

CLOSING REMARKS

by

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***Fiftieth session of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women***

Dear Colleagues,

We have thus come to the end of the fiftieth 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 eight States parties. We held informal meetings with the entities of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations. We 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, which once again made a significant contribution to the work of the Committee.

The Committee also is thankful to those UN entities which provided us with detailed information, and I encourage both the UN entities and NGOs to deepen their advocacy for the promotion and protection of women's human rights and the implementation of the Convention.

The Committee met with the Human Rights Committee and the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation.

In addition, the Working Group on Working Methods continued its work in setting-out priorities to rationalize and strengthen the Committee's procedures and practices and we adopted two additional decisions on the establishment of task forces and strengthening the role of the country rapporteurs.

The Committee reviewed cases and took decision relating to individual complaints, and also reviewed requests for inquiries under the Optional Protocol.

The Committee also considered follow-up information provided by States with respect to the implementation of the Convention.

The Committee started its first reading of the general recommendation on the dissolution of marriage and its economic consequences. The Committee also adopted two statements – one on gender equality in the context of forced displacement and statelessness and the other on rural women.

Dear Colleagues,

May I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and congratulation to the States parties that engaged in the excellent constructive dialogues with the Committee, many of which were represented at very high levels.

Before I conclude, may take this opportunity to sincerely thank all experts for the hard work accomplished during the past three weeks, in particular 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 tackled.

I would also like to extend the Committee's appreciation to our Secretariat for your dedication, efficiency and hard work. We would also like to thank the interpreters, précis-summary-writers, conference officers and all those who made this session successful.

I wish you all a safe journey home and I look forward to seeing you in Geneva at the fifty-first session.

Thank you very much.
