



**COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
31ST SESSION, 6 TO 23 JULY 2004
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will convene its 31st session in New York, USA, from 6 to 23 July 2004. The Committee will examine the reports of the following eight States parties: *Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Latvia, Malta and Spain.*

CEDAW concluding comments

During its sessions the CEDAW Committee considers reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following such consideration, the CEDAW Committee formulates its concluding comments that assist the State party in the further implementation of the Convention. These concluding comments outline positive aspects, principal subjects of concern and the Committee's suggestions and recommendations on how to address challenges faced by the State party. The concluding comments can provide guidance on the issues for the next periodic report. The concluding comments of the CEDAW Committee as well as other country information are available online:
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/reports.htm

CEDAW Committee members

The CEDAW Committee consists of 23 members, serving in their personal capacity.

In 2004 the members of the Committee are from Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, and Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania, and Turkey.

For more information, please see:

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/members.htm

Documentation

The reports of the eight States parties to be considered at the 31st CEDAW session are available online in the six official languages: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/31sess The provisional agenda and other documents can also be found online: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/31sess.htm#documents. Sessions open to the public will be listed in the Daily Journal (www.un.org/Docs/journal/En/lateste.pdf).

NGO Participation:

Attending as observers

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interested in attending the CEDAW session as observers are required to submit the names of their representatives, the full title of their NGO as well as the proposed dates of attendance to the Division for the Advancement of Women at haregwein@un.org no later than **30 June 2004**. The Division will facilitate

obtaining the United Nations grounds passes for attending NGOs, but will not send letters of invitation to attend the CEDAW session.

To receive the grounds pass, all applicants are required to appear in person at the Pass and Identification Unit, located at 801 United Nations Plaza (at the corner of 1st Ave. and East 45th St.). A valid national passport or government issued photo ID such as driver's license or state non-driver's ID bearing a photograph will be required of all applicants at the time of first issuance. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays (closed 12:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.) and 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on Fridays.

Presenting NGO reports

The CEDAW Committee welcomes information from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In addition to attending the CEDAW session as observers, NGO representatives can submit alternative and shadow NGO reports to the CEDAW Committee members, and can present information during the informal meetings of the CEDAW Committee members with NGO representatives.

During the 31st session, NGOs will have the opportunity to address the CEDAW Committee on 6 July 2004 and on 12 July 2004. NGOs wishing to present information regarding *Spain, Equatorial Guinea, Bangladesh and Angola* will be able to address the CEDAW Committee on 6 July 2004 from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. NGO representatives wishing to speak on *Malta, Latvia, Dominican Republic and Argentina* will be able to do so on 12 July 2004 from 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. NGO representatives interested in addressing the CEDAW Committee are requested to submit the names of their representatives, the names of the organizations they represent and on whose behalf they will speak to the Division for the Advancement of Women (haregwein@un.org) no later than **30 June 2004**.

The NGOs can submit their alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee prior or during the session. At the request of the CEDAW Committee, IWRAW Asia Pacific collects and sends alternative reports of NGOs to the CEDAW Committee members prior to the session. NGO reports could be sent to IWRAW AP at the following address/email: International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific) 2nd Floor, Block F, Anjung Fields, Jalan Maktab 54000 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Tel: (603) 2691 3292, Fax (603) 26984203

Website: www.iwraw-ap.org

Email: iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org

NGOs can also distribute copies of their alternative reports to the CEDAW Committee at the time of the session.

A new general recommendation

The CEDAW Committee will begin the first stage for the formulation of general recommendation No. 26 on article 2 of the Convention during its 31st session, on **21 July 2004 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** NGOs, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies are invited to exchange views with the Committee on the proposed general recommendation. NGOs wishing to participate in the general discussion and/or to submit background papers for consideration by the Committee, are requested to send information to the Women's Rights Section, Division for the Advancement of Women/DESA calabrini@un.org.

For more information

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