



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Ninety-first session

Summary record of the 2148th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 16 June 2025, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Haidar

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chair** declared open the ninety-first session of the Committee.

Statement by the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

2. **Mr. Ori** (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)) said that it would soon be 25 years since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, a landmark document that recognized the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls and the crucial role of women in conflict prevention, conflict management and sustainable peace efforts. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, there were currently 120 conflicts being fought around the world. They had a particularly severe impact on women and girls, who were the target of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, used as a tactic of war. Moreover, situations of insecurity, organized violence and armed conflicts exacerbated pre-existing gender inequalities. The Committee was therefore to be commended on its work to update general recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, which provided authoritative guidance to States Parties on measures to ensure the protection of women's rights before, during and after conflict.

3. At its fifty-ninth session, the Human Rights Council would hold its annual discussion on women's rights, which would include two panel discussions, entitled "Gender-based violence against women and girls in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian settings" and "Commemoration of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, focusing on overcoming barriers to women's leadership in peace processes". The panels would explore how human rights standards, including the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, contributed to ensuring the equal and meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes.

4. The ongoing liquidity crisis facing the United Nations was having a direct impact on the Committee's work. The pre-session working group for the ninety-third session, which had been scheduled to meet in July, had been cancelled. OHCHR, which had received only 73 per cent of its 2025 regular budget, was operating under the assumption that none of the treaty bodies would be able to hold their third sessions of the year. The United Nations Secretariat had adopted a hiring freeze, which would limit the number of staff assigned to supporting the treaty body system, while cash conservation measures would have an impact on the availability of conference services. The effect would be to reduce the treaty bodies' ability to hold dialogues with States Parties and to take decisions on individual communications, resulting in delays and backlogs. Given the overall reduction in funds, business as usual would no longer be possible; it was necessary to plan for doing less with less.

5. The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies had taken place in Geneva from 2 to 6 June 2025. The Chairs had discussed the liquidity crisis and what could be done to increase predictability under the current constraints. They had also reviewed the decisions and recommendations from their previous meeting and focused on creating synergies between human rights mechanisms and with regional mechanisms. In addition, they had engaged in dialogue with Member States, United Nations senior leadership and agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society on the current challenges and the way forward.

6. **Mr. Safarov** said that the many conflicts around the world had contributed to a record number of displaced persons: there were now more than 123 million people worldwide, mainly women and children, who had been displaced by persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations. He wondered what could be done to reform the United Nations and repair the broken human rights system in order to better prevent conflicts.

7. **Ms. Hacker** said that she would appreciate an explanation of why so many countries were failing to pay their assessed contributions. She wondered whether the United Nations

had the flexibility to prioritize its activities so that the Committee could hold three sessions per year.

8. **Ms. Stott Despoja** said that, at a time of egregious human rights violations, the cancellation of sessions due to lack of funding was infuriating and not something that the Committee accepted lightly. The situation was shameful and she did not understand how Member States could have allowed it to arise.

9. **Ms. Tisheva** said she was concerned that the Committee was being silenced at a critical moment. In the light of efforts to strengthen regional human rights systems, she wondered what the United Nations could do to secure the necessary resources, especially for the protection of the rights of women and children.

10. **The Chair** said she agreed that it was unacceptable for the Committee's work to become invisible. She did not wish to prematurely rule out the possibility of holding a third session, as it was possible that the United Nations might receive some overdue contributions.

11. **Mr. Ori** said that OHCHR shared the concerns expressed by the Committee members. Multilateralism and international law were at a turning point. Dictatorships and authoritarian regimes were seeking to exploit the weakening of multilateralism and, rather than solving problems through the United Nations, were prosecuting wars and conflicts in which the primary victims were women and children.

12. The liquidity crisis had arisen in part because 40 per cent of the regular budget depended on the contributions of two States, neither of which paid on time, which was a major cause of instability and unpredictability in the work of the United Nations. Many United Nations staff were facing uncertainty and job insecurity. The Organization was now tasked with strategizing and finding solutions to keep functioning with very limited resources. Accordingly, the Secretary-General had launched the UN80 Initiative, which represented an opportunity to review and reform the system in the light of the current challenges.

13. While he, too, hoped that the Committee would be able to hold a third session in 2025, it was necessary to be proactive and plan for the worst-case scenario. The Committee should consider that, under the formula set out in General Assembly resolution 68/268, its meeting time and resources might be reduced still further if it did not receive sufficient State Party reports for consideration. Therefore, to avoid a vicious circle, the Committee might focus its efforts on producing lists of issues prior to reporting, enabling States Parties to submit their reports. He encouraged the Committee to draw on its experience and resilience and to take ambitious and difficult decisions.

14. **The Chair** said that the Committee had already shown its proactive nature, for example, through the large amount of intersessional work that the members had carried out. The members had already taken decisions on increasing the production of lists of issues prior to reporting. In her view, reform efforts such as the UN80 Initiative should not be a patchwork of cost-cutting measures, but should be fully thought through, recognizing that the treaties and their implementation were at the heart of the human rights system.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (CEDAW/C/91/1)

15. *The agenda was adopted.*

Report of the Chair on activities undertaken between the ninetieth and ninety-first sessions of the Committee

16. **The Chair** said that the number of States Parties to the Convention had remained at 189. On 15 May 2025, San Marino had accepted the amendment to article 20 (1) of the Convention, concerning the Committee's meeting time, bringing the total number of States Parties that had accepted the amendment to 82. The amendment would have to be accepted by 126 States Parties to enter into force. There were 115 States Parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. Estonia was expected to become a party to the Optional Protocol shortly.

17. Since the start of the previous session, the Committee had received periodic reports from Afghanistan, Australia, Cyprus and Guinea-Bissau. The interim Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had decided to withdraw the combined third and fourth periodic reports submitted by the previous regime and submit a new report under the traditional reporting procedure. Since the Committee had decided to make the simplified reporting procedure the default procedure for the submission of State Party reports, 13 States Parties had indicated that they wished to maintain the traditional reporting procedure.

18. On 10 March 2025, she had given a statement on behalf of the Committee at the opening of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. On the same day, she and other members of the Committee had met with Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, to discuss the Committee's role within the Commission and the process of revitalizing the Commission. On the same day, she and the President of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, Mr. Philémon Yang, had attended a meeting of the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women.

19. On 11 March 2025, together with other members of the Platform, she had met with the President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Bob Rae. On the same day, she had participated as a panellist in a discussion on parliaments and the 30-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). She had participated in a panel discussion on realizing the promise of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for advancing women in leadership. She had also attended an event held to celebrate the thirtieth anniversaries of the adoption of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

20. On 12 March 2025, she and Ms. Pia-Comella had met with the Permanent Representative of the International Organisation of la Francophonie to the United Nations to discuss the possibility of enhancing the Committee's cooperation with that organization. Also on 12 March 2025, she had attended a side event entitled "How Can the Leadership of Women and Girls Help Save our Cities and Planet?", organized by Cities for CEDAW. On 13 March 2025, she had attended a side event to discuss the findings of a study on the revitalization of the Commission, conducted by the East and Southern Africa Regional Office of UN-Women.

21. From 14 to 16 March 2025, she had attended the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Mexico City, where she had given two presentations on the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024) on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems. On 19 March, in New York, she had met with the two persons responsible for facilitating the revitalization of the Commission on the Status of Women. She had also met with the Executive Director of UN-Women to discuss ways to promote cooperation between UN-Women and the Committee.

22. From 7 to 11 April 2025, she had chaired the Committee's Pacific technical cooperation session in Suva, Fiji, which had been held on the invitation of the Pacific Community. In addition to holding exchanges with Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu in relation to their periodic reports, Committee members had participated in a series of thematic discussions on gender-related issues in the Pacific region organized by civil society organizations and attended by delegations from 15 Pacific island States.

23. On 30 April 2025, at the Arab Women's Summit in London, she had participated in a panel discussion entitled "Building an Impact Foundation: Harnessing the Power of the People". She had also participated remotely in a meeting of the Global Board of the International Gender Champions. On 15 May 2025, she had participated remotely in the first meeting in 2025 of the Advisory Board on Gender Equality of the President of the Human Rights Council. On 29 May 2025, she had attended a ceremony at the Université Saint-Joseph in Beirut, Lebanon, where students had been awarded diplomas in faith for rights.

24. From 2 to 6 June 2025, she had participated in the thirty-seventh annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies in Geneva. On 5 June 2025, she had participated remotely in a panel discussion on advancing gender equality in climate action, organized as part of a global summit on climate change and human rights. On 10 June 2025, she had participated remotely in a summer course organized by the University of Montreal on the subject of spirituality, religion and human rights.

25. **Ms. Eghobamien-Mshelia** said that, at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, she had participated in a round-table discussion for high-level representatives of African States on the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024). She had attended a two-day debriefing with the Government of Nigeria on initiatives for accelerating the implementation of the outcomes of the sixty-ninth session of the Commission. She had also participated in a training session for legislators on uses of artificial intelligence and the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024). At an event organized in connection with the Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership Project, she had presented a paper on the importance of shadow reporting and engagement by States Parties. The previous week, she had met with the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Nigeria to discuss the Cities for CEDAW coalition in Nigeria and decisions adopted at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission.

26. **Ms. Barriteau** said that, on 25 March 2025, she had attended a regional conference in the Caribbean to discuss the sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Mexico City from 12 to 15 August 2025. On 29 March 2025, she had been appointed to the High-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs for a period of two years. On 9 March 2025, at St. Leonard's Anglican Church in Barbados, she had delivered a talk on gender and social justice as part of an event organized to celebrate International Women's Day. On 12 April 2025, she had contributed to a report on the nexus between gender and the right to development.

27. **Mr. Safarov** said that, on 25 and 26 February 2025, he had worked with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to deliver training to the national human rights institution of Indonesia. At the sixty-ninth session of the Conference on the Status of Women, he had participated in a discussion entitled "Aligning the Beijing Platform for Action and the Pact for the Future: Closing the Gap between Aspiration and Action". On 14 March 2025, in New York, he had participated in an event held to discuss the challenges facing women in addiction and recovery, organized by the Women's Forum on Addition and Recovery.

28. He had attended the eleventh meeting of the Black Sea Broadcasting Regulatory Authorities Forum, where he had given a speech on the role of the media in developing literacy and the protection of children. He had also given a speech on the protection of children, cyberspace and joint actions against digital threats and participated in a forum on the theme of the family.

29. **Ms. Mikko** said that, on 25 March 2025, she had met with the Director-General of Choisir la cause des femmes, Ms. Violaine Lucas, to discuss the work of the Committee, with a particular focus on its general recommendation No. 40 (2024). On 26 March 2025, she had moderated a panel discussion entitled "Gender Perspectives in the Media: Freedom, Challenges and Opportunities". On the eve of Europe Day, she had met with readers to discuss her new book and the work of the Committee. On 15 May 2025, she had delivered training on the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024) to members of the Parliament of Kenya. On 28 May 2025, she had met with the national human rights institution of Estonia and its advisory council to discuss the implications for Estonia of its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention in April 2025. Lastly, on 26 May 2025, she had moderated two webinars, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, on the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024).

30. **Ms. González Ferrer** said that, since the previous session, she had participated in a number of events at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. She had worked with Cuban legal institutions to raise awareness of the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024) and the Committee's forthcoming general recommendation No. 41 on gender stereotypes. She had discussed the work of the Committee in an online

event on gender equality policies organized by Fundación Justicia y Género and the Institute of Higher National Studies of Ecuador.

31. **Ms. Al-Shukairi** said that, in February 2025, she had participated in an event organized by the Oman Human Rights Commission to mark the launch of strategies to raise awareness of children's rights. In March 2025, she had spoken at a national conference on the right to food, co-organized by the Oman Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman. In her statement, she had emphasized the importance of ensuring food security during crises, conflicts and natural disasters and of mainstreaming the gender perspective in the planning and implementation of policies. On 11 March 2025, she had participated in an online panel discussion on advancing women's rights and participation in decision-making in North Africa and the Middle East.

32. She had met with the President of the Oman Human Rights Commission to explore the feasibility of organizing a regional conference on climate change and its gender-related impact, with specific reference to the Committee's general recommendation No. 37 (2018) on the gender-related dimensions of disaster risk reduction in the context of climate change. The Government of Oman had agreed to host the conference, which was tentatively scheduled for November 2025. Lastly, she had met with the Minister of Social Development of Oman, the President of the Oman Human Rights Commission and several senior government officials to discuss the potential hosting by Oman of a meeting of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to discuss the Committee's forthcoming general recommendation number No. 41.

33. **Ms. de Silva de Alwis** said that she had spoken about pressing global issues and the Convention at institutions such as Columbia Law School, Harvard Law School and the University of Cambridge, had helped brief the President of the General Assembly on the women and peace and security agenda and other matters, had published in the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, the *Georgetown Journal of International Law*, the *Journal of International Law* of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the *Washington Journal of Law, Technology & Arts*. She had also addressed the subject of the Convention in discussions held by the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association, of which she was Vice-Chair.

34. **Ms. Rana** said that, during the intersessional period, she had been a lead discussant on women's leadership in connection with Sustainable Development Goal 5 at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development held in February 2025 and had been featured in a video produced by UN-Women, in which she discussed the Convention, its accountability framework and the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024).

35. At the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, she had spoken at a side event on the role of women's rights, women-led organizations and women human rights defenders in shaping and reclaiming the women and peace and security agenda. She had also spoken at events on protecting the rights of migrant women and girls, the role of women religious leaders in turning the commitment behind the Beijing Platform for Action into a reality, and Afghan women's rights, education, and the women and peace and security agenda.

36. In April 2025, she had attended the Committee's Pacific technical cooperation session in Fiji, where she had participated in the regional consultation on the Committee's forthcoming general recommendation No. 41. In May 2025, she had delivered keynote addresses at a conference on women's economic empowerment in rural South Asia, held in Bhutan, and a global conference on climate change, mountains and the future of humanity hosted by the Government of Nepal. In June 2025, she had briefed feminist activists in India on the importance of shadow reports at an online capacity-strengthening session. She had also held meetings with members of parliament and provincial officials in Nepal to discuss the implementation of the Committee's concluding observations.

37. **Ms. Schläppi** said that, on behalf of the Chair, she had taken part in a Human Rights Council side event, organized by Lebanon, Italy and OHCHR and held in Geneva on 19 March 2025, on gendered decision-making and the contribution of the Committee's general recommendation No. 40 (2024) to the implementation of the women and peace and

security agenda. Information on her other intersessional activities had been provided to Committee members in writing.

38. **Ms. Peláez Narváez** said that, since the Committee's previous session, she had participated in a summit of female jurists held at the Senate of Spain on 6 May 2025 and had attended the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, representing the Committee at the meeting of the Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on the Elimination of Discrimination and Violence against Women. She had organized an international conference on combating violence against women and girls with disabilities, held on 21 March 2025. She had participated in the Committee's Pacific technical cooperation session and had learned about the situation of women with disabilities in the region through a meeting with the Pacific Disability Forum. She had also participated in conferences on violence against women held in Spain, including one on vicarious violence, and had participated in online side events at the most recent session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

39. **Ms. Tisheva** said that, in April 2025, she had been a keynote speaker at a round table on Sustainable Development Goal 5 held by the Economic Commission for Europe and, at the invitation of OHCHR, had participated in online consultations on a human rights-based approach to preventable maternal mortality and morbidity. In May 2025, she had been an online participant at a meeting held by UN-Women on national gender equality mechanisms in the Western Balkans and had begun participating in a task force of the European Institute for Gender Equality on administrative data collection for combating violence against women and domestic violence.

40. **Ms. Mu** said that she had attended an important seminar on accountability under the Convention and had learned about a number of countries' national policies on preventing sexual harassment at work and protecting the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

41. **Ms. Jarbussynova** said that, at the sixty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, she had moderated a side event on advancing gender equality in Central Asia, addressed a breakfast meeting on the empowerment of rural women, climate adaptation and results-based programming and organized and chaired a meeting of the heads of the Central Asian delegations on regional cooperation in the interests of women and girls in Central Asia. She had chaired a working group on monitoring the implementation of Action Coalitions under the Generation Equality Forum. In May 2025, she had addressed a round table on women and peace and security in Central Asia and attended a meeting on the preparation of a regional road map for Central Asia on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and nine other resolutions.

42. **Ms. Stott Despoja** said that she had attended a meeting with the exiled Afghan women's cricket team, which was receiving support from a task force established by the sport's governing body. She had visited an exhibition honouring the late Lowitja O'Donoghue, who had been described in Australia as the greatest Aboriginal leader of the modern era. Information on her other intersessional activities had been provided in writing.

Consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 18 of the Convention

43. **Ms. Rana** said that the pre-sessional working group for the ninety-first session had met in Geneva from 28 October to 1 November 2024. It had prepared lists of issues and questions in relation to the reports of Botswana, Cabo Verde, Czechia, El Salvador and Lesotho, and lists of issues and questions prior to reporting for Equatorial Guinea, Libya and Malta under the simplified reporting procedure. To prepare the lists of issues and questions, the working group had been able to draw on the core documents of the States Parties, with the exception of Botswana and Malta, and the periodic reports of the States Parties, with the exception of Equatorial Guinea, Libya and Malta, which would submit their periodic reports in response to the respective list of issues and questions prior to reporting. The working group had also drawn on the Committee's general recommendations, draft lists of issues and questions prepared by the secretariat, the concluding observations of the Committee and other treaty bodies, and, in particular, the States Parties' follow-up to the Committee's concluding

observations on their previous reports. In addition, the working group had received information from entities of the United Nations system, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations. The lists of issues and questions had been transmitted to the States Parties concerned.

44. **The Chair** said that, owing to the backlog of State Party reports pending consideration by the Committee that had accumulated during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Committee had decided to postpone to future sessions the consideration of the reports of the States Parties mentioned in the report of the pre-sessional working group for the ninety-first session (CEDAW/C/PSWG/91/1), with the exception of the report of Botswana. It had decided to consider, at its ninety-first session, the reports of Afghanistan, Botswana, Chad, Ireland, Mexico, San Marino and Thailand. In addition, the Committee would adopt concluding observations on the reports of Fiji, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu, following the exchanges that had taken place with those States Parties during the Pacific technical cooperation session held in Suva, Fiji, in April 2025.

Follow-up to the consideration of reports submitted by States Parties under article 18 of the Convention

45. **Ms. Pia-Comella**, speaking in her capacity as Rapporteur for follow-up to concluding observations, said that, at the end of its ninetieth session, the Committee had sent letters outlining the outcome of assessments of follow-up reports to Belgium, the Gambia, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland. Reminder letters had been sent to Honduras, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Ukraine, as their follow-up reports had been scheduled for consideration at the ninetieth session but had not been received. The report of Ukraine had since been received and would be assessed by the Committee at its following session. At the current session, the Committee would consider the follow-up reports of Finland and Georgia, which had been received on time, the reports of Bahrain and Norway, which had been received one month late, the report of Armenia, which had been received more than two months late, and the reports of Mongolia, Namibia and the United Arab Emirates, which had been received more than five months late. She invited the country rapporteurs for Bahrain, Finland, Georgia and Norway to assist in the assessment of those follow-up reports and called for volunteers to assist in the assessment of the reports of Armenia, Mongolia, Namibia and the United Arab Emirates. Reminders to submit follow-up reports should be sent to Costa Rica, Hungary and Mauritania.

The meeting rose at 11.25 a.m.