

**REPORT
OF THE COMMITTEE
ON THE
ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN**

**Volume I
(Second session)**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

[16 April 1984]

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

2 April 1984

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to article 21, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, according to which the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established pursuant to the Convention, "shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities".

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held its second session from 1 to 12 August 1983. It adopted the report of that session at its 31st meeting, held on 28 March 1984. The report is herewith submitted to you for transmission to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Luvsandanzangyn IDER
Chairperson of the
Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women

His Excellency
Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

I. INTRODUCTION

A. States parties to the Convention

1. On 12 August 1983, the closing date of the second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 50 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York on 1 March 1980. The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981, in accordance with the provisions of its article 27. A list of States parties to the Convention and a list of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention are contained in annexes I and II to the present report.

B. Sessions of the Committee

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held its second session from 1 August to 12 August 1983 at United Nations Headquarters, New York; the Committee held 17 (10th to 26th) meetings.

3. The second session of the Committee was opened by the Chairperson, Ms. L. Ider (Mongolia), who welcomed the members of the Committee and stated that 51 Member States had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. She explained that, during the course of its present deliberations, the Committee would also have to elaborate and approve general guidelines for the form and content of reports to be submitted by States parties to the Convention.

4. The Representative of the Secretary-General stated that progress on the ratification and accession to the Convention showed the importance that Governments attributed to it, which was due in no small part to efforts undertaken by women's groups and organizations at the national and international levels. The support received had a wide geographical basis, since out of the 51 States which had ratified or acceded to the Convention, 7 were African, 7 Asian, 10 Eastern European, 19 Latin American and 8 Western European and other States.

5. She drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on the work of its first session as the preparatory body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (A/CONF.116/PC/9 and Corr.1 and Add.1). The Convention required a follow-up in regard to its implementation and she pointed out that, under paragraph 80 of the report, it had been suggested that the procedures for monitoring its implementation by the Committee established for that purpose might be one means of reviewing and appraising progress at the national level.

6. The Committee agreed, on the proposal of the representative of the Secretary-General, to hold the third session of the Committee in New York from 26 March to 6 April 1984, while the second meeting of States parties to the Convention would be convened on 9 April 1984. The fourth session of the Committee would be held at Vienna in the beginning of March 1985. The Committee also agreed to hold its sessions in New York when States parties met for the election of half of the members of the Committee every second year, and at Vienna in those years when no meeting of States parties was foreseen.

C. Membership

7. As proposed by the respective Governments, the Committee, at its 10th meeting, on 1 August 1983, unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Lucy Smith of Norway to serve as a member of the Committee for the remainder of Ms. Surlien's term and Ms. Farida Abou El-Fetouh of Egypt to be a member of the Committee for the remainder of Ms. Tallawy's term. The curriculum vitae of the two nominees had been circulated to the experts.

D. Solemn declaration by the new members of the Committee

8. Upon assuming their duties as members of the Committee, the two newly-appointed experts, Ms. Smith and Ms. El-Fetouh, made the solemn declaration provided for under rule 10 of the rules of procedure.

E. Attendance

9. All members attended the second session of the Committee except the experts from China and Sri Lanka who had sent cables to the Secretariat excusing themselves.

10. With regard to the expert from Cuba, a member of the Committee stated that she had been informed that the Government of the United States of America had not issued a visa to the expert from Cuba. The Secretariat was requested by the Committee to inquire into the situation and take the necessary steps to enable the Cuban expert to attend the session of the Committee.

11. The Cuban expert arrived for and was present at the Committee's 16th meeting. She explained that the visa had been sought since 18 July 1983 and that all procedures had been followed, both through diplomatic channels and through the United Nations resident representative's office, with no results. The visa had been granted only on 3 August 1983, after the opening of the Committee's second session. She thanked the Chairperson and the Representative of the Secretary-General, as well as the members of the Committee, for their concern.

12. At the 17th meeting, the Representative of the Secretary-General read out the provisions contained in the Host Country Agreement, provided by the Office of the Legal Counsel, relating to the granting of visas, which stated specifically that the host country would not impose any impediment on travel or transit to the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York. It was explained that provisions concerning delays were not stipulated in the said agreement and that the host country required approximately 15 working days to process visa applications. The above was contained in section 11 of the agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America, signed on 26 June 1947 at Lake Success.

13. The expert from Cuba stated that, to the best of her knowledge, she had complied with her obligations and that the visa had been requested on time. A representative of the Government of the United States of America, who was present at the meeting, was permitted to speak. He reiterated that the Representative of the Secretary-General had stated earlier, and explained that he understood the disappointment of the expert from Cuba and that both he and his Government would continue to honour their obligations and regretted any delay or inconvenience caused to the expert from Cuba.

F. Agenda

14. At its 10th meeting, on 1 August 1983, the Committee adopted the following provisional agenda, as amended:

1. Opening of the second session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Approval of the filling of two casual vacancies on the Committee.
4. Solemn declaration.
5. Guidelines for reports by States parties.
6. Consideration of reports and information submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.
7. Sessions of the Committee on 1984 and 1985.
8. Annual report of the Committee on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council under article 21 of the Convention.

II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Summary records

15. Arrangements had been made on a provisional basis to have summary records for the present session (plenary meetings), although the final decision on that question would be taken by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session.

B. Working group

16. Consultations took place on the advisability of establishing a working group to work out the guidelines for the preparation of reports submitted by States parties. After a general discussion, it was finally decided that the working group should be composed of the members of the Bureau (the officers of the Committee), plus experts from the geographical regions: Norway (Western Europe), Egypt (Africa), Philippines (Asia), Mexico (Latin America) and the German Democratic Republic (Eastern Europe).

C. Decision recommending the inclusion of Arabic among the official and working languages of the Committee

17. At the 20th meeting, on 9 August 1983, Ms. Abou El-Fetouh, the expert from Egypt, proposed an amendment to rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Committee, to the effect that Arabic should be included as one of the working languages of the Committee. There was no objection to that proposal.

18. At the 22nd meeting, on 10 August 1983, on a proposal by Ms. Irene Cortes, the expert from the Philippines, which was seconded by Ms. Marie Caron, the expert from Canada, the proposal was put to a vote in accordance with rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the Committee. The amendment was adopted by 19 votes in favour, none against, and 1 abstention. The text of rule 19 of the rules of procedure, as amended, reads as follows:

"Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official and working languages of the Committee."

D. Future work of the Committee

19. There was general agreement that, in the light of the experience of the present session, the Secretariat should submit no more than seven reports for consideration at the next session, so as to leave time for discussion of general matters. In that respect, it was proposed that for the 1984 session priority should be given to the six reports already before the Committee at its current session, which could not be considered because of lack of time, and one additional report. As a general criterion to be followed for the consideration of reports, the Committee should give priority to those States parties which indicate their intention to send representatives from their States to introduce their reports, and should also try, as far as possible, to take into account the different levels of development and the geographical situation of the States parties. The Secretariat ought to contact reporting States in advance to determine whether they wished their reports to be considered at Vienna or in New York.

20. The Committee also decided that the introductory statements and the replies made by representatives of States should become part of the files to be kept by the Secretariat, together with the summary records, because they contained valuable information on the actual situation of women in the country concerned which often supplemented information contained in the report. The Committee asked the Secretariat to make up a reference file for each country consisting of the report, the additional information and any documentation relevant to the Convention, and make available to the members of the Committee the files of those countries whose reports would be considered during the session.

E. World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

21. Some experts drew the attention of the Committee to the importance of its contribution to the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, as suggested by the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body during its first session, held from 23 February to 4 March 1983.

22. It was agreed that, as its contribution to the 1985 World Conference, the reports of the second and third sessions of the Committee should be forwarded to the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the World Conference to be held at Nairobi.

F. Participation of specialized agencies

23. Although the experts agreed that the specialized agencies might attend meetings of the Committee as provided in the first sentence of article 22 of the Convention and in rule 52 (1) of the rules of procedure of the Committee, an exchange of views took place regarding whether they should be invited to submit reports to the Committee pursuant to rule 51 of the Committee's rules of procedure and whether those reports should be discussed at the meetings of the Committee.

24. The majority of experts felt that it would be useful to invite the specialized agencies to prepare reports on the implementation of those provisions which fell within the scope of their agencies' activities and that such reports should be made available to the Committee as background material. However, a few experts were of the opinion that, at the present stage, the primary work of the Committee was to receive and consider reports from States parties and that the question on the contribution of agencies should be postponed to the third session of the Committee in 1984.

25. At its 23rd meeting, on 11 August 1983, the Committee adopted the following draft decision by consensus:

"In accordance with article 22 of the Convention, the Committee decided to invite the specialized agencies whose activities were relevant to the articles of the Convention to prepare reports on such programmes as might promote the implementation of the Convention and to provide the Committee with additional information."

III. GENERAL GUIDELINES REGARDING THE FORM AND CONTENTS OF
REPORTS RECEIVED FROM STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18
OF THE CONVENTION

26. The Committee considered item 5 of the agenda at its 10th, 11th, 23rd and 24th meetings, on 1 and 11 August 1983 (CEDAW/C/SR.10, 11, 23 and 24).

27. During the general discussion, remarks were made on the nature of criteria for and material to be included in the guidelines, which were distributed in draft form in document CEDAW/C/3. It was recognized that a difference existed between what was provided in the legislation in different countries and how that legislation was applied or adhered to. It was essential that a Government reported not only on how the Convention had been implemented, but also on what obstacles were encountered in the actual implementation. It was stated that the Committee should also examine what criteria it would use in the process of evaluating the reports, since all countries did not have the same political framework. Nevertheless, it was also recognized that there should be some degree of uniformity in the preparation of the reports.

28. Several experts pointed out that guidelines should be helpful both to Governments and to the Committee and that more specific and concrete questions should be posed in order to elicit a clear answer. The process should promote a constructive dialogue and it should also embody principles already contained in the preamble of the Convention, such as disarmament, the fight against colonialism and neo-colonialism, apartheid, the struggle towards a new international economic order and the eradication of racism. The periodicity of the reports, which according to the Convention should be quadrennial, was an appropriate one since in many instances reforms, either from a legal aspect or from a practical aspect, took longer than two years to implement.

29. It was felt that a general overview of the country to include the political, social and economic conditions should also be requested. It was debated whether the length of the initial reports should be limited to 40 pages, but it was the opinion of several experts that at least the preliminary reports should not be restricted in their length. Another matter which had not been given enough attention was the role of the family and parents and the infrastructure provided by a particular society with regard to the biological role of women.

30. There was also agreement that the guidelines should be divided into two or more parts covering different sectors of women's involvement in the development of the country and that they should concentrate on practical steps taken towards the implementation of the Convention.

31. At its 23rd and 24th meetings, the Committee considered the draft guidelines proposed by the informal working group (CEDAW/C/3/Rev.2).

32. In her introductory statement, the Chairperson of the Group expressed her thanks to the members of the Group for their hard work and their spirit of co-operation and compromise.

33. During several debates, various changes of the proposed draft guidelines were made and a compromise text was adopted by consensus.

34. At its 24th meeting, the Committee adopted the draft guidelines as submitted by the working group and amended during the course of the discussions (CEDAW/C/7).

IV. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

A. Introduction

35. The Committee considered item 6 of the agenda at its 12th to 21st and 23rd meetings, held on 2 to 5, 8, 10 and 11 August 1983.

36. The Committee had before it, for consideration, 13 initial reports which had been received by the Secretariat in accordance with article 18 of the Convention from the following States parties listed in the order received: German Democratic Republic, Mexico, Hungary, Cuba, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Philippines, Norway, Sweden, Panama, Egypt, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Rwanda. The Government of Norway had requested that its report be considered in 1984.

37. In connection with agenda item 6, the Chairperson suggested that those countries which had submitted their reports, and which had sent a representative from their capitals to present the reports, should be given priority.

38. The Committee agreed, in accordance with rule 49 of its rules of procedure, to invite the representatives of the States parties present at the meeting to make an oral presentation of the reports, to be followed by questions from members of the Committee. The representatives were: Ms. Larisa, M. Barabanova of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Mr. Dietmar Hucke of the German Democratic Republic, Mr. Miguel Ruiz-Cabaffas Izquierdo of Mexico, Ms. Karin Lindgren of Sweden, Ms. Jaroslavna Nikolaevna Shevchenko of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ms. Tatiana Nikolayeva of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Ms. Olga Finlay Saavedra of Cuba.

39. The following, arranged on a country-by-country basis according to the sequence followed by the Committee, reflects a summary of the introduction of the report by the representative of the State party concerned, of views expressed and of questions raised and observations made by the members of the Committee on the reports of the States parties concerned. It also covers, when given, the substance of the replies by the representatives of the States parties present at the meeting, or as the case may be, indicates that additional information will be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General or given as supplementary information for the next report, owing to the fact that not all of the information requested was readily available to the representative at the time of the session. The representatives of States parties, in replying to the questions asked by the members of the Committee, gave as comprehensive replies as was possible under the circumstances, giving due regard to the short period of time available to them and the fact that many details were not readily available.

B. Consideration of reports

German Democratic Republic

40. The Committee considered the initial report of the German Democratic Republic (CEDAW/C/5/Add.1) at its 12th and 17th meetings, held on 2 and 5 August 1983 (CEDAW/C/SR.12 and 17).

41. The report was introduced by the representative of the State party who stated that his country had always attached great importance to the equality of women and, therefore, had co-operated actively in the elaboration of the Convention. The equality of women was a constitutional principle and a practical reality in the German Democratic Republic.
42. He gave additional statistical data relating to the right of women to political co-decision and to equality in training and employment.
43. He stated that one of the major achievements of the German Democratic Republic was that women enjoyed full equality with men in terms of participation in the social decision-making processes. In his country, the abolition of discrimination against women was part of the general proscription of any discrimination. Therefore, there was no need to enact new legal regulations after ratifying the Convention.
44. The high proportion of women in occupations and jobs which in earlier times had mainly or exclusively been carried out by men required a new approach to management and planning in the factories and institutions where women were employed.
45. Guided by the concern that women's equal participation in the further advance of social progress in the world was only possible in an environment of peace, the German Democratic Republic had initiated the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation, which had been adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. 1/
46. Women in the German Democratic Republic fully supported the women who were struggling to secure independence of their countries and those who were fighting side by side with their husbands for the elimination of apartheid and racism.
47. The Committee commended the Government of the German Democratic Republic for the comprehensive, factual and informative presentation of its report. Several members observed that women's integration into all sectors of the country's life was abundantly clear from the statistics presented.
48. The question was raised as to whether the entry into force of the Convention had entailed any change or modification in the legal and practical systems relating to the status of women in the country, or whether it was felt that no changes were required. One expert mentioned that, while it seemed that equality of the sexes was guaranteed in specific provisions within the Family Code, Penal Code and Civil Code, there was no reference to any such matter in the country's Constitution.
49. Several experts requested more information on the role of the Democratic Women's League and its representational function at the People's Chamber, especially since it held 35 deputies' posts. Various experts also requested complete information as to the question whether the Democratic Women's League represented all women or whether there were other organizations that did so.
50. With reference to the follow-up on the implementation of the Convention, it was asked whether machinery existed that would sanction the lack of compliance with the principles embodied in the Convention and, if the Penal and Civil Codes contained such provisions, what were the sanctions.

51. It was also pointed out that the report concentrated on women's situation in the public sector, but did not refer explicitly enough to the status of women in private life. In that regard, several questions were posed regarding inheritance laws, divorce laws, provisions regarding "registered" marriages as opposed to common law unions, the legal standing of children born out of wedlock and of unmarried mothers, assistance to women and families in the raising of children, how that affected the birth rate and the policy of the family-planning programme. It was further pointed out that most of the measures mentioned in the report were women-oriented and little was said as to provisions for the father's participation in the child-rearing responsibilities and in the home. There seemed to be no indication, it was also noted, that paternity leave had been introduced.

52. Regarding labour law, it was asked whether the principle of equal pay for equal work was guaranteed and, if so, whether it included the idea of equal pay for work of equal value. Also, clarifications were requested as to what was meant by a "working day" and a "working week", in terms of the number of working hours. It was also asked whether new provisions had been made to protect women's health in occupations which required or involved new technologies.

53. Other questions regarding prostitution and rehabilitation were raised with regard to the Penal Code. Neither was it clear whether sanctions regarding rape had been introduced and whether crisis centres had been established as well as counselling and other measures specifically devised for rape victims.

54. With regard to women's participation in agriculture, questions were asked regarding the particular situation of women working in such a highly advanced technological society as the German Democratic Republic. It was well known that women who worked in the rural areas performed of necessity heavy physical work. That fact had in other countries discouraged women from working in the rural areas and caused their moving to the urban centres for better working and living conditions. Information was requested on whether women in the rural areas enjoyed the same facilities available in the cities.

55. It was also requested that more information should be provided on the obstacles encountered in the process of applying the principles of the Convention. That information would enable the Committee to learn from the experience of the German Democratic Republic. It was also important to share the experience of States parties in the implementation of measures in all sectors and, for that purpose, examples would be welcome.

56. The request was made by several experts that, in future, all pertinent legislation mentioned in the reports should be made available to the Committee through the Secretariat. Such information could be deposited with and kept by the Secretariat for perusal by the members of the Committee.

57. The representative of the German Democratic Republic made a comprehensive statement, trying to answer all the questions put by members of the Committee, and explained that the principle of equality was enshrined in the Constitution under articles 20 (equal rights for men and women) and 24 (equal pay for equal work); however, equality of women was not achieved by the mere enactment of legislation but, in addition, the necessary social conditions had to be created for the actual process to take place. His Government was trying to create those conditions through material and ideological measures and, in fact, it was still in process.

58. Conditions were such as to enable women to have access to education and specialized training, as well as to provide the social and political opportunities to stimulate their own growth and increase their capacity. The high number of women active in the People's Chamber, to which they were democratically elected, demonstrated the confidence of the general electorate in women. The fact that that had been achieved in the last 30 years showed some measure of progress.

59. Information was provided which related to the internal structure of the Government, of the multi-party system and on how international conventions were applied and publicized. He further outlined stipulations in the Labour Code regulating women's and young people's work, facilities for and assistance to women with children, including education and training, and he read out specific parts and articles of the Constitution, the Family Law and the Civil and Labour Codes. He also provided information on the political sphere of action of the women's organization in the German Democratic Republic, the Democratic Women's League.

60. Criminal acts against women were punishable under the Penal Code and violations of labour law provisions could be brought before the Labour Court. Under civil and family law, women could appeal against offences in the administrative field.

61. With regard to the situation of rural women, he explained that, as members of agricultural production co-operatives, women were better able to avail themselves of their rights. Up to now, 79.4 per cent of all women in agriculture had completed vocational training. They enjoyed regular working hours, had free time and were able to avail themselves of existing educational facilities. In addition, the co-operatives had brought shorter working hours, a reduction of heavy physical labour and paid annual holidays.

62. The emancipation of women, especially at home, he said, was ultimately possible only through the emancipation of both sexes and traditions were being examined to see if they merited survival. In addition, women had been given the freedom to choose the number and spacing of their children. The birth rate had increased, which showed that working mothers were able to combine their professional career with their family responsibilities. There were over 200 counselling centres to assist with that problem. Single mothers or fathers with children up to three years old could not be dismissed from their job, and single mothers or fathers were entitled to leave with pay in order to care for sick children. Information was given concerning the problem of divorce. The divorce rate was 1 per cent of all marriages or 40,000 divorces a year. At the same time, it was stated that society had undertaken comprehensive efforts to strengthen marriages which were in difficulties and prepare youths more suitably for marriage and family responsibilities.

63. Mothers with two or more young children enjoyed a 40-hour working week on full pay, instead of the normal working week of 43 3/4 hours, and all married women, mothers with young children and single women aged 40 or over had a day off with pay every month for household chores.

64. Prostitution was alien to the society and was prohibited and punished by law. Battering, rape and traffic in human beings were also punishable under the Penal Code. Concerning women's access to courts in discrimination cases, he pointed out that they could file suits in labour, civil and family courts.

65. The representative of the State party also stated that all questions and observations made during consideration of the initial report would be transmitted to his Government and would be taken into account in the elaboration of future reports. He submitted additional material to the experts of the Committee with excerpts from government documents on the promotion of women.

66. Some experts recommended drawing the attention of States parties to the desirability of using the positive experiences referred to in the above-mentioned report in order to make further progress in eliminating discrimination against women, not only de jure, but also de facto.

Mexico

67. The Committee considered the initial report of Mexico (CEDAW/C/5/Add.2) at its 13th and 17th meetings, held on 2 and 5 August 1983 (CEDAW/C/SR.13 and 17).

68. The report was introduced by the representative of the State party who pointed out that his Government had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, since it considered that its own domestic legislation guaranteed the same rights, because in recent years the State had made great efforts in revising all legislation to eliminate any trace of discrimination against women. In accordance with article 133 of the Political Constitution of the Republic, the Convention was considered the supreme law of the land.

69. In Mexico, there was no constitutional or legal basis for discrimination against women; any difficulties in implementing certain provisions of the Convention arose from the general economic conditions in the country. As a developing country, Mexico had shortcomings in its social and economic structure. The current world economic crisis, by accentuating those shortcomings, inevitably affected the situation of women, particularly the more disadvantaged urban and rural women. Nevertheless, his Government was determined to deal with the problems, using all the means at its disposal. The National Development Plan for 1983-1988 reflected its concern to guarantee equal opportunities for women in all spheres of national life.

70. The Committee welcomed the initial report presented by Mexico and noted that an impressive body of legislation had been adopted to secure women's equality. It also remarked that it might be useful to receive more information on the application of those laws. Several members regretted the lack of statistical data which did not allow the Committee to have a clear picture of the actual status of women in Mexico. In future, it was noted, empirical data should accompany every country report.

71. Regarding the above, it was asked what concrete benefits women had obtained through the adoption of equal rights legislation, what were the obstacles being encountered in their implementation and what solution or solutions were contemplated to overcome them. Other members inquired about the specific remedies and sanctions provided by law against acts of discrimination against women. In that regard, it was also pointed out that there seemed to be no institution(s) to assist women in the exercise of their rights and there was no information on the capacity of the court system to provide remedies for women's grievances. Information was also sought as to the extent of women's utilization of the court system to enforce their rights.

72. With regard to women's role in the family, it was noted that the report did not provide information as to the sharing of family responsibilities between husband and wife, nor was there any reference to the status of women in common law relationships, and it was asked whether such unions were now recognized by law. The question of the surnames of children born in and out of wedlock was raised. In the areas of social security and welfare it was not clear whether a wife could receive a pension upon her retirement or whether it was dependent on her husband's death. There were other areas that required additional clarification and amplification, such as health, education and employment. No reference was found in the report to family planning, whether a woman had an option in the spacing of the births of her children and whether abortion was legalized.

73. Relating to women's civil and political rights, questions were raised pertaining to the freedom to pursue a profession or run for elective office. One expert requested clarification regarding the term "living honestly" as it appeared in article 34 of the Constitution, which stated that all Mexican men and women who fulfilled the condition of having reached the age of majority and "lived honestly" were citizens of the Republic.

74. The report revealed the persistence of traditional values, including specific roles ascribed to individuals according to their sex as well as prejudices, and referred to "customs and practices". It was felt that it was not clear how the Government intended to change that situation and what those "customs and practices" were. One member asked to what extent women's attitudes and perceptions of themselves accounted for the inequalities that continued to exist, whether women themselves had been made aware of their rights, and to what extent they were making use of them. It was also pointed out that a correlation seemed to be made between rural and indigenous women, but that no information was given on what steps had been taken to improve their situation.

75. The Committee also took note of the reference made by the representative in his introduction pertaining to the world economic crisis and how the latter had affected the status of women; several members asked how the crisis had indeed affected women and how the Government was planning to overcome the problem.

76. It was agreed that more information was necessary about the situation of women in the country and it was asked whether the Government of Mexico had made any reservations regarding the Convention and, if so, what were those reservations.

77. In answering the questions posed by the members of the Committee, the representative of Mexico recalled that the reason why the Committee had been established was because of world-wide discrimination against women and, therefore, his Government could not say that it had eliminated the de facto discrimination. His Government understood that the socio-economic development was essential for that purpose and, for that reason, had taken measures to promote women's participation in the preparation and implementation of the National Development Plan (1983-1988). Women's full integration would take a long time and would go hand in hand with the social and economic development of his country.

78. He explained that difficulties in applying some of the provisions of the Convention were largely due to the limited financial power of the State. The Mexican representative recalled that his country was a developing country suffering from a number of gaps and imbalances in its economic and social structure, aggravated by the current economic crisis, which inevitably affected the situation

of women. Nevertheless, he reaffirmed the Mexican Government's commitment to tackle those problems with all the means at its disposal.

79. Regarding the concrete benefits obtained by women, the representative of Mexico mentioned the rates of increase in the number of working women between 1970 and 1979 and the reduction in the rate of women's illiteracy between 1960 and 1982.

80. Some solutions to overcome certain obstacles encountered by women were found by making women aware of their rights under the Convention through government publicity campaigns and through efforts of women's organizations.

81. Concerning the court system to provide remedies for women's grievances, the representative of the State party referred to the remedy of amparo which effectively protected men and women against arbitrary acts committed by the State. He also pointed out that many women's organizations in the country protected women against violations of their rights.

82. If either spouse had a complaint in family affairs, he or she could bring it to the family court. A child born out of wedlock could have its mother's surname and its father's surname if the child was recognized by the father. A child born in wedlock automatically had both the father's and the mother's surnames. For legal purposes, a woman always kept her maiden name in official documents. Vast strides had been made in the area of family planning during the past 10 years, however, women were not forced to accept family-planning methods.

83. The words "living honestly", in referring to the requirements for being a citizen of Mexico, meant that an individual must not have been convicted in a court of a crime.

84. The representative of the State party said that his Government considered that an important part of its efforts consisted in strengthening the political will and in gaining broader popular support for full equality between men and women, and in the determination of the international community to change customs and prejudices.

85. In recalling the importance of socio-economic development as one of the bases for the promotion of the status of women, he gave various data and figures that showed the increase in the number of women in the labour force, in spite of the fact that Mexico's population had almost doubled in the last 20 years up to 1980 (from 35 to 67 million, half of whom were women) and the increase of rural-urban migration which had created great difficulties in all areas of development in the country. A substantial decrease in illiteracy had also been achieved, from 20 per cent in 1960 to 9.1 per cent in 1980. The major beneficiaries had been women, who had increased their enrolment in primary, secondary, technical and other institutions of professional studies.

86. He also noted that considerable investments were needed to initiate certain services required to comply with the Convention and that the present economic situation was not facilitating the deployment of such funds. In addition, actual equality was also impeded by cultural and psychological factors, which women themselves were sometimes perpetuating.

87. Upon ratifying the Convention, the Government of Mexico had made a reservation in relation to article 10 (c) because of its financial implications.

88. Following several further questions on family planning, peace and disarmament, he stated that the relevant information would be included in the next report.

89. Some experts recommended drawing attention of States parties to the desirability of using the positive experiences referred to in the above-mentioned report in order to make further progress in eliminating discrimination against women, not only de jure, but also de facto.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

90. The Committee considered the initial report of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (CEDAW/C/5/Add.12) at its 14th and 19th meetings, held on 3 and 8 August 1983 (CEDAW/C/SR.14 and 19).

91. The report was introduced by the representative of the State party who underlined that the legislation of the Soviet Union conformed in letter and spirit to the Convention and even went beyond its provisions. Article 35 of the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics embodied the principle of equality of rights between men and women in all areas of cultural, social, political and economic life. The exercise of those rights was guaranteed through equal opportunities for women in education and training, and in social, political, economic and cultural activities as well as through the adoption of special measures to protect the health of women in the workplace and to enable them to combine motherhood with work.

92. She gave a detailed account of the historical factors which had put an end to the exploitation of man by man. In 1918, the first Soviet legislation to be enacted proclaimed the equality of political rights of all Soviet citizens. Subsequent legislative measures introduced radical changes in civil, labour and family matters with respect to equality between men and women. Women workers became fully entitled to participate in the social, economic and political life of the country. The Constitution in force not only reaffirmed the principle of equality between men and women, but guaranteed their equality by legislative, administrative, economic and other measures, and it placed emphasis also on the necessary material conditions for achieving that equality, namely, equality of social and economic conditions, equal pay for equal work, equal opportunities to receive education and training, free medical care and protection of the interests of mother and child.

93. The representative of the State party provided the experts with comprehensive statistics on employment and education of women and their representation in the country's parliament, the Supreme Soviet. She also reported on family relations in the Soviet Union which were developed under the influence of the existing moral and ethical standards of society and great importance was attached to the improvement of legislation designed to strengthen further the Soviet family. She pointed out that socialism had created economic and social conditions that made possible a mass participation of women in all spheres of the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country and in the family.

94. The Soviet political system is developing in the direction of increasingly broad participation of the citizens in the government of the State and in society.

95. In 1982, 1,146,000 women were elected to local Soviets (50.1 per cent of the total). Women deputies are widely represented in the various committees of the

Supreme Soviet, including the Foreign Affairs Committee, Youth and Health committees, etc. Women participate, on equal footing with men, in the discussion of bills, adoption of laws, approval of plans for socio-economic development, for national budget and in deciding major issues of the USSR's domestic and foreign policy. Women hold 65 per cent of all jobs in the management of public affairs, the economy and in the running of co-operative and community organizations.

96. At the present moment, there are over half a million women factory and state farm directors and managers of building sites and collective farms. Women occupy responsible positions in the Council of Ministers of the USSR. Nine women are Deputy Chairmen of Council of Ministers in Union Republics and autonomous republics. Twenty-seven women stand at the head of ministries in Union Republics and autonomous republics: among them there are ministers of industry, foreign affairs, training, health, etc. At the present time, the ranks of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union contain over 4.7 million women. Soviet women are guaranteed full employment. Women in the USSR not only enjoy equal rights to work, but also equal pay for equal work.

97. There is a state-established system of guarantees and privileges allowing women to combine work and motherhood. The State protects women's labour and health by prohibiting the use of women on hazardous and hard jobs and by providing them with free medical service in special institutions of the State health system, as well as by developing the system of pre-school children's facilities. Material and moral support to motherhood and childhood in the USSR is secured through payment of maternity and post-natal benefits, provision of paid leave to care for sick children, benefits to large families and single mothers, and partially paid leave to mothers until the child reaches the age of one year, and so on. The rent for homes in the USSR remains unchanged since 1928 and now constitutes, including public utilities, 3 per cent of the income in workers' families.

98. Noting the importance of the political participation of women, several questions were raised regarding women's leadership positions and, specifically, whether there were women at the Politburo level, in the Central Committee, as ministers, as heads of universities, technical institutes and higher courts, as directors or general managers of State enterprises and as heads of trade unions. It was also asked whether special measures such as set percentages or quotas had been established. It was remarked that only 27 per cent of women belonged to the Communist Party, and it was questioned whether that in any way hampered the participation of women in the political, social and economic life of the country. Questions were asked regarding the qualifications to be met in order to become a member of the Party, as well as on the organization of elections and whether membership was necessary in order to participate in elections.

99. Other members inquired about the various established organizations and their co-ordination and interrelationship concerning the monitoring of the status of women, for example, among the Committee of Soviet Women, the Special Women Affairs Commission of the All Union Central Trade Unions Council, youth organizations and the recently created Permanent Commission of Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the Problems of Life and Labour of Women and the Protection of Mother and Child.

100. Information was requested concerning the composition and functions of the latter, which was created in 1976, and it was asked whether its establishment was not required because inequalities existed in the status of men and women.

Concerning the power of that Commission to make recommendations on all questions related to women, more details were requested as well as clarification on the meaning of the expression "binding recommendations".

101. Several experts remarked that there seemed to be a general emphasis on the role of women as mothers rather than on the status of women themselves, since there was an impressive amount of legislation and social security benefits covering the rights of mothers and children. Interest was shown in the family-planning policy of the USSR. In the report, it was mentioned that abortion was legal and yet reference was made to measures against illegal abortions. It was also asked what was the actual role of fathers in the upbringing of children, since that was the joint responsibility of both parents under the law, and whether fathers received the same benefits as mothers regarding parental leave. A question was asked about the total amount of State grants to women and children, since a substantial increase had been noted from 1970 to 1980. Information was also requested regarding adoption and whether a single parent, either man or woman, could adopt a child. Noting that there existed a provision regarding the choice of the family name by the spouses, it was asked whether, upon divorce, a husband who had chosen to take his wife's maiden name could retain it. The experts were most interested in knowing more on the attitudes of husbands vis-à-vis their working wives and whether there was an equitable sharing of responsibilities in the home. The experts asked for further information on specific measures and privileges which allowed the working mother to combine motherhood and work successfully and whether such measures and privileges applied to the father.

102. In connection with divorce, the experts commended the law which forbade the husband to initiate procedures during the first year of a baby's life or while the mother was pregnant. It was asked what the practical results of that legislative provision had been. Another question asked was whether the system provided for an equal sharing of responsibilities at the dissolution of a marriage, particularly as regards parental rights and duties.

103. Some experts expressed interest in the working of the judicial system, which dealt specifically with the problem of financial provisions for children, asking whether the problem of compelling the divorced husband to contribute to the support of his child had been solved.

104. Some members of the Committee asked about the position of single mothers and if they could initiate paternity procedures.

105. Concerning the nationality of the married woman, information was sought regarding provisions governing the acquisition or loss of nationality.

106. There was scant information in the report, some experts noted, regarding provisions of the Penal Code, and it was asked what provisions or regulations were in force regarding rape and prostitution and also whether there existed special rehabilitation programmes for women and what was the incidence of prostitution.

107. Regarding education, some experts noted that 60 per cent of the State expenditure on education was devoted to schooling and asked what was the overall amount of the education budget. They also requested additional information on the participation of women in higher institutions and, particularly, on the number or proportion of them holding executive or managerial offices.

108. In the field of employment, the experts noted the extent and importance of the participation of women in various economic sectors and commended the Soviet Union for the realizations achieved. A question was asked about the spheres and extent of the "considerable scope for further advancement of women to leading positions" referred to in the report and whether the Government was taking immediate steps in that regard, for instance, by granting preference to women over men when they had the same qualifications.

109. Regarding the principle of equal pay for equal work, several experts inquired whether such a right was implemented in practice even when it was embodied in labour law. Taking into account the high number of women working in the fields of education, health care, social work and textiles, some experts wondered whether those figures did not reveal stereotype attitudes. In that respect, additional and comparative figures on the respective levels of wages of men and women were requested, particularly concerning the increases accorded to women working in the textile sector.

110. Concerning the special and favourable status granted to working women regarding their working conditions and their social security advantages, some experts asked whether such privileges could not impair equality.

111. Concerning protective labour legislation, it would be helpful to the Committee to receive more information, together with copies of the relevant laws, since it was said that certain professions were considered harmful to women.

112. Replying to the questions, the representative of the State party noted that the Soviet Union placed a high value on the political significance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which dealt with the vital interests of women throughout the world, with their equality in all spheres of social activity and within the family.

113. As requested, she informed the members of the Committee that the Constitution of the Soviet Union fully reflected the requirements of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Many of the Convention's provisions were developed and given detailed interpretation by other legislative instruments passed in the Soviet Union, such as the Fundamentals of Labour, Public Health, and Public Education Legislation in the USSR and the Union Republics, as well as the Law on Elections to the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, Fundamentals of Marriage and Family Legislation in the USSR and the Union Republics, the Law on Citizenship of the USSR and other legislation. She assured the Committee that Soviet legislation relating directly to women was comprehensive and at the same time specific.

114. Special guarantees of equality which women enjoyed in the Soviet Union were contained in article 35 of the Constitution. Women were guaranteed equal rights to education and vocational training, employment, remuneration for employment, and promotion in all social, political, economic and cultural activities. She pointed out that in the Soviet Union the principle of equal pay for equal work was vigilantly observed and that there was no discrimination as regards remuneration. Wage scales were fixed and the trade unions participated in the determination of wages and conditions of work. There was a listing of occupations harmful or dangerous to women's health where employment was forbidden. In that respect, the USSR State Committee on Labour and Social Affairs adopted appropriate regulations in collaboration with the USSR Health Ministry with regard to women's employment to

these occupations. There were 32 professions in agriculture and industry where those new standards had been introduced. Specific measures had been adopted to protect the jobs and health of women and to enable women to combine work with motherhood.

115. With reference to social security, she explained the pension provisions for married and widowed women. Regarding marriage, she explained that the minimum age for marriage for a woman was 18, but that under very exceptional circumstances the court could lower it to 16. When a husband failed to fulfil his parental obligations, the Criminal Code established different measures of penalties. The sharing of household tasks was left entirely to the couple to solve in a friendly manner. There was also flexibility as to whether the children took the surname of the father or of the mother if the marriage was dissolved. In no agreement was possible, the Family Court would decide. The same applied to the domicile of children. Both mother and father had the same rights and duties. Paid leave for caring for a sick child was given to men and women alike. However, only the mother was given paid maternity leave and partially paid leave to take care of a child for up to one year. The Marriage and Family Code stipulated that adult men or women could adopt children. If the parties concerned were married, the consent of both partners was required.

116. When a marriage was dissolved, the Marriage and Family Code stipulated that both the mother and the father retained equal rights and obligations in connection with the raising of children. If no agreement could be reached on custody, the court that had ruled on the dissolution of the marriage determined which parent had custody of the children. Concerning paternity, the same Code stipulated that, in the absence of any joint statement on the paternity of a child born out of wedlock, paternity was determined by the court.

117. There was no prostitution in the USSR and rape was severely punished. The latter carried a penalty of imprisonment of up to 10 years in cases of physical violence or threat of murder. Rape of minors or gang rape was punished with 8 to 15 years' imprisonment.

118. There was a clear and upward trend in the employment of women at the highest levels although no women are members of the Politburo at the present. There were, however, 487 women in the Soviet Presidium or 33 per cent of the total, and membership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party was by election at the Party Congress. An even larger percentage (47 per cent) of women members could be found in the Supreme Soviets of Union and autonomous republics and in the local Soviets of People's Deputies. Four thousand two hundred and four women have been elected to serve as judges in People's Courts, whereas among court assessors over one half were women. More than half a million women were factory and state farm directors, managers of building sites and collective farms and heads of government departments. There were two women on the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and nine women held ministerial positions. Many of the deputy-ministers and chairmen of State committees were women. There were 106,000 women as either directors or deputy directors of secondary schools. Although women were not conscripted for military service, they were employed by the Ministry of Defence in hospital services attached to the military and in other social positions. The representative of the State party explained that secretaries of party organizations were elected political leaders and that 27 per cent of them were women.

119. Clarification was provided regarding women's involvement in the shaping of foreign policy, as well as in peace and disarmament efforts. Soviet women were making a major effort to promote peace in the world. Labour collectives played an important role in policy formulation. Many activities such as the holding of rallies were financed through the Soviet Peace Fund which relied on voluntary contributions from citizens. Women were included in delegations to foreign countries and often were the heads of those delegations. As to a woman becoming Head of State, that eventuality depended not only on the educational background and personal ability of the person, but also on the specific outstanding qualities which would enable that person to carry out the varied obligations which the people expected of a leader.

120. Soviet women also had an organization of their own: the Committee of Soviet Women. The Committee actively co-operated with the Permanent Commission of Deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the Problems of Life and Labour of Women and the Protection of Mother and Child and with women's commissions in the trade unions. The commissions have the right to originate legislative measures provided for in the Constitution of the USSR and participate in work on draft legislation concerning further improvements in the status of women. Regarding the purpose and functions of the Permanent Commission, she explained that it had been decided that all matters relating to women should be dealt with by the Permanent Commission. The membership of the Permanent Commission was determined by the Supreme Soviet and comprised both women and men. It could review the activities at the local level, require the submission of reports and make recommendations on matters concerning women and children. Similar commissions had also been established in all the Union and autonomous republics as well as at the local level. Members of the Permanent Commission were deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, at the Supreme Soviets of the Union and autonomous republics and of the local Soviets.

121. The Committee thanked the representative of the State party for her thorough reply. Some experts stated that the USSR fully implemented the provisions of the Convention and that the Soviet women played a very important role in the life of their people. It was recognized that there were some questions which, for lack of time, had been impossible to answer.

122. Some experts recommended drawing the attention of States parties to the desirability of using the positive experiences referred to in the above-mentioned report in order to make further progress in eliminating discrimination against women, not only de jure, but also de facto.

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

123. The Committee considered the initial report of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (CEDAW/C/5/Add.5) at its 15th and 21st meetings, held on 4 and 10 August 1983 (CEDAW/C/SR.15 and 21).

124. The report was introduced by the representative of the State party who said, in particular, that the ratification of the Convention by her country had been a normal event and one which reflected the fact that women enjoyed broad rights in all areas of political, economic, social and cultural life, and that concern for improving the status of women was a part of the State's policy. The principle of equality of women was proclaimed and guaranteed, first and foremost, in the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Republic and was consistently implemented

through the entire system of current legislation, which, in many respects, went further than the provisions of the Convention.

125. In that connection, the representative dwelled in particular on one of the principal achievements of socialism - the guaranteed right to work, which was in fact a necessary condition for the equality of women in society and the family. Women accounted for 53 per cent of the total number of industrial and office workers in the national economy. Among specialists with higher education, women represented 53.9 per cent and, among those with secondary special education, 64.5 per cent. In the light of the physiological and psychological characteristics of the female organism, Soviet legislation, in accordance with article 160 of the Labour Code, prohibited the employment of women in strenuous jobs, work underground and work involving conditions harmful to them. Maximum norms for the carrying and movement of heavy objects have been established for women in production. The dismissal from work of pregnant women, nursing mothers and women with children of up to one year of age was prohibited. Under the Supreme Soviet of the Byelorussian SSR, the Minsk City Soviet and the regional soviets of the people's deputies, permanent commissions have been set up to deal with labour questions, social welfare of women and maternal and child welfare.

126. As of 1 January 1983, women represented 53 per cent of the total population of the Republic. The predominance in the number of women over men was one of the remaining tangible consequences of the losses inflicted during the Second World War, in the course of which one out of every four of its inhabitants had perished. The women of the Byelorussian SSR were deeply concerned over the seriously increased threat of a new war and were intensifying their commitment to the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security. They had taken part in the Stockholm-Moscow-Minsk Peace March in July 1982 and in the preparation and implementation of other mass events for the preservation of an enduring peace on our planet and against the threat of nuclear war. Those initiatives by Byelorussian women were fully consonant with the corresponding provisions of the Convention.

127. The Committee expressed gratitude to the representative of the State party for her report.

128. A number of Committee members noted the considerable achievements of the Byelorussian SSR in ensuring broad rights for women in all areas of political, economic, social and cultural life.

129. A few members of the Committee remarked that there seemed to exist a relation between that report and that of the USSR. The latter contained statistics which covered those in the former. Although the two reports did not follow the same methodology or structure, they did seem to complement each other, and the experts requested a clarification.

130. Most of the members of the Committee agreed that the report was brief and succinct. They stressed, however, that it should have contained more statistics, that appropriate legislation should have been included, particularly as regards article 16, and that more basic general information regarding the country, its Government and court systems should have been provided to assist the Committee in its consideration. They were interested in actual, factual and comparative data.

131. Some experts were of the opinion that reference to the Convention was not perceptible enough in the report. They asked whether sanctions and remedies were provided by law in case of a violation of constitutional or legislative provisions embodying the principles of equality and discrimination. The experts requested information on any cases brought before the courts.

132. As to women's participation in promoting peace and security, one member asked what had been the role of the Byelorussian SSR women in the Stockholm-Moscow-Minsk Peace March, and another member asked whether women were involved in the industrial production of weapons, in the scientific research of nuclear and similar military applications, and what was the position of women in the armed forces.

133. Regarding the participation of women in the political life of the country, experts noted with satisfaction that women had the same political rights as men. However, more information was requested on the number of women in high-level political and administrative bodies; for example, how many were placed in high judicial positions, how many of the 5 million women in the country were members of the Communist Party, how many had the power of decision-making, and what role women played in the State Government. In that connection, it was pointed out that it would be helpful to hear what legislation women representatives had introduced and promoted.

134. Some experts noted the high proportion of women in the national economy and requested additional information in order to compare the situation with regard to men. They felt also that data were needed about those areas where women were predominant.

135. A question was asked as to how the principle of equal pay for equal work was applied; also, regarding labour patterns, since women seemed to be in the majority in certain sectors, comparative figures would be required by sex in all employment areas in order to have a more balanced idea on wage patterns and occupational indicators. There seemed to be a tendency, noted in other countries as well, to place women in what were called typical female jobs and there seemed to be no information on the Government's policy to correct that pattern or to encourage change. Referring to the provision of paid leave for training purposes, experts asked whether that possibility was also extended to men. Regarding additional maternity leave provided for working mothers, one expert said that in her country certain categories of women did not avail themselves of the possibility in order not to delay their professional careers for too long and asked whether there were studies on that question in the Byelorussian SSR and what percentage took advantage of such leave. Concerning protective labour legislation, the experts requested details on the reported prohibition of work involving hard or harmful conditions, on the limits set and the areas involved.

136. A clarification was requested on the meaning of the term "spiritual production", and if there were other occupations besides farmers and workers. There was also no information in the report regarding appeals or recourse procedures for women who felt discriminated against and on the sanctions imposed in such cases. One expert asked what was the relevance of the reduction of the working week to women specifically.

137. The experts were impressed by the realizations of the Byelorussian SSR in the field of education which seemed to be a primary concern of the country. However, more data were required on the position of girls and women in the institutions of

learning as students as well as educators. Also, information was requested on access of women to vocational training.

138. The report seemed to indicate that the Government supported a natalist policy by providing awards and benefits to families with large numbers of children. That could be construed as discriminatory to women or families with few or no children at all. It was also queried whether official support for population increase was to compensate for the great losses incurred during the Second World War, in which case it should be assumed that there was no need for it any more. Several members of the Committee noted that the child-care leave was granted only to women, which still reflected the belief and practice that mothers were still primarily involved with the responsibility of caring for children. Information was requested as to whether child-care leave extended to fathers as well.

139. Some experts remarked that no information was given regarding family relations, provisions governing equality between the sexes at home and the responsibilities of fathers in carrying out household work. Furthermore, no mention was made of legal aspects, such as the right of a woman to transmit her family name to her children. Also, it was asked if women could initiate paternity suits. They noted that no information was available regarding rape, prostitution and rehabilitation programmes.

140. In her reply, the representative of the Byelorussian SSR described in detail the prevailing system in her country. The Byelorussian SSR was one of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union; it had its own political and socio-economic structures. However, representatives of the Byelorussian SSR did participate in the higher bodies of the USSR in order to take part in decision-making affecting the country. Women were reported to participate quite actively in political and judicial bodies. In the Supreme Soviet, 37.1 per cent of the deputies were women and in the local political bodies, 49 per cent. Furthermore, women comprised 25 per cent of the judiciary.

141. Regarding the involvement of women in matters related to peace and in the armed forces, women were involved in peace-related activities such as participation in the Stockholm-Moscow-Minsk Peace March and worked in support of the constructive position of the Government in that area. Women were not subject to compulsory military service, although women with a medical qualification were registered and, whenever necessary, might be employed as medical personnel in the armed forces.

142. Equal pay for equal work was enforced regardless of sex, age, race or nationality and the employment rate for women was high in general. Women were found in all areas of occupation, except for those considered as harmful for future motherhood, such as those which involved carrying heavy loads or working underground in mines or in certain chemical factories. Women occupied high-level posts in various fields, but had a preference for working in the electrical industry, precision machine building and tailoring. They were active in trade unions, where 46.2 per cent of the leading posts were occupied by women. Retraining was an important component of work-related activities and was considered especially useful for mothers returning to work after periods of maternity leave.

143. The importance of the role of women in non-production areas such as teaching, health, commerce, food, etc., reflected deliberate choice rather than restrictions imposed on women. With regard to the question as to which sectors of industry were dominated by men and women respectively, she specified that in her country industry

comprised more than 100 different sectors in which both men and women worked. It was, nevertheless, true that women preferred to work in light industry, the fashion industry, precision engineering, etc. They represented more than half the labour force in mechanical engineering. There were more men in jobs requiring greater physical stamina.

144. Concerning the question of assistance to mothers, the representative of the Byelorussian SSR informed the Committee that additional training and acquisition of additional professions directly at the place of work which is largely practised in the Republic is particularly useful for mothers returning to work after being on a maternity leave and women who, for some other reasons, had to interrupt their professional activities. Motherhood is considered in the Republic to be one of the most important social functions and, by providing different benefits to mothers of large families, the Government pursues an objective of ensuring equal life conditions and improving them for all children from the very first year of their life. The intention, at the same time, is to promote an increase in the birth rate since the rate of natural growth of population in the Republic is less than 1 per cent. Apart from maternity leave, women are entitled to a partially paid one year leave financed from state social funds. Single mothers have the right to maternity grants, as well as the total amount of other state allowances. The question of providing a partially paid paternal leave in each separate case is considered individually. The Presidium of the Byelorussian Trade Union Council is a competent body to resolve the matter positively, allowing for some special circumstances (mother's death at the delivery of child, etc.).

145. Regarding the question as to the meaning of the term "spiritual production", the representative of the State party explained that the term referred to the accumulation of the enormous spiritual resources of the Republic through improvements in education and the raising of the consciousness of the entire population, so that, by coupling the knowledge acquired with active work a new world of socialist relationships might be created.

146. Replying to questions on remedies available to victims of discrimination, she said that the country's legislation protected all citizens against all forms of discrimination and especially discrimination on the basis of sex. Every citizen had the right to initiate proceedings before courts, administrative organs, trade union organizations and other public organizations if their rights were violated.

147. According to available statistics, women accounted for 55 per cent of the student population, 45 per cent of the students in technical and industrial institutions, 36 per cent of the students in agricultural schools, 78 per cent of the students in institutions for economic studies, 71 per cent of the students in teacher-training institutions and 59 per cent of the students in medicine and the humanities. There were also vocational guidance services which directed young women to one of the 223 industrial trade schools at which more than 300 subjects were taught. Women comprised 30 per cent of the students in such institutions.

148. In responding to questions on family and marriage relations, the representative stated that the family was under the protection of the State, with spouses having equal rights to ownership of property and rights and duties as regards children. Either spouse could retain his or her original name at marriage and children could take the name of either parent depending on the agreement of the parents. Adoption was available to all with the exception of those who, for some reasons, were deprived of parental rights. Rape was a criminal offence; cases were considered in closed session of the court and decisions were made public.

149. The representative of the Byelorussian SSR also pointed out that, despite the fact that about 100,000 flats are being built in the Republic annually, the housing problem is not yet fully solved. That was why the Government had adopted a decree on preferential rights of young families to receive housing on a priority basis. The Government is now implementing plans aimed at expanding housing construction for newly married couples and promotion, at the enterprise level, of the practice of giving material grants to young families and partial repayment of their credits for individual and co-operative construction.

150. The representative of the State party assured the members of the Committee that their interesting and varied questions and comments would be brought to the attention of the competent agencies and organizations of the Byelorussian SSR in order that they might be considered in the next report.

151. Some experts recommended drawing the attention of States parties to the desirability of using the positive experiences referred to in the above-mentioned report in order to make further progress in eliminating discrimination against women, not only de jure, but also de facto.

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

152. The Committee considered the initial report of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (CEDAW/C/5/Add.11) at its 16th and 21st meetings, held on 5 and 10 August 1983 (CEDAW/C/SR.16 and 21).

153. The report was introduced by the representative of the State party who underlined that the Ukrainian SSR, a sovereign Soviet socialist State associated with other Soviet republics in the USSR, had its own Constitution, which took into account the specific features of the Republic. According to article 74 of the USSR Constitution and article 71 of the Ukrainian Constitution, the laws of the USSR applied in the territory of the Ukrainian SSR; however, the Republic enacted its own legislation based on the principles contained in the Constitution of the USSR.

154. As a result of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the principle of equality of the sexes had come to be applied for the first time in history and had become an integral part of the policy of the State.

155. The principle of equality of the sexes was expressly laid down in the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR and was guaranteed by a broad spectrum of legislative, economic and social measures. The policies of both the Party and the Government for the advancement of women had been further developed since the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, which had adopted a social development programme for 1981 to 1985 and for the period ending in 1990, with a view to establishing favourable conditions for women to combine their work more completely with social and political activity and with motherhood. The legislation of the Republic had been altered to reflect that problem. In particular, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, by its decree of 24 January 1983, had introduced amendments and additions to the Labour Code.

156. The law adopted by the Supreme Soviet of the USSR concerning work co-operatives and their roles in the administration of enterprise institutions and bodies directly influenced the application of the principle of equality between the sexes by, inter alia, entrusting the co-operatives with the task of formulating and implementing measures designed to improve the working conditions of women workers and to increase protection for mothers and children.

157. The observance of legislation to protect women in matters relating to work, social life and motherhood was monitored by the Standing Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR and similar committees at the regional level. The Standing Commission was empowered to sponsor legislative proposals concerning health, culture and social life. It also investigated the working conditions of women in various industrial sectors and formulated appropriate recommendations.

158. The representative of the State party was commended both on her presentation and on the organization of the report. Members were impressed with the measures taken to implement the Convention and with the details on legislative measures given in the report. Similarities between the Ukrainian SSR and the USSR reports were noted by some experts and they were attributed to the similarities of the social, political and economic systems.

159. It was observed that there was a definite emphasis placed on motherhood, its protection and emulation as reflected in references to the honorary title of "Mother Heroine", the order of "Glory of Motherhood" and the maternity medals, first and second class. Clarification was sought about the basis for the granting of such awards.

160. Regarding article 2 of the Convention, the experts asked in what ways constitutional guarantees were implemented and if the Convention could be referred to in the courts. They were also interested to know if women were informed about their rights, what were the remedies available for women who were victims of discrimination, whether such cases had been brought before the courts and whether legal aid was provided. In that connection, the experts noted that there had been a special committee on the problems of women and children since 1976 and asked if it had been inspired by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City in 1975, or had anything to do with the United Nations Decade for Women. They wished to know whether the special committee could make recommendations and, if so, to which body, and, if women could make a complaint to it and what, if any, were the remedies provided.

161. Noting the mention in the report of the task of eliminating all prejudices (article 5), the experts wished to know if all prejudices and stereotyped attitudes had disappeared from Ukrainian society and, if not, what measures were being taken to that end, particularly regarding customs based on the idea of superiority of one of the sexes. Regarding matters covered by article 16 of the Convention, the experts were interested in knowing what were the "customs of the past" referred to in the reports, and to what extent it was expected that the law could really achieve their eradication. They also asked for examples of such customs.

162. Regarding the participation of women in political life and in the decision-making process (article 7), the experts requested examples of legislative initiatives taken by women in such bodies. Since the report stated that Ukrainian women represented their country in international forums as well as in the United Nations system, statistics on numbers, proportions and levels of those women were also requested.

163. The experts noted the detailed information given in the report about the acquisition and loss of nationality (article 9) and asked whether a choice was given to the spouses in case one of them wanted to acquire the nationality of the other. Noting that the nationality of a child was to be determined by agreement between the parents, the experts wished to know what happened if no agreement could be reached.

164. Several members were also satisfied that the Government had tried to eradicate "harmful relics and customs" from the past, as well as prostitution, and it was asked what those customs were and how they, including prostitution, were being eliminated.

165. The experts said that they were impressed by the achievements of the Ukrainian SSR in the field of education and asked if education before school age was of a sexist nature. Commenting on the system of scholarships given to students, their access to specialized schools and institutes of higher education, some experts asked for clarification as they felt that the provisions might be in contradiction to the stated principle of equal access to education.

166. Noting that public education was free, some experts requested clarification regarding the "total State support" mentioned in the report and asked what criterion of selection was applied. The experts also wished to know to what extent women had access to higher learning, if they used the system of evening classes and correspondence courses, and what was the number of women working in the education sector and their level.

167. Various experts wished to know what were the rules governing the validity of marriage (article 16, 1 (b)), as the report, while stipulating mutual consent, also referred to "other conditions". Also they inquired about the reasons for the provision of different minimum ages of marriage for men and women and inquired regarding the choice of family name. The experts asked what were the rights and duties of parents after divorce and how the upbringing of children was organized in cases of dissolution of marriage.

168. Additional information was requested on the situation of children born out of wedlock or born in common law unions and whether adoption by a single person - man or women - was possible.

169. The report contained several references to marriage or counselling centres, but it did not say, as one expert remarked, whether there were family-planning centres. It was asked whether spouses had access to contraception and free abortion and if they had a free choice in the spacing and number of their children. In order to have an idea of the general implications of laws pertaining to family and motherhood, the Committee requested population indicators to facilitate its consideration of the report.

170. Several experts said that additional clarification about the status of property and the question of inheritance was needed. They asked for information on how spouses could dispose of common property and whether inherited goods became part of the common property. Since divorce could take place by mutual consent and also by decision of the court, they wondered under what circumstances the court intervened. Several experts remarked that mothers were given many privileges and advantages even when adopting a child, but it was not mentioned what rights were extended to couples living together, but not legally married. It also seemed that both persons in a marriage had the right to choose residence but it was not specified what that meant exactly.

171. Considering the achievements of the Ukrainian SSR in the matters covered by article 11, 2 (c) of the Convention, some experts commented that the tendency to stress the need to "create favourable conditions enabling women to combine motherhood and work" might prevent the eradication of stereotyped attitudes. They

asked if the same emphasis was put on fatherhood and wondered if there was not a certain ambiguity in the main policy on that problem.

172. The experts were very interested in the facilities given to young workers to study and work at the same time and wished to know how many women continued their studies and to what level. The experts also asked whether the provisions concerning maternity leave also applied to men and under what conditions.

173. Considering the provisions of article 38 of the Ukrainian SSR Constitution about the right to guaranteed employment at a salary "commensurate with the quantity and quality of labour", some experts asked if it referred to the principle of equal pay for equal work.

174. It was asked how the trial period mentioned in the report applied to working women, whether it also applied to men under the same conditions and what were the consequences of failing, especially since the report stated that there was no unemployment in the country. In that connection, provisions were needed regarding the conditions of workers - men and women - under fixed-term contracts.

175. The experts noted the legislation which provided a solid framework of protection for pregnant women and nursing mothers and observed that there was no indication in the report of what sanctions were imposed on delinquent enterprises. It was noted that there were different allocations of days of rest and vacations for different types of occupations and voluntary work, such as the militia, and information was requested on the types of occupation that warranted such differential treatment. It was asked if that could be interpreted as a privilege granted to certain activities. Clarification was also sought as to whether there were only women in the voluntary corps of the militia.

176. Concerning the system of pensions (article 11, 1 (e)), some experts asked what was the reason for the differences in ages for the allocation of pensions to blind workers in different sectors of the economy. They also asked if there was a pension for widows, and additional information was requested on the pensions given to mothers of many children.

177. The experts felt that more statistical information was needed about the types of occupation held by women and in what fields of industry they worked, as well as what was the number of women managers. Some experts asked what was the situation of women involved in creative work and whether they received the same advantages.

178. Noting that mothers of young children could not be requested to travel, some experts asked whether other working women were asked to do so and what happened if they refused.

179. Information was also requested regarding the prohibition of night work and work in hard or dangerous conditions and about professions which were closed to women. The experts also wished to know what were the exact functions of the State Labour Committee.

180. Several experts, although impressed by the various benefits provided by the laws of the Ukrainian SSR, wondered if there was not an over-protection of women which could possibly lead to discrimination.

181. The representative of the Ukrainian SSR reiterated that the reason her country had enacted its labour and social security legislation was that the function of motherhood should not interfere with the professional or occupational life of women. The upbringing of children was the joint responsibility of both parents even after the marriage had been dissolved. The Family Court, on the other hand, decided on matters on which parents could not reach an agreement, which could include domicile, custody and visiting rights. The same applied for couples not legally married, whose children had the same rights as those born in wedlock. The provisions of Soviet law and the coverage of social guarantees in areas where they had a direct bearing on the performance of childbearing-related functions applied equally to women and men.

182. As regards the granting of awards for motherhood, the representative stated that statistics showed that most families averaged only one or two children. Nevertheless, as a result of the Government's family protection policy, a trend towards more families with three children was observed. The honour of "Mother Heroine" was awarded by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR to mothers of 10 children, all of whom were still living when the last-born celebrated its first birthday. The motherhood medal was awarded to mothers of five children or more.

183. The age at which women could marry was set at 17 for biological, social and historical reasons: women generally matured earlier than men, secondary schooling ended at age 17 and Ukrainian women had traditionally been able to marry at 16 years of age. Marriage was subject to no conditions other than the minimum age and the consent of the spouses. However, article 17 of the Code laid down certain prohibitions: marriage was forbidden if one of the future spouses was already married, if the future spouses were related, whether directly, collaterally or through adoption, or if one of the spouses was recognized to be incapacitated for marriage owing to disease or mental deficiency.

184. Replying to a question regarding the effect of marriage on the names of the spouses and of the children, the representative referred to article 19 of the Code on marriage and the family according to which the spouses, at the time of marriage, could choose either to use the name of one spouse, or to retain their own names, or to add the name of the other spouse to their own name. As to children, article 62 of the same Code provided that children should have the name of their parents or the name of one of them if the parents had different names. In the latter case, if the parents could not agree on the name to be given to the child, it was for the guardianship body to decide. Dissolution of marriage did not give rise to any change in the names of the children. However, if after the dissolution of the marriage, the parent who had custody of the children wished to give them his name and they had the name of the other parent, the guardianship body could authorize the change of name with the agreement of the other parent.

185. The Constitution and the entire legislation of the Ukrainian SSR considered men and women as equal under the law.

186. The establishment of the Standing Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR on Women's Life and Labour and the Protection of Mother and Child in 1976 is linked to the Republic's compliance with the decisions adopted on the occasion of the United Nations Decade for Women. The Commission had been invested with broad powers, including the right to veto the activities of the ministries and departments for compliance with the existing legislation on women's rights. In

addition, it examined complaints and claims by individual women and took the necessary steps to satisfy their legitimate demands.

187. Women were informed of their rights by various organs of the national and local press. Conferences were organized and brochures were circulated and women with special problems could have free legal aid.

188. With regard to article 6 of the Convention, the representative stated that prostitution did not exist because the social cause of that problem had been eliminated. As a preventive measure, the Penal Code provided penalties for prostitution and pimping.

189. Property acquired during marriage was considered joint property, as was remuneration. However, goods brought into the marriage either by inheritance or by gift were kept by the owner. Royalties on copyright were considered as salary earned.

190. With regard to article 15 of the Convention, the representative said that under the Constitution, the Civil Code and the Marriage and Family Code, Soviet citizens were free to choose their place of residence, and the parents chose for children under the age of 15. Married couples chose their home by mutual agreement. Men and women of the Ukrainian SSR were free to leave the country and permission was granted in accordance with the legislation in force.

191. A single person could adopt a child. The laws pertaining to citizenship were the same for both sexes and dissolution of marriage did not affect that right. Abortion was free and the decision to abort depended exclusively on the spouses. It was performed in clinics, where women were also given birth control counselling and information.

192. Replying to a question concerning divorce, she said that under article 40 of the Code on Marriage and the Family, divorce could not be declared in the absence of the consent of the spouses, unless the continuation of life together and the maintenance of the family unit were impossible. In order to be sure, the court, before declaring a divorce, set a period of reconciliation which might last up to six months.

193. The rights of women in the matter of nationality were set forth in the Law of 1 December 1978 on USSR nationality. Under Soviet and Ukrainian legislation, women enjoyed the same rights as men with regard to nationality. An alien spouse wishing to acquire Soviet nationality must submit an application to that effect, pursuant to article 15 of the Law on Nationality. In the consideration of such an application, no account was taken of the race, belief, national origin or sex of the person concerned. When parents of whom one had Soviet nationality and who were both domiciled outside the territory of the Soviet Union could not agree on the nationality of a child, the question was settled in accordance with the agreements in force between the Soviet Union and the country concerned.

194. Fifty-two per cent of all workers were women. There had been a substantial increase in women's participation in the specialized technical fields where 58 per cent of women held managerial positions; 34 per cent of all engineers were women as were 35 per cent of agronomists; 71 per cent of economists were women; 62 per cent of doctors and 73 per cent of teachers, librarians and workers in related fields were women; 35.7 per cent of directors of eight-year schools were women and 34.4 per cent in secondary schools.

195. Education was free and scholarships with stipends were granted to students who received the highest marks. Financial assistance was also given to those who needed such assistance. The system of education included pre-school, mandatory general secondary, out-of-school, technical vocational, special secondary and higher education. The two sexes attended class together, and all persons had the same access to education. Concerning the access of women to higher learning, the representative stated that 700 women held doctorates, 400 were members of the Academy and 15,500 were pursuing studies leading to a university degree. In 1959, out of every 1,000 women, 18 had completed advanced studies and 32 had secondary studies; in 1979, 20 years later, 58 of every 1,000 women had completed advanced studies and 524 had completed their secondary studies. In accordance with article 211 of the Labour Code, men and women working in the field of education were entitled to additional paid leave to sit for examinations. Under article 209 of the same Code, during the school year they were given lighter schedules or periods of leave during which they received up to 50 per cent of the average wage and in no case less than the minimum wage.

196. Concerning women's participation in the political life of the country, there were 234 elected women deputies, which represented 35.9 per cent of the total deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR, a deputy chairman in the Presidium and another in the Council of Ministers. Two women headed the Social Security Ministry and the State Committee on Natural Preservation (Environment) and many women were vice-ministers in other ministries. Ukrainian women participated in large numbers in the work of international bodies, in which they were widely represented. Nevertheless, despite the requests of the Government, there were still too few of them in the United Nations Secretariat.

197. As to labour practice, the trial period mentioned in the report referred to both men and women. Labour disputes could be looked at by People's Courts but were mostly dealt with by trade unions. By law, it was forbidden not to hire either a pregnant woman or a nursing mother and recourse could be sought through the trade union or the courts.

198. The principles of work ethics in the country were: each according to his or her abilities and to each according to his or her work. Pay scales were set up in conjunction with trade unions. Harmful work from which women were barred included underground mining, steel welding and work in hardship places as in the north of the country. Additional leave was extended to men who worked in those sectors, as well as to men and women who worked irregular hours and had a long record of service or who engaged in voluntary work in social order committees. In addition, pregnant women or nursing mothers could not do night work or overtime. Women were not conscripted into the armed forces, and the number of female volunteers who were assigned to technical positions, to the commissariat or to work as mechanics, was insignificant.

199. Some experts recommended drawing the attention of States parties to the desirability of using the positive experiences referred to in the above-mentioned report in order to make further progress in eliminating discrimination against women, not only de jure, but also de facto.

Sweden

200. The Committee considered the initial report of Sweden (CEDAW/C/5/Add.8) at its 18th and 19th meetings, held on 8 August 1983 (CEDAW/C/SR.18 and 19).

201. The report was introduced by the representative of the State party who stated that, at the time of ratification of the Convention, Sweden had fulfilled the undertakings implied by the articles, which were not specifically mentioned in the report.

202. In order to implement its policy for the promotion of sexual equality, the Swedish Government had made certain organizational reforms in 1983: a Minister with a special secretariat for that purpose in the Ministry of Labour had been made responsible for ensuring that the Government took account of sexual equality when it prepared policies, and a special body, made up of senior officials from all ministries, had been established to help her carry out her task. A Council on Equality Issues had been established to ensure contacts between the Government, the political parties represented in the Parliament, employers' and workers' organizations and women's associations. In addition, a Commission made up of politicians and social workers had been made responsible for research.

203. For the promotion of sexual equality, a National Plan of Action had been established containing a broad range of measures and recommendations aimed at strengthening equality in a number of fields such as education, employment, family policy and family law, housing and community planning, health and the social field.

204. The Committee on Equality referred to in the State party's report identified some methods that had been used to increase the representation of women in trade unions and political parties, using mass media and other means for the moulding of public opinion. Sweden attached particular importance to equality of the sexes in its international co-operation activities.

205. The representative of the State party was commended for her introduction of, as well as for, the report, focusing in particular on the problems of implementation with regard to each article of the Convention. Some experts stated that Sweden had almost fully realized the aspirations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Several experts made reference to education programmes, to the creation of the Ombudsman and to the consideration being given to immigrant women.

206. Some members of the Committee remarked on the organizational reforms carried out by the Swedish Government to promote equality of the sexes, the entry into force of the Act concerning Equality between Women and Men at Work and the establishment of an Equal Opportunities Commission whose first task was to consider complaints submitted to it by the Ombudsman with a view to summoning employers to appear or to be fined.

207. Nevertheless, the Committee was of the view that the report lacked pertinent information regarding legislation and empirical data referring to employment indicators, demographic policy and women's participation in the political, economic and social life of the country (articles 7, 8 and 14 of the Convention). The reference made in the report to previous answers given to other United Nations organs was not very enlightening. Some experts also noted that, in the field of education, Sweden had taken unusual and notable steps to promote the equality of women and to avoid occupational segregation.

208. The percentage of women in positions of managerial and judicial responsibility as well as the statistics presented on unemployment in Sweden led some experts to the conclusion that the Equal Opportunities Act was not observed in practice and that women were victims of discrimination in Sweden.

209. Several members regretted that the annexes referred to in the report were not available and requested the representative to furnish them.

210. Clarification was requested on the statement made in the report to the effect that the Convention should not have been confined to discrimination against women, but that instead it should have been given a wider approach in terms of sexual discrimination. It was asked whether men were discriminated against in Sweden.

211. Additional information was also requested on the role of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Equal Opportunities Commission and as to how it was organized. It was of interest to the members to know how the Equal Opportunities (State Employment) Ordinance of 1 July 1980 had come into being, how it was implemented and what results had been achieved since its promulgation.

212. A question was asked at what point pregnant women could leave their work and whether social services were available for parents to share the child-raising duties.

213. Furthermore, the Committee was eager to learn the areas where women's organizations or non-governmental organizations were active in the country and what part they played in the promotion of equal rights. Some experts were under the impression that the status of women had been improved more as a result of government action than of women themselves.

214. They inquired as to whether women participated in promoting new legislation and what was the percentage of women deputies.

215. The experts were also interested to know whether the Government was taking any measures to reduce women's unemployment and asked for additional differential statistics. They also requested precision on whether the new system implemented in 1982-1983 was expected to lead to better results and on the effect of material incentives given to employers hiring women.

216. Another question referred to who was responsible for labour market training and who was paying for it.

217. The experts asked what was the significance of the problem of prostitution, and concern was expressed regarding the rehabilitation of prostitutes, as well as the working modalities of the Government's campaign against pornography under the Public Order Act. Information was requested on punitive measures with regard to rape and battering. Information was also requested on sexually discriminating advertising.

218. As the representative of Sweden had pointed out that some of the issues raised seemed to be linked to alcoholism and drug abuse, the Committee was of the opinion that more details should be given about specific measures implemented to remedy such trends and it wondered how unemployment among women was related to the problem referred to.

219. With reference to marriage and the family, some experts asked whether there was "marriage for a fixed period".

220. Although some experts welcomed the initiative of having women in penal institutions moved to regional centres closer to their home, they felt that might

mean there was an increase in women's criminality and clarification was requested in that regard. Also, it was not altogether clear whether that measure was also applicable to male prisoners. Some experts wished to know if there were special facilities for juvenile women inmates.

221. Several members of the Committee commended the special measures established for immigrant women workers and for the preservation of their cultural and national heritage and requested information on the specific programmes in that area.

222. The experts were interested to know the extent to which the new Names Act of 1982 was being used and if it had induced any change in behaviour. Details of conditions for adoption were also requested, particularly whether a single person could adopt a child and under what conditions. Additional information was required on the incidence of divorce and abortion and on whether there were special rehabilitation programmes for teenage mothers.

223. A question was asked about regional employment quotas and how they worked and were implemented and what was the rate of female representation in Government.

224. The Committee was interested to know whether there was equal pay for work of equal value in Sweden.

225. Given the fact that 10 per cent of the beneficiaries of parental leave were men, some experts asked what was the effect on their career development, including promotion.

226. Some experts also wondered if there were any negative reactions or effects resulting from the extensive social measures adopted and what was the extent of the support from public opinion.

227. Specific information was also requested on the participation of women in the cultural life of the country and in high-level scientific positions.

228. Because of the opening of the armed forces to women, it was also asked whether a woman in Sweden could become Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces.

229. In replying to the questions put to her, the representative of Sweden explained what was meant by the statement that the Convention should have been given a wider approach in terms of sexual discrimination. In this regard, the Swedish philosophy was that the concept of equality required a readiness to abolish all kinds of discrimination based on sex. It was true that women were the ones who were traditionally discriminated against, but some discrimination against men could also occur. For example, whereas widows received a pension, widowers were not eligible; military service was not compulsory for women while it was for men.

230. Elaborating on the role of the Ombudsman and the Equal Opportunities Commission, she explained that both were appointed by the Government. The Ombudsman was responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act on Equality between Women and Men at Work. If persuasion through negotiations with the employer in order to reach an agreement failed to bring about compliance by employers, the Ombudsman had recourse to other measures, such as referring discrimination disputes to the labour court. The Commission was chaired by a court lawyer who followed trends in the labour market and imposed fines when employers omitted to take the measures to promote equality suggested by the Ombudsman. So far, the aspirations

of the employers to take such active measures to promote equality has been met by voluntary means. The Ombudsman was increasingly consulted as people were becoming more aware of the existence of that facility. Most of the cases were brought against public employers. The investigations of the Commission were somewhat different and were intended to support certain programmes and actions aimed at providing equal access and opportunities, mainly in the field of employment.

231. In responding to another question, she said that women could take leave of up to 60 days prior to confinement. Furthermore, either parent was entitled to take up to 12 months of paid parental leave and could stay at home until the child was 18 months old. Either parent could work a six-hour day until the child was eight years of age. Parenthood education aimed at family planning was offered to both men and women. There were child-care facilities, but presently not enough places at the day-care centres. When a parent was staying at home looking after a child under three years of age, the time was eligible for pension based on gainful employment.

232. In response to a question on the role of women's organizations, she said that they had existed in the country since the last century and had always played a crucial role in bring about important changes.

233. In providing the requested data on unemployment, she stated that, in June 1983, 3.5 per cent of the work-force was unemployed, affecting 3.2 per cent of men and 3.9 per cent of women.

234. Training was undertaken at State expense through an organizational network and participants aged 20 and over received a stipend. Social security for the unemployed was provided through unemployment insurance. Regional quotas for employment were reserved for each sex and the labour market board dealt with that issue.

235. Regarding a question on marriage for a determined period, it was explained that there were no legal provisions for marriage contracts of a limited time.

236. As a result of the prohibition of public performances of a pornographic nature, live sex shows had been prohibited and sex clubs no longer existed. Instances of rape were addressed to the District Attorney who pursued the case.

237. The number of prisons for females in the country had been increased not in response to an increase in female criminals, but in order to permit women to be imprisoned in their home regions as men were. In fact, the proportion of prison inmates in the country comprised 98 per cent males as against only 2 per cent females, a proportion which had not significantly changed over the years.

238. As regards adoption, a single man or woman had the right to adopt a child.

239. Responding to the numerous requests with regard to political participation and high-level participation of women in Swedish life, the representative of Sweden presented figures indicating a relatively low level of female participation in positions such as, Under-Secretaries of State, directors-general, members of the Supreme Administrative Court, county governors, regional representatives and members of Parliament. However, an increase over the years had been evident. Women's representation in the Riksdag and the municipal councils had roughly doubled between 1971 and 1982, with women accounting for 47 per cent of the Stockholm Municipal Council.

240. Women in Sweden had been in relatively low paid occupations, although in the manufacturing sector women's salaries were now 90 per cent of those of men.

241. Child care provided by municipalities covered only 37 per cent of children in the 0-6 years age group, although the demand was for 51 per cent coverage.

242. As regards public opinion and the media, there were various differences in the utilization of television, radio, books, newspapers and so forth by men and women, indicating that because of the existing division of labour, women had less time for recreational activities.

243. With respect to women's participation in the armed forces, any occupation in that field would be open to women.

244. The representative of Sweden concluded by saying that any questions left unanswered would be taken up at a later date in future reports.

245. Some experts recommended drawing the attention of States parties to the desirability of using the positive experiences referred to in the above-mentioned report in order to make further progress in eliminating discrimination against women, not only de jure, but also de facto.

Cuba

246. The Committee considered the initial report of Cuba (CEDAW/C/5/Add.4) at its 20th and 23rd meeting, held on 9 and 11 August 1983 (CEDAW/C/SR.20 and 23).

247. In submitting her report to the Committee, the representative of Cuba referred to the economic, political and social situation, in order to give the experts a better understanding of her country's report.

248. She added that, in the few years of the revolutionary process, all types of discrimination before the law had been eliminated and equality of access to education and free health services had been achieved. There had been a massive inflow of women into the work-place, and women had come to benefit from many other facilities which had been virtually non-existent or had been enjoyed by a tiny minority of the population of the country. The process of transformation had had to be carried out in the face of an economic and political blockade and constant threats and aggressions perpetrated against the economy, which had affected and greatly impeded the battle against underdevelopment and the ultimate objective of achieving full participation of women in the development process being carried out.

249. Despite those achievements, she indicated that some old and deep-seated prejudices, which were difficult to eradicate, still persisted. Those prejudices were founded on attitudes shaped over the centuries, when the male sex had been looked upon as superior to the female sex - what was commonly known as "machismo".

250. She added that, although there was no discrimination against women, they were still poorly represented in policy-making and decision-making jobs. But women had made impressive gains in employment; in March 1983, women accounted for 35.7 per cent of employment in the civil service.

251. In the field of education, equal access was also guaranteed to women, and there had been constant efforts to reduce the numbers of girls kept out of school,

particularly in rural areas of the country. Good results had already been obtained in adult education, with women comprising 43.8 per cent of the students registered in those courses in 1980-1981.

252. The Cuban representative recalled that Cuba was the first country to sign the Convention, an instrument whose spirit was completely in conformity with its national legislation as well as with the wishes and desires of the Cuban Government and people.

253. The Committee expressed appreciation for the organization and structure of the report and particularly for the fact that it devoted to each article of the Convention relevant commentaries and information, including excerpts from legislation such as the Family Code, maternity protection and labour regulations. Experts commended the frankness with which the report was introduced, in particular the reference to difficulties encountered in implementing the Convention due to the problems of underdevelopment, the persistence of cultural inequality and the difference between the de jure and de facto situation.

254. Various clarifications were requested in the course of the Committee's consideration of the report. Noting that the Constitution explicitly guaranteed the equality of men and women, the experts were interested in knowing the extent of women's participation in the discussion and drafting of the Constitution.

255. With regard to article 2, experts asked whether the relevant provisions of the Convention could be invoked directly before the courts and enforced. They also wished to know what sanctions were applied in cases of discrimination and what was the machinery to deal with them.

256. With regard to efforts to abolish sex-stereotyping, it was asked whether co-education was the only means by which that could be achieved, what other policies were in existence and, in particular, those designed to remove age-old traditional perceptions and attitudes towards women, including "machismo", and what projects were being undertaken by the Federation of Cuban Women, the trade unions and the State in that regard.

257. Specific comments were directed to the Penal Code, where certain "indices of dangerousness" were outlined under what was described as a "state of danger". They included procuring, prostitution and the exploitation or exercise of socially reprehensible vices. The experts wished to know if, as was stated in the report, the problem of prostitution had been successfully resolved, or merely controlled and, in the latter event, what were the penalties established by the law. It was also wondered whether a prison term was imposed for procuring.

258. Commenting on women's participation in public life, data was requested regarding the proportion of women in Government, in the various ministries, as well as on their levels in the hierarchy, the composition of the municipal assemblies of popular power and the extent to which women participated in them as elected representatives.

259. More detailed information was requested on the role of the Federation of Cuban Women as a non-governmental organization, its power to initiate legislative reforms and the nature of its interaction with the Government. The experts also asked whether there were other women's groups and, if so, what were their status and power vis-à-vis the Federation and the Government.

260. More details were also requested on the involvement of women in the cause of peace at the national as well as the international levels.

261. Commenting on article 10 of the Convention, the Committee noted the achievements of the State party in education. It was gratified to hear that there was a clear majority of women entering institutions of higher learning, and it noted that, in order to fulfil the requirements, those chosen had to have the highest grades. In that regard, it was also noted that students who had a "correct integral attitude" could proceed to higher education although it was also stated in the report that everyone had the right to education. That seemed to indicate discrimination regarding opinions and convictions which was also noted in reference to article 13, since freedom in artistic creation was allowed provided that the artistic content was not contradictory to the Revolution. Information was also requested on the number of fellowships and grants given to women and how they were allocated.

262. It was pointed out that it would be helpful if women were given guidance as to choice of profession in order to avoid occupational segregation. The Committee also noted that there was a contradiction between the number of women in schools, which appeared to be higher than men, and the fact that there were many women who lacked adequate technical qualifications. Questions were also asked about the method employed in the campaign to bring housewives up to the ninth-grade level.

263. Regarding women's integration in the labour force, more detailed statistics were requested on the types and fields of occupation and levels at which women were employed and, especially, as to whether they occupied decision-making and managerial positions. Figures were requested on unemployment and underemployment, overtime, night work and any other exemptions. More details were requested about efforts made to facilitate the combination of responsibilities at home with work or professional responsibilities. In that connection, the experts wondered whether the plan for encouraging productive labour at home was a sound one since it would double women's burden there.

264. Since Cuban women were reported to carry out a number of tasks in relation to public health and education, many on a volunteer basis, it was asked how women managed to find time to be involved in all those activities. The experts also noted that, with respect to protective labour regulations, certain types of work were prohibited to women and asked what exactly those jobs were.

265. With respect to conditions of work, clarifications were requested with regard to the meaning of expressions which described women as "physically weaker" and warranting "some small privileges and some small inequalities in their favour". Regarding social security, information was requested on how the extensive social security system operating in the country was financed. It was also asked why the retirement age for women was 55 while for men it was 60 years.

266. The report showed that Cuba was making major efforts to protect family unity, but gave no information on the incidence of divorce and what happened, in case of separation, to family property, children, etc. Furthermore, it would be of interest to know in what circumstances abortion was available.

267. Regarding nutrition, clarifications were requested on what "collective feeding" meant and on the scope of distribution of dietary supplements to pregnant women.

268. The representative of Cuba, in answering the experts' questions, explained that there had been massive participation by women in the public discussion of the Constitution and that the Penal Code provided sanctions for the offence of discrimination and also contained provisions for invoking the Convention before the courts.

269. With respect to activities on behalf of peace, the trade union movement was particularly active whenever it perceived that the survival of the human species was threatened.

270. Membership in the Federation of Cuban Women was voluntary and, at present, over 2.5 million women over the age of 14, or approximately 82 per cent of the female population, were members. Those who were not members could, however, participate in the social and cultural activities of the Federation. The President of the Federation was a member of the Council of State and President of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Childhood, Youth and Equal Rights for Women, and it was through her that the problems and concerns of women were brought before the highest authorities of the country.

271. The number of women members was large in non-governmental organizations, trade unions, local popular power institutions, student organizations and in any other mass organization. It was through those different organizations that fundamental changes had been made in the national life of the country.

272. As part of the campaign to bring housewives up to the ninth-grade level of education, the Federation of Cuban Women had organized classes for the general public with advice from, and using the curriculum of, the Ministry of Education.

273. Regarding education, scholarships and other facilities were granted according to scholastic proficiency and there was no distinction between the sexes. "Correct integral attitude" referred to punctuality, academic achievement, discipline and neatness.

274. Stereotyped thinking was avoided from the earliest level at school through co-education and by paying attention to textbooks, avoiding segregation in sports and through the mass media. That purpose was also served by vocational guidance in the so-called "interest circles" which operated at all levels of the educational process. Although there was equal access to education at all levels, there were women who had not received the necessary training, a circumstance which could be explained by the fact that access to education was an achievement dating back only 20 years. Another factor that had to be taken into account was the drop-out rate.

275. Among the measures which had been taken to help girls choose non-traditional occupations there were "interest circles", which had been established for the purpose of identifying and developing children's aptitudes in order to guide them more effectively towards the kinds of education and occupations which suited them. Such circles functioned in all schools and within them students were offered classes related to the spheres of agriculture, industry, science, technology and the arts; they were organized in primary, secondary and pre-university schools and were among the optional activities open to students. The courses were taught by specialized personnel and their aim was to educate young people and, above all, to eliminate all forms of prejudice with respect to the choice of studies, careers and occupations.

276. Although it was impossible to indicate the percentage of those working in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs who were women, it could be stated that while as yet few women were ambassadors or occupied managerial posts, the number of women advisers and technical specialists in the Ministry had increased in recent years, as had the participation of women in international bodies concerned with matters not ordinarily dealt with by women.

277. Regarding the family, counselling was provided through the National Group on Sexual Education. The courts took all pertinent decisions in relation to divorce, child custody and property. Common property was divided between the spouses and the court also decided on the division of household goods, bearing in mind the interests of children.

278. Abortion was free and on request as long as it did not endanger the women's health. Also, the consent of the parents was required in the case of a minor girl in need of abortion.

279. Special maternity provisions existed, as stated in the report, and the dietary supplement for pregnant women consisted of milk and meat at a very low price, although the goods were available on the free market and at higher prices. The system of "collective feeding" described in the report referred to workers' canteens in factories and other places of work where workers could buy meals at low prices.

280. Prostitution had been eradicated through a long process of compulsory education, rehabilitation and social work. The Penal Code defined prostitution as a "state of danger" and provided specific sanctions in that regard not only for the prostitute but also for the procurer. The same was true of the sale of and public exposure to pornography and other socially deviant behaviour.

281. Some of the privileges accorded to women were based on their inherent biological differences. For that reason, a woman retired earlier than a man. However, men could also opt for early retirement if they were incapacitated by sickness or accident. The Law on Protection and Hygiene at Work indicated, for the same reason, tasks which could be harmful to women owing to their physical and biological make-up. The text of the law was not available, but the next report of Cuba would include details of the regulations envisaged in the law.

282. The Constitution guaranteed the right of all citizens to social security protection against old age, illness and accidents, and the social security legislation governed the implementation of that constitutional guarantee. The political rights of women were enshrined in the Constitution as stated in the report. Although statistics were not available, the Committee could rest assured that women held posts in the administrative and judicial branches of the Government. A great deal remained to be done in that connection, especially with regard to the presence of women in high-level posts.

283. The reference to freedom of artistic expression as long as the latter was not contrary to the Revolution had to be understood in its proper context, namely, that the Revolution had transformed the country from a colonial and neo-colonial stronghold to a place where human rights were observed. The Revolution had guaranteed the freedom and equality of all citizens and the right of all to employment, land, free education, medical care, social security, etc. Artistic expression could not be permitted to diverge from the principles of the Revolution,

nor could the interests of the population as a whole be compromised by the interests of an individual.

284. The representative of Cuba assured the Committee that more statistical data would be provided in the next report and that all questions which remained unanswered for lack of time and certain information would also be included in Cuba's second report.

285. Some experts recommended drawing the attention of States parties to the desirability of using the positive experiences referred to in the above-mentioned report, in order to make further progress in eliminating discrimination against women, not only de jure, but also de facto.

V. SUGGESTIONS AND GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THE
EXAMINATION OF REPORTS

286. The Committee recommends that representations be made to the effect that Governments which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention should be urged to do so as early as possible. The Secretariat was requested to remind States parties which have ratified the Convention but have not submitted their initial reports to submit those reports.

VI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

287. At its 25th and 26th meetings, on 12 August 1983, the Committee considered the first part of the draft report of its second session (CEDAW/C/8 and Add.1-4, 6-8 and 16), which was adopted, as amended.

Notes

1/ See General Assembly resolution 37/63 of 3 December 1982.

ANNEX I

States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms
of Discrimination against Women as at 1 August 1983

<u>State party</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>	<u>Date of entry into force</u>
Australia	28 July 1983	27 August 1983
Austria	31 March 1982	29 April 1982
Barbados	16 October 1980	3 September 1981
Bhutan	31 August 1981	30 September 1981
Bulgaria	8 February 1982	10 March 1982
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	4 February 1981	3 September 1981
Canada	10 December 1981	9 January 1982
Cape Verde	5 December 1980 a/	3 September 1981
China	4 November 1980	3 September 1981
Colombia	19 January 1982	18 February 1982
Congo	26 July 1982	25 August 1982
Cuba	17 July 1980	3 September 1981
Czechoslovakia	16 February 1982	18 March 1982
Denmark	21 April 1983	21 May 1983
Dominica	15 September 1980	3 September 1981
Dominican Republic	2 September 1982	1 October 1982
Ecuador	9 November 1981	9 December 1981
Egypt	18 September 1981	18 October 1981
El Salvador	19 August 1981	18 September 1981
Ethiopia	10 September 1981	10 October 1981
Gabon	21 January 1983	20 February 1983
German Democratic Republic	9 July 1980	3 September 1981
Greece	7 June 1983	7 July 1983
Guatemala	12 August 1982	11 September 1982
Guinea	9 August 1982	8 September 1982
Guyana	17 July 1980	3 September 1981
Haiti	20 July 1981	3 September 1981
Honduras	3 March 1983	2 April 1983
Hungary	22 December 1980	3 September 1981
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14 August 1981	13 September 1981
Mexico	23 March 1981	3 September 1981
Mongolia	20 July 1981	3 September 1981
Nicaragua	27 October 1981	26 November 1981
Norway	21 May 1981	3 September 1981
Panama	29 October 1981	28 November 1981
Peru	13 September 1982	13 October 1982
Philippines	5 August 1981	4 September 1981
Poland	30 July 1980	3 September 1981
Portugal	30 July 1980	3 September 1981
Romania	7 January 1982	6 February 1982
Rwanda	2 March 1981	3 September 1981

<u>State party</u>	<u>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</u>	<u>Date of entry into force</u>
Saint Lucia	8 October 1982 a/	7 November 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	4 August 1981 a/	3 September 1981
Sri Lanka	5 October 1981	4 November 1981
Sweden	2 July 1980	3 September 1981
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	12 March 1981	3 September 1981
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	23 January 1981	3 September 1981
Uruguay	9 October 1981	8 November 1981
Venezuela	2 May 1983	1 June 1983
Viet Nam	17 February 1982	19 March 1982
Yugoslavia	26 February 1982	28 March 1982

Notes

a/ Accession.

ANNEX II

Submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of
the Convention as at 1 August 1983Initial reports

<u>State party</u>	<u>Reports due (date)</u>	<u>Invitation to submit reports (date)</u>	<u>Reports received (date)</u>
Austria	29 April 1983	23 April 1983	
Barbados	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Bhutan	30 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Bulgaria	10 March 1983	2 March 1982	
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	4 October 1982
Canada	9 January 1983	2 March 1982	15 July 1983
Cape Verde	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	
China	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	25 May 1983
Colombia	18 February 1983	2 March 1982	
Congo	25 August 1983	14 September 1982	
Cuba	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	27 September 1982
Czechoslovakia	18 March 1983	14 September 1982	
Denmark	21 May 1984	7 July 1983	
Dominica	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Dominican Republic	1 October 1983	14 September 1982	
Ecuador	9 December 1982	2 March 1982	
Egypt	18 October 1982	2 March 1982	2 February 1983
El Salvador	18 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Ethiopia	10 October 1982	2 March 1982	
German Democratic Republic	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	30 August 1982
Greece	7 July 1984	7 July 1983	
Guatemala	11 September 1983	14 September 1982	
Guinea	8 September 1983	14 September 1982	
Guyana	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Haiti	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Honduras	2 April 1984	13 April 1983	
Hungary	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	20 September 1982
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Mexico	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	14 September 1982
Mongolia	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Nicaragua	26 November 1982	2 March 1982	
Norway	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	18 November 1982
Panama	28 November 1982	2 March 1982	12 December 1982
Peru	13 October 1983	12 October 1982	
Philippines	4 September 1982	2 March 1982	22 October 1982
Poland	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Portugal	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	

<u>State party</u>	<u>Reports due</u> (date)	<u>Invitation to</u> <u>submit reports</u> (date)	<u>Reports received</u> (date)
Romania	6 February 1983	2 March 1982	
Rwanda	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	24 May 1983
Saint Lucia	7 November 1983	17 December 1982	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	
Sri Lanka	4 November 1982	2 March 1982	
Sweden	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	22 October 1982
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	3 September 1982	2 March 1982	2 March 1983
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	3 September 1983	2 March 1982	2 March 1983
Uruguay	8 November 1982	2 March 1982	
Venezuela	1 June 1984	7 July 1983	
Viet Nam	19 March 1983	14 September 1982	
Yugoslavia	28 March 1983	14 September 1982	3 November 1983

Membership of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women at its second session

<u>Name of member</u>	<u>Country of nationality</u>
Ms. Desirée P. BERNARD*	Guyana
Ms. Aleksandra Pavlovna BIRYUKOVA*	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Ms. Marie CARON*	Canada
Ms. Irene R. CORTES**	Philippines
Ms. Farida Abou EL-FETOUH**	Egypt
Ms. Graciela ESCUDERO-MOSCOSO*	Ecuador
Ms. Aida GONZALEZ MARTINEZ*	Mexico
Ms. Luvsandanzangyn IDER**	Mongolia
Ms. Zagorka ILIC**	Yugoslavia
Ms. Vinitha JAYASINGHE**	Sri Lanka
Ms. Vanda LAMM*	Hungary
Ms. Raquel MACEDO DE SHEPPARD**	Uruguay
Ms. Lia PATIÑO DE MARTINEZ*	Panama
Ms. Guan MINQIAN**	China
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Ms. Landrada MUKAYIRANGA**	Rwanda
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Ms. Edith OESER*	German Democratic Republic
Ms. Vesselina PEYTCHEVA**	Bulgaria
Ms. Maria REGENT-LECHOWICZ**	Poland
Ms. Lucy SMITH**	Norway
Ms. Esther VELIZ DE VILLALVILLA*	Cuba

* Term of office expires in 1984.

** Term of office expires in 1986.

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