

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and ratified by 188 States in the last four decades, CEDAW is the principal treaty on women's human rights. The Convention sets out a framework for achieving gender equality as well as placing obligations on States to eliminate discriminatory practices and incorporate gender equality in law. It lays down the first globally agreed definition of discrimination against women. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is the treaty body that monitors the application of the Convention. The Committee clarifies the scope and the applicability of CEDAW through general recommendations. In addition, States must report to the Committee periodically on the progress they have made. The Committee then makes recommendations for improvement in what are referred to as concluding observations.

- ✓ CEDAW stands for both the Convention and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a body that oversees the implementation of the treaty.
- ✓ The Convention consists of a preamble and 30 articles covering the situation of women in three main dimensions – civil rights and legal status; sexual and reproductive health; and the impact of cultural factors on gender relations. The Committee complements and updates the Convention by issuing general recommendations which specify the application of CEDAW in different areas including violence against women and migration.
- ✓ The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, ratified by Cambodia in 2010, allows the Committee to examine individual complaints and conduct inquiries into grave and systematic violations of the rights covered by CEDAW, where domestic remedies have been exhausted.
- ✓ In 2013 the Committee reviewed the combined fourth and fifth reports of the Royal Government of Cambodia, following which they issued "Concluding Observations" which set out specific recommendations for Cambodia in eliminating discrimination against women.
- ✓ Cambodia ratified CEDAW in 1992 and the last report was examined by the CEDAW Committee in October 2013 and can be found at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws56.htm>

BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (BPfA)

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and sets out 12 critical areas of concern for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights. Accelerating the progress in implementation of the legal framework set by CEDAW, the Platform for Action defines concrete policies to be applied by UN Member States to promote gender equality. The Platform for Action establishes an important international mechanism on monitoring the situation of women. Adoption of the Declaration and Platform for Action by Member States has prompted concerted actions by governments and civil society to address discrimination against women.

- ✓ The Beijing Platform for Action called for greater ratification of CEDAW, which set in motion a process by which the Convention became one of the most widely ratified international human rights treaties.
- ✓ The Commission on the Status of Women monitors how States integrate the Beijing Platform for Action in their policies.
- ✓ A comprehensive national and regional review process of progress towards implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action takes place every five years.
- ✓ The 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action will be in 2015 and will be marked by a global review of the progress of UN Member States towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. Due to its timing, this review forum will connect with the post-2015 development agenda and will be evaluated at the CSW's 59th session in March 2015.
- ✓ Cambodia adopted the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action and is participating in its reviews. More information on the Beijing Platform for Action and its review processes can be accessed here: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AND POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will reflect the new global agenda for development replacing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after their expiration in 2015. While the formulation of the SDGs has not yet been finalized, it is already clear that the new agenda will build on lessons learnt from the MDGs with greater focus on sustainability, inclusiveness and accountability. Based on the premise that the benefits of globalization should be shared by all, the Open Working Group that has been tasked with drafting the SDGs has included the full commitment to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and a standalone goal on gender equality. The review of the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, conclusions of the CSW's annual sessions and the advocacy of UN Women and civil society fed the dialogue on gender equality in the SDGs.

- ✓ The process of formulating the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda will converge in 2015 and determine the new global agenda for development.
- ✓ An unprecedented post-2015 global consultation process led by the UN Development Group and aiming to inform the SDGs has reached more than one million people across the world with special effort being made to reach those whose voices are not usually heard.
- ✓ The SDGs will reflect and build upon Rio+20, CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and Beijing+20 process and the conclusions of CSW's annual sessions.
- ✓ By not including an indicator on violence against women and other critical gender issues, the MDGs were criticized for not being adequately accountable to gender equality. UN Women's advocacy seeks to address this gap through a focus on the voice, choice and safety of women in the future development agenda.
- ✓ The global agenda will help define the development agenda on gender equality in Cambodia. Further useful information can be found here: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/>, <http://post2015.org/>

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Established by the UN in 1946, the CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW takes a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities. During the CSW's annual two-week sessions, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN Headquarters in New York. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to UN agencies for follow-up.

- ✓ The text of CEDAW was prepared by working groups within the CSW.
- ✓ Continuous efforts of the CSW significantly contributed to the positioning of gender equality as a cross-cutting theme in economic development, human rights, political, cultural, social and political issues of global and national development policies and planning.
- ✓ One of the greatest achievements of the CSW was the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 which concluded with the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.
- ✓ The CSW is a key UN body for the review of the Millennium Development Goals on women's empowerment and shaping the post-2015 agenda on gender within the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ Cambodian representatives have participated actively in the CSW since its foundation. More information about the CSW is available here: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

Global Processes towards the achievement of gender equality

