

**Fourteenth Meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of
All Forms of Discrimination against Women
23 June 2006**

**Opening statement
Ms. Carolyn Hannan
Director, Division for the Advancement of Women**

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates

It is my honour to address the fourteenth meeting of the States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to extend a warm welcome to you today. I am pleased to present a brief synopsis of the work accomplished by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women since the last States parties' meeting, on 5 August 2004.

Since the 13th meeting, six States have ratified or acceded to the Convention, bringing the number of States parties to 183, with Brunei Darussalam being the latest State to accede to the Convention on 24 May 2006. Sixteen additional States parties have become party to the Optional Protocol bringing the total to 79 States parties. There were four additional acceptances to the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Committee's meeting time, bringing the total to 48.

As at 5 June 2006, reports by 104 States parties were overdue, amounting to a total of 184 overdue reports. Of these, 36 States had reports that are more than five years overdue. 28 States parties had overdue initial reports. At the end of the 35th session of the Committee (2 June 2006), the reports of 60 States parties were awaiting consideration. So far, in calendar year 2006, 9 States parties have submitted reports. In 2005, 29 States parties submitted reports.

Since the last election, the Committee has held four sessions, and considered the reports of 32 States parties to the Convention, some of which were significantly overdue. The Committee twice submitted a request to the General Assembly for extension of meeting time

statement on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was brought to the attention of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2005; a statement on the situation of women in Iraq; and most recently at its 35th session, a statement entitled “Towards a harmonized and integrated human rights treaty bodies system”, as its contribution to the reform discussion of human rights treaty bodies (available at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/35sess.htm#stmts>).

The Committee’s Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol has so far held seven sessions. It has registered eleven communications, and the Committee has completed the proceedings on three of those: two were declared inadmissible, and on one, the Committee found violations of several provisions of the Convention. The Committee also continued to implement its mandate under article 8 of the Optional Protocol, the inquiry procedure.

Work has also progressed on two general recommendations, on women migrants; and on article 2 of the Convention.

The Committee continuously and consistently kept its working methods under review in an effort to ensure their efficiency and effectiveness, and to strengthen coordination and harmonization with other treaty bodies. The Committee has successfully used country task forces for consideration of periodic reports, enhanced the

consistently participated in the Inter-

accession. It also provides that the Secretary-General shall inform the States parties of any reservations, declarations, objections and notifications of withdrawal of reservations to the Convention. In this respect, you have before you document