

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2014/III/CRP

**Report of the Committee on the
Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Fifty-ninth session
(20 October – 7 November 2014)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 59/1

Joint general recommendation/general comment No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices

On 3 November 2014, the Committee adopted joint general recommendation/general comment No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices, by consensus (see <http://goo.gl/YGNp6I>).

Decision 59/2

General recommendation No. 32 of the Committee on gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women

On 5 November 2014, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 32 on gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women, by consensus (see <http://goo.gl/j886PB>).

Decision 59/3

Application of Addis Ababa guidelines

On 5 November 2014, the Committee decided to systematically apply the Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (“the Addis Ababa guidelines”), which form integral part of the Committee’s rules of procedure (see decision 54/VIII), as from 1 January 2015.

Decision 59/4

Preparation of lists of issues prior to reporting

On 7 November 2014, the Committee decided to entrust its pre-sessional working group, to be convened after each regular session, with the preparation of draft lists of issues prior to reporting under the simplified reporting procedure (see decision 58/II), to be approved, in the pilot phase, by the Committee at its respective next regular session, and to limit the number of questions in those lists of issues to a maximum of 25 questions. In addition to the criteria stipulated in decision 58/II, the Committee decided that, in the pilot phase, the simplified reporting procedure will only be offered to States parties whose periodic reports (not initial reports or initial reports that are combined with periodic reports) are overdue, and that the number of lists of issues prior to reporting to be adopted per year may be limited during the pilot phase based on resource constraints faced by the Committee and its Secretariat.

Decision 59/5

Official languages of the Committee

On 7 November 2014, the Committee decided to amend rule 24 of its rules of procedure as follows, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014 (para. 30): “English, French and Spanish shall be the official working languages of the Committee. In addition, on an exceptional basis, a fourth official language shall be included to facilitate communication among the members, which shall be subject to review every two years following the election of members of the Committee, based on the composition of the Committee.” The Committee decided during the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016, Arabic shall be its fourth official language.

Decision 59/6

Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol

On 5 November 2014, the Committee decided to establish, on a pilot basis, a Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol, which shall consist of no more than five members of the Committee and shall reflect equitable geographical representation. It also decided that the Working Group shall replace the Committee’s Task Force on Inquiries and shall meet for six days per year, within existing resources and through the reallocation of existing meeting time and interpretation entitlements (for 1.5 days), to be convened prior to its regular sessions, to examine information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol. The Committee decided to review this decision after two years. It further decided that the first session of the Working Group on Inquiries shall be convened from 1 to 3 July 2015 in Geneva.

Decision 59/7

Publication of the report of an inquiry

On 7 November 2014, the Committee decided to make public and publish on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the full report of an inquiry setting out the Committee’s findings, comments and recommendations upon completion of all proceedings related to the conduct of the inquiry as well as the expiry of the time limit pursuant to article 8, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol. (Annex 1)

Decision 59/8

Sessions of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol

The Committee decided that the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol shall meet immediately prior to the regular sessions of the Committee, including when new members of the Working Group are appointed at the regular session concerned (thereby amending decision 46/I). Accordingly, it decided that the thirty-first session of the Working Group shall take place from 12 to 13 February 2015 in Geneva.

Decision 59/9

Appointment of rapporteur on follow-up and alternate rapporteur

The Committee decided to appoint Xiaoqiao Zou as rapporteur on follow-up and Hilary Gbedemah as alternate rapporteur, both for a period of two years from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016.

Decision 59/10

Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee also confirmed the members of the pre-session working group for the sixty-first session, i.e., Violeta Neubauer, Theodora Oby Nwankwo, Maria-Helena Pires and Patricia Schulz.¹

Decision 59/11

Ways and means for mobilizing extra-budgetary resources

The Committee decided to entrust Nicole Ameline to explore ways and means for mobilizing extra-budgetary financial resources to support the activities of the Committee and to discuss such modalities at its sixtieth session.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

A. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the Optional Protocol

On 7 November 2014, the closing date of the fifty-ninth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 188 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/180 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980. In accordance with its article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. In addition, 69 Contracting States had accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, concerning the Committee's meeting time. 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.

As at the same date, there were 105 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/4 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 10 December 1999. In accordance with its article 16, the Optional Protocol entered into force on 22 December 2000.

The updated status of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and its Optional Protocol, including lists of States signatories and parties as well as the texts of declarations, reservations, objections and other relevant information can be found in the United Nations Treaty Collection on the Internet at <http://treaties.un.org>, maintained by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, which discharges the depositary functions of the Secretary-General.

B. Opening of the session

The Committee held its fifty-ninth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 20 October to 7 November 2014. The Committee held 19 plenary meetings, and also held 11 meetings to discuss agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex [...] to the present report.

¹ Barbara Bailey had been designated as member of but was unable to attend the pre-session working group for the sixty-first session.

The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Nicole Ameline, at its 1245th meeting on 20 October 2014.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/59/1) at its 1245th meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/59/1), which met from 3 to 7 March 2014, was introduced by Pramila Patten at the 1245th meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 20 and 27 October, the Committee held closed meetings with representatives of specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, during which country-specific information was provided, as well as information on the efforts made by those bodies to support the implementation of the Convention.

Also on 20 and 27 October 2014, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions who provided information on the implementation of the Convention in the States parties considered by the Committee at its fifty-ninth session.

On 20 October 2014, the Committee was briefed by the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Sara Cook, on critical research on social development, gender and women's rights.

On 3 November 2014, Ms. Patten briefed the Committee on the meeting of the High-Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), held in New York from 27 to 31 October 2014.

Also on 3 November, the Committee was briefed by the Chief of the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, OHCHR, on relevant recent developments in the Human Rights Council, developments regarding Beijing +20, the review of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and activities of OHCHR on women's rights.

On 6 November 2014, the Committee attended a reception hosted by the City of Geneva to mark the centrality of the Convention for the "Quinzaine de l'égalité" cultural festival in Geneva from 10 to 25 November 2014.

On 7 November 2014, the Committee held an informal meeting with representatives of the Inter-Agency Group on CEDAW Reporting (UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO and UN-Women), including via video link to New York and Rome.

F. Membership of the Committee

Filling of casual vacancies

Noor Al-Jehani resigned from the Committee on 18 August 2014. On 2 September 2014, the Secretary General requested the Government of Qatar to appoint, within a period of two months, another expert from among its nationals to serve for the remainder of Ms. Al-Jehani's term. On 30 October 2014, the Government of Qatar informed the Committee of its decision to appoint Bakhita Mohammed Al-Dosari to serve as a member of the Committee for the remainder of the term of Ms. Al-Jehani, i.e. until 31 December 2016. On 4 November 2014, the Committee decided to approve

the appointment of Ms. Al-Dosari, in accordance with article 17, paragraph 7, of the Convention.

On 17 September 2014, the Government of Algeria informed the Committee of the passing, on 6 September 2014, of Kheira Mahdjoub-Ouiguini, who had been elected as a member of the Committee on 26 June 2014, for a mandate to begin on 1 January 2015 and to expire on 31 December 2018. On 18 September 2014, the Chairperson, Nicole Ameline, extended the Committee's condolences to the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the United Nations Office at Geneva. On 25 September 2014, the Secretary-General requested the Government of Algeria to appoint, within a period of two months, another expert from among its nationals to fill the casual vacancy that had occurred through the death of Ms. Mahdjoub-Ouiguini. On 4 November 2014, the Government of Algeria informed the Committee of its decision to appoint Louisa Oussedik-Chalal to serve as a member of the Committee for the term of the late Ms. Mahdjoub-Ouiguini. On 6 November 2014, the Committee decided to approve the appointment of Ms. Oussedik-Chalal, in accordance with article 17, paragraph 7, of the Convention.

Attendance of the fifty-ninth session

All members attended the fifty-ninth session, with the exception of Barbara Bailey. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Feride Acar, on 20 October and 6 and 7 November 2014; Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani, from 20 to 27 October 2014; Niklas Bruun, on 21 and 22 October and from 5 to 7 November 2014; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, from 27 to 31 October and on 7 November 2014; Ismat Jahan, on 20 October 2014; Pramila Patten, from 27 to 31 October 2014; Biancamaria Pomeranzi, from 20 to 24 October 2014; and Dubravka Simonovic, from 20 to 22 October 2014. A list of members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is annexed to the present report.

Chapter III

Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Committee

At the 1245th meeting, the Chairperson, Nicole Ameline, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the fifty-eighth session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

A. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

At its fifty-ninth session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the seventh periodic report of Belgium; the combined initial and second periodic reports of Brunei Darussalam; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of China; the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Ghana; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Guinea; the combined seventh and eighth periodic report of Poland; the combined initial to third periodic reports of Solomon Islands; and the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Venezuela.

The Committee prepared concluding observations on each of the reports considered. Those observations are available through the Official

Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol numbers indicated below:

Belgium (CEDAW/C/BEL/CO/7)

Brunei Darussalam (CEDAW/C/BRN/CO/1-2)

China (CEDAW/C/CHN/CO/7-8)

Ghana (CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7)

Guinea (CEDAW/C/GIN/CO/7-8)

Poland (CEDAW/C/POL/CO/7-8)

Solomon Islands (CEDAW/C/SLB/CO/1-3)

Venezuela (CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8)

It is noted that the consideration of Solomon Islands in the absence of a report had originally been scheduled for the fifty-fourth session. However, Solomon Islands submitted its combined initial to third periodic reports on 30 January 2013, and the consideration was subsequently postponed to the fifty-ninth session to allow for the translation of the report as well as the establishment of an updated list of issues at the pre-session working group.

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

The Committee considered the follow-up reports from the following States parties:

- 1) Brazil (CEDAW/C/BRA/CO/7/Add.1)
- 2) Costa Rica (CEDAW/C/CRI/CO/5-6/Add.1)
- 3) Kenya (CEDAW/C/KEN/CO/7/Add.1)
- 4) Montenegro (CEDAW/C/MNE/CO/1/Add.1)
- 5) Norway (CEDAW/C/NOR/CO/8/Add.1)

The Committee sent first reminders to the following States parties whose follow-up reports were overdue:

- 1) Guyana
- 2) Indonesia
- 3) Jamaica
- 4) Mexico
- 5) Samoa

The Committee sent second reminders to the following States parties whose follow-up reports were overdue:

- 1) Chad
- 2) Côte d'Ivoire
- 3) Kuwait
- 4) Oman

The alternate rapporteur on follow-up met with a representative of South Africa, as the State party's follow-up report was overdue.

Appointment of new rapporteur on follow-up and alternate rapporteur

The term of Ms. Bailey as rapporteur on follow-up and that of Ms. Zou as alternate rapporteur will end on 31 December 2014. The Committee therefore decided to appoint Xiaoqiao Zou as rapporteur on follow-up and Hilary

Gbedemah as alternate rapporteur, both for a period of two years from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016.

Chapter V

Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provides that the Committee shall include in its annual report under article 21 of the Convention a summary of its activities under the Optional Protocol.

A. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 2 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 27 October and 3 November 2014. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its thirtieth session.

The Committee adopted final decisions with regard to three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol, and it declared one communication admissible. Once finalized, the texts of the inadmissibility decisions will be available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>).

B. Follow-up to views of the Committee on individual communications

No follow-up progress report was prepared during the reporting period, but the Committee was informed that the Working Group, during its 30th session, had discussed the follow-up situation in each case where the follow-up dialogue is on-going and that it had agreed on the action to be taken. The Committee decided to suspend the follow-up dialogue finding a non-satisfactory implementation of the Committee's recommendations with regard to its views on two communications, one against the Philippines (No. 18/2008) and another one against Belarus (No. 23/2009). It decided that all further follow-up discussions regarding these two cases will take place in the framework of the Committee's reporting procedure. The Committee decided that in the remaining cases under follow-up examination, the follow-up dialogue is ongoing (see annex 4 to the present report, at para. 9). Of the 10 cases that are currently under follow-up examination, 1 relates to Brazil, 3 to Bulgaria, 1 to Canada, 1 to the Netherlands, 1 to Peru, 1 to the Philippines, 1 to Spain and 1 to Turkey. The Committee also decided that a meeting with the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations Office at Geneva shall be arranged during the Committee's sixtieth session.

C. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 8 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee was briefed on the status of all pending submissions and proceedings under the inquiry procedure.

On 26 October 2014, the Committee held an informal retreat to discuss its working methods related to the inquiry procedure, including the issue of confidentiality of the inquiry procedure and the allocation of adequate meeting time and resources for its work under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

In relation to inquiry No. 2010/1, the Committee decided to defer its decision on the publication of the report of the inquiry to its sixtieth session.

In relation to submission No. 2011/2, the Committee decided to defer its decision on whether or not to conduct an inquiry until it has re-assessed the observations submitted by the State party concerned with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

In relation to submission No. 2011/3, the Committee decided to defer until its sixtieth session its decision on whether or not to request the State party concerned to submit observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

In relation to submission No. 2011/4, the Committee decided to defer its decision on whether or not to request the State party to submit observations with regard to the information concerned until the Committee has received additional information from other sources of information.

In relation to submission No. 2012/1, the Committee decided to request additional information from the State party and from other sources of information on the magnitude of the alleged violations in other parts of the State party.

In relation to submission No. 2013/1, the Committee decided to conduct an inquiry and to transmit its decision to the State party.

In relation to submission No. 2013/2, the Committee decided to request the State party concerned to submit, within two months, observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

In relation to submissions Nos. 2014/1 and 2014/2, the Committee in each case decided to extend by two months the time limit for the State party concerned to submit observations with regard to the information received by the Committee under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

In relation to submission No. 2014/3, the Committee decided to defer its decision on whether or not to request the State party to submit observations with regard to the information concerned until the Committee has received additional information from other sources of information.

Chapter VI

A. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the status of submission of overdue reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

On 20 October 2014, the Chairperson, Nicole Ameline, briefed the Committee about her presentation of the report of the Committee on its 55th, 56th and 57th sessions to the Third Committee of the General Assembly in New York on 13 October 2014.

On 6 November 2014, the Committee held an informal meeting with the States parties to the Convention which was attended by 65 States parties. The Committee briefed the States parties on the implementation of the Convention and the Optional Protocol in the context of the outcome of the treaty body strengthening process (see General Assembly resolution 68/268). Several States parties welcomed the adoption by the Committee of the simplified reporting procedure; some expressed the wish to avail themselves of the procedure for the submission of their periodic reports. Among the other issues discussed were the integration of women's rights in the post-2015 development agenda and the Committee's work on violence against women.

B. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 7

Dates of future sessions of the Committee

In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates are confirmed for the Committee's sixtieth and sixty-first sessions:

Sixtieth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-first session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 12 to 13 February 2015 (tbc)

Sixtieth session: 16 February to 6 March 2015

Pre-session working group for the sixty-second session: 9 to 13 March 2015

Sixty-first Session (Geneva)

Thirty-second session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 30 June to 3 July 2015 (tbc)

First session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 1 to 3 July 2015 (tbc)

Sixty-first session: 6 to 24 July 2015 (tbc)

Pre-session working group for the sixty-third session: 27 to 31 July 2015

Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee

The Committee confirmed that it will consider the reports of the following States parties at its sixtieth and sixty-first sessions:

Sixtieth session:

- 1) Azerbaijan
- 2) Denmark
- 3) Ecuador
- 4) Eritrea
- 5) Gabon
- 6) Kyrgyzstan
- 7) Maldives
- 8) Tuvalu

Sixty-first session:

- 1) Bolivia
- 2) Croatia
- 3) Gambia
- 4) Namibia
- 5) Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- 6) Senegal
- 7) Spain
- 8) Vietnam

It is noted that the consideration of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the absence of a report had originally been scheduled for the fifty-sixth session. However, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines submitted its combined fourth to eighth periodic reports on 5 August 2013, and the consideration was subsequently postponed to the sixty-first session to allow for the translation

of the report as well as the establishment of an updated list of issues at the pre-session working group.

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

Working Group on harmful practices

The working group met during the session.

On 3 November 2014, the Committee adopted joint general recommendation/general comment No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices by consensus,² in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Committee. The text of the joint general recommendation is available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol number CEDAW/C/GC/31/CRC/C/GC/18.

Working Group on gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women

The working group met during the session.

On 5 November 2014, the Committee adopted general recommendation No. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women by consensus,³ in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Committee. The text of the general recommendation is available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol number CEDAW/C/GC/32.

Working Group on women and access to justice

The working group met during the session and finalized the draft general recommendation on women's access to justice.

On 7 November 2014, the Committee completed its first reading of the draft general recommendation. It decided that all members should provide their comments on the draft general recommendation to the chair of the working group, Ms. Pimentel, by 20 December 2014.

Working Group on rural women

The working group met during the session.

² The following members were present during the adoption: Feride Acar, Nicole Ameline, Olinda Bareiro Bobadilla, Feride Acar, Nicole Ameline, Olinda Bareiro-Bobadilla, Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani, Niklas Bruun, Náela Gabr, Hilary Gbedemah, Nahla Haidar, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Yoko Hayashi, Ismat Jahan, Dalia Leinarte, Violeta Neubauer, Theodora Nwankwo, Pramila Patten, Silvia Pimentel, Maria Helena Pires, Biancamaria Pomeranzi, Patricia Schulz, Dubravka Šimonović and Xiaoqiao Zou.

³ The following members were present during the adoption: Feride Acar, Nicole Ameline, Olinda Bareiro-Bobadilla, Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani, Náela Gabr, Hilary Gbedemah, Nahla Haidar, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Yoko Hayashi, Ismat Jahan, Dalia Leinarte, Violeta Neubauer, Theodora Nwankwo, Pramila Patten, Silvia Pimentel, Maria Helena Pires, Biancamaria Pomeranzi, Patricia Schulz, Dubravka Šimonović and Xiaoqiao Zou.

Working Group on gender equality in the context of climate change and natural disasters

The working group met during the session. The working group was expanded to include Feride Acar. The Committee endorsed the proposal of the working group to organize a side event at the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group did not meet during the session.

Working Group on working methods

The working group met during the session and considered and submitted draft decisions to the Committee on the practical modalities for the application of the simplified reporting procedure, the working languages of the Committee, the establishment of a Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol and the application of the Addis Ababa guidelines.

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union met during the session.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session

The Committee considered the draft provisional agenda for its sixtieth session on 7 November 2014 and approved the following provisional agenda for that session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Follow-up to concluding observations of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Implementation of articles 21 and 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
8. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
9. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixtieth session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its fifty-ninth session and addenda on 7 November 2014 and adopted it as orally revised during the discussion.

[Annexes will be added to the final version of the text]

B. Composition of the working groups of the Committee

[To be added to the final version of the report]

Annexes

Annex 1

Decision of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the publication of the report of an inquiry

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee),

Bearing in mind its mandate under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the Optional Protocol);

Recalling the powers conferred on the Committee under article 8, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol to designate one or more of its members to conduct an inquiry when it receives information indicating grave or systematic violations by a State party of rights under the Convention;

Recalling further that in pursuance of its powers under article 8, paragraph 2, where it is warranted and with the consent of the State party, the inquiry may include a visit to a State party's territory;

Noting that, pursuant to article 8, paragraph 5, of the Optional Protocol, an inquiry shall be conducted confidentially and that the cooperation of the State party shall be sought at all stages of the proceedings;

Recalling that pursuant to article 9 of the Optional Protocol, the Committee may invite the State party concerned to include in its report under article 18 of the Convention details of any measures taken in response to an inquiry conducted under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

Recalling further that pursuant to article 13 of the Optional Protocol, States parties undertake to facilitate access to information about the views and recommendations of the Committee under the Optional Protocol;

Considering that once all proceedings relating to the conduct of an inquiry under article 8 of the Optional Protocol have been completed and after the expiry of the time limit pursuant to article 8, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol, no provision in the Optional Protocol precludes the Committee from publishing its full report of an inquiry setting out its findings, comments and recommendations;

Decides:

1. To make public, and to publish on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the full report of an inquiry setting out the Committee's findings, comments and recommendations, upon completion of all proceedings related to the conduct of the inquiry and after the expiry of the time limit pursuant to article 8, paragraph 4, of the Optional Protocol; and
2. To request the Secretary-General to transmit this decision to the States parties to the Convention.

7 November 2014
