

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Participation by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

**49th session (11 to 29 July 2011) and
Pre-session for the 51st session (1 to 5 August 2011)
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

I. Consideration of Reports by State Parties

The Committee will examine the reports of the following eight States parties during its 49th session: **Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Zambia**, 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 eight States parties to be considered at the 49th session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2011/49/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws49.htm>.

III. Venue

The 49th session of the Committee will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in room 3 NLB (North Lawn Building). The pre-session working group for the 51st session will also take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in room 10 NLB (second floor).

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.

V. Reports for the Session (11 to 29 July 2011)

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 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 27 June 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:

NHRI Documents for CEDAW Meeting
c/o OHCHR/Gaynel Curry
One United Nations Plaza, Room 511
New York, NY 10017

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 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 (1 to 5 August 2011)

The Pre-Session Working Group will prepare list of questions for the following States parties that are scheduled to be considered at the 51st session: Algeria, Brazil, Comoros, Congo, Grenada, Jordan, Norway and Zimbabwe. 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 two weeks prior to the beginning of the pre-session working group, i.e., **no later than 18 July 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:

NHRI Documents for CEDAW Meeting
c/o OHCHR/Gaynel Curry
One United Nations Plaza, Room 511
New York, NY 10017

VII. Informal Meetings with NHRIs

The Committee has set aside time at its 49th session for NHRIs to provide oral information in respect of countries being considered during the session. This informal meeting is scheduled on 11 July 2011 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm in room 3 NLB.

Oral interventions by NHRIs must be concise. On average, not more than 10 minutes are allocated for all NHRIs wishing to intervene on one particular country. Efforts to share the available time amongst the NHRIs wishing to speak on a country are encouraged and

appreciated. NHRIs making oral interventions should ensure that they bring **35 copies of their oral statements** on the morning of the presentation 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 pdf format to: cedaw@ohchr.org.

The pre-session working group also provides an opportunity for NHRIs to address it concerning all countries that will be taken up at the 51st session, including Algeria, Brazil, Comoros, Congo, Grenada, Jordan, Norway and Zimbabwe. This informal meeting will take place on 1 August 2011 from 10:15 to 11:30 am in room 10 NLB. 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** on the morning of the presentation 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 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 “Application for Ground Pass” (<http://goo.gl/I6396>). This form must include the full title of their NHRI (Section 3 next to “Name of Company”) as well as the corresponding address and telephone number, the name of the representative (as the name appears on the national passport) and other information requested in Section 1. **The form, which must be signed and dated, should be submitted by e-mail to cedaw@ohchr.org no later than 27 June 2011** 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 801 United Nations Plaza at the corner of 1st Avenue and East 45th Street. The office hours are 9.00 am to 4.30 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. In addition, OHCHR is unable to assist with travel and/or accommodation costs relating thereto.

IX. 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>.