

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
Thirty-fifth session**

**Ms. Carolyn Hannan
Director, Division for the Advancement of Women**

Closing remarks 2 June 2006

Madam Chairperson,
Distinguished experts,
Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, Ms Rachel Mayanja, I would like to congratulate the Committee on the successful completion of the work of the thirty-fifth session. You have dealt with difficult issues and a significant volume of work. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of all experts present, under the able stewardship of the Bureau, and guided by you Mme. Chairperson, the Committee has had a most productive session with many thoughtful discussions and important decisions.

You have held successful constructive dialogues with eight States parties, with all the hours of work that this entailed. Your questions and interventions, and the concluding comments that you have adopted on the basis of these dialogues, will provide a solid framework for enhanced implementation of the Convention in the reporting States. The Division for the Advancement of Women will work to ensure broad dissemination and utilization of these concluding comments.

Once again, the high level of attendance of non-governmental organizations, United Nations organizations and other observers during the session is an indication of the importance accorded to the Convention and the work of the Committee.

Madame Chairperson

I am pleased to inform you that since the opening of this session the number of States parties to the Convention has increased by one. Brunei Darussalam acceded to the Convention on 24 May 2006, bringing the total number of States parties to the Convention to 183.

Madam Chairperson

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2 to 4 May 2006. You have already been able to share this outcome in an

counseling, treatment and services for pregnant women and women living with HIV, including to reduce mother-to-child transmissions.

The draft further contains a pledge to eliminate gender inequalities, gender-based abuse and violence, including through provision of sexual and reproductive health; to ensure that women can exercise their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related their sexuality; and to create an enabling environment for women's empowerment and strengthen their economic independence. There is a commitment to strengthen the promotion and protection of women's human rights and eliminate all forms of discrimination. The importance of the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality is also reiterated. Let us hope that the focus on women and gender equality can be maintained, and even enhanced, in the on-going negotiations.