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

**Pre-session working group**

**Thirty-seventh session**

15 January to 2 February 2007

**Thirty-eighth session**

14 May to 1 June 2007

**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 thirty-first session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group would also prepare lists of issues and questions for initial reports. The Committee also decided that each list would contain not more than 30 clear and direct questions. In preparing the lists of issues and questions for periodic reports, particular attention would be paid to States parties' follow-up to previous concluding comments, and the previous report would be taken into consideration. The practice of clustering questions under priority topics rather than addressing specific articles would continue.
3. At its thirty-fifth session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the Committee's thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions would meet from 31 July to 4 August 2006 in order to ensure that sufficient time is available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues and questions, as well as to ensure their timely translation. The Committee decided that eight members of the Committee would participate in the pre-session working group for the thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, only the following five members of the Committee were able to participate in the pre-session working group:

Huguette Bokpe Gnacadja

Dorcas Coker-Appiah

Mary Shanthi Dairiam

Glenda P. Simms

Dubravka Šimonović

4. The pre-session working group elected Dorcas Coker-Appiah as Chairperson of that group.

5. In accordance with the list of States parties selected by the Committee to present their reports at its thirty-seventh session, the pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Austria, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Greece, India, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Suriname, Tajikistan and Viet Nam.

6. In accordance with the list of States parties selected by the Committee to present reports at its thirty-eighth session, the pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic and Vanuatu. Two additional States parties' reports will be selected at a future time.

7. To assist in the preparation of the lists, the pre-session working group had before it the reports of the 21 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, drafts of 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. The pre-session working group benefited from the inputs to the lists of issues and questions provided by the country rapporteurs prior to the session.

8. In accordance with Committee decision 18/I, the pre-session working group held a closed meeting with representatives from two non-governmental organizations, who provided information on one State party. It also received written information from 30 non-governmental organizations.

9. The pre-session working group notes that, as initial reports will be considered on an article-by-article basis, with the exception of articles 1 and 2, 7 and 8, and 15 and 16, the lists of issues follow the same approach.

10. In preparing the lists of issues and questions for periodic reports, the pre-session working group paid particular attention to the States parties' follow-up to previous concluding comments and also took into consideration their previous reports. Rather than address specific articles, the pre-session working group clustered questions under thematic issues.

11. The pre-session working group will inform the Committee of the rationale for the choices regarding prioritization of issues raised in regard to periodic reports.

12. Lists of issues and questions drawn up by the pre-session working group were transmitted to the twenty-one States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

**Thirty-seventh session**

- (a) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Tajikistan (CEDAW/C/TJK/Q/3);
- (b) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Austria (CEDAW/C/AUT/Q/6);
- (c) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of Azerbaijan (CEDAW/C/AZE/Q/3);
- (d) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fifth and sixth periodic report of Colombia (CEDAW/C/COL/Q/6);
- (e) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Greece (CEDAW/C/GRC/Q/6);
- (f) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of India (CEDAW/C/IND/Q/3);
- (g) List of issues and questions with regard to the second periodic report of Kazakhstan (CEDAW/C/KAZ/Q/2);
- (h) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of Maldives (CEDAW/C/MDV/Q/3);
- (i) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined second and third periodic report of Namibia (CEDAW/C/NAM/Q/3);
- (j) List of issues and questions with regard to the fourth periodic report of the Netherlands (CEDAW/C/NLD/Q/4);
- (k) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Nicaragua (CEDAW/C/NIC/Q/6);
- (l) List of issues and questions with regard to the sixth periodic report of Peru (CEDAW/C/PER/Q/6);
- (m) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports of Poland (CEDAW/C/POL/Q/6);
- (n) List of issues and questions with regard to the third periodic report of Suriname (CEDAW/C/SUR/Q/3);
- (o) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fifth and sixth periodic report of Viet Nam (CEDAW/C/VNM/Q/6).

**Thirty-eighth session**

- (a) List of issues and questions with regard to the initial report of Mauritania (CEDAW/C/MRT/Q/1);
- (b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial and second periodic report of Mozambique (CEDAW/C/MOZ/Q/2);

(c) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial and second periodic report of Niger (CEDAW/C/NER/2);

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Pakistan (CEDAW/C/PAK/Q/3);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to the initial report of the Syrian Arab Republic (CEDAW/C/SYR/Q/1);

(f) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial, second and third periodic report of Vanuatu (CEDAW/C/VUT/3).

13. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/IV, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focus on the themes addressed by the Convention. The themes include the constitutional and legislative framework and national machinery for the advancement of women; participation in decision-making; education and training; stereotypes; poverty and employment; violence against women; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; health; equality before the law, and marriage and family relations; and the situation of vulnerable groups of women, such as older women, rural women, women belonging to ethnic minorities, refugee and migrant women.

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