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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-2 June 2006**

**Closing remarks by
Ms. Rosario Manalo, Chairperson
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**Dear Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen**

We have thus completed the work of the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. I wish to thank all of you for the hard work and excellent spirit of cooperation that has helped us in completing our work.

We held constructive dialogues with eight States parties to the Convention and examined the progress in their implementation of the Convention. Four of these States parties, namely: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malaysia, Saint Lucia and Turkmenistan, reported to the Committee for the first time, while the other four States: Cyprus, Guatemala, Malawi and Romania, presented periodic reports. I extend my sincere appreciation to these States for their reports, the responses to our lists of issues and questions, and for their willingness to hold a constructive dialogue with this Committee about the status of the implementation of and compliance with the provisions of the Convention. I would like to thank all States parties for their useful and productive participation in this reporting exercise.

Some of these reports were significantly overdue. I wish to thank St Lucia who, based on a request of the Committee in accordance with our incremental measures for encouraging States with very long overdue reports, submitted its combined first to sixth periodic report at the date we had proposed, and subsequently fully cooperated with the Committee in sending written responses and a delegation to engage in a constructive dialogue with the Committee. This adherence to the Committee's request is a very important precedent in this Committee. It is a confirmation of the State party's willingness to participate in the monitoring procedure at the international level, and thereby enhance accountability in regard to its treaty obligations.

Colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Committee's concluding comments will be transmitted to the eight States parties early next week. I strongly encourage all of them to use the concluding comments

which we have adopted as basis for concrete and comprehensive follow-up action in the area of legislative initiatives, policy and programme development, awareness-raising and other measures. I also invite the reporting States to publicize the Committee's concluding

her briefing on the United Nations reform process pertaining to gender equality. We also appreciate the additional opportunity of discussing these issues with Ms Hannan, and look forward to continue this exchange at our August session.

We held a preliminary discussion about our response to the invitation extended to us by the Commission on the Status of Women in regard to two aspects: one, our contribution to the Commission's annual theme and two, our views on the ways and means ways that could best complement the work of the existing mechanisms and enhance the Commission's capacity with respect to discriminatory laws. This is an important opportunity extended to the Committee by Member States to enhance the links between the treaty-monitoring body and the inter-governmental body charged with promotion of gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Based on the preliminary discussion we had, I anticipate that we will respond to it in a very constructive manner and finalize our inputs and suggestions at our August session.

Dear colleagues

2006 is the first year that we are holding three sessions. We will be back here at the United Nations very soon to consider the reports of 15 States parties. I thank all of you for your commitment and dedication.

I also thank Ms. Rachel Mayanja and Ms. Carolyn Hannan for all the support they have given to the Committee, and to the staff of the Division for the Advancement of Women, and other members of the Secretariat who worked very hard to support our work.

Dear experts, I wish you all a safe journey back home, and look forward to seeing you in August.

Thank you all very much.