



## INFORMATION NOTES TO NGOS

### COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN 37<sup>th</sup> SESSION, 15 January to 2 February 2007 UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

#### **Countries reporting**

The Committee will examine the reports of the following 15 States parties: Austria, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Greece, India, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Suriname, Vietnam, and Tajikistan.

#### **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 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 recommendations on how to address challenges faced by the State party. States parties' reports, concluding comments (once adopted), and other documentation is available online at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

#### **CEDAW Committee members**

The CEDAW Committee consists of 23 members, serving in their personal capacity. In 2007 the members of the Committee are from Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa and Thailand.

For more information, please see: [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/members.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/members.htm)

#### **Documentation**

The reports of the 15 States parties to be considered at the 37<sup>th</sup> session as well as the provisional agenda and other documents pertaining to the session are available online at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/37sess.htm>. Sessions open to the public will be listed, with indication of the room where the sessions will take place, in the Daily Journal at: [www.un.org/Docs/journal/En/lateste.pdf](http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/En/lateste.pdf).

#### **NGO Participation/Attending as observers:**

*Please note that the Division for the Advancement of Women will not send letters of invitation to NGOs to attend the CEDAW session.*

#### **Decisions of the Committee**

Since its early sessions, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has invited non-governmental organizations to follow its work. In order to ensure that it is as well informed as possible, the Committee and the pre-session working group invite representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations to provide country-specific information on States parties whose reports are

before it. The Committee and the pre-session working group also provide an opportunity for representatives of non-governmental organizations to provide oral information. The Committee encourages international non-governmental organizations and United Nations organizations, funds and programmes to facilitate attendance at Committee sessions by representatives of national non-governmental organizations.

### **NGO reports/information for the Committee at its sessions**

The Committee welcomes country-specific information from non-governmental organizations, in the form of alternative or shadow reports. NGOs can submit their reports to the Committee prior to or at the session concerned. NGO representatives attending the session should bring at least 40 copies to the session itself, so that they can be distributed during the meeting of the Committee with NGOs. NGOs not attending the session should send 40 copies to the Division for the Advancement of Women, preferably so they arrive at least one week prior to the beginning of the session.

The Division for the Advancement of Women makes available reports/information received from NGOs to Committee experts at the beginning of the session/pre-session working group. The Division does not copy reports/information received from NGOs or distribute such information in advance of Committee sessions or those of the pre-session working group. NGOs not attending a session/pre-session working group are urged to ensure that the requisite number of hard copies of their reports/information reach the Division in time for the respective session, i.e. at least one week in advance. NGOs are welcome to email their reports to the Division. However, reports received electronically are made available to experts in a reference file only.

NGOs can also email their reports to IWRAW Asia Pacific, a non-governmental organization that has made arrangements with the Committee to distribute NGO shadow/alternative reports electronically and/or in hard copy directly to

experts in advance of the session. NGOs wishing to have their reports sent electronically to experts must email them to IWRAW Asia Pacific at least 3 weeks before the session. Those wishing to have hard copies of their shadow/alternative reports distributed to experts in advance of a session must email their reports to IWRAW Asia Pacific at least 7 weeks before the opening day of the session concerned so that IWRAW Asia Pacific can print and mail them to Committee experts. Please contact IWRAW Asia Pacific for more details.

IWRAW Asia Pacific's contact details are as follows:

Wisma Dicklin, 80-B, Jalan Bangsar,  
59200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Tel: (603) 2282 2255, Fax: (603) 2283 2552.  
Website: <http://www.iwraw-ap.org>  
Email: [iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org](mailto:iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org);  
[iwraw\\_ap@yahoo.com](mailto:iwraw_ap@yahoo.com)

### **NGO reports/information for the pre-session working group**

NGOs are encouraged to submit their alternative/shadow reports or other country-specific information already to the pre-session working group that prepares the list of issues and questions for each reporting State scheduled to be considered at a session. NGO representatives attending the pre-session working group should bring at least 15 copies for distribution at the meeting of the pre-session working group with the NGOs. NGOs not attending the pre-session working group should send at least 15 copies of their information to the Division for the Advancement of Women, preferably at least one week prior to the beginning of the session of the pre-session working group.

NGOs can also avail themselves of the support of IWRAW Asia Pacific for advance dissemination, either electronically or as hard copies, of their alternative/shadow reports to the members of the pre-session working group. For details and deadlines, please contact IWRAW Asia Pacific.

### **NGO attendance at the Committee's session or pre-session working group**

The Committee sets aside time at each of its sessions, usually at the beginning of the first and

second week of the session, to enable representatives of non-governmental organizations to provide oral information. In the light of time constraints, oral interventions by NGOs must be very short: on average, not more than 10 minutes overall are allocated for all NGOs wishing to intervene on one particular State party.

The pre-session working group also provides an opportunity for NGOs to address it, usually on the first day of the pre-session working group.

NGO representatives interested in addressing the Committee or pre-session working group are requested to submit the full title of their NGO, the names of their representatives, and the proposed dates of attendance to the Division for the Advancement of Women ([changt@un.org](mailto:changt@un.org)) no later than a week prior to the beginning of the session or working group so that arrangements can be made for the issuance of United Nations ground passes to enter United Nations premises. To receive the grounds pass, all applicants are required to bring a valid national passport or government issued photo ID such as driver's license or state non-driver's ID bearing a photograph, and appear in person at the United Nations Pass and Identification Unit, located at 801 United Nations Plaza at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and East 45<sup>th</sup> Street. The office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

There is no need to send the oral statement in advance.

### ***Information on future sessions***

#### **38<sup>th</sup> session**

The 38<sup>th</sup> session will meet from 14 May to 1 June 2007 to consider reports from the following 6 States parties: Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, and Vanuatu. Two more States parties will be selected by the Committee at its 37<sup>th</sup> session.

#### **39<sup>th</sup> Session**

The 39<sup>th</sup> session will meet from 23 July to 10 August 2007 to consider reports from the following 15 States parties: Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cook Islands, Estonia, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Singapore. The pre-session working group for the 39<sup>th</sup> session tasked with preparing the lists of issues and questions for these 15 States parties will meet from 5 to 9 February 2007.

#### **For more information**

Coordination and Outreach Unit  
Division for the Advancement of Women  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations, 2 UN Plaza, DC2 12<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10017, fax +1 (212) 963  
3463, tel. +1 (212) 963 8070, email:  
[changt@un.org](mailto:changt@un.org)