



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

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### Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Pre-session working group

#### Report of the pre-session working group on its fifty-fifth session (22-25 October 2012)

1. It is the practice of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to convene a pre-session 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 one of its future sessions.
2. The Committee decided that the pre-session working group for the fifty-fifth session of the Committee would meet from 22 to 25 October 2012, immediately after its fifty-third 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, as well as to ensure their timely translation. It is noted that the meeting was held over a four-day period, as 26 October was an official United Nations holiday.
3. The following experts were designated as members of the pre-session working group:  
  
Nicole Ameline  
  
Magalys Arocha Dominguez  
  
Violet Awori  
  
Ismat Jahan  
  
Victoria Popescu.
4. The pre-session working group elected Ms. Ameline as the Chair of the present working group.
5. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions with respect to the reports of Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In this regard, the pre-session working group was guided by the decision of the Committee, adopted at its forty-ninth session, to limit the lists of issues to 20 questions, with each question containing no more than three issues. The pre-session working group also considered the list of issues



previously adopted for Serbia at its fifty-third session (CEDAW/C/SRB/Q/2-3) and decided that it was not necessary to adopt a revised version.

6. To assist in the preparation of the lists of issues and questions, the pre-session working group had before it the reports of the States parties listed above, as well as the States parties' core documents, 95 available; the general recommendations adopted by the Committee; background information and draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the Secretariat, based on an analytical comparison of current States parties' reports, and the Committee's discussion on earlier reports; and other pertinent information, including concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, if relevant. 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 the concluding observations of the Committee on previous reports.

7. The pre-session working group benefited from written and oral information submitted by United Nations entities and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations, and a national human rights institution.

8. Lists of issues and questions adopted by the pre-session working group were transmitted to the States parties concerned and are contained in the following documents:

(a) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined initial and second periodic reports of Afghanistan (CEDAW/C/AFG/Q/1-2);

(b) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CEDAW/C/BIH/Q/4-5);

(c) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Cape Verde (CEDAW/C/CPV/Q/7-8);

(d) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined seventh and eighth periodic reports of Cuba (CEDAW/C/CUB/Q/7-8);

(e) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CEDAW/C/COD/Q/6-7);

(f) List of issues and questions with regard to the combined sixth and seventh periodic reports of Dominican Republic (CEDAW/C/DOM/Q/6-7); and

(g) List of issues and questions with regard to the seventh periodic report of the United Kingdom (CEDAW/C/GBR/Q/7).

9. In accordance with the Committee decisions 22/V, 25/II and 31/III, the lists of issues and questions focused on themes addressed by the Convention. These themes include, inter alia, the constitutional and legislative framework and national machinery for the advancement of women; gender stereotypes; violence against women, including domestic violence; trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution; participation of women in decision-making; education and training; employment; health; social and economic benefits; rural women; the situation of disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, women with disabilities, women belonging to ethnic minorities, refugee and migrant women; equality before the law; and marriage and family relations.