

Effective Implementation of the Common Issues in CEDAW and CRC with Focus on Girl Child and Right to Nationality

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Da Nang, Viet Nam, 19-22 August 2013

The Regional Workshop on Promoting the Rights of ASEAN Women and Children through Effective Implementation of the Common Issues in the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) Concluding Observations with Focus on Girl Child was held from 20 – 22 August 2013 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. The ACWC Representatives, government officials, representatives of civil society organisations in the region, ASEAN Secretariat, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), participated in the Workshop.

Participants exchanged views on key issues and shared areas of concern in the implementation of CEDAW and CRC, particularly concerning the rights of girl child, such as victims of domestic violence, physical abuse and bullying, women and children who are sexually exploited, cyber pornography and cyber prostitution, early marriages, adolescent pregnancies, sexual and reproductive health and rights, harmful practices, juvenile justice, stateless women and children, among others.

Key challenges were also identified, including in ensuring non-discrimination and compliance of national laws, policies and strategies concerning the rights of women and children with international standards, particularly CEDAW and CRC; ensuring non-stereotyping of the roles of women and children in cultural and social norms and practices; and consistency in the enforcement of customary and civil laws towards gender equality and for the best interests of children. Participants further on underlined the importance of awareness and capacity of legal enforcement officials on substantive recognition of the rights of women and children, and raising public awareness and involvement in preventing and eliminating violence and discrimination against women and children.

Responding to these, the Workshop adopted a set of recommended national- and regional-level actions. The ACWC was recommended to assist, upon request, ASEAN Member States in the implementation of CEDAW and CRC Concluding Observations and preparation of state reports for CEDAW and CRC in partnerships with other stakeholders.

Planned in the ACWC Work Plan 2012-2016, the Workshop was hosted by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) of Viet Nam with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

In conjunction, MOLISA-Viet Nam together with UNHCR and UN Women also convened the Regional Workshop on the Promoting the Right to Nationality for Women and Children in the implementation of CEDAW and CRC in ASEAN on 19 August 2013.

Participants deliberated on strategies aiming at strengthening the promotion and protection of the right to nationality of women and children, including support to ASEAN Member States who are working towards universal birth registration. Improving access to birth registration and streamlining the policies and administration requirements of birth registration were underlined, especially amongst women and children in rural and border areas, belonging to ethnic and/or indigenous groups, street children, women married to foreigners, internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, refugees, victims of trafficking, children of undocumented migrants, and other groups of women and children affected by statelessness.
