

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Participation by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

**48th session (17 January to 4 February 2011) and
Pre-session for the 50th session (7 to 11 February 2011)
Geneva, Palais des Nations, Salle XVI**

I. Consideration of Reports by State Parties

The Committee will examine the reports of the following seven States parties during its 48th session: **Bangladesh, Belarus, Israel, Liechtenstein, South Africa and Sri Lanka**, with respect to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (the Convention).

II. Documentation

The reports of the seven States parties to be considered at the 48th session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2010/48/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws48.htm>

III. Venue

The 48th session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations in Room XVI. The pre-session working group for the 50th session will also take place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations in Room XVI.

IV. NGO and NHRI Reports

In order to ensure that it is as best informed as is possible, the Committee and the pre-session working group welcome representatives of national and international NGOs and representatives of NHRIs to provide country-specific information on issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention by the State parties under consideration. This can be done orally or in writing. The Committee encourages international NGOs and United Nations agencies, funds, programmes, and specialized agencies to facilitate attendance at Committee and pre-session working group sessions by representatives of national NGOs.

V. Reports for the Session (17 January to 4 February 2011)

- NGOs and NHRIs wishing to submit reports to the Committee are required to:
- Identify the full name of the NGO or NHRI, as appropriate;
 - Indicate the country to which the information relates;

- Indicate whether or not the submission can be posted on the CEDAW website for public information purposes; and
- Submit the report in pdf format (not Word) by e-mail and thereafter submit **30 copies** in hard copy format.

All submissions should arrive two weeks prior to the beginning of the session to the Secretariat of the Committee, i.e., **no later than 5 January 2011**. The pdf version of the report should be sent to the following e-mail address: cedaw@ohchr.org. Hard copy submissions should be mailed to: CEDAW Secretariat, OHCHR - Palais Wilson, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. NGOs and NHRIs not attending a session are urged to ensure that the requisite number of hard copies of their reports/information reach OHCHR in time for the respective session. Due to the large volume of information received from NGOs, NHRIs and other stakeholders, OHCHR does not photocopy reports received from NGOs and NHRIs.

NGOs can also email their reports to IWRAW Asia Pacific, an NGO that has made an arrangement with the Secretariat of the Committee to submit NGO alternative reports received, either electronically and/or in hard copy to the Secretariat. Please contact IWRAW Asia Pacific for further details: 80-B, Jalan Bangsar, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel: +60 322 822 255, fax: +60 322 832 552, or email: iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org or iwraw_ap@yahoo.com.

In regard to the above, it is noted that the Committee has the prerogative to take into account all information submitted to it until the consideration of a report by a State party has been concluded.

VI. Reports for the Pre-Session Working Group (7 to 11 February 2011)

NGOs and NHRIs wishing to submit reports to the pre-session working group should follow the same requirements for submission of reports for the session as indicated above. NGOs and NHRIs should send **10 copies** of their reports two weeks prior to the beginning of the pre-session working group, i.e., **no later than 20 January 2011**. (The pre-session working group prepares lists of issues and questions for the States scheduled to be reviewed two sessions subsequent to the current session.) The pdf version of the report should be sent to the following e-mail address: cedaw@ohchr.org. Hard copy submissions should be mailed to: CEDAW Secretariat, OHCHR - Palais Wilson, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

NGOs can also avail themselves of the support of IWRAW Asia Pacific to submit their alternative reports or information, electronically and/or in hard copy, to the Secretariat. For details and deadlines, please contact IWRAW Asia Pacific.

VII. Informal Meetings with NGOs/NHRIs

The Committee has set aside time at its 48th session for NGOs and NHRIs to provide oral information in respect of countries being considered during the session. These informal meetings are scheduled for **17 and 24 January 2011**.

Oral interventions by NGOs and NHRIs must be concise. On average, not more than 10 minutes are allocated for all NGOs/NHRIs wishing to intervene on one particular country. Efforts to share the available time amongst the NGOs/NHRIs wishing to speak on a country are encouraged and appreciated. NGOs/NHRIs making oral interventions should ensure that they bring **35 copies of their statements** on the morning of the presentation for circulation to the Committee and for interpretation purposes. Prior to the presentation, NGOs/NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statements in pdf format to: cedaw@ohchr.org.

The pre-session working group also provides an opportunity for NGOs and NHRIs to address it. This informal meeting will take place on **7 February 2011** concerning all countries that will be taken up at the 50th session, including Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritius, Montenegro, Oman and Paraguay. The paragraph above relating to the oral interventions by NGOs/NHRIs is applicable to the pre-session working group as well, except that NGOs/NHRIs need only bring **15 copies of their statement** on the morning of the presentation for circulation to the Committee and for interpretation purposes. Prior to the presentation, NGOs/NHRIS are requested to send an electronic version of their statements in pdf format to: cedaw@ohchr.org.

VIII. Accreditation

NGO/NHRI representatives who wish to attend any sessions of the Committee or pre-session working group are required to be duly accredited. In order to obtain accreditation, all NGOs/NHRI representatives must fill-out and submit the "Conference Registration Form". This form must include the full title of their NGO/NHRI, the name of the representative (as the name appears on the national passport), and the proposed dates of attendance. **The form must be submitted by e-mail to cedaw@ohchr.org by 11 January 2011 for the 48th session and the pre-session working group for the 50th session** so that arrangements can be made for the issuance of United Nations ground passes to enter United Nations premises. Representatives who submit forms that are illegible, incomplete or after the deadline may not be accredited.

To receive the ground pass, all applicants, in addition to sending the form by e-mail to cedaw@ohchr.org, are required to bring the signed original of the Conference Registration Form, a valid national passport or government issued photo ID bearing a photograph, and appear in person at United Nations Pass and Identification Unit, located at the Palais des Nations, Pregny Gate, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10. The office hours are 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Mondays through Fridays. Please note that NGO and NHRI representatives must bring their passports (or government issued photo ID) every time they wish to enter UN premises.

Please note that OHCHR will not provide letters of invitation to NGOs/NHRIs to attend CEDAW sessions for the purposes of obtaining visas from the Swiss authorities (except in cases where the NGO/NHRI representative is addressing the Committee). In addition, OHCHR is unable to assist with travel and/or accommodation costs relating thereto.

IX. Side events

NGOs have access to separate rooms for briefing sessions and must contact the Secretariat to arrange for separate briefing times or side events for members of the Committee. Please contact the Secretariat at cedaw@ohchr.org at least four weeks in advance of the session indicating the focus of the side event. The secretariat will inform you if it is possible to accommodate your request in light of all requests received as well as the availability of Committee members.

X. Additional Information

For further information about the treaties bodies in general, specific information on CEDAW and on the participation and role of civil society with respect to human rights instruments, please consult the following links:

- <http://www2.ohchr.org>; and
- <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>.