



**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 42nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 5 April 1984, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. IDER

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER
ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION (continued)

Initial report of the Philippines (continued) (CEDAW/C/5/Add.6)

1. Ms. REBONG (Philippines), speaking on behalf of Ambassador Moreno Salcedo, expressed regret for any misunderstanding that might have been caused by his remarks. When commenting on the cultural and social background of Filipino society he had been expressing his personal views; they did not reflect the views or the position of his Government. She stressed that the Government of the Philippines was committed to the policy of ensuring that women enjoyed the same rights as men and were treated accordingly. In its view, women were different from, but complementary to, men and neither sex was inferior or superior to the other. She apologized again and requested that her statement be reflected in the summary record of the meeting and in the Committee's report.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL UNDER ARTICLE 21 OF THE CONVENTION

Draft report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on
its third session

Document CEDAW/C/L.1

Paragraph 1

2. Ms. BIRYUKOVA proposed that in the second line of the Russian version the word "prisutstvovali" should be replaced by "prisoedinilis".
3. Ms. PEYTCHEVA said that she had compared the Russian and English versions and had found that the Russian text stated that 56 States "were present"; it should be brought into line with the English text as suggested by Ms. Biryukova.
4. The CHAIRPERSON said that it was merely a technical problem of translation into Russian.
5. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) proposed that the phrase "there were 56 States Parties to the Convention ... 1980" should be replaced by "56 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention ... 1980". That would resolve the problem.
6. Paragraph 1 was adopted, as amended.

Paragraph 2

7. Paragraph 2 was adopted.

Paragraph 3

8. Ms. CORTES proposed that the words "expert from" should be inserted at the beginning of the second line before the word "Mongolia".

9. Paragraph 3 was adopted, as amended.

Paragraph 4

10. Ms. BIRYUKOVA proposed that the phrase "first quarter of 1986" in the sixth line should be replaced by "March 1986". She also suggested that the phrase "one member of the Committee suggested that the session should be held during the second half of the month of March" should be added in brackets after the words "New York" in the same line.

11. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) said that since the exact dates of the session were not known it would be wiser to leave the sentence as it stood. The phrase could be added only if there was general agreement among all members of the Committee.

12. Paragraph 4 was adopted.

Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.1

13. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) proposed that paragraph 1 of document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.1 should be deleted and that paragraphs 2, 4, 5 and 6 should be incorporated into document CEDAW/C/L.1 immediately after paragraph 4 which the Committee had just adopted and be renumbered paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the report. She was making the proposal because the paragraphs related to the statement by the Under-Secretary-General. Paragraph 3 would be considered separately.

14. The proposal to incorporate paragraphs 2, 4, 5 and 6 of document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.1 into document CEDAW/C/L.1 was adopted.

Paragraph 2

15. Paragraph 2 was adopted as paragraph 5 of the report.

Paragraph 3

16. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) read out the text of an amendment proposed by Ms. Biryukova to the effect that the phrase "carrying out activities related to the provisions of the Convention to submit information on such activities" in the second and third lines should be replaced by "whose activities were relevant to the provisions of the Convention to submit information on such programmes as might be of assistance in implementing the Convention".

17. Ms. ILIĆ said that the proposal to delete the reference to FAO, ILO and UNESCO should not be accepted since those agencies had submitted their reports in time.

18. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) read out the amended text as follows: "In response to the request made by the Committee during the last session to invite specialized agencies whose activities were relevant to the provisions of the Convention to submit information on such programmes as might be of assistance in implementing the Convention as well as additional information, reports had been received from FAO, ILO and UNESCO and were circulated to the members of the Committee as background papers."

19. Paragraph 3 was adopted, as amended.

Paragraph 4

20. Ms. PATIÑO asked that in the Spanish version the words following the word "Committee" at the end of the last sentence should be replaced by the following: "conjuntamente con las actas resumidas y las grabaciones sonoras".

21. Paragraph 4 was adopted as paragraph 6 of the report.

Paragraph 5

22. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that the Rapporteur had suggested deleting the words at the end of the paragraph "so that the experts could have enough time to study them".

23. Paragraph 5 was adopted, as amended, as paragraph 7 of the report.

Paragraph 6

24. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) pointed out that the sub-heading "Future work of the Committee" had been deleted.

25. Paragraph 6 was adopted as paragraph 8 of the report.

Document CEDAW/C/L.1

Paragraph 5

26. Ms. EL-FETOUH requested that it should be made clear in the Arabic version that the expert from Viet Nam was a woman.

27. Paragraph 5 was adopted.

Paragraph 6

28. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) proposed that the order of agenda items 6 and 7 be reversed.

29. Paragraph 6, as amended, was adopted.

Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.2

30. Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.2 was adopted.

Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.3

Paragraphs 1 to 4

31. Paragraphs 1 to 4 were adopted.

Paragraph 5

32. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur), supported by Ms. BIRYUKOVA, said that the paragraph could be amended to read: "Several experts mentioned that the report did not observe the proper balance between the summary of the reports and questions and answers to them. 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 translations."

33. Paragraph 5, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 6

34. Ms. BIRYUKOVA proposed that the words "of a special nature" should be replaced by "of a general nature".

35. Paragraph 6, as amended, was adopted.

Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.4

36. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) said that, in the title, "Consideration of reports and information submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention (agenda item 6)", the words "agenda item 6" should be replaced by "agenda item 5".

Paragraph 1

37. Paragraph 1 was adopted.

Paragraph 2

38. Ms. PEYTCHEVA said she could not accept the second sentence. After an exchange of views in which Ms. BERNARD, Ms. PEYTCHEVA, Ms. VELIZ DE VILLALVILLA, Ms. ILIĆ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ and Ms. BIRYUKOVA took part, it was decided to delete the second sentence.

39. Paragraph 2, as amended, was adopted.

Paragaraph 3

40. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) said that the words "item 6" should be replaced by "item 5".

41. Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 4

42. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) said that the spelling of the name of the representative of Hungary should be corrected to "Somogyi" and that the paragraph should end with the words "and Mrs. Karin Stoltenberg of Norway"; in other words, that the words "and of Panama" should be deleted.

43. Ms. EL-FETOUH said that the spelling of the name of the representative of Egypt should be corrected to "Emara".

44. Ms. ILIĆ said that the spelling of the name of the representative of the Philippines should be corrected to "Moreno Salcedo". She requested the Secretariat to make those changes so that the Committee did not waste precious time on them.

45. Paragraph 4, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 5 to 15

46. Paragraphs 5 to 15 were adopted.

Paragraph 16

47. Ms. BIRYUKOVA said she could not accept the words "a very small percentage of women were unemployed", since there was no unemployment in Hungary. The representative of that country had explained that, when women took advantage of the three-year maternity leave plan after the birth of a child, they received part of their wages while at home; they could therefore not be described as unemployed.

48. After an exchange of views in which Ms. PEYTCHEVA, Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) and Mr. NORDENFELT took part, Ms. BIRYUKOVA proposed that paragraph 16 should be amended to read: "One expert pointed out that a very small percentage of women were unemployed in Hungary, and some experts asked ...".

49. Paragraph 16, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 17

50. Ms. BIRYUKOVA, supported by Ms. LAMM, proposed that the first sentence should be replaced by: "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 an unemployment problem for women returning to work, and sought clarification on what kind of re-entry programmes, such as training, were made available to women".

51. Paragraph 17, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 18 to 21

52. Paragraphs 18 to 21 were adopted.

Paragraph 22

53. Ms. EL-FETOUH requested that the paragraph be amended to read: "In connection with the question of participation in 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 exercise that right or whether mere nationality was sufficient to that effect".

54. Ms. REGENT-LECHOWICZ said that because she was listening to the interpretation, she found it difficult to follow the new wording of the paragraph, and that other experts probably had the same problem. She suggested that, in order to expedite the Committee's work, Ms. El-Fetouh, Ms. Lamm and the Rapporteur should draft together a new text for submission to the Committee at its next meeting.

55. Ms. LAMM said that she preferred the original version because it reflected more accurately the questions raised during the discussion.

56. Ms. EL-FETOUH said that the original text did not reflect what had been said during the discussion. Furthermore, the English text incorrectly referred to article 68 of the Convention instead of article 68 of the Hungarian Constitution.

57. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the Committee should adopt Ms. Regent-Lechowicz's proposal that a new text should be submitted to the Committee at the next meeting.

58. It was so decided.

Paragraph 23

59. Ms. EL-FETOUH proposed amending paragraph 23 to read: "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."

60. Paragraph 23, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 24 and 25

61. Paragraphs 24 and 25 were adopted.

Paragraph 26

62. Mr. NORDENFELT said that his comment on the contents of paragraph 26 had been misunderstood. Supported by Ms. LAMM, he proposed amending the paragraph to read:

(Mr. Nordenfelt)

"Noting the attention paid in the report to the concept of equality in 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 presumed that parental supervision referred to both parents. 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". The last sentence of the paragraph would remain unchanged.

63. Paragraph 26, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraphs 27 to 39

64. Paragraphs 27 to 39 were adopted.

Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.5

First paragraph

65. The first paragraph was adopted.

Second paragraph

66. Ms. CORTES proposed that the following phrase should be added to the end of the second paragraph: ", even before the Philippines became a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

67. The second paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Third to fifth paragraphs

68. The third to fifth paragraphs were adopted.

Sixth paragraph

69. Ms. EL-FETOUEH proposed adding to the end of the first sentence the phrase ", in particular for the crime of rape, and information was requested on the legal basis for instituting such penalties".

70. Ms. SMITH proposed replacing the comma after "questionnaire" in the first sentence by a full stop, to make the paragraph read better.

71. Mr. NORDENFELT proposed adding the phrase "for some crimes" at the end of the first sentence.

72. Ms. BERNARD, Rapporteur, read out the last part of the first sentence, incorporating the proposed amendments: "for certain crimes, especially the crime of rape. Information was requested on the legal basis for instituting such penalties."

73. The sixth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Seventh paragraph

74. The seventh paragraph was adopted.

Eighth paragraph

75. Ms. CARON proposed changing the word "il" to "on" in the fourth line of the French text.

76. Ms. OESER proposed replacing the phrase "whether women belonged to a minority group" in the fifteenth line by the phrase "whether minorities exist in the country and, if so, whether the women belonging to those minorities enjoy the same rights as women in general in the Philippines".

77. The eighth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Ninth to twelfth paragraphs

78. The ninth to the twelfth paragraphs were adopted.

Thirteenth paragraph

79. Ms. EL-FETOUH proposed amending the last sentence of the thirteenth paragraph to read: "It was asked why there was a delay in adopting the proposed law that would allow a widow to remarry 30 days after her husband's death instead of 300 days later, and whether that constraint applied to a divorced woman as well and whether the same constraint existed for a widower or a divorced man."

80. Ms. CARON said that the text of the thirteenth paragraph as it stood reflected perfectly well the question she had asked.

81. Ms. ILIĆ made the general observation that the report should be amended only when there was an obvious error or when a question had been omitted entirely. It should not be expected to reflect all the questions asked, since the summary records served that purpose.

82. Ms. BERNARD, Rapporteur, said that in that case, the amendment just proposed was justified because the question asked by Ms. El-Fetouh was broader than that asked by Ms. Caron.

83. The CHAIRPERSON said that, in order to facilitate the work, the members of the Committee would have to give her any amendments in writing before each paragraph of the text was taken up.

84. Ms. BIRYUKOVA said that the accepted rules had not been followed because the Secretariat had not distributed the texts of the various proposed amendments to the members of the Committee before the meeting. She asked the Secretariat to ensure that the situation did not recur at the remaining meetings.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.