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