

CLOSING REMARKS

by

Ms. Nicole Ameline

Fifty-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Dear Colleagues,

As we are coming to the end of the fifty-fifth 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 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and with four national human rights institutions. 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 significant contributions to the work of the Committee.

The Committee is also thankful to those UN entities which provided us with detailed information, and I encourage both the UN entities and NGOs to continue to deepen their advocacy for the promotion and protection of women's human rights and the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, I would like to reiterate that it is essential for the Committee to receive information from NGOs, as well as from United Nations entities and National Human Rights Institutions, in addition to information received from the State party concerned, in order to ensure a constructive dialogue during the review of States parties' compliance with their obligations under the Convention. I therefore wish to emphasize that it is of utmost importance for the Committee that our partners are free from threats, intimidation and other forms of reprisals before, during and after their cooperation with the Committee.

In addition to considering the reports of States parties and adopting concluding observations thereon, the Committee also reviewed information received from States parties on priority recommendations as part of its follow-up procedure. It also continued to discharge its mandate under articles 2 and 8 of the Optional Protocol with respect to individual communications and inquiries, respectively.

The Committee considered 4 individual communications and declared three of them inadmissible. One individual communication was declared admissible. Furthermore, the Committee analyzed and discussed information under article 8 of the Optional Protocol in relation to inquiries and adopted its findings and recommendations with regard to Inquiry No. 210/01.

The Committee completed its first reading of the draft general recommendation on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. It continued its review in working groups of other draft general recommendations, and will hold a day of general discussion on rural women at its 56th session.

The Committee adopted statements on the role of women in the process of political transition in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia and on strengthened cooperation with UN Women.

Based on our discussions, in private meeting, with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Puri from UN Women and Ms. Jabre from the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I feel reassured that the Committee is on the right track in asserting its role in the post-2015 debate as well as in reinforcing its partnership with relevant UN entities, with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention.

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Bruun and I participated in meetings of the ECOSOC on using human rights instruments and ILO standards and recommendations to achieve decent work for all and on the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women (SWAP), respectively. Ms. Acar represented the Committee in an expert consultation on the human rights of youth, including young women and girls.

One of the highlights of the session was yesterday's panel discussion on HIV and women's human rights, jointly organized by OHCHR, UNAIDS, UN-Women and UNDP, which benefitted from a high-level participation and contributed to increasing the visibility of our Committee. I would like to thank our colleague Theodora Oby Nwankwo for having represented the Committee so ably on the panel.

The Working Group on Working Methods continued its work in setting-out priorities to rationalize and strengthen the Committee's procedures and practices in the context of treaty body strengthening.

Dear Colleagues,

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

Before I conclude, please allow me to sincerely thank all experts for the hard work accomplished during the past three weeks, especially the country rapporteurs who have greatly contributed to our discussions during the dialogues with the representatives of the States parties, as well as Ms. Patten and Ms. Neubauer for having prepared such an excellent report on Inquiry No. 2010/01. I would also like to congratulate our colleagues Dalia Leinarte and Biancamaria Pomeranzi for having been “baptized”, as they successfully accomplished their duties as country rapporteurs for the very first time. Furthermore, I am grateful to my colleagues in the Bureau for their advice on the many issues that we have discussed.

Lastly, I would like to extend the Committee’s appreciation to our Secretariat for their dedication, efficiency and hard work. In that regard, please let me read out the names of all the Secretariat staff members, in alphabetical order, who contributed to the success of this session:

Feruza Abdullaeva

Astrid Abecassis

Irene del Pilar Sandoval

Régine Gachoud

James Heenan

Janna Iskakova

Kevin Koh

Georgina Mendoza Solorio

Anganile Mwenifumbo

Catherinne Pedreros

Ivaylo Petrov (and Carla Edelenbos and the other colleagues from the Petitions Section)

Ibrahim Salama

Jakob Schneider, and of course,

our excellent interns Tristan Irvin and Simi.

We of course also thank the interpreters, précis writers, translators, conference room officers, technicians, press officers and all the others who made this session successful.

I wish you all a safe journey home and I look forward to seeing you in Geneva in only two months' time for the fifty-sixth session.

Thank you very much.
