

***CLOSING REMARKS***

*by*

*Ms. Dalia Leinarte*

***Seventieth session of the  
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women***

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the seventieth 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 and adopted concluding observations on these States.

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 sent a representative and two briefed us via video link.

I am satisfied that we were able to adopt the joint statement with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on “Guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women, in particular women with disabilities”, which still needs to be approved by the CRPD, as well as a framework of cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-

General on sexual violence in conflict, our friend and former colleague Pramila Patten.

I am also satisfied with the progress we have achieved in implementing General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening by endorsing the San José Guidelines against intimidation or reprisals, appointing a rapporteur and an alternate rapporteur on intimidation or reprisals, and scheduling the lists of issues prior to reporting to be prepared at the next pre-sessional working group sessions under the simplified reporting procedure. I wish to thank the working group on working methods, especially its chair and vice-chair, Yoko Hayashi and Aruna Narain, for their work.

We made good progress in the new Working Group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration in discussing the scope and content of the concept note for the draft general recommendation on the topic, and benefitted from the excellent presentations of the concept notes on indigenous women and on gender stereotypes by Gladys Acosta Vargas and Patricia Schulz, respectively, this morning.

I commend our Working Group on SDGs, in particular Nicole Ameline, for introducing a new standard paragraph on “Sustainable Development Goals” in our concluding observations. I also thank the Working Group for having prepared the briefing by UN Women, the World Bank Group and the OECD and the OECD on the link between SDG indicator 5.1.1 and the important contribution of our friend and former colleague Biancamaria Pomeranzi to the revision of our reporting guidelines.

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, as well as improvements to our follow-up working methods.

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 under the able guidance of its chair, Patricia Schulz, we were able to adopt three final decisions. We also made progress in relation to the confidential inquiry procedure by approving the amendments to the standard operating procedures on inquiries and the guidance note on the structure of inquiry reports proposed by the Working Group on Inquiries. I thank the Working Group and its Chair, Hilary Gbedemah, for the high quality work.

During the session, we again had interesting exchanges such as our video conference with the Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, as well as our informal meeting with WHO officials on substantive and policy issues in relation to women's health, generously hosted by the Permanent Representative of Lithuania, Ambassador Krivas.

I have very fond memories of the dinner we had in honour of our dear friend the late Oby Nwankwo together with her admirable family.

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. I also wish to acknowledge the active participation of country task force members in the constructive dialogues with States parties, including our new colleague Esther Eghobamien who successfully went through a crash course at this session.

Lastly, I thank all our colleagues from the Secretariat who again provided excellent support to us, with the help from our intern Aaqib: Anganile, Orlagh, Daniela, Marko, Helen, Miki, Youssef, Chanmi, Irene, Orest and Jakob, whom I wish all the best in his new functions which I understand are temporary for the time being.

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 summer, and look forward to seeing you in Geneva in October for our seventy-first session.

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