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**Commission on the Status of Women  
Fifty-first session  
26 February to 9 March 2007**

**Statement by**

can be achieved as soon as possible and the Optional Protocol can become an effective means for redress for women in all States.

Madam Chairperson,

I will briefly touch upon the following issues: The Committee's working methods, and in particular its meetings in parallel chambers, the Committee's meeting time, its efforts to enhance reporting by States parties, its work under the Optional Protocol, and the servicing arrangements for the Committee.

The Committee is grateful to the General Assembly for granting, in resolution 60/230, an extension of meeting time to three annual sessions, and parallel chambers. The Committee has now met twice in parallel chambers, and will again do so at its 39<sup>th</sup> session in July of this year. In calendar year 2006, the Committee considered the reports of 31 States parties – essentially double the number of States the Committee was able to consider in previous years – and in 2007, it will consider the reports of 38 States parties.

I am very happy to inform the Commission that this working method has allowed

reports as a basis for a constructive dialogue, and contribution to accelerated implementation of the Convention.

The Committee consequently decided, at its 37<sup>th</sup> session, to request four States parties that are more than 20 years overdue with their initial report under article 18 of the Convention, i.e. Dominica, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti and Liberia, to submit all their overdue reports as combined reports by March 2008. The Committee intends to consider these reports at its forty-third (January) session of 2009. As a measure of last resort, and failing the receipt of the reports within the suggested timeframe, the Committee will proceed with consideration of the implementation of the Convention in the four States parties in the absence of a report. Given its past experience, the Committee is confident that these four States parties will indeed submit their reports in a timely manner. I would like to

