



**United Nations**

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

**Seventieth session  
(2–20 July 2018)**

**Seventy-first session  
(22 October–9 November 2018)**

**Seventy-second session  
(18 February–8 March 2019)**

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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## Letter of transmittal

[28 March 2019]

I have the honour to refer to article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, according to which the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established pursuant to the Convention, is to, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly on its activities.

The Committee held its seventieth session from 2 to 20 July 2018, its seventy-first session from 22 October to 9 November 2018 and its seventy-second session from 18 February to 8 March 2019, at the United Nations Office at Geneva. It adopted its reports on the sessions at its 1629th meeting, on 20 July 2018, its 1658th meeting, on 9 November 2018, and its 1687th meeting, on 8 March 2019. The reports are herewith submitted for transmission to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

(Signed) Hilary **Gbedemah**  
Chair



**Part One**

**Report of the Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women on its seventieth session**

**2–20 July 2018**

## Chapter I

### Decisions adopted by the Committee

#### Decision 70/I

On 19 July 2018, the Committee adopted a statement, jointly with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on guaranteeing sexual and reproductive health and rights for all women, in particular women with disabilities.

#### Decision 70/II

On 20 July 2018, the Committee, further to its decision 61/II, endorsed the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals ([HRI/MC/2015/6](#)) endorsed by the twenty-seventh meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies.

#### Decision 70/III

On 17 July 2018, the Committee appointed Nahla Haidar as rapporteur on intimidation or reprisals and Gladys Acosta Vargas as alternate rapporteur on intimidation or reprisals, in accordance with the Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals, amending decision 60/VIII, in which it had entrusted the Chair, at the request of the Bureau, with addressing allegations of intimidation or reprisals.

#### Decision 70/IV

On 13 July 2018, the Committee endorsed a framework of cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict.

#### Decision 70/V

Amending its decision 62/II, the Committee decided to replace the standard paragraph on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its concluding observations with the following new standard paragraph on the Sustainable Development Goals, to be placed as a new section C before “Parliament”, which is to become section D:

The Committee welcomes the international support for the Sustainable Development Goals and calls for the realization of de jure and de facto (substantive) gender equality, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, throughout the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee recalls the importance of Goal 5 and the mainstreaming of the principles of equality and non-discrimination throughout all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It urges the State party to recognize women as the driving force of the sustainable development of the country and to adopt relevant policies and strategies to that effect.

#### Decision 70/VI

The Committee decided to limit the number of States parties for which lists of issues and questions prior to reporting would be prepared to a maximum of three per session of the pre-sessional working group. It also decided that, given that the States parties concerned had requested to submit their periodic reports under the simplified reporting procedure and that they had met the eligibility criteria stipulated in decision 69/V, the periodic reports of the following States parties would be considered under that procedure: Dominican Republic (eighth periodic report), Germany (ninth periodic report), Mongolia (tenth periodic report), Norway (tenth periodic report), Panama (eighth periodic report), Sweden (tenth periodic report), Switzerland (sixth

periodic report), Tunisia (seventh periodic report), Ukraine (ninth periodic report) and Uruguay (tenth periodic report).

**Decision 70/VII**

The Committee decided to establish a working group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, to be chaired by Dalia Leinarte, with a view to elaborating a draft general recommendation on the subject.

**Decision 70/VIII**

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the seventy-second session: Magalys Arocha, Lilian Hofmeister, Lia Nadaraia, Wenyan Song and Aicha Vall Verges.

## **Chapter II**

### **Organizational and other matters**

#### **A. States parties to the Convention and to the Optional Protocol**

1. As at 20 July 2018, the closing date of the seventieth session of the Committee, there were 189 States parties to the Convention. In addition, 72 States parties had accepted the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee. A total of 126 States parties to the Convention are currently required to accept the amendment in order to bring it into force.
2. As at the same date, there were 109 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

#### **B. Opening of the session**

3. The seventieth session of the Committee was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 2 to 20 July 2018. The Committee held 20 plenary meetings and 10 meetings to discuss agenda items 5 to 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in the annex to part one of the present report.
4. At the 1600th meeting, on 2 July 2018, the session was opened by the Chair.

#### **C. Adoption of the agenda**

5. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda ([CEDAW/C/70/1](#)) at its 1600th meeting, on 2 July.

#### **D. Report of the pre-sessional working group**

6. The report of the pre-sessional working group ([CEDAW/C/PSWG/70/1](#)), which had met from 20 to 24 November 2017, was introduced by Nicole Ameline at the 1600th meeting, on 2 July 2018.

#### **E. Organization of work**

7. On 2 and 9 July, the Committee held closed meetings, including videoconferences, with representatives of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, who provided country-specific information and information on the efforts of those bodies in support of the implementation of the Convention.
8. In addition, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, who provided information on the implementation of the Convention in the States parties whose reports the Committee considered at its session.
9. On 16 July, the Committee was provided with a briefing via video conference by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, on his mandate.
10. On 17 July, the Committee held an informal meeting with officials of the World Health Organization to discuss substantive and policy issues relevant to women's

health. The meeting was hosted by the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.

## **F. Membership of the Committee**

### **Filling of casual vacancies**

11. On 2 July, Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia made the solemn declaration, as provided for in rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, in relation to her appointment, through 31 December 2020, following the death of Theodora Oby Nwankwo on 9 December 2017.

### **Attendance at the seventieth session**

12. All members attended the seventieth session. The following members did not attend on the indicated dates: Ismat Jahan, from 9 to 17 July; and Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, on 20 July. A list of the members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is contained in annex II to part three of the present report.

## **Chapter III**

### **Report of the Chair on intersessional activities**

13. At the 1600th meeting, on 2 July 2018, the Chair presented a report on her activities since the sixty-ninth session.

## Chapter IV

### Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

14. The Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention and prepared the following concluding observations thereon:

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Australia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/AUS/CO/8</a> )
Cook Islands	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/COK/CO/2-3</a> )
Cyprus	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/CYP/CO/8</a> )
Liechtenstein	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/LIE/CO/5/Rev.1</a> )
Mexico	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/MEX/CO/9</a> )
New Zealand	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/NZL/CO/8</a> )
State of Palestine	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/PSE/CO/1</a> )
Turkmenistan	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/TKM/CO/5</a> )

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#### Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

15. The Committee considered the follow-up reports received from the following States parties:

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Czechia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/CZE/CO/6/Add.1</a> )
Eritrea	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/ERI/CO/5/Add.1</a> )
Kyrgyzstan	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/KGZ/CO/4/Add.1</a> )
Slovakia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/SVK/CO/5-6/Add.1</a> )
Sweden	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/8-9/Add.1</a> )
Uganda	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/7/Add.1</a> )
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/VEN/CO/7-8/Add.1</a> )
Viet Nam	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/VNM/CO/7-8/Add.1</a> )

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16. The Committee sent first reminders to Haiti and Iceland, whose follow-up reports were overdue.

## Chapter V

### Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol

17. Article 12 of the Optional Protocol provides that the Committee is to include in its annual report a summary of its activities under the Optional Protocol.

#### A. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising under article 2 of the Optional Protocol

18. The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 9 July 2018.

19. The Committee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its forty-first session (<https://bit.ly/2IsaSoo>).

20. The Committee adopted final decisions with regard to two individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted decisions of inadmissibility in *H.D. v. Denmark* (CEDAW/C/70/D/76/2014) and *N.M. v. Turkey* (CEDAW/C/70/D/92/2015). It discontinued its consideration of communications *H.S. v. Denmark* (CEDAW/C/70/D/113/2017) and *J.O. v. Switzerland* (CEDAW/C/70/D/115/2017). All decisions were adopted by consensus.

#### B. Follow-up to views of the Committee on individual communications

21. The Committee decided to close the follow-up dialogue in relation to the following communications: *Alyne da Silva Pimentel v. Brazil*, with a finding of a satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in its views (CEDAW/C/49/D/17/2008); *Kell v. Canada*, with a finding of a partially satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in its views (CEDAW/C/51/D/19/2008); *R.P.B. v. Philippines*, with a finding of a non-satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in its views (CEDAW/C/57/D/34/2011); and *M. W. v. Denmark*, with a finding of a non-satisfactory implementation of the recommendations contained in its views (CEDAW/C/63/D/46/2012). Of the 13 cases under follow-up examination, two relate to the Russian Federation and one each relates to Finland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Moldova, the Netherlands, Peru, Slovakia, Spain, Tanzania and Timor-Leste.

#### C. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising under article 8 of the Optional Protocol

22. The Committee discussed its activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on 17 July 2018. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol on its tenth session (<https://bit.ly/2GgJgWu>).

23. The Committee adopted the following recommendations of the Working Group:

(a) In relation to submission No. 2017/3, to designate Nicole Ameline and Dalia Leinarte to conduct an inquiry and seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory;

(b) In relation to submission No. 2016/1, to designate Gunnar Bergby and Rosario G. Manalo to conduct an inquiry and seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory;



(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2, concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to invite the State party at an appropriate time to provide information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the inquiry ([CEDAW/C/OP.8/GBR/1](#), paras. 85–86), not in the context of the consideration of its eighth periodic report but separately, in accordance with article 9 (2) of the Optional Protocol.

24. The Committee also adopted the following decisions:

(a) In relation to inquiry No. [2014/2](#), to designate Aruna Devi Narain, to replace Aicha Vall Verges, to conduct the inquiry with Marion Bethel;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. [2013/1](#), to designate Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia as an additional member to conduct the inquiry with Hilary Gbedemah;

(c) In relation to inquiry No. [2012/1](#), to defer the decision of the Committee to seek the consent of the State party concerned to a visit to its territory until the State party has submitted relevant information under the procedure on follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee in relation to its most recent periodic report;

(d) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/4, to designate Aicha Vall Verges, to replace Patricia Schulz, to conduct the inquiry with Nicole Ameline and Marion Bethel;

(e) To approve amendments to the standard operating procedures and the guidance note on the structure of inquiry reports.

## Chapter VI

### Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

25. The secretariat informed the Committee about the status of submission of overdue reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

#### Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 7

##### Dates of future sessions

26. In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates were confirmed for the Committee's seventy-first and seventy-second sessions and related meetings:

##### Seventy-first session (Geneva)

- (a) Forty-second session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 17–19 October 2018;
- (b) Eleventh session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 18 and 19 October 2018;
- (c) Seventy-first session: 22 October–9 November 2018;
- (d) Pre-sessional working group for the seventy-third session: 12–16 November 2018;

##### Seventy-second session (Geneva)

- (e) Forty-third session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 12–15 February 2019;
- (f) Twelfth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 14 and 15 February 2019;
- (g) Seventy-second session: 18 February–8 March 2019;
- (h) Pre-sessional working group for the seventy-fourth session: 11–15 March 2019.

##### Reports to be considered at future sessions

27. The Committee confirmed that it would consider the reports of the following States parties at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions:

##### Seventy-first session:

Bahamas  
Congo  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Mauritius (under the simplified reporting procedure)  
Nepal  
Samoa  
Tajikistan

Seventy-second session:

Angola

Antigua and Barbuda

Botswana

Bulgaria (under the simplified reporting procedure)

Colombia

Ethiopia

Serbia

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## **Chapter VII**

### **Implementation of article 21 of the Convention**

#### **Working group on working methods**

28. The working group met twice during the session. The Committee approved the recommendation of the working group that the time limit for States parties to submit their written replies to lists of issues and questions prior to reporting be extended from six months to one year.

#### **Working group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

29. The working group met with representatives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), who informed the working group that IPU would organize a workshop on family law on 19 October 2018 and extended an invitation to the members of the Committee. The working group and the IPU representatives agreed to adopt a joint declaration on parity in politics on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention.

#### **Working group on the Convention, UN-Women and the Sustainable Development Goals**

30. At the invitation of the working group, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Bank Group and the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development provided an update to the Committee on recent developments relating to Sustainable Development Goal 5, target 5.1, to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, and indicator 5.1.1, whether legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, for which UN-Women is the custodian agency.

31. The working group met with a consultant, who presented the final draft of a contribution to the revised treaty-specific reporting guidelines on the form and content of initial and periodic reports, taking into account the gender-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 5, target 5.1 and indicator 5.1.1.

#### **Working group on cooperation with national human rights institutions**

32. The working group met twice during the session. It discussed the purpose and objectives of its work with the Chief of the Groups in Focus Section of the Human Rights Treaties Branch and Chief of the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). It adopted the terms of reference proposed by the Chair of the working group.

#### **Task force on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations**

33. The task force met during the session and discussed preparations for holding a panel discussion on women and peace and security at the seventy-first session of the Committee.

#### **Working group on sexual and reproductive health and rights**

34. The working group met during the session with other members designated to finalize the draft of the Committee's statement issued jointly with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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**Working group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration**

35. The working group met twice during the session. The Chair of the working group provided a briefing on the expert group meeting held in Vilnius on 25 and 26 June 2018. It was informed about the funds made available by OHCHR for the development of a concept note for the draft general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration and that additional funding would be sought for, inter alia, the organization of regional stakeholder consultations. The working group agreed on the content and form of the concept note and the timeline for the development of the draft general recommendation. It decided to coordinate with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in the preparation of the draft general recommendation.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **Provisional agenda for the seventy-first session**

36. At its 1629th meeting, on 20 July 2018, the Committee considered and approved the draft provisional agenda for its seventy-first session.

## **Chapter IX**

### **Adoption of the report**

37. At its 1629th meeting, on 20 July 2018, the Committee considered and adopted, as orally amended, the draft report on its seventieth session.

## Annex

### Documents before the Committee at its seventieth session

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/70/1</a>	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/70/2</a>	Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>Reports of States parties</b>	
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/AUS/8</a>	Eighth periodic report of Australia
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/COK/2-3</a>	Combined second and third periodic reports of the Cook Islands
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/CYP/8</a>	Eighth periodic report of Cyprus
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/LIE/5</a>	Fifth periodic report of Liechtenstein
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/MEX/9</a>	Ninth periodic report of Mexico
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/NZL/8</a>	Eighth periodic report of New Zealand
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/PSE/1</a>	Initial report of the State of Palestine
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/TKM/5</a>	Fifth periodic report of Turkmenistan



**Part Two**

**Report of the Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women on its seventy-first session**

**22 October–9 November 2018**

## **Chapter I**

### **Decisions adopted by the Committee**

#### **Decision 71/I**

On 22 October 2018, the Committee decided to undertake to join statements of special procedures mandate holders on thematic issues relating to women and girls with regard to which the Committee has an agreed position. With regard to statements issued during the Committee's intersessional period, the Committee entrusted the Bureau with the task of deciding which statements the Committee should join, noting that the Committee would not join statements on country-specific situations.

#### **Decision 71/II**

On 25 October 2018, the Committee decided to transmit the cases it has received concerning reprisals against women human rights defenders in Saudi Arabia, to the Assistant Secretary-General on reprisals and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders for their consideration. The Committee also decided to transmit a response to Saudi Arabia requesting the State party to provide the Committee with updates on the cases in question.

#### **Decision 71/III**

On 25 October 2018, the Committee decided to send a final reminder to the Government of Myanmar, requesting that the State party submit its exceptional report, which was due in May 2018, indicating that should it fail to do so, Committee would proceed to consider the situation of Rohingya women and girls in northern Rakhine State in the absence of a report at its seventy-second session.

#### **Decision 71/IV**

On 30 October 2018, further to its decision 69/V, the Committee adopted a decision to defer to its seventy-second session the adoption of a formal decision clarifying the criteria under which States parties may avail themselves of the simplified reporting procedure, with regard to the point in time from which the five-year period, within which a State party must have submitted a common core document, would be counted.

#### **Decision 71/V**

On 8 November 2018, the Committee issued a press release, in which it welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court of Spain in which the Court decided that the views of the Committee were binding on the State party (<https://bit.ly/2Dh3b1z>).

#### **Decision 71/VI**

The Committee decided to issue a statement on women human rights defenders jointly with the Human Rights Council Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, on the occasion of the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, 29 November 2018.

#### **Decision 71/VII**

On 6 November 2018, the Committee decided to continue to consider innovative ways and means to promote the engagement of non-governmental organizations in relation to their submission of reports on broader issues under the Convention, given the limited scope of issues currently covered by them. In that regard, the Committee decided to explore ways of seeking the assistance of United Nations country teams to

encourage reporting on broader issues under the Convention and improving the presentation of information on the Committee's webpage on how non-governmental organizations could effectively engage with the Committee.

#### **Decision 71/VIII**

On 6 November 2018, the Committee decided that it would convene a half-day general discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration at its seventy-second session.

#### **Decision 71/IX**

On 9 November 2018, the Committee amended rule 64, paragraph 2, of its rules of procedure by deleting the word "all" and replacing it with the words "a majority of", to read as follows: "A working group may also declare that a communication is admissible under the Optional Protocol, provided that a majority of members eligible to participate so decide."

#### **Decision 71/X**

Amending its decisions 62/II and 70/V, the Committee revised the standard paragraph on the Sustainable Development Goals in its concluding observations, to read as follows:

The Committee welcomes the international support for the Sustainable Development Goals and calls for the realization of de jure (legal) and de facto (substantive) gender equality, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, throughout the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee recalls the importance of Goal 5 and of the mainstreaming of the principles of equality and non-discrimination throughout all 17 Goals. It urges the State party to recognize women as the driving force of the sustainable development of the State party and to adopt relevant policies and strategies to that effect.

#### **Decision 71/XI**

The Committee endorsed a framework of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (<https://bit.ly/2zM3Q7O>).

#### **Decision 71/XII**

The Committee decided to consider holding a side event at the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (11–22 March 2019), in order to reaffirm the interactive links between the Committee and United Nations entities, on the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The side event would be held as one of a series of events to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention.

#### **Decision 71/XIII**

The Committee decided to rationalize its existing working groups at its seventy-second session.

#### **Decision 71/XIV**

The Committee decided to appoint Nahla Haidar and Nicole Ameline as ad hoc members to attend the forty-third session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol. The Committee also decided to appoint Rosario G.

Manalo as an ad hoc member to attend the twelfth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol.

**Decision 71/XV**

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the seventy-fourth session, namely, Nicole Ameline, Marion Bethel, Nahla Haidar, Dalia Leinarte and Aruna Devi Narain.

**Decision 71/XVI**

The Committee decided that questions relating to articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Convention would be posed separately during the dialogues with States parties and that time would be given to the delegation of the State party concerned to respond to the questions under each of the articles separately.

## Chapter II

### Organizational and other matters

#### A. States parties to the Convention and to the Optional Protocol

1. As at 9 November 2018, the closing date of the seventy-first session of the Committee, the ratification status of the Convention (189 States parties) was as it was on 20 July, the closing date of the seventieth session. Four additional States parties had accepted the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee, bringing the total number of States parties having accepted the amendment to 76.
2. The ratification status of the Optional Protocol to the Convention (109 States parties) was as it was on 20 July, the closing date of the seventieth session.

#### B. Opening of the session

3. The seventy-first session of the Committee was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 22 October to 9 November 2018. The Committee held 22 plenary meetings and 21 meetings to discuss agenda items 5 to 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in the annex to part two of the present report.
4. At the 1629th meeting, on 22 October, the session was opened by the Chair.

#### C. Adoption of the agenda

5. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda ([CEDAW/C/71/1](#)) at its 1629th meeting, on 22 October.

#### D. Report of the pre-sessional working group

6. The report of the pre-sessional working group ([CEDAW/C/PSWG/71/1](#)), which had met from 12 to 16 March, was introduced by Patricia Schulz at the 1629th meeting, on 22 October.

#### E. Organization of work

7. On 22 and 29 October, the Committee held closed meetings, including videoconferences, with representatives of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, who provided country-specific information and information on the efforts of those bodies in support of the implementation of the Convention.
8. In addition, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, who provided information on the implementation of the Convention in the States parties whose reports the Committee considered at its session.
9. On 26 October, the Committee met with the Human Rights Council Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, to discuss strengthened cooperation between the Committee and the Working Group, including the issuance of joint statements on thematic issues.

10. On 5 November, the Committee held an informal meeting with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka Šimonović, who provided a briefing to the Committee on her mandate and activities and with whom it agreed to adopt a framework of cooperation.

11. On 8 November, the Committee held an informal meeting with States parties to discuss the Committee's engagement with relevant United Nations agencies on the gender-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the implementation of the Convention and Optional Protocol in the context of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#) on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The meeting also discussed the Committee's general recommendations, including the recently adopted general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, general recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education and general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change, as well as the Committee's work to elaborate a general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration. The meeting also discussed the financial and human resource challenges with regard to individual communications and inquiries.

## **F. Membership of the Committee**

### **Attendance at the seventy-first session**

12. All members attended the seventy-first session. The following members did not attend on the indicated dates: Ismat Jahan, on 22 and 23 October; Ayşe Feride Acar, on 23 (half-day), 24 and 25 (half-day) October; Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, on 26 October and 9 November; Patricia Schulz, 30 October (half-day) and 1 and 2 November; Aruna Devi Narain, on 2 November; Nicole Ameline, on 2 and 5 November; and Marion Bethel, on 8 November. A list of the members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is contained in annex II to part three of the present report.

## **Chapter III**

### **Report of the Chair on intersessional activities**

13. At the 1629th meeting, on 22 October 2018, the Chair presented a report on her activities since the seventieth session.

## Chapter IV

### Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

14. The Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention and adopted the following concluding observations thereon:

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Bahamas	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/BHS/CO/6</a> )
Congo	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/COG/CO/7</a> )
Lao People's Democratic Republic	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/LAO/CO/8-9</a> )
Nepal	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/NPL/CO/6</a> )
Mauritius	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/MUS/CO/8</a> )
Samoa	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/6</a> )
Tajikistan	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/TJK/CO/6</a> )
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/MKD/CO/6</a> )

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#### Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

15. The Committee considered the follow-up reports received from the following States parties:

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Azerbaijan	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/5/Add.1</a> )
France	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/FRA/CO/7-8/Add.1</a> )
Gabon	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/6/Add.1</a> )
Japan	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/7-8/Add.1</a> )
Mongolia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/MNG/CO/8-9/Add.1</a> )
Russian Federation	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/8/Add.1</a> )
Turkey	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/TUR/CO/7/Add.1</a> )
Vanuatu	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/VUT/CO/4-5/Add.1</a> )

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16. The Committee sent first reminders to Albania, Haiti, Mali, Myanmar, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay, whose follow-up reports were overdue.

17. The Rapporteur on follow-up and the alternate Rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Lebanon and Ghana, respectively, given that their follow-up reports were overdue.



## Chapter V

### Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol

18. Article 12 of the Optional Protocol provides that the Committee is to include in its annual report a summary of its activities under the Optional Protocol.

#### A. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising under article 2 of the Optional Protocol

19. The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 29 October 2018.

20. The Committee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its forty-second session (<https://bit.ly/2UAjyQV>).

21. The Committee adopted final decisions with regard to five individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted decisions of inadmissibility in *M.K.M v. Denmark* (CEDAW/C/71/D/81/2015) and *S.A.O v. Denmark* (CEDAW/C/71/D/81/2015). The Committee discontinued its consideration of *X. v. Denmark* (CEDAW/C/71/D/73/2014), *Y. v. Ecuador* (CEDAW/C/71/D/83/2015) and *X. v. Austria* (CEDAW/C/71/D/112/2017). All decisions were adopted by consensus.

#### B. Follow-up to views of the Committee on individual communications

22. The Committee was informed that the Working Group, at its forty-second session, had discussed the follow-up situation in each case in which the follow-up dialogue was continuing and agreed on the action to be taken. The Committee decided to close the follow-up dialogue in relation to *De Blok et al v. the Netherlands* (CEDAW/C/57/D/36/2012), with a finding of a partially satisfactory resolution of the recommendations contained in its views, and, *Belousova v. Kazakhstan* (CEDAW/C/61/D/45/2012), with a finding of an unsatisfactory resolution of the recommendations contained in its views. It also took note of important developments in the State party with regard to *González Carreño v. Spain* (CEDAW/C/58/D/47/2012); the Supreme Court of Spain, in August 2018, after recognizing the binding nature of the Committee's views, ordered the Government of Spain to pay compensation to the author in the amount of €600,000. Of the 11 cases currently under follow-up examination, two relate to the Russian Federation and one relates to each of Finland, Georgia, Mexico, Moldova, Peru, Slovakia, Spain, Timor-Leste and the United Republic of Tanzania.

#### C. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising under article 8 of the Optional Protocol

23. The Committee discussed its activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on 6 November. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol on its eleventh session (<https://bit.ly/2VBtoyg>).

24. The Committee adopted the amendments to the standard operating procedures proposed by the Working Group.

25. The Committee ratified the following decisions made by the Working Group:

(a) To defer to its twelfth session the elaboration of procedures on follow up to the Committee's recommendations under the inquiry procedure;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1 concerning Kyrgyzstan and inquiry No. 2011/2 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to defer to its twelfth session the decision to invite Kyrgyzstan and the United Kingdom to submit information in follow up to the Committee's recommendations contained in the respective reports of the Committee on the inquiries ([CEDAW/C/OP.8/KGZ/1](#) and [CEDAW/C/OP.8/GBR/1](#));

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, to defer to its twelfth session the assessment of information submitted by the State party under the follow up procedure to inquiries;

(d) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/1 concerning Canada, to request the secretariat to transmit a reminder to the State party to submit its interim report under the follow up procedure to inquiries.

## Chapter VI

### Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

26. The secretariat informed the Committee about the status of submission of overdue reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

### Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 7

#### Dates of future sessions

27. In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates were confirmed for the Committee's seventy-second and seventy-third sessions and related meetings:

Seventy-second session (Geneva)

- (a) As indicated in paragraph 26 of part one of the present report;

Seventy-third session (Geneva)

- (b) Forty-fourth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 26–28 June 2019;
- (c) Thirteenth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 27 and 28 June 2019;
- (d) Seventy-third session: 1–19 July 2019;
- (e) Pre-sessional working group for the seventy-fifth session: 22–26 July 2019.

#### Reports to be considered at future sessions

28. The Committee confirmed that, at its seventy-second session, it would consider the reports of the States parties listed in paragraph 27 of part one of the present report, with the exception of Bulgaria at the request of the State party, and that, at its seventy-third session, it would consider those of Austria, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guyana, Mozambique and Qatar.

## Chapter VII

### Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

#### Working group on working methods

29. The working group met twice during the session and discussed the possibility of changing the sequencing of questions relating to articles 15 and 16 of the Convention posed during the dialogues with States parties, so that such questions may be raised after those relating to articles 1 and 2, especially for cases in which a State party has plural legal systems or has entered a reservation to article 16.

#### Working group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

30. The working group met with a representative of IPU, who informed the working group that IPU would organize two workshops on gender equality for male and female parliamentarians, respectively, in Djibouti, either from 27 to 29 November 2018 or from 11 to 13 December 2018, and in Turkey on 1 and 2 December 2018.

#### Working group on the Convention, UN-Women and the Sustainable Development Goals

31. The working group met twice during the session to finalize the draft revision of the treaty-specific reporting guidelines on the form and content of initial and periodic reports to be submitted to the Committee, taking into account the gender-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 5, target 5.1 and indicator 5.1.1. The document is aimed at providing guidance to States parties in linking the implementation of the Goals with their obligations under the Convention. On 6 November, the Committee adopted the revised reporting guidelines, which will be shortened before transmission to States parties.

32. The working group agreed to invite the OHCHR team monitoring on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators to provide a briefing to the Committee at its seventy-second session on the team's work in developing the conceptual and methodological framework for several Goal indicators. It also agreed to consider inviting International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific to provide a briefing to the working group on its guide on the Convention and the Goals.

33. The working group agreed to hold a side event at the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, on the Convention and the 2030 Agenda, to reaffirm the interactive links between the Committee and United Nations entities. The side event would focus on taking a holistic approach to ensuring a convergence between the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and national strategies for the implementation of the Convention, also in addition to commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention. The working group also agreed to institutionalize the Committee's relationship with UN-Women by creating a joint working group on the Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals. The working group also decided to hold an annual side event on the margins of the Commission so as to assess ongoing work in the area.

#### Working group on cooperation with national human rights institutions

34. The working group met twice during the session. The Chair of the working group provided a briefing to the members on the recent meeting organized by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in Marrakech, Morocco. The meeting brought together a large number of national human rights institutions from around the world, and the working group members in attendance availed themselves of that opportunity to meet with representatives of 25 national human rights

institutions, provide briefings on the purpose and objective of the working group and seek input regarding strengthening the Committee's engagement with them.

**Task force on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations**

35. The task force met during the session, and the Chair provided a briefing to the members of the task force on Security Council resolution [2436 \(2018\)](#) concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations, the commitments made by the Secretary-General in the context of the Council's open debate on women and peace and security and the content of the policy brief of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, which focuses on the strengthening of synergies between the implementation of the Convention and the women and peace and security agenda of the Council.

**Working group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration**

36. The working group met during the session. Its Chair introduced the draft concept note for the general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration and opened the discussion thereon. The working group was informed that UN-Women would fund a stakeholder consultation meeting with special rapporteurs and United Nations agencies in December 2019 and that additional funding would be sought for, inter alia, the organization of regional stakeholder consultations. The working group also discussed the timeline for the development of the draft general recommendation. On 8 November, the working group presented a concept note to the Committee. The Committee endorsed the note and decided to hold a half-day general discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration at its seventy-second session.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **Provisional agenda for the seventy-second session**

37. At its 1658th meeting, on 9 November 2018, the Committee considered and approved the draft provisional agenda for its seventy-second session.

## **Chapter IX**

### **Adoption of the report**

38. At its 1658th meeting, on 9 November 2018, the Committee considered and adopted, as orally amended, the draft report on its seventy-first session.

## Annex

### Documents before the Committee at its seventy-first session

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/71/1</a>	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/71/2</a>	Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>Reports of States parties</b>	
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/BHS/6</a>	Sixth periodic report of the Bahamas
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/LAO/8-9</a>	Combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/MUS/8</a>	Eighth periodic report of Mauritius
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/NPL/6</a>	Sixth periodic report of Nepal
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/COG/7</a>	Seventh periodic report of the Congo
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/WSM/6</a>	Sixth periodic report of Samoa
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/TJK/6</a>	Sixth periodic report of Tajikistan
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/MKD/6</a>	Sixth periodic report of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



**Part Three**

**Report of the Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women on its seventy-second session**

**18 February–8 March 2019**

## Chapter I

### Decisions adopted by the Committee

#### Decision 72/I

On 18 February 2019, the Committee elected Hilary Gbedemah as Chair of the Committee.

#### Decision 72/II

On 18 February 2019, the Committee elected the following members as officers of the Committee: Gladys Acosta Vargas, Vice-Chair; Nicole Ameline, Vice-Chair; Bandana Rana, Vice-Chair; and Lia Nadaraia, Rapporteur.

#### Decision 72/III

The Committee elected the following members as members of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: Gladys Acosta Vargas, Nicole Ameline, Nahla Haidar, Dalia Leinarte and Aruna Devi Narain.

#### Decision 72/IV

The Committee elected the following members as members of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: Gunnar Bergby, Marion Bethel, Lia Nadaraia, Rosario G. Manalo and Aicha Vall Verges.

#### Decision 72/V

The Committee decided to appoint Lia Nadaraia as Rapporteur on follow-up, and Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia as alternate Rapporteur on follow-up, both for a period of two years from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020.

#### Decision 72/VI

On 4 March 2019, the Committee revised joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014) on harmful practices, in order to remove the elements of the document condoning marriage of a child 16 years of age or older, as follows:

- (a) Delete the last sentence of paragraph 20, which reads:

As a matter of respecting the child's evolving capacities and autonomy in making decisions that affect her or his life, a marriage of a mature, capable child below 18 years of age may be allowed in exceptional circumstances, provided that the child is at least 16 years of age and that such decisions are made by a judge based on legitimate exceptional grounds defined by law and on the evidence of maturity, without deference to culture and tradition;

- (b) Delete the second sentence of paragraph 55 (f), which reads:

When a marriage at an earlier age is allowed in exceptional circumstances, the absolute minimum age must not be below 16 years, the grounds for obtaining permission must be legitimate and strictly defined by law and the marriage must be permitted only by a court of law upon the full, free and informed consent of the child or both children, who must appear in person before the court.

#### Decision 72/VII

On 4 March 2019, the Committee decided to propose to the Committee on the Rights of the Child that it consider issuing, at its eighty-first session, a joint statement

of the two Committees announcing the revision of joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014) on harmful practices. The Committee entrusted the Bureau with the task of endorsing the text of the statement, after its adoption by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

#### **Decision 72/VIII**

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Committee decided to issue a joint statement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union on parity in politics (<https://bit.ly/2Dc57aI>).

#### **Decision 72/IX**

On 27 February 2019, revising its decisions 69/V and 59/IV, the Committee decided to cease the practice of approving lists of issues and questions prior to reporting in plenary following their adoption by the pre-sessional working group.

#### **Decision 72/X**

On 6 March 2019, revising its decision 69/V, the Committee decided that the five-year period, within which a State party must have submitted a common core document, would be counted from the date on which the State party transmits its formal request to the Committee.

#### **Decision 72/XI**

On 5 March 2019, the Committee decided to accept the request of the Center for International Environmental Law and the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights that the Committee issue a joint statement with other treaty bodies on the issue of human rights and climate change, ahead of the climate summit called for by the Secretary-General, to be held in New York in September 2019. The Committee decided that the statement would be adopted at its seventy-third session.

#### **Decision 72/XII**

On 6 March 2019, noting the two working groups that carry out the mandate of the Committee under the Optional Protocol, namely, the Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Inquiries, and the Rapporteur on follow-up that assesses the information submitted by States parties under the follow-up procedure, which require considerable secretariat support, the Committee decided that:

- (a) Working groups would be established for the purpose of delivering a specific output, to be presented to and endorsed by the Committee in plenary, with a maximum of 12 members per working group to ensure efficiency and effectiveness;
- (b) Working groups, with the exception of the working group on working methods, would be time-bound and cease to exist once the output was delivered;
- (c) The following working groups would be maintained, subject to review in one year:
  - (i) Working group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, to elaborate a general recommendation;
  - (ii) Working group on the Convention, UN-Women and the Sustainable Development Goals, to prepare annual reports to be submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(iii) Working group on cooperation with national human rights institutions;

(d) For other matters that are of ongoing interest to the Committee, it would appoint focal points and alternate focal points on the following areas, to be appointed by the Committee for a period of two years, who may at any time bring any matter to the attention of the Bureau:

(i) Sexual and reproductive health and rights;

(ii) Women and peace and security;

(iii) Inter-Parliamentary Union;

(iv) UN-Women;

(v) Treaty bodies and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council;

(vi) Regional human rights mechanisms;

(vii) Reprisals;

(viii) Treaty body review process to be conducted in 2020;

(e) Focal points may convene informal meetings and any focal point area may develop into a working group in future, should such a configuration be required to deliver a specific output.

#### **Decision 72/XIII**

The Committee decided to nominate Hilary Gbedemah and Nahla Haidar as additional focal points to work with the existing focal points, Nicole Ameline and Dalia Leinarte, on the treaty body review process to be conducted in 2020.

#### **Decision 72/XIV**

In relation to inquiry No. 2014/3, the Committee accepted the withdrawal of Nahla Haidar as one of the members designated to conduct the inquiry.

#### **Decision 72/XV**

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the seventy-fifth session: Louiza Chalal, Rhoda Reddock, Rosario G. Manalo, Lia Nadaraia and Ana Peláez Nerváez.

## Chapter II

### Organizational and other matters

#### A. States parties to the Convention and to the Optional Protocol

1. As at 8 March 2019, the closing date of the seventy-second session of the Committee, the ratification status of the Convention (189 States parties) and the number of States parties having accepted the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee increased, to 78.
2. The ratification status of the Optional Protocol to the Convention also increased, to 110 States parties.

#### B. Opening of the session

3. The seventy-second session of the Committee was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 18 February to 8 March 2019. The Committee held 20 plenary meetings and 21 meetings to discuss agenda items 5 to 8. A list of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex I to part three of the present report.
4. At the 1659th meeting, on 18 February, the session was opened by the Chair.

#### C. Adoption of the agenda

5. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda ([CEDAW/C/72/1](#)) at its 1659th meeting on 18 February.

#### D. Report of the pre-sessional working group

6. The report of the pre-sessional working group ([CEDAW/C/PSWG/72/1](#)), which had met from 23 to 27 July 2018, was introduced by Wenyan Song at the 1659th meeting, on 18 February 2019.

#### E. Organization of work

7. On 18 and 25 February 2019, the Committee held closed meetings, including videoconferences, with representatives of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, who provided country-specific information and information on the efforts of those bodies in support of the implementation of the Convention.
8. In addition, the Committee held informal public meetings with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, who provided information about the implementation of the Convention in the States parties whose reports the Committee considered at its seventy-second session.
9. On 22 February, the Committee held a half-day general discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration.
10. Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders Michel Forst, on 1 March, and Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights Karima Bennouna, on 4 March, provided briefings to the Committee on their activities.
11. On 5 March, the Committee held an informal meeting with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disabilities and Accessibility, Maria Soledad Cisternas

Reyes, who provided a briefing to the Committee on the treatment of girls, boys and adolescents with disabilities.

12. On 8 March, the Committee met with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet.

## **F. Membership of the Committee**

### **Attendance at the seventy-second session**

13. All members attended the seventy-second session. Tamader Al-Rammah did not attend from 25 February to 8 March 2019. A list of the members of the Committee, indicating the duration of their terms of office, is contained in annex II to part three of the present report.

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## **Chapter III**

### **Report of the Chair on intersessional activities**

14. At the 1659th meeting, on 18 February 2019, the Chair presented a report on her activities since the seventy-first session.

## Chapter IV

### Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

15. The Committee considered the reports of eight States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention and adopted the following concluding observations thereon:

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Angola	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/AGO/CO/7</a> )
Antigua and Barbuda	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/ATG/CO/4-7</a> )
Botswana	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/BWA/CO/4</a> )
Colombia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/COL/CO/9</a> )
Ethiopia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/ETH/CO/8</a> )
Myanmar	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/EP/1</a> )
Serbia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/SRB/CO/4</a> )
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/GBR/CO/8</a> )

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#### Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

16. The Committee considered the follow-up reports received from the following States parties:

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Argentina	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/ARG/CO/7/Add.1</a> )
Estonia	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/EST/CO/5-6/Add.1</a> )
Ghana	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/GHA/CO/6-7/Add.1</a> )
Lebanon	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/4-5/Add.1</a> )
Netherlands	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/6/Add.1</a> )
Philippines	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/PHL/CO/7-8/Add.1</a> )
Uruguay	( <a href="#">CEDAW/C/URY/CO/8-9/Add.1</a> )

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17. The Committee sent first reminders to Armenia, Liberia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Burundi, whose follow-up reports were overdue. The Rapporteur on follow-up met with representatives of Iceland, whose follow-up report was overdue.



## Chapter V

### Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol

18. Article 12 of the Optional Protocol provides that the Committee is to include in its annual report a summary of its activities under the Optional Protocol.

#### A. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising under article 2 of the Optional Protocol

19. The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 25 February and 6 March 2019.

20. The Committee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its forty-third session (<https://bit.ly/2UdLRPU>).

21. The Committee adopted final decisions with regard to four individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It discontinued its consideration of *R.M. et al v. Switzerland* (CEDAW/C/72/D/97/2015). It also adopted two decisions of inadmissibility, in *A.R.I. v. Denmark* (CEDAW/C/72/D/96/2015) and *K.K. v. Russian Federation* (CEDAW/C/72/D/98/2016), and views finding a violation in *S.T. v. Russian Federation* (CEDAW/C/72/D/65/2014). All decisions were adopted by consensus.

#### B. Follow-up to views of the Committee on individual communications

22. The Committee was informed that the Working Group, at its forty-third session, had discussed the follow-up situation in each case where the follow-up dialogue was continuing and agreed on the action to be taken. Of the 11 cases currently under follow-up examination, two relate to the Russian Federation and one relates to each of Finland, Georgia, Mexico, Moldova, Peru, Slovakia, Spain, the United Republic of Tanzania and Timor-Leste.

#### C. Action taken by the Committee in respect of issues arising under article 8 of the Optional Protocol

23. The Committee discussed its activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on 5 March 2018. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol on its twelfth session (<https://bit.ly/2UbwjMx>).

24. The Committee adopted the following recommendations of the Working Group:

(a) In relation to inquiry No. 2010/1 concerning the Philippines, the recommendations made following its assessment of information submitted by the State party under the follow-up procedure;

(b) In relation to inquiry No. 2014/1 concerning Kyrgyzstan, to invite the State party to submit, within 6 months, information in follow up to the Committee's recommendations contained in its report on the inquiry (CEDAW/C/OP.8/KGZ/1);

(c) In relation to inquiry No. 2011/2 concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to invite the State party to submit, within 6 months, information in follow up to the Committee's recommendations contained in its report on the inquiry (CEDAW/C/OP.8/GBR/1).

## **Chapter VI**

### **Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee**

25. The secretariat informed the Committee about the status of submission of overdue reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.

### **Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 7**

#### **Dates of future sessions**

26. In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates were confirmed for the Committee's seventy-third and seventy-fourth sessions and related meetings:

Seventy-third session (Geneva)

- (a) As indicated in paragraph 27 of part two of the present report;

Seventy-fourth session (Geneva)

- (b) Forty-fifth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 16–18 October 2019;
- (c) Fourteenth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 17 and 18 October 2019;
- (d) Seventy-fourth session: 21 October–8 November 2019;
- (e) Pre-sessional working group for the seventy-sixth: 11–15 November 2019.

#### **Reports to be considered at future sessions**

27. The Committee confirmed that, at its seventy-third session, it would consider the reports of the States parties listed in paragraph 28 of part two of the present report, with the exception of Bahrain, and that, at its seventy-fourth session, it would consider those of Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and Seychelles.

## Chapter VII

### Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

#### Working group on working methods

28. The working group met twice during the session, and elected Wenyan Song as its Chair and Aruna Devi Narain as its Vice-Chair. The working group discussed and submitted a recommendation to the Committee on the rationalization of all working groups of the Committee.

#### Working group on the Inter-Parliamentary Union

29. The working group met with a representative of IPU during the session, who provided a briefing on a number of issues, including violence against women in parliament and the influence of women parliamentarians. The representative informed the working group with regard to the following: (a) the parliamentary event to be organized with UN-Women on the margins of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women; (b) the upcoming IPU Assembly, to be held in Doha, at which the Forum of Women Parliamentarians would focus on gender equality at work; and (c) the upcoming publication of the analysis of 2018 election results and of a map of women in politics in 2019.

#### Working group on the Convention, UN-Women and the Sustainable Development Goals

30. The working group met on three occasions during the session and discussed the preparation of the side event organized jointly by the Committee and UN-Women to mark the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, in cooperation with OHCHR and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict. The side event was to be held on 18 March 2019, on the margins of the sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, on the Convention, the 2030 Agenda and 40 years of empowering women with a view to sustainable development. A representative of the OHCHR team monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal indicators provided a briefing to the Committee on the work of OHCHR in developing a conceptual and methodological framework for several Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The working group decided that a technical meeting on indicators should be organized with the team at the seventy-third session of the Committee and that it should invite UN-Women and other relevant stakeholders to participate. The working group was also provided with a briefing on the global review of aid-for-trade and its work programme and on trade and gender by the gender and trade focal point of the World Trade Organization.

#### Working group on cooperation with national human rights institutions

31. The working group met on three occasions during the session. The Chair provided a briefing to the members of the working group and new members of the Committee on the background of and rationale for the working group. The Chair invited the members to consider the draft issues for discussion to form the structure of a guidance note. The working group agreed to incorporate suggestions made by some members during the meeting to the draft issues for discussion, such as designating focal points within national human rights institutions and emphasizing the role of national human rights institutions in publicizing the Committee's concluding observations, and to share further suggestions with the Chair and the secretariat by the end of March 2019. It also decided that the Chair would work with the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section of OHCHR and the secretariat of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, as well as

the Committee secretariat, to develop the draft guidance note, including the specific procedures, in the intersessional period between the seventy-second and seventy-third sessions.

**Task force on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations**

32. The task force met during the session and the Chair provided a briefing to the members of the task force on the panel discussion on strengthening synergies between the Committee and the resolutions of the Security Council on women and peace and security, organized in collaboration with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and UN-Women. The task force noted that, as a result of the framework of cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict, information had been exchanged in the preparation of the Committee's dialogue with Myanmar.

**Working group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration**

33. The working group met once during the session and discussed the outcomes of the half-day general discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, held on 22 February. The working group welcomed the contributions received from States parties and other stakeholders for the general discussion. The working group was informed that the processes to seek funding for the planned regional consultations in Europe, to be held on 14 June, the Middle East, to be held in September, Africa, Central Asia and the Americas are ongoing and that some funding has been sourced. An expert group meeting would be organized in London, in April, and in New York, in July. The working group also discussed the organization of a regional consultation in South Asia and was provided with a briefing on the regional consultation on trafficking in women and girls, held in Bangkok on 26 and 27 January.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **Provisional agenda for the seventy-third session**

34. At its 1687th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the Committee considered and approved the draft provisional agenda for its seventy-third session.

## **Chapter IX**

### **Adoption of the report**

35. At its 1687th meeting, on 8 March 2019, the Committee considered and adopted, as orally amended, the draft report on its seventy-second session.

## Annex I

### Documents before the Committee at its seventy-second session

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/72/1</a>	Annotated provisional agenda
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/72/2</a>	Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>Reports of States parties</b>	
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/AGO/7</a>	Seventh periodic report of Angola
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/ATG/4-7</a>	Combined fourth to seventh periodic reports of Antigua and Barbuda
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/BWA/4</a>	Fourth periodic report of Botswana
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/COL/9</a>	Ninth periodic report of Colombia
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/ETH/8</a>	Eighth periodic report of Ethiopia
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/MMR/EP/1</a>	Report of Myanmar submitted under the exceptional reporting procedure
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/SRB/4</a>	Fourth periodic report of Serbia
<a href="#">CEDAW/C/GBR/8</a>	Eighth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## Annex II

### Membership of the Committee as at 8 March 2019

<i>Name of member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Term of office expires on 31 December</i>
Gladys Acosta Vargas (Vice-Chair)	Peru	2022
Hiroko Akizuki	Japan	2022
Tamader Al-Rammah	Saudi Arabia	2022
Nicole Ameline (Vice-Chair)	France	2020
Gunnar Bergby	Norway	2020
Marion Bethel	Bahamas	2020
Louiza Chalal	Algeria	2022
Esther Eghobamien-Mshelia <sup>a</sup>	Nigeria	2020
Naéla Mohamed Gabr	Egypt	2022
Hilary Gbedemah (Chair)	Ghana	2020
Nahla Haidar	Lebanon	2020
Dalia Leinarte	Lithuania	2020
Rosario G. Manalo	Philippines	2020
Lia Nadaraia (Rapporteur)	Georgia	2022
Aruna Devi Narain	Mauritius	2022
Ana Peláez Nerváez	Spain	2022
Bandana Rana (Vice-Chair)	Nepal	2020
Rhoda Reddock	Trinidad and Tobago	2022
Elgun Safarov	Azerbaijan	2022
Wenyan Song	China	2020
Genoveva Tisheva	Bulgaria	2022
Franceline Toé-Bouda	Burkina Faso	2022
Aicha Vall Verges	Mauritania	2020

<sup>a</sup> See [A/73/38](#), part three, para. 11.