



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Pre-session working group

Report of the pre-session working group on its fifty-third session (5–9 March 2012)

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 will 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-third session would meet from 5 to 9 March 2012, immediately after its fifty-first 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. Violet Awori
 - Ms. Magalys Arocha Domínguez
 - Ms. Violeta Neubauer
 - Ms. Zohra Rasekh and
 - Ms. Patricia Schulz
4. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Neubauer as its Chairperson.
5. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Chile, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Serbia, Togo and Turkmenistan. 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 Central African Republic (CEDAW/C/CAF/Q/1-6) and adopted a revised version of the list of issues. In this regard, the Working Group also decided that, since the Central African Republic was scheduled to be considered in the absence of a report, the list of issues could exceptionally exceed 20 questions.
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 State 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, and non-governmental organizations.

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 Central African Republic (CEDAW/C/CAF/Q/1-6);

(b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fifth and sixth periodic report of Chile (CEDAW/C/CHL/Q/5-6);

(c) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second, third and fourth periodic report of Comoros (CEDAW/C/COM/Q/1-4);

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Equatorial Guinea (CEDAW/C/GNQ/Q/6);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of Serbia (CEDAW/C/SRB/Q/2-3);

(f) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined sixth and seventh periodic report of Togo (CEDAW/C/TGO/Q/6-7); and

(g) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined third and fourth periodic report of Turkmenistan (CEDAW/C/TKM/Q/3-4).

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 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; rural women; the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities, refugee and migrant women; equality before the law; and marriage and family relations.
