spain and Tanzania to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to individual cases where violations of the Convention have been found.

Action taken at the present session:

14. The Working Group decided:

- (a) To register communications Nos. 99/2016 to 101/2016 concerning Bulgaria, the Russian Federation and Denmark, respectively;
- (b) To designate case rapporteurs for communications Nos. 98/2015 to 101/2016;
- (c) To refer for adoption to the Committee three recommendations in relation to communications No. 46/2012 concerning Denmark, No. 60/2013 concerning the Russian Federation and No. 62/2013 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in each case by consensus;
- (d) To request the Secretariat to prepare draft recommendations in relation to communications Nos. 57/2013, 61/2013 and 64/2014 concerning Denmark; No. 67/2014 concerning Austria; No. 74/2014 concerning Norway; and No. 75/2014 concerning Mexico;
- (e) To put the follow-up dialogue to a close in relation to cases No. 20/2008, V.K. v. Bulgaria, and No. 31/2011, V.P. v. Bulgaria, with a finding of a satisfactory implementation of the Committee's recommendations;
- (f) To request the Secretariat to arrange meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Canada, Peru, the Philippines, Spain and Tanzania to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to the Committee's views on individual cases where violations of the Convention have been found.

15. The Working Group to hold its thirty-fifth session from 29 June to 1 July 2016 in Geneva.

APPENDIX

Agenda

Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol

34th session (Geneva, 9 – 12 February 2015)

Room XVI, Palais des Nations

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Review of steps and activities undertaken since the last session.
3. New communications registered and appointment of case rapporteurs.
4. Discussion on cases ready for adoption.
5. Update on communications (registered cases).
6. Update on follow-up to Views.
7. Working methods.
8. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its thirty-fourth session.

Annex 2

Report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on its third session

1. The Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its third session from 11 to 12 February 2016 in Geneva. Five members attended the session (Barbara Bailey, Hilary Gbedemah, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari - Chair, Ismat Jahan and Lia Nadaraia).
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda.
3. The Working Group decided to renew the mandate of Ms. Halperin-Kaddari and Ms. Bailey as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, until 31 December 2016. It recommends that the Committee consider at its sixty-sixth session, to be held from 13 February to 3 March 2017, coordinating the election of the Chairs of the Working Group on Communications and of the Working Group on Inquiries, respectively, in order to reflect a more equitable geographic balance.
4. The Working Group was briefed by staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on recent developments in respect of information on specific inquiry proceedings that are under consideration by the Committee.
5. The Working Group continued to revise the standard operating procedures for inquiries in order to adapt them to the mandate of the Working Group and reflect the recent practice of the Committee in examining information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.
6. The Working Group also completed its discussion on the development of indicators as a guiding tool for informing decisions under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on the reliability of information on grave or systematic violations prior to requesting observations from States parties and for taking decisions on whether or not to conduct an inquiry.
7. The Working Group was informed by the Secretariat:
 - (a) In relation to inquiry 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, that the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-fourth session of the Committee included in the list of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of

the Philippines questions on the implementation by the State party of the recommendations made by the Committee in its report of the inquiry;

(b) In relation to inquiry 2011/1 concerning Canada, that the follow-up report due since 1 February 2016 had not been submitted by the State party and that the pre-session working group for the sixty-fifth session of the Committee will adopt a list of issues and questions in relation to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Canada in March 2016.

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2, that the State party had agreed to a visit to its territory and had requested the designated members to propose dates for such visit;

(d) In relation to submission No. 2011/4, that a one-month extension of the time limit until 3 March 2016 had been granted to the State party to submit its observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(e) In relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences had conducted a visit to the State party and that the visit report of the Special Rapporteur will be submitted to the Human Rights Council in June 2016; and

(f) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1, that the State party concerned had not formally responded to the proposal of the designated members to conduct a visit to the territory of the State party in May 2014, and the designated members will meet with representatives of the Permanent Mission to discuss the visit and other modalities.

Action taken at the third session

8. The Working Group decided:

(a) To refer for approval to the Committee a guidance note for sources of information on how they can submit information under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, prepared by the Working Group during its second session;

(b) To refer for adoption to the Committee the following recommendations in relation to pending inquiry proceedings:

(i) In relation to submission 2011/3, to respond to a request of the sources of information to be informed of the grounds on which the Committee had based its decision not to conduct an inquiry as well as of whether or not such decision is confidential;

(ii) In relation to inquiry 2013/1, to defer the decision on whether or not to conduct a visit to the territory of the State party concerned to the fourth session of the Working Group so as to enable the Working Group first to analyse the visit report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to be released in June 2016; and

(iii) In relation to submission No. 2014/3, in light of the reporting status of and the situation in the State party concerned, that the pre-session working group for the sixty-sixth session of the Committee should include in the list of issues and questions in relation to the periodic report of the State party questions on the relevant issues of concern and that, therefore, its consideration as to whether or not to recommend to the Committee to designate members to conduct an inquiry should be deferred to the seventh session of the Working Group.

(d) To inform the Committee of the following decisions taken by the Working Group:

(i) In relation to inquiry 2011/1 concerning Canada, that the designated members should arrange a meeting with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Canada to agree on modalities for the submission of its follow up report due since 1 February 2016 considering that the pre-session

working group for the sixty-fifth session of the Committee will adopt a list of issues and questions in relation to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of the State party in March 2016;

(ii) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, to grant a final extension until 30 April 2016 to the sources of information to provide additional information, failing which the Working Group will proceed based on the information at its disposal; and

(iii) In relation to submission No. 2014/2, to arrange a meeting during the sixty-third session of the Committee with representatives of the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to follow up on its observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol and to take a decision thereafter.

9. The Working Group decided to hold its fourth session from 30 June to 1 July 2016 in Geneva.
