



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Thirty-seventh session

15 January-2 February 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 2 February 2007, the closing date of the thirty-seventh 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 of 18 December 1979 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 of 6 October 1999 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 ___. 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-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 15 January to 2 February 2007. The Committee held 18 plenary meetings (756th to 773rd); 14 meetings (757th to 770th) took place in parallel chambers. The Committee also held ___ meetings to discuss agenda items 6, 7, 8 and 9. 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, who acted as temporary Chairperson, opened the session.

6. The Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Rachel Mayanja, and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, Carolyn Hannan, addressed the Committee at its 756th meeting.

C. Solemn declaration

7. At the 756th (opening) meeting of the thirty-seventh session of the Committee, before assuming their functions, the members elected at the fourteenth meeting of States parties to the Convention, on 23 June 2006, made the solemn declaration provided for under rule 15 of the Committee's rules of procedure. They were: Ferdous Ara Begum; Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani; Saisuree Chutikul; Dorcas Ama Frema Coker-Appiah; Cornelis Flinterman; Naela Gabr Mohamed Gabre Ali; Gumede Shelton; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari; Violeta Neubauer; Pramila Patten; Fumiko Saiga; and Dubravka Šimonović.

D. Election of officers

8. At its 756th meeting, on 15 January 2007, the Committee, in accordance with article 19 of the Convention, elected by acclamation the following officers to serve for a term of two years: Dubravka Šimonović, Chairperson; Naela Gabr, Françoise Gaspard and Ms. Glenda Simms, Vice-Chairpersons; and Ms. Shanthi Dairiam, Rapporteur.

E. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

9. The Committee considered the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2007/I/1, and Corr.1) at its 756th meeting. The agenda was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee.
3. Election of officers.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions of the Committee.

6. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
7. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
8. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
9. Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
10. Provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Committee.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-seventh session.

F. Report of the pre-session working group

10. At the 756th meeting, Dorcas Coker-Appiah introduced the report of the pre-session working group. The pre-session working group for the thirty-seventh session of the Committee met from 31 July to 4 August 2006 (CEDAW/PSWG/2007/I/CRP.1).

G. Organization of work

11. At the 756th meeting, the Chief of the Women's Rights Section, Division for the Advancement of Women, Christine Brautigam, introduced item 7, implementation of article 21 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/2007/I/3 and Add.1 and 3), and item 8, ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/2007/I/4 and Add.1, and CEDAW/C/2007/I/2).

12. On 15 and 22 January 2007, the Committee held closed meetings with representatives of specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations, in which country-specific information was provided as well as 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.

13. On 15 and 22 January, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations, who provided information about the implementation of the Convention in States reporting at the thirty-seventh session, namely Austria, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Greece, India, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Suriname, Tajikistan and Viet Nam.

H. Membership of the Committee

14. A list of members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is contained in annex ___. The following expert attended the session in part: Ms. Saiga from___.

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

15. At the 756th meeting, the report of the Chairperson on her activities undertaken since the thirty-sixth session was read out by Shanthi Dairiam.
