



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

Thirty-third session

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

5-22 July 2005

**Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee
on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

Note by the Secretariat

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* CEDAW/C/2005/II/1.

I. Introduction

1. The present report contains information that is relevant to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Section II provides information on developments in the United Nations human rights regime, including information concerning other treaty bodies, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, and the inter-committee meeting and meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies. Section III presents information on the reports to be considered by the Committee at future sessions, section IV contains the Secretariat's activities in support of implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. Other issues of relevance to the Committee's work are contained in section V.

2. The Committee's attention is drawn in particular to paragraphs 9, 24 and 50 of the present report as the Committee is invited to take action on issues addressed therein.

II. Developments in the human rights regime

A. Human rights treaty bodies

3. The Human Rights Committee, at its eighty-third session, held from 14 March to 1 April 2005, continued its discussion on the procedure for harmonizing guidelines on reporting to all treaty bodies, and shared its views in that regard with the designated rapporteur of the inter-committee meetings. The Human Rights Committee also discussed a draft general comment on article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the right to a fair trial.

4. At its thirty-eighth session, held from 10 to 28 January 2005, the Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted a decision entitled "Children without parental care",¹ in which it recommended that the Commission on Human Rights consider establishing, at its sixty-first session in 2005, a working group to prepare draft United Nations guidelines for the protection and alternative care of children without parental care. It also decided to devote the general day of discussion at its next session to the theme "Children deprived of parental care". Moreover, the Committee discussed advancement of drafts of its five forthcoming general comments: unaccompanied and asylum-seeking children; fundamental principles in the juvenile justice system; the rights of indigenous children; implementing child rights in early childhood; and the rights of children with disabilities.

5. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, at its thirty-third session held from 8 to 26 November 2004, continued its consideration of the draft general comment on article 3 (equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights), and began its consideration of the draft general comment on article 15 (1) (c) (the right of everyone to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he [or she] is the author). The Committee met with the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the open-ended working group to consider options regarding the drafting of an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee held a meeting with members

of the International Labour Organization Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, as a way to strengthen cooperation between the two treaty-monitoring bodies. At its thirty-fourth session, held from 25 April to 13 May 2005, the Committee adopted the general comment on article 3 and designated a member responsible to monitor the follow-up by States parties of the general observations of the Committee. It also held a meeting with States parties to discuss the draft optional protocol to the Covenant. During that session, the third meeting of the Joint Expert Group UNESCO (Committee on Conventions and Recommendations)/Economic and Social Council (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) on the Monitoring of the Right to Education was also held.

6. At its sixty-sixth session, held from 21 February to 11 March 2005, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted the terms of reference for the coordinator mandated to monitor the follow-up by States parties concerning the observations and recommendations of the Committee.²

7. At its second session, held from 25 to 29 April 2005, the Committee on Migrant Workers discussed its working methods relating to the consideration of States parties' reports. The Committee agreed that it would, in principle, follow the practices established by other treaty bodies in the consideration of States parties' reports. In particular, the Committee agreed that it would appoint two country rapporteurs for each initial report and adopt a list of issues which would be sent to the State party concerned one session prior to the session at which the report will be considered. The Committee would invite the State party to respond to the list of issues in writing, which could be complemented by oral information during the consideration of the report in the presence of the State party's delegation. The Committee would request States parties to ensure an appropriate composition of its delegation in order to allow for a meaningful dialogue with the Committee. The Committee further agreed that it would invite contributions from other entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and other concerned bodies in preparation for the consideration of the report. For that reason, the Committee would also ensure that States parties' reports, the lists of issues and States parties' responses to the lists of issues are made publicly available.

B. Commission on the Status of Women

8. The forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held from 28 February to 11 March 2005, and 22 March 2005. The Commission adopted a declaration in which it reaffirmed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and recognized that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are mutually reinforcing in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women.

9. Among the 10 resolutions adopted by the Commission, one focused on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, in which the Commission urged the Government of Afghanistan to fully implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Other resolutions, including one on

eliminating demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation, one on the economic advancement of women, and one on indigenous women beyond the 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, made explicit reference to the Convention. Moreover, the Commission adopted a resolution on the advisability of the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women, in which it decided to consider at its fiftieth session in 2006 the advisability of the appointment of such Special Rapporteur, bearing in mind the existing mechanisms, with a view to avoiding duplication. In this regard, it requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its fiftieth session, on the implications of the creation of a Special Rapporteur, and to include in his report the views, inter alia, of the Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

10. During the session, an interactive panel on “Synergies between national-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” was held in order to discuss ways to ensure a more effective use of both instruments by a diverse range of actors to achieve gender equality. Speakers in the panel included the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chairperson of the Committee, and representatives of Member States and NGOs. The summary of the panel discussion is included in the report of the Commission.³

C. Commission on Human Rights

11. The sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights was held from 14 March to 22 April 2005. A number of resolutions made reference to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol, to human rights treaty bodies in general and the Committee in particular. A summary of selected resolutions and decisions is provided below.

12. In resolution 2005/42 on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, the Commission encouraged the efforts of treaty bodies to mainstream the human rights of women into their work, in particular, in their concluding observations and in the development of general comments and recommendations. It also encouraged all entities of the United Nations system, as well as Governments and intergovernmental and NGOs, in particular women’s organizations, as appropriate, to pay systematic, increased and sustained attention to the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

13. In regard to the elimination of violence against women (resolution 2005/41), the Commission reminded Governments that their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women must be implemented fully, taking into account the Committee’s general recommendation No. 19. It reaffirmed the commitment to accelerate the achievement of universal ratification of the Convention and urged States parties to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol. It encouraged the human rights treaty bodies to continue to give consideration to violence against women and girls within their respective mandates. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide

the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences with adequate assistance for periodic consultations with the Committee and to ensure that her reports are brought to the Committee's attention.

14. Several thematic resolutions made reference to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the role of the Committee in promoting rights relevant to the resolution (see, for example, resolutions 2005/16 on human rights and extreme poverty, 2005/21 on the right to education, 2005/24 on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, 2005/25 on women's equal ownership, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and adequate housing, 2005/45 on human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, 2005/47 on human rights of migrants, 2005/51 on human rights and indigenous issues, and 2005/65 on the human rights of persons with disabilities).

15. Many resolutions referred generally to the role of treaty bodies and their work in relation to the subject of the respective resolution (see, for example, resolutions 2005/9 on cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies, 2005/16 on human rights and extreme poverty, 2005/17 on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights, 2005/18 on the right to food, 2005/21 on the right to education, 2005/22 on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, 2005/24 on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, 2005/25 on women's equal ownership, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing, 2005/28 on arbitrary detention, 2005/29 on strengthening of popular participation, equity, social justice and non-discrimination as essential foundations of democracy, 2005/36 on the incompatibility between democracy and racism, 2005/38 on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, 2005/44 on the rights of the child, 2005/48 on human rights and mass exoduses, 2005/51 on human rights and indigenous issues, 2005/57 on promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, 2005/60 on human rights and the environment as part of sustainable development, 2005/65 on human rights of persons with disabilities, 2005/73 on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, 2005/79 on rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and 2005/84 on the protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)).

16. In addition, the Commission included references to the Convention or the Committee in some country-specific resolutions, including resolutions 2005/10 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, 2005/11 on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 2005/13 on the situation of human rights in Belarus, 2005/78 on technical cooperation and advisory services in Nepal, and 2005/83 on assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights.

17. The Commission also adopted resolution 2005/74 on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in which it affirmed the important role of national human rights institutions, in cooperation with other mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, to protect and promote the human rights of women. In that resolution, the Commission also welcomed the Round Table of National Human Rights Institutions and National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women, held in Ouarzazate, Morocco, from 15 to 19 November

2004, organized by OHCHR in cooperation with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme of Morocco.

D. Inter-committee meeting and meeting of chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies

18. The fourth inter-committee meeting and the seventeenth meeting of chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies will take place at Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 22 June 2005 and from 23 to 24 June 2005, respectively. Among other matters, the meetings will continue discussion on the proposals on harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties and guidelines for an expanded core document and treaty-specific targeted reports.⁴ The Committee's preliminary views have been submitted to the fourth inter-committee meeting, through the designated rapporteur, Kamal Filali.

III. Reports to be considered by the Committee at future sessions

19. At its thirty-first session, the Committee drew up the list of States parties whose reports would be considered at future sessions. All States parties selected for presentation of reports at the thirty-third session, to be held from 5 to 22 July 2005, will be able to do so. The Committee proposed the following list of reports for consideration at its thirty-fourth session, to be held from 16 January to 3 February 2006: the combined initial and second periodic report of Eritrea;⁵ the combined initial, second and third periodic reports of Cambodia⁶ and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;⁷ the combined initial, second, third, fourth and fifth periodic reports of Togo;⁸ the combined second, third, fourth and fifth periodic report of Mali;⁹ the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Australia¹⁰ and Thailand;¹¹ and the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic report of Venezuela.¹²

20. In selecting the reports to be considered at the thirty-fourth and future sessions, the Committee's attention is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the "Status of submission of reports under article 18 of the Convention",¹³ which contains a list of States parties whose reports have been submitted but not yet considered by the Committee. Excluding those it will consider at its thirty-third session, 48 States parties have submitted reports that have not yet been considered.

21. A table indicating States parties whose reports have been submitted but not yet considered by the Committee is attached (see annex II).

22. One State party, Andorra, has indicated its intention to submit its combined second and third periodic report in December 2005, in accordance with article 18 of the Convention. In follow-up to the Committee's initial request at its thirtieth session, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations conveyed the Government's proposal to submit the combined second and third periodic reports for 1998 and 2002 by December 2004. As of 5 May 2005, the report had not yet been received.

23. At its thirty-second session, the Committee reiterated its incremental strategy to encourage States parties to fulfil their reporting obligations. It also reiterated its

decision to consider implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report only as a measure of last resort and in the presence of a delegation. The Committee notified two States parties, namely, Cape Verde and Saint Lucia, whose initial reports under article 18 of the Convention are more than 10 years overdue, of its intention to take up implementation of the Convention at the thirty-fifth session (July 2006). Those two States parties have been invited to submit all their overdue reports as combined reports by June 2005. They have also been advised that, should their reports not be submitted by the designated time, the Committee intends to proceed with consideration of the implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report.

24. The Committee decided to review the status of long-overdue initial reports again at its thirty-third session in order to invite up to two States parties to submit their reports within a specified time period, for consideration by the Committee. As of 3 May 2005, in addition to Cape Verde and Saint Lucia, States parties whose initial reports are 10 years or more overdue are: Bahamas,¹⁴ Central African Republic,¹⁵ Dominica,¹⁶ Grenada,¹⁷ Guinea-Bissau,¹⁸ Haiti,¹⁹ Liberia,²⁰ Seychelles,²¹ and Sierra Leone.²² A complete list of States parties whose reports are five years or more overdue is included in the Secretary-General's report on the status of submission of reports.²³

IV. Secretariat activities in support of the implementation of the Convention

25. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women continued their efforts to encourage universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, acceptance of the Optional Protocol and amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention. Those aspects are regularly addressed by the Special Adviser, the Director and staff of the Division in meetings with, and briefings for, representatives of Member States, entities of the United Nations system, and civil society organizations in training workshops and other outreach activities. Cooperation and collaboration in support of the work of human rights treaty bodies has remained an important element in the joint work plan of the Division and OHCHR.²⁴

26. In March 2005, during the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Division launched its 2004 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. The World Survey, mandated by General Assembly resolutions 54/210 of 22 December 1999 and 58/206 of 23 December 2003, addresses key issues related to women and international migration, and includes information on provisions of the Convention which are of particular importance to migrant women. It also highlights the role of the Committee in examining the situation of migrant women and the importance of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

27. In April 2005, as part of its technical cooperation programme, the Division convened two training workshops for government officials on the implementation of the Convention in Freetown, Sierra Leone. That was the second phase of support to the Government of Sierra Leone on implementation of the Convention and was based on recommendations that resulted from a number of high-level consultations and meetings held in October 2004 by a team of experts with various stakeholders in

Sierra Leone. The workshops were facilitated by one Committee member and one expert in gender and international human rights law from the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa. A similar two-phase programme is being implemented in support of the Government of Afghanistan. The Division also continued to provide support to the Government of Timor-Leste, and facilitated the participation of a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expert in a training workshop in April 2005.

28. The Division, with the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights at the University of Utrecht, continued preparation of a manual on implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol. The manual is intended to increase the capacity of States parties to enhance effective and ongoing implementation of the Convention by States parties and to prepare both initial and periodic reports. A validation workshop was held in Utrecht, the Netherlands, in May 2005, to assess draft chapters of the manual, and in particular its appropriateness as a guide and advocacy tool for more effective implementation of the Convention.

V. Other issues

A. Interaction with national human rights institutions

29. The third inter-committee meeting, held at Geneva in June 2004, recommended, *inter alia*, that national human rights institutions be encouraged to participate in treaty body sessions. At its thirty-second session, the Committee expressed its interest in establishing interaction with national human rights institutions and agreed to discuss the modalities for such interaction at its thirty-third session. The Committee also agreed that representatives of national human rights institutions wishing to present information to the Committee at its thirty-third session would be able to do so during the meeting between the Committee and representatives of NGOs.

30. The Irish Human Rights Commission has requested an opportunity to make an oral presentation at the Committee's thirty-third session in its capacity as an independent national human rights institution to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the occasion of the consideration of Ireland's combined fourth and fifth periodic report. The Commission has been informed of the relevant decision of the Committee.

31. The information below summarizes the current status of interaction between national human rights institutions and other human rights treaty bodies.

32. At its sixty-third session in August 2003, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted a paper on working methods²⁵ providing, *inter alia*, that the Secretariat should inform national human rights institutions about the Committee's programme of work for the respective session and provide them with copies of the reports due to be considered by the Committee. Furthermore, national human rights institutions may provide information on issues relating to the consideration of reports of States parties, on a personal level and in informal meetings outside the Committee's working hours, to members of the Committee wishing to attend such meetings, as well as respond to requests to clarify or supplement such information. Over recent years, national institutions'

representatives have taken part on several occasions in such informal lunchtime briefings. At the Committee's sixty-sixth session, following consultation of the Irish delegation which gave its agreement, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination provided the Irish Human Rights Commission with the opportunity to make an oral presentation in plenary on the second day of the consideration of Ireland's combined initial and second periodic report. It was the first time that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination provided such an opportunity to a national human rights institution. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to provide seating arrangements to representatives of national human rights institutions separately from non-governmental organizations, with a sign clearly identifying them.

33. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, in its general comment No. 2,²⁶ adopted at its thirty-second session, held from 13-31 January 2003, has formalized its relationship with national human rights institutions. The Committee agreed, *inter alia*, that national human rights institutions should contribute independently to the reporting process under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments and monitor the integrity of Government reports to international treaty bodies with respect to children's rights, including through dialogue with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, at its pre-sessional working group. The Committee requested States parties to include detailed information on the legislative basis and mandate and principal relevant activities of national human rights institutions in their reports to the Committee. It agreed that it would be appropriate for States parties to consult with independent human rights institutions during the preparation of reports under the Convention. The Committee also noted the need for States parties to respect the independence of these bodies and their independent role in providing information to the Committee. According to the Committee, it would not be appropriate to delegate to national human rights institutions the drafting of reports or to include them in the Government delegation when reports are examined by the Committee. As articulated in article 45 of the Convention, the Committee noted that it may transmit, as it considers appropriate, to any specialized United Nations agency, OHCHR and any other competent body any reports from States parties that contain a request or indicate a need for technical advice or assistance in the establishment of national human rights institutions.

34. In practice, national human rights institutions wishing to submit information contact the Committee's secretariat in advance of a session. In some cases the secretariat has contacted national human rights institutions of reporting States. In order to be invited to attend the pre-sessional working group, national human rights institutions must submit a written report in advance, as in the case of NGOs. National human rights institutions participate in pre-sessional working groups together with NGOs, youth groups, and entities of the United Nations system. In some cases, national human rights institutions were allowed to report to the Committee in a separate meeting.

35. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has adopted no formal decision on interaction with national human rights institutions. However, in practice, national human rights institutions have the opportunity to attend the pre-sessional working group and the session of the Committee. During the session, national human rights institutions may report to the Committee in an open meeting together with NGOs or, if they prefer, they may report to the Committee in a separate closed meeting.

36. Through its National Institutions Unit, OHCHR provides assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions and facilitates regional and global cooperation and exchange among national human rights institutions. The Unit regularly prepares briefs for some Committees (e.g., the Committee on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child) about the national institutions, and information received from national human rights institutions is included by the secretariat in the briefing materials provided to Committee members. Once concluding observations become available, the National Institutions Unit sends them to the respective national human rights institutions.

B. Extension of the Committee's meeting time

37. At its thirty-second session, the Committee expressed its disappointment at the lack of action taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, in 2004, in regard to the Committee's request to put in place short-term measures and a long-term solution that would allow the Committee to implement its responsibilities under the Convention and the Optional Protocol in an effective and timely manner. It reiterated the urgent need to find such a solution in line with its decision 31/I. The Committee requested the Secretariat to include in the Committee's pre-session documentation detailed information on all possible options for extension of the Committee's meeting time, including extension of the current sessions and the holding of additional annual sessions from 2006. The Committee decided to consider these options at its thirty-third session with a view to submitting a request to the General Assembly for action at its sixtieth session.

38. Further to consultations with relevant offices, the options described below were considered.

39. Option one: three annual sessions of three weeks in New York, each preceded by a one-week session of a working group. In view of the Committee's two current sessions in January and July and meetings of the General Assembly and its Main Committees from September to December, the proposed additional four to five weeks of meetings would have to be accommodated sometime in April or May. However, April and May are usually the peak meeting time at Headquarters in regard to requirements for conference-servicing resources and facilities. Therefore, it would not be possible to hold another session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women during that period.

40. Option two: extension of the current two annual sessions by one and two weeks respectively, for a total of nine weeks of meetings, both preceded and followed by working groups is a feasible and realistic option from the conference-servicing point of view. One week could be added to the January session starting in mid-January and ending early in February, and two weeks added to the July session starting early in July and ending in mid-August.

41. Option three: holding one annual session at Geneva and two annual sessions in New York, each preceded and/or followed by a working group. The United Nations Office at Geneva would not be able to accommodate a proposed session of four to five weeks in April-May or October-November owing to its heavy workload of meetings usually scheduled during these periods.

42. Based on the above consideration, the option of holding two extended annual sessions in January/February and July/August in New York would impact least on the long-established meeting pattern at Headquarters and thus is considered to be the optimal option with regard to the availability of conference-servicing resources at facilities at Headquarters. Furthermore, it would be difficult to move the Committee's July session to June owing to the long-established pattern of meetings during that month.

43. The budget implications of any decision the Committee may wish to take concerning its meeting time will be provided at its thirty-third session.

C. Human Rights Committee Country Report Task Force: methods of work

44. At its thirty-second session, the Committee used a country task force for constructive dialogue with one reporting State presenting its periodic report. It agreed to continue that effort and to establish country task forces for consideration of two periodic reports at its thirty-third session. It agreed that for the time being, it would continue to use that approach on a case-by-case basis, in a flexible manner.

45. The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide information about relevant experiences of other human rights treaty bodies. Currently, the Human Rights Committee uses Country Report Task Forces, as summarized below.

46. At its seventy-fifth session, in July 2002, the Human Rights Committee replaced the working group on article 40 of the Covenant (i.e., the pre-session working group) with Country Report Task Forces, which meet during the plenary session rather than before the session. The principal purpose of the Country Report Task Force is to identify in advance the questions which will constitute the principal focus of the dialogue with the representatives of the reporting State. The aim is to improve the efficiency of the system and to ease the task of States' representatives by facilitating more focused preparations for the discussion.

47. Each Country Report Task Force comprises between four and six members, taking account of the desirability of balanced geographical distribution and other relevant factors. One of its members serves as the country rapporteur who also has overall responsibility for drafting the list of issues.

48. The working methods of the Country Report Task Force are as follows: first, the country rapporteur presents the draft list of issues for discussion to the Country Report Task Force. Once the members have made their observations, the list of issues is adopted by the Task Force as a whole. The Task Force then allocates to each of its members principal responsibility for a certain number of questions included in the list of issues, based in part on the areas of particular expertise or interest of the member concerned. Once the list of issues is adopted and edited, it is transmitted to the State party. Since 1999 the lists of issues has been adopted at the session prior to the examination of the State report, thereby allowing a period of two to four months for States parties to prepare for the discussion with the Committee. In preparation for the Country Report Task Force, the Secretariat places at the disposal of its members a country analysis as well as all other pertinent documents. For that purpose, the Committee invites all concerned individuals, bodies and NGOs to submit relevant and appropriate documentation to the Secretariat. During the

constructive dialogue, although all Committee members participate, the members of the Country Task Force who are responsible for a pre-assigned number of questions will have priority when addressing questions to the representatives of the State party. The representative of the State party is then invited to reply to the remaining questions on the list of issues, to which will again follow the comments and questions of the Committee.

D. In-depth study on all forms of violence against women

49. Preparations for the in-depth study on violence against women requested by General Assembly resolution 58/185 have continued. The Division, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Europe and the World Health Organization, has organized an expert group meeting on data and statistics on violence against women, which was held at Geneva, from 11 to 14 April 2005. The Division, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, is also organizing an expert group meeting on good practices in addressing violence against women, which will take place in Vienna, from 17 to 20 May 2005. Moreover, the Division has begun compiling an inventory of activities on violence against women implemented by entities of the United Nations system, which will be included in the study.

50. In order to maximize contributions by different stakeholders so as to enhance the visibility of the study, increase awareness and strengthen political commitment to combating violence against women, consultations with various stakeholders will be convened over the coming months, and relevant bodies, including the Committee, will be invited to provide inputs and comments. An interim report on the study will be submitted at the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, containing a brief summary of the status of preparations and a preliminary discussion of substantive issues.

Notes

¹ CRC/C/143.

² CERD/C/66/Misc.11/Rev.2.

³ E/2005/27.

⁴ HRI/MC/2004/3.

⁵ CEDAW/C/ERI/1-2.

⁶ CEDAW/C/KHM/1-3.

⁷ CEDAW/C/MCD/1-3.

⁸ CEDAW/C/TGO/1-5.

⁹ CEDAW/C/MLI/2-5.

¹⁰ CEDAW/C/AUL/4-5.

¹¹ CEDAW/C/THA/4-5.

¹² CEDAW/C/VEN/4-6.

¹³ CEDAW/C/2005/II/2.

¹⁴ The initial report of Bahamas was due on 5 November 1994.

- ¹⁵ The initial report of Central African Republic was due on 21 July 1992.
- ¹⁶ The initial report of Dominica was due on 3 September 1982.
- ¹⁷ The initial report of Grenada was due on 29 September 1991.
- ¹⁸ The initial report of Guinea-Bissau was due on 22 September 1986.
- ¹⁹ The initial report of Haiti was due on 3 September 1982.
- ²⁰ The initial report of Liberia was due on 16 August 1985.
- ²¹ The initial report of Seychelles was due on 4 June 1993.
- ²² The initial report of Sierra Leone was due on 11 December 1989.
- ²³ CEDAW/C/2005/II/2.
- ²⁴ E/CN.4/2005/69-E/CN.6/2005/6.
- ²⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/58/18), annex IV.*
- ²⁶ CRC/GC/2002/2.

Annex I

States that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention

Africa

Somalia

Sudan

Asia and the Pacific

Brunei Darussalam

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Marshall Islands

Nauru

Oman

Palau

Qatar

Tonga

Western Europe and Other

Holy See

United States of America

Annex II

States parties whose reports have been submitted but not yet considered by the Committee as of 15 May 2005^a

Initial reports

| <i>State party (report)</i> | <i>Date due</i> | <i>Date received</i> |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Bosnia and Herzegovina (1-3) | 1 October 1994 | 22 December 2004 |
| Cambodia* (1-3) | 14 November 1993 | 11 February 2004 |
| Eritrea* (1-2) | 5 October 1996 | 8 January 2004 |
| Malaysia (1-2) | 4 August 1996 | 22 March 2004 |
| Mauritania (1) | 9 June 2002 | 11 May 2005 |
| Mozambique (1-2) | 21 May 1998 | 5 May 2005 |
| Tajikistan (1-3) | 25 October 1994 | 5 May 2005 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (1-3) | 17 February 1995 | 26 May 2004 |
| Togo* (1-5) | 26 October 1984 | 11 March 2004 |
| Turkmenistan (1-2) | 31 May 1998 | 3 November 2004 |
| Vanuatu (1-3) | 8 October 1996 | 2 March 2005 |

Periodic reports

| <i>State party (report)</i> | <i>Date due</i> | <i>Date received</i> | <i>Previously considered</i> | <i>Previous report(s)</i> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Australia* (4-5) | 27 August 1996 | 29 January 2004 | 1997, 17th session | 3 |
| Austria (6) | 30 April 2003 | 11 October 2004 | 2000, 23rd session | 3-4, 5 |
| Azerbaijan (2-3) | 9 August 2000 | 7 January 2005 | 1998, 18th session | Initial |
| Chile (4) | 6 January 2003 | 17 May 2004 | 1999, 21st session | 3 |
| China (5-6) | 3 September 1998 | 4 February 2004 | 1999, 20th session | 3-4 |
| Colombia (5-6) | 18 February 1999 | 6 March 2005 | 1999, 20th session | 4 |
| Cuba (5-6) | 3 September 1998 | 18 January 2005 | 2000, 23rd session | 4 |
| Cyprus (3-5) | 22 August 1994 | 4 March 2004 | 1996, 15th session | 1-2 |
| Czech Republic (3) | 24 March 2001 | 31 August 2004 | 2002, EXC session | 2 |

| <i>State party (report)</i> | <i>Date due</i> | <i>Date received</i> | <i>Previously considered</i> | <i>Previous report(s)</i> |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Democratic Republic of the Congo (4-5) | 16 November 1999 | 11 August 2004 | 2000, 22nd session | 1, 2 and Add.1, 3 |
| Denmark (6) | 21 May 2004 | 28 July 2004 | 2002, 27th session | 4, 5 and Add.1 |
| Finland (5) | 4 October 2003 | 23 February 2004 | 2001, 24th session | 4 |
| Georgia (2-3) | 25 November 1999 | 16 April 2004 | 1999, 21st session | Initial |
| Ghana (3-5) | 1 February 1995 | 23 February 2005 | 1992, 11th session | 1-2 |
| Greece (6) | 7 July 2004 | 22 April 2005 | 2002, EXC session | 4-5 |
| Guatemala (6) | 11 September 2003 | 7 January 2004 | 2002, EXC session | 3-4, 5 |
| Iceland (5) | 18 July 2002 | 14 November 2003 | 2002, 26th session | 3-4 |
| Jamaica (5) | 18 November 2001 | 13 February 2004 | 2001, 24th session | 2-4 |
| Kazakhstan (2) | 25 September 2003 | 3 March 2005 | 2001, 24th session | Initial |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (2) | 15 June 1994 | 14 December 1998 | 1994, 13th session | Initial |
| Liechtenstein (2) | 21 January 2001 | 6 February 2001 | 1999, 20th session | Initial |
| Malawi (2-5) | 11 April 1992 | 11 June 2004 | 1990, 9th session | Initial |
| Mali* (2-5) | 10 October 1990 | 10 March 2004 | 1988, 7th session | Initial |
| Mauritius (3-5) | 8 August 1993 | 17 November 2004 | 1995, 14th session | 1-2 |
| Namibia (2-3) | 23 December 1997 | 24 March 2005 | 1997, 17th session | Initial |
| Netherlands (4) | 22 August 2004 | 24 January 2005 | 2001, 25th session | 3 |
| Peru (6) | 13 October 2003 | 3 February 2004 | 2002, EXC session | 5 |
| Philippines (5-6) | 4 September 1998 | 27 July 2004 | 1997, 16th session | 3, 4 |
| Poland (4-5, 6) | 3 September 1994 | 29 November 2004 | 1991, 10th session | 3 |
| Republic of Korea (5) | 26 January 2002 | 23 July 2003 | 1998, 19th session | 3, 4 |
| Republic of Moldova (2-3) | 31 July 1999 | 1 October 2004 | 2000, 23rd session | Initial |
| Romania (6) | 6 February 2003 | 10 December 2003 | 2000, 23rd session | 4-5 |
| Singapore (3) | 4 November 2004 | 1 November 2004 | 2001, 25th session | 2 |
| Suriname (3) | 31 March 2002 | 26 April 2005 | 2002, 27th session | 1-2 |
| Thailand* (4-5) | 8 September 1998 | 7 October 2003 | 1999, 20th session | 2-3 |

| <i>State party (report)</i> | <i>Date due</i> | <i>Date received</i> | <i>Previously considered</i> | <i>Previous report(s)</i> |
|--|-----------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (5) | 7 May 2003 | 7 August 2003 | 1999, 21st session | 3, 4 |
| Uzbekistan (2-3) | 18 August 2000 | 11 October 2004 | 2001, 24th session | Initial |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)* (4-6) | 1 June 1996 | 25 June 2004 | 1997, 16th session | 3 |

^a The list does not include the States parties whose reports the Committee will consider at its thirty-third session.

* Indicates States parties whose reports the Committee will consider at its thirty-fourth session.