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## **Commission on the Status of Women**

### **Fiftieth session**

27 February-10 March 2006

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women  
and to the special session of the General Assembly  
entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development  
and peace for the twenty-first century”: review of gender  
mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations system**

## **Results of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

### **Note by the Secretary-General**

#### *Summary*

The present note reflects the results, including decisions taken, of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which was held in New York from 16 January to 3 February 2006.

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\* E/CN.6/2006/1.

## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 47/94 of 16 December 1992, the General Assembly recommended that the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women be scheduled, whenever possible, to allow for the timely transmission of the results of the Committee's work to the Commission on the Status of Women, for information.

2. The Committee held its thirty-second session from 10 to 28 January 2005 and its thirty-third session from 5 to 22 July 2005. The results of those sessions are contained in the report of the Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session (see A/60/38).

3. The Committee held its thirty-fourth session from 16 January to 3 February 2006. At that session, the Committee adopted one decision and took action on items 5, 6 and 7 of its agenda (CEDAW/C/2006/I/1 and Corr.1).

4. On 3 February 2006, the closing date of the thirty-fourth session, there were 180 States parties to the Convention. Seventy-six States parties had ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol and 47 States had accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee.

## **II. Results of the Committee's thirty-fourth session**

### **A. Reports considered by the Committee**

5. The Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, namely those of Australia, Cambodia, Eritrea, Mali, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Togo, which had acceded to the Convention in 1983, reported for the first time in a combined initial through fifth periodic report. Cambodia, Eritrea and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia submitted combined initial through third periodic reports. Mali presented a combined second through fifth periodic report, while Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) presented a combined fourth through sixth periodic report. Australia and Thailand presented combined fourth and fifth periodic reports. The delegations of several reporting States were headed by Ministers and included representatives with specialized technical expertise. The reports, the Committee's lists of issues and questions, the States parties' replies and their oral introductory statements (where electronically available) are posted on the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/34sess.htm>).

6. In regard to each of the reporting States, the Committee adopted concluding comments. These are also available on the above-mentioned website.

### **B. Decisions**

7. The Committee adopted the following decision brought to the attention of States parties.

**Decision 34/I**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered the question of treaty body reform. It is of the view that no decision should be taken at the present time on the question of a possible transfer of the Committee and its secretariat. Instead, the Committee recommends strongly that further reflection take place once the details of the reform proposals are available, and that its own inputs be taken into consideration in the decision-making process.

**C. Action in relation to item 5: Implementation of article 21 of the Convention**

8. Members of the task force for a general recommendation on article 2 of the Convention provided an update on the status of its work.

9. The Committee was briefed on the progress made by a group of experts on the elaboration of a general recommendation on migrant women and agreed to continue the discussion at its informal meeting in Berlin. Experts also agreed to circulate the current draft to other human rights treaty bodies for comment.

**D. Action in relation to item 6: Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee****Future sessions**

10. In the light of the authorization by the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/230, of the extension of the meeting time of the Committee in 2006 and 2007, the Committee decided to convene the pre-session working group for the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions immediately after the closure of the thirty-fourth session in order to ensure that sufficient time is available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues and questions, as well as to ensure their timely translation. The Committee also decided, for the same reason, that the pre-session working group for the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions would convene immediately prior to the thirty-sixth session.

11. The Committee took note of the dates of future sessions, as follows:

- (a) Thirty-fifth session: 15 May to 2 June 2006;
- (b) Thirty-sixth session: 7 to 25 August 2006;
- (c) Thirty-seventh session: 15 January to 2 February 2007;
- (d) Thirty-eighth session: 14 May to 1 June 2007;
- (e) Thirty-ninth session: 23 July to 10 August 2007.

12. The pre-session working group for the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions will be held from 6 to 10 February 2006; the pre-session working groups for the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions will be held from 31 July to 4 August 2006; and the pre-session working group for the thirty-ninth session will be held from 5 to 9 February 2007. The eighth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol will be held from 2 to 4 August 2006 and the ninth session from 5 to 9 February 2007.

13. The Committee confirmed that, at its thirty-fifth session, it would consider the following reports:

- (a) Initial reports:
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Malaysia
  - Saint Lucia
  - Turkmenistan
- (b) Periodic reports:
  - Cyprus
  - Guatemala
  - Malawi
  - Romania

14. The Committee decided to consider the following reports at its thirty-sixth session:

- (a) Initial report:
  - Cape Verde
- (b) Periodic reports:
  - China
  - Chile
  - Cuba
  - Czech Republic
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo
  - Denmark
  - Georgia
  - Ghana
  - Jamaica
  - Mauritius
  - Mexico
  - Philippines
  - Republic of Moldova
  - Uzbekistan

15. The Committee decided to invite the following States parties to present their reports at its thirty-seventh session, subject to any adjustments that may become necessary:

(a) Initial report:

Tajikistan

(b) Periodic reports:

Austria

Azerbaijan

Colombia

Greece

India

Kazakhstan

Maldives

Namibia

Netherlands

Nicaragua

Peru

Poland

Singapore

Suriname

16. The Committee decided to invite the following States parties to present their reports at its thirty-eighth session, subject to any adjustments that may become necessary (this is a preliminary list, to be completed):

Mauritania

Mozambique

Niger

Pakistan

Syrian Arab Republic

Vanuatu

17. The Committee identified meetings to be attended by its Chairperson or an alternate during 2006, namely:

(a) The fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(b) The sixty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and/or the inaugural session of the Human Rights Council, as applicable;

(c) The eighteenth meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies;

(d) The fifth Inter-Committee Meeting, together with two other members of the Committee;

(e) The sixty-first session of the General Assembly (Third Committee).

#### **Action to enhance the Committee's working methods**

18. The Committee discussed and took the following action to enhance its working methods under article 18 of the Convention:

#### **Summary records of the Committee**

19. The Committee approved the non-simultaneous release of all outstanding and available summary records. It requested that these be made widely available, especially through the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

#### **Summary of the introductory statements of States parties**

20. The Committee decided to dispense with the inclusion of summaries of the introductory statements of reporting States in its annual report, thus reducing the overall length of the report. The Committee noted that its decision is in response to the efforts of the General Assembly to limit the volume of documentation.

#### **Informal meeting in May 2006**

21. The Committee expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Germany for the invitation to hold an informal meeting in Berlin, in early May 2006. The Committee will consider: the question of its working methods, especially in connection with its consideration of periodic reports of States parties in parallel working groups; aspects in conjunction with the reform of the human rights treaty bodies; and a draft general recommendation on migrant women.

#### **Country task forces**

22. The Committee agreed to use country task forces for consideration of four periodic reports at its thirty-fifth session.

#### **Working methods for parallel working groups**

23. The Committee held a preliminary discussion on the working methods pertaining to its meetings in parallel working groups for consideration of periodic reports at its thirty-sixth session, in August 2006.

#### **Interaction with the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system**

24. The Committee adopted the new guidelines for submission of reports by the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system.

**Other matters****Plan of Action of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

25. At the invitation of the Committee, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, addressed the Committee on 27 January 2006 in closed meeting and held a discussion with experts on matters pertaining to the proposed reforms of the human rights treaty bodies.

26. The Committee agreed to continue its discussion of these proposals at its informal meeting in Berlin, on the basis of the concept paper that the High Commissioner is expected to issue shortly. The Committee intends to provide further comments to the High Commissioner after the issuance of that paper.

27. The Committee sent letters to the Secretary-General and to the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the question of treaty body reform (see also decision 34/1).

**Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences**

28. The Committee extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to meet with the Committee at its thirty-fifth session.

**Letter from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, addressed to the Chairperson of the Committee**

29. The Committee responded to a letter from the Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Chairperson pertaining to the examination of Israel's third periodic report at the thirty-third session.

**E. Action in relation to item 7: Activities of the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention****Action in respect to article 2 (communications)**

30. The Committee took action on communication 8/2005, Rahime Kayhan v. Turkey, and registered communication 11/2006.

31. The Committee appointed two rapporteurs on follow-up to communication 3/2004, A.T. v. Hungary.

**Action in respect to article 8 (Inquiry procedure)**

32. The Committee did not consider any issues under article 8 of the Optional Protocol at the thirty-fourth session.