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Committee. All action, and in particular adoption of concluding comments, will take

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of States parties reports is necessary to ensure effective implementation of the Convention at the domestic level. At the same time, States parties also need to make every effort to comply with their reporting obligations in a timely manner. I therefore encourage all States parties to review the status of reporting. The Committee invites States parties with overdue reports to combine these outstanding reports into a single document.

I should also like to recall that the Committee has in place incremental measures to encourage States with very long overdue reports to submit those reports. In principle, the Committee will consider implementation of the Convention by a State party in the absence of a report, only as a measure of last resort and in the presence of a delegation. We have so far invited two States to submit reports within a specified time frame, and both have done so. The Committee keeps the situation under review and intends in due course, to invite other States parties with very long overdue reports to present these for consideration.

Distinguished delegates,

I am pleased to report that, last week Brunei Darussalam acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, bringing the total number of ratifications to 183., 78 States parties have now ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention and 48 States parties have accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1 of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time. I encourage those States who have not become party to these instruments to intensify their efforts so that the goal of universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved soonest and the Optional Protocol can become an effective means for redress for women in all States parties.

Distinguished delegates,

The August session will be a time for learning, both for the Committee and the reporting States. We have carefully prepared the various aspects of 27lg, both.8kh ftcaTw (D 27lg, oa 0 .(rs1