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## **Capacity Development Workshop for Effective Implementation, Monitoring and Coordination of CEDAW**

Department of Women Affairs and Family Development (DWF),  
Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Thailand

Bangkok, Thailand  
18-20 November 2015

### **1. About the Programme**

Department of Women Affairs and Family Development (DWF), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security in Thailand with the support from UN Women, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, Canada (DFATD) and IWRAW Asia Pacific is organizing a Capacity Development Training Workshop on Effective use of CEDAW and Strengthen Monitoring Skills to Address WHRs during 18-20 November 2015.

This training workshop aims to strengthen the role of national women's machinery as a key duty bearer in promoting and protecting women's human rights in Thailand, including ensuring the State obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The program, part of a larger project on building the capacity of national women's machinery in Southeast Asia to promote and protect women's human rights, aims at enhancing the machinery's function as an accountability mechanism for addressing violations of women's human rights.

### **2. Background and Context:**

Accountability needs to be secured through placing gender equality outcomes at the centre of all state governance and planning and making all sectors and departments of the state equally responsible for its implementation and realization. Thus women's machinery and justice sector institutions are vital actors in securing gender equality and access to justice for women as they are the key duty bearers who ideally propose initiatives for law reform/ drafting of new laws, collect and monitor data on implementation and results achievement, and provide public

accountability and operational coherence to ensure all actions, plans, laws of the state are gender responsive and promote and protect women's human rights.

As the face of the state's gender policy, women's machineries need to ensure that laws and policies that impact women need to be crafted through inclusive, participatory, transparent and accountable processes to ensure that social transformation towards gender equality. Women's machinery also needs to take on more proactive role in socialization of universal women's human rights norms (CEDAW).

Thus, women's machineries require technical capacity to analyze/review and then propose steps to address the concerns raised by gender advocates and by the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations as a matter of priority, to harmonize CEDAW norms generally into the domestic framework and culture, and to promote sharing, learning and greater accountability for the achievement of gender equality.

There is a felt need to raise the familiarity of technical concepts of non-discrimination and substantive equality with the machinery, so that institutional allies for gender equality reform can be strengthened and for the gender/equality machinery to evolve towards a stronger protection and independent role in reviewing performance of other state institutions in achievement of gender equality.

### **3. The objectives:**

1. To deepen understanding and the awareness of staff members of women's machinery concerning the principles of CEDAW in specific contexts and understand their relevance to advance the rights and realities of specific groups of women and the obligations of the State Party in promoting and protecting women's human rights in Thailand.
2. To examine the roles & responsibilities and successes & challenges of Department of Women Affairs and Family Development (DWF) in terms of playing the coordinating role in promoting the domestic implementation and enforcement of women's human rights using the CEDAW framework and CEDAW Committee recommendations for Thailand.
3. To discuss ways of improving the accountability mechanisms and indicators under the CEDAW framework to monitor implementation of the Convention.

### **4. Expected Immediate Outcomes**

- Increased practical understanding and capacity of national women's machinery about the CEDAW framework and the obligation of the State Party under the Convention.
- Increased commitment and plan for coordination among DWF and key line agencies for the protection of women's human rights and promoting implementation of CEDAW.
- Identification of opportunities and methods to help overcome challenges the DWF faces in coordinating the national processes for implementation of women's human rights and the application of the CEDAW framework and next steps.

## **5. Expected Medium/Long-Term Outcomes**

- Improved protection of women's human rights by DWF through improved monitoring of CEDAW Concluding Observations, legal and policy advocacy initiatives.
- Strengthen future collaboration among concerned ministries through Chiefs Gender Equality Officers (CGEOs), and Gender Focal Points (GFPs) on effective implementation and monitoring of CEDAW.

## **6. Deliverables from the Workshop**

- Proceedings Report
- Training materials

## **7. Participants**

Approximately 30 representatives from Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development (DWF), including Director General, Deputy Director General (s), Advisor (s), and Directors will participate in the training workshop.

## **8. Programme:**

The three day Workshop will be facilitated by IWRAW Asia Pacific's resource persons who are experts in the areas of CEDAW and women's human rights advocacy, who have familiarity with the role of a national women's machinery in Southeast Asian context.

The programme will consist of the following components:

- 1) A discussion based of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> CEDAW state party report to identify challenging contexts for the achievement of women's human rights;
- 2) An overview of CEDAW principles, key components and SDGs as well as the obligations of the government in protecting women's rights in Thailand as applicable in specific contexts;
- 3) Discussions on the roles & responsibilities and successes & challenges of the DWF including coordination mechanisms in promoting/protecting women's human rights;
- 4) Discussions on the implementation of the 2006 CEDAW Concluding Observations and a constructive review of the State Report to the CEDAW Committee. Leading to discussions on challenges in implementing women's human rights and gender equality, through the legal (including gender equality laws), policy and institutional frameworks.
- 5) Presentations and discussion on a generic framework for human rights and CEDAW indicators or monitoring the implementation of the Convention on key priority issues;
- 6) Identify opportunities and methods for partnering with State agencies, NHRI and women's groups on the implementation and monitoring the State obligations for gender equality.

## **9. About the Organizers**

### **Department of Women Affairs and Family Development (DWF), Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Thailand**

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security acts as the national machinery for the promotion of gender equality in Thailand. Department of Women's Affairs and Family Development (DWF), a departmental level unit under the ministry, is the core mechanism. In 2002, DWF was restructured from the divisional level to the departmental level as it was transferred to the newly formed Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. The major functions of the Department is to develop policies, measures and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of women's human rights and social justice as well as to maintain links with gender focal points and gender equality officers of the various ministries. It is the key coordinating agency for CEDAW implementation in Thailand.

### **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)**

UN Women is the UN Organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

### **IWRAW Asia Pacific**

IWRAW Asia Pacific has gained expertise, experience and credibility from more than 20 years work of mobilizing and organizing women's groups and NGOs to support the work of the State in fulfilling its obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women's human rights under CEDAW, through capacity building, advocacy and knowledge creation initiatives, aimed towards development of effective national women's rights advocacy and implementation strategies.