

a colloquium for judicial officers on the use of the Convention in crafting a jurisprudence of gender equality by domestic courts. We will hold two similar events for countries from the Caribbean region in May, hosted by the Government of The Bahamas. The Division has also initiated work to prepare a CEDAW Implementation Manual. As part of our joint work plan with OHCHR, we hope to convene later this year a meeting of national human rights institutions and national machineries for the advancement of women on collaborative strategies to eliminate discrimination against women.

This Commission has for many years paid particular attention to the question of violence against women. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, marks its tenth anniversary this year. These ten years have seen remarkable progress on many levels, and by many actors, in the fight against violence against women, but there are also issues and questions where further effort is needed to develop consensus and a global policy approach, as well as agreement on measures to prevent such violence from occurring. Further efforts are also necessary to assess the impact of the many different measures taken, and to get a clearer understanding of strategies that have worked – or not worked. The indepth study on violence against women, which the General Assembly has requested from the Secretary-General and which the Division has responsibility to prepare in cooperation with different stakeholders, will be an opportunity to synthesize and build on the work done by Governments, NGOs and the entities of the UN system, to identify gaps and challenges, and propose strategies for further progress. I look forward to updating this Commission next year on the status of the study, which is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its 60th session.

I would like to conclude by drawing attention to the review of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly of