



**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

Distr.: General  
5 August 2011

Original: English

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

**Pre-session working group**

**Fifty-first session**

**1-5 August 2011**

**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. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-session working group for five days to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the initial and periodic reports that would be considered by the Committee at one of its future sessions.
2. The Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the Committee's fifty-first session would meet from 1 to 5 August 2011, immediately after its forty-ninth session, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues and questions, as well as to ensure their timely translation.
3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-session working group:
  - Ms. Ayse Feride Acar
  - Ms. Violet Awori
  - Ms. Barbara Bailey
  - Ms. Ismat Jahan
  - Ms. Victoria Popescu
4. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Popescu as its Chair.
5. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Brazil, Congo, Grenada, Jordan, Norway and Zimbabwe. In this regard, the pre-session working group was guided by the decision of the Committee, adopted at its forty-ninth session, to limit the lists of issues to 20



questions, with each question containing no more than three issues. The pre-session working group also considered the list of issues previously adopted for Algeria (CEDAW/C/DZA/Q/4) and decided not to adopt a supplemental list of issues at the meeting. It is further noted that at the end of the meeting of the pre-session working group, Comoros submitted its report to the Secretariat. Comoros, which was scheduled to be considered in the absence of a report at the fifty-first session, will be considered at the fifty-third session to allow for supplemental list of issues to be drawn up based upon the report submitted by the State party. The list of issues for Comoros had been adopted previously in the absence of a report (CEDAW/C/COM/Q/4).

6. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues and questions, the pre-session working group had before it the reports of the States parties listed above, as well as the States parties' core documents, if available; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; background information and draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the Secretariat, based on an analytical comparison of current States parties' reports, and the Committee's discussion on earlier reports; and other pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, if relevant. 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 the Committee's concluding observations on previous reports.

7. The pre-session working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by United Nations entities and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and a national human rights institution.

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

- (a) List of issues and questions with regard to the seventh periodic report of Brazil (CEDAW/C/BRA/Q/7);
- (b) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Congo (CEDAW/C/COG/Q/6);<sup>1</sup>
- (c) List of issues and questions with regard to the initial to fifth combined periodic report of Grenada (CEDAW/C/GRD/Q/1-5);
- (d) List of issues and questions with regard to the fifth periodic report of Jordan (CEDAW/C/JOR/Q/5);
- (e) List of issues and questions with regard to the eighth periodic report of Norway (CEDAW/C/NOR/Q/8);
- (f) List of issues and questions with regard to the second to fifth combined periodic report of Zimbabwe (CEDAW/C/ZWE/Q/2-5).

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<sup>1</sup> The pre-session working group examined the sixth periodic report of the Republic of Congo submitted by the State party. The Committee in its previous concluding observations had requested the State party to provide a combined sixth and seventh period report; therefore, the constructive dialogue on the implementation of the Convention by the State party will cover the period corresponding to the sixth and seventh periodic report. This information will be brought to the attention of the State party.

9. In accordance with the Committee decisions 22/V, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention. These themes include, inter alia, the Constitutional and legislative framework and national machinery for the advancement of women; gender stereotypes; poverty and employment; violence against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in decision-making; education and training; employment; health; social and economic benefits; the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, rural women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities, refugee and migrant women; equality before the law; and marriage and family relations.

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