

Civil Society Section

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES DIVISION WEEKLY UPDATE

18 to 24 July 2011

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women starts its second week

Monday, 18 July 2011: General discussion on women in conflict and post-conflict situations, meeting with NGOs, meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

On Monday, 18 July, the Committee held a very successful general discussion on women in conflict and post-conflict situations as the first phase in the elaboration of a general recommendation on the subject. Nearly 300 people attended the discussion.

The discussion was opened by the Chair of the CEDAW Committee, Ms. Silvia Pimentel, followed by opening addresses by Mr. Ivan Simonovic, Assistant Secretary-General, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN Women.

The General Recommendation on the legal protection of women in conflict and post-conflict situations was introduced by Ms. Pramila Patten, Member of CEDAW, Chair of CEDAW WG on women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Key note speakers included:

- Ms. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict;
- Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;
- Ms. Rashida Manjoo, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences;
- Mr. Juan Mendez, Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and
- Ms. Jessica Neuwirth, Coordinator of the High-Level Panel on Remedies and Reparations for Victims of Sexual Violence in the DRC.

Oral Statements were made by UNHCR, UN Women and 17 civil society organizations, including Amnesty International, IWRAP - Asia Pacific, International Disability Alliance, Widows for Peace through Democracy, International Alliance of Women, Global Alliance against Traffic in Women, Global Action, Forum for Women, Law and Development, and others.

In the afternoon, the CEDAW Committee held meetings with 17 NGOs from the Republic of Korea, Nepal and Singapore and the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea.

The Committee also had a meeting with Ms. Rashida Manjoo, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its causes and consequences, who briefed the Committee on her activities since they met a year ago.

The Committee also met with Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships at UN Women, Ms. Lakshmi Puri, to discuss the Committee's input into UN Women's strategic plan and future cooperation.

More information on treaty bodies: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/treaty/index.htm>