



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

Eightieth session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

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 periodic reports that will be considered by the Committee at an upcoming session.

2. The Committee decided that, owing to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the pre-sessional working group for the eightieth session of the Committee would, exceptionally, meet remotely from 1 to 3 and on 5 March 2021, immediately after the seventy-eighth session, which was also held remotely, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the list 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:

Nicole Ameline
Louiza Chalal
Rosario G. Manalo
Rhoda Reddock
Genoveva Tisheva

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

5. The pre-sessional working group prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to the reports of China, Hungary, Mauritania, Namibia, Uganda and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to lists of issues prior to reporting for Bhutan, Chile and Italy. The pre-sessional working group 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, with the exception of Hungary and the United Arab Emirates, which had not submitted core documents. It also had at its disposal the reports of the States parties listed above, with the exception of Bhutan, Chile and Italy, which will submit their periodic reports in response to the list of issues prior to reporting. It further had before it 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 China ([CEDAW/C/CHN/Q/9](#));

(b) List of issues and questions in relation to the ninth periodic report of Hungary ([CEDAW/C/HUN/Q/9](#));

(c) List of issues and questions in relation to the fourth periodic report of Mauritania ([CEDAW/C/MRT/Q/4](#));

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

(e) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Uganda ([CEDAW/C/UGA/Q/8-9](#));

(f) List of issues and questions in relation to the fourth periodic report of the United Arab Emirates ([CEDAW/C/ARE/Q/4](#));

(g) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the tenth periodic report of Bhutan ([CEDAW/C/BTN/QPR/10](#));

(h) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the eighth periodic report of Chile ([CEDAW/C/CHL/QPR/8](#));

(i) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the eighth periodic report of Italy ([CEDAW/C/ITA/QPR/8](#)).

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; women's access to justice; women and peace and security; national machinery for the advancement of women; national human rights institutions; temporary special measures for the advancement of women; stereotypes and harmful practices; gender-based violence against women and girls; trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in political and public life; nationality;

education; employment; health; economic empowerment and social benefits; climate change and disaster risk reduction; rural women; equality in marriage and family relations; the impact of COVID-19 on women's rights and gender equality; women's leadership in decision-making on post-COVID-19 recovery frameworks; and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, women in detention, indigenous women, women human rights defenders, women in poverty, women belonging to ethnic minority groups, migrant women, asylum-seeking and refugee women, and lesbian, bisexual and transgender and intersex women.
