

**Statement on activities undertaken
between the 56th and 57th sessions of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against
Women**

**Delivered by Ms. Pramila Patten, Vice-Chairperson
On behalf of Ms. Nicole Ameline, Chairperson**

Fifty-seventh session
10 February 2013

**Dear colleagues,
Distinguished representatives of UN entities, specialized agencies and
Inter-governmental as well as non-governmental organizations,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to join the High Commissioner in welcoming you to the 57th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Ms. Al-Jehani and Ms. Ameline are not with us today. Unfortunately, Ms. Al-Jehani will not be able to join us during this session. Ms. Ameline will join us on Thursday, and I will therefore read out her statement on inter-sessional activities on her behalf.

While the ratification status of the Convention and the Optional Protocol has not changed since the beginning of our last session, and no further States parties have accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee, four States parties have submitted their periodic reports, namely Spain, Portugal, Bolivia and Madagascar.

You all know that our request for additional resources in order to relocate one of our annual sessions to New York and to extend the meeting time and membership of our Working Group on Communications did not find sufficient support during the 68th session of the General Assembly. However, I can assure you that our Chair, who is currently in New York to mobilize support for the strengthening of the human rights treaty bodies, is doing her utmost to ensure that CEDAW will continue to be visible in New York and that it will have sufficient meeting time and capacity to be able to properly discharge all of its mandated activities, including inquiries under article 8 of the Optional Protocol.

Still during our last session, on 11 October 2013, the Chair presented our report to the Third Committee of the General Assembly. Among others, she emphasized the importance of including a stand-alone goal on gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda, in addition to a cross-cutting non-discrimination approach covering sex, gender, as well as other prohibited grounds of discrimination. Only last week, on 4 February, the Chair was invited by the Organisation de la Francophonie to a meeting on the post-2015 agenda in New York. The following day, on 5 February, she participated in a panel discussion on “Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women’s empowerment,” and further elaborated on the important role of CEDAW in the post-2015 architecture. The panel was part of the official programme of the eighth and last session of the Open-ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and our Committee had the privilege to be the only treaty body represented at this important meeting. Time has been set aside during our session to discuss and, hopefully, adopt a statement on the post-2015 agenda and the elimination of discrimination against women.

On 21 November last year, the Chair spoke at a conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, on the topic “Gender in Science and Society: Global Policy Implications”. On 29 November, she was a panellist at a colloquium of the French National Assembly on “The empowerment of women as a key tool for development”. On 4 December, the Chair attended the UN Women Stakeholders Forum to prepare the discussions on the priority theme at the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2014, which will focus on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.

The Chairperson promoted the CEDAW Convention and the work of our Committee at a meeting of French women Parliamentarians in Angers on 9 December, within the Network of Francophone Women Parliamentarians in Brussels on 10 December, and at the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the ratification of the Convention by France in Paris on 17 December 2013.

On 31 January and 1 February this year, Ms. Ameline participated in an informal consultation of the Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies hosted by the Dean of the American University School of Law in Washington, D.C., Mr. Claudio Grossmann, who is the Chairperson of the Committee against Torture. At the consultation, the Chairpersons adopted a joint statement to lend support to the treaty body strengthening just in time before the inter-governmental process of the General Assembly was about to enter its very final stage. The joint statement has been circulated to you, and the Chair will brief the Committee on the informal consultation of Chairpersons as well as on the treaty body strengthening process after her return from New York.

Dear colleagues,

I know that since our last session, some of you have been involved in CEDAW-related activities such as conferences, workshops and seminars, both in your capacity as CEDAW members as well as in your personal capacity.

I would kindly ask those Committee members who participated in such events to please fill in the table on inter-sessional activities that will be distributed by the Secretariat and to provide copies of their statements to the Secretariat so that they can be distributed to the Committee during the session.

Before inviting those Committee members who have represented the Committee at official meetings or undertaken work related to the activities of the Committee to shortly brief us, I would like to inform you that I was invited to a lunch briefing cosponsored by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York and by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), which was held in New York on 11 November 2013. At the meeting, I presented General Recommendation No.

30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post conflict situations in my capacity as Chairperson of the Working Group on the GR, highlighting its key elements and synergies with Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security. The Committee was also represented by Ms. Nahla Haidar and Ms. Patricia Schulz at that meeting. On 13 November, Ms. Haidar and I participated in a meeting with UN Women and GNWP to brainstorm on possible ways to implement GR No. 30 and to discuss how UN Women might facilitate this process.

I would be delighted to hear from other Committee members who have participated in meetings and events of relevance to the promotion and protection of women's rights.

Lastly, I would like to remind you again that at this session, our public meetings will again be webcast live at the courtesy of the NGO Coalition on the website www.treatybodywebcast.org. I therefore take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all those who will be our online guests during this session.

Thank you for your attention.
