**Questions for candidates to the UN Committee on Elimination for All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee)**

*Please provide responses that are as precise as possible and in no more than 200 words per question.*

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?

I want to be a member of the Cedaw Committee because I believe in the Human Rights of Women. For your information, I was the one who wrote the first draft of Cedaw in 1973. I pursued the negotiations of the draft that eventually became in 1979 what is today, Cedaw.

2. What are your specific areas of expertise in relation to CEDAW? Please provide examples as appropriate.

Violence against women as specifically to Women as Overseas workers. Please take note that I originally sponsored GR dealing with Women Overseas Workers. In fact this GR was completed by no less than Shanti Darian since I did not get re-elected for the period 2007-2011.

3. What do you think are the most critical and emerging issues for women’s human rights and gender equality? Please provide 1-2 examples.

Violence against women and girl child in the household, in the workplace and in schools, on the occasion of migration and climate change.

4. How will you ensure that the rights and issues of the most marginalised groups of women are addressed by the Committee? What measures should States take to ensure the political participation of marginalized groups of women in political life, at the local, national and international levels, including enhancing representation within the CEDAW Committee?

These are the questions which in replying requires, as far as I am concerned, the presence of the person who formulated them. They are very complicated issues. In addition to the limitation of 200 words will not do justice in replying clearly and exhaustively.

5. What do you think are the areas where the Committee can further strengthen international women’s rights standards?

a. Adopting measures to prevent the trafficking of women and the young girls who are victimized, enslaved, raped and abused.

b. The right to have access to education which will provide for all opportunities for employment, business, and livelihood programs etc.

c. Participation in political life and decision making.

6. What has been your experience of working with the women’s rights movement in your country or globally?

It has always been fantastic with most of the NGO’s in my country and my region looking at me for leadership, and they would always give me full support.

7. State parties to CEDAW are required to take steps to implement the Convention. How do you propose to help guide States in the effective implementation of Convention standards? How will you guide States in the removal of reservations to the Convention, especially reservations that relate to the object and purpose of the Convention (Articles 2 and 16)?

The Cedaw Committee should be sponsoring seminars and workshops. I would even propose that state signatories to Cedaw explore the possibilities of another World Conference on Women in close coordination with the UN Commission on the status of women.

8. What can the Committee do to further strengthen its engagement with other stakeholders and accountability mechanisms at country level, including gender machinery, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), members of parliament, judicial actors, civil society organizations and UN agencies?

Please take note that from my point of view, the question you have posed is incorrect.

In fact all the decisions of the Cedaw Committee are mere recommendations to the state parties of Cedaw.

The Cedaw Committee cannot interfere in the internal affairs of the State.

As a Filipina, my view on the implementation of Cedaw provisions and the recommendations of each committee are all internal affairs of the Philippine government.

The most I can do is to encourage the national mechanism to implement the provisions of Cedaw and the recommendations of the Cedaw Committee. I would suggest though that the Cedaw Committee should periodically provide for regional seminars, workshops or information services for a better acquaintance of the Convention.

9. How do you see the CEDAW Committee strengthening the domestic and international environment for holding business/private actors responsible for violations under the Convention?

The education of the people through seminars, workshops, information services will strengthen the role of Cedaw for business people, private actors accountable for their non respect or violation of the Cedaw provisions. This could happen if the law of that particular state allows the convention to be a component of the legal set up of the state. Also the educational system of the state should incorporate acquisition of knowledge about Cedaw on all levels of each educational system.

10. How do you see the CEDAW Committee and the review process contributing to the delivery of global commitments on gender equality, including under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it’s Missions abroad, the Ministries of Finance, Economic Development and Trade and the Ministry of Social Affairs as well as the local governors and officials should well be acquainted with the provisions of Cedaw and their implementation nationally, regionally and globally, The involvement of civil society and NGO’s as well as academia and researchers in this process are indispensable.

Again, I reiterate the necessity to have the presence of the Official responsible for the questionnaire before the respondent because the questions are complex and requires clarification from the proponent.