



INFORMATION NOTES TO NGOS

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

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.

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/>

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

The reports of the 15 States parties to be considered at the 37th 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.

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

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) 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 1st Avenue and East 45th 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

The 38th 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 37th session.

The 39th 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 39th session tasked with preparing the lists of issues and questions for these 15 States parties will meet from 5 to 9 February 2007.

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