

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

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**Volume II  
(Third session)**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-NINTH SESSION  
SUPPLEMENT No. 45 (A/39/45)



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**UNITED NATIONS**  
New York, 1984

## 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.

[23 April 1984]

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

10 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 third session from 26 March to 6 April 1984. It adopted the report of that session at its 44th meeting, held on 6 April 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) Luvsandanzanqyn 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 26 March 1984, the opening date of the third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 56 States had ratified or acceded 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 article 27.

### B. Sessions of the Committee

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held its third session from 26 March to 6 April 1984 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held 18 (27th to 44th) meetings.

3. The third session of the Committee was opened by the Chairperson, Ms. L. Ider, expert from Mongolia. The Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs welcomed the members of the Committee. He reported that, since the last session of the Committee, five countries had ratified or acceded to the Convention. Of the total number of 56 countries which ratified or acceded to the Convention, 9 were from Africa, 7 from Asia, 10 from Eastern Europe, 20 from Latin America and 10 from western European and other States. The progress made, he stated, was the result of a greater awareness of the role of women in the national and international development process and of increased political will to improve the condition of women. He said that the importance of the role of the Committee in monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women could not be over-emphasized. The Convention was one of the basic international instruments to bring about improvements in the status of women in law and in practice and to enhance the involvement of women in the development process following the principles of equality, equity and justice.

4. The Under-Secretary-General recalled Economic and Social Council decision 1983/101 of 4 February 1983 to reschedule the sessions of the Committee so that its reports could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Council at its first regular session every year. The suggestion to hold the fourth session of the Committee at Vienna from 21 January to 1 February 1985 and the fifth session during the first quarter of 1986 in New York, prior to the third meeting of the States parties, was unanimously adopted.

### C. Attendance

5. All members of the Committee attended the session (see annex IV to the present report). The expert from Viet Nam arrived on 28 March 1984 and was present from the 30th meeting onward.

D. Agenda

6. At the 27th meeting the provisional agenda, as contained in CEDAW/C/9, was amended and adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Consideration and adoption of the report of the second session of the Committee.
4. Sessions of the Committee in 1985 and 1986.
5. Consideration of reports and information submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention.
6. Organizational and other matters.
7. 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. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN ON ITS  
SECOND SESSION

7. At its 28th to 31st meetings, held on 27 and 28 March 1984, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women considered and adopted the report on its second session. 1/ The Chairperson referred in her preliminary remarks to the parts which had already been adopted at the end of the second session, namely, the introduction with sub-headings A to F, section II on the organization of work with sub-headings A to E, section III on the general guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports received from States parties under article 18 of the Convention and section IV containing the reports of States parties submitted by the German Democratic Republic and Mexico.

8. As far as annexes I and II to the report were concerned, the Secretariat agreed that only those States that had acceded to or ratified the Convention up to the date of the second session would be included in the lists.

9. Complaints were expressed by some experts about the late arrival of the draft report (CEDAW/C/CRP.1).

10. The Secretariat explained that, as agreed upon during the last session of the Committee, the introductions and summarized replies sent by States parties had been merged into the report, after having been checked against the summary records of the meetings. The Chairperson then decided to have the report read out and subsequently adopted section by section, starting with the report of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. A discussion reflected differing views about the procedure to be followed. Whereas several experts noted that the report should reflect a summary of the discussions and not reproduce the text verbatim, others indicated that they would like to have the full wording of their original statements introduced. It was also emphasized that the Committee was not made up of government representatives, but of independent experts whose views ought to be reflected in the report. Some experts pointed out that for more detail one could always refer to the summary records, but that the report should limit itself to summarizing items discussed during the meetings.

11. Several experts mentioned that the report did not observe the proper balance between the summary of the report and the questions and answers. As a result, answers submitted by a number of representatives of States to questions put by experts were not reflected. Attention was drawn to the fact that there were some inaccuracies in the translation.

12. Concerning section V of the report, it was pointed out by some experts that the recommendations referred to in article 21 of the Convention were supposed to be recommendations of a general nature. A suggestion was made that at a subsequent session the exact meaning of the term "suggestions and general recommendations" as used in article 21 of the Convention ought to be discussed.

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

A. Introduction

13. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 30th to 41st meetings, held on 28, 29 and 30 March and on 2, 3 and 4 April 1984.

14. The Committee had before it for consideration seven initial reports which had been received by the Secretariat, in accordance with article 18 of the Convention from the following States parties: China, Egypt, Hungary, Norway, Panama, Philippines and Rwanda.

15. In connection with item 5, 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.

16. 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 oral presentations of the reports, to be followed by questions from members of the Committee. The representatives were: Mr. Ferenc Somogyi of Hungary, Mr. Luis Moreno-Salcedo of the Philippines, Ms. Zhang Zhong-an of China, Ms. Leila Emara of Egypt, Mlle. Janvière Baziyaka of Rwanda and Mrs. Karin Stoltenberg of Norway. The representative of Panama requested the Committee to postpone the consideration of the report of his country until the next session.

17. 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, 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, indicates that additional information will be submitted in writing to the Secretary-General or given as supplementary information in the next report, owing to the fact that not all of the information requested was readily available to the representative during the session.

B. Consideration of reports

Hungary

18. The Committee considered the initial report of Hungary (CEDAW/C/5/Add.3) at its 32nd and 36th meetings, held on 29 March and 2 April 1984 (CEDAW/C/SR.32 and 36).

19. The representative of Hungary stated that the report gave Hungary, as a State party, the opportunity to review the issue of what had been achieved in implementing its goals to ensure equal opportunities to all human beings and to define where the weaknesses were and what measures would have to be taken to improve the situation, as well as to compare their achievements with regard to the situation prevailing in other parts of the world.

20. He stated that, as could be seen from such an evaluation, although his country could certainly not claim to have fully reached all the goals, starting from a semi-feudal, semi-fascist society predating the Second World War, its record was rather respectable.

21. Hungary had been among the first countries to ratify the Convention and such a step had been taken because the Convention's provisions coincided with the goals of Hungary's socialist society. The principles and measures required by the Convention had been spelled out and the country had undertaken to implement its provisions and to comply with the obligations inherent therein. Moreover, in his country, some provisions went even beyond the scope of the Convention in some areas.

22. With regard to women's employment, there were countries where women faced mass unemployment. Hungary also had an employment-related problem but of a different nature. Because of extended paid child-care leave, a substantial number of Hungarian women remained at home three years after the birth of a child. That, in fact, affected a quarter of a million women in Hungary which in turn created a labour shortage, as for example in the textile industry.

23. What was important was that constant and consistent care should be taken to prevent discrimination against women. Such efforts should not result in tokenism since women represented a large segment of all societies. In Hungary they constituted 51.5 per cent of the total population with 79 per cent of those of working age being active earners. It was obvious that the economy could not function without women because, for example, women accounted for 83.4 per cent of pharmacists, 40.4 per cent of physicians, 89.7 per cent of lower grade teachers, 27.7 per cent of those devoted to scientific research and 47.4 per cent of jurists and lawyers.

24. The solution to problems confronting women was bound to lead to the emergence of other problems but that should never be a deterrent to coming to grips with a problem that presented itself as the most acute one at the present moment.

25. Women's participation in the political life of the country was at a respectable level. They made up 27 per cent of the members at the National Assembly, 95 of the 352 deputies being women. However, he did recognize that the ideal 50 per cent had not been achieved, although through a projected electoral reform, the situation was likely to be improved.

26. Finally, although objective conditions had now been met for eliminating old prejudices, there remained a subjective element on which there was still a lot to do and which related to old concepts and prejudices.

27. The Committee commended the representative of Hungary for the sincere and frank exposition of the situation of women in Hungary and for the clear and thought-provoking presentation of his country's initial report.

28. In response to the introductory statement made by the representative of the State party, one expert noted that a very small percentage of women were not employed in Hungary and experts asked about benefits to women who were not employed and how women were affected in that regard.

29. One member of the Committee also noted that the three-year-leave plan after the birth of a child for both men and women had led to a problem for women

returning to work and sought clarification on what kind of re-entry programmes, such as training, were made available to women. It was also asked whether the positions occupied by the women who took advantage of that leave period were kept for their return and whether their seniority was protected.

30. A further question was raised as to whether the three-year-leave period granted upon the birth of a child was paid leave and whether it was paid in addition to the pregnancy leave provisions which were 20 fully paid weeks.

31. Regarding the participation of women in political life, it was noted that 27 per cent of the representatives to the National Assembly were women. Although a 50 per cent target was desirable, it did not always mean that equality existed. Rather, equality meant that women's capacities were fully recognized and that the constitution guaranteed their full participation in the political and social life of the country.

32. Some experts commended the structure of the report in that it followed the structure of the Convention, some others found it refreshing to learn from the report that not everything was perfect in that country as yet. Yet others stated that the principle of equality in all forms of political, social and economic life had been implemented in Hungary already before the ratification of the Convention.

33. Clarification was sought on the percentage of women in legislative bodies, on the number of women who were involved in schooling and professional training, on the number of women who held managerial posts and posts in the higher courts or were on executive boards and on the number of women who presided over educational establishments. Another expert asked whether women were responsible for teaching in primary schools. Explanations were requested as to whether discrimination against women was considered as a crime or an offence, and the nature of the sanctions and examples of penalties against persons who had violated the Convention were requested.

34. In connection with the question of the participation of social and political bodies, clarification was sought as to whether the terms of article 68 of the Hungarian Constitution authorizing citizens to make proposals of public interest with respect to social and political organizations specified a particular political party and whether citizens had to be active members of that political party in order to be allowed to exercise that right or whether mere citizenship was sufficient. The Committee also wondered whether trade unions played a legislative role in Hungary and asked what was meant by the "traditionally" important role played by women in the trade unions.

35. One expert was eager to learn whether all the other national councils had the same threefold legislative, executive and informative task as the National Council of Hungarian Women.

36. In connection with the provision contained in article 19 of the Labour Code, clarification of the meaning of the word "preference" was sought, and the question was asked whether in case of a job application made by a man, a woman and a pregnant woman, the employer would give preference to the pregnant woman.

37. One expert asked whether the mutual obligation of the spouses to help each other, as contained in article 24 of the Family Law, referred to material or to intellectual help and what were the sanctions in case of non-compliance.

38. Noting the attention paid in the report to the concept of equality in both public life, work and the family, one expert wanted to know what was done not only to promote conditions for women, but also to encourage men to perform their double role as earners and caretakers of family and home. He also wanted to know whether in analogy to article 20 of the Labour Code men would be assigned to perform work which was liable to be injurious. He asked for an explanation as to what types of work figured on the list of work qualified as harmful to one's health.
39. Information was requested as to whether women had free access to abortion and what penal measures existed in the field of prostitution.
40. Since women could choose under Hungarian law to keep their maiden name after marriage, clarification concerning the names of children was requested.
41. The Committee inquired also whether the provision concerning remuneration according to quality and quantity of work was equivalent to the article of the Convention concerning equal pay for work of equal value.
42. One expert asked for more detailed information on the phenomenon of feminization of certain professions, which existed also in other countries. She further inquired about the measures taken by the Government to change the professional orientation of young women. She asked whether, in view of the retirement age fixed by law, women were forced to retire at the age of 55 even if they preferred to go on working and whether the system of part-time work had been introduced in Hungary. Another expert inquired about the reason for the difference in the retirement ages of men and women (55 for women and 60 for men).
43. Another question referred to the role of women in the struggle for peace and disarmament.
44. Information was sought on the type of grants given to parents for children up to the age of three, whether for children older than three years a monthly grant was paid to their parents and, if so, what the percentage of such grants was compared with the average monthly salaries. It was also asked what percentage of children between three and six years attended kindergartens and whether the needs of such children were met by child-care institutions. Another question referred to whether or not children were guaranteed maintenance in case of dissolution of the marriage.
45. With regard to article 55 of the Labour Code, it was asked what guarantees were given that secured the right to fair remuneration and if there was a salary scale which could be used as a basis for comparative analysis.
46. One expert was concerned about the legal avenues open to women who sought redress in case of discrimination and, if such legal provisions existed, could examples be cited as to how they were applied; also, were there cases which had served as precedents and were there court decisions. In that regard, it was also asked what specific legislative measure provided for the application of the Convention and its implementation. One expert also inquired whether there were penalties for discrimination against women.
47. Going back to women's participation in the political life of the country and society, it was said that clarification was needed with regard to whether a woman could be elected as President of the country; also, in which main direction was the

official policy of the Government moving to attain the desired goal of equality and the assurance to women of their rights. Moreover, it was asked whether the Government was taking any steps to encourage women to run for elections.

48. In discussing the National Council of Women and its role, it was asked whether it could initiate and propose the introduction of new laws, whether it was taken seriously and whether specific statistics could be given on the female-male ratio within the Communist party, and at what levels.

49. It was asked whether Hungary had ratified the Convention with reservations and how did the Government feel its legislation went beyond the requirements of the Convention.

50. More information was also requested regarding the profile of women's employment, and whether girls were encouraged to enter into unsegregated professions. Moreover, it was asked how the Hungarian Government was dealing with the introduction of new technologies and how women were being integrated in that process.

51. On the subject of family law, it was asked whether a single parent could adopt a child and why was there a different age for men (18 years) and women (16) to enter into marriage. The law requested parental consent if marriage was sought at a younger age, and it was asked what that age was and whether the matter was left to the discretion of the parents.

52. At its 36th meeting, the Committee heard the replies of the representative of Hungary to the questions raised. He said he welcomed the interest of the Committee in the situation of women in Hungary.

53. He referred to the Hungarian Constitution where discrimination in any form was prohibited. That prohibition was accompanied by measures providing for additional protection of women which was a necessary precondition for actually realizing the principle of equality. Problems related to implementation were complex in nature and required a comprehensive approach. The Constitution went further than the Convention in that, not only did it enshrine the principle of equality but it legislated against all forms of discrimination, and special measures had been devised which acted as a corollary to guarantee the practical realization of the targets laid down by the principles in the Constitution.

54. As a result of the above provisions, steps had been taken successfully in Hungary to remove discrimination in some areas, such as in the labour field, which had been enforced by the competent labour tribunals and resulted in appointments, promotions, etc. being made.

55. The Constitution guaranteed the exercise of women's political rights. More specifically, the voting age for women and men was 18 years; a woman could be elected President; encouragement was given to more women to run for office; both de jure and de facto, women could perform any public function. One third of the deputies to the National Assembly were women and one out of two deputy speakers in Parliament was a woman; women were represented in the Presidential Council, in the Council of Ministers and in the Political Committee of the Party. Thirty-one per cent of municipal and county council members, and 30.7 per cent of local council members were women while 51 per cent of the elected posts in trade unions and 42 per cent in youth organizations were held by women. There was a

considerable number of women in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and district courts.

56. The Hungarian National Council of Women, a voluntary membership organization, played a fundamental role in the political life of the country. That Council had the right to take initiatives and to promote the views of its members on all the issues where women were directly or indirectly concerned, and it was taken very seriously by the Government. In addition, it provided guidelines to Parliament and recommendations to the trade unions, which could be made into law.

57. Education was another facet of Hungarian society where women participated fully. At the present time, 50 to 60 per cent of students attending institutions of higher education, 60 to 80 per cent of secondary school students, and 33 per cent of vocational school students were women. Also, 40 per cent of graduates and 54 per cent of those who had completed secondary education were women. Illiteracy had been eradicated with compulsory primary education.

58. Regarding labour, he explained that if anyone was unable to work because of health reasons he or she was entitled to special allowances. The picture in the Hungarian labour force was as follows: women comprised 45 per cent of the total and 32.2 per cent of those in industry. Other sectors were as follows: non-material sectors, 26 per cent; agriculture and forestry, 18.6 per cent; trade, 14.2 per cent; transport and telecommunications, 4.5 per cent; construction, 3.1 per cent; Management of Water Supplies, 0.8 per cent. The highest percentages of women were in the fields of health, social and cultural services with 75.4 per cent.

59. As to the level of employment, women's positions were generally lower than men's. The percentage in managerial posts was approximately 10 per cent. It was expected that, with more women attending institutions of learning, that figure would increase. It was also stated that, although the principle of equal pay for equal work was part of Hungarian legislation, women's average earnings were 20 to 30 per cent less in their main occupational groups, and in leading positions they also were 15 per cent less than their male counterparts.

60. Occupations harmful to women were determined with the help of the trade unions and the Women's Council. Protective legislation also covered pregnant women who, for example, were prohibited from working on the night shift from the fourth month of pregnancy to the end of the child's first year.

61. It was forbidden to terminate a woman's employment during pregnancy or while nursing, during child-care leave, and during paid or unpaid leave granted to take care of a sick child.

62. The age for retirement of women was 55, but that was not compulsory and there were options for part-time work to supplement the pension payments.

63. Since 1967 the Government had given child-care allowances to working mothers after 20 weeks of paid maternity leave. Child-care leave, as explained in the report, was granted up to three years and in no way interfered with acquired rights such as pension, salary and other benefits. Vocational courses had been organized and measures taken to provide the necessary pre-conditions for those who wanted to go back to work. Child-care leave was an option and a new regulation allowed a mother on such leave to undertake part-time employment which should not exceed four hours a day on the monthly average.

64. Regarding marriage laws, both spouses had a right to choose their partners, to marry or divorce, to adopt children and to perform the tasks of being parents. Both parents were equally responsible for their child's health, development, welfare and education. Upon divorce, the children's fate was decided by common agreement or by court decision.

65. Several members of the Committee congratulated the representative on his thorough answers, and noted that major progress had been made in Hungary. It was stated that the articles of the Convention coincided with provisions in the Constitution and that the Hungarian Government was making efforts to ensure equality.

66. One expert asked whether a single person could adopt a child, while another noted that the achievement of equality by women was not only a social issue but also a cultural and economic one.

67. In replying, the representative of the State party informed the Committee that a law was being drafted which would enable a single person to adopt a child, and he agreed that equality was a socio-economic, cultural and health issue which should be tackled in all of its complexities.

68. Some members of the Committee expressed the view that the provisions of the Convention were fully implemented in Hungary and that women were playing a major role in that country.

#### The Philippines

69. The Committee considered the initial report of the Philippines (CEDAW/C/5/Add.6) at its 32nd, 33rd, 36th and 37th meetings, held on 29 March and 2 April 1984.

70. The report was introduced by the representative of the State party who said that it covered the period between 3 September 1981 and 31 August 1982 and had been prepared by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, in co-operation with various governmental and non-governmental agencies. Created in 1975, the National Commission had been entrusted with the task of accelerating the integration of women in the economic, social, political and cultural development of the country. All the measures mentioned were the continuation of efforts taken in the Philippines by both the public as well as the private sector to achieve equal treatment for women and to eliminate discrimination against them, even before the Philippines became a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

71. The representative of the State party gave a brief background on his country and its people and on the status and role of women, who comprised 49.8 per cent of the population and had always been in the mainstream of Philippine history. Women in his country had always managed to penetrate what used to be the "men's exclusive world", although the level of their representation in some areas was still very low.

72. He then supplied statistical data and quoted articles of the Constitution and other laws which embodied equal treatment and protection of women. But he also said that improvement in several areas was still needed and much remained to be done. In an effort to reach and include rural women and the urban poor in the national effort of integration for development, the National Commission had



launched a programme with the main objective of fully integrating women, men and youth for economic, social and cultural development through co-ordination of government and organized private efforts to maximize benefits for the people.

73. Regrets were expressed by the Committee that the useful and substantial information contained in the introduction to the report had not been supplied earlier and submitted as an addendum to the initial report, especially since the report was found to be difficult to study because of its format and structure. However, the Committee was impressed by the number of activities undertaken and measures implemented in such a short timespan, although many of them were still at the project stage. The opinion was also voiced that the initial report did not correspond to the information required by article 18 of the Convention because it did not contain the necessary information on the legal situation, or on other measures adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention, and it did not contain the legislative texts asked for by the Secretariat. As the report constituted mainly a programme of action, it was difficult for the Committee to evaluate the status of the application of the Convention in that country. Several experts wanted to have a copy of the introductory remarks made by the representative of the State party.

74. Concern was expressed that only one third of the relevant institutions had answered the questionnaire. Concern was also expressed by some experts at the severity of the penalties foreseen for certain crimes and, in particular, for the crime of rape. They wondered about a model or prototype which led the legislator to enact such penalties.

75. More information was sought on the nature and functions of the National Commission and the kind of obstacles that hampered its work. In case the Commission had no authority to take action to promote the equality of women, the Committee wanted to know whether other organs had such authority and whether the Commission would take into account the views of other women's associations.

76. Many experts asked for more concrete explanations concerning the statement made in the report that the national five-year development plan for 1983-1987 may provide an unfortunate set-back to women's rights to equal treatment, and wanted to know what measures were being taken to prevent more discriminatory acts against women. Serious concern was expressed at the method of classifying women as among special types of workers, together with the disabled and minors, in clear contradiction of the Convention. One expert asked what was the impact of the adoption of the Convention on national law. If the Convention became part of the legal system of the country, discriminatory laws should no longer exist. She also asked whether in cases of contradiction the later law derogated the earlier one, and wanted to know what had prevented the Government from amending the laws. Since the discriminatory laws existed in that country, she requested some explanation as to the meaning of the sentence contained in the report that "there was a continuing need to identify gaps between de jure and de facto discrimination against women", and she wanted to know whether there existed minorities in the country and, if so, whether women belonging to such minorities enjoyed the same rights as women in general in the Philippines. It was asked whether any legislative measures had been undertaken to implement articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Convention, and the impression prevailed among the experts that no measures existed to guarantee the equality of both sexes before the law. Some experts wanted to know whether any progress had been made in reviewing the Civil Code with a view to eliminating discrimination against women and what were the contents of the laws that were to be amended.

77. It was felt that the percentage of women in high managerial positions was low, and some experts wanted to know what was being done to encourage women to assume higher positions. Some experts asked whether women were discriminated against in professional life and if they had a right of recourse in cases of professional discrimination. It was also asked whether there was equal pay for equal work. Furthermore, one expert wished to know whether cases of discrimination could be brought before a court and whether sanctions were foreseen.

78. As regards measures taken in "private sectors", one expert required clarification as to which private sectors were endeavouring to eliminate discrimination against women. More information was also sought on the discriminatory practices referred to in the report.

79. Some experts asked what the position of women was in political life, whether women had the same voting and other political rights as men and what the voting age was. It was asked who could make nominations for electoral lists and how many women were put on such lists. Furthermore, the Committee wanted to know whether the Philippines had adopted or ratified the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. Clarification was also sought on the meaning of a statement made on page 31 of the report that all promotions took effect as per prescription made by the Civil Service Commission. One expert wanted to know whether the appointment and election of women to high governmental positions was done by quota.

80. Positive comments were given with regard to the efforts made to eliminate sex-based prejudices and to make husbands more aware of the shared responsibilities in maternity and child-rearing. One expert wished to know whether a family court existed, whether provision was made for joint custody of the children and maintenance of the wife after dissolution of the marriage, what sort of matrimonial system existed, and what was the situation of children born out of wedlock.

81. As women had the right to maintain their maiden name after marriage, information was sought about the name of the children. It was asked whether a single woman could adopt a child. As a marriage licence was not issued to a widow before 300 days following her husband's death, it was asked whether the same constraint applied to a widower, a divorced woman and a divorced man.

82. Questions were asked as to whether measures had been taken by the Government to facilitate the life of a woman who was confronted with the double burden of household duties and professional tasks and whether the age of retirement was different for women and men. One expert inquired about the existence of a special programme for women who worked in agriculture and about the percentage of women who could not find paid work.

83. Several experts wanted to know whether boys and girls had similar educational opportunities, how many fellowships had been granted to girls and what was the percentage of women students in courses where traditionally males predominated. It was also asked whether and in what way girls were encouraged to study beyond primary level and what measures had been taken in general to raise the educational level of women. One expert wanted to know what percentages of girls attended and finished school.

84. Questions were raised as to whether abortion was allowed and under what circumstances it could be obtained as well as what was being done to eradicate prostitution.

85. The Committee asked for clarification as to whether women could obtain a bank loan and conclude contracts without the consent or permission of their husbands.

86. As the country consisted of many islands, it was asked whether remote islands had the necessary infrastructure to enable the population to enjoy social well-being and social welfare.

87. One expert voiced the idea that over-protective legislation might easily lead to negative results. He mentioned the project for menstruation leave and prohibition of night work for women, both of which may be counter-productive in terms of equality. He asked about specific measures to promote and facilitate the participation of women on the labour market in traditionally male-dominated areas, and inquired whether the counselling programme on how best to combine work and home duties concerned men as well as women. He did not consider the practice of making the woman the keeper of the purse a step towards equality and stated that the sharing of responsibilities was preferable.

88. More information was sought on the role played by women in peace-related activities.

89. Several experts remarked on the severity of the law regarding rape of girls under 12 years of age and inquired about the background to that law as well as its present application regarding the rape of adolescent and adult women.

90. With regard to the labour law, clarification was requested regarding provisions made for Filipino women working in Hong Kong and it was pointed out that those provisions should be made to apply also to Filipino women working in other countries.

91. In general it was stated that the report lacked information such as empirical data on employment patterns, education and literacy, and it was difficult to make any judgement on that basis; it was requested that such data should be provided in the next report in order for the Committee to arrive at certain conclusions.

92. There was also a lack of information pertaining to the overall legal framework relating to the conditions and status of women in the country. It would be desirable, it was said, that that aspect of the report be strengthened in the future. An example was cited in which, though the constitution seemed to provide for the equality of men and women, the provision was too general.

93. The report did contain a matrix of activities as well as annexes which gave a breakdown of departments and institutions in charge of implementing several articles of the convention. However, no reference was made to articles 9 and 15 of the Convention, which were very important. It was of course noted that the Government of the Philippines had submitted its report prior to the adoption of the Committee's guidelines on the subject.

94. The question of citizenship and nationality was also referred to and several experts asked about the relevant guarantees and provisions.

95. With regard to laws prohibiting the practice of prostitution, it was asked whether those laws also penalized the client since those who benefited from the trade in white slavery walked away with impunity while the real victims were severely penalized. Inquiries were also made regarding the rehabilitation and

education of prostitutes, their integration into society and the protection of their rights. More specifically, the role of the organization which monitored hospitality girls was questioned as to whether it was a trade union or a re-education type of organization.

96. The creation of the National Commission was noted and more information was requested on its activities and aims.

97. More details were requested on programmes and activities related to rural women, which comprised 49 per cent of the population, as well as statistics relating to unskilled labour and the percentage of women involved in it.

98. Although the principle of equal pay for work of equal value seemed to be accepted, it was asked whether in reality it was practised. There also seemed to be certain discrimination regarding labour since women were not allowed to work at night.

99. Finally, it was noted that the Government seemed to be making efforts to implement the Convention but that there were areas which still remained to be answered and addressed. One such area where more explanation was needed was how the law addressed single women as compared to married women. In addition, concrete examples were needed on the actual results of studies that had been completed by the Government and how it intended to act on them.

100. In replying to some of the questions raised, the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, in his capacity as representative of the State party explained that in his perception, there were cultural and traditional aspects in every country which could not be legislated. His culture regarded both sexes not as equal but as complementary to each other.

101. He took note of the reservations made in the presentation of his country's report and noted that it covered only the period from 3 September 1981 to December 1982, and that it outlined measures concerning the Convention undertaken by the Government during that period.

102. Answering the question related to widows, he explained that the law had in the past been designed to protect the inheritance of a child born of a deceased father. The change from 300 days to 30 days was because, scientifically, pregnancy could now be determined at an early stage.

103. Referring to the law on rape, he stated that honour and family were the highest concepts of life in his culture and the honour of a husband, father or brother was affected if such a thing happened to a woman in the family. The crime, thus, was considered abominable and therefore required due punishment.

104. As to the extension of maternity leave to fathers, such a law was being studied although in the private sector it was already being practised by some companies.

105. In responding to questions raised by the experts, the representative of the State party expressed some personal views and perceptions on the role of women in the Philippines. He said that it was preferred that its women retain their femininity and gentleness because, in such a way, they had obtained many advantages and progress. It was for that reason that no women's liberation movement had

existed in the Philippines. He said that other questions would be answered during the session by a designated member of his Government.

106. At the 36th and 37th meetings of the Committee, held on 2 April 1984 the Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, as representative of the State party, provided answers to questions raised by the Committee.

107. She stated that the National Commission had been established as a national mechanism to review, evaluate and recommend measures including priorities, to promote the full integration of Filipino women in the social, economic and cultural development of the country at the national, regional and international levels. One of its functions was to advise the President in formulating policies and implementing programmes to increase the contribution of women to the national development of the country. The Commission had been assigned the task of monitoring the implementation of the letter of instruction issued by the Government regarding the integration of women in national development. This directive applied to those in public as well as private employment and was one of the measures taken by the Government to increase the number of women in policy-making and decision-making positions. Furthermore, the President of the Civil Assembly of Women, the umbrella organization under which 75 women's associations operated, was one of the members of the Commission.

108. The Philippines was a party to several conventions of the United Nations which formed part of national law, as stated in section 3, article II, of the Philippine Constitution.

109. Laws regarding the family had been introduced to protect women within the family. However, there were some which were still discriminatory to women. Examples of such laws were: a daughter above 21 but below 23 was not allowed to leave home without parental consent except to become a wife, or when she exercised a profession or calling or when the father or the mother had contracted a subsequent marriage. Sons of the same age did not face any such restriction. Another law was that which forbade a wife without the consent of the husband to receive any gift by gratuitous title, except from ascendants or collateral relatives. A husband might object to his wife's exercise of a profession or occupation, while a woman could not object to her husband's exercise of a profession. In addition, the wife's mobility was subordinate to her husband's choice of residence and the husband was considered the administrator of conjugal property. Although the above provisions existed, they were generally not practised and at the present time a review of those laws was being carried out in order to change them.

110. Divorce, she said, was not recognized under Philippine law except for the Muslim population. Nevertheless, legal separation was allowed. In that case, the court determined the custody of children. Children below five years of age stayed with the mother.

111. All family planning methods were allowed, except abortion, which was permitted on therapeutical grounds only.

112. As a result of a reorganization of the judiciary, the family courts had been abolished and their functions were assigned to specially designated branches of the regional trial courts.

113. Prostitution was a crime and it was punishable by law. Those engaged in it and the procurers were all subject to prosecution. It was recognized in her country that the main cause for the problem was economic, and the Government, women's organizations and trade unions were working together to train and provide employment for the affected women. It should be noted as well that sex tourism as depicted by the media was being organized by travel agencies based in foreign countries. In reaction, the Government had made representations to foreign Governments in order to stop the promotion of sex tours. The Ministry of Tourism had issued an order to travel agencies to discontinue those tours under penalty of cancellation of their permits.

114. Women in the Philippines had made great progress in the political life of the country. They had won the right to vote as early as 1937 and had been members of the National Assembly, governors, and mayors. In the 1978 National Assembly election, 49.96 per cent of voters were women. There were no laws or practices that prohibited any women from seeking election to public office. During the 1981 Presidential election, one of the candidates was a woman.

115. Regarding education, as stated earlier, women enjoyed equal opportunities with men. There were more women enrolled in the tertiary level than men, thus preparing them for professional, technical and vocational employment. Some statistics were as follows: college education, 54.23 per cent; graduate education, 63.99 per cent; post-graduate education, 64.69 per cent; and technical/vocational, 50.53 per cent.

116. Finally, any complaint regarding employment, including the issue of equal pay for equal work, was brought to the attention of the Ministry of Labour and Employment where it was handled by the National Labour Relations Commission and such cases had been successfully solved.

117. The Committee took note of the replies and several experts' wishes to record their objections and reservations at the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations at the 33rd meeting of the Committee. It was considered an insult to the Convention and the Committee as well as to all experts present. It was further asked whether the views of the Permanent Representative were a reflection of official policy. The concept of harmony or complementarity of the sexes as stated by him served only to perpetuate the traditional roles of, and views held by men about, women.

118. Many other experts joined in the opinions already expressed by fellow speakers that the statement made by the Permanent Representative constituted disrespect for the Committee and for its members. Some of them noted the fact that he had made his remarks in his personal capacity, but others emphasized that representatives of State parties normally reflected the opinion of their Governments and did not express their personal views. They were grateful to the representative of the State party for the answers she had given to some of the questions, even if the replies were not exhaustive. They showed that the Philippines was very active in matters of social development, although the de facto situation revealed that the Convention had not yet been fully implemented in that country.

119. In reply to a question as to whether a contradiction existed between some laws in that country which were discriminatory against women but which did not seem to be implemented in practice and the fact that where no such laws existed women were protected by custom, the representative of the State party said that in her country not everything was protected only by law, and there was no conflict between law and

practice. While some laws provided for a number of restrictions, they were rarely invoked, and women enjoyed more freedoms and rights. Besides that, the Government was in the process of reviewing those laws.

120. Other questions asked referred to the provision that widows could not marry until 30 days after the death of their husband, which was found by a few experts to be discriminatory. Experts inquired about the impact that the Convention had had on the national law apart from being just incorporated as provisions of international law, about the role of women in the preparation of new legislation concerning the family and whether women in the Philippines were satisfied with playing a part or influencing events through their husbands. One expert also asked whether it was true that there was no women's liberation movement in the Philippines.

121. The representative of the State party further said that her country had become a State party to a number of international conventions. She also stated that the Committee which was now drafting revisions of the Civil Code was headed by a woman and the membership was composed of both men and women.

122. The representative of the State party also replied to the questions concerning implementation of article 9 on the nationality of married women and their children, the full rights enjoyed by unmarried women and the right of married women to administer and control their paraphernal property, as well as the labour union proposed for women working in restaurants and amusement places as hospitality girls, and she explained why research on Filipino women employed in Hongkong was being made, namely, that there was a big number of them doing domestic work there.

123. She explained that the Permanent Representative of her country had introduced the report in his capacity as representative of his country; some of his replies reflected, however, his personal opinion. She expressed regret that the views put forward by the Permanent Representative had offended the feelings of the experts and said that all comments made would be referred to him for his information.

124. Subsequently, the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations sent a written apology for the remarks made in his replies to the question of the experts, explaining that no insult was intended.

### China

125. The Committee considered the initial report of China (CEDAW/C/5/Add.14) at its 33rd, 34th and 36th meetings, held on 29 and 30 March and 2 April 1984 (CEDAW/C/SR.33, 34 and 36).

126. The Committee began to consider the report of China at its 33rd meeting. The representative of the State party, in introducing the report, stated that her country had as a basic policy to defend the legitimate rights and interests of women and children. She also stated that the principles of the Convention coincided with the desires and demands of the Chinese people.

127. The new Constitution adopted in 1982 at the fifth session of China's Fifth National People's Congress safeguarded and ensured equality of the sexes. There were other laws such as, the Marriage Law, the Electoral Law and Criminal Code, as well as a series of government decrees and regulations. Provisions provided for the basic rights of all citizens, as well as others which protected specially the rights of women.

128. The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress had been mandated to monitor the implementation of the new Constitution. A Law Committee had been set up which was responsible for the study, review and preparation of legislative proposals and motions. Among the 13 members of that Committee, one Vice-Chairperson and one member were women who specialized both in the women's movement and in law-making. Those women were also vice-presidents of the All-China Women's Federation.

129. Women played a very important role in the development process of the People's Republic of China. "The four modernizations" programme needed women and women needed "the four modernizations" programme. That was proven by the fact that 40.93 million women were working in the urban areas, accounting for 36.2 per cent of the total urban work force. Women had also reached the non-traditional professions such as, the oil industry, railways and communications, geology, agriculture, forestry, meteorology, electronics and space technology, and many of them have been cited as models of advanced workers. Women scientists accounted for one third of the nation's total. There were 100,000 women instructors and engineers. Fifteen women scientists who have made outstanding contributions were members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Over the last 30 years, 43 million women had graduated from adult educational institutes.

130. Great progress has been achieved in the rural areas where women accounted for 150 million of the work force and where they were playing an important role in the current reformation of the economic system, engaging in livestock breeding, growing grain or cotton, gardening, handicrafts, processing semi-finished products, etc. Their integration helped to overcome the outmoded ideas of male superiority that still lingered in the minds of some people.

131. The marriage law stipulated freedom of choice of the partners and ensured women their equal rights and obligations in the home. The government policy was to advocate the sharing of household chores between men and women and it was endeavouring to increase public services to lessen the load of housework. The increase of child-care services was also part of those efforts.

132. The All-China Women's Federation's major goal was to protect the rights and interests of women and children and to serve as a link between them and the Government. The Federation was instrumental in carrying out in 1983-1984 vigorous popular educational programmes on the legal protection of legitimate rights and interests of women; it involved relevant government departments, trade unions, the Communist Youth League and the media. Legal counselling booths have been set up by women's federations, both at national and local levels, giving legal guidance to people who come to them with their problems.

133. The above efforts were instrumental in arousing public concern and dealt a heavy blow to the lingering discriminatory practices and traditional prejudices. Nevertheless, centuries-old ideas of male superiority and traditional prejudices were hard to eradicate and efforts coming from all sectors of society were needed. However, the Government would continue to intensify the struggle through the popularization of the principles of the Convention and its implementation on a more extensive scale.

134. The Committee commended the representative of the Government of China on the introduction of the report as well as its contents. Some members of the Committee praised the report for its frankness, clarity and commitment, which reflected the



will of China to implement the articles of the Convention, as well as to improve the condition of women. It was observed that that was a major task for such a vast country but remarkable efforts had been made and results were already being observed.

135. Questions were asked regarding the court system and access by women to legal redress in case of discrimination. In that connection, some information was requested on the number of women lawyers in office.

136. It seemed that efforts to educate women had been made, but it was asked whether the Government encouraged girls to enter institutions of higher learning and away from stereotyped women professions; also, in that context, was there occupational segregation in the People's Republic of China and what steps were being taken to move away from traditional occupations in the rural areas.

137. Since the principle of equal pay for equal work seemed to be accepted, it was asked whether it was also practised.

138. Several experts requested additional information on the Government's family programme, the freedom of choice with regard to spacing and number of children, the sanctions imposed, as well as the practical results of such a programme.

139. Empirical information was also requested regarding the position of women within the Government and in the Communist Party, in employment, in ministries, universities, secondary schools, etc.; also, what percentage of rural women attend institutions of learning and what was the literacy ratio of male to females.

140. Referring to social services, it was asked what provisions existed regarding maternity leave, retirement, pensions and unemployment benefits, and if there was any explanation regarding the difference in gynaecological illnesses that affected rural women and urban women which was mentioned in the report.

141. With regard to the marriage law, it was asked whether single mothers were entitled to the same advantages as married mothers, and more information was requested on how marriage affected nationality since there was no information regarding citizenship-related laws; also, what were the differences between the laws of 1950 and 1980.

142. It was also noted, in that connection, that the report stated that after a marriage the woman might become a member of the man's family or vice versa; it was asked what was the effect of such a choice.

143. More details were also requested on sanctions regarding the enforcement of provisions for the equality of men and women. Since the All-China Women's Federation had taken such an active part in the above matter, it would be interesting for Committee members to hear what means of redress were available to women in the exercise of their rights.

144. More information was requested on health-care facilities provided for rural women as well as the pre-natal programme, including counselling services and genetics. The report stated that this ensured fewer and "better" children, and it was asked through what means better children could be assured and through what means.

145. One expert remarked that the overall role of the All-China Women's Federation had not been fully explained, especially when the report stated that "they use the law as a weapon". Did this mean that the Federation could demand or propose new laws, revisions of labour practices or labour codes etc.?
146. Pertaining to labour practices, clarification was requested also on the duty and the right to work. Had the People's Republic of China encountered problems with people who did not want to work and, if so, what sanctions were imposed in that regard?
147. The attempts of the Chinese Government to solve the problems of discrimination at all levels for the urban and the rural population were noted as a positive phenomenon. However, more information was requested on cases of discrimination and of physical abuse that still occurred and on the measures adopted by the Government to fight such occurrences. It was asked what sort of recourse action could be taken by women who had been discriminated against, whether women were asked to file their claims in special courts in cases of discrimination and to what extent such cases were taken to court. One expert wanted to be given specific examples of provisions, the purpose of which was to protect the legitimate rights and interests of women, and asked for clarification as to the meaning of those "legitimate rights and interests". Another expert wanted to know whether, in the course of the nation-wide publicity campaign, which was mentioned in the report, to put an end to feudal ideas and customs, the Convention had been given the necessary publicity. Another expert asked about the legal status of the All-China Women's Federation and inquired whether women participated only on a voluntary basis, and what authority the Federation had to educate and promote women if their participation was only voluntary. Furthermore, an explanation was requested on how the Federation took part in formulating the Constitution and in laying down government policies.
148. Many experts commented on the concern shown in China for family planning and birth control. One question, in that connection, referred to the prevailing conditions in a family with more than one child and to the current population growth rate in China. It was asked what progress had been made with respect to birth control and what was the position of women's organizations in China regarding the policy of birth control. Interest in the family planning programmes was shown and an expert asked whether, in cases where the first child was a girl, the baby was hidden or made to disappear. In connection with the rule that women had to plan their single births in such a way that not all women would have to be on maternity leave at the same time, more clarification was sought on how that rule was implemented. In connection with the pre-natal medical examination, it was asked whether such medical examinations were compulsory and whether, in case the result of the pre-natal test showed that the child was not healthy, the mother was entitled to abort the child. Information was also sought on programmes for single mothers.
149. The Committee showed interest in how the authorities monitored the provision of family planning and how violations of these rules were handled.
150. Appreciation was shown for the revolutionary efforts to eliminate old feudal values while still keeping the nucleus of the family institution. The Committee highly valued the fact that much support was given in that country to children and the elderly and that obligations for mutual support was established for the parents as well as for the children. It was asked whether in cases of violations of these

mutual obligations an appeal could be made to a court and what was the impact of the penalties.

151. One expert wanted to know whether it was current practice that the wife as well as the husband became part of the other spouse's family, whether it involved for the husband the adoption of the woman's family name and whether he could retain that name in case of divorce. As the children had the right to adopt the name of either one of their parents, clarification was sought as to the age at which they could express their choice.

152. Various comments were expressed on the family and marriage laws. One expert asked whether vestiges of arranged marriages still remained, another one sought clarification of the concept of "mercenary marriages". Referring to the policy of birth control, one expert asked what was the influence of that policy on the incidence of divorce and what was the rate of divorce. In cases of divorce, information was requested on the mutual rights of the spouses and on who was responsible for the child. Another question referred to the policy in China with regard to minorities and to the practice in cases where one spouse came from a minority and the other one was Chinese.

153. One expert wanted to know whether the new marriage law contained a provision referring to the minimum age for contracting a marriage and whether that minimum age was the same for women and men. Explanation was sought on the concept of freedom of marriage. Did it mean freedom to choose one's spouse, or did it refer to the freedom of persons already married to separate?

154. As indicated in the report, about 25 per cent of all children of pre-school age were taken care of by child-care institutions. A question was asked whether the network of such institutions was sufficiently large. Information was sought on the drop-out rate of girl pupils, and whether it was obligatory for parents to send their children to school. An expert wanted to know whether the competent authorities provided housing at all stages of education and in all provinces of China. As the report mentioned 15 women as being members of the Council of Sciences, it was asked what was the total membership of that Council.

155. More information was requested on the social security system in China, on the length of paid maternity leave, whether it applied also to rural women and whether rural women were also entitled to receive a pension. With regard to the campaign envisaged by the Government to change the social framework in order to eradicate all vestiges of the feudal system, more information was sought on the machinery used in order to attain these goals.

156. It was not quite clear from the report whether prostitution constituted a legal activity or an offence and, if the latter, information was asked on the types of penalties imposed.

157. More information was asked by one expert on the types of guarantees that ensured equality of women in all walks of life, especially since a guarantee given by the Constitution was not equivalent to having the rights implemented in practice. More statistics were requested on the percentage of women who held political posts, on the level of those posts and on the participation of women in public life in general. As regards the voting rights provided for by article 34 of the Constitution, clarification of the terms "property status" and "length of residence" used therein was requested.

158. Some clarification was sought in connection with the relationship between the All-China Women's Federation and the Communist Party.

159. As the participation of women in the 1981 elections was as high as 95 per cent, one expert wanted to know what means the Government had to prompt women to take part in elections and whether the non-participation in elections was sanctioned by fines.

160. At the 36th meeting of the Committee, the representative of the Government of China provided replies to the questions raised by the Committee. She expressed her thanks to the experts for the interest in and great concern over the issues of Chinese women; she also thanked the Committee for the words of encouragement she had heard. For lack of time, not all of the answers and explanations would be provided at the present session, but she would endeavour to concentrate on the principal questions.

161. Many experts had made inquiries regarding the family planning programme of China. The Government had thought it necessary to ensure that population growth conformed to social development planning. The total population had to remain under 1.2 billion. According to the census of July 1982, there were 1,008,000,000 people, which represented one quarter of the world total. Sixty-three per cent had been born after the liberation struggle in 1949, with youths under 21 constituting 50 per cent of the total population. That meant that from now on there would be 12 million couples entering into marriage each year. If each couple had two children, by the year 2000 the Chinese population would far exceed the target. It could be understood that an effective policy in that regard had to be adopted.

162. The main obstacles encountered in the implementation of the family planning programme had been traditional ideas. The Chinese had considered for centuries that to carry on the family with a line of male offspring was a matter of great importance. Incentives had been given such as, providing for health care of the only child, waiving fees for nursery or kindergarten and having priority in house allocation, college enrolment and employment. The media had also been used as well as education to bring into focus that child-bearing was not only a family issue, but also of interest to the State and the people as a whole.

163. A couple could have two children if the first-born had a non-hereditary disease or was disabled, if both husband and wife were the only children of their respective families, and if two or three consecutive generations of the family had had only one child each.

164. Answering the question regarding genetics, she stated that the marriage law in China forbade union between people who were lineal relatives by blood or collateral relatives by blood (up to the third degree relationship) and those who had diseases which were considered by medical science as unfit for marriage. The law was enforced through comprehensive pre- and post-natal health programmes. Moreover, in the case of fetal defects, abortion was encouraged.

165. Referring to the difference between marriage laws of 1980 and 1950, she said that the latter had prohibited concubinage, child betrothal and interference with the remarriage of widows.

166. Family patterns were changing in China from the extended to the nuclear, yet there was still need to specify that the wife could become a member of the husband's family and/or vice versa.

167. In China, family relations were comparatively stable. The rate of divorce in China accounted for about 3 per cent of the total number of marriages each year. Custody was normally arranged by mutual agreement unless the couple failed to reach an agreement, in which case it was decided by the court.

168. The new provisions of the marriage law permitted parents who had lost their ability to work to demand financial support from their children. The court mediated in case of disagreement.

169. With regard to the term "single mothers" she explained that an unmarried mother was rare in China. The practice of unmarried couples living together was not legal; however, the marriage law did provide the same rights for children born both in and out of wedlock. The father was duty-bound to bear all or part of the living and education expenses for the child until he or she was able to earn a living.

170. Citizenship could be changed at will and it did not change in case of marriage.

171. Referring to the question on prostitution, she replied that it was outlawed after liberation. The problem had emerged and sanctions against those who trafficked in women, as well as against the instigators, were applied. The victims were re-educated and trained.

172. Schools were opened to girls after 1949 and the school system had been structured so that it served the rural communities. Part-time schools were created to match the working seasons; there were floating schools in boats for the lake and river regions, schools on horse-back for the plains, and mobile schools for the mountainous regions.

173. By 1982, the percentage of women students was 25.7 per cent, an increase from the previous figures. Although the figure was still low, considering Chinese standards of centuries of illiteracy for women, it was a big step forward. In that regard, the percentage of illiteracy and semi-illiteracy had been reduced from 80 per cent to 25 per cent, yet women still accounted for 70 per cent of the total.

174. Efforts would be doubled to increase the number of candidates for elections. At the present time, women accounted for 21.2 per cent of the delegates to the Sixth National People's Congress, 6.6 per cent of the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons of the Sixth National Political Consultant Conference (2 seats), 9 per cent of the members of the standing committee of the National People's Congress (14 seats), 11 per cent of the State counsellors (1 seat), 5 per cent of the ministers and vice-ministers of State Council (10 seats). There were 7 women governors and vice-governors and 20 vice-chairpersons of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, accounting for 5.7 per cent of the total. At the country level, there were 685 women who occupied leading posts and that accounted for 14.9 per cent of the total.

175. The public information campaign carried out by the Government had as its aim to inform and acquaint women, especially rural women, with their rights, as well as access to courts and measures that could be taken in case of violation of their

rights. That had been in line with the efforts of the All-China Women's Federation and its subsidiaries to set up legal advisory services on a nation-wide scale. It was believed in China that to realize equality between men and women it was not enough to legislate, but also to obtain the support of the whole society and the determination and efforts of women themselves.

176. Finally, the representative of the State party outlined the scope of activities of the All-China Women's Federation, which mobilized, organized and educated women to enable them to participate in the political life of the country. The Federation could initiate discussions, propose new laws and make recommendations on national policy; it also had the right to supervise the implementation of such policies. It had 400 staff members and it was supported by local federations at other levels. It maintained international contacts with about 230 women's organizations in 126 countries.

177. The Committee thanked the representative of the State party for the complete answers furnished and the comprehensive explanation on the family planning policies of China. Several questions were asked regarding divorce and whether women could initiate divorce proceedings. With regard to the name of a child, experts inquired whether there was a choice or did the child carry the father's name. Clarifications were requested on the term "freedom to marry", and whether union by consent existed. As to selection from a genetic point of view, it was asked what diseases prevented marriage.

178. One expert inquired whether the family planning policy did not contradict article 16 of the Convention, which ensured the freedom of choice and number of children.

179. The representative of the State party explained that freedom to marry had been a breakthrough for women in China who had been subjected to pre-arranged marriages in the old society. Neurosis or mental insanity was considered one disease for which marriage was prohibited. The parents decided on the name of the child. However, once the child reached adulthood he or she could choose whatever name he wished. The family planning programme was not compulsory. Only 40 per cent of couples had complied with the one child per couple policy; the other 60 per cent were cases in which a second or third child had been born.

180. She indicated that other answers would be provided in the next report and that she was willing to establish an informal dialogue on any other question or issue on which the experts desired more information.

### Egypt

181. The Committee considered the initial report of Egypt (CEDAW/C/5/Add.10 and Amend.1) at its 34th and 39th meetings, held on 30 March and 3 April 1984 (CEDAW/C/SR.34 and 39).

182. In her introduction, the representative of Egypt stated that there was no discrimination against women in her country, and remarked that there had been some discrepancies in the translation of the amendment to the report, which the Secretariat was urged to correct. She added that Egypt believed in equality between men and women, and considered that the discrimination against women was a violation of the principles of respect for human dignity and an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries.

183. Islam, she stated, attached great importance to the protection of women and guaranteed their rights and responsibilities as daughters, sisters, mothers and wives. The Egyptian Constitution enshrined equality of citizens regardless of sex, race, or religion: article 11 assured proper co-ordination between the duties of women towards the family and their work in society, considering them equal with men in the fields of political, social, cultural and economic life without prejudice to the prescriptions of Islamic law (Shari'a). The right to equal pay for equal work was recognized as well through the Labour Law.

184. Women exercised their civil and political rights by becoming members of legislative councils and trade unions, professors in universities, ministers, judges, diplomats, not to mention other occupations.

185. The Government of Egypt had ratified the Convention while registering reservations on article 9, paragraph 2, concerning the granting to women of equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children; article 16, concerning the equality of women and men in all matters relating to marriage and family relations during marriage and at its dissolution "which shall be without prejudice to the rights guaranteed by Islamic Religious Law"; and article 29, paragraph 2, concerning the right of a State signatory of the Convention to declare its commitment to paragraph 1 of that article concerning submitting to arbitration any dispute among States regarding the interpretation or application of the Convention. She drew the attention of the Committee to amendment 1 of the report where more details were given in those respects.

186. Several progressive measures had been initiated by her Government with regard to guaranteeing the principle of equality in all spheres of life. As examples, she stated that 30 seats in the National Assembly were allocated to women, as well as at least one or two seats in local councils. In addition to that, women had the right to compete with men for the other seats. A National Commission for women and a General Department for Women's Affairs in the Ministry of Social Affairs were created and, among others, vocational training centres were opened up to young women.

187. The Egyptian woman enjoyed from birth exactly the same legal rights as a man; she kept her own patrimony and was free to administer her own finances and inheritances independently from her husband upon marriage.

188. Finally, there had been a marked increase in the number of women attending educational institutions and universities. At the present time, the proportion of female students was 40.7 per cent of the total number of students. Secondary schools' enrolment of women was also on the increase - 160,000 at the present, as against only 106,000 in 1973-1974. It was to be noted that there were in Egypt at present 11 universities while there had been only 4 in the past.

189. The Committee thanked the representative for her introduction of the report. Several experts expressed their appreciation for the additional information submitted under amendment 1 and commended the efforts made by the Government to comply with the Convention's articles. Since it was the first report which the Committee was examining from an Islamic country, clarification regarding secular and religious law in Egypt would be pertinent and educational. Some members were particularly gratified to note the number of changes that had been introduced by the Government and it was commended.

190. Referring to an earlier discussion in the Committee, one expert requested an opinion from the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat with regard to reservations. The expert remarked that reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention were not permitted according to its article 28. Articles 2 and 16 laid down principles of equality, which were fundamental to the Convention. In the case of Egypt, for instance, the wording of its reservations gave no guidance as to what extent the applicability of the Convention was limited for Egypt. With regard to reservations, other experts referred to article 16 and the Government's comments in the report. Clarifications were requested regarding the sacred character of marital relations, the issue of complementarity and the obligations of Islamic law on that subject.

191. Several experts questioned the difference between Islamic religious law and its interpretation and secular law; as well as what areas of law each governed. For example, one expert cited the problem of polygamy and repudiation and asked in what way that was compatible with the articles which stipulated that practices based on the idea of inferiority or superiority of either sex should be eliminated and with article 16 of the Convention. It was also asked how the Convention had been incorporated into the judicial system of the country, how it was applied and what recourse women had in case of discrimination.

192. Other experts requested more information on how the Government of Egypt intended to reconcile the requirements of the Convention and Islamic law, while others asked for the specific texts of the Islamic law so that a better understanding might be gained. Another expert inquired how Islamic law affected non-muslim women.

193. With regard to the concept of equality enshrined in article 2 of the Convention, a few experts asked if that concept was a formal legal concept and if there was any specific article in the Egyptian Constitution expressly forbidding discrimination against women. It was remarked that there seemed to be a basic assumption by some Governments that harmony was equated with equality. It was known that that assumption was held by male-dominated societies.

194. It was remarked that the establishment of targets or quotas for parliamentary and council seats was a good idea, and more information was requested on how that measure was implemented, whether the quota system pre-empted women from occupying or being elected to more seats than the allotment, what proportion of women to men were on the ballot lists, how many men and women were elected and to what seats. As the quota system could be interpreted as tokenism it was necessary that equality between men and women be observed in practice and not in theory only. It was also pointed out that 30 out of 392 seats was still a very low figure.

195. In regard to the above, more statistical information was needed on what percentage of women were in the foreign service at ambassadorial levels, in ministerial and decision-making positions, in the judicial system other than in juvenile courts, as social service employees, and in the trade unions both as members and as directors of employees.

196. The subject of employment and restriction on certain kinds of occupations was noted. It was inquired why women were not allowed to work in bars or in casinos (gambling establishments) as long as those establishments were legally run and allowed by the State. There also seemed to be differences in employment practices regarding maternity leave between the public and private sectors as, for example,



women workers in the government administration were granted up to two years' leave without pay while the private sector granted one year's leave without pay. It was asked what the consequences upon the women's return to work were in either case. Also, since there were restrictions on the frequency with which such leaves were granted, what would happen to women with more than three children.

197. It was mentioned in the report that the Government monitored the employment conditions of women in the private sector, yet a few experts requested information on how that monitoring system worked in relation to foreign private enterprises.

198. Also, in connection with employment patterns, it was pointed out that women lawyers had recently begun entering the Police Academy. In many countries the educational level for admission into the police force was a baccalaureat or high school diploma. More information was requested on that issue.

199. The traditional occupations of women received lower remuneration than men, and it had been the observed phenomenon that once many women entered a particular occupation the salaries were lowered. Experts inquired how such a problem was handled by the Government of Egypt under the law of equal pay for equal work.

200. The Committee noted several provisions made with regard to the pension system, and one expert asked what was the age of retirement and if pensions were collected by the widower as well as by the widow. It was also remarked that day-care centres had been established, but experts inquired whether they were co-educational and free of charge.

201. In general, it was agreed that in spite of lack of statistical information, there seemed to be a larger number of women entering the labour force, and according to the introductory statement of the representative, more women were attending educational institutions. It was asked whether girls were being encouraged to enter scientific and technical institutions to study engineering, physics and natural sciences rather than the more segregated disciplines such as nursing, home economics, hotel management and social services, etc. It was also asked what was the literacy ratio level of males and females and whether there had been literacy campaigns; also, whether women in the rural and marginal areas benefited from the overall educational effort and what programme had been designed for them. Elitism would have to be avoided in education, it was remarked, since it should reach all classes and all levels of society.

202. Other experts displayed interest in the increase in women entering vocational training centres and statistical information was also requested on that matter. The Government's initiative to examine the curriculum and eliminate traces of stereotyping and prejudices as to the inferiority of women was commended. If education was not co-educational a few experts asked how the system worked and what plans were there for integration.

203. As to provisions regarding the family, several experts requested more information on divorce, family planning programmes, pre- and post-natal counselling, abortion and assistance to working mothers. In that regard, it was asked whether the Government understood the dual function or the double burden of women and whether it had provided measures to equalize the situation at home.

204. If the Ministry of Social Affairs was responsible for the family planning policy, experts inquired about the programmes and measures that had been taken.

Also, more details were needed on divorce procedures, guardianship or custody of children and property. More explicit details as to nationality laws affecting children upon the marriage of mother or father were requested, as well as the nationality of the woman upon marriage.

205. The role and co-ordination of the Department for Women's Affairs, as well as the National Commission for Women, was an item that many members of the Committee questioned. It was also asked what budget and human resources those departments had to carry out their programmes.

206. Interest was also expressed in the campaign carried out by the National Commission for Women and it was asked whether that campaign was still being carried out.

207. With regard to women's organizations and clubs, experts asked whether there were formal and/or working relations with the National Commission for Women or the General Department for Women's Affairs. Out of the experience of those clubs and the two departmental bodies the Government must have learned what obstacles and barriers it had encountered and information was requested about them and the measures being taken to combat them. Finally, in that context, it was asked whether a National Women's Association existed in Egypt.

208. The report stated that 25 institutions had been created to care for girls exposed to moral dangers. It was inquired what were those moral dangers, who was to determine them and what functions did those institutions perform.

209. There was no reference in the report to the incidence of prostitution or rape, and questions were asked as to rehabilitation of victims and sanctions for those offences.

210. The representative of Egypt, in replying to some of the questions, stated that she was pleased by the interest that had been aroused. Most of the questions would be answered at a later session, but she made certain observations.

211. She explained that the Shari'a preceded the Convention, and it embodied many precepts which protected women and guaranteed their equality with men.

212. She stressed that there was no difference between the law and the practice in the subjects dealt with in the report. In reply to one question, she said that the age of retirement was the same for men and women, namely 60. Furthermore, the Shari'a applied only to Muslims and not to people who practised other religions. Other general comments would be forwarded to the Government to be taken into account in the preparation of its next report.

213. In her replies at the 39th meeting of the Committee, the representative of Egypt explained that the provisions of the Convention were in compliance with the Constitution and other legislation valid in her country and that any contravention of the Convention was treated like a contravention of Egyptian legislation and was equally punishable.

214. Referring to a question whether discrimination against women was forbidden in her country, she stated that under the Constitution all citizens were equal irrespective of their sex, origin, language, religion or belief.

215. With respect to the prescriptions of Islamic religious law (Shari'a) and its effects on a reservation made on article 16 of the Convention, she explained that Islamic law had given a prominent position to all women and liberated them from any form of discrimination.

216. Except for certain rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution, Islamic law had given to women all the necessary rights even before the ratification of the Convention. The equality between the sexes corresponded to the provisions of the Constitution as much as to the principles of Islamic law and that equality applied to all civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights and to rights connected with the financial independence of women. Article 16 of the Convention was fully compatible with Islamic law concerning the right to enter into marriage and the right to choose a spouse. With regard to rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution, a certain difference existed between the Convention and Islamic law.

217. Under Islamic law, the marriage was entered into by contract, and it was obligatory for the spouses to abide by its terms. The husband had the primary responsibility for all financial expenditures. That provision was even discriminatory against men, as women were allowed to spend their own money freely. Under Islamic law, a woman had the right to divorce her husband at any time if such a stipulation was made in the marriage contract. In addition, a woman could divorce her husband under certain conditions. Some of those conditions were that her husband had married a second wife, he was concealing a first marriage, he did not give his wife any money or that he was in a prison for a period of three years. With regard to the granting of the same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution, Egypt had made a reservation on article 16 of the Convention. In that connection, some experts wondered whether it was even necessary for Egypt to make a reservation in respect of article 16, and they wanted to know what percentage of women inserted into the marriage contract the stipulation that they could possibly divorce their husbands. Furthermore, it was asked what happened if the woman did not want to terminate the marriage and whether she had to accept another wife of her husband.

218. With regard to polygamy, the representative of Egypt explained that it was retained in Islamic law with definite restrictions because, at the time the message of Islam was first introduced, women did not work and outnumbered men because of war casualties. Such a solution was the only way to provide women with financial resources and to preserve their dignity.

219. With reference to the Personal Statute Law, she explained that the provisions of the Islamic law were applicable only to Muslims and that non-Muslims were governed by other laws and subject to other tribunals.

220. In accordance with the provisions of the Egyptian Personal Statute Law of 1979, in divorce, custody of a child up to the age of 10 for the son and 12 for the daughter was given to the mother. The Judge could prolong that custody up to the age of 15 for the son and for the daughter up until her marriage. The mother's right to custody did not affect the rights and responsibilities of the father and in all cases the interests of the children were paramount.

221. As to the question of who had the right to keep the home in case of divorce, she stated that it was the person who had the custody of the children, be it the mother or the father, provided that that person had no other abode. The paramount aim consisted in looking after the interests of the children.

222. Concerning the role of women in the legislative and political fields, it was explained that there were 31 constituencies in Egypt and that each constituency had to have at least one female member. Through free elections women could acquire more seats. The same was valid for the local councils. It was hoped that, following the next elections, the number of women would be doubled.

223. Although only 81 women occupied posts in the diplomatic service, compared with 1,000 men, that was not a matter of discrimination, but merely a lack of interest among women in such posts, which could be obtained through examination.

224. Women had the same rights as men to enrol in the faculties of engineering science, medicine, etc., and more and more women availed themselves of those rights.

225. As far as the police force was concerned, originally only men could enrol in the police academy where they studied law and police science for four years. Women had taken the initiative to apply for entrance to the police academy. In order to accommodate that desire, the authorities decided that those women had to have a university degree in law in order to be able to join the police academy, where they had to study police science for one more year to become police officers in the same way as men.

226. As regards the acquisition by a child of the father's nationality, it was explained that if an Egyptian mother married a foreign husband and thereby agreed to give the father's nationality to the child, the child nevertheless could opt for Egyptian nationality, subject to a decision by the Minister of the Interior.

227. It was further stated that, under article 9 of the Constitution, the family was the basic element in society. Under article 10, the State guaranteed the protection of children and mothers and under article 11 the State guaranteed that women combined the duties inside and outside the family in accordance with the provisions of Islamic Law. To a comment made by one expert that, as a consequence of the above facts, all the burden was placed on the women's shoulders, the representative replied that the responsibilities were shared between husband and wife. The State further guaranteed sanitary conditions, medical services, retirement benefits and guaranteed and supervised the different stages of education. With a view to eliminating illiteracy, the State guaranteed education at all levels free of charge. Reference was made to the extensive progress in schooling; since, in 1982, 40 per cent of all students were women and 33.8 per cent of post-graduate registrations were women.

228. Nurseries were provided by the State and by private enterprises and the retirement age was 60 years for both men and women.

229. In addition to her own pension, a widow was entitled to a part of her husband's pension after his death; a divorced woman with no financial resources was entitled to a part of her deceased father's pension.

230. In the public sector, women were entitled to two years' unpaid leave for looking after their children, against one year only in the private sector because they received other benefits. After that time, women could assume their former posts and enjoy the same rights and privileges.

231. The Department for Women's Affairs had been created a long time ago. She had, however, no information on its budgetary situation. The National Commission on

Women consisted of representatives of many ministries, the parliament, the mass media, research institutes, trade unions and other associations and bodies.

232. The lapidation of a woman did not exist in Egypt. Under the Penal Code, any man or woman who committed adultery was imprisoned for two years. As regards the question asked about repudiation, the representative replied that there was a misunderstanding and that, according to the Egyptian legislation, there were restrictions on the unilateral right to divorce.

233. Referring to another question, she said that the 246 women's clubs were State-owned. They were placed under the Ministry of Social Affairs to train women in productive skills, but there were also some clubs established by women themselves.

234. The institutions for the protection of girls in moral danger were public institutions.

235. She concluded by saying that any questions unanswered would be taken up in the next report, which would also furnish more statistical data.

#### Rwanda

236. The Committee considered the initial report of Rwanda (CEDAW/C/5/Add.13) at its 38th and 41st meetings, held on 2, 3 and 4 April 1984.

237. The report was introduced by the representative of the State party who said that it was short because it had been prepared a long time before the general guidelines regarding the form and contents of reports had been adopted. She stressed that her country had been the first country from sub-Saharan Africa to sign the Convention and it had ratified or adhered to other international instruments dealing with the status of women.

238. Since the signature and ratification of the Convention, no legal or other measures had been adopted in her country because all the relevant measures were already in existence before the Convention had come into force. In Rwandese society, women had always played an important role in the survival of the family. However, as in other countries, women were victims of stereotyped attitudes and prejudices, which gave them a status inferior to men. In addition to that and because of the critical economic situation of the country, women and men in Rwanda were more preoccupied with the question of survival than with their legal status. The primary concern of the Government was to improve the living conditions of women in order to make them more receptive to the idea of equality with men.

239. Within the third five-year development plan, further integration of women in development was foreseen through an improvement in equality in the fields of education, employment and equal opportunities and through further research, in order to add greater value to the role of women in development.

240. Some progress had been made in the status of women under the provisions of the 1978 Constitution compared with the previous one. She also referred to certain articles contained in the Criminal Code and the Civil Code which protected women's rights. Prostitution and abortion were illegal and the husband was penalized if he abandoned the family. However, the Code contained a measure discriminatory against women in cases of adultery. She further enumerated the civil rights of women and

the progress made in that field and spoke about a project to set up a national women's organization by the name of URAMA to increase awareness of women's problems. As Rwanda was mainly a rural country, 92.9 per cent of the working population was involved in agriculture. She spoke also about the special measures and programmes set up for rural women.

241. People had been made aware of the problem of women's integration in development through mass media and, since International Women's Year, at least one seminar had been organized annually in order to raise the consciousness of feminist groups and to make women aware of their role.

242. The Committee congratulated the representative of the State party for the introduction, which adequately supplemented the short report, although it would have been more useful if it had been annexed to the initial report. The members of the Committee paid tribute to the fact that the report came from a developing country, as such countries often had greater difficulties in supplying statistical data; further, the report had been prepared before the adoption of general guidelines. Regrets were expressed that it did not contain any information on most articles of the Convention and that it did not give enough information on legislative and other measures taken by the Government to eliminate discrimination against women. Some experts wanted to receive a copy of the introductory statement.

243. Some members of the Committee asked whether measures against any form of discrimination were enforceable in courts and whether any agency was responsible for safeguarding the rights of women and for supervising the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. Information was sought about the obstacles and factors which impeded the application of the Convention and whether a particular government programme dealt with the implementation of the Convention. One expert wanted to know whether the Government had made any reservation when ratifying the Convention.

244. A few experts inquired whether prostitution was prohibited in Rwanda, whether it constituted a widespread problem and whether a Criminal Code contained any provision for imprisonment or other penalty. A certain contradiction was also found in that respect between the provisions contained in articles 363 and 364. One expert asked for an explanation of the words "to maintain" in article 365 of the Criminal Code. Another one asked for clarification of the penalties in cases of aggravating circumstances, as mentioned in article 374, paragraph 10, if "the offence was committed by a public official or minister of religion". An explanation was also requested of the strict punishment in cases of rape, as well as of the effect of the crimes discussed in the annex to the report on the development of the country.

245. With reference to article 9 of the law of 28 February 1967, it was asked whether single, divorced or widowed women practising a profession or trade could join professional organizations and participate in their administration or leadership. As regards article 9 of the Constitution, information was requested on the categories of citizens that were excluded from the right to vote and on the meaning of the phrase: "elections in the circumstances prescribed by law".

246. Questions were asked about the percentage of women in the court system, in executive and managerial posts, in trade unions, in administrative posts and in professional organizations. One expert asked what steps were being taken to encourage women to assume higher decision-making posts.

247. Information was sought on the role of women in the political life and in the economic development of the country and on the percentage of women and men represented in the National Revolutionary Movement for Development.

248. It was pointed out that the report gave no information on rules governing the nationality of Rwandese women.

249. Many experts inquired about the illiteracy rate in the country, about the methods used to eliminate illiteracy, about the percentage of women, especially in rural areas, who availed themselves of educational facilities and about the educational facilities for adults in general. They asked whether enrolment in primary schools was mandatory up to a certain grade and whether girls had the same educational and training possibilities as boys, what the drop-out rate of girls was and what measures were being undertaken to prevent girls dropping out of school. Another question concerned the vocational opportunities for women and the types of studies carried out by girls.

250. Several experts showed interest in the question of whether the rule of equal pay for work of equal value was implemented in the country, and what were the sanctions in cases of discrimination in employment because of pregnancy. One question referred to the percentage of women in the total labour force of the country. Another expert asked whether the 70 per cent of women quoted by the State party representative as assisting their husbands without pay were included in the 94.7 per cent of women who were working in that country.

251. Several other questions referred to the social security situation in Rwanda. The Committee wanted to know whether retirement and disability pensions were provided for women, what the age of retirement was and whether it was the same for men and women. Some questions concerned the availability of day-care centres and kindergartens and the length of paid maternity leave. One expert inquired about the availability of free services during pregnancy and nursing and whether maternity leave was given before the birth of a child.

252. The Committee was interested in the existence of non-governmental women's organizations and wanted to know if, in case such organizations existed, they helped women to defend their rights. Questions were asked about the rights of women with regard to ownership, inheritance, control and disposition of property and whether women could be financially independent.

253. Some experts requested information on rural women, whether they were members of producers' co-operatives, whether they had access to agricultural institutions, what the distribution of the work load between men and women was in rural areas, and on rural women's access to health facilities.

254. Other questions related to the legal capacity of women in civil matters and to their civic rights. One expert wanted to know whether the concept of "origin" referred to in article 393 of the Criminal Code as reason for the dismissal of a person included the person's sex.

255. Most experts asked questions centred around marriage and family relations in Rwanda. Some wanted to know whether wives were entitled to maintenance for themselves and their children in cases of dissolution of the marriage, about the incidence of illiteracy and whether the position of children born out of wedlock was different from that of legitimate children. Others asked whether women were

free to choose their spouses and inquired about the rights and responsibilities of parents in relation to their children. One expert asked about the percentage of female-headed households. Several experts requested an exact definition of the concept of abandonment, and inquired about serious grounds for abandonment of the family and the penal responsibility in such cases. One expert asked for clarification of article 25 of the Constitution, and wanted to know whether other forms of marriage existed that were not recognized by law. Some clarification of the right of divorce was sought. Another expert wondered why the penalty imposed under article 387 of the Criminal Code for abandonment that caused the death of a child was less than the penalty for offences against individual freedom, bearing in mind that the type of abandonment described was equivalent to intentional homicide.

256. Several experts inquired why the penalties differed between men and women in cases of adultery and stated that that provision was contrary to the provisions contained in the Convention. They propounded the argument that adultery committed by the husband had the same sociological consequences if, as a result of the act done, children were brought into the family.

257. Several questions related to family planning in Rwanda. One expert asked whether abortion was forbidden under any circumstances. Another one inquired about the demographic policy of the country and about the growth rate of the Rwandese population, and wondered about the severe punishments for advertising means of abortion. Questions were asked about the number of children in an average Rwandese family.

258. In her replies given at the 41st meeting of the committee the representative of Rwanda expressed gratitude for the interesting questions asked which would assist in preparing the next report.

259. Apart from the constitutional provisions which imposed monogamy, customary law and the Civil Code governed simultaneously the rights and duties connected with the family and were valid for all citizens. It was difficult for lawyers, at times, to know which one of the two to apply. It was pointed out, however, that written law did not contain any provisions referring to the matrimonial arrangements between spouses and to inheritance.

260. Under the Civil Code, which was largely inspired by the Napoleonic Code, the minimum age for marriage was 15 years for girls and 18 years for boys. If the future spouses were less than 21 years old, they needed the consent of their parents for the marriage. Furthermore, some had to obey their husbands and follow them anywhere. Parental authority meant paternal authority which was replaced by maternal authority only in the absence of the father.

261. As regards affiliation, the Code made a clear distinction between natural and legitimate children. Whereas children of parents who were not married could be recognized, children born out of adultery could not be recognized. An intensive campaign had been carried on in the country to give both categories of children the same rights. Paternity proceedings existed, but women hardly ever availed themselves of that possibility. Both spouses could ask for divorce, however, and adultery committed by the wife could result in her divorce, whereas adultery committed by the husband was not necessarily followed by a divorce. During the divorce proceedings, the woman could be permitted to leave the conjugal residence. After a divorce, the woman could receive an allowance for herself and her children, and, in any event, the interests of the children prevailed. Small children were



entrusted to their mother. A widow had to wait 300 days after the death of her husband before she could remarry. It was hoped that the legislators would reconcile the new Civil Code with the provisions of the Convention. Its initial draft had already been debated at several levels, especially as regards the abolition of the dowry system and the status of natural children, but no time limit had been set as yet for its adoption.

262. Under customary law, marriage was the rule and society did not give much consideration to single mothers. In former times, the family of the young man had to be assured of the quality of the girl. Currently, the two partners also had opinions in the matter. The celebration of the marriage as such was preceded by the engagement and the giving of a dowry. In case of non-payment of a dowry, the children belonged to the family of the woman. Women had to obey their husbands, they had to administer their goods without having the right to dispose of them and they had no right of inheritance. Because of women's importance, especially for the education of children, they were called the heart of the home. The families of both spouses tried to prevent their separation but, in the case of failure of the first marriage, women had the right to remarry.

263. Rwandese women had equal access to credit as men. Their major obstacles were the hard conditions imposed by the banks which were difficult for most women to fulfil.

264. The Constitution did not contain any provision which would secure the application of the Convention through national legislation. Internal social instruments would first have to become national laws in order to be integrated into the domestic jurisdiction.

265. Currently, only a minor part of the population benefited from social security, since about 93 per cent was employed in agriculture and lived from cash crops. The provisions applicable to the remaining 7 per cent of the population for professional risks and retirement pensions referred to women and men in the same way without any discrimination. Women received a retirement pension on the same footing as men at the age of 55 years.

266. Women could transmit their nationality to their children if the father had no nationality or his nationality was not certain or if paternity was not or could not be established because the father was a foreigner. A Rwandese woman did not lose her nationality through marriage to a foreigner and she could even choose her nationality in such a case, but she could not transmit her nationality to her foreign husband.

267. All Rwandese women could become members of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development although they were still underrepresented. There were only 9 women out of a total of 68 members in the National Council for Development. No other statistics were available on female representation in other bodies and in many other fields as asked for by the other experts. No governmental or non-governmental women's organizations existed as yet in the country nor any trade unions, although the formation of such entities was foreseen by the Statute of the National Revolutionary Movement for Development. Non-governmental women's organizations encountered many difficulties and were dissolved. Although women were underrepresented, they took part in the drafting of the new legislation.

268. As regards civic rights, the new electoral law listed those persons who were excluded, and those who were suspended, from the right to vote, as well as those persons who were not eligible.

269. Referring to questions about the educational provisions of the country, she explained that education had been introduced in the country during the colonial period. It was accessible, at first, only to boys. When the country reached its independence, the education of girls was intensified. In 1968, the university gave access to girls, and measures were taken to increase the number of girls in secondary schools. Since International Women's Year efforts were intensified and, in 1975, a secondary agricultural school was opened for girls. Since then, girls had had access to the police force and the army. Under the Constitution, every Rwandese citizen was entitled to receive education; primary education was compulsory and free of charge. In order to accommodate the largest possible number of children, each teacher may have two groups, one in the morning, one in the afternoon. Since the 1981 school reform, primary education was of eight year's duration and during the last two years children were given practical training. Access to secondary school was subject to national competition. Apart from the mandatory schooling, the latest school reform introduced measures to reduce the drop-out rate and created centres for rural education and integrated handicrafts which were open to children who did not succeed at the competitive entrance exams to secondary schools. Although the education given in secondary schools was divided by sexes, the programmes were the same for boys and for girls. Among the female university graduates, there were doctors, lawyers, economists, sociologists and social workers. However, girls tended to choose disciplines belonging to the positive sciences rather than to the exact sciences. She did not have any statistical data in that field, but she promised that such data would be included in the next report.

270. As regards questions concerning the implementation of the Convention and obstacles encountered in that respect, she referred to what she had said in her introductory statement about the efforts undertaken by her country to achieve equality between the sexes and to what was foreseen by the third five-year development plan. In the next report, her Government would submit a detailed programme referring to the application of the Convention.

271. Speaking about the population policy of her country, she mentioned the creation of the National Population Office in 1981 and stated that the third development plan had set a specific target to halt the uninterrupted rise of the population and to limit the annual growth rate to 3.7 per cent. The objectives were to study the impact of the increase in population on socio-economic development, to make people aware of family planning methods and to reach a balance between agricultural production and population growth.

272. Rural women had few economic possibilities, their living conditions were very hard, they had no access to drinking water, all their labours did not allow them time for rest and education and the illiteracy rate among them was 75 per cent. Since health-care centres were very scarce, the Government was setting up a programme of preventive medicine. Rural women exercised the right of freedom of association, but because of their poor education and their poor economic means they had no access to agricultural credit. As regards the distribution of the work-load, she said that men did the work outside the house, which required physical strength, whereas women were responsible for the work inside the house.

273. Because of the limited means of the Government, no day-care centres were available as yet.

274. A small amount of prostitution existed only in urban areas and was forbidden by law. The Government had opened two centres for helping and re-educating recidivist prostitutes.

275. All questions would be referred to her Government and any replies outstanding would be given in the next report.

276. Several experts congratulated the representative for the frankness of her answers and appreciated the efforts made by the country for the advancement of women in spite of its economic difficulties.

### Norway

277. At its 38th and 39th meetings, the Committee considered the initial report of Norway (CEDAW/C/5/Add.7/Amend.1). The representative of the State party, in introducing the initial report, stated that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was an important forum for the continued surveillance of women's rights and that she intended to make a general assessment of the status of women in her country.

278. She said that the term "equality with men" could be given various interpretations. In Norway it tended to be taken quite literally in the sense that equality would not be considered to have been attained until the traditional division of labour between the two sexes was broken down. That was a long and complex process. Formal equality, to which Norway had subscribed by becoming a State party, and social injustice could easily coexist. The conditions of women thus often had the same characteristics as class differences. However, some important steps had already been taken.

279. There was formal, including legal, equality between the sexes in all areas. The two exceptions were right of succession to the throne which was through the male line only, and the other area was the military where military service was compulsory for men and not for women.

280. At the present time, there was much more political awareness among the people and parties concerning the importance of equality and improvement of the status of women. Until the 1970s, the working conditions in Norway were geared by the supposition that the wife was at home taking care of the children and the housework even when both parents worked. Later the solution proposed was to adapt working life to the need of families with young children.

281. Several measures had been introduced. Parental leave with full pay was extended to 18 weeks; parents could take an additional 34 weeks of leave without pay, bringing the total to one year altogether. In addition parents with children under the age of 10 also gained the right to 10 days leave with pay per year when the children were ill. She admitted, however, that not many men took advantage of those measures.

282. Additional reforms were necessary, such as higher tax relief and increased child allowances to families with small children, as well as a quantitative and qualitative improvement in child-care institutions. Such reforms were rather

costly and not easy to implement at a time when efforts were geared to cutting public expenditure.

283. Children were not well served by the traditional division of labour and, in that regard, it was thought that a reduction in working hours for working parents might be a necessary adjustment.

284. Although there had been a sharp rise in employment among married women, their average income was considerably less than men's. It was true that many worked part-time and others worked in fields where the emoluments were low. It was also true that women tended to be found at the junior levels. She expressed concern at the fact that part-time work was mainly a female phenomenon since it reflected the attitude of males towards family responsibilities. The sharply segregated labour market was also a problem since women sought training and jobs within a narrow range of professions, mainly in the service sector, making them more vulnerable to recessions and economic setbacks.

285. In that regard, the Government had introduced the payment of a salary subsidy for six months to firms that employed women in fields heavily dominated by men; also, an information campaign had been launched aimed at encouraging young girls to seek less traditional types of training under the slogan: Women must stop educating themselves for unemployment.

286. Two agreements had recently been concluded between the Government and the civil service unions, and between the Private Employers Confederation and the Federation of Trade Unions. They required that a separate agreement be concluded on equality to include systematic planning for the hiring, training and promotion of women.

287. In addition, the Act of 1978 on equal status between the sexes and the plan of action for the 1981-1985 years were proof of the Government's will to continue its efforts towards the elimination of any form of discrimination. A new article added to the Equal Status Act in 1983 regulated the composition of all publicly appointed boards and committees at all levels of Government. Both sexes must be represented on all such bodies and, if the total membership was four or more, there must be at least two members of either sex.

288. Other initiatives to upgrade the status of women and bring awareness to the population had been the provision of free legal advice to women by women law students at the Oslo University, the establishment of crisis centres for battered women and their children, and the promotion of women's studies as an academic discipline, especially in the sciences.

289. Finally, an evaluation of Norway's policies for equality was being launched with the purpose of charting the road ahead. The evaluation should be completed by 1985.

290. Several members of the Committee thanked the representative of Norway on the presentation of a critical, frank and open introduction of the initial report of her country. Some experts remarked that measures undertaken by the Government could serve as an example to other countries. One expert remarked that the status of women in Norway was far from being as satisfactory as was implied and that frequently laws were not being complied with in practice.

291. It was noted that machinery had been established by the Government to deal with the problems of inequality and that sustained efforts were being deployed to improve the situation. Some experts remarked that from the report it was not altogether clear whether the principle of equality was embodied in the Constitution and whether women enjoyed the same civil rights as men. It had been also noted that there were provisions in Norwegian legislation exempting certain religious communities from compliance with equal rights legislation and information was requested in that regard.

292. The Committee took note of the Equal Status Act of 1978, the Equal Status Council of 1972, the Equal Status Commissioner, the Special Family Affairs and Equal Status Department of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and the Plan of Action for 1981-1985, which would be evaluated by 1985. It was not clear whether provisions had been introduced in Norwegian legislation with explicit sanctions against discrimination of women in any form, and if there was such legislation, what were the sanctions imposed on those who infringed the law.

293. Regarding the organs mentioned above, questions were asked about their interrelation, their composition, the manner of appointment of members, their powers and prerogatives, and their main areas of competence. It was understood that the Equal Status Commissioner was appointed by the Equal Status Appeals Board and they enforced the Equal Status Act. Several members also asked whether all women belonging to different social groups could take advantage of the Government's policy on an equal footing.

294. With reference to the above, several experts noted that 156 complaints on hiring had been received by the Commissioner, 87 from women, 48 from men and 11 from trade unions. More information was requested on what kind of action was taken by the Commissioner and what was meant by the statement that she had taken up nine cases on her own initiative. The same Commissioner had received a total of 78 complaints relating to equal pay. All in all, 800 complaints based on the Act had been received. More information was requested on the follow-up action undertaken.

295. A few experts commented that the existence of complaints corroborated the fact that there was more awareness among women in exercising their rights. The Equal Status Act provided clear goals, and if those goals were not yet met, it did not mean that such provisions did not fulfil their role. A more detailed review of the nature of some of the complaints received, as well as the action taken, was requested.

296. Regarding the employment figures given, it was noted that women held lower positions and consequently earned lower salaries than men, a fact which seemed to be substantiated by the complaints mentioned above received by the Commissioner. One expert indicated that, on the basis of the above-mentioned facts, it could be concluded that the requirements of the Convention, with respect to the principle of equality of men and women in economic, political and social fields, were frequently being violated in Norway and the necessary conditions were not created to allow women to combine work and motherhood.

297. Inquiries were made about the level of employment among women and whether those who were unemployed were skilled or unskilled workers. Statistics available at the United Nations in its monthly bulletin stated that in 1982 the level of unemployment among women was 3 per cent. That was the highest level it had reached

in Norway since the Second World War and an explanation was sought. Also remarked on was the fact that only one fifth of women were employed in the industrial sector, while one half were in the hotel and tourism industries. It had been already understood in the introduction that occupational segregation did exist in Norway, and it was wondered whether more should be done to stimulate girls and women to enter into other non-traditional professions.

298. One expert commented on the fact that women were generally considered secondary earners even when they were the sole supporters of their families. Did such a problem affect the difference in wages between men and women in Norway?

299. Although advertising jobs for one sex only was forbidden, in the report it was mentioned that that policy could be overruled when there were obvious reasons for doing so. An explanation was requested. Also there were certain types of work forbidden to women and one such example was work involving radiation. It was asked whether that related to pregnant women only or to all women.

300. The Working Environment Act mentioned in the report seemed to have far-reaching positive areas of development in labour law. Inquiries were made as to what areas it covered and how it related to the Equal Status Act. The role of trade unions was particularly important, and it was asked whether collective agreements promoting equality between men and women similar to those agreed to by the Government had been entered into within the private sector.

301. Several experts noted with concern the information provided regarding violence against women both in the home and outside. Although the establishment of hot-line telephones and crisis centres was recognized as a great step forward it was asked whether education on family relations was being undertaken with the young population. It was also asked whether those telephones were available only in big cities or also in rural areas. Also, it was asked what were the sanctions regarding rape and what policy did the Norwegian Government have regarding pornography and violence in the media, all of which contributed to promoting such behaviour on the part of men. Furthermore, it was asked whether the problem had been studied, what were the possible causes if already researched and whether the Plan of Action mentioned before included preventive measures such as counselling services for couples and others. Further, no concrete information was given regarding prostitution, whether it was a problem in the country, whether it was regulated and what sanctions were applied. With regard to the problem of violence in the family, a few experts asked whether it was due to alcoholism or was practised by the men in a family without fear of penalties being imposed. They wanted to know whether it was a crime and whether any studies had been made as to its causes.

302. Since only 50 per cent of the existing needs for kindergartens were met for children in the 0-6 age group, it was asked whether there was any plan and a deadline to meet fully the demand and whether the availability of such facilities was connected with the economic possibilities of women.

303. Several questions dealt with the role of women in political life, on the governmental or non-governmental level, and with the participation of women in decision-making.

304. While commending the efforts made by the country in the field of education one expert asked what lines of studies were taken by the 27 per cent women graduates

mentioned in the State party's report. Some statistics in the field of secondary education for girls were requested, and explanation was sought on the "preferential treatment" for the under-represented sex in admissions to schools and universities.

305. As women still preferred traditional types of work, the measures employed by the Government, such as publicity campaigns, were presumably not sufficient to change the situation and it was asked whether the Government was contemplating more positive actions in that connection.

306. Comments were made on the rather high retirement age of 67 years, and questions were asked as to whether the retirement age was valid for both sexes. As each person paid for social security, it was considered as discriminatory to have a different full basic pension for single and for married persons.

307. Several experts referred to the supplementary information submitted under amendment 1, which reviewed in its annex II the Norwegian social security system. It was a complicated system, and some experts inquired whether the age of retirement was accepted by women at large. Most countries, some experts commented, set the age of retirement at 60 and in others it was even 55. It was asked how that regulation affected the psychology of women themselves, and whether women who had worked for a number of years were entitled to a pension even if they had not worked for 40 years.

308. The report stated that a survivor's pension was granted to a spouse if the marriage had lasted at least five years and an inquiry was made regarding cases in which the marriage had not lasted five years. Also it was asked whether other types of social insurance existed, and why there was a difference between the first child who received 40 per cent of the basic amount of the annual pension upon the death of a parent, and for the other children who received only 25 per cent of the basic amount.

309. It was indicated in the report that bilateral arrangements had been made with several countries regarding the social security system and more details were requested.

310. Several experts referred to article 9 of the Convention, which referred to the provision that women should have equal rights with men with regard to nationality, and it was pointed out that there was no reference in the report as to how that article was being observed by Norway.

311. It had been noted by the Committee that there had been an increase in the number of girls attending secondary schools and that that increase was greater for girls than for boys. However, it was asked whether efforts were being made to break the traditional patterns in the choice of studies; for example, 85 per cent of girls were attending the language department or general studies while boys were attending the natural science department.

312. Of more concern to the Committee was that the percentage of women graduating was only 27 per cent and that a higher proportion of women interrupted their studies or dropped out of the university before receiving a higher degree. It was asked whether measures were being taken to encourage women to finish their university studies and whether incentives were being offered. It was also asked whether special measures had been taken to assist those who had dropped out in continuing and completing their studies.

313. Clarification was requested as to whether farmers' wives were considered as housewives, employees or spouses of self-employed men.

314. Not enough information was available on the civil rights and the legal capacity of women in Norway, and it was asked whether the legal status as described in the legal texts corresponded to the real situation of women in the households, what the degree of economic independence of women was and whether any discrepancy existed between law and practice.

315. One question referred to the situation of unmarried rural women. It was also asked whether the previous existing discrimination between legitimate children and children born out of wedlock had been dropped. One expert wanted to know whether free legal advice was available to a woman in connection with the dissolution of her marriage. Another expert inquired about the legal provisions concerning the age of majority, the right of self-determination of children and marital relations in general.

316. One expert inquired whether the State party had put forward a reservation in respect of article 16 of the Convention, since the article of the Norwegian Constitution, under which women were excluded from accession to the throne, was contrary to the provisions of the Convention.

317. As to political participation of Norwegian women, it was noted that efforts had been made by the State party to increase the level of women representatives within the Government, both in Parliament and in municipal assemblies, and it was remarked that the imbalance had nevertheless not been remedied. Basic power and decision-making was still in the hands of men.

318. In that regard, it was mentioned that the report stated that the percentage of women representatives and deputies on government committees had been 10.3 per cent in 1972 and had risen to 41.2 per cent in 1982. The increase was noted with satisfaction, but it was queried whether those positions were subject to elections or were just government appointments.

319. As to the 1983 electoral campaign for municipal councils, more information was requested on results and on the role of women's organizations in that process. One expert inquired about the number of such organizations and what their primary concerns were. Also, more information was needed regarding women's participation in the diplomatic services and in international organizations, as well as the role they played in international relations.

320. It was known by all that Norwegian women had played an active role in the peace marches organized in 1981 and 1982 and, therefore, the views of Norwegian women on the question of peace and disarmament were requested, especially about the nuclear-free zones and more particularly the nuclear-free zone in Central Europe.

321. The representative of the State party thanked the experts for their interest and constructive observations and informed the Committee that she would answer the questions at a subsequent meeting.

322. In her replies to the Committee at its 41st meeting, the representative of Norway said that she was impressed by the interest shown in her report demonstrated by the large number of questions the experts had asked.



323. She explained that abortion laws had been enacted in 1978 in Norway, making it free on demand during the first 12 weeks and, thereafter, making it possible on medical grounds. The frequency of abortion had decreased because of better family-planning techniques and the availability of contraceptives.

324. Norway had a unified system of child-care centres for children from 0 to 6 years and did not make any distinction between crèches, nurseries and kindergartens. The coverage was less than 30 per cent and the central and local governments covered about 70 per cent of the running costs, while the rest was covered by the parents. Usually the fee was graduated according to the income of the family. Some free places were granted according to need. Although they were open to all children, priority was given to children of single parents, working parents with lower incomes, handicapped children and children from parents with special problems, owing to the shortage of places available. The budgetary appropriations by the Government for such centres had risen sharply over the past few years.

325. As the high drop-out rate for women in higher education referred to by some experts was the result of a misunderstanding, she explained that the 25 per cent of women graduates who had finished their studies were students who took post-graduate degrees. In the lower degrees, 55 per cent of total graduates were women. The percentage of girls who finished secondary school was also 55 per cent. As girls still enrolled in the traditional fields of study, the Government had launched information campaigns to counteract that tendency. Boys or girls who chose non-traditional studies were granted special scholarships. Even the few private schools which existed in Norway adhered to the principle of sexual non-discrimination.

326. Some data were given about women in political life; 4 out of 18 members of the Cabinet were women, as were 26 per cent of the members of Parliament, 32.8 per cent of the provincial popular elected councils and 23.8 per cent of the local government councils. Despite a special information campaign before the last two local council elections, the representation of women had increased by only 1 per cent. The percentage of women in the various political parties was 30 to 40 per cent. Three parties had adopted quotas for women; the chairman of the largest party and one of the three vice-chairmen of the second largest party were women.

327. As more information on the national machinery was requested, she said that the Equal Status Council was only an advisory body, which gave advice to the Government, initiated research, gave out information to various bodies and the general public and supplied advice and guidance to the Committees for equality at the local level. The Ombudsman was an institution for the implementation of the Equal Status Act of 1978. Its first step was to contact both parties in order to try to settle the issue through mediation. Not all of the 800 complaints it received per year represented a breach of the Act, but no statistical data were available on the number of breaches of the Act. Failing an agreement, the two parties could appeal to the Equal Status Appeals Board, which had seven members and functioned similarly to a court of law. In the case of a breach of law, the Board was entitled to stop the action. In case one of the two parties did not abide by the decision, the case could be referred to an ordinary court of law. Only 1 per cent of all cases had, so far, been taken to the Board and no cases had been referred to the law courts.

328. The Equal Status Act applied to all sectors with the exception of the internal life of religious communities, such as theological questions, of women's special rights, such as those in direct connection with childbirth, or of cases in employment where one sex was preferred for obvious reasons. Sanctions consisted in the decision to stop a certain action or in the payment of fines.

329. The principle of equality was not incorporated in the Constitution since every law in the country had the same power as the Constitution.

330. Concerning equal representation of both sexes on publicly appointed boards, although there was no quota system in the Parliament, to which members were elected by vote, members of both sexes had to be considered for any other bodies, councils and committees.

331. There was complete equality between the sexes in civil law, family law and the law regulating the relationship between parents and children. Women could own and dispose of property and conclude contracts. Married couples could choose the surname of one of the two spouses and also which name the children would have. They could freely choose their nationality and that of their children. After a divorce, the parents could decide about the question of parental custody; if the case was referred to a court, the court would give custody to the more suitable parent or else to the parent with whom the child was living. Although it was de jure not forbidden for single persons to adopt children, de facto only married couples would adopt a child because it was considered better for a child to be brought up by a couple.

332. As regards the problem of violence in the family, she explained that in the past more violence had occurred when Norway was still a poor country. However, as awareness of the status of women had increased, the problem had been given more attention. Violence against women was a criminal offence but could be prosecuted only at the instigation of the injured party. Crisis centres were set up to give temporary assistance in acute situations and to provide legal aid or to institute divorce proceedings if requested to do so.

333. Prostitution had increased over the last decades largely as a result of drug addiction, and programmes had been launched to encourage prostitutes to attend treatment centres. Whereas prostitution as such was not a criminal offence, the incitement to and exploitation of prostitution were put under legal penalty.

334. Statistics showed that the total number of registered unemployed women was rising, but at the same time the total number of women who took paid employment had increased. The majority of women, who had recently joined the labour market, were part-time employees. The rate of unemployment for women was not higher than that for men. If an employer refused a job to a woman or dismissed her because of her sex, the case could be referred to the Ombudsman. The number of women employed in the foreign service was still low although a significant increase in recruitment had been noticed recently. Very few women occupied higher positions in that field. However, no precise data were available.

335. The right of "self-determination" of children meant that, in the process of growing older, children could decide over their lives. In the case of divorce, the child could be heard from the age of 12, and from the age of 15 a child could freely decide on religious matters and on his own education. Children born within wedlock and children born out of wedlock had the same rights, and the differences between legitimate and illegitimate children had disappeared.

336. As to the high retirement age which the experts had commented on, she said that there was no demand for lowering it for women. Women trade unionists preferred to give priority to other reforms such as shortening the working hours per day for women without loss in pay. She also explained that the reason why children's pensions after the death of one or both parents decreased with the number of children was that it was considered not to be more expensive to support two children than one. The same applied to the difference in pension benefits between a married couple and a single person. The cost of living for a couple was considered less than that for two single persons living in two separate households. In Norway everybody was covered by the social security system. Although she did not have time to check on the motives for special maternity allowance to be paid to women who delivered their babies at home, the reason was probably that those women had saved the Government the cost of accommodating them at the hospital. For adopted children the same children's allowances were paid as for natural children.

337. While in her country both men and women were involved in the peace movement, she could not give any details on the views of Norwegian women on the proposal for a Nordic nuclear-free zone.

338. The Committee commended the representative for the extensive and detailed replies given.

#### IV. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

339. Agenda item 6 (Organizational and other matters) was discussed at the 35th and 41st meetings of the Committee, held on 30 March and 4 April 1984.

340. In his statement, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs recalled the agreement arrived at during the second session of the Committee that seven reports should be considered at the current session, priority being given to the six reports that had been before the Committee at its second session, but had not been considered for lack of time. 2/ These were the reports of Hungary, the Philippines, Panama, Egypt, Rwanda, China and Norway.

341. In response to the request made by the Committee during the last sessions to invite specialized agencies whose activities were relevant to the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to submit information on on programmes which might be of assistance in implementing the Convention and serve as additional information, reports had been received from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which were circulated to the members of the Committee as background papers.

342. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/71 of 9 December 1977, the Secretary of the Committee informed members of the resources available. She pointed out that two meetings per day would be held in the Economic and Social Council Chamber; and that simultaneous interpretation would be provided in the six official and working languages of the Committee, as were summary records and sound recordings.

343. In order to have enough time available for consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee on its third session, it was agreed that every effort would be made to circulate as far in advance as possible those parts of the draft report dealing with the consideration of reports submitted by States parties.

344. While reminding the Committee of the recommendation made during the second session that reports from States parties at different levels of development and from different geographical regions ought to be considered, 2/ the representative of the Secretary-General pointed out that, so far, the Secretariat had received 21 reports and only those received by the end of June 1984 could be processed in time for examination before the next session. Therefore, at its fourth session, the Committee would take up the reports received from Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, El Salvador, Mongolia and Yugoslavia and one additional report, provided that it was received before July 1984.

##### A. Future work of the Committee

345. At its 34th and 37th meetings, held on 30 March and 2 April 1984, the Committee discussed a number of organizational matters which should be taken into account in planning the Committee's future work.

346. Several experts thought it useful to have the introductory remarks concerning a State party's report annexed to the report and circulated among the members of

the Committee; others felt it was better to summarize them in the Committee's final report and keep the entire text in the files of the Secretariat. A few experts suggested that each government representative should be asked to summarize the introduction of the report and the replies given.

347. It was pointed out that the main duty of the Committee was to consider the reports of States parties and to prepare a report at the end of the session. However, since there was no fixed rule as to the number of reports to be discussed, in the view of some experts, the number could be determined for each session depending on what other items were on the agenda of the session. Since at the present stage only 21 reports had been submitted, there was no danger of having a backlog of reports waiting to be discussed.

348. A number of experts felt the need to define and determine the meaning of the suggestions and recommendations of a general nature under the terms of article 21 of the Convention, which could be transmitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. It was suggested that the Secretary should verify how that matter was handled by similar groups of experts and also consult with government representatives.

349. A discussion turned around the question of the admissibility of reservations made at the time of ratification or accession under article 28 of the Convention. The view was expressed that reservations made by States parties could possibly be annexed to the national reports and circulated to all members of the Committee. Some experts pointed out that an opinion from the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat was sought on the scope of admissible reservations and the incorporation of some reservations with the object and purpose of the Convention.

350. Concerning the question of circulation of national reports, the Secretary explained that the reports of the States parties, as well as the reports of the Committee's sessions, were distributed to the entire United Nations system and to all specialized agencies. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) was also included in the list of recipients.

351. As far as complaints regarding delays in receiving the summary records were concerned, the Secretary explained that the summary records of the second session had been received by the Committee's secretariat between October and December 1983. They had been sent out to all experts concerned as soon as they were ready in all official languages. The Secretary also explained that all corrections submitted by the experts were duly taken into account.

352. Another point of discussion referred to the type of treatment to be given to the reports of specialized agencies. One expert suggested that the reports received from FAO, the ILO and UNESCO should have some official identification and, in spite of being only background papers, they should be distributed with the official United Nations symbols, as was common practice in other United Nations bodies.

353. The Secretary drew the attention of the Committee to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/23 of 26 May 1983 on the role of the family in the development process, which was distributed among the members. She pointed out that the progress report of the Secretary-General to the Council, which was to be prepared in pursuance of that resolution, should contain an analysis of policies

influencing the role and nature of the family and its members and an examination of the changing forms and roles of families, and invited the Committee members to bear that mandate in mind when examining States parties' reports.

354. At its 40th meeting, the Committee continued consideration of item 6 of the agenda (Organizational and other matters).

355. The Committee examined a proposal made with regard to including the introduction and replies prepared by the States parties as part of the initial report to be kept in the Secretariat files and to be made available to the experts present. Views were expressed on the advisability of requesting States parties to submit such material in advance. Other experts referred to the translation of such statements and the possible financial implications. All experts recognized that information provided orally at the meeting was complementary to the report and in many instances updated the information already contained in it.

356. It was decided that the Secretariat would endeavour to approach the representatives of the different States parties to consider the possibility of circulating the written introduction and replies provided to the Committee, at the time of delivery, in order to assist the Secretariat and the experts in the consideration of the reports of the States parties concerned and complete the Secretariat files.

357. With regard to a legal opinion that had been requested by one of the experts as to reservations made to specific articles of the Convention which were incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, the Secretariat read out the legal note received from the Treaty Section of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

358. The Committee decided to have the above legal note (CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.20) annexed to the report of its current session. (See annex III to the present report).

359. It was also decided that the Secretariat should annex to future country reports the reservations to the articles of the Convention, as well as objections which State parties might have made.

360. The Committee continued discussion of organizational matters and preparations for the fourth session of the Committee. It was discussed that the agenda for a future session should contain an item on the discussion of article 21 of the Convention, specifically as to what would be the Committee's interpretation of the Committee "may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports".

361. It was further agreed that the Committee, at its fourth session, would consider six but not more than seven initial reports of States parties; that the Secretariat would choose what reports the Committee would examine based on regional representation, the economic and political profile of the country, the availability of a government representative to introduce the report and the date on which the report had been received.

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

362. At the 39th meeting of the Committee, the Secretary-General of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women explained that, while that Committee reviewed and appraised the progress made in the implementation of the Convention and considered the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures to give effect to the provisions of the Convention, the 1985 World Conference would review and appraise the results of the United Nations Decade for Women. It would identify obstacles and difficulties encountered in achieving the objectives of the Decade and would propose strategies of implementation up to the year 2000.

363. The review and appraisal should serve as a basis for the formulation of forward-looking strategies of implementation at the national, regional and international levels and, in order to formulate these strategies, there was a need to identify clearly the major obstacles at all levels. Hence, the work of the Committee was crucial to the preparatory work of the Conference, as the careful analysis of the States parties' reports would help to identify progress and obstacles both in law and in practice in the implementation of the very comprehensive provisions of the Convention. The information provided by the States parties and the results of their examination by the Committee would be used for the preparations of the Conference.

364. Members of the Committee recalled that the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the World Conference, had requested the Committee to make a contribution to the Conference.

365. At the Committee's second session, it had been agreed that, as its contribution to the 1985 World Conference, the reports of its second and third sessions should be forwarded to the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the World Conference to be held in Nairobi. 3/

366. During the discussions on the nature of the contribution, one expert proposed that the Secretariat should prepare a draft report, to be submitted to the Committee at its fourth session, on the achievements and obstacles experienced by State parties in the implementation of the Convention. Such a report, other experts explained, would include information drawn from the material submitted by State parties. The Committee therefore agreed to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the Secretariat should prepare the draft report as discussed. Therefore, the Committee decided to recommend that the Council should entrust the Secretariat with the mandate of preparing the draft report on the progress achieved and the obstacles to the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

367. It was agreed that an item should be included on the agenda of the fourth session of the Committee which would enable the experts to discuss both the draft report, as agreed above, and other contributions which the Committee might feel in a position to make. The agenda item would read: "Contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women".

### C. Reports of the specialized agencies

368. Regarding reports submitted by specialized agencies, it was agreed that they would be made available to the Committee at the current and future sessions as background material, provided that there were no financial implications, bearing the symbol "CEDAW/background paper/L... . For participants only".

369. For the current session, the reports submitted by FAO, the ILO and UNESCO would be issued in that form and made available to the experts.

370. One expert suggested that, at the fourth session of the Committee, consideration would be given to the possibility of requesting INSTRAW to submit background information.

### V. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

371. At its 42nd to 44th meetings, on 5 and 6 April 1984, the Committee adopted the draft report on its third session (CEDAW/C/L.1 and Add.1-10 and Add.10/Amend.1 and Add.11-20.

#### Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 45 (A/39/45), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., sect. II, para. 19.

3/ Ibid., para. 22.



## ANNEX I

States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms  
of Discrimination against Women as at 9 March 1984

| <u>State party</u>                        | <u>Date of receipt of<br/>the instrument of<br/>ratification or<br/>accession</u> | <u>Date of entry<br/>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                   |
| Brazil                                    | 1 February 1984   | 2 March 1984                        |
| Bulgaria                                  | 8 February 1982   | 10 March 1982                       |
| Byelorussian Soviet<br>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                     |
| France                                    | 14 December 1983  | 13 January 1984                     |
| Gabon                                     | 21 January 1983   | 20 February 1983                    |
| German Democratic<br>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                    |

| <u>State party</u>                     | <u>Date of receipt of<br/>the instrument of<br/>ratification or<br/>accession</u> | <u>Date of entry<br/>into force</u> |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 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<br>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                    |
| Saint Lucia                            | 8 October 1982 <u>a/</u>  | 7 November 1982                     |
| Saint Vincent and the<br>Grenadines    | 4 August 1981 <u>a/</u>   | 3 September 1981                    |
| Spain                                  | 5 January 1984  | 4 February 1984                     |
| Sri Lanka                              | 5 October 1981  | 4 November 1981                     |
| Sweden                                 | 2 July 1980   | 3 September 1981                    |
| Togo                                   | 26 September 1983 <u>a/</u>   | 26 October 1983                     |
| Ukrainian Soviet Socialist<br>Republic | 12 March 1981   | 3 September 1981                    |
| Union of Soviet Socialist<br>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                       |

a/ Accession.

## ANNEX II

Submission of reports by States parties under article 18  
of the Convention as at 9 March 1984

Initial reports

| <u>State party</u>                           | <u>Reports due</u><br>(date) | <u>Invitation to</u><br><u>submit reports</u><br>(date) | <u>Reports</u><br><u>received</u><br>(date) |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Australia                                    | 27 August 1984               | 12 September 1983                                       |   |
| Austria                                      | 29 April 1983                | 23 April 1983   | 20 October 1983                             |
| Barbados                                     | 3 September 1982             | 2 March 1982  |   |
| Bhutan                                       | 30 September 1982            | 2 March 1982  |   |
| Brazil                                       | 2 March 1985                 | 2 March 1983  |   |
| Bulgaria                                     | 10 March 1983                | 2 March 1982  | 13 June 1983                                |
| Byelorussian<br>Soviet Socialist<br>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  | 3 November 1983                             |
| Ethiopia                                     | 10 October 1982              | 2 March 1982  |   |
| France                                       | 13 January 1985              | 8 February 1984   |   |
| Gabon  | 20 February 1984             | 28 February 1983  |   |
| German Democratic<br>Republic                | 3 September 1982             | 2 March 1982  | 30 August 1982                              |
| Greece                                       | 7 July 1984                  | 7 July 1983   |   |
| Guatemala                                    | 11 September 1983            | 14 September 1982                                       |   |

| <u>State party</u>                        | <u>Reports due</u><br>(date) | <u>Invitation to</u><br><u>submit reports</u><br>(date) | <u>Reports</u><br><u>received</u><br>(date) |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| 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<br>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  | 18 November 1983                            |
| 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  | 18 November 1983                            |
| 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<br>the Grenadines       | 3 September 1982             | 2 March 1982  |   |
| Spain                                     | 4 February 1985              | 8 February 1985   |   |
| Sri Lanka                                 | 4 November 1982              | 2 March 1982  |   |
| Sweden                                    | 3 September 1982             | 2 March 1982  | 22 October 1982                             |
| Togo                                      | 26 October 1984              | 9 November 1983   |   |
| Ukrainian<br>Soviet Socialist<br>Republic | 3 September 1982             | 2 March 1982  | 2 March 1983                                |
| Union of Soviet<br>Socialist Republics    | 3 September 1982             | 2 March 1982  | 2 March 1983                                |
| Uruquay                                   | 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                             |

Annex III

Legal opinion submitted by the Treaty Section of the Office  
of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat upon an  
Inquiry by the Committee concerning the implementation of  
article 28 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms  
of Discrimination against Women

1. Article 28 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women reads as follows:

"1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.

"2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.

"3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States thereof. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received." a/

2. With regard to the implementation of article 28, paragraph 2, of the Convention, the following may be noted:

(a) Contrary to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, b/ article 20 of which provides that "a reservation shall be considered incompatible or inhibitive if at least two thirds of the States parties to this Convention object to it", the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women does not offer any specific criterion of incompatibility. Accordingly, a question of interpretation of the Convention is involved here;

(b) Assuming a dispute arose with regard to the interpretation of article 28 of the Convention, article 29 thereof would become applicable (arbitration or, failing agreement on the organization of the arbitration, referral to the International Court of Justice in conformity with the Statute of the Court). Paragraph 2 of article 29, to the effect that parties may declare that they shall not be bound by paragraph 1 of that article, should be particularly noted in this context;

(c) The depository (in this instance, the Secretary-General) does not have the power to interpret the Convention, although he would certainly refer to the parties any matter that should be settled so as to enable him to discharge his functions. In this context, article 28, paragraph 1, of the Convention is quite clear that the depository should receive and circulate the text of reservations;

(d) The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is established by article 17 "for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the ... Convention". Under article 21, the Committee is to report annually to the General Assembly on its activities and "may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information

received from the States Parties". Thus, the functions of the Committee do not appear to include a determination of the incompatibility of reservations, although reservations undoubtedly affect the application of the Convention and the Committee might have to comment thereon in its reports in this context.

#### Notes

- a/ See General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.
- b/ See General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

## ANNEX IV

Membership of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women at its third 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 GONZALES 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                               |
| Ms. Maria Margarida DE REGO DA COSTA<br>SALEMA MOURA RIBEIRO* | Portugal                            |
| Ms. Landrada MUKAYIRANGA**                                    | Rwanda                              |
| Ms. Nguyen NGOC DUNG*   | Viet Nam                            |
| Mr. Johan NORDENFELT*   | Sweden                              |
| 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                                |

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\* Term of office expires in 1984.

\*\* Term of office expires in 1986.

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