

CLOSING REMARKS

by

Ms. Silvia Pimentel

Fifty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Dear Colleagues,

We have thus come to the end of the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It is customary for the Committee's Chairperson to sum up the work completed.

Let me start from the beginning of this session and assess our results. We considered the reports of eight States parties. We held informal meetings with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and a national human rights institution. We also attended several lunchtime briefings organized by non-governmental organizations. The Committee was pleased by the high level of attendance of NGOs, both international and national, which once again made significant contributions to the work of the Committee.

The Committee also is thankful to those UN entities which provided us with detailed information, and I encourage both the UN entities and NGOs to deepen their advocacy for the promotion and protection of women's human rights and the implementation of the Convention.

We had a very successful 30th Anniversary Commemorative Event with high level participation including statements by Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women; H.E. Ms. Dilma Rouseff, President of Brazil delivered by Ms. Eleonora Menicucci de Oliveira, Minister of Policies for Women; and Ms. Shanthi Dairiam of the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific.

We also had a rich discussion on women's political participation and leadership with a distinguished and varied panel, which included the Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, the Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament; Ms. Sapana Pradhan Malla, a Member of the Nepalese Constituent Assembly; Ms. Souad Triki, a Tunisian civil society activist; and Mr. Ivan Simonovic, Assistant Secretary-General, New York Office of OHCHR. I would like to thank UN Women, and OHCHR for supporting this event.

The Committee met with the members of the Working Group on Discrimination in Law and Practice and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation. It also met with Professor Mohamed Mattar of John Hopkins University who provided a briefing on trafficking. The Committee, furthermore, met with Mr. Ibrahim Salama, Ms. Wan-Hea Lee and Mr. Paulo David of OHCHR to discuss treaty body strengthening.

The Working Group on Working Methods continued its work in setting-out priorities to rationalize and strengthen the Committee's procedures and practices. The Committee approved a template to facilitate the preparation of briefing notes by the country rapporteurs and also discussed simplified reporting procedures.

The Committee reviewed cases and took decision relating to individual complaints, and also took a decision on an inquiry under the Optional Protocol. The Committee also considered follow-up information provided by States with respect to the implementation of the Convention.

The Committee continued with its review of the general recommendation on the dissolution of marriage and its economic consequences, and was also briefed on the status of other general recommendations. It decided to establish two working groups to elaborate general recommendations on climate change and natural disasters, and on the right to education.

Dear Colleagues,

May I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and congratulation to the States parties that engaged in the excellent constructive dialogues with the Committee, many of which were represented at very high levels.

Before I conclude, may I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all experts for the hard work accomplished during the past three weeks, in particular the country rapporteurs who have greatly contributed to our discussions during the dialogues with the representatives of the States parties. I am also grateful to my colleagues in the Bureau for their advice on the many issues that we have tackled.

I would also like to extend the Committee's appreciation to our Secretariat for your dedication, efficiency and hard work. We would also like to thank the interpreters, précis-summary-writers, conference officers and all those who made this session successful.

I wish you all a safe journey home and I look forward to seeing you in Geneva at the fifty-third session.

Thank you very much.
