

CLOSING REMARKS
by
Ms. Silvia Pimentel

***Forty-ninth session of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women***

Dear Colleagues,

We have thus come to the end of the forty-ninth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It is customary for the Committee's Chairperson to sum up the work completed and offer some reflections on our proceedings.

Let me start from the beginning of this session and assess our results. We considered the reports of eight States parties. We held informal meetings with the entities of the United Nations system, non governmental organizations and a national human rights institution. We also attended several lunchtime briefings organized by non governmental organizations. The Committee was pleased by the high level of attendance of NGOs, both international and national, which once again made a significant contribution to the work of the Committee.

The Committee also is thankful to those UN entities which provided us with detailed information, and I encourage both the UN entities and NGOs to deepen their advocacy for the promotion and protection of women's human rights and the implementation of the Convention.

During this session, we had a very high-level and successful general discussion on the human rights of women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, which was attended by nearly 300 people. The meeting was extremely well-organized and I want to thank the Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Pramilla Patten for her efforts in this regard, UN Women and our Secretariat.

We also held fruitful meetings with Ms. Rashida Manjoo, the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and we were very pleased and honoured to also have met with the Secretary-General.

In addition, the Working Group on Working Methods made an excellent start in setting-out priorities to rationalize and strengthen the Committee's procedures

and practices. Improvements were already witnessed at this session in terms of time-management. This will be a very important tool to assist the Committee in managing its heavy workload.

The Committee reviewed cases and took decision relating to complaints under our Optional Protocol and also adopted the report of the Rapporteur on follow-up. In this regard, the Committee considered follow-up information provided by States with respect to the implementation of the Convention. Upon recommendation of the Working Group, the Committee considered the reports before it and in all cases decided that such reports were partially implemented.

Dear Colleagues,

May I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and congratulation to the States parties that engaged in the excellent constructive dialogues with the Committee. Many of the States sent high level delegations which were headed by Ministers or senior Government officials. This allowed us to examine in great detail the current status of implementation of the Convention in the respective countries. We identified gaps and challenges and in all instances Committee experts together with representatives sought to identify strategies for further action and to find solutions to the challenges of persistent discrimination. These dialogues confirmed the importance of regular and timely reporting and consideration so as to ensure a consistent monitoring of progress. In all cases, we recommended that the Convention form the basis for the States parties' efforts aimed at achieving gender equality.

Before I conclude, may take this opportunity to sincerely thank all experts for the hard work accomplished during the past three weeks, in particular the country rapporteurs who have greatly contributed to our discussions during the dialogues with the representatives of the States parties. I am also grateful to my colleagues in the Bureau for their wise counsel and advise on the many issues that we have tackled. I hope that with our joint efforts, and with the support of the Secretariat, we are providing States parties clear guidance on the implementation of the Convention in order to make a difference in the lives of many women and girls that are victims of discrimination.

I would also like to extend the Committee's appreciation to our Secretariat, Ms. Wan-Hea Lee, Mr. Bradford Smith, Ms. Astrid Abecassis, Ms. Janna Iskakova, Ms. Georgina Mendoza Solario, Mr. Jakob Schneider, Ms. Gaynel Curry, and Ms. Tilde Berggren. I would additionally like to thank CEDAW's very capable

Assistant, Ms. Irene del Pilar Sandoval and the three assistants, Ms. Christina Lord, Ms. Christine Schneeberger, and Ms. Amy Staporoli. On behalf of the Committee, we thank you for your dedication, efficiency and hard work. We would also like to thank the interpreters, précis-summary-writers, conference officers and all those who made this session successful.

I wish you all a safe journey home and I look forward to seeing you in Geneva at the fiftieth session.

Thank you very much.
