[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women
Seventy-fourth session
(21 October – 8 November 2019)

 Annex 2

 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 fourteenth 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 fourteenth session on 17 and 18 October 2019 in Geneva. All five members attended the session (Gunnar Bergby, Marion Bethel (Chair), Rosario Manalo, Lia Nadaraia and Aicha Vall Verges (Vice-Chair)).

2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda.

3. The Working Group was briefed by Orest Nowosad, 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. The Working Group reiterated its serious concern at the lack of human and financial resources to fully undertake its mandate in relation to the inquiry procedure. The Working Group was also briefed by another staff member of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on recent developments in relation to the subject matter of inquiry No. 2012/1.

4. The Working Group was informed:

(a) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/3, that on 4 September 2019, the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned, referring to the upcoming national and parliamentary elections, had informed the Secretariat about the need to re-schedule the visit to the territory of the State party for early in 2020;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, that the designated members, Ms. Eghobamien and Ms. Gbedemah, had conducted a visit to the territory of the State party concerned from 9 to 20 September 2019;

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2019/1, that the sources of information had informed the Secretariat that the requested additional information will be submitted to the Working Group by the end of November 2019;

(d) In relation to inquiry 2014/1, that on 25 September 2019, the Kyrgyz Republic had submitted information on the measures it had taken in response to the recommendations contained in the report of the inquiry;

(e) In relation to inquiry 2011/2, that on 23 September 2019, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had submitted information on the measures it had taken in response to the recommendations contained in the report of the inquiry.

5. The Working Group continued to discuss 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.

6. The Working Group further discussed matters in relation to inquiries Nos. 2019/1; 2017/3; 2016/1; 2014/2; 2014/3; 2011/4; 2013/1; 2011/2 (United Kingdom); 2014/1 (Kyrgyzstan) and 2012/1.

 Action taken at the Fourteenth session

7. The Working Group decided:

(a) In relation to inquiry No. 2016/1, to request the designated members to meet with the Permanent Representative of the State party concerned during the seventy-fourth session of the Committee in order to agree on the dates for a visit to the territory of the State party in March or April 2020;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. 2012/1, to prioritise a visit to the territory of the State party concerned in 2021 in light of the briefing and information received from staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on recent developments in respect of the subject matter of this inquiry;

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/, to request the designated members to meet with the Permanent Representative of the State party concerned during the seventy-fourth session of the Committee in order to prepare for a visit to the territory of the State party in 2021 or, in case that other inquiry visits are prioritised, at a later date;

(d) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/2, that a Note verbale should be sent proposing a period for the visit to the territory of the State party concerned in 2021 or, in case that other inquiry visits are prioritised, at a later date;

(e) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1 concerning Kyrgyzstan, that the assessment of the follow-up information from the State party be finalised at the fifteenth session of the Working Group.

(f) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, that the assessment of the follow-up information from the State party be finalised during the fifteenth session of the Working Group.

 8. The Working Group decided to hold its fifteenth session on 6 and 7 February 2020 in Geneva.