

## ***CLOSING REMARKS***

*by*

*Ms. Dalia Leinarte*

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

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the sixty-ninth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, it is customary for the Chair to sum up the work completed during this session.

Let me start from the beginning of this session and assess our results. We considered the reports of eight States parties, adopted concluding observations on these States, and approved the list of issues prior to reporting concerning one State party under the simplified reporting procedure.

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 engagement of NHRIs and local NGOs. Many of the latter were supported by the global to local programme of IWRAW-Asia Pacific and 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), as well as OHCHR desk officers, UNHCR, IOM and IPU. I am pleased to note that UN Country Teams have contributed their reports through the Inter-Agency Group and that one UNCT briefed us via video link.

One highlight of this session was our adoption, on Wednesday, of general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. I wish to congratulate the working group on disaster risk reduction and climate change, its former Chair Yoko Hayashi, and especially its new Chair Nahla Haidar, for the excellent work done, with support from Anganile as well as from Joanna Bourke-Martignoni from the

Geneva Academy for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. I also wish to acknowledge the excellent statement on the same topic prepared by Nahla Haidar which we adopted on the occasion of International Women's Day 2018.

Also on the occasion of International Women's Day, we were able to adopt a joint statement entitled "Confronting sexual violence, demanding equality" together with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice, which further reinforces our good cooperation with these two mechanisms.

I also thank Lia Nadaria for her work on the report of inquiry 2014/1, with support from the Secretariat, which was adopted at this session and which will be transmitted to the State party concerned for observations within six months. Once this period has lapsed, the report will be published. In particular, I wish to pay tribute to the late Oby Nwankwo, who undertook the inquiry visit together with Ms. Nadaria and who, I am certain, would have liked to be here for the adoption of the report.

I am satisfied that the Committee took a decision to embark on the elaboration of a draft general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration and feel honoured that I have been asked to prepare the concept note. At the same time, we will not forget about the two next general recommendations in the pipeline, namely the ones on gender stereotypes and on indigenous women.

I am also satisfied with the progress we have achieved in implementing General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening by reinstating the simplified reporting procedure while keeping the practical modalities of its implementation under review. I wish to thank the working group on working methods, especially its chair and vice-chair, Yoko Hayashi and Aruna Narain, for the excellent proposal submitted.

I thank our Working Group on SDGs for having prepared the briefing by UNESCO on SDG indicator 4.7.1 relating to education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights. The working group also achieved good progress in reviewing our treaty-specific reporting guidelines, with the support of our friend and former colleague Bianca Pomeranzi.

Special thanks go to Hilary Gbedemah and Lia Nadaraia for their important work as Rapporteur and alternate Rapporteur on follow-up which enabled us to adopt eight follow-up assessments at this session.

We also made good progress in our work under the Optional Protocol on individual communications. Thanks to the excellent drafts prepared by our Working Group on Communications, we were able to adopt four final decisions.

During the session, we again had interesting exchanges such as our informal meeting with the Special Envoy of the Secretary General on Disabilities and Accessibility, Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, or at the various thematic lunch time briefings organized by NGOs.

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 LOIPR on Bulgaria. I also wish to acknowledge the active participation of country task force members in the constructive dialogues with States parties.

Lastly, I thank all our colleagues from the Secretariat who again provided excellent support to us, with the help from our intern Maria Elena Kisyova: Anganile, Orlagh, Momoko, Daniela, Marko, Youssef, Nikolaus, Céline, Chanmi and Irene, Jakob and Orest

I also thank the interpreters, précis writers, press officers, translators, conference room officers, technicians, research assistants and all others who made this session successful.

In concluding, I wish you a safe journey home, a nice spring, and look forward to seeing you in Geneva in July for our seventieth session.

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