

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

44th session (20 July - 7 August 2009) and

Pre-session for the 46th session (10 - 14 August 2009)

United Nations Headquarters, New York

States parties

The Committee will examine the reports of the following twelve States parties during its 44th session: **Argentina (to be confirmed at a later stage by the State party), Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Denmark, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Spain, Switzerland, Timor Leste and Tuvalu.**

The Committee will convene in parallel chambers, except for the consideration of the initial reports that will be considered in plenary.

CEDAW Committee members

The CEDAW Committee consists of 23 members, serving in their personal capacity. For details about all CEDAW members, see: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/membership.htm>

Decisions of the Committee

Since its early sessions, the Committee has invited NGOs to follow its work and this is reflected in its rules of procedure. In order to ensure that it is as well informed as possible, the Committee and its pre-session working group, which prepares lists of issues and questions for replies to be considered at future sessions, welcome

representatives of national and international NGOs to provide country-specific information on States parties whose reports are before it. This can be done orally or in writing. The Committee encourages international NGOs and United Nations organizations, funds and programmes to facilitate attendance at Committee sessions by representatives of national NGOs.

Documentation

The reports of the twelve States parties to be considered at the 44th session, the provisional agenda (CEDAW/C/2009/II/1) and other documents pertaining to the session will soon be available online at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws44.htm>

Sessions will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and information on conference rooms will be available on the website at a later stage.

NGO reports for the Committee at its sessions

The Committee welcomes reports including country-specific information from NGOs. OHCHR posts these documents on its website, under the relevant CEDAW session.

All submissions to CEDAW should:

1. Identity the full name of the NGO;
2. Indicate the country to which the information relates; and
3. Be sent electronically in pdf format (not Word) and thereafter in 30 copies by post.

All submissions should arrive two weeks prior to the beginning of the session to the secretariat of the Committee.

-Email of secretariat:
cedaw@ohchr.org

- Postal address of secretariat:

Office of the High Commissioner for
Human Rights - New York Office
(OHCHR-NYO)
Secretariat of CEDAW
United Nations Secretariat, room S-
2914-G
First Avenue at 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
USA

OHCHR makes available reports received from NGOs to Committee members at the beginning of the session/pre-session working group. However, due to the high volume of information received from NGOs and others, OHCHR does not photocopy reports received from NGOs.

NGOs not attending a session/pre-session working group are urged to ensure that the requisite number of hard copies of their reports/information reach OHCHR in time for the respective session, i.e. at least two weeks in advance.

NGOs can also email their reports to IWRAW Asia Pacific, an NGO that has made an arrangement with the secretariat of the Committee to submit NGO alternative reports received, either electronically and/or in hard copy to the secretariat. Please contact IWRAW Asia Pacific for further details: 80-B, Jalan Bangsar, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Tel: +60 322 822 255, fax: +60 322 832 552, email: iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org or iwraw_ap@yahoo.com

NGO reports/information for the pre-session working group

NGOs are encouraged to submit their reports or other country specific information to the pre-session working group that prepares the list of issues and questions for each reporting State scheduled in *two sessions* e.g. the pre-session which takes place immediately after the 44th session will prepare the list of issues and questions for the 46th session. The pre-session for the 46th session takes place 10 to 14 August 2009, in New York. NGO representatives attending the pre-session working group should bring 10 copies for distribution at the meeting of the pre-session working group with the NGOs. NGOs not attending the pre-session working group should send 10 copies of their submissions two weeks prior to the beginning of the pre-session working group. NGOs can also avail themselves of the support of IWRAW Asia Pacific to submit NGO information, electronically and/or in hard copy, of their alternative reports to the secretariat. For details and deadlines, please contact IWRAW Asia Pacific.

NGO attendance at the Committee's 44th session or pre-session working group for the 46th session

The Committee has set aside time at its 44th session for NGOs to provide **oral** information in respect of countries being considered in the week ahead. (For further information, please see the provisional agenda).

Oral interventions by NGOs must be concise. On average, not more than 10 minutes overall are allocated for all NGOs wishing to intervene on one particular country. Efforts to share the available time amongst the NGOs wishing to speak on a country are encouraged and appreciated. NGOs making oral interventions should ensure that they bring 35 copies of their statements on the morning of the presentation. Prior to the presentation they need to send an electronic version of their statement to: cedaw@ohchr.org

The pre-session working group also provides an opportunity for NGOs to address it on Monday 10 August 2009 for all the countries to be taken up at the 46th session.

Accreditation

NGO representatives who wish to address the Committee or its pre-session working group are requested to submit the full title of their NGO, the names of their representatives, and the proposed dates of attendance to cedaw@ohchr.org no later than a week prior to the beginning of the session or pre-session working group so that arrangements can be made for the issuance of United Nations ground passes to enter United Nations premises. To receive the ground pass, all applicants are required to bring

a valid national passport or government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or state non-driver's ID bearing a photograph, and appear in person at United Nations Pass and Identification Unit, located at 801 United Nations Plaza at the corner of 1st Avenue and East 45th Street. The office hours are 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. Mondays through Fridays. Please note that NGOs must bring their passports (or government issued photo ID) at every time they wish to enter the UN premises. Prior to this NGOs must contact OHCHR to be placed on the list of accredited by the secretariat. This should be done by email to cedaw@ohchr.org

For further information, please consult the following link: www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo

Please note that OHCHR will not send letters of invitation to NGOs to attend CEDAW sessions and that OHCHR is unable to assist with travel or accommodation costs relating to the participation.

Side events

NGOs have access to separate rooms for briefing sessions and must contact the secretariat to arrange separate briefing time or arrange side events for members of the Committee. Please contact the secretariat on cedaw@ohchr.org at least four weeks in advance of the session indicating the focus of the side event. The secretariat will inform you if it is possible to accommodate the requests in light of all requests received and availability of Committee members.

CEDAW concluding observations

During its sessions the CEDAW Committee considers reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following such consideration, the Committee formulates concluding observations that assist the State under review in the further implementation of the Convention. These concluding observations outline positive aspects, principal subjects of concern and the Committee's recommendations on how to address challenges faced by the State party. The reports of States parties, the lists of issues and questions, the concluding observations (once adopted), and other documentation for the sessions can be found at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws44.htm>

Future sessions

45th session

The 45th session will meet in January 2010 in Geneva and is scheduled to consider reports from the following eight States parties: **Botswana, Egypt, Malawi, Netherlands, Panama, the United Arab Emirates, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.**

46th session

The 46th session will meet in 2010 to consider reports of the following six States parties: **Albania, Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, and Turkey.** The pre-session working group for the 46th session tasked with preparing the lists of issues and questions for these States

parties will meet from 10 to 14 August 2009 in New York. (see above).

At its 46th or 47th session, **the Committee will also consider the implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report in the Central African Republic, Grenada, and Seychelles.**