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**Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women**
Pre-session working group of the thirtieth session
12-30 January 2004

**Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under
article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms
of Discrimination against Women**

Report of the pre-session working group

1. At its ninth session, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women decided to convene a pre-session working group for five days before each session of the Committee to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the periodic reports that would be considered by the Committee at its next session.
2. At its twenty-seventh session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the thirtieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women would meet from 21 to 25 July 2003 and that the following five members of the Committee representing different regions would participate:
 - Ms. Huguette Bokpe Gnacadja (Africa)
 - Ms. Aída González (Latin America and the Caribbean)
 - Ms. Salma Khan (Asia)
 - Ms. Dubravka Šimonovic (Eastern Europe)
 - Ms. Regina Tavares da Silva (Western Europe)
3. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Aída González (Latin America and the Caribbean) as its Chairperson.
4. In accordance with the list of States parties selected by the Committee to present reports at its thirtieth session, the pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Belarus, Ethiopia, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, and Nigeria.
5. To assist in the preparation of the lists, the pre-session working group had before it the reports of the six States parties listed above, the core document, if

available, submitted by the State party, the general guidelines for the preparation of reports by States parties (CEDAW/C/7/Rev.3), the general recommendations adopted by the Committee, draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the secretariat (Division for the Advancement of Women) in accordance with Committee decision 19/III, based on an analytical comparison of current States parties' reports with previous reports and the Committee's discussion thereon, and other relevant information, including concluding comments and observations of the Committee and of other treaty bodies.

6. In accordance with Committee decision 18/I, the pre-session working group received country-specific information on the States parties whose reports were before it from several entities of the United Nations system. The pre-session working group also met in a closed meeting with representatives of entities of the United Nations system. The pre-session working group also held an informal meeting with a representative of a non-governmental organization, and also received written contributions from other non-governmental organizations on the States parties whose reports were before it.

7. Lists of issues and questions drawn up by the pre-session working group were transmitted to the six States parties, and are contained in the following documents:

- (a) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth, fifth and six periodic report of Belarus (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/I/CRP.1/Add.1);
- (b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Ethiopia (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/I/CRP.1/Add.2);
- (c) List of issues and questions with regard to the fifth periodic report of Germany (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/I/CRP.1/Add.3);
- (d) List of issues and questions with regard to the second periodic report of Kyrgyzstan (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/I/CRP.1/Add.4);
- (e) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of Nepal (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/I/CRP.1/Add.5);
- (f) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Nigeria (CEDAW/PSWG/2004/I/CRP.1/Add.6).

8. In accordance with decisions 22/IV and 25/II of the Committee, the pre-session working group formulated short lists of issues and questions, focusing on themes addressed by the Convention. The themes included the constitutional and legislative framework, and national machinery for the advancement of women; participation in decision-making; education, training and stereotypes; employment, economic empowerment, reconciliation of work and family responsibilities; violence against women, including harmful traditional practices; trafficking in women; health; family relations; and the situation of certain groups of women, such as older women, rural women, and migrant women.

9. The pre-session working group noted that each of the reports described the major social, economic, political and legislative changes aimed at eliminating discrimination against women. Most reports followed the Committee's general guidelines for the preparation of periodic reports.