



**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**  
**Thirty-ninth session**  
23 July-10 August 2007

**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 tenth 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 tenth session from 18 to 20 July 2007. All members attended the session.
2. The Working Group adopted its agenda as set out in the annex.
3. The Working Group discussed correspondence that had been received by the Secretariat since its ninth session and reviewed the status of eight pending communications.
4. The Working Group discussed its working methods in relation to the transfer of the servicing of the Committee and the Working Group to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva in order to facilitate a smooth transition.
5. The Working Group stressed the importance for its work of the provision of translation services and interpretation in all working languages of its members so that it can function properly.
6. The Working Group discussed the need to give consideration to the formulation and format of future dissenting and concurring opinions to decisions and views adopted by the Committee in order to ensure that those opinions reflected the views of individual members and not of the Committee.
7. The rapporteurs on follow-up to the views on communication 4/2004, *Ms. A. S. v. Hungary*, Ms. Anamah Tan and Ms. Pramila Patten, briefed the Working Group on the latest submission of the State party submitted in response to the Committee's request for further information.



**Action taken**

## 8. The Working Group:

(a) Decided that its eleventh session would be held from 9 to 11 January 2008 and adopted the provisional agenda for that session;

(b) Requested the Secretariat to add a section to its note to the Working Group for each session to cover academic and other commentary on the decisions and views of the Committee with respect to communications;

(c) Requested the Secretariat to indicate, under the section of its note to the Working Group on correspondence received, whether incoming letters came from individuals or organizations;

(d) Reminded the Secretariat to implement the Working Group's earlier requests, as follows:

(i) That it be provided, as might be relevant, with monthly updates on new correspondence received as well as on the status of pending cases;

(ii) That it be provided with statistical information on correspondence received and cases registered, by region and by country;

(e) Suggested that the Committee discuss the formulation and format of future dissenting and concurring opinions to decisions and views adopted by the Committee, drawing upon the experience of other treaty bodies. It stressed that dissenting and concurring opinions should be published simultaneously with the decisions and views of the Committee;

(f) Requested the Division for the Advancement of Women to convey to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the Working Group's request for a thorough briefing by the petitions team about its work, about the servicing of treaty bodies regarding communications and about the procedures for routing correspondence to various staff members within the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights who work on communications, petitions and appeals. The Working Group would like the briefing to take place during its first meeting in Geneva;

(g) Recommended that the Committee request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to budget for outreach and training activities on the Optional Protocol procedure and allocate sufficient human and financial resources to carry out capacity-building activities on the submission of communications for relevant stakeholders, including women's organizations, lawyers' associations and other interested civil society actors. It also recommended that the Committee request that the Division for the Advancement of Women continue to disseminate information on the Convention and its Optional Protocol.

## **Annex**

### **Agenda of the tenth session of the Working Group**

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
  2. Review of steps and activities undertaken since the last session.
  3. Review and discussion of working methods.
  4. Update of communications.
  5. Any other matters.
  6. Adoption of the provisional agenda and dates for the eleventh session of the Working Group, and of the report of the Working Group on its tenth session.
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