

**United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women**

**in collaboration with**

**The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania**

**"Judicial colloquium on the application of  
international human rights law at the domestic level"**

9 to 11 September 2003  
Mount Meru Hotel

Arusha, Tanzania

**Opening statement by**

**Ms. Carolyn Hannan**

**Director, Division for the Advancement of Women**

Excellencies, honourable justices, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, the substantive office within the United Nations that develops policy advice for the promotion of women's rights and provides substantive servicing to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as well as the Commission on the Status of Women, I am pleased to welcome you to this judicial colloquium. I am honoured that you consider the question of the promotion of gender equality through the use of international human rights treaties deserving of your valuable time and attention.

I would like to express sincere thanks to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and

by public authorities or by any person or organization. Upon ratification or accession to the Convention, States parties assume specific obligations for the full implementation of the Convention at the national level. States parties are expected to embody the principle of equality of women and men in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation, and ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle. States parties also commit to adopt legislation prohibiting discrimination, to establish legal protection for women on an equal basis with men, as well as to provide effective remedies against acts of discrimination against women.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the body of experts established by the Convention to monitor its implementation in those States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention, is particularly concerned with the status of the Convention in domestic legal systems. The Committee has advocated the incorporation of the Convention

I know this colloquium will not be the end of your consideration of the enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights. I am confident that this colloquium will reaffirm your dedication to the cause of equality for women and girls and to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them in their enjoyment of human rights. It is my hope that the discussions will firmly include you among the expanding number of enlightened and courageous judges who are prepared to interpret domestic law in the light of the international human rights framework.

I regret that I cannot participate in person in this colloquium. I am confident that all of you will have much to contribute to this meeting and on behalf of the Division, I wish you a successful colloquium.