



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

Fifty-second session

Geneva, 24-28 October 2011

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. The Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the fifty-second session would meet from 24 to 28 October 2011, immediately after its fiftieth 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:
 - Ms. Violet Awori
 - Ms. Barbara Bailey
 - Ms. Soledad Murillo de la Vega
 - Ms. Zohra Rasekh
 - Ms. Dubravka Simonovic
4. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Awori as its Chair.
5. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of the Bahamas, Bulgaria, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand and Samoa. In this regard, the pre-session working group was guided by the decision of the Committee, adopted at its forty-ninth session, to limit the lists of issues to 20 questions, with each question containing no more than three issues.



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 States parties listed above, as well as the States parties' core documents, 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 pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, if relevant. 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, non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions.

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

(a) List of issues and questions with regard to the fifth periodic report of the Bahamas (CEDAW/C/BHS/Q/5);

(b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh periodic report of Bulgaria (CEDAW/C/BGR/Q/4-7);

(c) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined seventh and eighth periodic report of Guyana (CEDAW/C/GUY/Q/7-8);

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined sixth and seventh periodic report of Indonesia (CEDAW/C/IDN/Q/6-7);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined sixth and seventh periodic report of Jamaica (CEDAW/C/JAM/Q/6-7);

(f) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined seventh and eighth periodic report of Mexico (CEDAW/C/MEX/Q/7-8);

(g) List of issues and questions with regard to the seventh periodic report of New Zealand (CEDAW/C/NZL/Q/7);

(h) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Samoa (CEDAW/C/WSM/Q/4-5).

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. These themes include 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; employment; health; social and economic benefits; the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, rural women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities, and refugee and migrant women; equality before the law; and marriage and family relations.