



United Nations Nations Unies

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Participants at the Training Workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Implementation and Follow-up to Concluding Comments met from 6-9 November 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand, and identified the following issues and concerns:

1. Participants emphasized the need to establish and strengthen the national machineries for the advancement of women both in terms of human and financial resources and place them at the highest level of government, so that they can, among other things, fulfill their obligations to coordinate implementation of concluding comments.
2. Noting the need to enhance and coordinate efforts to work for the advancement of women at all levels and all relevant sectors of government, participants stressed the importance of the national machinery for the advancement of women establishing and maintaining a system of focal points in all relevant government agencies. Participants further noted that such focal points must be placed in appropriately high levels in order to have the necessary visibility and impact.
3. Recognizing the need for policy makers and implementers to have close collaboration and contact with organizations working on women's issues at various levels, participants recommended that national machineries for the advancement of women ensure coordination and cooperation with civil society and other key stakeholders, in particular regional and community level women's and human rights organizations.
4. Noting that political will to prioritize women's issues is critical for implementation of concluding comments, participants recommended that States parties strengthen political will for the advancement of women.
5. Emphasizing the need to view women's advancement in a comprehensive manner and the corresponding need to evaluate impact of measures taken, participants recommended that States parties develop concrete national action plans, incorporating measures that are sustainable over the long term and have specific benchmarks so that progress can be assessed.
6. Participants emphasized the importance of developing and/or strengthening systems to monitor and evaluate efforts to implement concluding comments.
7. Noting the insufficiency of sex-disaggregated data that is necessary for the advancement of women, participants stressed the need to develop methodologically

sound and sustainable data collection systems to collect data disaggregated by sex and where appropriate, by ethnicity, age, disability and/or geographical location. In particular, participants stressed the need to develop culturally sensitive and appropriate approaches and methods to collect data on violence against women.

8. Participants noted the need to capitalize on the strengths of various stakeholders at the international, regional, national and local levels to enhance efforts in implementation of concluding comments and avoid duplication of efforts. In this regard, they recommended that States parties encourage close coordination and cooperation amongst relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of concluding comments at all levels.

9. Noting the central role that Parliamentarians play in enacting and amending laws related to the advancement and/or the protection of women, participants recommended awareness-raising and capacity-building of Parliamentarians to enhance their ability to contribute to gender-sensitive law reform, debates about the ratification of the Optional Protocol and the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention.

10. Noting the need to strengthen gender sensitivity among government actors responsible for implementing various concluding comments, the participants stressed the need to have sustained gender sensitivity training and capacity-building, including in line ministries, law enforcement, prosecutors and the judiciary. Participants also noted the possibility of obtaining technical and financial assistance on the implementation of the Convention and obligations thereunder from the UN system and other donors.

11. Noting that entrenched stereotypes of women impede all efforts to work on the advancement of women, including through implementation of concluding comments, participants recommended gender-sensitive education through the formal education system, as well as through media, internet and other new information technologies. In addition, participants recommended gender sensitivity training for media and journalists.

12. Recognizing the breadth of issues addressed in the concluding comments, the participants recommended the development of creative strategies engaging a variety of groups, including religious and community leaders, the military, labour unions and professional associations, in efforts for the advancement of women and the implementation of concluding comments. In particular, they stressed the need to engage men as stakeholders in such efforts.

13. Emphasizing the need for increased awareness about the Convention, the participants recommended that the Convention and the concluding comments be translated into local languages and widely disseminated, including through non-traditional methods such as concerts.

14. Noting that this workshop had enhanced cooperation among the stakeholders participating, participants recommended that State parties initiate and facilitate inter-agency, multi-sectoral public debates on the concluding comments.

15. Noting that concluding comments are sometimes too general making it difficult for the State party to design specific measures to implement them, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should adopt more action-oriented and concrete recommendations.