

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**
Sixty-seventh session
(3 – 21 July 2017)

Annex II

**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 seventh 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 seventh session from 29 to 30 June 2017 in Geneva. Four members attended the session (Hilary Gbedemah, Chair; Nahla Haidar; Marion Bethel, Vice-Chair; and Gunnar Bergby). Theodora Oby Nwankwo withdrew from the Working Group on inquiries following her appointment to the Working Group on communications to replace Pramila Patten who had resigned from the Committee.
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda.
3. The Working Group was briefed by the Chief of the Groups in Focus Section, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR, on the progress achieved following the workshop on inquiries that was held on 6 and 7 October 2016, and on the future discussions on the subject matter by Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies.
4. The Working Group was informed by the Secretariat:
 - (a) That Theodora Oby Nwankwo withdrew from the Working Group on inquiries following her appointment to the Working Group on communications to replace Pramila Patten who had resigned from the Committee; and
 - (b) In relation to inquiries Nos. 2014/2 and 2013/1, that following the resignation of Ms. Patten from the Committee, the Committee should appoint one of its members to replace her as one of the members designated to conduct these inquiries.
5. The Working Group noted with concern that the financial resources currently made available to the Working Group do not extend beyond 2017 and that additional resources are required for it to be able to continue to meet in 2018 and 2019 to consider the growing number of submissions and inquiries, which now stands at 13.

Action taken at the seventh session

6. The Working Group decided:
 - (a) To refer for adoption to the Committee the following recommendations in relation to the following submissions:
 - (i) In relation to submission No. 2017/1, that the Committee should discontinue its examination of the information received because the threshold under article 8 of the Optional Protocol had not been met;

(ii) In relation to submission No. 2016/1, that the Committee should invite the State party to submit observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;;

(iii) In relation to submissions Nos. 2014/3, 2012/1 and 2011/4, that the Committee should in each case designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry and seek the consent of the States parties concerned to visits to their respective territories.

(b) To inform the Committee of the following decision taken by the Working Group:

To defer the presentation to the Committee of new amendments to the standard operating procedures to its sixty-eighth session to be held from 23 October to 17 November 2017.

7. The Working Group decided to hold its eighth session from 19 to 20 October 2017 in Geneva.
