

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**
Sixty-ninth session
(19 February – 9 March 2018)

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 ninth 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 ninth session from 15 to 16 February 2018 in Geneva. Five members attended the session (Gunnar Bergby; Marion Bethel, Vice-Chair; Hilary Gbedemah, Chair; Nahla Haidar; and Dalia Leinarte).
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, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), on possible options for maintaining the meeting time of the Working Group. The Working Group reiterated its concern at the lack of adequate resources to fully undertake its mandate.
4. The Working Group was also briefed by a staff member of OHCHR on recent developments in relation to Inquiry No. 2014/2.
5. The Working Group was informed by the Secretariat:
 - (a) In relation to submission No. 2017/3, the sources of information advised the Secretariat that they did not wish their identities to be disclosed to the State party concerned;
 - (b) In relation to submission No. 2016/1, the State party had not submitted observations on the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol despite an exceptional two-month extension of the time limit for submitting such observations; and
 - (c) In relation to inquiries Nos. 2014/2, 2013/1 and 2011/4, that none of the States parties concerned had responded to the requests of the Committee to undertake visits to their respective territories.
6. The Working Group continued revising the standard operating procedures for inquiries in order to adapt them to the mandate of the Working Group, reflect the recent practice of the Committee in examining information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, and address situations where a State party fails to comply with its obligation under article 8, paragraph 5, of the Optional Protocol to cooperate with the Committee. .

Action taken at the ninth session

7. The Working Group decided:
 - (a) To refer for adoption to the Committee the following recommendations:

(i) In relation to submission No. 2017/3, that the Committee should invite the State party to submit observations with regard to the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol; and

(ii) In relation to the standard operating procedures, to approve the amendments proposed by the Working Group.

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

In relation to submission 2016/1, that the Chair and another member of the Working Group should meet with the Permanent Representative of the State party concerned to discuss the delay in the submission of the observations of the State party with regard to the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

8. The Working Group decided to hold its tenth session from 28 to 29 June 2018 in Geneva.
