**[INFORMAL DOCUMENT]**

**CEDAW/C/2022/I/CRP**

 **Report of the Committee on the**

 **Elimination of Discrimination**

 **against Women**

 **Eighty-first session**

 **(7 – 25 February 2022)**

 Chapter I

 Matters brought to the attention of States parties

 Decisions

 Decision 81/1

Standing working group on gender-based violence against women

The Committee decided to convert its working group on gender-based violence into a standing working group.

**Decision 81/2**

Extraordinary session in the South Pacific region

The Committee decided to request the Secretariat to explore the possibility of holding an extraordinary session in the South Pacific region in 2023/2024 with external funding and to prioritize the adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting for States parties from that region.

 Decision 81/3

Accessibility of the public meetings of the Committee with non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions

In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, the Committee decided to request the Secretariat to prepare a programme budget implications document to request the General Assembly to include in the 2024 regular budget of the United Nations the provision of captioning and sign language interpretation services for the six public meetings that the Committee holds annually with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, who provide it with country-specific information for the consideration of State party reports, with a view to ensuring the accessibility of these meetings for persons with disabilities.

 Decision 81/4

Treaty body strengthening process and consultations on back-to-back reviews with the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Recalling its position paper on the treaty body strengthening process of 12 November 2021 (decision 80/3) and the need to explore innovative ways to contribute constructively to the harmonization of working methods among the treaty bodies as well as to alleviate the reporting burden on States parties to the greatest extent possible, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee decided to start consultations with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with a view to aligning some of the State party reviews undertaken by the two Committees, subject to availability of resources and the feasibility of scheduling overlapping sessions of both Committees. This would entail a back-to-back review of States parties by both Committees on one or two consecutive days. The measures would require changes in the structure and duration of the Committee’s constructive dialogues with States parties and would be evaluated after a pilot period extending over two sessions.

 Decision 81/5

Remote participation of members in sessions of the Committee

The Committee decided that members may participate remotely in its meetings when such participation is necessary to ensure a quorum of 12 members present at a meeting, in accordance with rule 29 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, or when members attending a session in Geneva are quarantined due to COVID-19 or similar medical reasons. This shall not preclude the Committee in the future from deciding on similar scenarios where members might be allowed to participate remotely in its plenary meetings and in the meetings of its mandated working groups.

 Decision 81/6

Topics of the next general recommendations of the Committee

Pending the adoption of its draft general recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls, the Committee decided that its next general recommendations shall be on the following topics: Women’s equal participation in political and public decision-making; and Gender stereotypes.

 Decision 81/7

Pre-Sessional Working Group

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the eighty-third session, Leticia Bonifaz Alfonzo, Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Nahla Haidar, Dalia Leinarte and Aruna Devi Narain.

 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 25 February 2022, the closing date of the eighty-first 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, 80 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 114 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 eighty-first session at Geneva from 7 to 25 February 2022. In total, the Committee held 20 plenary meetings, and also held 9 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 Chair of the Committee, Gladys Acosta Vargas, at its 1850th meeting on 7 February 2022.

 C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/81/1) at its 1850th meeting.

 D. Report of the pre-session working group

The report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/PSWG/81/1), which met remotely from 5 to 9 July 2021, was introduced by Elgun Safarov at the 1850th meeting.

 E. Organization of work

On 7 and 14 February 2022, the Committee held remote informal 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 7 and 14 February 2022, the Committee held remote 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 eighty-first session.

On 16 February 2022, the Committee held a remote informal closed meeting with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, Ms. Irene Khan, to discuss the need for a definition of online gender-based violence against women and opportunities for common engagement on issues relating to gendered disinformation and hate speech.

 F. Membership of the Committee

 Attendance of the eighty-first session

All members attended the eighty-first session, with the exception of Tamader Al-Rammah, Marion Bethel, Louiza Chalal, Rosario Manalo and Jie Xia. The following members did not attend the session on the indicated dates: Aruna Devi Narain from 9 to 14 February; and Natasha Stott Despoja from 22 to 25 February 2022. 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 eightieth and eighty-first sessions of the Committee

At the 1850th meeting, the Chair, Gladys Acosta Vargas, presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the eightieth session of the Committee.

 Chapter IV

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

At its eighty-first session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention: the eighth periodic report of the Dominican Republic, submitted under the simplified reporting procedure; the seventh periodic report of Gabon; the sixth periodic report of Lebanon; the eighth periodic report of Panama, submitted under the simplified reporting procedure; the ninth periodic report of Peru; the eighth periodic report of Senegal; the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Uganda; and the sixth periodic report of Uzbekistan.

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/](https://webmail.ohchr.org/%2CDanaInfo%3Ddocuments.un.org%2B)) under the symbol numbers indicated below:

(1) Dominican Republic ([CEDAW/C/DOM/CO/8)](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fDOM%2fCO%2f8&Lang=en)

(2) Gabon ([CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fGAB%2fCO%2f7&Lang=en))

(3) Lebanon ([CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/6](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fLBN%2fCO%2f6&Lang=en))

(4) Panama ([CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/8)](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fPAN%2fCO%2f8&Lang=en)

(5) Peru ([CEDAW/C/PER/CO/9](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fPER%2fCO%2f9&Lang=en))

(6) Senegal ([CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fSEN%2fCO%2f8&Lang=en))

(7) Uganda ([CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/8-9](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fUGA%2fCO%2f8-9&Lang=en))

(8) Uzbekistan ([CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f6&Lang=en))

 B. Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

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

(1) Andorra (CEDAW/C/AND/FCO/4)

(2) Côte d’Ivoire (CEDAW/C/CIV/FCO/4)

(3) Guyana (CEDAW/C/GUY/FCO/9)

(4) Iraq (CEDAW/C/IRQ/FCO/7)

(5) Kazakhstan (CEDAW/C/KAZ/FCO/5)

(6) Lithuania (CEDAW/C/LTU/FCO/6)

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

(1) Afghanistan

(2) Bulgaria

(3) Eritrea

(4) Kiribati

(5) Latvia

(6) Pakistan

(7) Republic of Moldova

(8) Zimbabwe.

 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 14, 21 and 23 February 2022. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol regarding its fifty-second session [(see annex 1](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f81%2f33582&Lang=en)).

The Committee examined six individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted six final decisions, declaring inadmissible communication Nos. 137/2018 concerning the Russian Federation (alleged discrimination and failure to provide the author with medical assistance) and No. 144/2019 concerning Denmark (deportation to Somalia), and finding violations of the author’s rights in relation to communications No. 68/2014 concerning Canada (discrimination concerning entitlement to Indian status as First Nations descendants on the maternal line) and No. 134/2018 concerning Sri Lanka (discrimination against a lesbian activist). It also decided to discontinue its consideration of communications No. 160/2020 concerning Switzerland and No. 163/2020 concerning Denmark. All final decisions were adopted by consensus. The text of the final decisions of the Committee will be available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org/>) once they have been finalized and sent to the respective parties, through the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights under the link to the relevant session of the Committee, and through the juris database of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (<http://juris.ohchr.org/>).

In line with its communication strategy, the Committee issued a press release on its findings and recommendations in relation to communication No. 68/2014 concerning Canada.

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

The Committee was informed that the Working Group had examined the follow-up information received from the State party in relation to communication No. 34/2011 concerning the Philippines. It noted that the follow-up dialogue with the State party is ongoing.

 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 22 February 2022. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol regarding its twenty-first session ([see annex 2](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f81%2f33583&Lang=en)).

 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 and the backlog of reports received 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 tentatively confirmed for the Committee’s eighty-second and eighty-third sessions, subject to possible restrictions on travel and physical meetings that may be required by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

Eighty-second Session

Fifty-third session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 8 to 10 June 2022

Twenty-second session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 9 and 10 June 2022

Eighty-second session: 13 June to 1 July 2022

Pre-sessional working group for the eighty-fourth session: 4 to 8 July 2022

Eighty-third Session

Fifty-fourth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 5 to 7 October 2022

Twenty-third session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 6 and 7 October 2022

Eighty-third session: 10 to 28 October 2022

Pre-sessional working group for the eighty-fifth session: 31 October to 4 November 2022

 Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee

Subject to possible future disruptions in the holding of physical sessions due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee confirmed that it will consider the reports of the following States parties at its eighty-second and eighty-third sessions:

Eighty-second session (States parties to be confirmed):

(1) Azerbaijan

(2) Bahrain

(3) Bolivia

(4) Hungary

(5) Mongolia

(6) Morocco

(7) Namibia

(8) Portugal

(9) Turkey

(10) United Arab Emirates

Eighty-third session (States parties to be confirmed):

(1) Armenia

(2) Belgium

(3) China

(4) Finland

(5) The Gambia

(6) Honduras

(7) Jamaica

(8) Saint Kitts and Nevis

(9) Switzerland

(10) Ukraine

 Chapter VII

 Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

 A. Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

 Working Group on working methods

 The Working Group met three times during the session. It discussed and submitted to the Committee a draft decision on the treaty body strengthening process and consultations on back-to-back reviews with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see decision 81/4). It also discussed the structure of constructive dialogues with States parties and the role and responsibilities of Country Rapporteurs in the context of evolving meeting modalities due to the COVID-19 pandemic and constructive dialogues with a reduced time frame.

 Working Group on gender-based violence against women

The working group met twice during the session. The Chair presented research and analysis undertaken in relation to the draft guidance note for States parties on the implementation of their obligations and their accountability as set out in general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19. The working group agreed on a timeline for the completion of the draft guidance note in the coming months.

The working group noted that the Committee is preparing a compilation of its work on gender-based violence against women in the context of its consideration of State party reports (articles 5 and 2), individual communications, confidential inquiries, and follow-up to concluding observations, in order to disseminate it to highlight the impact of its work in this field in light of the 40th anniversary of the Committee.

 Working Group on indigenous women and girls

The working group met during the session. It considered the comments received from stakeholders in response to the call for comments on the initial draft of the general recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls and updated its internal work plan for regional consultations and the elaboration and adoption of the general recommendation.

**Task Force on Afghanistan**

 The Task Force on Afghanistan met during the session. It discussed the outcome of its inter-sessional activities since the eightieth session of the Committee as well as recent developments concerning the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan. It also planned activities to consider the impact of the evolving political, economic and social situation in Afghanistan on the rights of women and girls and gather information, with a view to advising the Committee in relation to its request for an exceptional report on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, in accordance with article 18, paragraph 1 (b), of the Convention (see decision 80/1).

 Chapter VIII

 Provisional agenda for the eighty-second session

On 25 February 2022, the Committee considered and approved the following provisional agenda for its eighty-second session:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Report of the Chair on activities undertaken between the eighty-first and eighty-second 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 on 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 eighty-third session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighty-second session.

 Chapter IX

 A. Adoption of the report

The Committee considered the draft report on its eighty-first session and addenda on 25 February 2022 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 (available under the 81st session webpage)

Annex 2 (available under the 81st session webpage)