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Closing remarks
by
Ms. Rachel Mayanja,
Assistant Secretary-General and
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Gender Issues and Advancement of Women
at the
thirty-seventh session of the
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
New York, 2 February 2007

Madam Chairperson
Distinguished members of the Committee
Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to congratulate you, Madam Chairperson, and all the members of the Committee on the successful completion of the work of the thirty-seventh session. You have dealt with some challenging issues and a significant volume of work. You have once again shown your dedication and commitment to discharge effectively all the responsibilities entrusted to you under the Convention and the Optional Protocol. I wish to pay tribute to the commitment and hard work of all experts in both Chambers under the leadership of you, Madam Chairperson, and the other members of the Bureau. Your expertise and experience have indeed resulted in a most productive session with many thoughtful discussions.

Madam Chairperson

You have held successful constructive dialogues with 15 States parties, with all the hours of work this has entailed. Chamber A examined the reports of seven States parties, namely: Azerbaijan, Greece, India, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Peru and Suriname; as did Chamber B which considered the reports of: Austria, Colombia, Maldives, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Poland and Viet-Nam. One State party, Tajikistan, reported to the Committee for the first time since it acceded to the

level in the reporting States. Your concluding comments now provide a solid basis for further work by all States parties to enhance women's enjoyment of their human rights.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to these States Parties for their reports, the responses to the lists of issues and questions of the Committee and for their willingness to hold a constructive dialogue with the members of the Committee about the status of the implementation of the Convention. I sincerely thank these States parties for their productive participation in this exercise.

The attendance of a large number of non-governmental organizations once again made a significant contribution to the work of the Committee and I encourage them to continue with their advocacy for the promotion and protection of women's

I am grateful to you and the entire Committee for the good work you are doing to promote the human rights of women all over the world. I also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam Chairperson for your leadership and the excellent manner in which you have conducted this session of the Committee. I would welcome any reflections that you may have on this session, so that we can better support you in the future work of the Committee. Let me also reiterate the commitment of my office and the Division for the Advancement of Women for the Committee as it strives to enhance the impact of the Convention in the promotion and protection of the rights of women world-wide.

Some of you will stay on for a few more days: the five members of the Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol will continue to deliberate on the registered cases, while the four members of the Pre-session Working Group for the thirty-ninth session, in August 2007, will prepare the lists of issues and questions for the States parties whose reports will be examined at that time. I wish you well in your deliberations.

I wish you Madam Chairperson, and all members of the Committee a safe journey back home as well as some well-deserved rest, and we look forward to