



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

Distr.: General  
11 March 2020

Original: English  
English, French and Spanish, only

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## Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Pre-sessional working group

Seventy-seventh session

2–6 March 2020

### 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-sessional working group

1. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-sessional working group for five days to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to the initial and periodic reports that will be considered by the Committee at an upcoming session.

2. The Committee decided that the pre-sessional working group for the seventy-seventh session of the Committee would meet from 2 to 6 March 2020, immediately after the seventy-fifth session, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the lists of issues and questions and to ensure their timely translation.

3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-sessional working group and attended the session:

Hiroko Akizuki  
Gunnar Bergby  
Rhoda Reddock  
Elgun Safarov  
Franceline Toe Bouda

4. The pre-sessional working group elected Ms. Reddock as its Chair.

5. The pre-sessional working group prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to the reports of Azerbaijan, Nicaragua, Senegal, South Africa and Yemen, in addition to lists of issues prior to reporting for Germany, Japan and Ukraine. Ms. Akizuki and Mr. Safarov did not participate in the adoption of the list of issues prior to reporting for Japan and the list of issues and questions for Azerbaijan, respectively. The pre-sessional working group was guided by Committee decisions 49/IX, 59/IV and 64/II, according to which the Committee decided to limit lists of issues and questions and lists of issues prior to reporting to 20 and 25 paragraphs,



respectively. However, in practice and exceptionally, some lists of issues and questions contain a maximum of 23 paragraphs.

6. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues and questions, the pre-sessional working group had at its disposal electronic versions of the core documents of the States parties listed above. It also had at its disposal the reports of the States parties listed above, with the exception of Germany, Japan and Ukraine, which will submit their periodic reports in response to the list of issues prior to reporting; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; draft lists of issues and questions and lists of issues prior to reporting prepared by the secretariat; and other pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, as relevant. In preparing the lists, the pre-sessional working group paid particular attention to the States parties' follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee on their previous reports.

7. The pre-sessional working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by entities of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, as well as national human rights institutions, with regard to the States parties listed above.

8. The lists of issues and questions and lists of issues prior to reporting adopted by the pre-sessional working group were transmitted to the States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues and questions in relation to the sixth periodic report of Azerbaijan ([CEDAW/C/AZE/Q/6](#));

(b) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh to tenth periodic reports of Nicaragua ([CEDAW/C/NIC/Q/7-10](#));

(c) List of issues and questions in relation to the eighth periodic report of Senegal ([CEDAW/C/SEN/Q/8](#));

(d) List of issues and questions in relation to the fifth periodic report of South Africa ([CEDAW/C/ZAF/Q/5](#));

(e) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Yemen ([CEDAW/C/YEM/Q/7-8/Rev.1](#));

(f) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the ninth periodic report of Germany ([CEDAW/C/DEU/QPR/9](#));

(g) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the ninth periodic report of Japan ([CEDAW/C/JPN/QPR/9](#));

(h) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the ninth periodic report of Ukraine ([CEDAW/C/UKR/QPR/9](#)).

9. In accordance with Committee decisions 22/IV, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention, as well as on the linkages between relevant themes and the Sustainable Development Goals. Those themes include the constitutional and legislative framework; access to justice; women and peace and security, where applicable; national machinery for the advancement of women; extraterritorial obligations; national human rights institutions; temporary special measures for the advancement of women; stereotypes and harmful practices; gender-based violence against women and girls; trafficking in women and girls and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in political and public life; nationality; education; employment; health; economic and social life; climate change and disaster risk reduction; rural women; equality in marriage and family relations; and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by women, such as older women, widows, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, women using drugs,

women in detention, indigenous women, women human rights defenders, women in poverty, women belonging to ethnic minority groups, refugee women and migrant women, asylum-seeking women, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and girls, and intersex persons.

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