

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

PURPOSE

Often referred to as the 'women's bill of rights' CEDAW aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls and advance gender equality.

DEFINITIONS

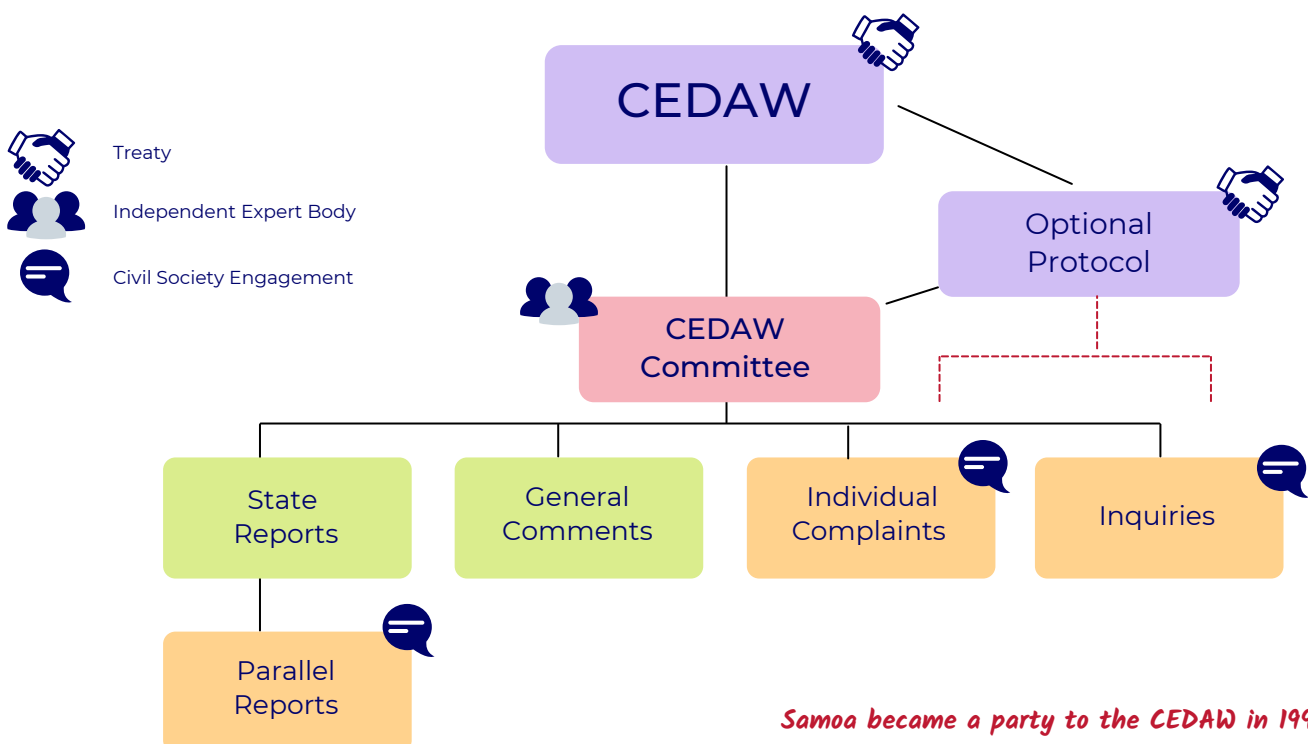
"Discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

STATE OBLIGATIONS

CEDAW commits member States to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and advance gender equality, including:

- to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women;
- to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination; and
- to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises.

CEDAW OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE



Samoa became a party to the CEDAW in 1994