

CLOSING REMARKS

by

Ms. Nicole Ameline

***Fifty-seventh session of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women***

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the fifty-seventh 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.

Let me start from the beginning of this session and assess our results. We considered the reports of seven 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 NGOs, both international and national, as well as of NHRIs, 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, and I encourage UN entities, NGOs and NHRIs to continue intensifying their engagement with the Committee both in providing country-specific information and in promoting the implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

I am pleased with the outcome of the treaty body strengthening process which provides the treaty body system with additional meeting time and resources. I hope that CEDAW will be able to benefit from such additional time and resources on an equal footing with other treaty bodies, as both is needed for the Committee to be able to address its backlog of States parties' reports and also discharge its other mandated activities, including its work on inquiries under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

I am delighted that we were able to adopt our statement on the post-2015 development agenda and the elimination of discrimination against women, which underlines the central role of the CEDAW Convention and our Committee in the post-2015 architecture. We must now contribute to the concrete formulation of

the gender equality goal in the new agenda, and the 58th session of the CSW, which will be held from 10 to 21 March in New York, will provide an excellent opportunity for providing our input.

I would also like to highlight the usefulness of the briefing we received from WHO on the revised technical and policy guidance on safe abortion on 17 February. We were able to build on this briefing, as well as on our joint meeting with the Human Rights Committee on sexual and reproductive rights in October last year, by adopting a statement on the same topic. I am glad that we were able to adopt this statement thanks to the guidance received from our focal points on sexual and reproductive health and rights, Ms. Neubauer, Ms. Nwankwo and Ms. Schulz.

In addition to considering the reports of States parties and adopting concluding observations thereon, the Committee reviewed information received from States parties under the follow-up procedure. It also continued its work under articles 2 and 8 of the Optional Protocol with regard to individual communications and inquiries, respectively. The Committee adopted one inadmissibility decision and two Views finding violations, one in a rape case and the other one in a case concerning discriminatory legislation on maternity benefits. Furthermore, the Committee analyzed and discussed information under article 8 of the Optional Protocol in relation to inquiries and the draft findings and recommendations with regard to Inquiry No. 2011/1. With regard to the latter, I wish to once again thank Ms. Bailey and Mr. Bruun for their tireless work in finalizing the draft which will no doubt greatly facilitate the adoption of the report at our July session.

The Committee continued to discuss the draft general recommendation on gender related dimensions of refugee status, asylum and statelessness and also made progress on other draft general recommendations which were discussed by the respective Working Groups. Ms. Bailey also introduced a concept note on the right to education, which will serve as a basis for our half day of general discussion on the right to education to be held on 7 July this year.

I would also like to thank Ms. Schulz for the hard work and progress made by the Working Group on Working Methods throughout the session, which enabled us to adopt a decision on the review of our rules of procedure.

On behalf of the Committee, I will present our report to the CSW on 10 March this year. As already indicated, I will use this opportunity to continue advocating for a central role of women's rights and gender equality in the post-2015 agenda.

Of course, I will also deliver the other messages contained in my CSW statement that we discussed earlier today and yesterday.

Dear Colleagues,

May I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to the States parties that engaged in excellent constructive dialogues with the Committee, often represented by very high level delegations.

Before I conclude, please allow me to sincerely thank all experts for the hard work accomplished during the past three weeks, especially Ms. Bailey and Ms. Bruun, but also 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 advice on the many issues that we have discussed.

I would like to extend the Committee's appreciation to our Secretariat, including our interns Ling and Piero, for their dedication, efficiency and hard work. Of course, I also would like to thank the interpreters, précis writers, translators, conference room officers, technicians, press officers and all the others who made this session successful.

I wish you all a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you in Geneva in July for our fifty-eighth session.

Thank you very much.
