

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

General discussion on women and access to justice

18 February 2013 from 10:00 to 13:00

Conference room XVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Tentative Programme

Introduction

- 10:00 Welcoming remarks**
Ms Nicole Ameline, Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee
- 10:05 Opening remarks**
Representatives of the UN Joint Programme on Access to Justice (OHCHR, UN Women and UNDP)
- 10:20 Introduction of the general recommendation on women and access to justice**
Ms. Silvia Pimentel, Chair of the CEDAW Working Group on women and access to justice

Keynote speakers

- 10:30 Legal, procedural and institutional barriers faced by women in accessing justice**
- **Ms. Frances Raday**, Vice-Chair of the UN Working Group on Discrimination against women in law and practice, Professor of Law, Hebrew University in Jerusalem
 - **Ms. Sara Hossain**, Honorary Director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)
 - **Mr. Wilder Tayler**, Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists
- 11:00 Women's social, economic and practical challenges in accessing justice**
- **Ms. Simone Cusack**, Lawyer, Senior Policy/Research Officer at the Australian Human Rights Commission
 - **Ms. Magdalena Sepulveda Carmona**, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

- **Ms. Karen Vertido**, Petitioner who successfully brought a complaint under CEDAW's Optional Protocol

11:30 Challenges faced by disadvantaged groups of women in accessing justice

- **Ms. Shaheen Sardar Ali**, Vice-Chair of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Professor of Law at University of Warwick

11:40 Oral statements by stakeholders

- Joint Nordic Statement (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden)
- Permanent Mission of Argentina
- Permanent Mission of Switzerland
- Permanent Mission of Australia
- Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka
- Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- Permanent Mission of Slovenia
- Permanent Mission of Brasil
- UNHCR
- ILO
- IWRAW Asia Pacific
- Widows for Peace
- International Disability Alliance
- REDRESS and Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa
- Amnesty
- Avocats Sans Frontières
- Center for Reproductive Rights
- International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
- Human Rights Watch
- Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict
- Ban Ying
- FIAN
- Harm Reduction International
- CLADEM
- Ms Lilian Hofmeister

12:50 Wrap up and closing remarks

- Ms. Silvia Pimentel, Chair of the CEDAW Working Group on women and access to justice
 - Ms. Nicole Ameline, Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee
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