COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST

WOMEN (CEDAW)

Participation by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

81st session (7-25 February 2022) and and Pre-sessional Working Group for the 83rd session (28 February-4 March 2022), Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXIII

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

The Committee will consider the reports of the following States parties during its 75th session: **Dominican Republic, Gabon, Lebanon, Panama, Peru, Senegal, Uganda and Uzbekistan.**

The **Pre-sessional Working Group for the 83rd session** will adopt lists of issues in relation to the periodic reports of the following States parties: **Albania, Costa Rica, France, The Gambia, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor Leste**. In addition, the Pre-sessional Working Group will adopt a list of issues prior to reporting on **Belarus.**

**II. Documentation**

The reports of the States parties to be considered at the 81st session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/81/1) and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2530&Lang=en

**III. Venue**

The 81st session of the Committee will take place in Geneva at the Palais des Nations in Conference Room XXIII. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, sanitary regulations, limitations on the number of meeting participants and possible travel restrictions, **NHRIs are advised to participate remotely via Zoom** in relevant meetings of the Committee and to follow the Committee’s public dialogues with the aforementioned States parties via the **live webcast on UN Web TV: http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/**

**IV. 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 (goo.gl/96eYm7). In 2019, it adopted a paper on the cooperation between the Committee and NHRIs (<https://bit.ly/2teZHtA>), which takes into account recent procedures and practices developed by other human rights treaty bodies. The Committee 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 81st session and 83rd Pre-sessional Working Group. This can be done orally and/or in writing. Due to the volume of documentation received, written submissions should not exceed **3,300 words**. They must be submitted in one of the working languages of the Committee (**English, French or Spanish).** 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 81st session (7-25 November 2022)**

NHRIs are encouraged to make written submissions that contain:

* Information on the implementation of some or all of the substantives articles (articles 1 to 16) of the Convention;
* Comments on the report of the State party and its written replies to the list of issues;
* Information on the implementation by the State party of previous concluding observations of the Committee;
* Information highlighting priority concerns and suggesting country-specific recommendations to facilitate the work of the Committee; and
* **Information on the impact of measures taken by the States parties concerned in relation to the COVID-19 crisis on women's rights and gender equality and the integration of a gender perspective in COVID-19 recovery plans.**

NHRIs wishing to make written submissions to the Committee are requested to:

* Indicate 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;
* Ensure that any alleged victims, witnesses and perpetrators are referred to in the report by their **initials only** and that **no photographs** of alleged victims, witnesses or perpetrators are included;
* Submit the written information not exceeding 3,300 words in Word format by e-mail; and
* Submit the written information in one of the working languages of the Committee **(English, French or Spanish)**.

All submissions should be received four weeks prior to the beginning of the session by the Secretariat of the Committee, i.e., no later than **10 January 2022**. The written submission should be sent electronically in Word format to the following e-mail address: ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org). Please indicate in the subject of the email: “submission” and the “name of the country” (e.g. “Submission Peru”).

In line with the UN greening policy, hard copies of submissions are no longer necessary.**VI. Written submissions for the Pre-Sessional Working Group (28 February-4 March** **2022)**

The pre-sessional working group will be held in closed meeting. It will prepare lists of issues for the following States parties that are scheduled to be considered at future sessions of the Committee: **Albania, Costa Rica, France, The Gambia, Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, and Timor Leste**. In addition, it will prepare **a list of issues prior to reporting for Belarus** under the simplified reporting procedure. The pre-sessional working group prepares lists of issues and questions for States parties that normally are scheduled to be reviewed two sessions later (does not apply to lists of issues prior to reporting), except that this sequence has been delayed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Receiving information from NHRIs at an early stage of the reporting process is of critical importance. NHRIs are therefore invited to submit written contributions for the development of the lists of issues and lists of issues prior to reporting by the pre-sessional working group. 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 must be **in one of the working languages of the Committee (English, French or Spanish),** **must** not exceed 3,300 words and should be sent **by 31 January** 2022 at the latest electronically in Word format to the following e-mail address: ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org).

**VII. Written submissions under the follow-up to concluding observations procedure**

In its concluding observations adopted at the end of the consideration of a State party report, the Committee identifies up to four sub-paragraphs, requiring the State party concerned to submit **follow-up information** in relation to these sub-paragraphs within one or two years.

The follow-up procedure allows for the consideration of information received from NHRIs. **NHRI submissions** shall be in one of the working languages of the Committee (English, French or Spanish), as concise as possible, must not exceed a maximum length of **3,500 words** and should be sent electronically in Word format to ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org). The deadline for the submission of written information by NHRIs is four weeks before the beginning of the session at which the State party’s follow-up report is scheduled to be assessed.

For more information on the follow-up to concluding observations procedure see: <https://bit.ly/34og440>

**VIII. Informal remote public meetings with NHRIs during the 81st session**

NHRIs have the possibility to brief the Committee as a whole in informal remote public meetings with interpretation into the working languages of the Committee (English, French and Spanish; exceptionally Arabic, Chinese and Russian), as well as in informal remote private meetings without interpretation at the request of the NHRI and closely preceding the dialogue.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, sanitary regulations, limitations on the number of meeting participants and possible travel restrictions, these informal public meetings **will be held remotely** on **Monday**, 7 February 2022 from 16:00 to 17:00, for the countries that will be considered during the first week (Gabon, Panama, Senegal and Uganda), and on **Monday**, 14 February 2022 from 16:00 to 17:00, for the countries that will be considered during the second week (Uzbekistan, Peru, Lebanon and Dominican Republic) of the 80th session. The meetings will be held on an online meeting platform (Zoom) and will be publicly webcast on UN Web TV: **http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/**

All NHRIs that wish to intervene should contact the CEDAW secretariat at ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org) **by 24 January 2022** so that the meeting link can be sent to them.

Oral interventions by NHRIs must be concise. A maximum of 5 minutes is allocated for NHRIs per country, followed by questions by the Committee members and answers thereto. NHRIs making oral interventions are requested to send an electronic version of their statement in Word format to ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org) in advance of the informal remote public briefing.

**IX. Contributions during the constructive dialogue**

Moreover, the Committee will offer NHRIs that have been accredited with A-status by the Coordinating Committee of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), **at their request**, an opportunity to present **via Zoom** remarks **not exceeding 5 minutes** at the dialogue with the State party concerned, following the introductory statement by the head of the delegation. The NHRI statement shall be shared with the Committee the day before the dialogue.

**Please note that all public meetings of the Committee, including the informal remote public NHRI briefings on Mondays 7 and 14 February 2022, will be** **publicly webcast on the following website:** [**http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/**](http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/)

**X. Informal remote private briefings by NHRIs during the Pre-sessional Working Group**

At the **remote** **informal private meeting**, the pre-sessional working group invites NHRIs to make oral interventions to provide country-specific information on the States parties scheduled for consideration at the 83rd pre-sessional working group. The meeting will be held on Monday, 28 February 2022 from 16:30 to 17:00 (Geneva time) an online meeting platform (Zoom) **with interpretation** services. All NHRIs that wish to intervene should contact the CEDAW secretariat at ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org) **by 14 February 2022** so that the meeting link can be sent to them. Prior to the presentation, NHRIs are requested to send an electronic version of their statement in Word format to ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org), in one of the working languages of the Committee (English, French or Spanish).

**Oral interventions by NHRIs must be concise.** A maximum of **10 minutes** will be available **per NHRI, including questions by PSWG members and answers thereto**.

**XI. Representatives of other national institutions**

National institutions other than NHRIs, which have a **specific mandate** to promote and protect women’s rights and gender equality, such as Equal Opportunities Commissions or Ombudspersons for women, are also invited to provide the Committee with written information and to brief Pre-sessional Working Group members remotely. The information contained in relation to written submissions and informal remote private briefings applies to such institutions a well, with the difference that their written submissions are labelled “information from other stakeholders”, that they will be allocated a maximum of 5 minutes per country, and that they **cannot present remarks during the formal dialogue** of the Committee with the State party concerned.

**XII. Allegations of intimidation or reprisals**

NHRI representatives have the right of unhindered access to and to communicate with the Committee and its members for the effective implementation of the Committee’s mandate. Individuals or groups of individuals facing **intimidation or reprisals** for seking to cooperate or cooperating with the Committee, or their representatives, can inform the Rapporteur on reprisals and alternate Rapporteur on reprisals appointed by the Committee of any alleged incident of intimidation or reprisals. Such **complaints should be sent** electronically to ohchr-[cedaw@un.org](mailto:cedaw@un.org), copy to [reprisals@ohchr.org](mailto:reprisals@ohchr.org)

**XIII. Registration**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, sanitary regulations, limitations on the number of meeting participants and possible travel restrictions, all observers are advised to **participate remotely via Zoom** in relevant meetings of the Committee and its Pre-sessional Working Group and to follow the Committee’s public dialogues with the States parties scheduled for consideration via the **live webcast on UN Web TV:** [**http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/**](http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/)

Accordingly, there is **no need for observers to be accredited** for the 81st session and the Pre-sessional Working Group for the 83rd session.

**XIV. Ground pass**

For the same reason, **no ground passes will be issued** to observers for purposes of attending the 81st session and the Pre-sessional Working Group for the 83rd session.

**XV. 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:

* <https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT/CEDAW/BAP/8997&Lang=en>
* <http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx>;
* <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/NHRI/Pages/NHRIMain.aspx>;
* https://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/default.aspx