**[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]**

 **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women
Eighty-first session
(7 - 25 February 2022)**

 **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 fifty-second 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 fifty-second session from 2 to 4 February 2022 in Geneva. Four of the five members of the Working Group attended the session: Hiroko Akizuki, Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen (Vice-Chair), Hilary Gbedemah (Chair) and Genoveva Tisheva. Ms. Bethel was provided with WebEx links in order to be able to attend the session remotely.

2. At the beginning of the session, the Working Group adopted its agenda (see the Appendix at the end of the present document).

3. The Working Group appointed case rapporteurs in all newly registered cases (communications Nos. 173/2021 to 177/2021). It also adopted its report on follow-up to Views and discussed follow-up to Views by the Philippines and Slovakia.

4. The Working Group noted that the follow-up dialogue was ongoing in 21 cases where the Committee had found violations of the authors’ rights concerning 15 States parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Finland, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Mexico, North Macedonia (3), the Philippines, Republic of Moldova (2), Russian Federation (4), Slovakia, Spain, Tanzania and Timor-Leste. It discussed the meeting to discuss follow-up to Views held with the Permanent Mission of Slovakia during the eightieth session of the Committee and the remaining challenges raised by the State party in implementing the recommendations of the Committee.

5. The Working Group noted that since the entry into force of the Optional Protocol, 177 communications had been registered, 40 of which are currently pending consideration by the Committee.

6. The Working Group noted that 19 cases are currently ready for decision. At the same time, it noted that the Secretariat remains unable to increase the number of draft recommendations prepared for consideration, due to its existing constraints. While taking into account the current financial situation of the Organization and the COVID pandemic, the Working Group called for increased and adequately allocated resources, on a sustainable basis, for the Petitions and Urgent Actions Section in order to provide the Committee, as well as the other treaty bodies dealing with individual communications, with a higher number of draft recommendations for adoption in order to avoid unnecessary delays and further accumulation of a backlog of cases ready for decision.

7. The Working group agreed to review its methods of work during its next session especially concerning third party interventions and friendly settlements. It also discussed ways to refine its recommendations of a general character contained in its Views on individual communications.

8. The Working Group discussed the following communications:

a) No. 68/2014 (*J. Matson v. Canada*);

b) No. 134/2018 (*F.-C. v. Sri Lanka*);

c) No. 137/2018 (*Koneva v. Russian Federation*);

d) No. 144/2019 (*D.N.S. v Denmark*)*.*

It decided to refer the recommendations in relation to these communications for adoption by the Committee. It also decided to recommend that the Committee discontinue its consideration of communications Nos. 160/2020 and 163/2020 (non-refoulement) given that the States parties concerned had granted the authors residence permits. All recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9. Taking into account the priority to be given to cases with interim measures of protection in place, the chronological order of registration, regional representation, and thematic issues of importance for the Committee’s jurisprudence, the Working Group tentatively listed the following communications on its agenda for its fifty-third session: Nos. 123/2017 concerning Australia; 127/2018 concerning Argentina; 149/2019 concerning Spain; 148/2019 concerning Italy; and 155/2020 concerning the Philippines.

10. The Working Group appreciated having received all draft recommendations in relation to individual communications prior to its fifty-second session, as well as newly registered cases and requests for interim measures of protection. It confirmed its readiness to consider more draft recommendations during its next sessions. It stressed the value of exchanging with the Human Rights Officers drafting cases prior to the session and receiving relevant documentation as early as possible in electronic format.

 **Actions taken at the present session:**

11. The Working Group decided, inter alia:

1. To refer, for consideration by the Committee, communications Nos. 68/2014 (*Matson v. Canada*), 134/2018 (*F.-C. v. Sri Lanka*), 137/2018(*Koneva v. Russian Federation*) and 144/2019 (*D.N.S. v Denmark*);

b) To recommend that the Committee discontinue its consideration of communications Nos. 160/2020 (*M.M. v. Switzerland*) and 163/2020 (*C.A.A. v. Denmark*);

c) To request the Secretariat to prepare draft recommendations for consideration at the fifty-third session of the Working Group in relation to communications Nos. 123/2017 concerning Australia, 127/2018 concerning Argentina, 149/2019 concerning Spain, 148/2019 concerning Italy, and/or 155/2020 concerning the Philippines.

12. The Working Group noted that its fifty-third session is scheduled to take place from 8 to 10 June 2022 in Geneva.

**Appendix**

**Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol**

**52nd session (Geneva, 2 -4 February 2022)**

***Room XXIII, Palais des Nations***

**Agenda**

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Review of steps and activities undertaken since the last session:**
* **Note by the Secretariat (CEDAW/C/WG/52/R.1)**
* **For information: Report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its fifty-first session**
* **List of case rapporteurs for registered cases**
1. **New communications registered and designation of case rapporteurs**

**4. Update on communications (see Note by the Secretariat) and adoption of report on follow-up to Views**

**5. Adoption of recommendations**

**6. Adoption of the report concerning the fifty-second session of the Working Group**