



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Thirty-eighth session 14 May-1 June 2007

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Shanthi Dairiam

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

1. As at 1 June 2007, the closing date of the thirty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were ____ 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 in March 1980. In accordance with article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. ____ States parties had accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time.

2. On the same date, there were ____ States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 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 article 16, the Optional Protocol entered into force on 22 December 2000.

3. A list of States parties to the Convention is contained in annex ____ to the present report. A list of States parties that have accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, concerning the Committee's meeting time is contained in annex ____ to the present report. A list of States parties that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention is contained in annex ____.



B. Opening of the session

4. The Committee held its thirty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 14 May to 1 June 2007. The Committee held 18 plenary meetings (774th to 791st). The Committee also held ___ meetings to discuss agenda items 5, 6, 7 and 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in section ___ of annex ___ to the present report.

5. The Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Rachel Mayanja, addressed the Committee at its 774th meeting.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. The Committee considered the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2007/II/1 and Corr.1) at its 774th meeting. The agenda was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth 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. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
7. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session of the Committee.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-eighth session.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

7. At the 774th meeting, Maria Regina Tavares da Silva introduced the report of the pre-session working group. The pre-session working group for the thirty-eighth session of the Committee met from 31 July to 4 August 2006 (CEDAW/PSWG/2007/I/CRP.1), and additional lists of issues and questions for the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions were prepared by the working group, which met from 5 to 9 February 2007 (CEDAW/PSWG/2007/II/CRP.1).

E. Organization of work

8. At the 774th meeting, the Chief of the Women's Rights Section, Division for the Advancement of Women, Christine Brautigam, introduced reports provided under agenda item 5, Implementation of article 21 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/2007/II/3 and Add.1, 3 and 4), and agenda item 6, Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/2007/II/4 and CEDAW/C/2007/II/2).

9. On 14 May 2007, the Committee held closed meetings with representatives of the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations, in which country-specific information and information on the efforts made by the body or entity concerned to promote the provisions of the Convention at the national and regional levels through its own policies and programmes was provided.

10. On 14 and 21 May, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, who provided information about the implementation of the Convention in States parties reporting to the thirty-eighth session, namely Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, Serbia, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic and Vanuatu.

F. Membership of the Committee

11. The Committee took note of the resignation, on 7 May 2007, of Hazel Gumede Shelton. In accordance with article 17, paragraph 7, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the State party whose expert has ceased to function as a member of the Committee shall appoint another expert from among its nationals, subject to the approval of the Committee. Accordingly, on 9 May 2007, South Africa nominated Mavivi Myakayaka-Manzini to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation of Gumede Shelton. The Committee ____.

12. A list of members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is contained in annex __ to the present report. The following experts attended parts of the session: Naela Gabr from __; Tiziana Maiolo from __; and Xiaoqiao Zou from __. Cornelius Flinterman, who attended a meeting at Geneva on behalf of the Committee on 15 and 16 May 2007, attended the session as of 18 May 2007.

III. Report of the Chairperson on the activities undertaken between the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions

13. At the 774th meeting, the Chairperson presented her report on the activities she had undertaken since the thirty-seventh session.