

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

47th session (4 - 22 October 2010) and

Pre-session for the 49th session (25 to 29 October 2010)

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Salle XVI

States parties

The Committee will examine the reports of the following seven States parties during its 47th session: **Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Chad, Czech Republic, Malta, Tunisia and Uganda.**

CEDAW Committee members

The CEDAW Committee consists of 23 members, serving in their personal capacity. For details about all CEDAW members, see:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/membership.htm>

Decisions of the Committee

Since its early sessions, the Committee has invited NGOs to follow its work and this is reflected in its rules of procedure. In order to ensure that it is as best informed as is possible, the Committee and its pre-session working group, which prepares lists of issues and questions for replies by States parties to be considered at future sessions, welcome representatives of national and international NGOs to provide country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before it. 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.

Documentation

The reports of the seven States parties to be considered at the 47th session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2010/47/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws47.htm>

Venue

The 47th session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais des Nations, Room XVI. The pre-session working group for the 49th session will also take place in Geneva.

NGO reports for the Committee at its sessions

The Committee welcomes reports including country-specific information from NGOs. OHCHR posts these documents on its website, under the relevant CEDAW session.

All submissions to CEDAW should:

1. Identity the full name of the NGO;
2. Indicate the country to which the information relates; and

3. Be sent electronically in pdf format (not Word) and thereafter in 30 copies by post.

All submissions should arrive two weeks prior to the beginning of the session to the secretariat of the Committee:

- **Email of the secretariat:**
cedaw@ohchr.org
- **Postal address of the secretariat:**

CEDAW Secretariat
OHCHR-Palais Wilson
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

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.

OHCHR makes available reports received from NGOs to Committee members at the beginning of the session/pre-session working group. However, due to the large volume of information received from NGOs and other stakeholders, OHCHR does not photocopy reports received from NGOs.

NGOs not attending a session/pre-session working group are urged to ensure that the requisite number of hard copies of their reports/information reach OHCHR in time for the respective session, i.e. at least two weeks in advance.

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
- iwraw_ap@yahoo.com

NGO reports/information for the pre-session working group

NGOs are encouraged to submit their reports or other country-specific information to the pre-session working group that prepares the list of issues and questions for each reporting State scheduled to be reviewed two sessions later. The pre-session working group preparing the list of issues and questions for the 49th session will be held in Geneva immediately after the 47th session, i.e. from 25 to 29 October 2010. NGO representatives attending the pre-session working group should bring 10 copies for distribution at the meeting of the pre-session working group with NGOs. NGOs not attending the pre-session working group should send 10 copies of their submissions two weeks prior to the beginning of the pre-session working group. 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.

NGO attendance at the Committee's 47th session or pre-session working group for the 49th session

The Committee has set aside time at its 47th session for NGOs to provide **oral** information in respect of countries being considered during the session. (For further information, please see the provisional agenda).

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

The pre-session working group also provides an opportunity for NGOs to address it on Monday, 25 October 2010, concerning all countries to be taken up at the 49th session.

Accreditation

NGO representatives who wish to address the Committee or its pre-session working group are requested to submit the full title of their NGO, the names of their representatives, and the proposed dates of attendance to cedaw@ohchr.org no later than one week prior to the beginning of the session or pre-session working group so that arrangements can be made for the issuance of United Nations ground passes to enter United Nations premises. To receive the ground pass, all applicants are required to bring

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 representatives must bring their passports (or government issued photo ID) every time they wish to enter UN premises. Prior to that, NGOs must contact OHCHR to have their representatives placed by the secretariat on the list of accredited persons. This should be done by email to cedaw@ohchr.org. For further information, please consult the following link:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

Please note that OHCHR will not send letters of invitation to NGOs to attend CEDAW sessions and that OHCHR is unable to assist with travel or accommodation costs relating to their participation.

Side events

NGOs have access to separate rooms for briefing sessions and must contact the secretariat to arrange for separate briefing time 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.

CEDAW concluding observations

During its sessions, the Committee considers reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following such consideration, the Committee formulates concluding observations that assist the State party concerned in the further implementation of the Convention. These concluding observations outline positive aspects, principal subjects of concern and the Committee's recommendations on how to address challenges faced by the State party. The reports of States parties, the lists of issues and questions, the concluding observations (once adopted), and other documentation for the sessions can be found at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws47.htm>

States parties will meet from 25 to 29 October 2010 in Geneva (see above).

Future sessions

48th session

The 48th session will take place from 17 January to 4 February in Geneva, where the Committee will consider reports from the following eight States parties: **Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Israel, Kenya, Liechtenstein, South Africa and Sri Lanka.**

49th session

The 49th session will take place in July 2011 in New York to consider reports of the following seven States parties: Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Zambia. The pre-session working group for the 49th session tasked with preparing the lists of issues and questions for these