

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

45th session (18 January - 5 February 2010) and

Pre-session working group for the 47th session (8 - 12 February 2010)

Venue: Palais des Nations, Geneva (room XVI)

Consideration of reports at the forthcoming session

1. The Committee will examine the reports of the following eight States parties during its 45th session: **Botswana, Egypt, Malawi, Netherlands, Panama, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates and Ukraine**. The reports of the eight States parties to be considered at the 45th session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2010/45/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws45.htm> The session will take place at Palais des Nations in Geneva, room XVI.

CEDAW Committee members

2. CEDAW consists of 23 members, serving in their personal capacity. For details about the CEDAW members, see: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/membership.htm>

Decisions of the Committee

3. Since its early sessions, the Committee has invited NGOs to follow its work as is reflected in its rules of procedure. To ensure that it is well informed, the Committee welcomes NGO representatives to provide country-specific information on States parties under consideration. The pre-session working group (PSWG), which prepares Lists of Issues for reports to be considered at future sessions also welcomes NGO information. The Committee encourages international NGOs and UN organizations, funds and programmes to facilitate attendance at Committee sessions by representatives of national NGOs.

Meeting between CEDAW and NGOs

4. The Committee's will have a meeting with non-governmental organizations to discuss their interactions with the Committee at the 45th session, on Tuesday 19 January 2009 between 3 to 5pm.

Procedure for sending NGO reports to the Committee for its session or pre-sessions

5. The Committee welcomes reports including country-specific information from NGOs. OHCHR posts these documents on its website, under the relevant CEDAW session. All submissions to CEDAW should:

- (i) Identity the full name of the NGO;
- (ii) Indicate the country to which the information relates; and
- (iii) Be sent electronically in pdf format (not Word) and thereafter in 30 copies by post (for the session or 10 copies for PSWG). **All submissions should arrive by 18 December 2009.** Email: cedaw@ohchr.org Postal address: CEDAW secretariat, UNOG-OHCHR, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

6. OHCHR makes available reports received from NGOs to Committee members at the beginning of the session and of the PSWG. However, due to the high volume of information received from NGOs and others, OHCHR does not photocopy reports received from NGOs. NGOs that are unable to attend the session or PSWG in person are urged to ensure that the requisite number of hard copies of their reports reach OHCHR in time for the respective session, i.e. by 18 December 2009.

7. NGOs can also email their reports to an international NGO that has made arrangements with the CEDAW secretariat for submission of NGO alternative reports to the Committee: IWRAW Asia Pacific, 80-B, Jalan Bangsar, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel: +60 322 822 255, fax: +60 322 832 552, email: iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org or iwraw_ap@yahoo.com

Details of the PSWG

8. The PSWG for the 47th session will take place on 8 to 12 February 2010, in Geneva. NGOs are encouraged to submit their country specific information to the PSWG that prepares the list of issues and questions for each reporting State scheduled *two sessions ahead*.

Framework for NGO oral presentations (45th session or PSWG)

9. The Committee has set aside time at its 45th session for NGOs to provide **oral** information as part of its session, as follows: **Monday 18 Jan. 2010. 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.:** Uzbekistan, Ukraine and Malawi; **Monday 25 Jan. 2010, 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.:** UAE, Netherlands, Egypt, Botswana and Panama

10. Oral interventions by NGOs must be concise. On average, not more than 10 minutes overall are allocated for all NGOs wishing to intervene on one particular country. Efforts to share the available time amongst the NGOs wishing to speak on a country are encouraged and appreciated. NGOs making oral interventions should bring 35 copies and send their presentation to: cedaw@ohchr.org

11. The **PSWG** also provides an opportunity for NGOs to address it on **Monday 8 February 2010** for all the countries to be taken up at the 47th session.

Accreditation procedure

12. NGO representatives who wish to address the Committee at its 45th session or its PSWG must:

- i) Request to be placed on the list of accredited by the secretariat by **submitting the full NGO, name(s) of their representatives, and the proposed dates of attendance to cedaw@ohchr.org no later than 11 January 2010 (for the session) and 1 February 2010 (for the PSWG)** so that arrangements can be made for the issuance of United Nations ground passes to enter the UN premises. Please use Annexed form for this purpose.
- ii) To receive the ground pass, all applicants are required to bring a valid national passport or government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or state non-driver's ID bearing a photograph, and appear in person at Pass and Identification Unit, Security and Safety Section, Pregny Gate, United Nations Office at Geneva, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.
- iii) Please note that NGOs must bring their passports (or government issued photo ID) at every time they wish to enter the UN premises.

Please note that OHCHR will not send letters of invitation to NGOs to attend CEDAW sessions and that OHCHR is unable to assist with travel or accommodation costs relating to the participation.

Side events

13. NGOs have access to a separate room for briefing sessions and must contact the secretariat to arrange separate briefing time or arrange side events for members of the Committee by emailing cedaw@ohchr.org by 18 December 2009 indicating the focus of the side event. The secretariat will inform you if it is possible to accommodate the requests in light of all requests received.

CEDAW concluding observations

14. During its sessions the CEDAW Committee considers reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following such consideration, the Committee formulates concluding observations that assist the State under review in the further implementation of the Convention, available at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws45.htm>

Future sessions

15. The 46th session will meet on 12 – 30 July 2010 in New York and is scheduled to consider reports from the following ten States parties: **Albania, Argentina, Australia, Central African Republic*, Fiji, Grenada*, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Seychelles* and Turkey.**

16. The 47th session will meet on 4 – 22 October 2010 in Geneva and is scheduled to consider reports of the following seven States parties: **Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Chad*, Comoros*, Czech Republic, Lesotho*, Malta, Tunisia and Uganda.** The PSWG for the 47th session tasked with preparing the lists of issues and questions for these States parties will meet from 8 – 12 February 2010 in Geneva. (see above).

* The Committee will consider the implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report from these countries.