

CLOSING REMARKS

by

Ms. Barbara Bailey

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

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the sixtieth 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. The Chair, Ms. Hayashi, has asked me to deliver this statement on her behalf.

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 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and also attended several lunchtime briefings organized by non-governmental organizations. The Committee was pleased by the high level of attendance of local NGOs which 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) which coordinates the submission of country-specific information by UN country teams. I am pleased to note that UN-Women is again actively engaging with the Committee through its new representative in Geneva. I also wish to thank the UN country teams that have contributed their reports through the Inter-Agency Group or even came to attend the session, as well as UNHCR, ILO and IPU.

We also met with the High Commissioner, whose assurance of his support for our quest to promote and protect women's equal rights was encouraging.

I am satisfied with the progress we have achieved in implementing General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening, in particular our decisions on the guidance note for States parties, the framework for concluding observations and on allegations of reprisals. I am also satisfied that we identified

5 States parties to which we will apply the simplified reporting procedure on a pilot basis at their specific request. In that regard, I would like to thank the working group on working methods and in particular the chair of the working group, Patricia Schulz, for the progress made.

One big step forward during this session was our full first reading of General Recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice. I am sure that with Silvia Pimentel's enthusiasm and the support of other members of the working group it will be possible to adopt the GR at our next session.

Similarly, I wish to thank Pramila Patten and the working group on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict presentation for having prepared our important contribution to the Global Study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

I wish to acknowledge the good progress we have made by adopting three decisions on individual communications thanks also to the preparatory work of the interim Working Group on Communications, which has been reconstituted at this session. We made progress in relation to inquiries, including by deciding on the publication of our report of Inquiry No. 2010/1 and of a summary of inquiry No. 2011/1 concerning Canada and another State party, respectively.

I also wish to thank Xiaoqiao Zou and Hilary Gbedemah for their hard work as Rapporteur and alternate Rapporteur on follow-up and for the progress made in relation to follow-up on concluding observations.

During this session, we benefitted from several interesting thematic briefings by NGOs, including the Due Diligence Project, the Women's Refugee Council and Equality Now, as well as the briefing on access to justice for women in prostitution by CREA, SWAN and GNSWP hosted by IWRAW. We again had pleasant social events such as the receptions by the Ambassadors of Japan and Brazil, where new and old Committee members were able to get to know each other better.

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 have greatly contributed to our discussions during the dialogues with the representatives of the States parties. In that regard, I particularly thank

Hilary Gbedemah who took on the burden of acting as country rapporteur for two countries on two consecutive days. I also wish to acknowledge the active participation of country task force members, including new colleagues, in the constructive dialogues with States parties, which again were represented by high-level delegations with relevant expertise.

For the Chair, it was reassuring to be able to count on the support from all of you as well as on the advice of her colleagues on the Bureau. With the excellent statement that we finalized during the session, Ms. Hayashi feels well equipped to represent our Committee at the opening of the Commission on the Status of Women next Monday in New York.

With a heavy heart, I say good-bye to Régine and wish her all the best for her career in Berne. I am hopeful that she will be back with us again one day.

Last but not least, I thank our Secretariat and the interpreters, précis writers, press officers, translators, conference room officers, technicians and all the others who made this session successful.

I wish you a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you again in July for our sixty-first session.

Thank you very much.
