



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Pre-session working group

Forty-sixth session

12-30 July 2010

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the pre-session working group

1. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-session working group for five days to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the initial and periodic reports that would be considered by the Committee at one of its future sessions.
2. At its forty-first session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the Committee's forty-sixth session would meet from 10 to 14 August 2009, immediately after its forty-fourth session, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues and questions, as well as to ensure their timely translation.
3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-session working group for the forty-sixth session:
 - Nicole Ameline
 - Barbara Evelyn Bailey
 - Ferdous Ara Begum
 - Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani
 - Violeta Neubauer
4. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Neubauer as its Chairperson.
5. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the initial report of Papua New Guinea and the periodic reports of Albania, Australia, Fiji, the Russian Federation and Turkey. The pre-session working group also drew up lists of issues and questions on the implementation of the Convention in the Central African Republic, Grenada and Seychelles, which had been invited to submit all their overdue reports as combined reports by the end of



2008 for consideration by the Committee in early 2010. Failing receipt of the reports within the suggested time frame, the Committee decided to proceed with the consideration of the implementation of the Convention in those States parties in the absence of their reports.

6. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues and questions, the pre-session working group had before it the reports of the six States parties listed above, as well as the State party's core document, if available; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; background information and draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the Secretariat, based on an analytical comparison of current States parties' reports, and the Committee's discussion on earlier reports; and other relevant information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies. In preparing the lists of issues and questions for periodic reports, the pre-session working group paid particular attention to the States parties' follow-up to the Committee's concluding observations on previous reports.

7. The pre-session working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by United Nations entities and specialized agencies. It also received written information from non-governmental organizations. The pre-session working group also heard oral presentations from non-governmental organizations with regard to one State party under consideration.

8. The lists of issues and questions adopted by the pre-session working group were transmitted to the nine States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues and questions with regard to the third periodic report of Albania (CEDAW/C/ALB/Q/3);

(b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Australia (CEDAW/C/AUL/Q/7);

(c) List of issues and questions with regard to the Central African Republic (CEDAW/C/CAF/Q/5);

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second, third and fourth periodic report of Fiji (CEDAW/C/FJI/Q/4);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to Grenada (CEDAW/C/GRD/Q/5);

(f) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Papua New Guinea (CEDAW/C/PNG/Q/3);

(g) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined sixth and seventh periodic report of the Russian Federation (CEDAW/C/USR/Q/7);

(h) List of issues and questions with regard to Seychelles (CEDAW/C/SYC/Q/5);

(i) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Turkey (CEDAW/C/TUR/Q/6).

9. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/V, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention. The themes included the constitutional and legislative framework and national machinery for the advancement of women; gender stereotypes; poverty and employment; violence

against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in decision-making; education and training; health; social and economic benefits; the situation of vulnerable groups of women, such as older women; rural women; women with disabilities; women belonging to ethnic minorities; refugee and migrant women; equality of women before the law; and marriage and family relations.
