



## NGOs PARTICIPATION IN THE CEDAW 68<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (23 October - 17 November 2017)

In April 2016, the DPRK submitted its combined 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> progress report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ([CEDAW](#)). The report will be reviewed by the CEDAW Committee at its 68<sup>th</sup> session (23 October to 17 November 2017).

NGOs can contribute to the reporting process by providing to the Committee their assessment on the status of women's rights in the DPRK as compared to the information given by the state. They can do so by submitting their own written reports to the Committee and/or by providing oral presentations at the Committee's meetings with NGOs during the 68th session.

### PREPARATION & SUBMISSION OF REPORTS

#### a) Scope of the report

NGOs can submit, individually or in coalition, comprehensive or focused reports. Thematic reports focusing on particular issues and comprehensive reports prepared by NGO coalitions may have more impact. In some countries, NGOs adopt a combined approach, having a joint submission on general issues and submissions by individual NGOs on specific areas/topics. In any case, NGOs are encouraged to coordinate their work to avoid redundancies and to ensure that submissions cover all priority issues.

#### b) Identifying key issues

A review of the following documents will help to identify key issues affecting women in the DPRK and assess progress in the implementation of the CEDAW Convention:

- Substantive provisions of the CEDAW Convention (Articles 1- 16)
- List of issues raised by the CEDAW pre-sessional working group (March 2017)<sup>1</sup>
- DPRK's state party report of April 2016<sup>2</sup>
- CEDAW General Recommendations containing the latest interpretation of specific provisions which are more relevant to the DPRK<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly Supplement No. 38 (A/60/38).

<sup>2</sup> UN Doc. CEDAW/C/PRK/Q/2-4.

<sup>3</sup> See for example CEDAW GR No. 19 On Violence Against Women, No. 23 on Women in Political and Public Life, No. 24 on Women and Health, No. 33 on Access to Justice, No. 34 on the Rights of Rural Women. The full list of General Recommendations can be found on the at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/Recommendations.aspx>.



- CEDAW Concluding Observations from the last review of DPRK (2005)<sup>4</sup>
- Recommendations from the UPR review relevant to women (2014)<sup>5</sup>.

### c) Preparation of the submission

The best way to organise the submission is by Convention Article (the structure of the state report can help to organise the submission). The submission should cover the two substantive parts of the Convention: Articles 1-5 on general principles and implementation measures; Articles 6-16 on specific issues. Useful guidelines for writing submissions under each provision of the CEDAW can be found on the website of the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRW-AP)<sup>6</sup>. As mentioned above, it is usually better to cover a few articles/topics in depth rather than trying to cover all articles of the Convention.

The submission shall be written in a concise, clear, accurate and objective manner. There is no specific template to follow, and the submission can be organized thematically and/or on an article-by-article basis. However, it is recommended to highlight problems in implementation of the Convention and to include recommendations to improve the human rights situation of women. The submission should be substantiated with evidence (i.e. testimonies, texts of laws and policies, statistical data). An executive summary of the submission, with a summary of the main critical issues and a summary of the recommendations, can also be provided to the Committee.

### d) Format and deadline

Submissions shall not exceed 3,300 words (submissions by individual NGOs) and 6,600 words (submissions by NGO coalitions). The submission, or at least its executive summary, shall be written in English and shall indicate:

- the full name of the NGO;
- DPRK as the state party to which the information is related;
- whether or not the submission can be published on the CEDAW website.

The written submission shall be sent in Word format by e-mail to the address [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org), by 8 October 2017, two weeks before the 68<sup>th</sup> CEDAW session scheduled to take place from 23 October to 17 November 2017). If they wish so, NGOs can also send the submission in hard copy format (30 copies) to the address:

CEDAW Secretariat  
OHCHR – Palais Wilson  
52, rue de Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

<sup>4</sup> UN Doc. CEDAW/C/PRK/2-4.

<sup>5</sup> UN Doc. A/HRC/27/10, p.12-27.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.iwraw-ap.org/cedaw/using-cedaw/for-ngos/>, p. 7-16.



## **ORAL BRIEFING AT SESSIONS**

The CEDAW Committee strongly encourages oral submissions by representatives of NGOs at the CEDAW session and pre-session working group. This can be done through:

- Presentation in person in Geneva
- Video-conference
- Through the IWRW-AP, or other NGOs. In this case, the NGO author of the submission should be available by telephone or email during the presentation to the Committee.

A detailed Information Note for Civil Society Organisations willing to brief the Committee in person is published on the OHCHR website prior to session.