

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women
Seventieth session
(2 – 20 July 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 tenth 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 28 to 29 June 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 various issues relating to inquiries including maintaining the meeting time for the Working Group. The Working Group reiterated its concern at the lack of adequate resources to fully undertake its mandate under the inquiry procedure.
4. The Working Group was informed:
 - (a) In relation to submission No. 2017/3, that on 28 May 2018, the State party submitted observations on the information received by the Committee;
 - (b) In relation to submission No. 2016/1, that on 24 May 2018, the State party submitted observations on the information received by the Committee; and
 - (c) In relation to inquiries Nos. 2013/1 and 2011/4, that in both cases the State parties concerned consented to a visit to their territory.
5. The Working Group continued revising 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. In particular, the Working Group discussed the following:
 - (a) The role of national human rights institutions in proceedings under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;
 - (b) The role of national human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations in the follow-up to recommendations of the Committee under the inquiry procedure; and
 - (c) The advantages and disadvantages of inviting the State party concerned to include in its periodic report details of any measures taken in response to an inquiry, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol, or, alternatively, of inviting it to inform the Committee of such measures after the end of the period of six months for the State party to submit its observations on the report of the inquiry, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol.

Action taken at the tenth session

6. The Working Group decided:
 - (a) To refer for adoption to the Committee all proposed amendments to the standard operating procedures and the guidance note on the structure of inquiry reports; and
 - (b) To refer for adoption to the Committee the following recommendations:
 - (i) In relation to submission No. 2017/3, that upon conducting a preliminary assessment of the State party's observations and all information received, the Committee should designate one or more members of the Committee to conduct an inquiry;
 - (ii) In relation to submission No. 2016/1, upon conducting a preliminary assessment of the observations submitted by the State party concerned as well as any other reliable information received, to designate one or more members of the Committee to conduct an inquiry;
 - (iii) In relation to inquiries Nos. 2014/2, 2013/1 and 2011/4, to designate additional members to conduct these inquiries;
 - (iv) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to invite the State party at an appropriate time to provide information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the inquiry report (CEDAW/C/OP.8/GBR/1, paras. 85 and 86) not in the context of the consideration of its eighth periodic report but separately, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol.
 7. The Working Group decided to hold its eleventh session from 18 to 19 October 2018 in Geneva.
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