



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

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 60th MEETING

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna,
on Wednesday, 30 January 1985, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. BERNARD
later: Ms. SINEGIORGIS

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consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the
session.

The meeting was called to order at 2.50 p.m.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE 1985 WORLD CONFERENCE TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued) (CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1 and Amend.1-5)

1. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to continue its consideration of the draft revised text of the introduction to the Compendium to be submitted to the Nairobi Conference (CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1).

Paragraph 21

2. The CHAIRPERSON said that, at the preceding meeting, various amendments to paragraph 21 had been discussed and adopted, including the inclusion of a new sub-paragraph (d). She took it that the Committee was now ready to adopt paragraph 21 as a whole. She read out the proposed text as amended.*

3. Paragraph 21, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 22

4. Ms. BIRYUKOVA proposed the addition of the words "in accordance with resolution 1984/8 of the Economic and Social Council" at the end of that paragraph, since otherwise it would appear that the Committee was presenting the report only on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, whereas that recommendation had also been endorsed by the Council.

5. It was so agreed.

6. Paragraph 22, as amended, was adopted.

7. Ms. Sinegiorgis took the Chair.

Paragraphs 23 and 24

8. Ms. BIRYUKOVA reminded the Committee that it had decided that the first sentence of paragraph 23 should be deleted and that the matter of the remainder of the paragraph should be incorporated in paragraph 15. It had also decided to place the former paragraph 13 after paragraph 22.

9. The CHAIRPERSON recalled that the Committee had already discussed paragraph 24, and had decided to place it immediately after paragraph 15. The paragraphs would of course be renumbered as necessary.

10. Those decisions concerning paragraphs 23 and 24 were confirmed.

Paragraph 25

11. Ms. PEYTCHEVA proposed that the beginning of paragraph 25 should read: "This document is based on information provided by the reports of 18 States parties and during the sessions of the Committee. However, this information is not representative of the condition of women in all 65 States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention. Yet, it should encourage ...".

* The final text appears in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.2 as paragraph 15.

12. It was so decided.

13. Paragraph 25, as amended, was adopted.

14. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to consider paragraphs 5-11 of the draft and the proposals relating thereto. The amendment contained in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5 had been drafted in a spirit of compromise, and she urged Committee members to approach it in the same spirit.

15. Ms. EVATT recalled that on the previous day she had proposed the deletion of paragraphs 5-10 of the Working Group's draft on the grounds that they were taken directly from the preamble to the Convention. The introduction to the Committee's report to the World Conference should, in her view, confine itself to summarizing the Committee's own work and comments on the national reports it had considered. To quote only part of the preamble would be disrespectful to the States parties, since, after all, it was they and not the Committee who were the Convention's authors. Accordingly, she had, together with Ms. Bernard, submitted the proposal contained in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.1. She still preferred that text to that in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5, which, in her view, represented a not entirely successful attempt to summarize the preamble. If the Committee decided not to adopt the text proposed by Ms. Bernard and herself, she would prefer to have the preamble reproduced in full, provided the nature and source of the quotation were made perfectly clear.

16. Ms. EL-FETOUH said that document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5 reflected not only the text of the preamble but also certain conclusions arrived at by the Committee as a result of its consideration of national reports. Furthermore, while the themes of equality and development were given adequate attention in the rest of the introduction, the theme of peace was neglected. The amendment's sponsors had felt the need to restore the balance between the three themes.

17. Ms. BIRYUKOVA said that, although the amendment in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5 did not fully satisfy her, she was prepared, in a spirit of compromise, to accept the amendment and to withdraw her own proposal for a new chapter on political conditions for the achievement of world social progress and the attainment of full equality between men and women (CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.2).

18. Ms. OESER said that, although she personally would prefer the original draft proposed by the Working Group, she too was prepared to accept the text in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5. Ms. Evatt's objection to the Working Group's draft failed to take into account the fact that all other parts of the preamble to the Convention were reflected in various parts of the report to the World Conference.

19. Ms. CARON said that document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5 did not represent an acceptable compromise because it omitted certain important parts of the corresponding provisions of the preamble, thus changing the entire spirit of those provisions. Thus, the second sentence of the proposed paragraph 5 referred to "the welfare of the world and the cause of peace" but not to development. Paragraph 6 referred to "general and complete disarmament including nuclear disarmament" but failed to mention the need for strict and effective international control. If the preamble was to be quoted at all, it should be quoted fully and in context.

20. The CHAIRPERSON, speaking as a sponsor of document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5, said that she was open to any suggestion for improving it.
21. Ms. ILIĆ appealed to members to make every effort to reach agreement. The value of the Committee's report to the World Conference would be greatly enhanced if the report was adopted by consensus. None of the proposals before the Committee was entirely satisfactory to every member, but it would be most regrettable if the matter had to be decided by a vote.
22. Ms. CORTES proposed, as a compromise solution, that the first paragraph of the text in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5 should be replaced by the first sentence of the proposal of Ms. Bernard and Ms. Evatt, followed by the words "recognizing, inter alia, that the strengthening of international peace and security ...". The second paragraph of document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5 would then follow down to the words "including nuclear disarmament" in the penultimate line, where the words "under strict and effective international control" would be inserted. The second sentence of the first paragraph of document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5 ("The States parties ... in all fields") should then follow as a separate paragraph.
23. Ms. MACEDO DE SHEPPARD said that, on the whole, she would prefer the text of the preamble to be reproduced in full. The resulting duplication and increased length would, in her view, be justified.
24. Ms. SMITH said that, although, as stated at an earlier meeting, she personally preferred the text in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.1, she agreed with Ms. Ilić about the importance of adopting the report by consensus. She was therefore prepared to accept the compromise just suggested by Ms. Cortes.
25. Ms. GONZALEZ, Ms. BIRYUKOVA and Ms. GUAN MINQIAN also expressed themselves in favour of the text suggested by Ms. Cortes.
26. Ms. EVATT said that the text suggested by Ms. Cortes would almost entirely reproduce paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of the text originally proposed by the Working Group. She still failed to see why the preamble to the Convention, if quoted at all, should not be quoted in an identifiable manner.
27. The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.50 p.m.
28. Ms. EVATT said that she had been moved by what Ms. Ilić had said regarding the importance of reaching a consensus. She believed it was necessary to suppress individual desires and agree on a text which was acceptable to all. Ms. Cortes had drafted an amended text for document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.5, which she could accept. She herself had added a few words based on her original proposal and the preamble to the Convention: they were not controversial. The proposed text, which would replace paragraphs 5-10 of document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1, read as follows:

"In the preamble to the Convention (annexed), the States parties have made it clear that they have considered the issues arising under the Convention in a broad global perspective, recognizing inter alia that the strengthening of international peace and security thereby relaxing international tension, the achievement of stable global development, the establishment of the new international order based on equity and justice, the eradication of colonialism, neo-colonialism, apartheid, racial discrimination

(Ms. Evatt)

and all forms of racism and aggression; the realization of the rights of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence, respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity; mutual co-operation between all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament including nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control will contribute towards the full attainment of the goals and objectives of the Decade. The States parties are convinced that the welfare of the world and the cause of peace and development require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields."

29. It would be noted that she proposed changing "promotion" of peace to "strengthening", which was in the preamble to the Convention. The second sentence was based on paragraph 8 of document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1. She hoped that that compromise text could be adopted by consensus.

30. Ms. BIRYUKOVA said she thought that the text would be acceptable to all.

31. Ms. WADSTEIN proposed that paragraph 11 of the document before the Committee should be retained as a new paragraph 6.

32. It was so agreed.

33. Ms. CARON said that, in a spirit of compromise, she could agree to the new text.

34. The two new paragraphs 5 and 6 were adopted by acclamation.

35. The CHAIRPERSON thanked the members of the Committee for the spirit of compromise and understanding they had shown. They had now concluded their consideration of the introduction to the Compendium. The next point to consider was Ms. Biryukova's proposal (CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1/Amend.2).

36. Ms. BIRYUKOVA said that, in view of the spirit of compromise which had been shown and the applause which had greeted the adoption of the two new paragraphs, she considered that the new paragraph 5 adequately reflected the objectives associated with the Decade. She therefore withdrew her proposal.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.