COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST

WOMEN (CEDAW)

Participation by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

67th session (3 -21 July 2017) and

Pre-sessional Working Group for the 69th session (24-28 July 2017)

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XVI

**I. Consideration of reports by States Parties**

The Committee will consider the reports of the following States parties during its 67th session: **Barbados, Costa Rica, Italy, Montenegro, Niger, Nigeria, Romania (simplified reporting procedure) and Thailand.**

**II. Documentation**

The reports of the States parties to be considered at the 67th session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/67/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1078&Lang=en

**III. Venue**

The 67th session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations in Conference Room XVI. The pre-sessional working group for the 69th session will also take place at the Palais des Nations in Conference Room XVI.

1. **NHRI participation**

The Committee has emphasized the importance it attaches to its cooperation with NHRIs in its statement on national human rights institutions adopted in 2008 ([http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/Statements/StatementOnNHRIs.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/documents/hrbodies/cedaw/statements/statementonnhris.pdf)) and encourages the NHRIs concerned to provide country-specific information on issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention by the States parties scheduled for consideration at the 67th session. This can be done orally and/or in writing. Due to the volume of documentation received, written submissions should not exceed **3,300 words**, and should highlight priority concerns and suggest country-specific recommendations to facilitate the work of the Committee. They must not follow any specific structure or template and may be organized thematically and/or on an article-by-article basis.

**V. Written submissions for the 67th session (3 -21 July 2017)**

NHRIs wishing to make written submissions to the Committee are requested 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 written information not exceeding 3,300 words in Word format by e-mail.

All submissions should be received three weeks prior to the beginning of the session by the Secretariat of the Committee, i.e., no later than 12 June 2017. The written submission should be sent electronically in Word format to the following e-mail address: [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). If NHRIs also wish to submit the information in hard copy format, they should send 15 hard copies of their submission to the following address:

CEDAW Secretariat

OHCHR - Palais Wilson

52, rue des Pâquis

CH-1201 Geneva 10

Switzerland

**VI. Written submissions for the Pre-Sessional Working Group (24-28 July 2017)**

The pre-sessional working group will convene in closed meeting and prepare lists of issues for the following States parties that are scheduled to be considered at the 69th session: **Chile, Fiji, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Republic of Korea, Suriname and Saudi Arabia**. In addition, it will prepare **a list of issues prior to reporting for Mauritius** under the simplified reporting procedure. The pre-sessional working group prepares lists of issues and questions for States parties scheduled to be reviewed two sessions later (four sessions later in case of lists of issues prior to reporting).

NHRIs wishing to submit written information to the pre-sessional working group should follow the same procedure as for the submission of written information for the session (see above). Written NHRI submissions should not exceed 3,300 words and should be sent electronically in Word format to the following e-mail address (not later than **12 June 2017)**: [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org). If NHRIs also wish to submit the information in hard copy format, they should send 10 hard copies of their submission to the following address:

CEDAW Secretariat

OHCHR - Palais Wilson

52, rue des Pâquis

CH-1201 Geneva 10

Switzerland

**VII. Meetings with NHRIs**

The Committee has set aside time at its 67th session for NHRIs to provide orally country-specific information in respect of the States parties that have been scheduled for consideration during the session. These informal public meetings are scheduled on **Monday**, 3 July 2017from 16:30 to 17:00, for the countries that will be considered during the first week (Italy, Thailand, Romania (simplified reporting procedure) and Costa Rica), and on **Monday**, 10 July 2017from 17:00 to 17:30, for the countries that will be considered during the second week (Montenegro, Barbados, Niger and Nigeria) of the 67th session. The meetings will take place in Conference Room XVI at the Palais des Nations in Geneva and are open to the public. For the schedule of considerations of States parties’ reports, please consult the Committee’s website for the 67th session at:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=1078&Lang=en

Oral interventions by NHRIs must be concise. A maximum of 10 minutes are allocated for NHRIs per country. NHRIs making oral interventions should ensure that they bring 25 copies of their oral statement at least one hour in advance of the meeting for circulation to the Committee and for interpretation purposes. Prior to the presentation, NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statement in Word format to: [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org).

**Please note that all public meetings of the Committee, including the informal public NHRI briefings on both Mondays 3 and 10 July 2017, will be** **publicly webcast on the following website:** [**http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/**](http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/)

The pre-sessional working group also invites NHRIs to make oral interventions to provide country-specific information on the States parties scheduled for consideration at the 69th session. This meeting will take place on **Monday,** 24 July 2017, from 12:30 to 13:00, in conference room XVI at the Palais des Nations. The paragraph above relating to the oral interventions by NHRIs is applicable to the pre-sessional working group as well, except that that the meeting is closed and that NHRIs need to bring only 1**0** copies of their oral statement prior to the meeting for circulation to the working group and for interpretation purposes. Prior to the presentation, NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statements in **Word format** to: [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org)

**VIII. Registration**

NHRI representatives who wish to attend any sessions of the Committee or its pre-sessional working groups **must** **register online** by using the following links:

For the 67th plenary session: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/16993/>

For the pre-sessional working group for the 69th session: <https://reg.unog.ch/event/16995/>

In order to receive a ground pass, all applicants must bring the confirmation of registration which will be sent to you by email upon successful registration online, a valid national passport or government issued ID bearing a photograph, and appear in person at the United Nations Pass and Identification Unit, Prégny Gate, United Nations Office at Geneva, Avenue de la Paix 8-14, Geneva, Switzerland. The office hours are 8:00 to 17:00, Monday through Friday. Please note that NHRI representatives must bring their passport (or government issued photo ID) as well as their ground pass every time they wish to enter the UN premises.

Please note that OHCHR will not provide letters of invitation to NHRIs to attend CEDAW sessions for purposes of obtaining visas. However, upon request, the Secretariat can provide a general “to whom it may concern” letter specifying that a representative has requested and obtained accreditation to a meeting. Please also note that OHCHR is unable to assist with travel and/or accommodation costs.

**IX. Additional Information**

For further information about the treaty bodies in general, specific information on CEDAW and on the participation and role of national human rights institutions in the reporting procedure, please consult the following links:

* <http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx>; and
* [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/en/aboutus/pages/civilsociety.aspx)