



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO WOMEN'S ACTIVISM CELEBRATING 20 YEARS • IWRAP ASIA PACIFIC

### NGO INTERVENTIONS DURING AND AFTER THE CEDAW SESSION: HOW AND WHEN TO LOBBY

This document is prepared by IWRAP Asia Pacific<sup>1</sup> to highlight the role of NGOs **during** and **after** the CEDAW session. Please note that there may be many other NGOs present representing issues related to your country. This document is to provide you with information and suggestions to strengthen your lobbying and advocacy as well as to assist you in the collaborations with the other NGOs present.

**During** the CEDAW session, NGOs can create a lobby presence as their State is being reviewed by the CEDAW Committee. NGOs have an opportunity to make an oral statement to the CEDAW Committee, arrange private briefings with the Committee as well as influence the recommendations in the Concluding Observations.

A summary of NGO interventions at the CEDAW session:

- A. **Presenting Oral Statements for the CEDAW Committee's informal meeting with NGOs:** NGOs can present a brief oral statement during the allocated "Informal Meeting with NGOs" during the session. NGOs should come to the G2L session prepared with a draft statement. The section below provides guidelines on the preparation and presentation of the oral statement.
- B. **Organising lunch briefings with the CEDAW Committee members:** NGOs can organise lunch briefings with the Committee – arrangements must be done in advance. Read this section for more information on how to arrange the briefing and what to prepare.
- C. **Lobbying individual Committee members:** NGOs can lobby individual Committee members during the CEDAW session.
- D. **Observing the dialogue between the State party and CEDAW Committee:** This section sets out what NGOs can / cannot do during the constructive dialogue between the CEDAW Committee and the State delegation
- E. **Making recommendations for the Concluding Observations:** NGOs can prepare their own recommendations and lobby the Committee to include them in the Concluding Observations.

---

<sup>1</sup> International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP Asia Pacific) is an international women's human rights organisation based in the South that plays a critical role in filling the gap between the promise of women's human rights embodied in human rights treaties, and their actual realisation at the national level. This involves mobilising women's groups at all levels to draw accountability from governments on the domestic application of human rights standards. This is done primarily through the lens of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other international human rights treaties. Established in 1993, IWRAP Asia Pacific currently works throughout South and Southeast Asia and over 100 countries globally. For further information see our website, <http://www.iwraw-ap.org>.

NGOs also have a role to play **after** the CEDAW session in publicising the CEDAW review and the Concluding Observations, monitoring the implementation of the Concluding Observations and submitting alternative information on the status of the implementation of the Concluding Observations for the follow up procedure of the CEDAW Committee.

## DURING THE CEDAW SESSION

### A. Oral Statements for the CEDAW Committee's informal meeting with NGOs

---

#### NGO Informal Meetings

As part of the **official agenda**<sup>2</sup> of the CEDAW session, there are two informal meetings held between NGOs and the CEDAW Committee:

- **The first informal meeting** is scheduled on the first day of the session (usually Monday) and is for NGOs whose States are reporting in the first week.
- **The second meeting** is on the Monday of the second week of the session and covers NGOs whose States are reporting in the second week.

During these informal meetings, NGOs will have an opportunity to voice critical concerns through **short oral statements**. Following the statements, the CEDAW committee members may ask questions or for clarifications, either on the content of the oral statement or about any other issue/s they may be interested in, related to the reporting countries.

NGOs must register the names of their speakers with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Write to [cedaw@ohchr.org](mailto:cedaw@ohchr.org) (cc: [iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org](mailto:iwraw-ap@iwraw-ap.org) ) with the name of the speaker, the name of the organisation, and country.

IWRAW Asia Pacific assists with and coordinates this process for the **participants of the Global to Local programme**.

#### Nominating Speakers

- NGOs need to nominate speakers to represent their countries and issues. The names of these speakers will usually be submitted to the OHCHR prior to the commencement of the particular session during which the informal meetings will take place. IWRAW Asia Pacific will be coordinating with the OHCHR on this.
- We recommend that you submit the names to us at least two days before the session commences. Please ensure that we send you a confirmation e-mail so that you can be certain that your recommendation has been forwarded to the OHCHR.
- **Please be aware of other NGOs from your country speaking at the informal meeting.**  
In order to optimise the time and space available at the informal dialogue with the NGOs, please do coordinate with other speakers, and make every effort to have joint statements. International NGOs may also wish to give statements on issues concerning your country. Usually, the time is allotted per speaker only after the Committee

---

<sup>2</sup> NGOs can organise their own briefings with Committee members during lunch time or other times. These briefings will not form part of the official agenda. Refer to our note on setting up a lunch briefing/side event for more information.

has the full list of the number of speakers. Accordingly, time available to each speaker may be very short – please make allowances for this in preparing your statement.

We propose to hold a discussion on Sunday before the Monday Oral Statement delivery with any other NGOs from your country to negotiate and outline sharing of time at the Informal Briefing of NGOs (oral statement) as well as during the Lunch Briefing with the Committee.

### **Preparing and Finalizing the Oral Statement**

- Given the short time available for presenting the oral statement, we recommend that you have discussions at the national level with your coalitions and networks to identify the issues that you would want to include in your statement.
- We also recommend that you ensure that your oral statement has taken into account your state's responses to the List of Critical Issues, and it should reflect the most recent status of the issue/s that it addresses.
- The Mentoring process that participants attend during the weekend provides orientation for preparing and finalizing the oral statements.
- The entire Sunday afternoon is devoted to writing, editing and practicing the statements, with support from IWRAW AP.
- The final statement can be printed out at the training venue, and photocopied at the UN. You will have to bring your own paper to the UN to photocopy the statement. IWRAW AP can provide information on shops from where paper can be sourced. It will be more efficient and cost effective to make your photocopies in kiosks outside the UN. IWRAW AP will be able to provide you with information on where you can do so.

### **Dialogue**

- Please be informed that many Committee members will pose questions and ask for clarifications.
- Usually there are two rounds of questions:
  - Questions following the Oral presentations;
  - Follow-up questions to the responses to the first round of questions.
- Please ensure that you note the questions asked by the committee members, so that you can be certain that you respond to all of them.
- We suggest that you identify amongst yourselves who will respond to which issue.
- Be very brief and succinct in your responses to questions to ensure that the Committee has time to ask follow up questions.
- Please be aware that you will have access to wireless Internet via your laptop in the CEDAW meeting room and you may request your colleagues at home to be available to provide information and clarifications quickly by email.
- In case you don't have information for all the questions and clarifications that are asked by the Committee, you may say so and assure the Committee members that you will get back to them with the required information or clarification. We also recommend that you definitely do so, preferably in writing, before the dialogue with the State begins.

### **Time Limit**

- The dialogue with the NGOs from the countries presenting in that week is ordinarily scheduled from 3 PM to 5 PM, and this time is shared with the dialogue with NHRIs. It is clear that time is extremely limited, and strict discipline is required on the part of all speakers to ensure that everyone has a fair chance of being heard.

- Each COUNTRY is usually given 10 minutes, which is shared between ALL the speakers from that country. Usually, national NGOs are allowed to go first, followed by International organizations if any. The latter are also included in the same time.
- Each speaker should coordinate with the other speakers from their country slot, and ensure that s/he remains within the time agreed. In case the earlier speakers take more time, it will cut into the time of speakers who will speak after them.
- We recommend strongly that national NGOs have at least and not more than 2 speakers from amongst themselves, this demonstrates the collaborative nature of the statement, while ensuring that the time is used optimally.

### Disseminating Your Statement

- 35 hard copies of the oral statements have to be submitted to the OHCHR by 11am on the Monday that they are to be presented
- Please ensure that these 35 copies are handed over to IWRAP Asia Pacific and/or the OHCHR definitely by 11am.

### Language

- Simultaneous translation is provided in all UN languages, which are English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese.
- The oral statement can be delivered in any of the 6 UN languages, as you choose.
- Please be informed that English is the first language of translation; i.e. all the translators are listening to the English version and translating from that. So, while you may choose any language for your oral statement (as the other translators will have your written version in front of them), in the event you are able to speak in English, we would suggest that the responses to questions are made in English, so that there are no errors in translation of your issues.

### States Parties Attendance

- Government representatives are informed of the informal meeting with NGOs and **may attend hearings as observers**. They will have an opportunity to comment on the statements made by NGOs during the Committee's consideration of their report, but **not** during the informal meeting.
- The CEDAW Committee is extremely sensitive to security concerns for human rights defenders who are at risk, and has always supported NGOs to enable a dialogue which is safe and secure. In the event you have concerns regarding possible retaliatory action by your state, due to your visibility, statement or presence at the informal meeting, please ensure that you have spoken to us about it, so that we may make necessary arrangements that would ensure confidentiality as well as work with you and the OHCHR to develop a back-up plan.

### Webcasting

Please note that there may be webcasting (video stream during the Official review session). There may also be webcasting for the NGO informal sessions so please indicate if you have any security concerns about being videoed and this being disseminated in the webcasting.

### If You are Not Able to Attend the NGO Informal Meeting

- **If** you unable to attend the NGO Informal Meeting for any reason, IWRAP Asia Pacific can make arrangements for one of the members of the "From Global to Local" team to present the oral statement on your behalf and/or distribute it to the Committee members.
- Please make sure that you can be contacted (via internet VOIP or chat, mobile phone or other means) by the IWRAP Asia Pacific team **during** the presentation of your statement, in case the CEDAW Committee wishes to clarify points or issues raised in your statement.

## Preparing Your Oral Statement

### Contents of the Statement

In their statements, NGOs are invited to<sup>3</sup>

- Discuss the main critical points raised in their Shadow/Alternative Report;
- Identify specific questions the Committee could raise during the review of the state party's report;
- Present any new information that has become available since the NGO written report was submitted;
- Propose recommendations/solutions to problems encountered in the implementation of the Convention.

### Length of Statement

- The oral statement to be presented orally during the informal meeting must be **short and within the time limit**. The time limit for each individual statement will be determined according to the number of speakers sharing the 10 minute time slot for your country. If you wish to disseminate a more comprehensive written statement to the CEDAW Committee, we recommend that it be no longer than four pages.

#### Tips for an Effective Statement

- For an effective presentation, it is important to be mindful of the time limitations and think carefully about the nature and content of the presentation.
- Be rigorous in identifying and articulating priority issues relating to women's rights in your individual country. The statement should underscore critical concerns already identified in your shadow report and put forward your perspective on the situation of women's human rights in your country.
- You can prepare two versions of the same statement: one to be presented verbally at the informal meeting, and a written version to be disseminated. For example, you may include proposed recommendations in your written statement but may not have time to present them orally. These different versions should be congruous( same but with less details for the read version) as the interpreters at the UN have to be able to follow your speech.
- In your written statement, specific references can also be made to the relevant articles in the CEDAW Convention, to General Recommendations and/or to Concluding Observations issues to the state party previously by CEDAW or other human rights bodies, but these need not be mentioned in your oral presentation.
- You may want to refer and respond to specific statements in the state party's report.
- Due to time limitations, we highly recommend that NGOs from each country prepare a joint statement to be read out by not more than two speakers.
- In the event that NGOs from one country disagree on particular issues and wish to present

<sup>3</sup> These questions have been adapted from the guidelines provided by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on NGO participation during the reporting process.

separate statements, it is recommended that they work together to ensure that there is no repetition in their respective statements, thus maximising the use of available time.

## Presenting Your Oral Statement

### Tips for an Effective Statement

- Plan your presentations carefully and be precise.
- Be judicious of time and the number of speakers you nominate.
- State your name, the name of your organisation and country but do not waste time talking about the work of your NGO. Go straight to the point and immediately raise your key issues.
- In the oral presentation of your statement, you should avoid making references to relevant articles in the CEDAW Convention, General Recommendations and previous Concluding Observations issued to the state party – these can be set out in the written statement but need not be read.
- The speed of your delivery should be moderate. If you speak too quickly, the interpreters may not be able to capture and translate with accuracy everything you present to the Committee members. Similarly, in answering questions posed by the Committee, be aware of the clarity and speed of your presentation/answers.
- In situations where NGOs of your country are unable to arrive at a common position on particular issues, it is critical that you do not highlight the differences of opinion during the presentation of your statements.
- In the event that you cannot be personally present at the informal meeting due to security concerns, please make yourself available via internet or phone for immediate, “real time” contact by the Global to Local team during the meeting.

## Follow-up Questions

- **Be prepared to answer follow-up questions** from the Committee after making your statement. The Committee will ask questions or for clarifications by country. Take detailed notes of their questions for your country so you do not miss any questions in your response. As the questions are read out, consult members of your NGO coalition and make a quick decision as to who is going to answer each question.
- If you are unable to answer the Committee’s questions during the meeting itself and intend to give a reply later, please take note of which Committee member asked the questions. In responding to the Committee, inform them that you will submit a written response later. You will be able to address their questions through one-on-one informal lobbying after the meeting, or give a written reply to the Committee via the OHCHR.
- It is highly recommended that you prepare a list of answers to all the questions raised during the informal meeting and submit a written response to the Committee.

## B. Organising lunch briefings with the CEDAW Committee Members

---

NGOs can organise their own lunch briefings with the CEDAW Committee, as a way to lobby the Committee to raise your concerns during the dialogue with your government delegation the next day, and to clarify any issues / questions the Committee may have about the state party's report or your NGO shadow / alternative report. This will be an event that you organise on your own, and is not part of the official agenda of the CEDAW session. IRAW Asia Pacific has entered into an arrangement with the OHCHR, to allocate a room for these lunch briefings by the NGOs participating in its "From Global to Local" programme at the CEDAW session with the Committee. IRAW Asia Pacific helps the NGOs with room booking and any further assistance sought by the NGOs. These lunch briefings are private meetings but open to other NGOs. However, states delegates are not permitted to attend. All other NGOs intending to attend the lunch briefing are asked to coordinate with the national NGOs organising the lunch briefings. It is only the CEDAW Committee members who will have the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification.

**Procedure:**

It is strongly recommended that you organise a lunch briefing for the CEDAW Committee. Please confirm your intention with IRAW Asia Pacific at least 3 – 4 weeks in advance so we can assist you in booking a room at the UN and requesting the OHCHR to inform the CEDAW Committee of your lunch briefing.

**Venue:**

IRAW Asia Pacific makes a request to the OHCHR to allocate a room for the NGO lunch briefing (one country per day). The OHCHR will confirm the location nearer to the date of the CEDAW session. Please remember that the NGO Room is available for all NGOs, including international organisations to organise private meetings with the Committee, and if the slot allotted to NGOs for lunch briefing is not confirmed by you, OHCHR may open the slot and room for other meetings.

**Time:**

The lunch briefing should be held between 1.45-2.45pm, which is when the Committee members break for lunch. Please note that this one hour (shared by all NGOs representing the same country) is inclusive of the presentations and discussions on issues and concerns raised by you with the Committee. It is recommended that you keep presentations short and save as much of the time as possible for questions by the Committee members

**Structure:**

The NGOs are expected to host and chair the discussions. Please identify a chair/moderator and not more than 2 – 3 speakers. Ideally, the participants should identify not more than 5 – 6 priority issues and spend a maximum of 1 minute highlighting each issue. The Committee members have indicated repeatedly that they would like to use the time for questions and clarifications. Also identify amongst yourselves who will respond/answer to which questions/issues. Please note that if you spend too long with your presentations and/or your answers the CEDAW Committee members may cut you off and proceed to the next question. So, be direct and succinct with your presentation and answers. If the specific question raised by the CEDAW Committee member is covered in the Shadow Report and/or any other lobby document keep your response very short and refer the Committee member to the relevant page in the report for further information.

**Invitations:**

The OHCHR will inform the CEDAW Committee members in advance of the venue, time and date of each country's respective lunch briefing. As part of your lobbying when you meet any CEDAW Committee members you may wish to introduce yourself and encourage them to attend the lunch briefing.

**Documents for the briefing:**

We would suggest that you provide a copy of the executive summary of your report and also a list of issues / questions that you want the CEDAW Committee to raise in the dialogue with your state the next day. You may also want to highlight what recommendations you want and what you intend to do if you get those recommendations. It is important to remember the questions raised by the CEDAW Committee on Monday during the informal meeting with NGOs while

preparing lobbying documents for the Committee. We recommend that the lobby documents prepared for the lunch briefing be in English as that is the language understood by a majority of the members and there is no translation provided.

### **Arrangement and Cost for Lunch:**

We advise that you provide snacks/drinks only for the CEDAW Committee members attending the lunch briefing (members would have had lunch from 1-2pm). This may cost around CHF 30 / USD 35 per country. We recommend that you coordinate amongst all the NGOs from the respective country attending the lunch briefing to split the costs. Food is not allowed in the meeting room at the UN.

The number of members who are available to attend your lunch meeting can be estimated once you are in Geneva / New York – we suggest that you approach the Committee members with your invitations and ask for their confirmation. They will be informed by the OHCHR in advance that you are planning to organise this briefing.

### **Tips for Effective Lunch Briefing**

- You should discuss with members of your coalition and consider coordinating with other NGOs attending the session from your country on their interest in co-hosting the lunch briefing for the CEDAW Committee.
- In identifying issues that you will address at the lunch briefing, do look at the critical issues and concerns from your shadow / alternative reports as well as the List of Issues previously identified by the Committee.
- Please ensure that you are prepared with the information about the latest developments on your critical issues and ensure that you have taken into account not only the List of Issues sent by the Committee to the State, but also the responses made by the state.
- Please be aware that you will have access to wireless Internet via your laptop in the UN and you may request your colleagues at home to be available to provide information and clarifications quickly by email.
- Identify someone from your coalition or from amongst your country NGOs to moderate the discussions at the lunch briefing. In case you all are presenting you may ask the IWRAW Asia Pacific team to support you.
- We would strongly advise that all together your introduction is not more than 5 - 10 minutes in total; so that maximum time is available for discussion and dialogue with the Committee members. In some cases, it may be advisable to simply identify the NGO representatives, their organizations, and the primary issues on which they are prepared to respond.
- Please note that **interpretation generally is not provided** for lunch briefings. Given that most Committee members do speak English either as their first or second language we recommend that you speak in English as much as possible.
- In case you are providing consecutive interpretation yourself, then please account for it in calculating your time for introductions and discussion. Please ensure that all of you are taking notes on the questions the Committee members are asking, so that you ensure responses to all of them.
- In the event you are not able to respond to all questions raised by the Committee members please assure them that you will provide answers in writing with the required information or clarification before the constructive dialogue with the state party.

## **C. Lobbying individual Committee members**

---

---

In addition to the NGO meeting and lunchtime briefing, NGOs attending the CEDAW session will have access to individual Committee members throughout the session. This gives NGOs opportunities to approach Committee members to highlight key issues, request that they ask specific questions of the state, respond to what the state said during the dialogue, and make recommendations for what issues should be included in the Concluding Observations.

**Tips for lobbying Committee members:**

- Make sure you have the list of Committee members with you so you know their names.
- You don't need any one to facilitate a conversation with the Committee. Before or after the sessions or during breaks, just go to the conference room where the CEDAW session is held, walk up to the Committee member and introduce yourself. Inform them that you are part of the IWRAW Asia Pacific programme called "From Global to Local". The Committee members sit alphabetically and their names will be on their places. It is recommended that you wear your nametags at all times for easy recognition.
- Before raising your issues with them, ask if they have time to speak with you. If they are busy, ask them for lunch appointments or just to have tea with you at any convenient time. Some times they will agree to have tea or coffee before the CEDAW session starts. The **lunch hour of the day before and the day of your country review** is especially important. On the day before, you can arrange in advance to have a lunch briefing with the Committee members (see above as to how to do so) and on the day of the review, you can informally inform the Committee if the state is giving frank answers during the dialogue on that morning. Do not go for lunch with anyone else, and especially do not go for lunch with your state delegates on those days. If possible, book your lunch appointment with Committee members well in advance.
- After the review of your country report prepare a statement on what you would like to see in the Concluding Observations and give it in writing to the Committee member who will be rapporteur for your country. You should also give this paper to the secretariat to the Committee, i.e. the OHCHR, and to IWRAW Asia Pacific as well.

**D. Observing the dialogue between the state party and CEDAW Committee**

---

**The constructive dialogue:**

As part of the consideration of a state party report, the CEDAW Committee engages in a constructive dialogue with the state delegation. Committee members pose questions on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention at the national level. The questions and issues raised are based on the state party report, further information requested by the Committee from the state, and alternative information provided by NGOs.

States have a tendency to send local UN representatives to the CEDAW sessions, who are often not in a position to respond with authority to the issues raised by the CEDAW Committee. NGO observers are permitted to be present at during the constructive dialogue and feed information back to their networks at home about commitments made by their state and, at the same time, domestic pressure may help to ensure that appropriate officials are sent to attend the meeting.

During the dialogue between the state party delegation and the CEDAW Committee, NGOs cannot intervene. However, it is useful for NGOs to remain in the conference room to observe the dialogue and G2L participants are expected to do so.

It is useful to attend the dialogue between the Committee and your state because there will be informal opportunities to approach and lobby Committee members. It provides you with a good opportunity to know some of the positions taken by the government on certain issues and useful information can arise during the dialogue which can be an input into your advocacy strategies back at the national level. Importantly, it is an opportunity to listen to the CEDAW Committee and how they interpret the CEDAW Convention on issues raised or areas that are developing. G2L participants are expected to attend the constructive dialogues of their own countries and those of other countries reporting during the time they are participating in the program.

### **Lobbying country rapporteurs:**

You should work closely with the Committee member assigned as “rapporteur” for your country, who will be the primary Committee member in charge of writing up the first draft of the Concluding Observations for your country. IWRAW Asia Pacific will advise you on who your country rapporteur is at the CEDAW session.

It is important to know who from OHCHR is assisting the country rapporteur, as s/he is the most accessible person to provide additional information and written statements to your country rapporteur.

### **Lobbying during lunch time:**

The lunch hour of the day your state is reporting is a great opportunity for you to speak with the CEDAW Committee members and provide feedback about the dialogue between the Committee and your state. This also gives the Committee an opportunity to raise any issues that need to be raised in the remaining afternoon session.

Be careful not to go for lunch with anyone else during this lunch hour, especially not members of your state delegation since this is prime time that can and should be spent lobbying the CEDAW Committee and clarifying issues that were raised during the dialogue. There may be lunch time events organised by NGOs from other countries for the CEDAW Committee members during this time as well.

## **E. Making recommendations for the Concluding Observations**

---

At the end of its consideration of the state party report, the CEDAW Committee adopts Concluding Observations that reflect the Committee’s position with respect to the status of implementation of the CEDAW Convention in your country. The Concluding Observations contain specific recommendations regarding the further implementation by the state party of the CEDAW Convention.

It is important for NGOs to ensure that priority concerns are addressed in the Concluding Observations.

During the review of your state, you should ensure that you take notes to help you prepare a list of recommendations you want the Committee to include in the Concluding Observations. You should note in particular that the Committee will **not** include recommendations on issues/concerns **not raised during the review**. This can be handed over to the CEDAW Committee on the morning of the day after they have reviewed the state party report.

The Concluding Observations are finalised and edited, usually on the last day of the CEDAW Committee session. Soon thereafter, they are translated into and issued in all the official languages of the United Nations as a separate document. They are also placed on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/index.htm>

### **Follow up procedure:**

The CEDAW Committee has adopted a new follow up procedure, in which the Committee identifies one or two extremely critical issues and asks state parties to report back on how they are addressing these issues prior to the next reporting

period and usually within 2 years. NGOs can submit alternative information to the CEDAW Committee on the progress of the state on these critical issues. The Committee is still developing the follow up procedure.

## AFTER THE CEDAW SESSION

### A. The role of NGOs in the follow-up processes

---

The role of NGOs is crucial after the CEDAW Committee issues its Concluding Observations. They can assist by providing the CEDAW Committee with reports on follow-up measures taken by their state in response to the recommendations contained in the Concluding Observations.

The Concluding Observations are an essential tool to achieve the national goals around CEDAW implementation and achieving equality. NGOs can give publicity to the Concluding Observations locally and nationally, and monitor the state's performance in implementing the CEDAW Committee's recommendations. NGOs reporting back to the Committee on the basis of their local monitoring and awareness-raising activities contribute to more effective follow-up on the part of the Committee by keeping it informed of developments in the country after the consideration of the state party report.

In this regard, NGOs may consider the following:

- If you are consulting other women's groups in preparing your Shadow/Alternative Report, inform them that they should remain organised after the review in order to advocate for the implementation of the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee. If you are attending the CEDAW session in New York / Geneva, tell them that you will debrief them on your return as this will help to build a constituency that demands follow-up and implementation of the Committee's views and recommendations.
- You may also keep in mind that press releases are available after each day of discussion. In this regard, we recommend you bring to New York / Geneva contact information for national journalists that may be interested in publicising the reporting process. Alternatively, ensure that you brief the press about the CEDAW review when you are back home. Press releases will be available on the following websites:
  - 1) UN News Centre - <http://www.un.org/apps/press/latest.asp>  
(this URL avails the 30 latest press releases, including the CEDAW Session and other events taking place in relation to the UN).
  - 2) The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/pressreleases.htm>  
(select "Press Releases & Meeting Summaries (UNOG)" and then the "Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women").
- After the session a summary record of the dialogue between the CEDAW Committee and the state delegation is also made available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/sessions.htm> (select the relevant session). Aside from providing summary proceedings of the meetings, summary records are also authoritative documents that can be used for advocacy at the national level.