

8 March 2006

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

Pre-session working group

Thirty-fifth session

15 May-2 June 2006

Thirty-sixth session

7-25 August 2006

**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. At its ninth session, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women decided to convene a pre-session working group for five days before each session of the Committee to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the periodic reports that would be considered by the Committee at its next session.
2. At its thirty-first session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group would also prepare lists of issues and questions for initial reports. The Committee also decided that each list would contain a total of 30 clear and direct questions. In preparing the lists of issues and questions for periodic reports, particular attention would be paid to States parties follow-up to previous concluding comments and their previous reports would be taken into consideration. The practice of clustering questions under priority topics rather than addressing specific articles would continue.
3. At its thirty-third session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the Committee's thirty-fifth session would meet from 6 to 10 February 2006. 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 following eight members of the Committee participated in the pre-session working group:

Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani

Naéla Gabr

Silvia Pimentel

Fumiko Saiga

Glenda Simms

Dubravka Šimonović

Maria Regina Tavares da Silva

Xiaoqiao Zou

4. The pre-session working group elected Regina Tavares da Silva and Dubravka Šimonović as co-Chairpersons.

5. In accordance with the list of States parties selected by the Committee to present reports at its thirty-fifth session, the pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Guatemala, Malawi, Malaysia, Romania, Saint Lucia and Turkmenistan.

6. In accordance with the list of States parties selected by the Committee to present reports at its thirty-sixth session, the pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Cape Verde, Chile, China, Cuba, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Georgia, Ghana, Jamaica, Mauritius, Mexico, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova and Uzbekistan. The lists of issues and questions for Cuba and Ghana were adopted intersessionally via e-mail.

7. In order to ensure the completion of its work, the pre-session working group met in two subgroups to prepare the lists of issues and questions. The pre-session working group benefited from the inputs provided by the country rapporteurs prior to the session.

8. To assist in the preparation of the lists, the pre-session working group had before it the reports of the 23 States parties listed above, the core document, if available, submitted by the State party, the general guidelines for the preparation of reports by States parties (CEDAW/C/7/Rev.3), the general recommendations adopted by the Committee, draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women in accordance with Committee decision 19/III, based on an analytical comparison of current States parties' reports with previous reports and the Committee's discussion thereon, and other relevant information, including concluding comments and observations of the Committee and of other treaty bodies.

9. In accordance with Committee decision 18/I, the pre-session working group held a closed meeting with a representative of one entity of the United Nations system. It also received written contributions from two entities of the United Nations system. The pre-session working group received written information from 10 non-governmental organizations.

10. The pre-session working group notes that, as initial reports will be considered on an article-by-article basis, with the exception of articles 1 and 2, 7 and 8, and 15 and 16, the lists of issues and questions follow the same approach.

11. 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 previous concluding comments and also took into consideration their previous reports. Rather than address specific articles, the pre-session working group clustered questions under thematic issues.

12. The pre-session working group will advise the Committee of the rationale for the choices regarding prioritization of issues raised in regard to periodic reports in the briefings by country rapporteurs to the Committee.

13. Lists of issues and questions drawn up by the pre-session working group were transmitted to the 23 States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEDAW/C/BIH/Q/3);

(b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of Cape Verde (CEDAW/C/CPV/Q/6);

(c) List of issues and questions with regard to the fourth periodic report of Chile (CEDAW/C/CHI/Q/4);

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fifth and sixth periodic report, and Add.1 and 2, of China (CEDAW/C/CHN/Q/6);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fifth and sixth periodic report of Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/Q/5);

(f) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined third, fourth and fifth periodic report of Cyprus (CEDAW/C/CYP/Q/5);

(g) List of issues and questions with regard to the third periodic report of the Czech Republic (CEDAW/C/CZE/Q/3);

(h) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CEDAW/C/COD/Q/5);

(i) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Denmark (CEDAW/C/DEN/Q/6);

(j) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of Georgia (CEDAW/C/GEO/Q/3);

(k) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined third, fourth and fifth periodic report of Ghana (CEDAW/C/GHA/Q/5);

(l) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Guatemala (CEDAW/C/GUA/Q/6);

(m) List of issues and questions with regard to the fifth periodic report of Jamaica (CEDAW/C/JAM/Q/5);

(n) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second, third, fourth and fifth periodic report of Malawi (CEDAW/C/MWI/Q/5);

(o) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial and second periodic report of Malaysia (CEDAW/C/MYS/Q/2);

- (p) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined third, fourth and fifth periodic report of Mauritius (CEDAW/C/MAR/Q/5);
- (q) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Mexico (CEDAW/C/MEX/Q/6);
- (r) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fifth and sixth periodic report of the Philippines (CEDAW/C/PHI/Q/6);
- (s) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of the Republic of Moldova (CEDAW/C/MDA/Q/3);
- (t) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Romania (CEDAW/C/ROM/Q/6);
- (u) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of Saint Lucia (CEDAW/C/LCA/Q/6);
- (v) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial and second periodic report of Turkmenistan (CEDAW/C/TKM/Q/2);
- (w) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of Uzbekistan (CEDAW/C/UZB/Q/3).

14. 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. The themes included the constitutional and legislative framework and national machinery for the advancement of women; participation in decision-making; education and training; stereotypes; poverty and employment; violence against women; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; health; equality before the law, and marriage and family relations; and the situation of vulnerable groups of women, such as older women, rural women, women belonging to ethnic minorities, refugee and migrant women.
