



**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

Distr.: General  
7 March 2011

Original: English

---

**Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women**

**Fiftieth session**

3 – 21 October 2011

**List of issues and questions with regard to the consideration  
of periodic reports**

**Paraguay**

The pre-session working group considered the sixth periodic report of Paraguay (CEDAW/C/PRY/6 and Corr.1).

**General**

1. The report mentions in paragraphs 3, and 125 (a) that the drafting of the sixth periodic report was coordinated by the Ministry of Women and the Inter-institutional Committee for the implementation and follow-up of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Please provide further information on the process of preparing the sixth periodic report. The information should indicate which Government departments and institutions were involved and the nature and extent of their participation, whether consultations were held with non-governmental organizations and whether the report was adopted by the Government and submitted to Parliament.

2. The report indicates in paragraph 17 that the development of an Operational Global Plan based on the Committee's previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/PRY/CC/3-5) was envisaged by the State party; however, the report does not make any further reference to it. Please provide further information on this plan proposal and its connection, if any, with the Inter-institutional Committee (*Mesa Inter-Institucional*) for the implementation and follow up of the Convention.

**Constitutional, legislative and institutional framework**

3. According to paragraph 129 of the report, the Secretariat of Women of the President's office has been taking the lead in building up the process towards the elaboration of a number of laws within the framework of the Convention, such as the draft National Law on the Equality between Women and Men and the draft Law on Violence against Women. Please clarify whether in the elaboration of these bills a definition of discrimination against women as provided by article 1 of the Convention has been incorporated, as recommended by the Committee in paragraph 21 of its previous

concluding observations. Please also update the Committee on the status of the elaboration and/or adoption process of these laws.

4. The report indicates in paragraph 40 that amendments to the Penal Code and Procedural Code were presented to the National Commission for the Reform of the Penal and Penitentiary System. Please clarify whether these amendments include a revision of articles 136 and 137 of the Penal Code to bring them in line with the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 19 (1992), to effectively combat all forms of violence against women by ensuring that perpetrators of such acts are prosecuted and punished and that women are effectively protected against reprisals as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (para. 25).

#### **National Gender Machinery**

5. While paragraphs 4, 16 and 27 of the report indicate that the State party's gender policy has been strengthened, paragraph 126 (c), (g), (h) and (m) mentions that a number of institutional, budgetary, material and capacity weaknesses impede the State party to mainstream gender issues as required by its international obligations. Please further elaborate on the capacity of the gender national mechanism to coordinate with the different ministries and clarify whether budget allocations and the capacity of the gender national mechanism staff are adequate at all levels of government.

#### **Visibility of the Convention and the Optional Protocol**

6. As part of the State party's efforts to disseminate information on the Convention amongst its population, the report mentions that in 2009 translations of the Convention into Guaraní language and Braille system were prepared (para. 18). Please clarify whether the editing of these translations has been finalized and please also explain how the State party envisages disseminating them amongst the Guaraní speaking population. Please indicate whether translations into Guaraní language and Braille system of the Optional Protocol of the Convention are going to be also available.

#### **Temporary special measures**

7. The report mentions in paragraph 126 (j) that temporary special measures aiming at accelerating substantive equality between men and women, urban and rural women and women from different ethnic and religious groups are "not well accepted and have not been strategically developed in" the State party. Please indicate to which extent the State party has promoted the adoption of temporary special measures in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004). Please also clarify to which extent the acceptance of stereotypical roles within the country have undermined efforts to strategically develop temporary special measures seeking to accelerate the improvement of the position of women to achieve their substantive equality with men.

#### **Stereotypes**

8. The report mentions in paragraphs 31, 40 and 93 that a number of law proposals have been submitted for consideration to the Equity, Gender and Social Development Commission of the Senate. The report also acknowledges that the persistence of gender, cultural and religious stereotypes in the State party have impeded the full understanding of these law proposals; consequently, none of them have been approved. Please provide information on actions taken to combat the widespread acceptance of stereotypical roles of women and men in the country. Please also indicate whether the State party is supporting Parliamentarians awareness and knowledge of the rights of women under the Convention and the Committee's general recommendations with a view to ensuring that the Convention

is used as a legal basis for legislation aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the achievement of gender equality in the State party.

### **Violence against women**

9. The report points out in paragraph 47 that the Prosecution Office opened a complaints bureau at the Medical Emergencies Centre to facilitate the reporting of cases by victims of sexual violence, sexual harassment and domestic violence while they are being medically examined. It is also mentioned that a service to separately register domestic violence cases, code 1600, was established by the 911 Emergencies Service of the National Police. Please provide statistical data on the number of complaints lodged by women, the type of violence of which they were victims, prosecutions and sentences imposed on perpetrators. Please also explain whether the State party has established or envisages establishing a systematic and regular gathering and analysis of data and information on all forms of violence against women.

10. According to paragraph 52 of the report, the use of conciliation to settle disputes between the parties involved in cases of violence against women and the constant police and health-care staff turnover represent obstacles to the efforts taken to protect victims of violence. Please provide information on measures taken or envisaged to overcome these obstacles.

11. Please provide information on which type of protection mechanisms are available to women victims of violence. Please provide update information on the status of the opening of the first shelter for women victims of violence in the country, as mentioned in paragraph 56 of the report, and provide the Committee with information regarding its envisaged capacity in terms of provision of housing and assistance to women victims of violence.

12. Please provide updated information about the joint efforts, between the State party and the civil society, taken to strengthen the Inter-institutional Commission for the Prevention and Punishment of Violence against Women (para. 53 of the report). Please explain whether this plan can be regarded as a set of comprehensive measures to address violence against women and girls in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19, and provide information on how the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of its implementation is envisaged.

13. The report highlights in paragraph 131 the direct intervention of the Ministry of Women on high profile cases of violence against women that have resulted in the lodging of complaints and which have required a lot of effort in order to guarantee the rights of the victims. Please provide detailed information on those cases, including how many of them were prosecuted, acquitted, convicted and the sanctions imposed in connexion with the crimes committed. Please also indicate if any redress was provided to the victims.

### **Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

14. The report mentions in paragraph 128 the elaboration of a draft Special Law to Combat and Punish Trafficking; however, no further information is provided regarding this bill. Please provide information on the status of this bill and its content, specifically elaborate on how this bill is in line with United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

15. The report is silent about steps taken to incorporate provisions on sexual exploitation and trafficking of girls and boys in the Childhood and Adolescence Code as recommended by the Committee in paragraph 28 of its previous concluding observations. Please provide information on efforts taken to revise the Childhood and Adolescence Code in line with the international obligations of the State party, particularly with the Optional Protocol to the

Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

16. According to the report, the main challenges faced by the State party in its efforts to combat trafficking are the strengthening of the public policies aimed at combating trafficking and the coordination between the fields of criminal justice as well as the reintegration of victims and prevention of this crime (para. 126 (k)). Additionally, the report highlights in paragraph 69 difficulties in collecting, systematizing and analysing data related to trafficking in persons. Please provide information on actions taken to adopt and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent and eliminate trafficking of women and to protect victims as well as to improve the collection of systematic data on this phenomenon. Also indicate steps taken towards the elaboration, implementation and full funding of a national strategy to combat trafficking in women and girls as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (para. 29).

17. The report indicates on paragraphs 59 and 60 that the State party has established a Specialized Unit on Trafficking in Persons and Sexual Exploitation of Children. It further mentions that this unit has carried out 18 international raids, has repatriated 96 women and six adolescents who were trafficked with the view to sexually exploit them; however, the report is silent about information concerning measures to protect asylum-seekers and refugees at risk of being trafficked. Please provide information on protection mechanisms for and on programmes to integrate asylum-seekers and refugees and whether the State party has ratified the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

#### **Political participation and decision making**

18. According to the report the results of the 2008 elections showed a slight increase in the percentage of women elected to public positions if compared to the results of the 2003 elections. However, the report also mentions the need to increase the quota for women's political participation in the Electoral Code (paras. 10, 19, 24 and 134). Please describe the measures introduced to achieve a balance between women and men holding publicly elected positions. Please also explain whether any steps have been taken towards the approval of the proposed amendments to the Electoral Code, which according to paragraph 19 of the report were rejected by two votes at the Deputies Chamber in 2005.

19. Please indicate what actions have been taken to increase the level of participation of women in decision-making bodies in light of the Committee's general recommendation No. 23 (1997) and on political and public life and No. 25, on article 4, paragraph 1, on temporary special measures, as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (para. 19). Please also provide information on the impact of the project "*Parlamento Mujer*", developed by a civil society organization, on the decision-making processes of the State party's Parliament.

#### **Education**

20. Please provide information on measures taken by the State party to prevent pregnant teenage girls from dropping out of school and to ensure that they return to school after giving birth. Please also provide details on the State party's proposal to provide opportunities to economically disadvantaged girls that due to an early pregnancy have dropped out of school, mentioned in paragraph 23 of the report.

21. While the report contains information about programmes and projects to increase the literacy rate of the indigenous population of the State party, the report lacks information on the specific objectives of these programmes and projects to address the high illiteracy rates of indigenous women, particularly Guarani speakers, as requested by the Committee in its

previous concluding observations (para. 37). Please provide detailed information on how these measures mainstream gender issues and what has been the impact on Guarani speaking women.

### **Employment**

22. The report mentions in paragraphs 70-73 actions taken to include in the national agenda the issue of “remunerated domestic work”; however, it appears from these paragraphs that NGOs have taken the lead on this issue, including sensitization campaigns and capacity building. Please provide information on legislative and institutional developments to protect and guarantee the rights of domestic workers, such as social security, working hours and payment.

23. Please inform the Committee on steps taken to effectively address the situation of exploitation of girls performing domestic work in the State party, including by bringing its legislation and policies in line with its obligations under International Labour Organization Conventions Nos. 138 (1973) and 182 (1999), concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment and concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, respectively. Please also indicate whether monitoring mechanisms exist in the State party to protect the rights of girls performing domestic work and what type of sanctions are applied in case their rights are abused.

24. Please elaborate on the content of the National Agenda on Women and Work, which according to paragraph 78 of the report analyses the problems of and makes concrete proposals to the issue of women in the informal sector. Please also describe concrete actions taken and aimed at increasing the participation of women in the formal labour market after the ratification by the State party in 2008 of ILO Convention No. 156 (1981) concerning Equal Opportunities and Equal Treatment for Men and Women Workers: Workers with Family Responsibilities and at closing the gap between the persistent wage disparities between men and women in the formal sector. Please provide data, disaggregated by sex, which evaluates women’s participation in the labour market.

### **Health**

25. According to paragraph 6 of the report, the Ministry of Women has identified an increase in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women. Please provide updated data on the incidence of HIV/AIDS up to the end of 2010. Please also provide the Committee with information regarding public educations and health-care services measures envisaged at combating this feminization of HIV/AIDS in the country. Also provide information on initiatives undertaken to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS, including prevention of mother to child transmission treatment (PMCT).

26. The report mentions in paragraph 87 that the practice of unsafe abortions is the second cause of maternal mortality in the State party. It also refers to in paragraph 92, a proposal under examination by the Ministry of Health that if approved will guarantee access to medical attention to women suffering from an incomplete abortion and will guarantee the confidentiality of patients. Please provide update information on the status of this initiative that aims at decreasing the levels of maternal mortality. Please explain whether this initiative envisages capacity building and sensitization programmes on the specific medical attention needed by women suffering from an incomplete abortion. Please also indicate whether a national consultation to address the issue of abortion and its illegality has been envisaged by the State party as recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (para. 33).

**Disadvantaged groups of women**

**Rural women**

27. Please provide more information and data disaggregated by sex, on measures aimed at the improvement of rural women's access to land and ownership mentioned in paragraphs 99 to 101 of the report. Please also describe other concrete actions taken and achievements made to guarantee rural women access to credit facilities and extension of services to improve their social and economic conditions. Please also provide further information on the measures mentioned in paragraph 102 of the report, related to the identification of agro-toxic fumigation products and the report of its use. Please indicate what are the sanctions imposed for using such products.

**Indigenous women**

28. The report refers in paragraphs 110 to 113 to a number of policies and programmes undertaken to promote the rights of indigenous people in the State party. Please indicate whether these measures mainstream gender issues and how indigenous women and afro-descendent women have benefited from these policies and programmes. Please also provide information on any achievements of the project "Visibility of the inequalities of indigenous, Guarani speakers and afro-descendant women", mentioned in paragraph 116 of the report.

**Amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention**

29. Please describe any progress made towards the acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the meeting time of the Committee.

---