"A WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS?"

One hundred and seventy nations are now party to what is often described as the "women’s international bill of rights": the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. But how has this translated into practical gains and protections for women around the world? How can the cultural legacies of discrimination be overcome? Will the Optional Protocol to the Convention offer recourse of last resort to individual women who have exhausted other means of redressing discrimination? On this edition of World Chronicle, these questions are explored with the help of Dr. Charlotte Abaka, the outgoing Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a panel of experts who monitor the progress made in women’s rights.