

**COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

**Opening statement by
Ms. Carolyn Hannan
Director
Division for the Advancement of Women
15 May 2006**

Madam Chairperson

Allow me to update you on developments pertaining to the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women since your last session.

Let me start with the fiftieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which took place from 27 February to 10 March and 16 March 2006. In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2002-2006, the Commission considered two thematic issues (1) Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work; and (2) Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels. The Commission adopted two sets of agreed conclusions with respect to these thematic issues - both make substantive references to the Convention, its Optional Protocol and the work of this Committee. We were also very grateful that one of the members of the Committee, Mme Françoise Gaspard, participated on the panel on theme 2.

The Commission adopted six resolutions, of which one again covered the question of the advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women. This Committee had provided its views on this question, which are reflected in the Secretary-General's report that was before the Commission. The Commission did not take action on the establishment of such a mandate and instead, has invited the Secretary-General to bring to your attention and other relevant treaty bodies his report on the "Advisability of the appointment of a special rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women," in document E/CN.6/2006/8 - with a view to eliciting views on ways and means that could best complement the work of the existing mechanisms and enhance the Commission's capacity with respect to discriminatory laws. The Commission agreed to consider this question further at its fifty-first session. The Committee is invited to provide its views in accordance with the request of the Commission.

By a consensus decision, the Commission postponed consideration of its
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participated in this multi-stakeholder dialogue. The Division is continuing to organize panel discussions and other events on violence against women and the study, including a lunch time panel event in conjunction with the Commission on Crime Prevention and