

Training Workshop for government officials on reporting under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

**6 to 8 November 2002
United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Bangkok, Thailand**

Aide Memoire

A. Background Information

On 18 December 1979, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). As of June 2002, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 170 States. The Optional Protocol to the

The primary objective of the training workshop will be to enhance the capacity of government officials to prepare States parties' reports. This will lead to enhanced understanding of the legal obligations established in the Convention and thereby enhance opportunities for implementation of the Convention at the national level.

C. Participants

It is expected that up to 20 government officials from Bhutan, Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan will participate in the three day training workshop. The participants will include middle and upper level government officials. Government officials from East Timor and Afghanistan, which has signed, but not ratified the Convention, will also be invited.

Participants will also include observers from relevant parts of the United Nations system and may include observers from NGOs where appropriate.

D. Format

The training workshop will include an overview of international human rights law; the place of the Convention in international human rights law; ratification of the Convention (where appropriate); the Convention and its provisions; reservations to the Convention; reporting requirements, including the reporting guidelines of the Committee and its general recommendations; techniques of reporting; practical exercises with regard to reporting; the role of civil society in the preparation of the report; the Committee and the reporting process; the results of the reporting process and its impact at national level; the implementation of the Committee's concluding comments; the follow-up process.

The workshop will be facilitated by recognized experts, including treaty body experts.

E. Outcomes

The outcome of the training workshop will be the enhanced capacity of government officials to prepare States parties' reports and an increase in understanding by States parties officials of the legal obligations established in the Convention which, in turn, should assist implementation of the Convention at the national level.

F. Timing, Duration and Venue

The training workshop was held from 6 to 8 November 2002 at the United Nations Building, Bangkok, Thailand.

G. Working Language

The working language of the colloquium will be English and interpretation will not be provided with the exception of interpretation to and from Russian if necessary.