

## Human Rights Council, 44<sup>th</sup> Session

### Interactive dialogue with the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

6 July 2020

#### Presenters

#### Statements

---

Chairperson of  
the Working  
Group

The Chairperson presented the findings from the Working Group's visit to Greece which took place from 1 to 12 April 2019, thanking the Government of Greece for its cooperation and its open engagement throughout the visit. The Chairperson noted that the visit took place at a moment of optimism in Greece as the country emerged from a prolonged period of austerity measures exacerbated by the arrival of unprecedented numbers of migrants and refugees since 2015. The Working Group recognized the many challenges Greece faces as well as the significant efforts that have been achieved in terms of the legal, institutional and policy framework for the promotion and protection of women's human rights. The Chairperson stated that the persistence of discriminatory norms and stereotypes, and the lingering impacts of the crisis and austerity measures, means women in Greece are lagging behind their counterparts in the EU on women's rights, especially in the situation for marginalized groups of women, such as migrant and Roma women. During the visit, the Working Group found that the migration policy of containment of asylum seekers in camps exacerbated the vulnerability of women who have no option other than living in the difficult conditions in the camps while waiting for processing of their asylum applications. Despite some efforts to move vulnerable groups to new camps on the mainland, conditions remain precarious for women. The Working Group offers a range of recommendations to the Government and hopes the Government will continue its efforts towards the realization of women's human rights.

---

Netherlands

The Netherlands stated that COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already existing inequalities, risks, and dangers women face in their work life, including in the informal work sector as evidenced by the exacerbation of the precarious situation of sex workers and migrant women workers. Netherlands fully endorsed workplace entitlements for informal workers as articulated by recommendation 67(a) of the Working Group's report.

---

Thailand

To address discrimination against women, Thailand and the ILO embarked on a new Decent Work Country Programme with a strong gender emphasis. The programme aims to strengthen gender-responsive

employment services and develop gender-sensitive tools to promote sustainable enterprises, in line with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. The programme is also designed to boost labour protection for workers of all genders, including migrant and informal workers.

---