



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Pre-sessional working group

Seventy-sixth session

11–15 November 2019

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-sessional working group

1. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-sessional working group for five days to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the initial and periodic reports that will be considered by the Committee at an upcoming session.

2. The Committee decided that the pre-sessional working group for the seventy-sixth session of the Committee would meet from 11 to 15 November 2019, immediately after the seventy-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 and to ensure their timely translation.

3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-sessional working group and attended the session:

Gladys Acosta Vargas
Gunnar Bergby
Hilary Gbedemah
Wenyan Song
Genoveva Tisheva

4. The pre-sessional working group elected Ms. Song as its Chair.

5. The pre-sessional working group prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to the reports of Denmark, Gabon, Kyrgyzstan and Maldives, in addition to lists of issues prior to reporting for Belgium, Canada and Switzerland. In that regard, it was guided by Committee decisions 49/IX, 59/IV and 64/II, according to which the Committee decided to limit lists of issues and questions and lists of issues prior to reporting to 20 and 25 paragraphs, respectively. However, in practice and exceptionally, some lists of issues and questions contain a maximum of 23 paragraphs.



6. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues and questions, the pre-sessional working group had at its disposal electronic versions of the core documents of the States parties listed above. It also had at its disposal the reports of the States parties listed above, with the exception of Belgium, Canada and Switzerland, which will submit their periodic reports in response to the list of issues prior to reporting; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; draft lists of issues and questions and lists of issues prior to reporting prepared by the secretariat; and other pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, as relevant. In preparing the lists, the pre-sessional working group paid particular attention to the States parties' follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on their previous reports.

7. The pre-sessional working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as well as national human rights institutions, with regard to the States parties listed above.

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

(a) List of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report of Denmark ([CEDAW/C/DNK/Q/9](#));

(b) List of issues and questions in relation to the seventh periodic report of Gabon ([CEDAW/C/GAB/Q/7](#));

(c) List of issues and questions in relation to the fifth periodic report of Kyrgyzstan ([CEDAW/C/KGZ/Q/5](#));

(d) List of issues and questions in relation to the sixth periodic report of Maldives ([CEDAW/C/MDV/Q/6](#));

(e) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the eighth periodic report of Belgium ([CEDAW/C/BEL/QPR/8](#));

(f) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the tenth periodic report of Canada ([CEDAW/C/CAN/QPR/10](#));

(g) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the sixth periodic report of Switzerland ([CEDAW/C/CHE/QPR/6](#)).

9. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/IV, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention, as well as on the linkages between relevant themes and the Sustainable Development Goals. Those themes include the constitutional and legislative framework; access to justice; women and peace and security, where applicable; national machinery for the advancement of women; extraterritorial obligations; national human rights institutions; temporary special measures for the advancement of women; stereotypes and harmful practices; gender-based violence against women and girls, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in political and public life; nationality; education; employment; health; economic and social life; disaster risk reduction and climate change; rural women; equality in marriage and family relations; and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women, such as older women, widows, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, women using drugs, women in detention, indigenous women, women human rights defenders, women in poverty, women belonging to ethnic minority groups, refugee women and migrant women, asylum-seeking women, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons.