

9 February 2007

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Commission on the Status of Women

Fifty-first session

26 February-9 March 2007

Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
entitled "Women 2000: gende**

B. Decisions

7. The Committee adopted the following decision brought to the attention of States parties.

Decision 37/I

The Committee completed its second session during which it met in parallel chambers for purposes of considering periodic reports submitted by States parties. It expresses its appreciation to all States parties who participated in a very active manner in the constructive dialogues with the Committee, the in-depth manner in which the dialogues were conducted as well as the time management on the part of delegations and experts, which contributed to the quality of the constructive dialogues.

The Committee recalls its decision 36/I, in which it anticipated that effective and timely implementation of all its responsibilities beyond the biennium 2006/07 would require that it be provided with extended meeting time in 2008 and beyond. The Committee has undertaken an assessment of the status of submission of reports in accordance with article 18 of the Convention, and in particular of the remaining backlog of reports awaiting consideration, the projected future availability of reports and the Committee's request to States parties with very long overdue initial reports to submit those within a given time frame. The Committee has concluded that its workload, together with its other responsibilities under the Convention and those under the Optional Protocol to the Convention, make it necessary that the Committee be provided with the opportunity to hold three sessions per annum, of which at least one will meet in parallel chambers. The extended meeting time will ensure that the Committee can eliminate the backlog of reports awaiting consideration; ensure that incoming reports are considered in a timely manner; enhance its efforts at ensuring that monitoring of the implementation of the Convention in States parties with long overdue reports is undertaken; and discharge all its other responsibilities under the Convention and the Optional Protocol.

The Committee therefore requests that provisions be made, within the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, for three sessions per annum, of which one will meet in parallel chambers.

D. Action in relation to item 8
Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee

Future sessions

9. In the light of the authorization by the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/230, of the extension of the meeting time of the Committee in 2006 and 2007, the Committee confirmed the dates of future sessions, as follows:

- (a) Thirty-eighth session: 14 May to 1 June 2007;
- (b) Thirty-ninth session: 23 July to 10 August 2007;
- (c) Pre-session working group for the thirty-ninth session: 5 to 9 February 2007;
- (d) Pre-session working group for the fortieth session: 16 to 20 July 2007;
- (e) Ninth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 5 to 7 February 2007;
- (f) Tenth session of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol: 18 to 20 July 2007.

10. The Committee confirmed that, at its thirty-eighth session, it would consider the following initial reports:

Mauritania
Mozambique
Niger
Pakistan
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Vanuatu.

11. The Committee decided to consider the following initial and periodic reports at its thirty-ninth session:

- (a) Initial report:
 - Cook Islands
- (b) Periodic reports:
 - Belize
 - Bolivia
 - Brazil
 - Estonia
 - Guinea
 - Honduras
 - Hungary

Indonesia
Jordan
Kenya
Liechtenstein
New Zealand
Republic of Korea
Singapore.

<i>Chamber A</i>	<i>Chamber B</i>
Ferdous Ara Begum	Magalys Arocha Dominguez
Saisuree Chutikul	Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani
Naela Gabr Mohamed Gabre Ali	Dorcas Ama Frema Coker-Appiah
Françoise Gaspard	Mary Shanthi Dairiam
Tiziana Maiolo	Cornelis Flinterman
Violeta Neubauer	Hazel Gumede Shelton
Pramila Patten	Ruth Halperin-Kaddari
Silvia Pimentel	Dubravka Šimonovi
Fumiko Saiga	Anamah Tan
Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling	Maria Regina Tavares da Silva
Heisoo Shin	Xiaoqiao Zou
Glenda Simms	

The initial report of the Cook Islands (CEDAW/C/COK/1) will be considered in plenary meeting. The Committee also decided on the allocation of reports of

(d) The sixth inter-committee meeting, together with two other members of the Committee;

(e) The sixty-second session of the General Assembly (Third Committee).

Action to enhance the Committee's working methods

15. The Committee discussed a number of issues aimed at enhancing its working methods under article 18 of the Convention and took action, including the following:

(a) Working methods in parallel chambers

The Committee undertook an assessment of its work in parallel chambers, and concluded that overall, the experience had been a very positive one.

Experts agreed that three sessions per annum, at least one of which would be held in chambers, would ensure that the Committee could discharge all its responsibilities under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto in a timely manner. The Committee suggested that the first session after elections of new members should be convened in plenary meetings only so as to ensure their speedy familiarization with the Committee's working methods.

Experts confirmed that the working methods in regard to parallel chambers remained in place.⁴ At the same time, experts identified a number of areas for improvement. Further efforts would be made to enhance coordination among all experts in the preparation for the constructive dialogue, so as to ensure that all critical issues are satisfactorily raised with the reporting State.

Experts agreed that the country rapporteurs would take a stronger and more proactive role in coordinating the work in chambers and in ensuring that all experts would be able to contribute to the dialogue in a timely and meaningful manner. They agreed that country briefing notes would be circulated 7 to 10 days prior to the beginning of a session. Further efforts would be made to ensure that the briefing notes were succinct, and included all critical issues to be covered in the constructive

