

Programme Proposal

Title: Training workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: Implementation and Follow-up to Concluding Comments

Background Information

Following a request from the Royal Government of Cambodia, through the Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW), the Division for the Advancement Women will facilitate a workshop to build the capacity of government officials and other stakeholders to implement the concluding comments on Cambodia of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee). The workshop will be organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women in collaboration with the Cambodian National Council for Women.

The Government of Cambodia ratified the Convention on 15 October 1992. The Committee considered the State party's combined initial, second and third periodic report at its thirty-fourth session, in January 2006. The concluding comments encourage the State party to effectively implement the recommendations addressed to it. Such implementation is expected to involve all relevant stakeholders, including the Government, Parliament, civil society, as well as other relevant stakeholders.

This event will be undertaken as part of the Division's technical cooperation efforts. It will specifically aim at enhancing implementation of the Convention at the national level. The workshop will thus respond to the call for enhanced efforts to promote gender equality, and especially implementation of human rights standards which particularly pertain to women, including the Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly (2000). It also responds to suggestions from human rights treaty bodies, through the Inter-Committee meetings, for enhanced follow up to the constructive dialogue between committees and reporting States.

Co-organisers

- The Cambodian National Council for Women

Objective of the training workshop

The workshop on follow-up to the Committee's concluding comments is aimed at enhancing the capacity of key stakeholders responsible for the implementation of the Convention and the Committee's concluding comments. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to promote the ratification of the Optional Protocol, which Cambodia signed in November 2001.

Format and content

The workshop will be facilitated by an expert from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and a representative from the Division. The workshop will be conducted in English. It will comprise presentation and discussion pertaining to the Convention and the concluding comments of the Committee, as the monitoring body

for implementation of the Convention. The expected actions to be taken in response to the constructive dialogue between the Committee and the State party concerned will be addressed, as will the impact and relevance of the concluding comments for different stakeholders. The opportunities offered by the reporting process will be addressed, and in particular the phase of follow-up to concluding comments to give added momentum to the comprehensive implementation of the Convention at the national level, in a concerted effort of all concerned stakeholders.

Working group sessions will be used to develop a comprehensive strategy of follow-up, including clarification of challenges and opportunities for action by different stakeholders. This strategy will include actions to be taken in the short, medium and long term, by different stakeholders and sector, as well as identify institutional arrangements to ensure collaboration and coordination among relevant stakeholders. The question of resources for implementation will also be addressed.

Participants will be provided with a complete set of materials and handouts.

The content of the workshop will therefore include:

- An overview of the reporting process, in particular the follow up to concluding comments
- The role of different branches and levels of Government, as well as of different sectors with primary responsibility for the areas addressed in the Convention and in particular in the Committee's concluding comments
- The role of other stakeholders, including civil society, in implementation of the Convention and specifically the Committee's concluding comments
- The role of, and opportunities for United Nations agencies and funds to support the State party in follow up to concluding comments.

Target group (Participants)

It is expected that 36 participants will attend the workshop including twenty officials from the various ministries, four members of Parliament, two senators and ten representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Participants may also include observers from the UN country team in Cambodia and bilateral donors.

Outputs and Achievements

The expected outcomes of the workshop include:

- A strategy and action plan, with short-, medium and long-term goals for implementation of each of the recommendations of the Committee reflected in the concluding comments, including identification of main actors and resources
- An institutional framework for cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders in implementation of the strategy and action plan, including mechanisms and timeline for preparation of the subsequent periodic report

- Enhanced capacity of Government officials, within their area of responsibility, to undertake follow-up in accordance with the concluding comments of the Committee and the strategy and action plan; and
- Enhanced capacity of other stakeholders to work in a cooperative and coordinated manner for implementation of the Convention and follow-up to concluding comments, and advocate for accession to the Optional Protocol.

A report on the proceedings of the workshop will be prepared.

Timing and duration

The workshop will take place from 1 to 2 November 2006

Venue

To be determined

Input by co-organisers

Provision of secretarial support.

Justification for use of technical cooperation budget

The workshop will focus on ways to better implement the provisions of the Convention, especially to encourage collaboration and creation of a more permanent and sustainable institutional framework to support effective follow-up to, and implementation of concluding comments. This will also improve the approach of all government officials, NGOs, members of Parliament and the UNCT to put in place coordinated plans of action at the national level to implement the Convention, and will assist the Committee in the increased importance it places on follow-up to concluding comments.

