



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

Fifty-fourth session

New York, 30 July-3 August 2012

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 will be considered by the Committee at one of its future sessions.
2. The Committee decided that the pre-session working group for its fifty-fourth session would meet from 30 July to 3 August 2012, immediately after its fifty-second 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, and to ensure their timely translation.
3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-session working group: Violet Awori, Barbara Bailey, Soledad Murillo de la Vega, Violeta Neubauer and Xiaoqiao Zou.
4. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Bailey as its Chair.
5. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to the reports of Angola, Austria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Pakistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It also prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to Solomon Islands in the absence of the State party's report. 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 decided that, since Solomon Islands 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 (except for Solomon Islands), in addition to 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, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations.

8. The 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 sixth periodic report of Angola (CEDAW/C/AGO/Q/6);

(b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined seventh and eighth periodic report of Austria (CEDAW/C/AUT/Q/7-8);

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

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the seventh periodic report of Greece (CEDAW/C/GRC/Q/7);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined seventh and eighth periodic report of Hungary (CEDAW/C/HUN/Q/7-8);

(f) List of issues and questions with regard to the fourth periodic report of Pakistan (CEDAW/C/PAK/Q/4);

(g) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (CEDAW/C/MKD/Q/4-5);

(h) List of issues and questions in the absence of a report of Solomon Islands (CEDAW/C/SLB/Q/1-3).

9. In accordance with 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; 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.
