

[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]

CEDAW/C/2016/III/CRP

**Report of the Committee on the
Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

**Sixty-fifth session
(24 October – 18 November 2016)**

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

Decisions

Decision 65/1

Coordination meeting of country task force

The Committee decided to suspend, on a pilot basis during the sixty-sixth session, the presentation of the country briefing note by the country rapporteur, unless new developments that have come to the attention of the country rapporteur after the finalization of the briefing note need to be communicated to the Committee, and to replace it with a 15-minute coordination meeting of the country task force at the end of the day prior to the constructive dialogue with the State party concerned.

Decision 65/2

Period to be covered by overdue periodic reports

The Committee decided to amend the standard paragraph in its concluding observations on the date for the submission of the next periodic report of the State party concerned by adding the following sentence: "In case of delay, the report should cover the entire period up to the time of its submission."

Decision 65/3

Placement of standard paragraph on the role of "Parliament"

The Committee decided to place the standard paragraph on the role of "Parliament" as a new section C. before "Principal areas of concern and recommendations", to become section D.

Decision 65/4

Cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women

The Committee decided to continue its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences in its ongoing work on the update of General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women and to acknowledge the contribution of the Special Rapporteur in the preamble of the final document.

Decision 65/5

States parties to be considered under the simplified reporting procedure

The Committee decided that the following additional States parties having requested to submit their periodic reports under the simplified reporting procedure and meeting the eligibility criteria stipulated in decisions 58/2 and 59/4 will be considered under that procedure: Mauritius (eighth periodic report) and Bulgaria (eighth periodic report). The Committee also decided not to accept any new requests from States parties for being considered under the simplified reporting procedure until it has undertaken an assessment of the effectiveness of this procedure.

Decision 65/6

Appointment of rapporteur on follow-up and alternate rapporteur

The Committee decided to appoint Hilary Gbedemah as rapporteur on follow-up and Lia Nadaraia as alternate rapporteur, both for a period of two years from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Decision 65/7

Publicity of the informal meetings with the States parties to the Convention

On 16 November 2016, the Committee decided, with immediate effect, to hold its biennial informal meetings with the States parties to the Convention in public meeting with live webcasting and summary records coverage.

Decision 65/8

Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the sixty-seventh session, i.e., Barbara Bailey, Louiza Chalal, Dalia Leinarte, Patricia Schulz and Xiaoqiao Zou.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

A. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to the Optional Protocol

As at 18 November 2016, the closing date of the sixty-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 189 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/180 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980. In accordance with its article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. In addition, 71 Contracting States had accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, concerning the Committee's meeting time. A total of 126 States parties to the Convention are currently required to accept the amendment in order to bring it into force, in accordance with its provisions.

At the same date, there were 108 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/4 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 10 December 1999. In accordance with its article 16, the Optional Protocol entered into force on 22 December 2000.

Updated information on the status of the Convention, the amendment to the Convention and its Optional Protocol, as well as lists of States signatories and parties and the texts of declarations, reservations, objections and other relevant information are available from the website of the United Nations Treaty Collection (<http://treaties.un.org>).

B. Opening of the session

The Committee held its sixty-fifth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 24 October to 18 November 2016. The Committee held 27 plenary meetings, and also held 13 meetings to discuss agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex [...] to the present report.

The session was opened by the Chairperson of the Committee, Yoko Hayashi, at its 1431st meeting on 24 October 2016.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/65/1) at its 1431st meeting.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/65/1), which met from 7 to 11 March 2016, was introduced by Ismat Jahan at the 1431st meeting.

E. Organization of work

On 24 and 31 October and 7 November 2016, the Committee held closed meetings with representatives of specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, during which country-specific information was provided, as well as information on the efforts made by those bodies to support the implementation of the Convention.

Also on 24 and 31 October and 7 November 2016, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, who provided information on the implementation of the Convention in the States parties considered by the Committee at its sixty-fifth session.

On 24 October, Clemencia Muñoz-Tamayo from the UN Women Training Centre in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, briefed the Committee via video conference on the new CEDAW online training tool developed by UN Women.

On 28 October, the Committee held an informal private briefing with Parliamentarians having attended the 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Geneva from 23 to 27 October 2016.

Also on 28 October, Francesca Perucci, Chief, Statistical Services Branch, United Nations Statistics Division, briefed the Committee via video conference on the development of indicators for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular indicator 5.1.1.

On 31 October, the Committee met with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka Simonovic, to discuss strengthened cooperation, especially in relation to updating General Recommendation No. 19 (1992) on violence against women.

On 11 November, the Committee held an informal private meeting with the Committee against Torture to discuss issues relating to gender-based violence against women.

On 17 November, the Committee held an informal public meeting with the States parties to the Convention which was attended by 71 States parties. The Committee briefed the States parties on the implementation of the Convention and the Optional Protocol in the context of General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening, its engagement with UN Women on SDG indicator 5.1.1, and its recent work on draft general recommendations.

F. Membership of the Committee

All members attended the sixty-fifth session with the exception of Bakhita Al-Dosari and Nicole Ameline. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Feride Acar, on 25 October, 2 and 3 November and from 7 to 10 and 14 to 18 November; Barbara Bailey, from 24 to 28 October; Niklas Bruun, on 2 and 3 November; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, on 24 October, 4 November and from 11 to 18 November; Ismat Jahan, on 3, 4, 7, 17 and 18 November; Theodora Oby Nwankwo, from 24 to 28 October; and Silvia Pimentel, from 14 to 18 November. A list of members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is annexed to the present report.

Chapter III

Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Committee

At the 1431st meeting, the Chairperson, Yoko Hayashi, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the sixty-fourth session of the Committee.

Chapter IV

A. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

At its sixty-fifth session, the Committee considered the reports of eleven States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the seventh periodic report of Argentina; the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Armenia; the eighth periodic report of Bangladesh; the eighth periodic report of Belarus; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Bhutan; the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Burundi; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Canada; the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Estonia; the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Honduras; the sixth periodic report of the Netherlands; and the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Switzerland.

The Committee prepared concluding observations on each of the reports considered. Those observations are available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) under the symbol numbers indicated below:

Argentina (CEDAW/C/ARG/7)

Armenia (CEDAW/C/ARM/5-6)

Bangladesh (CEDAW/C/BGD/8)

Belarus (CEDAW/C/BLR/8)

Bhutan (CEDAW/C/BTN/8-9)

Burundi (CEDAW/C/BDI/5-6)

Canada (CEDAW/C/CAN/8-9)

Estonia (CEDAW/C/EST/5-6)

Honduras (CEDAW/C/HND/7-8)

Netherlands (CEDAW/C/NLD/6)

Switzerland (CEDAW/C/CHE/4-5)

B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

The Committee considered the follow-up reports from the following States parties:

- 1) Afghanistan (CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2/Add.1)
- 2) Bahrain (CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3/Add.1)
- 3) Burkina Faso (CEDAW/C/BFA/CO/6/Add.1)
- 4) Colombia (CEDAW/C/COL/CO/7-8/Add.1)
- 5) Qatar (CEDAW/C/QAT/CO/1/Add.1)
- 6) Serbia (CEDAW/C/SRB/CO/2-3/Add.1)
- 7) Zimbabwe (CEDAW/C/ZWE/CO/2-5/Add.1)

The Committee sent first reminders to the following States parties whose follow-up reports were overdue:

- 1) India
- 2) Lithuania
- 3) Mauritania
- 4) Swaziland
- 5) Uganda

The Committee sent a second reminder to Benin whose follow-up report was overdue.

Assessment of follow-up procedure to concluding observations

The Committee adopted the assessment of the follow-up procedure (see annex 3), presented by the Rapporteur on follow-up in accordance with the recommendation made in the previous assessment of the follow-up procedure adopted by the Committee at its 56th session (see A/69/38, Part Two, Annex VI). The Rapporteur on follow-up recommended that the follow-up procedure under article 18 of the Convention should be continued and that the next evaluation process be carried out at the 71st session of the Committee to be held in October/November 2018.

Appointment of new rapporteur on follow-up and alternate rapporteur

The term of Ms. Zou as rapporteur on follow-up and that of Ms. Gbedemah as alternate rapporteur will end on 31 December 2016. The Committee therefore decided to appoint Hilary Gbedemah as rapporteur on follow-up and Lia Nadaraia as alternate rapporteur, both for a period of two years from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.

Chapter V

Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 12 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provides that the Committee shall include in its annual report under article 21 of the Convention a summary of its activities under the Optional Protocol.

A. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 2 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 7 and 11 November 2016. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its thirty-sixth session (see annex 1).

The Committee examined four individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted four final decisions, declaring inadmissible three communications: two concerning Denmark, for lack of substantiation and in one case also for non-exhaustion of domestic remedies; and another one concerning Norway, for non-exhaustion of domestic remedies. In addition, the Committee found a violation with regard to one communication concerning Slovakia (discrimination in employment). The Committee also discontinued the consideration of one communication concerning the Netherlands (non-refoulement), given that the author had been issued a residence permit in the meantime. The text of the final decisions of the Committee will be available once they have been finalized and sent to the respective parties through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) or through the juris database of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (<http://juris.ohchr.org/>).

B. Follow-up to views of the Committee on individual communications

The Committee was informed that the Working Group, during its thirty-sixth session, had discussed the follow-up situation in each case where the follow-up dialogue was ongoing

and that it had agreed on the action to be taken. Of the 11 cases under follow-up examination, one each relates to Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Spain and Tanzania. The Committee decided that in each of those cases the follow-up dialogue remains ongoing. The Committee met with a representative of the Permanent Missions of Denmark during the sixty-fifth session to discuss follow-up matters.

C. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from article 8 of the Optional Protocol

The Committee discussed activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on 31 October and 15 and 17 November 2016. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its fifth session (see annex 2).

The Committee adopted the following recommendations of the Working Group on Inquiries:

(a) To approve certain amendments to the standard operating procedures for inquiries in order to adapt them to the mandate of the Working Group and reflect the recent practice of the Committee in examining information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(b) In relation to Inquiry 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, to send a Note verbale informing the State party that the follow-up information requested in its concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PHL/7-8, para. 56) in relation to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the inquiry report on the Philippines (CEDAW/C/OP.8/PHL/1, paras. 49-52) will at the same time constitute the information to be submitted by the State party under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol;

(c) In relation to inquiry 2011/1 concerning Canada, that the State party submit an interim follow-up report in November 2018 and a comprehensive follow-up report in November 2020, on measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Committee contained in its inquiry report on Canada; and

(d) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/2, that Ms. Pramila Patten and a member to be designated by the Working Group on Inquiries during its sixth session in February 2017 will act as the designated members for this inquiry.

The Committee ratified the following decisions taken by the Working Group on Inquiries:

(a) In relation to submission 2011/4, that the Chair and another member of the Working Group on Inquiries shall meet with the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to discuss the delay in the submission of its observations with regard to the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(b) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, that the Working Group on Inquiries, with the assistance of other members of the Committee, will assess whether the information received satisfies the threshold under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, and that it will seek further information on the extent of the alleged violations throughout the territory of the State party; and

(c) In relation to submission 2016/1, that the Secretariat should send a reminder to the United Nations agencies that had been requested to submit information regarding the subject matter of the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol and to defer its preliminary assessment of information to the sixty-sixth session of the Committee.

Chapter VI

A. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

The Secretariat informed the Committee about the status of submission of overdue reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

B. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 7

Dates of future sessions of the Committee

In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates are confirmed for the Committee's sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions:

Sixty-sixth Session (Geneva)

Thirty-seventh session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 7 to 10 February 2017

Sixth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 9 to 10 February 2017

Sixty-sixth session: 13 February to 3 March 2017

Pre-session working group for the sixty-sixth session: 6 to 10 March 2017

Sixty-seventh Session (Geneva)

Thirty-eighth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 28-30 June 2017

Seventh session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 29-30 June 2017

Sixty-seventh session: 3 to 21 July 2017

Pre-session working group for the sixty-ninth session: 24 to 28 July 2017

Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee

The Committee confirmed that it will consider the reports of the following States parties at its sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions:

Sixty-sixth session:

- 1) El Salvador
- 2) Germany
- 3) Ireland (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 4) Jordan
- 5) Micronesia
- 6) Rwanda
- 7) Sri Lanka
- 8) Ukraine

Sixty-seventh session:

- 1) Barbados
- 2) Costa Rica
- 3) Italy
- 4) Montenegro
- 5) Niger
- 6) Nigeria
- 7) Romania (under the simplified reporting procedure)
- 8) Thailand

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

Working Group on gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction and climate change

The working group met during the session and discussed a timetable for the finalization and adoption of the draft general recommendation.

It decided to review and consolidate comments on the draft, to be received from various stakeholders inter-sessionally. It also decided to hold a half-day retreat during the sixty-seventh session to continue improving the draft. It further decided to send a Note verbale inviting States parties to submit comments on the draft recommendation and to extend the deadline for the submission of comments to 31 January 2017 for all stakeholders.

The working group agreed to postpone the first reading of the draft general recommendation to the sixty-eighth session.

Working Group on the right to education

The working group met during the session and discussed a timetable for the finalization and adoption of the draft general recommendation.

Working Group on working methods

The working group met during the session and submitted to the Committee draft decisions concerning coordination meetings of country task forces and revised standard paragraphs in the concluding observations of the Committee. It also revised the guidance note for country rapporteurs.

Working Group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The working group met during the session and discussed the priorities for its cooperation with the IPU, namely with regard to systemising a joint meeting between the Committee and the IPU Assembly on an annual basis; building the capacity of Parliaments to assess their own gender sensitivity; and increasing its collaboration on the issues of migration and refugee flows, women, peace and security, and monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

CEDAW-UN Women/SDGs Working Group

The working group met during the session to discuss the draft list of questions prepared by UN Women, the Social Institutions and Gender Index (OECD) and the Women, Business and the Law database (World Bank) to test Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.1.1. The working group recommended to the plenary that beginning in 2017, the Committee should start testing these questions through its regular processes, including through references in its lists of issues and questions and its constructive dialogues with States parties. It accordingly recommended to review the briefing note prepared by country rapporteurs as well as the Committee's reporting guidelines. The working group further resolved to provide the Committee, at its sixty-sixth session, a first draft of the substantive inputs to the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Working Group on gender-based violence against women

The working group met during the session and discussed a timetable for the finalization and adoption of the draft general recommendation on gender-based violence against women (updating general recommendation No. 19). It also considered comments on the draft that had been received from numerous stakeholders and decided to continue considering them inter-sessionally. The Committee endorsed the proposal of the working group to continue

its close collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences in its ongoing work on the draft general recommendation until the adoption of the draft.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the sixty-sixth session

On 18 November 2016, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its sixty-sixth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Follow-up to concluding observations of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Implementation of articles 21 and 22 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
8. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
9. Provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its sixty-sixth session.

Chapter IX

A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its sixty-fifth session and addenda on 18 November 2016 and adopted it as orally revised during the discussion.

[Annexes will be added to the final version of the text]

B. Composition of the working groups of the Committee

[To be added to the final version of the report]

Annexes

Annex 1

Report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on its thirty-sixth session

1. The Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its thirty-sixth session from 19 to 21 October 2016 in Geneva. All five members attended the session: Ms. Gladys Acosta Vargas, Mr. Niklas Bruun (Chair), Ms. Nahla El Addal-Haidar, Ms. Dalia Leinarte and Ms. Pramila Patten (Vice-Chair).
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted the agenda as set out in the appendix to the present report.
3. The Working Group then reviewed unregistered correspondence and took note of the action taken by the Secretariat in that regard.
4. The Working Group decided to register one new communication, No. 106/2016 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and appointed a case rapporteur.
5. Out of 106 cases registered since 2003, 44 are pending. In 22 cases, the Committee found a violation and in 2 cases no violation. 30 communications were declared inadmissible and 9 were discontinued on different grounds.
6. The Working Group discussed four draft recommendations concerning Denmark (No. 61/2013 and 71/2014; both on non-refoulement, inadmissibility), Slovakia (No. 66/2014; discrimination at the workplace, merits), and Norway (No. 74/2014; discrimination regarding pension benefits, inadmissibility). The four recommendations were adopted by consensus and it was decided to refer to the Committee, for adoption.
7. The Working Group discussed the status of all pending cases. It decided to maintain its request for interim measures in relation to communication No. 76/2014 concerning Denmark in response to the State party's further request to have the interim measures lifted.
8. In relation to communications No. 68/2014 concerning Canada and No. 72/2014 concerning Denmark, the Working Group decided to suspend, without further notice, the consideration of both cases for a period of six months, while maintaining its interim measures request in the latter case.
9. The Working Group decided to discontinue its consideration of communications No. 89/2015 concerning the Netherlands, at the request of both the State party and the author, given that the author had been issued a residence permit, and No. 73/2014 concerning Denmark in case no reply is received from the author or counsel by 19 December 2016.
10. The Working Group remains concerned at the increased backlog of cases ready for decision. To date, 18 cases are ready for decision. In three of those cases, the Committee has granted requests from the States parties concerned to consider the admissibility of the communications separately from the merits (so-called split requests). The Working Group reiterates its request for OHCHR to secure adequate resources for the Petitions and Inquiries Section, including within the context of the review of the effectiveness of the measures taken under General Assembly resolution 68/268, in order to avoid a further increase in the backlog of pending cases which would further delay the adoption of final decisions on individual communications under the Optional Protocol.
11. For its thirty-seventh session, the Working Group requested the Secretariat to prepare, on a priority basis, draft recommendations in relation to 6 communications (including one where split was granted): No. 54/2013 concerning Denmark, No. 58/2013

concerning Moldova, No. 69/2014 concerning the Russian Federation and No. 75/2014 concerning Mexico.

12. The Working Group discussed the status of eleven cases in which the follow-up dialogue with the States parties concerned remained ongoing, and agreed on the possible action to be taken:

- (1) 17/2008 concerning Brazil (case Rapporteurs Ms. Acosta Vargas/Ms. Patten);
- (2) 19/2008 concerning Canada (case Rapporteurs Mr. Bruun/Ms. Haidar);
- (3) 22/2009 concerning Peru (case Rapporteurs Ms. Patten/Ms. Leinarte);
- (4) 24/2009 concerning Georgia (case Rapporteur Ms. Patten);
- (5) 34/2011 concerning the Philippines (case Rapporteur Ms. Patten);
- (6) 36/2012 concerning the Netherlands (case Rapporteur Mr. Bruun);
- (7) 45/2012 concerning Kazakhstan (case Rapporteur Mr. Bruun);
- (8) 46/2012 concerning Denmark (case Rapporteur Ms. Patten);
- (9) 47/2012 concerning Spain (case Rapporteur Ms. Acosta Vargas);
- (10) 48/2012 concerning Tanzania (case Rapporteur Ms. Patten); and
- (11) 60/2013 concerning the Russian Federation (case Rapporteur Mr. Bruun).

13. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to arrange meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Denmark, the Philippines and Spain to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to views on individual communications finding violations of the Convention. It also requested the Secretariat to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to discuss the handling of individual communications. The Working Group further requested the Secretariat to seek updated information on follow-up to its views on communication No. 22/2009 concerning Peru.

Actions taken at the present session:

14. The Working Group decided:

- (a) To register communication No. 106/2016 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to appoint a case rapporteur;
- (b) To maintain its request for interim measures in relation to communication No. 76/2014 concerning Denmark;
- (c) To suspend, for a period of six months, its consideration of communications No. 68/2014 concerning Canada and No. 72/2014 concerning Denmark, while maintaining its interim measures request in the latter case;
- (d) To refer for adoption to the Committee three recommendations in relation to communications Nos. 61/2013 and 71/2014 concerning Denmark (both non-refoulement, inadmissibility), No. 66/2014 concerning Slovakia (discrimination at the workplace, merits) and No. 74/2014 concerning Norway (discrimination regarding pension benefits, inadmissibility), in each case by consensus;
- (e) To request the Secretariat to prepare draft recommendations in relation to communications No. 54/2013 concerning Denmark, No. 58/2013 concerning Moldova, No. 69/2014 concerning the Russian Federation and No. 75/2014 concerning Mexico;
- (f) To discontinue its consideration of communication No. 89/2015 concerning the Netherlands;
- (g) To request the Secretariat to arrange meetings with representatives of the Permanent Missions of Denmark, Spain and the Philippines to the United Nations Office at Geneva to discuss follow-up to the Committee's views on individual communications; and

with the Permanent Mission of Timor-Leste to discuss the handling of individual communications;

(h) To request the Secretariat to seek updated information on follow-up to its views on communication No. 22/2009 concerning Peru.

17. The Working Group decided to hold its thirty-seventh session from 7 to 10 February 2017 in Geneva And requested the Committee to designate, on an ad-hoc basis, one member for the thirty seventh session to replace the member of the Working Group whose term as a Committee member expires on 31 December 2016.

ANNEX

Agenda

Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol
36th session (Geneva, 19 – 21 October 2016)
Room XVI, Palais des Nations

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Review of steps and activities undertaken since the last session
3. New communications registered and appointment of case Rapporteurs
4. Discussion on cases ready for adoption
5. Update on communications (registered cases)
6. Update on follow-up to Views
7. Working methods
8. Adoption of the report concerning the Working Group's thirty-sixth session

Annex 2

Report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on its fourth session

1. The Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women held its fifth session from 20 to 21 October 2016 in Geneva. Three members attended the session (Hilary Gbedemah, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari (Chair), and Lia Nadaraia). Barbara Bailey (Vice-Chair) and Ismat Jahan were unable to attend the meeting.
2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda.
3. The Working Group was briefed by the Chief of the Groups in Focus Section, Human Rights Treaties Branch, OHCHR, on a harmonization workshop on inquiries held on 6 and 7 October that was attended by Ms. Halperin-Kaddari, Ms. Gbedemah and experts from other treaty bodies with a mandate to conduct inquiries.
4. The Working Group continued to revise the standard operating procedures for inquiries in order to adapt them to the mandate of the Working Group and reflect the recent practice of the Committee in examining information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol. The Working Group also drafted amendments to the rules of procedure for adoption by the Committee.
5. The Working Group was informed by the Secretariat:

(a) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/1 concerning Canada, that the State party's combined eighth and ninth periodic report will be considered on 25 October 2016 during the Committee's sixty-fifth session, and that the members who had been designated to conduct the inquiry would thereafter make an assessment of follow-up information received from the State party pursuant to article 9, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2, that the designated members conducted a visit to the territory of the State party from 10 to 19 September 2016;

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, that the State party had sent a Note verbale informing the members designated to conduct the inquiry that their request to visit its territory was being considered at the highest level; and

(d) In relation to inquiry 2014/1, that on 6 October 2016, the State party had given its consent to a visit to its territory beginning from 10 December 2016.

Action taken at the fifth session

6. The Working Group decided:

(a) To refer for approval to the Committee pending and new amendments to the standard operating procedures;

(b) To refer for adoption to the Committee the following recommendations in relation to the following inquiry proceedings:

(i) In relation to inquiry No. 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, to send a Note verbale informing the State party that the follow-up information requested in its concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PHL/7-8, para. 56) in relation to the implementation of the recommendations contained in the inquiry report on the Philippines (CEDAW/C/OP.8/PHL/1, paras. 49-52) will at the same time constitute the information to be submitted by the State party under article 9, paragraph 2, of the Optional Protocol; and

(ii) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/2, to designate one or more members of the Committee to conduct the inquiry.

(c) To inform the Committee of the following decisions taken by the Working Group:

(i) In relation to submission 2011/4, that the Chair and another member of the Working Group on Inquiries shall meet with the Permanent Mission of the State party concerned to discuss the delay in the submission of its observations with regard to the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol;

(ii) In relation to submission No. 2012/1, that the Working Group on Inquiries, with the assistance of other members of the Committee, will assess whether the information received satisfies the threshold under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, and that it will seek further information on the extent of the alleged violations throughout the territory of the State party; and

(iii) In relation to submission 2016/1, that the Secretariat shall send a reminder to the United Nations agencies that had been requested to submit information regarding the subject matter of the information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol and to defer its preliminary assessment of information to the sixty-sixth session of the Committee.

7. The Working Group decided to hold its sixth session from 9 to 10 February 2017 in Geneva.
