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**Closing remarks
by
Ms. Rachel Mayanja
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on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women**

**at the
closing of the CEDAW 36th session
New York, 25th August 2006**

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished members of the Committee,
Ladies and gentlemen,

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam Chairperson, and all the members of the Committee on the successful completion of the work of the thirty-sixth session, which comes to an end today. You have dealt with a challenging and a significant volume of work. I wish to pay tribute to the commitment and hard work of all experts under the able leadership of the Chairperson and Bureau members in both chambers. Your expertise and experience have indeed resulted in a most productive session with many thoughtful discussions.

Madam Chairperson

You have held successful constructive dialogues with 15 States parties, with all the hours of work that this has entailed. Chamber A examined seven reports of States parties - namely: Cuba, Denmark, Uzbekistan, Mauritius, Philippines, Chile and Czech Republic; as did Chamber B which considered: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, China, Jamaica, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Mexico. One States party - Cape Verde – (which reported to the Committee for the first time since it acceded to the Convention in 1980) was considered by the Committee in plenary. Your questions and interventions and the concluding comments that you have adopted on the basis of these dialogues, will provide a solid framework for enhanced implementation of the Convention in the reporting States Parties. I also extend my sincere appreciation to these States Parties for their reports, the responses to the lists of issues and questions of the Committee and for their willingness to hold a constructive dialogue with the Committee about the status of implementation of the Convention. I sincerely thank all States parties for their useful and productive participation in this exercise.

The consideration of the States parties' reports in chambers was quite unique and challenging. I am confident that the criteria that you used to guide your work were very successful, including among others, a fair geographical balance of experts between the

two chambers; seniority of experts on the Committee, and the assignment of experts who are nationals of a reporting State to the chamber that is not considering the report from that State party. You have called this session, a session for learning. Through your experience and extraordinary efforts, this session will be a model for future sessions in which you will sit in chambers.

Madam Chairperson

The high level of attendance of non-governmental organization

