

**Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly
Third Committee
15 October 2007**

countries emerging from conflict, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Haiti, to strengthen capacity for implementation of the Convention and preparation of initial reports.

The Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions (A/62/38) will be made available in the room later today. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reports to the General Assembly on its activities in 2007, covering the Committee's thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions. Over the last two years, the Committee held constructive dialogues with 69 States parties. This increase was due to the extension of meeting time – including some sessions in parallel chambers – by the General Assembly in 2005. The Assembly is urged to approve the Committee's request for the extension of its meeting time so that it can continue to maximize its impact on the lives of women world wide.

The Committee recently commemorated 25 years of dedicated work. During this period the Committee has examined 401 reports of 154 States parties on their implementation of the Convention in its 39 sessions. It has also developed 25 general recommendations to help guide the understanding of the Convention's provisions, and their implementation. The Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Dubravka Simonovic will provide further information on the work of the CEDAW in her statement.

In the context of the transfer of servicing of the Committee to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, I would like to take the opportunity to express appreciation of the DAW for the opportunity to service the Committee for the past 25 years. The Division for the Advancement of Women has benefited greatly from the depth of the expertise, experience and wisdom the experts on the Committee have brought to the work of the United Nations on gender equality in New York. The important synergies between the work of the Committee and the Commission on the Status of Women were recognized in the Declaration adopted by the Commission at the ten year review of the Platform for Action in 2005. The Division will continue to support the work of the Committee and the full implementation of the Convention in every way possible.

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished delegates,

The Committee has before it the report of the Secretary-General on Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/62/173). The report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 60/229 and .5 472.5 1318 0 TD 0 T

The Third Committee has regularly focused on the elimination of violence against women as a pervasive violation of women's human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality. It has systematically worked to enhance efforts at national, regional and international level to promote and protect the human rights of women. This year, the Committee will consider the report of the Secretary-General on Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/62/201), which was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/143. (Resolution 61/143 also requested that a report be submitted to the General Assembly at its 63rd session containing information provided by Member States on their follow-

assesses the impact of the input of the Commission on the Status of Women to discussions within the United Nations system, in response to ECOSOC resolution 2006/9.

At its 61st session, the General Assembly continued to significantly advance the global policy agenda on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls, in particular in relation to violence against women, and advanced the gender mainstreaming strategy in a number of areas. Gender perspectives were more systematically integrated in the outcomes of the Assembly dealing with social development and human rights, but were less prominent in outcomes relating to economic and political issues.

The Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions continued efforts to integrate gender perspectives into their work, within their respective mandates. There is a need, however for more systematic attention to gender perspectives by functional commissions, including through increased consultation with the Commission on the Status of Women.

The Commission on the Status of Women continued to play a catalytic role in advancing gender mainstreaming at the national level, in the United Nations system and in intergovernmental processes. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission at its 50th session in 2006 provided impetus to the work of the United Nations in a number of ways, for example, by influencing substantive activities at both the policy and operational level; increasing advocacy and awareness-raising activities, and enhancing efforts to improve the representation of women.

Two of the recommendations provided in the report for consideration could be highlighted. First, reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly should facilitate gender-sensitive policy development by more systematically including qualitative gender analysis, quantitative data and concrete recommendations for further action. Second, gender perspectives should be explicitly incorporated in the implementation and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular the follow-up to the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children in 2007, the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development in Qatar in 2008.

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Thank you.
