



United Nations

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

**Seventy-ninth session
(21 June–1 July 2021)**

**Eightieth session
(18 October–12 November 2021)**

**Eighty-first session
(7–25 February 2022)**

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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

29 April 2022

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 seventy-ninth session from 21 June to 1 July 2021, its eightieth session from 18 October to 12 November 2021 and its eighty-first session from 7 to 25 February 2022, at the United Nations Office at Geneva. It adopted its reports on the sessions at its 1810th meeting, on 1 July 2021, its 1849th meeting, on 12 November 2021, and its 1878th meeting, on 25 February 2022. The reports are herewith submitted for transmission to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

(Signed) Gladys **Acosta Vargas**
Chair

Part One

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

21 June–1 July 2021

Chapter I

Decisions adopted by the Committee

Decision 79/I

On 1 July 2021, the Committee adopted the text of a joint statement on ensuring the prevention of conflict-related rape and the protection of and assistance to children born of conflict-related rape and their mothers, for subsequent endorsement by the Committee on the Rights of the Child.¹

Decision 79/II

On 1 July 2021, the Committee adopted a statement entitled “Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention: a retrogressive step back in the protection of women’s human rights enshrined in the CEDAW Convention”.²

Decision 79/III

On 23 June 2021, the Committee adopted guidelines to address allegations of reprisals and acts of intimidation against individuals and organizations cooperating with the Committee.³

Decision 79/IV

On 1 July 2021, the Committee amended its rules of procedure in accordance with rule 93. It decided to keep pending the publication of the revised rules of procedure until the consideration of a proposal to amend rule 24 at its eightieth session.

Decision 79/V

On 1 July 2021, the Committee, in accordance with rule 94 of its rules of procedure, decided to suspend until 28 June 2023 the following part of amended rule 67: “The Committee, or a working group, shall further ascertain that the communication does not constitute an abuse of the right of submission. An abuse of the right of submission is not, in principle, a basis of a decision of inadmissibility *ratione temporis* on grounds of delay in submission. However, a communication may constitute an abuse of the right of submission, when it is submitted five years after the exhaustion of domestic remedies by the author of the communication, or, where applicable, three years from the conclusion of another procedure of international investigation or settlement, unless there are reasons justifying the delay, taking into account all the circumstances of the communication”.

Decision 79/VI

The Committee decided that any online sessions shall be limited to two weeks. It also decided that, except in very exceptional circumstances, it shall not hold online dialogues for the consideration of State party reports.

¹ Available at www.ohchr.org/en/documents/statements/cedaw-crc-joint-statement-ensuring-prevention-protection-and-assistance.

² Available at <https://previous.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Statements.aspx>.

³ Available at www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/preventing-and-addressing-acts-intimidation-and-reprisal-cooperation-treaty-bodies#acts.

Decision 79/VII

The Committee decided that upon the resumption of in-person sessions of the Committee, it shall, on a temporary basis, reduce the time currently allocated for dialogues with State party delegations in order to consider additional State party reports, with a view to reducing the backlog of State party reports.

Decision 79/VIII

The Committee decided to request that, in the event that its eightieth session is held in-person, the session be extended to a four-week session by converting the eighty-second pre-session working group of the Committee into an additional week of plenary meeting time, subject to staff capacity, with a view to addressing the backlog of State party reports.

Decision 79/IX

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-session working group for the eighty-first session: Tamader Al-Rammah, Marion Bethel, Ana Peláez Narváez, Elgun Safarov and Franceline Toé-Bouda.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

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

1. As at 1 July 2021, the closing date of the seventy-ninth session of the Committee, there were 189 States parties to the Convention. In addition, 80 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 114 States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

B. Opening of the session

3. The Committee held its seventy-ninth session remotely from 21 June to 1 July 2021 using online meeting platforms owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Committee held four plenary meetings and five 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 1802nd meeting, on 21 June, the session was opened by the Chair.

C. Adoption of the agenda

5. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda ([CEDAW/C/79/1](#)) at its 1802nd meeting, on 21 June.

D. Report of the pre-sessional working group

6. The report of the pre-sessional working group ([CEDAW/C/PSWG/79/1](#)), which had met remotely from 9 to 13 November 2020, was introduced by Bandana Rana at the 1802nd meeting, on 21 June.

E. Organization of work

7. On 21 June, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights, the Women's Legal Centre and the Sexual Rights Initiative remotely delivered a joint statement on behalf of civil society organizations.

8. On 30 June, the Committee held an informal meeting with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Dubravka Šimonović, who gave a briefing to the Committee on her report to the Human Rights Council entitled "Rape as a grave, systematic and widespread human rights violation, a crime and a manifestation of gender-based violence against women and girls, and its prevention" ([A/HRC/47/26](#)), as well as on her proposed framework for legislation on rape ([A/HRC/47/26/Add.1](#)).

F. Membership of the Committee

Attendance at the seventy-ninth session

9. All members attended the seventy-ninth session remotely. 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

10. At the 1802nd meeting, on 21 June 2021, the Chair presented a report on her activities since the seventy-eighth session.

Chapter IV

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

Postponement of consideration of reports in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic

11. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee did not consider the reports of the following States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention, which had initially been scheduled for consideration at the seventy-ninth session:

Bahrain	(CEDAW/C/BHR/4)
Kyrgyzstan	(CEDAW/C/KGZ/5)
Maldives	(CEDAW/C/MDV/6)
Nicaragua	(CEDAW/C/NIC/7-10)
Russian Federation	(CEDAW/C/RUS/9)
South Sudan	(CEDAW/C/SSD/1)
Spain	(CEDAW/C/ESP/9)
Yemen	(CEDAW/C/YEM/7-8)

Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

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

Angola	(CEDAW/C/AGO/FCO/7)
Australia	(CEDAW/C/AUS/FCO/8)
The Bahamas	(CEDAW/C/BHS/FCO/6)
Colombia	(CEDAW/C/COL/FCO/9)
Malaysia	(CEDAW/C/MYS/FCO/3-5)
Marshall Islands	(CEDAW/C/MHL/FCO/1-3)
Mauritius	(CEDAW/C/MUS/FCO/8)
Nepal	(CEDAW/C/NPL/FCO/6)
Niger	(CEDAW/C/NER/FCO/3-4)
Suriname	(CEDAW/C/SUR/FCO/4-6)
Tajikistan	(CEDAW/C/TJK/FCO/6)
Turkmenistan	(CEDAW/C/TKM/FCO/5)

13. The Committee sent first reminders to Austria, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guyana, Mozambique and Qatar, the follow-up reports of which were overdue.

Chapter V

Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol

14. 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

15. The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 21 June 2021.

16. The Committee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its fiftieth session.⁴

17. The Committee adopted final decisions with regard to three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted a decision of inadmissibility in *N.D. and K.S. v. Georgia* (CEDAW/C/79/D/125/2018) and views finding violations in *V.P. v. Belarus* (CEDAW/C/79/D/131/2018). It discontinued its consideration of *X v. Switzerland* (CEDAW/C/79/D/156/2020). All final decisions were adopted by consensus.

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

18. The Committee noted that the Working Group had, during its fiftieth session, examined follow-up information received from the State party in *S.F.M. v. Spain* (CEDAW/C/75/D/138/2018) and that it had decided to continue its follow-up dialogue with the State party. The Committee requested the secretariat to arrange for a meeting with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva to discuss follow-up to views once in-person sessions of the Committee resume.

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

19. The Committee discussed its activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on 22 June. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol on its nineteenth session.⁵

20. In relation to inquiry No. 2011/4, the Committee decided to invite Mali to inform it of the measures taken in response to the inquiry.

21. The Committee approved the following recommendation made by the Working Group:

In relation to submission No. 2020/1, that, having conducted a preliminary assessment of the information received from the sources and of the observations submitted by the State party concerned, the Committee should decide not to conduct an inquiry because the threshold under article 8 (1), of the Optional Protocol had not been met.

⁴ Available at [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f79%20\(Virtual%20session\)%2f32807&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f79%20(Virtual%20session)%2f32807&Lang=en).

⁵ Available at [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f79%20\(Virtual%20session\)%2f32808&Lang=en](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f79%20(Virtual%20session)%2f32808&Lang=en).

Chapter VI

Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

22. 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

23. In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates were confirmed for the Committee's eightieth and eighty-first sessions and related meetings, subject to restrictions on travel and in-person meetings that may be required owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

Eightieth session (Geneva)

(a) Fifty-first session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 13–15 October 2021;

(b) Twentieth session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 14 and 15 October 2021;

(c) Eightieth session: 18 October–12 November 2021;

(d) Pre-sessional working group for the eighty-second session: to be converted into an additional week of plenary meeting time from 8 to 12 November 2021 (see decision 79/VIII in chapter I of part one of the present report);

Eighty-first session (Geneva)

(e) Fifty-second session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 2–4 February 2022;

(f) Twenty-first session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 3 and 4 February 2022;

(g) Eighty-first session: 7–25 February 2022;

(h) Pre-sessional working group for the eighty-third session: 28 February–4 March 2022.

Reports to be considered at future sessions

24. Subject to possible future disruptions to the holding of physical sessions owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee confirmed that, at its eightieth session, it would consider the reports of Ecuador (under the simplified reporting procedure), Egypt, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Russian Federation, South Africa, South Sudan, Sweden (under the simplified reporting procedure) and Yemen.

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

Working group on working methods

25. The working group met during the session. It discussed and submitted three draft decisions to the Committee, concerning amendments to the rules of procedure of the Committee (see decision 79/IV); the limitation of online sessions to a duration of two weeks and the restriction of online dialogues with States parties to very exceptional circumstances (see decision 79/VI); and ways to reduce the backlog of State party reports awaiting consideration by the Committee (see decision 79/VII).

Working group on gender-based violence against women

26. The working group met during the session. The members in charge of the preparation of the different sections of the draft guidance note for States parties on the implementation of their obligations and their accountability as set out in general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19, informed the other members of the working group in relation to their sections. The working group also discussed various issues to cover in the guidance note.

Working group on indigenous women and girls

27. On 24 June 2021, the Committee held a virtual day of general discussion on the rights of indigenous women and girls, as part of the first phase in the development of a general recommendation on the topic. The Chief of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Paulo David, delivered the opening remarks.

28. The following keynote speakers made presentations during the two thematic segments of the day of general discussion, focusing on intersecting forms of discrimination and political participation, respectively: the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Francisco Calí Tzay; the Chair of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Laila Vars; the President of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Anne Nuorgam; the Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba Foundation), Victoria Tauli-Corpuz; and, President of the International Indigenous Women's Forum and of the Executive Council of the Centro de Culturas Indígenas del Perú, Tarcila Rivera Zea.

29. The following States parties delivered statements: Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Denmark, Ecuador, Guatemala, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A representative of the Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and a member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities also made statements. In addition, statements were made by representatives of the National Human Rights Commission of India, the Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe indigenous people and 21 civil society organizations (African Indigenous Women's Organization; Article 19; Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network; Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action; Centre for Reproductive Rights; Colectiva IXPOP; FIMI; Grupo Santo Domingo Soriano; Human Rights Council of Greenland; Indigenous Girls and Women Collective; Indigenous Terra Madre and Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung (joint statement); International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Maat for Peace; Organización Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas Andinas y Amazónicas del Perú; Right Livelihood Award Foundation and Centro por la Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua (joint statement); National Indigenous

Disabled Women Association Nepal; Tebtebba Foundation; and the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs).

30. On 29 June, the working group met to discuss the outcome of the day of general discussion and to update its internal workplan and tentative timeline for drafting and adopting the general recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the eightieth session

31. At its 1810th meeting, on 1 July 2021, the Committee considered and approved the draft provisional agenda for its eightieth session.

Chapter IX

Adoption of the report

32. At its 1810th meeting, on 1 July 2021, the Committee considered and adopted, as orally amended, the draft report on its seventy-ninth session.

Annex**Documents before the Committee at its seventy-ninth session**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CEDAW/C/79/1	Annotated provisional agenda

Part Two

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

18 October–12 November 2021

Chapter I

Decisions adopted by the Committee

Decision 80/I

In accordance with article 18 (1) (b) of the Convention and decision 21/I, the Committee decided to request an exceptional report on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Decision 80/II

On 12 November, the Committee decided to establish a task force to consider the impact of the evolving political, economic and social situation in Afghanistan on the rights of women and girls, appointing Bandana Rana as its Chair. It decided to mandate the task force to gather information, with a view to advising the Committee in relation to its request for an exceptional report on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

Decision 80/III

On 12 November 2021, the Committee adopted a position paper on the treaty body strengthening process, including a predictable review cycle, focused reviews of State party reports and a digital uplift.

Decision 80/IV

The Committee, noting that its review cycle has been further disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby further increasing its backlog of State party reports pending consideration by the Committee, decided to explore innovative ways and means to address the backlog, taking into account available budgeted staff resources and meeting time.

Decision 80/V

Further to decision 79/IV, and in line with paragraph 30 of General Assembly resolution [68/268](#) of 9 April 2014, the Committee decided to amend rule 24 of its rules of procedure as follows: “In addition to English and French, the Committee shall choose a third language as its working language from among the official languages of the United Nations following the election of members every two years and taking into account the composition of the Committee and its mandated Working Groups. The Committee shall, in exceptional circumstances and taking into account special needs of members, choose a fourth working language to facilitate communication among the members, which shall also be subject to review every two years.”

Decision 80/VI

The Committee decided that, for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2022, Spanish shall remain its third official language and Chinese shall be the exceptional fourth working language of the Committee.

Decision 80/VII

The Committee decided to request updates at each session on the follow-up by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the recommendations emanating from the audit of the Human Rights Treaties Branch by the Office of Internal Oversight Services ([A/76/197](#)).

Decision 80/VIII

The Committee decided to cancel its pre-sessional working group for the eighty-second session, initially scheduled to take place from 8 to 12 November 2021, which had been converted into an additional week of plenary meeting time in order to address the backlog of State party reports.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

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

1. As at 12 November 2021, the closing date of the eightieth 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 (80) were as they had been on 1 July, the closing date of the seventy-ninth session.

2. The ratification status of the Optional Protocol to the Convention (114 States parties) was as it had been on 1 July, the closing date of the seventy-ninth session.

B. Opening of the session

3. The eightieth session of the Committee was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 18 October to 12 November 2021. The Committee held 25 plenary meetings and 14 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 1811th meeting, on 18 October, the session was opened by the Chair.

C. Adoption of the agenda

5. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda ([CEDAW/C/80/1](#)) at its 1811th meeting, on 18 October.

D. Report of the pre-sessional working group

6. The report of the pre-sessional working group ([CEDAW/C/PSWG/80/1](#)), which had met remotely from 1 to 3 and on 5 March, was introduced by Louiza Chalal at the 1811th meeting, on 18 October.

E. Organization of work

7. On 18 and 25 October, the Committee held remote closed meetings 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 remote 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 19 October, in an online closed meeting, the Committee met informally with the Regional Director of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UN-Women, Mohammad Naciri, to discuss the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

10. In addition, the Committee held an online closed meeting with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Reem Alsalem, who briefed the Committee on her priorities for her mandate.

11. On 2 November, in an online closed meeting, the Committee met informally with the Executive Director of the Geneva Human Rights Platform and Manager of Policy Studies at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Felix Kirchmeier, and a Project Coordinator at the Geneva Human Rights Platform and Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Domenico Zipoli, who gave a briefing to the Committee on new and upcoming projects of the Geneva Academy in relation to focused State party reviews at the country level and the digital uplift of a platform for the treaty bodies.

12. On 11 November, in a closed meeting, the Committee met informally with the former Vice-President of the National Assembly of Afghanistan, Fawzia Koofi, who gave a briefing to the Committee on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

F. Membership of the Committee

Attendance at the eightieth session

13. All members, with the exception of Jie Xia, attended the eightieth session. 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

14. At the 1811th meeting, on 18 October 2021, the Chair presented a report on her activities since the seventy-ninth session.

Chapter IV

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

15. The Committee considered the reports of 10 States parties submitted under article 18 of the Convention and prepared the following concluding observations thereon:

Ecuador	(CEDAW/C/ECU/CO/10)
Egypt	(CEDAW/C/EGY/CO/8-9)
Indonesia	(CEDAW/C/IDN/CO/8)
Kyrgyzstan	(CEDAW/C/KGZ/CO/5)
Maldives	(CEDAW/C/MDV/CO/6)
Russian Federation	(CEDAW/C/RUS/CO/9)
South Africa	(CEDAW/C/ZAF/CO/5)
South Sudan	(CEDAW/C/SSD/CO/1)
Sweden	(CEDAW/C/SWE/CO/10)
Yemen	(CEDAW/C/YEM/CO/7-8)

Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

16. The Committee had received follow-up reports from the following States parties: Austria, Ethiopia, Fiji, Liechtenstein, Qatar, Serbia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Committee sent first reminders to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Iraq and Seychelles, the follow-up reports of which 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 25 October and 1 November 2021.

19. The Committee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its fifty-first session.⁶

20. The Committee adopted final decisions with regard to three individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted decisions of inadmissibility in *G.D. v. Bulgaria* (CEDAW/C/80/D/142/2019) and in *M.A. v. Switzerland* (CEDAW/C/80/D/145/2019). It also adopted views finding violations in *H.H. et al. v. Georgia* (CEDAW/C/80/D/140/2019). It discontinued its consideration of *X v. Switzerland* (CEDAW/C/79/D/156/2020). All final decisions were adopted by consensus.

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

21. The Committee was informed that the Working Group had examined follow-up information received from the State party and the author in *D.S. v. Slovakia* (CEDAW/C/65/D/66/2014) and that it had initiated a meeting with the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva in order to continue its follow-up dialogue with the State party.

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 10 November. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol on its twentieth session.⁷

23. In relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, the Committee decided to invite South Africa to inform it of the measures taken in response to the inquiry, in accordance with article 9 (2) of the Optional Protocol.

24. On 11 November, South Africa submitted its observations on the findings, comments and recommendations of the Committee in relation to inquiry No. 2013/1, in accordance with article 8 (4) of the Optional Protocol.

25. The Committee approved the following recommendation made by the Working Group:

In relation to submission No. 2021/1, that, having conducted a preliminary assessment of the information received under article 8 (1) of the Optional Protocol, the Committee should invite the State party concerned to submit observations with regard to the information concerned.

⁶ Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f80%2f33254&Lang=en.

⁷ Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f80%2f33255&Lang=en.

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 tentatively confirmed for the Committee's eighty-first and eighty-second sessions and related meetings, subject to possible restrictions on travel and in-person meetings that may be required owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

Eighty-first session (Geneva)

- (a) As indicated in paragraph 23 of part one of the present report;

Eighty-second session (Geneva)

- (b) Fifty-third session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 8–10 June 2022;
- (c) Twenty-second session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 9 and 10 June 2022;
- (d) Eighty-second session: 13 June–1 July 2022;
- (e) Pre-sessional working group for the eighty-fourth session: 4–8 July 2022.

Reports to be considered at future sessions

28. Subject to possible future disruptions to the holding of in-person sessions owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee confirmed that, at its eighty-first session, it would consider the reports of the Dominican Republic (under the simplified reporting procedure), Gabon, Lebanon, Panama (under the simplified reporting procedure), Peru, Senegal, Uganda and Uzbekistan.

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

Working group on working methods

29. The working group met during the session. It discussed a predictable reporting cycle, focused reviews and the digital uplift (see decision 80/III), ways and means to reduce its backlog (see decision 80/IV) and an amendment to the rules of procedure concerning the working languages of the Committee (see decision 80/V) and submitted draft decisions on these matters to the Committee.

Working group on indigenous women and girls

30. The working group met during the session. It endorsed the revised initial draft of the general recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls and updated its internal workplan and tentative timeline for the elaboration and adoption of the general recommendation. The working group also decided to convene a first regional consultation in Mexico and to reach out to partners to convene consultations in other regions.

Working group on gender-based violence against women

31. The working group met during the session. The Chair of the group presented research and analysis that had been undertaken and the main recommendations contained in the sections that had been circulated to date of the draft guidance note for States parties on the implementation of their obligations and their accountability as set out in general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19.

32. The members of the working group provided comments and discussed the next steps in the development of the draft guidance note, as well as the possibility that the working group might carry out other activities relating to gender-based violence against women after the completion of this task.

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the eighty-first session

33. At its 1849th meeting, on 12 November 2021, the Committee considered and approved the draft provisional agenda for its eighty-first session.

Chapter IX

Adoption of the report

34. At its 1849th meeting, on 12 November 2021, the Committee considered and adopted, as orally amended, the draft report on its eightieth session.

Annex**Documents before the Committee at its eightieth session**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CEDAW/C/80/1	Annotated provisional agenda
Reports of States parties	
CEDAW/C/ECU/10	Tenth periodic report of Ecuador (submitted under the simplified reporting procedure)
CEDAW/C/EGY/8-9	Combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Egypt
CEDAW/C/IDN/8	Eighth periodic report of Indonesia
CEDAW/C/KGZ/5	Fifth periodic report of Kyrgyzstan
CEDAW/C/MDV/6	Sixth periodic report of Maldives
CEDAW/C/RUS/9	Ninth periodic report of the Russian Federation
CEDAW/C/ZAF/5	Fifth periodic report of South Africa
CEDAW/C/SSD/1	Initial report of South Sudan
CEDAW/C/SWE/10	Tenth periodic report of Sweden (submitted under the simplified reporting procedure)
CEDAW/C/YEM/7-8	Combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Yemen

Part Three

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

7–25 February 2022

Chapter I

Decisions adopted by the Committee

Decision 81/I

The Committee decided to convert its working group on gender-based violence against women into a standing working group.

Decision 81/II

The Committee decided to request the secretariat to explore the possibility of holding an extraordinary session in the South Pacific region in 2023/24, with external funding, to prioritize the adoption of lists of issues and questions prior to reporting for States parties from that region.

Decision 81/III

In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, the Committee decided to request the secretariat to prepare a programme budget implications document to request the General Assembly to include in the 2024 regular budget of the United Nations the provision of captioning and sign language interpretation services for the six public meetings that the Committee holds annually with representatives of non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, who provide it with country-specific information for the consideration of State party reports, with a view to ensuring the accessibility of these meetings for persons with disabilities.

Decision 81/IV

Recalling its position paper on the treaty body strengthening process, adopted on 12 November 2021 (see decision 80/III), and the need to explore innovative ways to contribute constructively to the harmonization of working methods among the treaty bodies, as well as to alleviate the reporting burden on States parties to the greatest extent possible, in line with General Assembly resolution 68/268, the Committee decided to initiate consultations with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, with a view to aligning some of the State party reviews undertaken by the two Committees, subject to the availability of resources and the feasibility of scheduling overlapping sessions of the two Committees. This would entail a back-to-back review of States parties by the two Committees on one or two consecutive days. The measures would require changes in the structure and duration of the Committee's constructive dialogues with States parties and would be evaluated after a pilot period extending over two sessions.

Decision 81/V

The Committee decided that members may participate remotely in its meetings when such participation is necessary to ensure a quorum of 12 members present at a meeting, in accordance with rule 29 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, or when members attending a session in Geneva are quarantined due to COVID-19 or similar medical reasons. This shall not preclude the Committee in the future from deciding on similar scenarios where members might be allowed to participate remotely in its plenary meetings and in the meetings of its mandated working groups.

Decision 81/VI

Pending the adoption of its draft general recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls, the Committee decided that its next general

recommendations shall be on the following topics: the equal participation of women in political and public decision-making; and gender stereotypes.

Decision 81/VII

The Committee confirmed the members of the pre-sessional working group for the eighty-third session: Leticia Bonifaz Alfonzo, Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Nahla Haidar, Dalia Leinarte and Aruna Devi Narain.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

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

1. As at 25 February 2022, the closing date of the eighty-first 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 (80) were as they had been on 12 November 2021, the closing date of the eightieth session.

2. The ratification status of the Optional Protocol to the Convention (114 States parties) was as it had been on 12 November, the closing date of the eightieth session.

B. Opening of the session

3. The eighty-first session of the Committee was held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 7 to 25 February 2022. The Committee held 20 plenary meetings and nine 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 1850th meeting, on 7 February, the session was opened by the Chair.

C. Adoption of the agenda

5. The Committee adopted the provisional agenda ([CEDAW/C/81/1](#)) at its 1850th meeting, on 7 February.

D. Report of the pre-sessional working group

6. The report of the pre-sessional working group ([CEDAW/C/PSWG/81/1](#)), which had met remotely from 5 to 9 July 2021, was introduced by Elgun Safarov at the 1850th meeting, on 7 February.

E. Organization of work

7. On 14 and 17 February 2022, the Committee held remote closed meetings 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 remote 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 February, the Committee held an online closed meeting with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan, to discuss the need for a definition of online gender-based violence against women and opportunities for common engagement on issues relating to gendered disinformation and hate speech.

F. Membership of the Committee

Attendance at the eighty-first session

10. All members attended the eighty-first session, with the exception of Tamader Al-Rammah, Marion Bethel, Louiza Chalal, Rosario Manalo and Jie Xia. The following members did not attend on the indicated dates: Aruna Devi Narain from 9 to 14 February; and Natasha Stott Despoja from 22 to 25 February 2022. 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

11. At the 1850th meeting, on 7 February 2022, the outgoing Chair presented a report on her activities since the eightieth session.

Chapter IV

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

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

Dominican Republic	(CEDAW/C/DOM/CO/8)
Gabon	(CEDAW/C/GAB/CO/7)
Lebanon	(CEDAW/C/LBN/CO/6)
Panama	(CEDAW/C/PAN/CO/8)
Peru	(CEDAW/C/PER/CO/9)
Senegal	(CEDAW/C/SEN/CO/8)
Uganda	(CEDAW/C/UGA/CO/8-9)
Uzbekistan	(CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/6)

Follow-up procedures relating to concluding observations

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

Andorra	(CEDAW/C/AND/FCO/4)
Côte d'Ivoire	(CEDAW/C/CIV/FCO/4)
Guyana	(CEDAW/C/GUY/FCO/9)
Iraq	(CEDAW/C/IRQ/FCO/7)
Kazakhstan	(CEDAW/C/KAZ/FCO/5)
Lithuania	(CEDAW/C/LTU/FCO/6)

14. The Committee sent first reminders to Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Eritrea, Kiribati, Pakistan, the Republic of Moldova and Zimbabwe, the follow-up reports of which were overdue.

Chapter V

Activities carried out under the Optional Protocol

15. 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

16. The Committee discussed activities under article 2 of the Optional Protocol on 14, 21 and 23 February 2022.

17. The Committee endorsed the report of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol on its fifty-second session.⁸

18. The Committee adopted final decisions with regard to six individual communications submitted under article 2 of the Optional Protocol. It adopted decisions of inadmissibility in *A v. Russian Federation* (CEDAW/C/81/D/137/2018) and *D.N.S. v. Denmark* (CEDAW/C/81/D/144/2019) and views finding violations in *Jeremy Eugene Matson v. Canada* (CEDAW/C/81/D/68/2014) and *Rosanna Flamer-Caldera v. Sri Lanka* (CEDAW/C/81/D/134/2018). It discontinued its consideration of *M.M. v. Switzerland* (CEDAW/C/81/D/160/2020) and *C.A.A. v. Denmark* (CEDAW/C/81/D/163/2020). All final decisions were adopted by consensus.

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

19. The Committee was informed that the Working Group, at its fifty-second session, had examined follow-up information received from the State party in *R.P.B. v. Philippines* (CEDAW/C/57/D/34/2011). The Committee noted that the follow-up dialogue with the State party was ongoing.

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

20. The Committee discussed its activities under article 8 of the Optional Protocol on 22 February 2022. It endorsed the report of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol on its twenty-first session.⁹

⁸ Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f81%2f33582&Lang=en.

⁹ Available at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCEDAW%2fSED%2f81%2f33583&Lang=en.

Chapter VI

Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

21. 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

22. In accordance with the calendar of conferences, the following dates were confirmed for the Committee's eighty-second and eighty-third sessions and related meetings, subject to possible restrictions on travel and in-person meetings that may be required owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic:

Eighty-second session (Geneva)

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

Eighty-third session (Geneva)

- (b) Fifty-fourth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 5–7 October 2022;

- (c) Twenty-third session of the Working Group on Inquiries under the Optional Protocol: 6 and 7 October 2022;

- (d) Eighty-third session: 18 October–5 November 2022;

- (e) Pre-sessional working group for the eighty-fifth session: 31 October–4 November 2022.

Reports to be considered at future sessions

23. Subject to possible future disruptions to the holding of in-person sessions owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee confirmed that, at its eighty-second session, it would consider the reports of Azerbaijan, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Mongolia (under the simplified reporting procedure), Morocco, Namibia, Portugal, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates and that, at its eighty-third session, it would consider eight reports from among those of Armenia, Bahrain, Belgium (under the simplified reporting procedure), China, Finland, the Gambia, Honduras Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Switzerland (under the simplified reporting procedure) and Ukraine.

Chapter VII

Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

Working group on working methods

24. The working group met during the session. It discussed the treaty body strengthening process and consultations on back-to-back reviews with the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see decision 81/IV) and submitted a draft decision on the matter to the Committee. It also discussed the structure of constructive dialogues with States parties and the role and responsibilities of country rapporteurs in the context of evolving meeting modalities owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and constructive dialogues with a reduced time frame.

Working group on gender-based violence against women

25. The working group met during the session. The Chair of the working group presented research and analysis focused on domestic violence that had been undertaken in relation to the draft guidance note for States parties on the implementation of their obligations and their accountability as set out in general recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19. The working group agreed on a timeline for the completion of the draft guidance note in the coming months.

26. The working group noted that the Committee was preparing a compilation of its work on gender-based violence against women in the context of its consideration of State party reports (in particular, with regard to articles 2 and 5 of the Convention), individual communications, confidential inquiries and follow-up to concluding observations, which would be disseminated in order to highlight the impact of its work in this field in the light of the fortieth anniversary of the Committee.

Working group on the rights of indigenous women and girls

27. The working group met during the session. It considered the comments received from stakeholders in response to the call for comments on the initial draft of the general recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls and updated its internal workplan for regional consultations and the elaboration and adoption of the general recommendation.

Task force on Afghanistan

28. The task force met during the session. It discussed the outcome of its inter-sessional activities since the eightieth session of the Committee and recent developments concerning the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan. It also planned activities to consider the impact of the evolving political, economic and social situation in Afghanistan on the rights of women and girls and gather information, with a view to advising the Committee in relation to its request for an exceptional report on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, in accordance with article 18 (1) (b) of the Convention (see decision 80/I).

Chapter VIII

Provisional agenda for the eighty-second session

29. At its 1878th meeting, on 25 February 2022, the Committee considered and approved the draft provisional agenda for its eighty-second session.

Chapter IX

Adoption of the report

30. At its 1878th meeting, on 25 February 2022, the Committee considered and adopted, as orally amended, the draft report on its eighty-first session.

Annex I**Documents before the Committee at its eighty-first session**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CEDAW/C/81/1	Annotated provisional agenda
Reports of States parties	
CEDAW/C/DOM/8	Eighth periodic report of the Dominican Republic (submitted under the simplified reporting procedure)
CEDAW/C/GAB/70	Seventh periodic report of Gabon
CEDAW/C/LBN/6	Sixth periodic report of Lebanon
CEDAW/C/PAN/8	Eighth periodic report of Panama (submitted under the simplified reporting procedure)
CEDAW/C/PER/9	Ninth periodic report of Peru
CEDAW/C/SEN/8	Eighth periodic report of Senegal
CEDAW/C/UGA/8-9	Combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Uganda
CEDAW/C/UZB/6	Sixth periodic report of Uzbekistan

Annex II

Membership of the Committee as at 25 February 2022

<i>Name of member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>	<i>Term of office expires on 31 December</i>
Gladys Acosta Vargas (Chair)	Peru	2022
Hiroko Akizuki	Japan	2022
Tamader Al-Rammah	Saudi Arabia	2022
Nicole Ameline	France	2024
Marion Bethel	Bahamas	2024
Leticia Bonifaz Alfonso	Mexico	2024
Louiza Chalal	Algeria	2022
Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen	Netherlands	2024
Naéla Mohamed Gabr	Egypt	2022
Hilary Gbedemah	Ghana	2024
Nahla Haidar (Vice-Chair)	Lebanon	2024
Dalia Leinarte	Lithuania	2024
Rosario G. Manalo	Philippines	2024
Lia Nadaraia	Georgia	2022
Aruna Devi Narain (Rapporteur)	Mauritius	2022
Ana Peláez Narváez (Vice-Chair)	Spain	2022
Bandana Rana	Nepal	2024
Rhoda Reddock	Trinidad and Tobago	2022
Elgun Safarov (Vice-Chair)	Azerbaijan	2022
Natasha Stott Despoja	Australia	2024
Genoveva Tisheva	Bulgaria	2022
Franceline Toé-Bouda	Burkina Faso	2022
Jie Xia	China	2024

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