

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Participation by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

**51st session (13 February to 2 March 2012) and
Pre-session for the 53rd session (5 to 9 March 2012)
Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XVI**

I. Consideration of Reports by States Parties

The Committee will examine the reports of the following seven States parties during its 51st session: **Algeria, Brazil, Grenada, Jordan, Norway, Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe**, 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 51st session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2011/51/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws51.htm>.

III. Venue

The 51st session of the Committee will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in room XVI. The pre-session working group for the 53rd session will also take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in room XVI.

IV. 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 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 and/or in writing. **Due to the volume of documentation received, such reports should not exceed 10 pages, and should highlight priority concerns and make suggested country-specific recommendations to facilitate the work of the Committee**

V. Reports for the Session (13 February to 2 March 2012)

NHRIs wishing to submit reports to the Committee are required to:

- Identify the full name of the NHRI;
- 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 Word and pdf format by e-mail and thereafter submit **35 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 30 January 2012**. The Word and pdf versions 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
52, rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva
Switzerland

Due to the volume of submissions, such reports should not exceed ten pages and should also highlight priority concerns and suggest possible country-specific recommendations to facilitate the work of the Committee. NHRIs are additionally 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 NHRIs and other stakeholders, OHCHR does not photocopy reports received from NHRIs.

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 (5 to 9 March 2012)

The Pre-Session Working Group will prepare list of issues for the following States parties that are scheduled to be considered at the 53rd session: **Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, Togo and Turkmenistan**. 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. NHRIs should send **10 copies** of their reports **no later than 30 January 2012**. (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 Word and pdf versions 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
52, rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva
Switzerland

VII. Meetings with NHRIs

The Committee has set aside time at its 51st session for NHRIs to provide oral information in respect of countries being considered during the session. This meeting is scheduled on 13 February 2012 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in room XVI and is open to the public.

Oral interventions by NHRIs must be concise. On average, not more than 10 minutes are allocated for the NHRIs wishing to intervene on one particular country. NHRIs making oral interventions should ensure that they bring **35 copies of their oral statements** at least 15 minutes in advance of the meeting for circulation to the Committee and for interpretation purposes in addition to any reports. Prior to the presentation, NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statements in Word and pdf format to: cedaw@ohchr.org.

The pre-session working group also provides an opportunity for NHRIs to address the Committee concerning all countries that will be taken up at the 53rd session, namely **Central African Republic, Chile, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, Togo and Turkmenistan**. This meeting will take place on 5 March 2012 from 12:15 to 1 pm in room XVI. The paragraph above relating to the oral interventions by NHRIs is applicable to the pre-session working group as well, except that NHRIs need only bring **15 copies of their oral statement** prior to the meeting for circulation to the working group and for interpretation purposes in addition to any reports. Prior to the presentation, NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statements in Word and pdf format to: cedaw@ohchr.org.

VIII. Registration

NHRI representatives who wish to attend any sessions of the Committee or pre-session working group are required to be duly registered. In order to register, all NHRIs representatives must fill-out and submit the “Conference Registration Form” (<http://goo.gl/I6396>). This form must include the full title of the NHRI; the name and date of birth of the representative; the country of origin of the applicant’s passport or national identity document with date of expiration; telephone number, e-mail and address; occupation; and address in Geneva. **The form, which must be dated, should be submitted by e-mail to cedaw@ohchr.org no later than 30 January 2012** 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 original of the Conference Registration Form, a valid national passport or government issued ID bearing a photograph, and appear in person at United Nations Pass and Identification Unit, located at Pregny Gate, United Nations Office at Geneva, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, Geneva, Switzerland. The office hours are 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday through Friday. Please note that 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 NHRIs to attend CEDAW sessions for the purposes of obtaining visas. However, to help obtaining a visa, the Secretariat can provide, upon request, a general “to whom it may concern” letter specifying that an individual has requested and obtained accreditation to a meeting. Please also note that OHCHR is unable to assist with travel and/or accommodation costs relating thereto.

IX. Additional Information

For further information about the treaty 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>
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