



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2024

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women

Sixty-ninth session

New York, 10–21 March 2025

Agenda item 3 (c)

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”: gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Results of the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note reflects the results, including decisions taken, of the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, held in Geneva from 13 to 31 May and from 7 to 25 October 2024, respectively.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 47/94, the General Assembly recommended that the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should be scheduled, whenever possible, to allow for the timely transmission of the results of those sessions for information to the Commission on the Status of Women.

2. The Committee held its eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions from 13 to 31 May and from 7 to 25 October 2024, respectively. At its eighty-eighth session, the Committee adopted statements calling for peace between the Russian Federation and Ukraine¹ and, jointly with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the Women's (Amendment) Bill 2023, which contained a proposal to repeal the criminalization of female genital mutilation in the Gambia.² The Committee also decided to hold a half-day of general discussion on gender stereotypes at its ninetieth session in February 2025 and to accept, in principle, an invitation from the Pacific Community to hold a technical cooperation session of the Committee in Suva, subject to funding from the Pacific Community, approval by senior management of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the timely receipt of reports from States parties in the Pacific region, which would be discussed during the technical cooperation session.

3. At its eighty-ninth session, the Committee adopted its general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems (CEDAW/C/GC/40). It decided to transform its task force on gender stereotypes into a working group, with a view to elaborating a general recommendation on the topic, and to elaborate a general recommendation No. 42 on women and girls with disabilities, updating general recommendation No. 18, after the adoption of its general recommendation No. 41 on gender stereotypes. It also adopted, jointly with the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, a statement on upholding women's and girls' rights in Iraq.³ The Committee decided to invite three States parties from the region to its Pacific technical cooperation session, scheduled to be held in Suva from 7 to 11 April 2025, for a constructive engagement on their respective reports and to adopt its concluding observations on those reports at its subsequent formal session in Geneva. It also decided to invite representatives of Niue, Palau and Tonga to the technical cooperation event as observers, subject to available funding, and to engage with them, with a view to promoting their ratification of or accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, respectively.

4. The Committee continued to engage with partners. On 8 October, during the eighty-ninth session of the Committee, the Chair presented the report of the Committee on its eighty-fifth, eighty-sixth and eighty-seventh sessions (A/79/38) to the Third Committee in New York.

5. At its eighty-eighth session, the Committee held an informal meeting with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences,

¹ Available at <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2Fhrbodies%2Fcedaw%2Fstatements%2Fcedaw-stm-peace-ukraine-ru.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>.

² Available at <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2Fhrbodies%2Fcedaw%2Fstatements%2F2024-06-03-cedaw-stm-gambia-women-s-amendment-bill-long.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>.

³ Available at <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ohchr.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2Fhrbodies%2Fcedaw%2Fstatements%2Fjoint-stm-upholding-womens-girls-ri.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>.

Reem Alsalem, who gave a briefing to the Committee on her activities. It also held an informal meeting with the Director, Miles Young, and the Chief of Party for Project Governance, Ashley Bowe, of the Pacific Community, who gave a briefing to the Committee on the modalities and available funding in relation to the invitation extended by the Pacific Community to support a technical cooperation session of the Committee in Suva in 2025. At its eighty-ninth session, the Committee held an informal meeting with the Deputy Executive Director for Normative Support, United Nations System Coordination and Programme Results of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, who gave a briefing to the Committee on the preparations for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and on the strategies and plans of UN-Women. It also held an informal meeting with States parties, attended by 45 States parties, to give them a briefing on the work of the Committee on individual communications and inquiries under the Optional Protocol, gender-based violence against women, women and peace and security, and the strengthening and harmonization of its working methods. The Committee further held a public event for the launch of its general recommendation No. 40, which was attended by 75 States parties, four United Nations entities and international organizations and seven non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

6. The Committee continued to receive country-specific information from United Nations country teams and entities, specialized agencies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and NGOs.

7. As at 25 October, the closing date of the eighty-ninth session of the Committee, there were 189 States parties to the Convention and 115 States parties to the Optional Protocol. A total of 81 States had accepted the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee. To bring the amendment into force, two thirds of the States parties to the Convention (currently 126 States parties) must deposit their instruments of acceptance with the Secretary-General.

II. Results of the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions of the Committee

A. Reports considered by the Committee

8. At its eighty-eighth session, the Committee considered the reports of eight States parties, submitted under article 18 of the Convention, and issued its concluding observations thereon: Brazil ([CEDAW/C/BRA/8-9](#)), Estonia ([CEDAW/C/EST/7](#)), Kuwait ([CEDAW/C/KWT/6](#)), Malaysia ([CEDAW/C/MYS/6](#)), Montenegro ([CEDAW/C/MNE/3](#)), Republic of Korea ([CEDAW/C/KOR/9](#)), Rwanda ([CEDAW/C/RWA/10](#)) and Singapore ([CEDAW/C/SGP/6](#)).

9. At its eighty-ninth session, the Committee considered the reports of the following eight States parties, submitted under article 18 of the Convention, and issued its concluding observations thereon: Benin ([CEDAW/C/BEN/5](#)), Canada ([CEDAW/C/CAN/10](#)), Chile ([CEDAW/C/CHL/8](#)), Cuba ([CEDAW/C/CUB/9](#)), Japan ([CEDAW/C/JPN/9](#)),⁴ Lao People's Democratic Republic ([CEDAW/C/LAO/10](#)), New Zealand ([CEDAW/C/NZL/9](#)) and Saudi Arabia ([CEDAW/C/SAU/5](#)).

⁴ Japan submitted comments on the concluding observations of the Committee. See https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCEDAW%2FAIS%2FJPN%2F60581&Lang=en.

10. Representatives of United Nations country teams and entities, specialized agencies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and NGOs attended the sessions in person or submitted pre-recorded video statements. The reports of the States parties, the Committee's lists of issues and questions and the States parties' replies thereto are posted on the website of the Committee under the relevant session, as are the concluding observations of the Committee.

B. Action taken in relation to the implementation of article 21 of the Convention

Working group on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems

11. The working group met during the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions. During the eighty-eighth session, it discussed the revised draft general recommendation, incorporating written submissions received in response to the call for comments on the initial draft, as well as the inputs collected at five regional consultations. On 28 May 2024, the Committee convened a public meeting to deliver a technical briefing for States parties on the draft general recommendation and its elaboration process, which was attended by a large number of States parties. On 29 May, it held its first reading of the draft general recommendation, in a closed meeting.

12. At the eighty-ninth session, the working group finalized the draft general recommendation. On 23 October, the Committee held its second reading of and adopted general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems ([CEDAW/C/GC/40](#)), by consensus. On 25 October, the Committee held a public event to launch general recommendation No. 40. The event was opened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk. The Chair of the working group on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, Nicole Ameline, presented the general recommendation, followed by statements by the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, Tania María Abdo Rocholl, the Chief of Humanitarian Action and Director of the UN-Women Geneva Office, Sofia Calltorp, and the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Martin Chungong. The following States parties made statements: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The following States parties also attended the event: Albania, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Myanmar, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. Statements were also made by the GQUAL Campaign, Women@the Table, the International Disability Association and Fundación Legatum. The International Labour Organization, the Council of Europe and the following civil society organizations also attended the event: Every Woman Treaty, Marielle Franco Institute, the International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights, Soroptimist International, the Violet Coalition and the National Coalition of Women of Ecuador.

Working group on working methods

13. The working group met during the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions. At the eighty-eighth session, it discussed and submitted to the Committee two draft decisions, concerning an enhanced constructive dialogue, including a list of priority areas, and a limitation on the number of questions raised by Committee members during the dialogue and on the maximum length of submissions from national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and other organizations under the follow-up procedure to concluding observations. It also prepared inputs for a questionnaire on a Committee coordination mechanism, which were endorsed by the Committee and submitted to the thirty-sixth annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, held from 24 to 28 June 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. At the eighty-ninth session, the working group discussed and submitted to the Committee three draft decisions, concerning the provisional application of an eight-year cycle for the adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting, the procedure of the Committee for the adoption of statements and the operationalization of the guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines).

Working group on gender-based violence against women

14. The working group met during the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions. At the eighty-eighth session, the working group discussed the preparation of a draft research paper and guidelines on online and technology-facilitated gender-based violence against women and girls. It also discussed the activities planned by the Committee during its co-presidency of the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women, including the issuance of a position paper on gender-based violence against women for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. At the eighty-ninth session, the working group continued to discuss the activities planned by the Committee during its co-presidency of the Platform and considered options for its work on gender-based violence against women and girls, in particular in preparation for the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence starting on 25 November 2024.

Task force on gender stereotyping

15. The task force met during the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions. At the eighty-eighth session, it took note that the concept note for the general recommendation on gender stereotyping endorsed by the Committee at its eighty-seventh session had been published on the website of the Committee. At the eighty-ninth session, the task force discussed the future work of the newly established working group on gender stereotypes, to be co-chaired by Bandana Rana and Rhoda Reddock.

Task force on Afghanistan

16. The task force met during the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions. At the eighty-eighth session, the task force met virtually with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, to discuss the current and increasingly alarming situation of women and girls in the State party. At the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions, the Chair of the task force, Bandana Rana, held meetings with the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Nasir Ahmad Andisha.

17. At the eighty-ninth session, the Committee decided to establish a working group on women and peace and security, absorbing its task forces on Afghanistan and Ukraine, with a mandate to prepare reviews of States parties in conflict or post-conflict situations and keep abreast of ongoing conflicts and the evolution of the women and peace and security agenda, and with limited secretariat support focusing on the aforementioned State party reviews.

Task force on sex/gender self-identification

18. The task force met during the eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions. At the eighty-eighth session, the Committee endorsed a proposal by the task force to prepare a report on relevant issues, positions and possible mediating solutions with regard to issues related to sex/gender self-identification for consideration by the Committee. At the eighty-ninth session, the Chair of the task force, Daphna Hacker, presented the report to the Committee. The Committee decided to transform the task force into a focal point, designated Ms. Hacker as focal point and requested her to expand her report by covering issues such as women in sports and safe spaces for female-born women.

C. Action taken in relation to ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

Enhancing the Committee's working methods under article 18 of the Convention

19. At its eighty-eighth session, the Committee adopted a decision on an enhanced constructive dialogue, including a list of priority areas. It decided that, rather than covering all the articles of the Convention, 5 to 10 priority areas, to be identified by the country rapporteur, would be highlighted in the list of general themes to be raised during the dialogue, which is sent to the State party in advance of the dialogue. The country rapporteur would submit the proposed priority areas to the other members of the country task force, for endorsement, at the same time as the country briefing note. The Committee also decided that, during a pilot phase, the members of the country task force would limit the number of thematic issues raised in each intervention during a constructive dialogue to a maximum of five to ensure adequate time management.

20. At its eighty-ninth session, the Committee decided, pending the operationalization of a predictable review cycle for the human rights treaty bodies, to apply provisionally an eight-year cycle for the adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting, based on a target of 24 lists of issues prior to reporting or lists of issues adopted per year. It also decided to announce the States parties to be reviewed or for which lists of issues prior to reporting or lists of issues would be adopted one year in advance. The Committee further decided that statements of the Committee on urgent situations would be fast-tracked, concise and media-oriented, and that authority would be delegated to the Chair to approve such statements between sessions. Statements on controversial issues would be approved in plenary sessions or, between sessions, would be circulated to the Committee for approval. Statements to be issued jointly with other human rights mechanisms on topics on which the Committee had a consensual position (e.g., child marriage) could be signed by the Chair alone.

Follow-up procedure

21. The Committee continued its work under the follow-up procedure at its eighty-eighth and eighty-ninth sessions, adopting the reports of the Rapporteur on the follow-up to concluding observations and considering the follow-up reports of Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Morocco, Peru, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Türkiye and Uzbekistan.

Overdue reports

22. The Committee decided that its secretariat should systematically remind States parties with reports that were overdue by five years or more to submit their reports as soon as possible. As at 20 December, there were 24 States parties with reports that were overdue by five years or more: Algeria, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Comoros, Croatia, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malta, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Tuvalu and Zambia. It should be noted, however, that, with regard to Equatorial Guinea, Libya, Malta, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tuvalu, the Committee has adopted lists of issues prior to reporting and is awaiting the countries' submission of their written replies, which will constitute their respective periodic reports under the simplified reporting procedure; and that the Committee has scheduled the adoption of lists of issues prior to reporting for Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Comoros, Dominica, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, India, Poland, Sierra Leone and Zambia in 2025. With regard to overdue reports, the Committee decided that, as a last resort, and failing receipt of those reports by a specified date, it would proceed with the consideration of the implementation of the Convention in the State party in the absence of a report. States parties have been responsive to the reminders transmitted by the secretariat, as evidenced by the number of reports submitted and scheduled for consideration. The Committee currently has 37 reports pending consideration at future sessions.

Dates of future sessions of the Committee

23. The Committee confirmed the tentative dates of its ninetieth and ninety-first sessions, as follows:

Ninetieth session

- (a) Sixty-first session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 29–31 January 2025;
- (b) Thirtieth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 30 and 31 January 2025;
- (c) Plenary: 3–21 February 2025;
- (d) Pre-sessional working group for the ninety-second session: 24–28 February 2025.

Ninety-first session

- (a) Sixty-second session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 12 and 13 June 2025;
- (b) Thirty-first session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 12 and 13 June 2025;
- (c) Plenary: 16 June–4 July 2025;
- (d) Pre-sessional working group for the ninety-third session: 7–11 July 2025.

Reports to be considered at future sessions of the Committee

24. The Committee confirmed that it would consider the reports of Belize, Belarus, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (exceptional report), Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Nepal and Sri Lanka at its ninetieth session; and the reports of

Afghanistan, Botswana, Chad, Mexico, Monaco, San Marino and Thailand at its ninety-first session.

D. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising from articles 2 and 8 of the Optional Protocol

25. At its eighty-eighth session, the Committee heard a briefing by the Chair of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol, which had met on 27 May 2024, during the eighty-eighth session. The Committee adopted decisions of inadmissibility with regard to communications concerning Denmark ([CEDAW/C/88/D/161/2020](#)) and Turkmenistan ([CEDAW/C/88/D/166/2021](#)).

26. With regard to inquiries under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, the Committee heard a briefing by the Chair of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol, which had met on 27 May, during the eighty-eighth session. The Committee reviewed all pending inquiry proceedings and discussed ways to enhance the effectiveness of the inquiry procedure. It decided to amend the standard operating procedures for inquiries to allow for the combining of separate inquiry proceedings concerning the same State party by conducting a single country visit and covering the different subject matters in the same inquiry report to increase cost-efficiency. In addition, the Committee decided to pilot a follow-up assessment table for Canada. The pilot would be assessed based on additional follow-up information received from Canada, to be included as an annex to its tenth periodic report, which would be reviewed at the eighty-ninth session of the Committee. It also discussed possible procedural modalities for conducting country visits jointly with other human rights treaty bodies or United Nations mechanisms. The Committee decided to explore ways to seek funding for its work under the inquiry procedure, as well as new tools to enhance its capacity to assess information received under article 8 of the Optional Protocol. It stressed the importance of continuous cooperation with States parties and regular information exchange with United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders.

27. At its eighty-ninth session, the Committee heard a briefing by the Chair of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its sixtieth session, held on 2 and 4 October 2024. It adopted views finding violations with regard to a communication concerning Peru ([CEDAW/C/89/D/170/2021](#)). It also decided to discontinue its consideration of communications concerning Denmark ([CEDAW/C/89/D/147/2019](#)) and Sweden ([CEDAW/C/89/D/224/2024](#)).

28. With regard to inquiries under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, the Committee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol on its twenty-ninth session, including the following recommendations of the Working Group: in relation to inquiry No. 2017/3, that Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia be designated as an additional member to conduct the inquiry and that the State party concerned be requested to give its consent to a visit by the designated members to its territory (if no such consent was obtained, the Committee would conduct its inquiry remotely); in relation to inquiry No. 2016/1, that the State party concerned be requested to give its consent to a visit by the designated members to its territory (if no such consent was obtained, the Committee would conduct its inquiry remotely); in relation to inquiry No. 2011/2 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, that the Working Group should present an assessment of the information received from the State party in response to each of the recommendations of the Committee in the report on inquiry No. 2011/2 at the ninetieth session of the Committee; in relation to submission No. 2024/3, having conducted a preliminary assessment of all information received, that the Committee should invite the State

party concerned to submit its observations with regard to the information concerned; in relation to submission No. 2024/2, having conducted a preliminary assessment of all information received, that the Committee should discontinue the proceedings because the threshold of article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol had not been met; in relation to submission No. 2023/3, that the secretariat follow up on its request for additional information from the sources of information; and, in relation to submission No. 2021/1, that the secretariat follow up on its request for additional information from a United Nations entity.
