

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 66th and 67th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

Ms. Dalia Leinarte, Chairperson

Sixty-seventh session
3 July 2017

**Dear colleagues,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to join the Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Gilmore, in welcoming you to the 67th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

First of all, I would like to congratulate our colleague and friend Pramila Patten on her recent appointment as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. While we are sad to lose her on the Committee, it is comforting to know that we have such a capable ally at United Nations Headquarters in New York, with whom we will continue to cooperate closely.

Unfortunately, Ms. Nwankwo will not be able to attend this session, for medical reasons.

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 71. 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 Sao Tome and Principe has ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on 23 March 2017, bringing the total number of States parties to the Optional Protocol to 109.

I am also pleased to inform you that the State of Palestine has submitted its initial report and that eight States parties have submitted their periodic reports since the beginning of our last session, namely Cook Islands, Cyprus, the Republic of the Congo, Austria, the Bahamas, Nepal, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Israel.

Following our 66th session, on 13 March, I participated in the opening of the 61st 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 66th session. Also in New York, on 17 March, Ms. Acar in her capacity as Chair of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) and I, together with other UN and regional human rights experts, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Dubravka Simonovic, and Frances Raday from the UN Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice, met with the Secretary-General, António Guterres, to discuss enhanced coordination of efforts of United Nations and regional mechanisms working on women's human rights to protect those rights from regression. On 15 March, I met with the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, Lakshmi Puri, to raise our cooperation with UN-Women.

Moreover, I participated in a number of panel discussions during the first week of the CSW. On 14 March, I participated in a panel on the adequacy of the international legal framework on violence against women, together with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women. In my intervention, I referred to our work on a general recommendation on gender-based violence against women updating General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) on the topic. At the CSW, I also participated in the "High-level interactive dialogue on accelerating implementation of commitments contained in the agreed conclusions for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls". On 15 March, I made an intervention on the need for enhanced cooperation of CEDAW with regional mechanisms for the protection of women's rights at a "Consultation on operationalizing enhanced collaboration between the international and regional mechanisms

on women's rights" organized by OHCHR. On the same day, I presented our General Recommendation No. 34 (2016) on the rights of rural women at a panel entitled "Empowering rural and indigenous women to achieve food security and nutrition", jointly organized by FAO, IFAD, WFP, UN-Women and OHCHR.

On 8 June, I delivered a presentation at the University of Cambridge entitled "Implementation of Women's Rights: Between *de facto* and *de jure*" providing an overview of our Convention and its implementation. I also gave a radio interview to the Women's Parliamentary Radio in London on the role of the Committee in achieving women's rights globally. On 16 June, I made a presentation via skype for the Lithuanian Parliament on international standards on violence against women and gave an overview of our draft general recommendation on gender-based violence against women.

From 26 to 30 June, I participated in the 29th annual meeting of the Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies in New York, on which I will brief you during this session.

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. I would now be delighted to hear from those 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 the Committee members who participated in such events to please fill in the table on inter-sessional activities that will be distributed by the Secretariat.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that all our public meetings will be webcast on the UN website <http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/>. I therefore take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all those who will be online observers during this session.

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

Thank you for your attention.
