



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

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 10 August 2007, the closing date of the thirty-ninth 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-ninth session at United Nations Headquarters from 23 July to 10 August 2007. The Committee held 17 plenary meetings (792nd to 808th); 14 meetings (793rd to 806th) were held in parallel chambers. The Committee also held ___ meetings to discuss agenda items 4 to 7. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex ___, section ___.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2007/III/1) at its 792nd meeting. The agenda read 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-eighth and thirty-ninth 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 fortieth session of the Committee.
9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-ninth session.

D. Report of the pre-session working group

6. At its 792nd meeting, on 23 July, the Committee took note of the report of the pre-session working group. The pre-session working group for the thirty-ninth session of the Committee met from 5 to 9 February 2007 (see CEDAW/PSWG/2007/II/CRP.1) and was chaired by Maria Regina Tavares da Silva.

E. Organization of work

7. At its 792nd meeting, on 23 July, the Committee took note of documentation before it under items 5 (CEDAW/C/2007/III/3 and Add.1, 3 and 4) and 6 (CEDAW/C/2007/III/4 and CEDAW/C/2007/III/2) and agreed to take them up later during the session.

8. On 23 and 30 July 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.

9. On 23 and 30 July 2007, 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-ninth session, namely Belize, Brazil, Cook Islands, Estonia, Guinea, Honduras (written information), Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liechtenstein (written information), New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Singapore.

F. Membership of the Committee

10. A list of members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is contained in annex __. Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling did not attend the session. The following experts attended the session in part: Ms. Coker-Appiah from ____; Ms. Gabr from ____; Ms. Halperin-Kaddari from ____; Ms. Maiolo from ____; Ms. Pimentel from _____. The Committee noted that following the resignation of Hazel Gumede Shelton in May 2007, the process of approving her replacement in accordance with article 17, paragraph 7, of the Convention remained to be completed for lack of information received by the Committee.

G. Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the work of the Committee

11. At its 792nd meeting, on 23 July, the Committee commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its work. Statements were made by Dubravka Šimonović, Chairperson of the Committee; Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa, President of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly; Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Rachel Mayanja, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women; Julio Peralta, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women; Jackie Shapiro, Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Status of Women; and Sapana Pradhan Malla, of IRAW Asia Pacific. Ms. Schöpp-Schilling's statement was read by the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women. Those statements and other information pertaining to the anniversary are available at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/25anniversary.htm>.

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

12. At the 792nd meeting, on 23 July, the Chairperson reported on her activities undertaken since the thirty-eighth session.