



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Twenty-first session

7–25 June 1999

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-second session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-first session.

Annotations

Item 1. Opening of the session

The twenty-first session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted by the Committee at the beginning of its meetings. Rule 5 provides that the provisional agenda for each session shall be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairperson, in conformity with the relevant provisions of articles 17 to 22 of the Convention, giving priority to items the inclusion of which was decided at a previous session of the Committee.

At its twentieth session, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its twenty-first session.

The Committee has, since its sixth session, set up two standing working groups, namely Working Group I, to consider and suggest ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention. At its seventh session, the Committee decided to keep the membership of the working groups flexible. At its eleventh session, the Committee decided that the working groups should be open only to members of the Committee, in accordance with past practice. Specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations that could make substantive contributions to questions under consideration could be invited by the working groups to contribute to their deliberations. The working groups will meet during the session.

The proposed organization of work for the session is shown in the annex to the present document.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (CEDAW/C/1999/II/1)

Item 3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Committee

At its twelfth session, the Committee decided to include in its agenda an item that would permit the Chairperson to brief the Committee on activities and events occurring since the previous session that had a bearing on the Committee's work.

Item 4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 18 of the Convention provides that States parties to the Convention shall undertake to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures that they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and other progress made in that respect. Reports are to be submitted within one year after the entry into force of the Convention for the State concerned and thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

At its twentieth session, the Committee, taking into account the criteria of preference to be given to those States parties whose reports had been pending for the longest time, the need to give priority to initial reports and the desirability of balance of reports in terms of geographic and other factors, decided to invite seven States parties to submit reports.

At its twenty-first session, the Committee will have before it the following reports: the initial reports of Georgia (CEDAW/C/GEO/1) and Nepal (CEDAW/C/NPL/1), the combined initial and second reports of Belize (CEDAW/C/BLZ/1-2), the second and third periodic reports of Chile (CEDAW/C/CHI/2 and CEDAW/C/CHI/3), the combined second and third periodic reports of Ireland (CEDAW/C/IRL/2-3), the third and fourth periodic reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (CEDAW/C/UK/3 and Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/UK/4 and Add.1-4) and the third and fourth periodic reports of Spain (CEDAW/C/ESP/3 and CEDAW/C/ESP/4).

Rule 49 of the rules of procedure provides that representatives of a State party shall be present at meetings of the Committee when the report of that State is being examined and shall participate in discussions and answer questions concerning the report. The Secretary-General

has informed the States parties concerned of the tentative dates on which their reports are scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its twenty-first session.

Rule 47 of the rules of procedure provides that at each session the Secretary-General shall notify the Committee of the non-receipt of any report required from a State party under article 18 of the Convention. The Secretary-General also provides the Committee with a list of reports submitted by States parties to the Convention that have not yet been considered by the Committee. At its twenty-first session, the Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the submission of the reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1999/II/2).

The Committee decided at its ninth session that a pre-session working group should be convened before each session to prepare a list of issues and questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports for transmission to the representatives of States parties before the meetings at which their reports were to be considered. At its nineteenth session, the Committee decided that the pre-session working group would meet at the end of the session prior to which second and subsequent reports would be considered. The pre-session working group for the twenty-first session met in New York from 8 to 12 February 1999.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1999/II/2)

Initial report of Georgia (CEDAW/C/GEO/1)

Initial report of Nepal (CEDAW/C/NPL/1)

Combined initial and second reports of Belize (CEDAW/C/BLZ/1–2)

Second and third periodic reports of Chile (CEDAW/C/CHI/2 and CEDAW/C/CHI/3)

Combined second and third periodic reports of Ireland (CEDAW/C/IRL/2–3)

Third and fourth periodic reports of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (CEDAW/C/UK/3 and Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/UK/4 and Add.1–4)

Third and fourth periodic reports of Spain (CEDAW/C/ESP/3 and CEDAW/C/ESP/4)

Report of the pre-session working group (CEDAW/C/1999/II/CRP.1, CEDAW/C/1999/II/CRP.1/Add.1 (Ireland), CEDAW/C/1999/II/CRP.1/Add.2 (Chile), CEDAW/C/1999/II/CRP.1/Add.3 (Spain) and CEDAW/C/1999/II/CRP.1/Add.4 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland))

Responses to the list of issues (CEDAW/PSWG/1999/II/CRP.1 (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), CEDAW/PSWG/1999/II/CRP.1/Add.1 (Chile), CEDAW/PSWG/1999/II/CRP.1/Add.2 (Spain) and CEDAW/PSWG/1999/II/CRP.1/Add.3 (Ireland))

Item 5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Article 21 of the Convention provides that the Committee may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of the reports and information received from States parties. It also provides that such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee, together with comments, if any, from States parties. Rule 48 of the rules of procedure provides that those suggestions and general

recommendations shall be communicated by the Committee, through the Secretary-General, to the States parties for their comments.

At its tenth session, the Committee decided to provide, under the agenda item entitled "Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", opportunities for specialists from the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to present to the Committee in plenary information related to specific articles of the Convention or to issues being considered for general recommendations and suggestions.

At the same session, the Committee decided to select and review specific articles and other issues to be considered at subsequent sessions as a long-term programme, without prejudice to any changes that might be necessary as a result of new developments and priorities arising from the review of the reports of States parties.

Article 22 of the Convention provides that the specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented during the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the Convention as fall within the scope of their activities and that the Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in those areas. At its twenty-first session, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on that subject (CEDAW/C/1999/II/3 and addenda).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1999/II/3)

Reports of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (CEDAW/C/1999/II/3/Add.1 and 4)

Report of the World Health Organization (CEDAW/C/1999/II/3/Add.2)

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (CEDAW/C/1999/II/3/Add.3)

Item 6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

At its twelfth session, the Committee decided that the Secretariat should prepare every year, as a pre-session document, a report on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee, containing information provided by the Secretariat, comments made by members of the Committee or developments elsewhere in the human rights regime. In view of the fact that the Committee has been authorized to hold two sessions annually, the Secretariat has decided to provide the Committee with a report on ways and means at each session (CEDAW/C/1999/II/4).

At its twentieth session, the Committee designated one of its members to review the draft rules of procedure contained in document CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1 and to submit her proposals to the Committee for consideration at its twenty-first session. These proposals are contained in document CEDAW/C/1999/II/WG.I/WP.2.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee (CEDAW/C/1999/II/4)

Draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1)

Proposals on the draft rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/1999/II/WG.I/WP.2)

Item 7. Provisional agenda for the twenty-second session

At its tenth session, the Committee decided that the draft provisional agenda for the following session of the Committee would be approved at the end of each session.

Documentation

Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session of the Committee.

Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-first session

Annex

Proposed organization of work

Monday, 7 June 1999

425th meeting

10 a.m.	<i>Item 1</i>	Opening of the session Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention
3 p.m.		Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention (<i>continued</i>)

Tuesday, 8 June 1999

426th meeting

10 a.m.	<i>Item 2</i>	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	<i>Item 3</i>	Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the Committee
	<i>Item 5</i>	Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: introductory statement
	<i>Item 6</i>	Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee: introductory statement Composition of Working Groups I and II and issues for discussion
3 p.m. (Closed meeting)	<i>Item 5</i>	Working Group of the Whole
4.30 p.m.		Informal meeting with non-governmental organizations

Wednesday, 9 June 1999

427th meeting

10 a.m.	<i>Item 4</i>	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties Georgia, initial report (CEDAW/C/GEO/1)
10.30 a.m.–11.15 a.m.		Introduction by State party's representative
11.15 a.m.–1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee

428th meeting

3 p.m.	<i>Item 4</i>	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (<i>continued</i>) Georgia, initial report (CEDAW/C/GEO/1)
	<i>Item 6</i>	Working Group 1

Thursday, 10 June 1999

429th meeting

10 a.m.	<i>Item 4</i>	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (<i>continued</i>)
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		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/UK/3 and Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/UK/4 and Add.1–4)
10.30 a.m.–11.30 a.m.		Introduction by State party's representative
11.30 a.m.–1 p.m.		Questions by experts and dialogue with the Committee
430th meeting		
3 p.m.	<i>Item 4</i>	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (<i>continued</i>) United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/UK/3 and Add.1 and 2 and CEDAW/C/UK/4 and Add.1–4)
	<i>Item 5</i>	Working Group II
Friday, 11 June 1999		
10 a.m.	<i>Items 5 and 6</i>	Working Groups I and II
431st meeting		
3 p.m.	<i>Item 4</i>	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (<i>continued</i>) Replies (Georgia)
	<i>Items 5 and 6</i>	Working Groups I and II
Monday, 14 June 1999		
432nd meeting		
10 a.m.	<i>Item 4</i>	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (<i>continued</i>) Belize, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/BLZ/1–2)
10 a.m.–11.15 a.m.		Introduction by State party's representative
11.15 a.m.–1 p.m.		Questions by experts
433rd meeting		
3 p.m.	<i>Item 4</i>	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (<i>continued</i>) Belize, combined initial and second periodic reports (CEDAW/C/BLZ/1–2)
	<i>Items 5 and 6</i>	Working Group of the Whole
Tuesday, 15 June 1999		
434th meeting		
10 a.m.	<i>Item 4</i>	Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (<i>continued</i>) Nepal, initial report (CEDAW/C/NPL/1)
10.30 a.m.–11.15 a.m.		Introduction by State party's representative
11.15 a.m.–1 p.m.		Questions by experts

435th meeting

- 3 p.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Nepal, initial report (CEDAW/C/NPL/1)
- Items 5* Working Group of the Whole
 and 6

Wednesday, 16 June 1999

- 10 a.m. *Item 4* Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments
(Closed meeting)
- 3 p.m. *Item 4* Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments

Thursday, 17 June 1999**436th meeting**

- 10 a.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Spain, third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ESP/3 and
CEDAW/C/ESP/4)
- 10.30 a.m.–11.30 a.m. Introduction by State party's representative
- 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. Dialogue with the Committee

437th meeting

- 3 p.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Spain, third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/ESP/3 and
CEDAW/C/ESP/4)
- Items 5* Working Group of the Whole
 and 6

Friday, 18 June 1999**438th meeting**

- 10 a.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Replies (Belize)

439th meeting

- 3 p.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Replies (Nepal)

Monday, 21 June 1999**440th meeting**

- 10 a.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Ireland, combined second and third periodic reports
(CEDAW/C/IRL/2–3)
- 10.30 a.m.–11.30 a.m. Introduction by State party's representative
- 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. Dialogue with the Committee

441st meeting

- 3 p.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Ireland, combined second and third periodic reports
(CEDAW/C/IRL/2–3)
- Items 5* Working Group of the Whole
 and 6

Tuesday, 22 June 1999**442nd meeting**

- 10 a.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Chile, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CHI/2
and CEDAW/C/CHI/3)
- 10.30 a.m.–11.30 a.m. Introduction by State party's representative
- 11.30 a.m.–1 p.m. Dialogue with the Committee

443rd meeting

- 3 p.m. *Item 4* Consideration of reports submitted by States parties (*continued*)
Chile, second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/CHI/2 and
CEDAW/C/CHI/3)

Wednesday, 23 June 1999

- 10 a.m. *Item 4* Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments
(Closed meeting)
- 3 p.m. *Item 4* Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments
(Closed meeting)

Thursday, 24 June 1999

- 10 a.m. *Item 4* Working Group of the Whole, concluding comments
(Closed meeting)
- 3 p.m. *Items 5* Working Group of the Whole
(Closed meeting) *and 6*

Friday, 25 June 1999

- 10 a.m. *Item 4* Working Group of the Whole
(Closed meeting)

444th meeting

- 3 p.m. *Items 5* Adoption of the reports of Working Groups I and II
 and 6
- Item 7* Draft provisional agenda for the twenty-second session
- Item 8* Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-first session