



**Convention on the Elimination
of all Forms of Discrimination
Against Women**

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Third session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 26 March 1984, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. IDER

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The CHAIRPERSON declared open the third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and announced that the Committee would continue to work under the officers elected at the first session.
2. Mr. YOLAH (Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs), speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General, said that, since the Committee's second session, Togo, France, Spain, Brazil and Kenya had ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, bringing the number of signatories to 90 and the number of countries having ratified or acceded to the Convention to 56. That progress was indicative of an increased awareness of women's role in national development and international affairs and of a stronger commitment to improve the conditions of women. It was his hope that the Convention would have been universally accepted by the time of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1985.
3. He drew the attention of the Committee to the provisional agenda for the session contained in document CEDAW/C/9. In the context of item 5, he recalled decision 1983/101 of the Economic and Social Council, which invited the Committee to consider the possibility of rescheduling its meetings so that its reports could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session every year. At its second session, the Committee had agreed to hold its sessions in New York every second year, when the States parties to the Convention met to hold elections and at Vienna in the intervening years. He therefore proposed that the fourth session of the Committee should be held at Vienna from 21 January to 1 February 1985, since the third session of the preparatory body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women was to be convened there in early March of that year. The fifth session of the Committee which was to be followed by the third meeting of States parties to the Convention, should then be scheduled for the first quarter of 1986 to ensure that the report of the session would be available to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of that year.
4. With regard to the consideration of reports and information submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (item 6 of the provisional agenda), he recalled that the Committee had decided at its second session that, during the current session, the Secretariat should submit no more than seven reports for consideration, with priority given to the six reports which the Committee had been unable to consider during the second session for lack of time. During the current session, the Committee would have before it seven reports. In accordance with the wishes expressed at its second session, the Committee might also consider the substance of the initial reports of States parties in greater depth and to consider the reservations made by Governments upon ratifying the Convention, which were contained in the reports of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention.

(Mr. Yolah)

5. It had been recommended at the second session that the Committee should consider reports from States parties at different levels of development and from different geographical regions. However, the Secretariat had received only 20 reports from States parties to date; only those received by the end of June 1984 could be processed in time for consideration at the fourth session. The Committee had also requested that specialized agencies carrying out activities related to the provisions of the Convention and to its implementation should be invited to submit information on those activities to the Committee. Such information had been received from ILO, WHO and FAO.

6. The Convention was one of the major instruments adopted by the international community to improve the status of women both in law and in practice and enhance women's involvement in the development process. As such, it was an important vehicle for achieving the ultimate aims of development: the continuing improvement of the well-being of the entire population in all nations.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (CEDAW/C/9)

7. The CHAIRPERSON said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it the Committee wished to adopt the provisional agenda contained in document CEDAW/C/9.

8. Mr. NORDENFELT proposed that an item entitled "Other matters" should be added to the end of the provisional agenda.

9. The CHAIRPERSON pointed out that item 4 of the provisional agenda covered organizational and other matters.

10. Mr. NORDENFELT noted that other matters were customarily placed at the end of an agenda.

11. Ms. CARON agreed that "Other matters" might be considered as a final agenda item, but that "Organizational matters" should remain as agenda item 4.

12. Ms. REGENT-LECHOVICZ, supported by Ms. PEYTCHEVA, drew attention to paragraph 2 of rule 7 of the Committee's rules of procedure, which stated that, during a session, the Committee might add to the agenda only important items, which could not be postponed. However, since Mr. Nordenfelt's proposal had been made with a view to following established procedure, rather than to introduce a new item, she saw no reason why "Other matters" should not be included at the end of the agenda.

13. The CHAIRPERSON said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the last suggestion was agreeable to the Committee.

14. It was so decided.

15. The agenda, as revised, was adopted.

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SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE IN 1985 AND 1986

16. The CHAIRPERSON drew attention to the remarks made by Mr. Yolah with regard to the scheduling of the fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee in accordance with decision 1983/101 of the Economic and Social Council. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to hold its fourth session from 21 January to 1 February 1985 at Vienna and its fifth session during the first quarter of 1986 in New York.

17. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

18. Ms. REGENT-LECHOVICZ said it was unfortunate that the Committee had not been able to consider and adopt the report of its second session during that session. To avoid such problems in the future, she proposed that, during its sessions, the Committee should be provided at regular intervals with portions of its draft report for the session so that they could be considered and adopted as they were completed.

19. Ms. BIRYUKOVA endorsed that proposal and suggested that the Committee should follow that procedure during the current session, by considering the part of the draft report which covered the deliberations of the first week of the session during the following week. Even if the Committee did not adopt that portion of the report during that week, Committee members would still have the opportunity of studying the draft in advance.

20. Ms. CREYDT (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to the time which the Secretariat would require to prepare any portion of the draft report in all the working languages.

21. Ms. ILIĆ suggested that the Committee might wish to follow the practice adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, which considered the portion of a draft report dealing with a given agenda item as soon as it had completed its consideration of that item. The Committee might wish to adapt that procedure to cover individual reports of States parties to the Convention rather than whole agenda items.

22. The CHAIRPERSON said she took it that the Committee wished to request the Secretariat to prepare those sections of its draft report dealing with its consideration of reports and information submitted by States parties to the Convention as it completed consideration of individual reports.

23. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.