

9 May 2007

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

Pre-session working group

Thirty-eighth session

14 May-1 June 2007

Thirty-ninth session

23 July-10 August 2007

**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. At its ninth session, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women decided to convene a pre-session working group for five days before each session of the Committee to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the periodic reports that would be considered by the Committee at its next session.
2. At its thirty-first session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group would also prepare lists of issues and questions for initial reports. The Committee also decided that each list would contain not more than a total of 30 clear and direct questions. In preparing the lists of issues and questions for periodic reports, particular attention would be paid to States parties' follow-up to previous concluding comments, and its previous report would be taken into consideration. The practice of clustering questions under priority topics rather than addressing specific articles would continue.
3. At its thirty-sixth session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the Committee's thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions would meet from 5 to 9 February 2007. In the light of the authorization by the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/230 of 23 December 2005, of the extension of the meeting time of the Committee in 2006 and 2007, the Committee decided to convene the pre-session working group for the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions immediately after the closure of the thirty-seventh 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.

4. At its thirty-seventh session, the Committee decided that the members of the pre-session working group for the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions would be as follows:

Ms. Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani
Ms. Fumiko Saiga
Ms. Maria Regina Tavares da Silva
Ms. Xiaoqiao Zou

5. The pre-session working group elected Maria Regina Tavares da Silva to be the Chairperson. Magalys Arocha Dominguez, a member of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, participated in the pre-session working group on 8 February 2007.

6. In accordance with the list of States parties selected by the Committee to present reports at its thirty-eighth session, the pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Serbia and Sierra Leone. The lists of issues and questions for six other States parties selected to present their reports at the thirty-eighth session had been prepared by the pre-session working group held from 31 July to 4 August 2006.

7. In accordance with the list of States parties selected by the Committee to present reports at its thirty-ninth session, the pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of the following 14 States parties: Belize, Brazil, the Cook Islands, Estonia, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Singapore. The pre-session working group agreed to prepare one outstanding list intersessionally.

8. To assist in the preparation of the lists, the pre-session working group had before it the reports of the 16 States parties listed above, the core document, if available, submitted by the State party, the general guidelines for the preparation of reports by States parties (CEDAW/C/7/Rev.3), the general recommendations adopted by the Committee, background information and draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the Secretariat (the Division for the Advancement of Women) in accordance with Committee decision 19/III, based on an analytical comparison of current States parties' reports with previous reports and the Committee's discussion thereon, and other relevant information, including concluding comments and observations of the Committee and of other treaty bodies. The pre-session working group benefited from the inputs provided by the country rapporteurs prior to the session.

9. The pre-session working group also benefited from the written information submitted by non-governmental organizations in regard to 12 of the States parties under consideration.

10. The pre-session working group notes that, as initial reports will be considered on an article-by-article basis, with the exception of articles 1 and 2, 7 and 8, and 15 and 16, the lists of issues and questions for initial reports follow the same approach.

11. 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 previous concluding comments and also took into consideration their previous

reports. Rather than address specific articles, the pre-session working group clustered questions under thematic issues.

12. The pre-session working group notes that the Committee will be advised of the rationale for the choices regarding prioritization of issues raised in regard to periodic reports in the country rapporteurs' briefings to the Committee.

13. Lists of issues and questions drawn up by the pre-session working group were transmitted to the 16 States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues and questions with regard to the initial report of Serbia (CEDAW/C/SCG/Q/1);

(b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second, third, fourth and fifth periodic report of Sierra Leone (CEDAW/C/SLE/Q/5);

(c) List of issues and questions with regard to the initial report of Cook Islands (CEDAW/C/COK/Q/1);

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined third and fourth periodic report of Belize (CEDAW/C/BLZ/Q/4);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Brazil (CEDAW/C/BRA/Q/6);

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

(g) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of Guinea (CEDAW/C/GIN/Q/6);

(h) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of Honduras (CEDAW/C/HON/Q/6);

(i) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of Hungary (CEDAW/C/HUN/Q/6);

(j) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Indonesia (CEDAW/C/IDN/Q/5);

(k) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined third and fourth periodic report of Jordan (CEDAW/C/JOR/Q/4);

(l) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fifth and sixth periodic report of Kenya (CEDAW/C/KEN/Q/6);

(m) List of issues and questions with regard to the second and third periodic reports of Liechtenstein (CEDAW/C/LIE/Q/3);

(n) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of New Zealand (CEDAW/C/NZL/6);

(o) List of issues and questions with regard to the fifth and sixth periodic reports of the Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/KOR/Q/6);

(p) List of issues and questions with regard to the third periodic report of Singapore (CEDAW/C/SGP/Q/3).

14. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/IV, 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; participation in decision-making; education and training; gender stereotypes; poverty and employment; violence against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; health, including sexual and reproductive health; equality before the law, marriage and family relations; and the situation of vulnerable groups of women, such as older women, rural women, women belonging to ethnic minorities, refugee and migrant women.
