



**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

Forty-seventh session

4-22 October 2010

**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. At its forty-second session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the Committee's forty-seventh session would meet from 8 to 12 February 2010, immediately after its forty-fifth 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 for the forty-seventh session:

Violet Awori
Violeta Neubauer
Silvia Pimentel
Zohra Rasekh
Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani
4. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Awori as its Chair.
5. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the initial report of the Bahamas and the periodic reports of Burkina Faso, the Czech Republic, Malta, Tunisia and Uganda. The pre-session working group also drew up lists of issues and questions on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Chad, the Comoros and Lesotho, which had been invited to submit all their overdue reports as



combined reports by the end of 2008 for consideration by the Committee in late 2010. Failing receipt of the reports within the suggested time frame, the Committee decided to proceed with the consideration of the implementation of the Convention in those States parties in the absence of their reports.

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 six States parties listed above as well as the State party's core document, 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 relevant information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies. 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. It also received written information from non-governmental organizations.

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

(a) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second, third and fourth periodic report of the Bahamas (CEDAW/C/BHS/Q/4);

(b) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Burkina Faso (CEDAW/C/BFA/Q/6);

(c) List of issues and questions with regard to Chad in the absence of initial and periodic reports (CEDAW/C/TCD/Q/1);

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the Comoros in the absence of initial and periodic reports (CEDAW/C/COM/Q/1);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of the Czech Republic (CEDAW/C/CZE/Q/5);

(f) List of issues and questions with regard to Lesotho in the absence of initial and periodic reports (CEDAW/C/LSO/Q/1);

(g) List of issues and questions with regard to the fourth periodic report of Malta (CEDAW/C/MLT/Q/4);

(h) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fifth and sixth periodic report of Tunisia (CEDAW/C/TUN/Q/6);

(i) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh periodic report of Uganda (CEDAW/C/UGA/Q/7).

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. The themes included 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 the exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in decision-making; education

and training; employment; health; social and economic benefits; the situation of vulnerable groups of women, such as older women, rural women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities, and refugee and migrant women; equality of women before the law; and marriage and family relations.
