

## ***CLOSING REMARKS***

*by*

***Ms. Silvia Pimentel***

### ***Fifty-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women***

Dear Colleagues,

We have thus come to the end of the fifty-first 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 seven States parties. We held informal meetings with the entities of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). 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. I would especially like to thank the following entities for briefing the Committee at this session: the Inter-Agency Group on CEDAW Reporting made-up of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, FAO and UN Women; OHCHR, UNHCR, ILO, IPU and IOM.

In conjunction with the Open Society Justice Initiative, the Committee held a public briefing, which was very well received, on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations and views and I would like to thank Ms. Simonovic for participating on the panel and to the Secretariat for assisting in organizing this event to raise awareness of the work of the Committee. The Committee also met with the Global Campaign for Education, which I understand was a very informative evening and hopefully the beginning of a fruitful partnership with GCE. After all, education is one of the key pillars of advancing women's rights.

The Committee met with Ms. Fareeda Shaheed, the Independent Expert on Cultural Rights and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation. It also met Ms. Lee Waldorf of UN Women and discussed the need for long-term planning and coordination with respect to general recommendations and other activities to facilitate support by UN Women. The Committee, furthermore, met with Ms. Wan-Hea Lee and Mr. Paulo David of the Human Rights Treaties Division to discuss treaty body strengthening, and additionally held a meeting with Mr. Kyle Ward, Chief of Programme Support and Management Services, as well as other members of his office, to discuss travel related issues.

I also had the opportunity to address the Commission on the Status of Women, and while in New York, also met with Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the Executive Director of UN Women, her Assistant-Secretary General, Ms. Lakshmi Puri, and Assistant-Secretary-General Ivan Simonovic from the New York Office of OHCHR. I would like to thank Ms. Acar and Ms. Ameline for participating actively in these meetings and for enriching the discussions which took place. We also met with the Deputy Executive Director of FAO.

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 briefly started discussing the positive aspects of its task forces and ways to improve them further, also presented a draft template to facilitate the preparation of briefing notes by the country rapporteurs.

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.

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 New York at the fifty-second session.

Thank you very much.

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