



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Distr.: General
17 November 2020

Original: English
English, French and Spanish only

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Pre-sessional working group

Seventy-ninth session

9–13 November 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 periodic reports that will be considered by the Committee at an upcoming session.

2. The Committee decided that, owing to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the pre-sessional working group for the seventy-ninth session of the Committee would meet remotely from 9 to 13 November 2020, immediately after the seventy-seventh session, which was also held remotely, in order to ensure that sufficient time would be available to States parties to submit their written replies to the list 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:

Gladys Acosta Vargas
Gunnar Bergby
Naéla Gabr
Lia Nadaraia
Bandana Rana

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

5. The pre-sessional working group prepared lists of issues and questions with regard to the reports of Egypt, Jamaica, Lebanon, Morocco, Portugal and Saint Kitts and Nevis, in addition to lists of issues prior to reporting for Brazil, Greece and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. 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, with the exception of Saint Kitts and Nevis, which has not submitted a core document. It also had at its disposal the reports of the States parties listed above, with the exception of Brazil, Greece and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which will submit their periodic reports in response to the list of issues prior to reporting. It further had before it 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 combined eighth to tenth periodic reports of Egypt ([CEDAW/C/EGY/Q/8-10](#));

(b) List of issues and questions in relation to the eighth periodic report of Jamaica ([CEDAW/C/JAM/Q/8](#));

(c) List of issues and questions in relation to the sixth periodic report of Lebanon ([CEDAW/C/LBN/Q/6](#));

(d) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Morocco ([CEDAW/C/MAR/Q/5-6](#));

(e) List of issues and questions in relation to the tenth periodic report of Portugal ([CEDAW/C/PRT/Q/10](#));

(f) List of issues and questions in relation to the combined fifth to ninth periodic reports of Saint Kitts and Nevis ([CEDAW/C/KNA/Q/5-9](#));

(g) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Brazil ([CEDAW/C/BRA/QPR/8-9](#));

(h) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the eighth periodic report of Greece ([CEDAW/C/GRC/QPR/8](#));

(i) List of issues and questions prior to the submission of the ninth periodic report of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ([CEDAW/C/VCT/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; women's access to justice; national machinery for the advancement of women; 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 empowerment

and social benefits; climate change and disaster risk reduction; rural women; equality in marriage and family relations; the impact of COVID-19 on women's rights and gender equality; and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by disadvantaged groups of women, such as older women, women with disabilities, women living with HIV/AIDS, women in detention, indigenous women, women human rights defenders, women in poverty, women belonging to ethnic minority groups, migrant women, asylum-seeking and refugee women, and lesbian, bisexual and transgender women and intersex persons.
