



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

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**
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Summary record of the 845th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 11 July 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Šimonović

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*Combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports of the United Republic
of Tanzania*

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention *(continued)*

Combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports of the United Republic of Tanzania (CEDAW/C/TZA/6; CEDAW/C/TZA/Q/6 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Ms. Sitta** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the achievements during the reporting period included a review of the Constitution and laws, enactment of new laws and formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes with a gender perspective. There had been challenges in implementing the Convention, as attitudes supporting male domination still existed.

3. The fourteenth constitutional amendment guaranteed the equality of men and women, and paragraph 12 (5) thereof referred to gender-based discrimination. There was now a provision to ensure that at least 30 per cent of members of Parliament were women, including half of the 10 members who were nominated by the President. The proportion of women in Parliament had increased from 21.72 per cent to 31 per cent after the 2005 elections and the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly was a woman, while in Zanzibar, women accounted for 30 per cent of council members. The aim for the 2010 elections was to achieve the 50/50 gender parity goal recommended by the African Union. The number of women in decision-making positions in public institutions had also increased, and women accounted for 22.2 per cent of ministers, 26.6 per cent of deputy ministers, 29.6 per cent of permanent secretaries, 20 per cent of deputy permanent secretaries and 28.6 per cent of judges.

4. The National Development Vision 2025 had laid the basis for preparing and reviewing macro and sectoral policies, plans and strategies with gender perspectives. Gender was mainstreamed in several policies, and laws and regulations had been adopted to prohibit discrimination against women in employment.

5. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance and several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had been conducting legal

awareness and education programmes to reach women in both rural and urban areas to combat the widespread legal illiteracy and the paucity of lawyers. Future legal reforms would enhance women's access to justice: the Law Reform Commission had already recommended amendments to customary laws and other practices that prevented women from inheriting land and property. Laws relating to marriage, succession and children had also been reviewed, as well as the Criminal Procedure Act. The right to administer property and the right to the protection of matrimonial property had been ensured.

6. There were currently no official data on trafficking in women and no national plan to combat it. The Government, with support from the International Organization for Migration, had established a support project to combat trafficking and had drafted the 2008 Anti Trafficking in Persons Act. The Ministry of Public Safety and Security had established an anti-trafficking section in the crime unit.

7. The national multi-sectoral policy to combat HIV/AIDS, a scourge which had been declared a national disaster, incorporated gender mainstreaming. Another national plan addressed the high maternal mortality rate, and other initiatives included capacity-building for traditional birth attendants.

8. The gross primary school enrolment rates for girls had increased substantially and gender parity had been achieved at that level. The Government was now implementing a Secondary Education Development Programme, but although many more girls were now attending secondary school, their drop-out rate was still higher than that of boys. Pregnant girls were currently expelled from school, but consultations were under way with a view to allowing them to continue attending school.

9. An Education Circular of 2002 had set some limits on corporal punishment in schools, but cultural, traditional and religious beliefs and practices impeded the abolition of such punishment. The Government had also taken steps to sensitize the public, law enforcers and the media to combat the serious problem of gender-based violence. The 2001 National Plan of Action to combat violence against women and children focused on legal, social, economic and cultural awareness-raising. A national plan of action to combat female genital mutilation (FGM) was also being implemented. Tanzania was a signatory to the Southern

African Development Community (SADC) Declaration on Gender and Development and to its Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women and Children. Both the SADC Declaration and Addendum and the Convention had been translated into Swahili. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance had a special gender desk for public education and women's rights. The President of Tanzania had launched a "Say No To Violence against Women" campaign in support of the United Nations Secretary-General's call for global action.

Articles 1 to 3

10. **The Chairperson** welcomed the country's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention and encouraged Tanzania to consider acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, which allowed the Committee to meet according to its needs.

11. **Ms. Patten** asked whether the new definition of discrimination included in the Constitution had been tested in the courts and whether it was broad enough to include indirect and both intentional and unintentional discrimination. She also wondered whether the Optional Protocol had been translated into Swahili.

12. In the Committee's previous concluding observations, it had recommended immediate action to modify certain discriminatory laws such as the Marriage Act, the Children's Act and the inheritance laws. It would be useful to receive updated information on the possible time frame for the two bills currently under consideration by the Cabinet. She also asked why there were no plans to criminalize polygamy in the proposed amendment to the Marriage Act and asked if the Government was considering domestication of the Convention.

13. **Ms. Hayashi** asked what kind of legal remedies were available to women who had been victims of discrimination and whether they consisted of civil, criminal or administrative measures. She also wished to know if the Government had plans to provide legal aid services in addition to those provided by NGOs. It would also be useful to know whether women could challenge the validity of a discriminatory law, such as the Zanzibari law under which pregnant women aged under 21 years were subject to two years' imprisonment.

14. **Mr. Flinterman** asked whether the planned constitutional court had actually been established. If

there was such a court, it would be interesting to hear about its case law in relation to women.

15. **Ms. Neubauer** said that it was important not only to have legislation to protect women from discrimination but also to have policies and programmes that translated the legal obligations into practice. In view of the decentralization of responsibility and accountability for gender and women's advancement, she wished to know what coordination and monitoring mechanisms had been developed for gender mainstreaming. She also asked whether there was a gender focus desk in every region and whether such desks also existed at the local level, especially in rural areas.

16. **The Chairperson**, speaking as a member of the Committee, emphasized the Committee's suggestion that State parties should involve Parliament in the reporting process, including by submitting the concluding observations to the Parliament. Perhaps it would be easier to do so, or at least to submit them to a Parliamentary Committee, now that 30 per cent of the members of Parliament were women.

17. **Ms. De-Mello** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that human rights issues, and women's rights in particular, were a new concept in developing countries. Tanzania's constitutional amendment had been a step forward in acknowledging and adhering to international treaties and conventions. There had been very few cases in Tanzania in which women had defended their rights through the courts. There had been just one landmark case in which a woman had obtained redress through the courts in a labour rights dispute. There was a need for sensitization of judges, as few of them were even aware of the possibility of referring to international conventions. Some judges were now attending awareness-raising courses.

18. Great efforts had been made to amend discriminatory laws, including the Marriage Act and inheritance and probate laws. The draft amendments were currently with the Attorney-General's office for further processing. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, in collaboration with the Law Reform Commission, intended to conduct advocacy activities in relation to the draft legislation. It was not possible to provide a specific time frame, but she was optimistic, in view of the commitment made by the current President, that most of the pending issues would be resolved prior to the 2010 elections.

19. Domestication of the Convention was a problem for Tanzania, but that was true of all the international conventions to which the State was a party. For the time being, priority was being given to trade and economic laws, but the necessary steps should be taken by 2010. All Government policy action, including the National Development Vision 2025 and the national poverty reduction strategy, included gender mainstreaming; she hoped that relevant statistics would be able to be provided in the next report. As for access to justice, the legal sector reform programme, undertaken in consultation with all stakeholders, contained specific provisions for free legal aid, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

20. In response to the question about a constitutional court, she said that it had not been established as such but that the High Court served that function by taking it upon itself to rule, when necessary, on constitutional rights. For example, in a recent case in which Parliament had required the deposit of a large amount of money by a plaintiff who had wished to challenge election results, the High Court had overturned that requirement. Improvements in legislation were clearly needed, but progress could also be achieved through policies and programmes. However, a monitoring and evaluation tool was still lacking, as was an effective mechanism for ensuring deliverables. Turning lastly to the question of polygamy, she said that it was part of the country's culture and tradition, supported in some cases by religion, and therefore could not easily be criminalized. It called for awareness-raising, particularly in the context of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

21. **Ms. Juma** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance was mandated to protect women and children and encouraged victims of rights violations to apply to the courts. It had launched a number of awareness-raising actions, including television programmes and seminars. Moreover, the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association and the Women's Legal Aid Centre had established programmes for the provision of free legal aid, and gender focal points within each ministry, provided valuable guidance in that regard. The focal points helped to ensure that gender was a cross-cutting concern through all branches of Government. As for the law providing for the imprisonment of unmarried mothers, it had been repealed in 2005.

22. **Ms. Mwaffisi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Government had accepted the amendment to article 20.1 of the Convention and that the instrument of ratification was being prepared. Gender focal points existed not only in all the ministries but also at regional and local level, and coordination was ensured through meetings with community development officers.

23. **Ms. Juma** (United Republic of Tanzania) informed the Committee that the Government had recently finalized a law for the protection of children, the Children's Act, which would soon be in place.

24. **Ms. Kibona** (United Republic of Tanzania) said the major obstacle to the work of the gender focal points at local level was the great distances between villages.

Articles 4 and 5

25. **Ms. Simms** welcomed the increased number of women in Parliament and asked whether any effort had been made to organize them as a unified group across party lines. It was necessary to ensure a critical mass of members in support of women's rights, irrespective of the party to which they belonged, and to include therein representatives of minority and indigenous groups and young women, who were so vulnerable to all the woes afflicting women, in particular HIV/AIDS. She stressed that polygamy was a women's issue, given that women, unlike men, generally did not prefer such an arrangement. She questioned the official use of the word "spinster", which implied an unacceptable denigration of the unmarried state for women.

26. **Ms. Coker-Appiah** noted that, while the State party's report acknowledged the negative impact of traditions and customs on women's rights, other sources showed them to be backed by law, notably in relation to bride price and widow inheritance. Did the Government have the necessary commitment and political will to repeal such discriminatory laws and, if so, within what time frame?

27. **Ms. Shin** said that the figures contained in table 2 of the periodic report suggested something in the nature of a national emergency in respect of violence against women. Fuller information would be appreciated about the extent and duration of the national campaign launched by the President to combat such violence. As for domestic violence, the most hidden form of violence in Tanzania, she wondered

whether anything was known about the frequency and prevalence of the wife beating which, according to the responses, was considered justifiable by 59.6 per cent of women and 42 per cent of men. The Committee would like to know what forms of violence were inflicted and what help was sought or obtained by victims from family members, police or friends. It would no doubt be useful to request NGO assistance in securing such information, which would provide a basis for proposing solutions. The Secretary-General's study on violence against women and the Committee's General Recommendation No. 19 could also offer valuable guidance. Specific legislation was required, as had been stressed at the time of the last report, but also funding, training and staff. The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance was certainly a step in the right direction, but it was unclear what action it had planned or how many women were aware of the Commission's existence.

28. **Ms. Begum** said that a strengthening of the legal system was a precondition for eradicating violence against women. There was a contradiction between the aims of the National Plan of Action against such violence and the funding available, which was described as inadequate in the responses. Information would be appreciated about its budget and a possible review. The Committee would also like to know whether the cases of rape reported to have been settled out of court had therefore gone unpunished and whether figures could be provided on the number of convictions of rapists.

29. **Ms. Tavares da Silva** emphasized the dire effects of stereotypes and traditional practices on women throughout their life cycle. At birth, they could be subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM), even though it was officially banned; they could be forced to drop out of school because of family responsibilities, pregnancy or early marriage; in employment, they could be exposed to sexual harassment; as mothers, they could not pass their citizenship to their children; as wives, they could be one of several and had no negotiating power in sexual relations; and finally, as widows, they could be accused of witchcraft and killed. Since all those practices were based on a belief that women were inferior, the mere amendment of laws would not suffice: consistent, persistent awareness-raising action was required, with the involvement of all stakeholders. The passage of time alone could not be relied on to bring solutions to all the issues identified;

proactive measures must be put in place. The Committee wished to know what the State party was planning to do to change discriminatory practices and customs more effectively.

30. **Ms. Hayashi** expressed appreciation for the information provided on the practice of female genital mutilation and wondered about the huge disparity between regions, noting a range in prevalence from 5 to 81 per cent. It would be interesting to know whether those figures matched the figures for illiteracy, which would confirm the link between that practice and lack of information. Had any study been made of the question?

31. **Ms. Sitta** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that women parliamentarians were fully united on women's issues and did indeed work together across party lines to advance the cause of women. She reminded the Committee that most of the female population were illiterate and that poverty was rife, particularly in rural areas. Women were reluctant to denounce abusive husbands who were their only economic support or, for the same reason, to oppose them on FGM. Poverty was the main obstacle to efforts to combat the inequalities affecting women, but every effort was nevertheless being made to address them. The 2005 election manifesto of the ruling party included a pledge to deal with women's issues by 2010.

32. **Ms. Juma** (United Republic of Tanzania) said she agreed that the use of the word "spinster" should be eliminated, and further noted that, as women's issues were common to all women in Government, all parties were united in addressing them. It was very important to increase the number of young female members of Parliament and she hoped that the next elections would see some progress. While the election process was democratic, it did not always produce results favourable to gender equality. Over time, with the inclusion of more young women in Parliament, progress could be made.

33. Overall, Tanzania was far from achieving cultural equality. Women had no say and often had to accept injustice or endure even greater hardship. Change would be slow, though there was hope. For instance, traditionally children born out of wedlock had no right to inheritance, yet such laws were not always rigidly followed. The delegation's commitment and continued work with the Committee and other relevant partners would help women face the daunting challenges before

them. The relevant ministry was directly implementing the Convention by organizing awareness-raising campaigns and workshops. Work continued despite budget constraints. Finally, while there was no female genital mutilation in Zanzibar, there were issues of early marriage and child abandonment. Progress had been made on prosecuting the offenders.

34. **Ms. Mwaffisi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the first aim of the “Say No to Violence against Women” campaign was to attain one million signatures, but it would continue even after achieving the goal because the problem was ongoing. Work with NGOs and law enforcement partners on awareness-raising and education would continue. NGO work on the very sensitive issue of female genital mutilation, and on legal assistance for women, was ongoing.

35. **Ms. De-Mello** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance was independent, as demonstrated by its competitive and transparent appointment process involving chief justices, speakers and attorney generals from Zanzibar and Tanzania, who interviewed candidates from both parts of the country. Once the candidates were selected, they moved on to the President for appointment only. The Commission was composed of experts with varying backgrounds, enhancing its mandated independence. The Commission had handed down opinions that contradicted Government’s position, a fact that further illustrated its independence. Efforts to raise awareness about the Commission and its functions were needed, as administrative duplication of duties among ministries and commissions clouded the complaint process. The 1998 Sexual Offences (Special Provisions) Act (SOSPA) criminalized all sexual offences and abuses and had resulted in stiff sentences being imposed on offenders. The media and women’s organizations had been instrumental in bringing sexual offence cases to light. Gender budgeting was limited, however, and had even deteriorated owing to donor withdrawal; the Government was working to improve the situation.

36. **Ms. Mwaffisi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that new issues had warranted the review, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, of the National Plan of Action after 2001. Work on the enormous task of changing attitudes about violence against women in communities had been undertaken by specially assigned community development officers. The system

would eventually extend throughout the country, in partnership with regional and local networks, to spread awareness about violence against women.

37. **Ms. Sitta** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that Tanzania was comprised of Muslims and Christians, and that polygamy was allowed by Islam. It was a very sensitive issue that merited careful handling. While the election manifesto had stated that the Government intended to address such issues by 2010 — including the amendment of inheritance and marriage laws, which often clashed with cultural and religious beliefs — the delegation welcomed guidance on how to move forward.

38. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee intended to pursue a constructive dialogue in a supportive environment, with the aim of offering solutions.

Article 6

39. **Ms. Chutikul** said that in future reports she would welcome a detailed breakdown of statistics on violence against women, to include classifications by age and types of violence. The use of community development officers was a positive step in combating violence against illiterate women. It would be helpful to increase financial and technical support to the officers to enhance their counselling skills. In the most severe cases, however, police intervention was required. She would appreciate more information on how the delegation intended to address the killing of older women. Urgent action was needed; specific ministries ought to spearhead positive awareness-raising campaigns targeting older women.

40. As for trafficking in women and children, she wondered whether the relevant 2008 act had taken effect. She would welcome information on whether it included all issues addressed by the Palermo Protocol, and she would also like to know whether women who had been trafficked to other countries had access to support for repatriation and reintegration and what measures had been taken in respect of destination countries. She recommended that the delegation should carry out a study on the number of women trafficked and on NGO action in that field. Finally, she wondered whether there were problems related to girl children in domestic and agricultural work, and whether the delegation was aware of International Labour

Organization (ILO) Convention 182. If so, she wondered whether a plan of action existed.

41. **Ms. Mwaffisi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the next report would include a broader breakdown of statistics on violence against women. She agreed that it was important to increase funding to community development officers. The killing of older women was a very sad result of the traditional belief that red eyes, caused by poor living conditions and working over open fires, meant that a person was a witch. It was important to launch targeted campaigns against the practice in continued cooperation with NGOs. The main type of trafficking was from rural to urban areas: the victims tended to be girls whose parents, out of extreme poverty, had allowed them to go to the city. The Government, in cooperation with NGOs and other stakeholders, was working to ensure good and fair treatment of house girls, and to ensure they continued their schooling. She could not provide figures on trafficking outside of Tanzania, as it was a hidden phenomenon. Work against trafficking would continue and she would look into the possibility of carrying out the suggested study.

42. **Ms. Juma** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that child labour in general was a serious problem in trades such as mining and fishing. It had been addressed through laws and initiatives, including the establishment of minimum wages. The Government continued to work to ensure compliance. In that connection, an ILO-backed loan had been granted in order to encourage children to return to school rather than work to provide economic support to their families.

43. **Ms. Sitta** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that work with ILO in respect of child labour was ongoing, and she appreciated the suggested positive approach to raising awareness against violence.

Articles 7 to 9

44. **Ms. Belmihoub-Zerdani** said that the Government clearly had the political will to apply the Convention; in fact, it had achieved better results than a number of European countries. She wondered whether the Government had benefited from the 0.7 per cent funding target for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). She also would welcome information on progress on enabling women to attain decision-making posts in all sectors and on related awareness-

raising efforts. Lastly, she noted that a law requiring the application of article 9 of the Convention was needed to allow women to give their nationality to their children or their spouses.

45. **Ms. Neubauer** welcomed the increased number of women in Government posts and wondered whether the process had begun in other sectors, including finance, education, health, the foreign service and the private sector. She would welcome further general information, and she recommended that statistics should be included in the next report.

46. **Ms. De-Mello** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, although it was true that mothers could not pass on their nationality to their children or husbands, a dual citizenship act was being developed by the Government following consultations with civil society.

47. **Ms. Kiongosya** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the delegation had not brought any information on the breakdown of development assistance from the industrialized countries, but she would try to provide the Committee with the information at a later date.

48. **Ms. Mwaffisi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Government would provide a breakdown of the proportion of women in sectors such as education, health and financial institutions in its next periodic report.

49. **Ms. Kafanabo** (United Republic of Tanzania) noted that Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, had been appointed as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. As for women in the diplomatic service, there had been considerable improvement since 2005. Prior to that date there had only been one or two female ambassadors but, over the past two years, the President had increased the number to five, and as more missions were opened it was expected that more women ambassadors would be appointed. In addition, at the ministerial level, several women occupied the position of Assistant Director.

50. **Ms. Mazalla** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that there had been a significant increase in the number of women in decision-making positions, even since the submission of the latest periodic report; the aim was to reach the goal of 50 per cent of such posts being held by women by 2010. Moreover, the Government sought

to ensure that women were involved at all levels of decision-making.

51. **The Chairperson** recalled that the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Migiro, had also been a member of the Committee. Two other Tanzanian women also worked with the United Nations, one in Peacekeeping Operations and the other as the Committee's Secretary for many years.

Follow-up questions

52. **Ms. Shin** said she trusted that the independent status of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance would allow it to provide effective assistance to women who submitted complaints.

53. **Mr. Flinterman** said that, although discrimination based on gender was prohibited by the Tanzanian Constitution, it would be useful to know whether the definition of discrimination in the Constitution was fully compatible with article 1 of the Convention and whether it included direct and indirect discrimination, as well as discrimination in both the public and the private sphere.

54. The Committee had been informed that Tanzania had no Constitutional Court, but that the High Court could sit as a Constitutional Court. Could the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance file proceedings on the incompatibility of national law with the Constitution?

55. **Ms. De-Mello** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, under enabling legislation, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance could file legal proceedings before the Constitutional Court. It was in the process of preparing legal personnel who could represent it before the High Court sitting as a Constitutional Court, which would be taking up a number of cases. As for the question on discrimination, she noted that the Constitution included a definition of both discrimination and gender.

56. **Ms. Patten** said she was concerned about women's access to justice and asked what specific measures the Government would introduce to give legal aid to vulnerable groups, including women and children, and the time frame thereof; she also asked what role was played by the Tanganyika Law Society.

57. Information had been received about discrimination against albinos. It appeared that 19 albinos had been killed over the past year for trade in

their body parts, and the Committee would like to know how the Government was tackling the problem.

58. **Ms. De-Mello** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Tanganyika Law Society was the only bar association in Tanzania. There were only 1,500 lawyers in the whole country, which was insufficient, but the Society had a committee that provided free legal aid to vulnerable groups.

59. The Government was working on a programme to reform the legal sector and provide more extensive legal aid. In that context, a legal aid network had been established, with a secretariat within the Tanganyika Law Society, bringing together all NGOs offering legal aid to provide services free of charge to marginalized and vulnerable groups. In many other countries the provision of free legal aid services was the responsibility of the Government, but that was not possible in Tanzania. Specific NGOs had focused their efforts on providing free legal aid services to women and children.

60. **Ms. Mwaffisi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Government took discrimination against women and albinos very seriously, and the Ministry for Home Affairs was taking measures to deal with it. The President had taken steps to appoint an albino member of Parliament, and awareness-raising activities were being carried out in the communities where the community development officers had an important role to play. The Government was also working with the media, trying to change attitudes.

61. **Ms. Schöpp-Schilling** said that it would be interesting to know whether the Constitution mandated the Government to take temporary special measures or whether such measures responded to a presidential decree. She recommended that the issue of temporary special measures should be included in any future reform of the Constitution.

62. **Ms. De-Mello** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Constitution did not define temporary special measures. However, the Government had found that policy circulars were more meaningful in effecting affirmative action than constitutional amendments.

63. **Ms. Mwaffisi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the Government had a capacity-building programme for women to help prepare them for positions in the Administration. Affirmative action was

carried out at the point of recruitment and in policies rather than being enshrined in the law.

64. **The Chairperson** asked whether, when domesticating the Convention, Tanzania would incorporate article 2.4.1 on the accelerated advancement of women, which was considered a temporary special measure and was not to be interpreted as a form of discrimination against men.

65. **Ms. Belmihoub-Zerdani**, referring to Tanzania's responses to question 12 on the list of issues, asked whether political parties received subsidies from the Government. If not, she suggested that the Government should introduce a law on political parties stipulating that subsidies would be dependent upon the number of positions that were allocated to women. That method had been used to good effect by some other countries.

66. Training on the Convention and the Optional Protocol should be provided to judges and lawyers, so as to guide them in cases when women used the Convention to file actions.

67. **Ms. Begum** said that women were frequently unable to pay legal fees; more legal aid clinics should therefore be established in rural areas. She asked how the Government was dealing with the high rate of rape in the country, and how many perpetrators had been convicted.

68. **Ms. De-Mello** (United Republic of Tanzania), replying to the three preceding questions, said that political parties received subsidies based on the proportion of their seats in Parliament; efforts were being made to make judges and magistrates aware of the various Conventions that Tanzania had ratified and how to apply them; and there were no precise statistics on rape, but the incidence was increasing.

69. **Ms. Sitta** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the delegation did not have figures on the number of persons convicted of rape; however, table 2 of the periodic report indicated the number of cases of rape.

Article 10

70. **Ms. Zou** said that, according to the report, the gender gap in primary education had narrowed and the enrolment rate had increased; however, there were no figures on the dropout rate, especially for girls, although the report stated that it was higher than for girls than for boys, owing to multiple factors. Education was extremely important for the future of

girl children and for the country; consequently, attention should be paid to the problem. Tanzania needed to establish a comprehensive education strategy. The Committee would find it useful to learn whether the Government had an action plan incorporating the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. It would also like to know whether schools and educational authorities were trying to encourage children who had dropped out of school to return. Many girls dropped out owing to pregnancy or marriage; it would therefore be useful to know whether the curriculum included courses on reproductive health.

71. It was unclear what had caused the adult literacy rate to decrease from 98 per cent in the 1990s to 84 per cent in 2003. Moreover, since illiteracy and poverty went hand in hand, any effort to combat one without a plan to fight the other would be unlikely to succeed. She therefore wondered whether the Government had embarked on any such plans.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.