



Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Distr.
GENERAL

CEDAW/C/SR.153 25 January 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Ninth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 153rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 23 January 1990, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. EVATT

later: Ms. GUAN Mingian

CONTENTS

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

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

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

Initial report of the United Republic of Tanzania (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57 and Amend.1)

- 1. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Mongella (United Republic of Tanzania) took a place at the Committee table.
- 2. The CHAIRPERSON said that in May and July 1989, States parties to the Convention had been notified that the deadline for submitting supplementary material for consideration by the Committee was 1 September 1989. The supplementary report submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania had been received in November 1989, and the Tanzanian Government had been informed in December 1989 that since the report had arrived beyond the deadline it might be more appropriate to present the material orally. Although the supplementary report had in fact been translated, it was currently available in English only (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57/Amend.1). It was regrettable that the Committee had received the material in question so late, since the members of the Committee would be able to put questions to the Tanzanian delegation only on the basis of the original material submitted in document CEDAW/C/5/Add.57. She noted, however, that document CEDAW/C/5/Add.57/Amend.1 contained a considerable amount of useful material and wished to thank the Tanzanian Government for its efforts.
- 3. Ms. MONGELLA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that she wished first of all to apologize for the late submission of her country's amended initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57/Amend.1). That delay was attributable largely to the effects of underdevelopment.
- 4. It was the policy of the United Republic of Tanzania to provide adequate safeguards for women's rights, including the rights to equal education and equal employment opportunities. In general, there was equality of the sexes at all levels. Despite the Government's efforts, however, women were still lagging behind men in numerical terms and sex discrimination persisted in both the public and private sectors. The low rate of female participation and the various forms of discrimination were a consequence of social and economic factors and of both traditional and modern sexist attitudes.
- 5. The Convention, which had been ratified by Tanzania in August 1985 and had entered into force there in September 1985, was being implemented through the concerted efforts of the ruling party, the Government, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Articles 13 to 24 of the Constitution laid down the right to equality, the principle of equality before the law and the rights to life, freedom of conscience and freedom to work. Article 13, paragraph 5, of the Constitution provided a broad definition of the term "discrimination", but discrimination on grounds of sex was not expressly covered. That notwithstanding, ratification of the Convention had strengthened national efforts to eliminate discrimination against women.

(Ms. Mongella, United Republic of Tanzania)

- 6. In Tanzania, various effective forms of action other than the adoption of legal measures had been taken by the Government, public bodies and private or voluntary organizations to accelerate the process of achieving <u>de facto</u> equality for men and women.
- 7. Tanzanian women had always been encouraged to be in the forefront in the political arena. An increasing number of women were now Members of Parliament, ministers and principal secretaries, as well as party executive secretaries, and there had been a deliberate move to increase the number of seats for women in Parliament as a step towards eliminating discrimination in all areas of life.
- 8. Education Act No. 25 of 1978 provided a legal mandate for the formulation and implementation of a national education policy that was more in accord with current realities. The Act laid down universal standards and prohibited discrimination on grounds of race, religion, sex or political beliefs. Section 5.6 was particularly noteworthy. Since 1977, the Government had provided primary education as a basic human right to every Tanzanian. Female enrolment as a percentage of total enrolment was: 49.7 per cent at the primary level; 41.3 per cent at the secondary level; 41.6 per cent in teacher training; 5.1 per cent in technical education; and 16.9 per cent at university level. Non-formal education was also universal. Currently, only 7.1 per cent of Tanzanian men and 12 per cent of Tanzanian women were illiterate.
- 9. Female enrolment was lower at the higher educational levels because female students tended to concentrate on subjects that ultimately hampered their full social awareness and their participation in development. There had always been a discrepancy between Government and party statements on education for women and the actual level of education attained by women. Factors that had contributed to that situation were social attitudes, the traditional division of labour, and social and economic changes that had an impact on the Government's ability to implement its policies. In particular, the structural policies being implemented by international lending institutions were having an adverse effect on the implementation of Government policies.
- 10. The National Health Policy advocated the promotion of health for all by the year 2000, in accordance with the Declaration of Alma-Ata. Health services were provided by the Government, para-State organizations, voluntary agencies and private institutions. Voluntary agencies provided 30 to 40 per cent of health services, mostly in rural areas. Private institutions played an important role in urban areas and had the potential to provide preventive services. Traditional healers and traditional birth attendants also provided a considerable amount of health care. In 1988, the health infrastructure had comprised 152 hospitals, of which 108 were run by the Government.
- 11. There was a shortage of health services for women and the referral system gave rise to delays in obtaining health care. Maternal mortality and morbidity were high, as were perinatal mortality and infant and child mortality and morbidity.

(Ms. Mongella, United Republic of Tanzania)

Life expectancy at birth was 50 years for men and 53 years for women. The crude birth rate was 50 per 1,000, while the crude death rate was 15 per 1,000. The fertility rate remained high, with each woman bearing an average of seven children during her reproductive life. Sixty to 70 per cent of pregnant women received pre-natal care at health facilities, while 30 to 40 per cent were cared for by traditional birth attendants in rural communities. Employed pregnant women were entitled to 84 days of maternity leave with pay if the leave was taken at least three years after the previous maternity leave, and without pay if it was taken less than three years after such leave. In some rural areas, pregnant women were relieved of heavy work in late pregnancy. Sixty per cent of pregnant women had access to free medical and health care facilities at maternal and child health units. Following delivery, mother and child stayed at the health facility for a period ranging from one day to one week. In some rural communities, lactating mothers were cared for by other family members for several months after delivery. However, owing to changing life-styles and the current social and economic situation, most women did not rest during pregnancy and did not even rest properly or have adequate nutrition after delivery.

- 12. The Constitution guaranteed the individual's right to equal employment opportunities irrespective of sex. Employment was governed by Employment Ordinance CAP 366 and Security of Employment Act CAP 574. Under Employment Ordinance CAP 366, the standing order of 1971, D.20 (a) was particularly relevant. In practice, however, there was still some discrimination against women in employment. That situation was due in part to a number of subjective factors, such as muscular ability, differences in education and technical qualifications, and differences in family responsibilities. There were also a number of social and economic factors, such as traditional social values, poor information systems, inadequate legal enforcement and lack of legislation enabling women to play their dual roles. Rural women were the backbone of the economy because they were actively engaged in agricultural production, working hard under very difficult conditions. A number of measures and programmes had been developed to enable such women to participate in and benefit equally from national development.
- 13. Under the Constitution, every citizen had the right to play an equal role in government at the local, regional and national levels. However, since women had been historically disadvantaged in politics, the ruling party and the Government had introduced a quota system guaranteeing a minimum number of seats for women at different levels of decision-making in political organs. In Parliament, for example, 15 seats were reserved for women, who were none the less entitled to compete with men in constituencies and for other national seats. In the national executive of the ruling party, 10 seats were reserved for women.
- 14. The CHAIRPERSON, speaking in her personal capacity, said that the United Republic of Tanzania displayed a strong commitment to improving the status of women. In particular, she wished to commend the Tanzanian Government for its efforts to improve education and health services for women and to extend health services to rural women.

- 15. Ms. SINEGIORGIS said she was pleased that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women without any reservations. Its initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57 and Amend.1) provided ample evidence of the Government's efforts to promote women's equality. Amendment 1 to the initial report contained a wealth of information which was in keeping with the guidelines for initial reports and with the articles of the Convention. She was especially impressed by the literacy rate in Tanzania, since her country had been struggling for years with the monumental task of eliminating illiteracy.
- 16. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that, having studied the initial report of Tanzania and the amendment thereto, it was her impression that the Tanzanian Government was eager to give due attention to women's issues. However, the Government was not taking decisive steps to create special machinery at government level and to adopt special policies for the advancement of women which could contribute to the overall plan for the economic and social development of the country. The formulation of a definite population policy could have a decisive effect on women's issues. The appointment of five women cabinet ministers had been a token of goodwill on the part of the Government. However, much more could be done to promote the participation of women in government, and she wished to hear more about the principal obstacles confronting the Tanzanian Government in that area. In addition, the Government should take more vigorous action to eliminate the conditions, policies and practices which impeded the equality of women.
- 17. Ms. ILIC said that it was encouraging to note that the Tanzanian Government had realized that its initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57) had been inadequate. Amendment 1 to that report answered most of the questions raised by the original report.
- 18. Tanzania had inherited customs and traditions which were not in keeping with the Convention. She had therefore been surprised not to find a reservation stating that the Government would try to rectify that situation, since it affected the equality of men and women in their basic roles.
- 19. The Law Reform Commission was examining different laws regarding child welfare; she would like to have some information about the new laws envisaged by the Commission and the timetable for the eradication of existing inequalities.
- 20. Ms. DIALLO SOUMARE congratulated the Tanzanian Government on its unqualified ratification of the Convention and its efforts to enhance the status of women. Without the advancement of women, developing countries could not develop, particularly in view of the significant role of women in the economy. She regretted that the amendment to the initial report had not yet been issued in French.
- 21. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING asked how the Tanzanian Government had been able to ratify the Convention without any reservations, when Tanzania had a small Islamic population whose practices were not in keeping with the Convention. She wished to know whether the Government had found time to make an extensive study of existing customs and had developed a plan to deal with them.

(Ms. Schöpp-Schilling)

- 22. Since the practices of international lending institutions had a negative effect on the status of Tanzanian women, she wished to know whether the Government made it a policy to ensure that any negative consequences did not affect women more adversely than they did men, and whether it specifically requested lending agencies to finance programmes for women in Tanzania.
- 23. Ms. UKEJE said that she had been encouraged by the efforts of the Tanzanian Government to include women in national machinery. Unfortunately, it was difficult to eradicate deep-rooted traditions and customs. Those would die out in due course but, for the time being, certain countries would have to live with them.
- 24. Ms. GUAN MINQIAN said that the amendment to the initial report was well-organized and very informative. She was particularly concerned about mortality and morbidity rates and population growth in Tanzania. Population growth had a profound effect on economic progress and she was pleased to note that the Tanzanian Government had almost completed the drafting of a population policy. The practice of giving paid maternity leave only at intervals of three years or more was a very sound one and she wished to know to what extent it was effective.
- 25. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS said that the initial report of Tanzania was evidence of that country's efforts to achieve the goals of the Convention. She was aware of the difficulties encountered in eradicating traditions. It was clear that the Government had accepted that challenge and she believed that it would succeed in ending male domination and eliminating discrimination against women.
- 26. She wished to know whether the Convention was invoked in legal cases in Tanzania and what was being done to disseminate its provisions. She also wished to know what other action the Government was taking to advance the cause of women.
- 27. Ms. BERNARD said that while the Tanzanian Government was attempting to implement the Convention, traditions could not be eradicated easily. Low educational levels and widespread illiteracy were preventing Tanzanian women from being promoted to responsible positions. She hoped that the Government would assist women in overcoming such obstacles.
- 28. Ms. WALLA-TCHANGAI commended the determination of the Tanzanian Government to promote women's equality by endeavouring to implement the Convention. She wished to know more about the current status of Tanzanian women and about the specific obstacles encountered by them prior to Tanzania's ratification of the Convention.
- 29. Ms. NOVIKOVA commended the frankness of the amendment to the initial report. She sympathized with the priorities of the Tanzanian Government in its efforts to promote women's equality in such areas as health and education. Health and education were particularly important for women since they had a direct impact on the female labour force. She wished to commend those developing countries which had ratified the Convention without any reservations.

(Ms. Novikova)

- 30. Additional information should be provided on the Division of Women and Children, for example, the type of financing available, sources of financing, the number of people employed in the Division and the effectiveness of its policies.
- 31. Ms. AKAMATSU commended the representative of Tanzania on her introduction, the initial report itself and the informative and frank case study of her country's social structures. Although its late submission was regrettable, the extensive amendment to the initial report demonstrated the seriousness of purpose of the Tanzanian Government with regard to women's issues. Great efforts had clearly been made to achieve equality between men and women, particularly in the areas of politics and education. At the same time, discrimination persisted in matters of family life and law.
- 32. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ said that she had been quite concerned at the lack of time available to study the amendment to the initial report and the fact that it had been issued in English only. She wished to congratulate the representative of Tanzania on her presentation and to thank her for all the additional details she had provided, which compensated for the rather limited scope of the original report. Like many third world countries, Tanzania was facing very serious economic problems which imposed a heavy burden of labour on its female population, to whom she wished to pay tribute.
- 33. Ms. ALFONSIN DE FASAN commended the Tanzanian Government for its efforts to advance the status of women. While obstacles to complete equality remained, progress had been steady. It was essential that Tanzanian women be mobilized so that they too could be a force for achieving equality under the law.
- 34. The report stated that although men and women had equal rights under the law in Tanzania, there were certain provisions which did not take women's interests into account. She wished to know whether a system might be implemented under which women's rights could not be infringed.
- 35. The CHAIRPERSON invited the members of the Committee to consider the report with regard to specific articles of the Convention.

- 36. Ms. CORTI expressed admiration for the report and, above all, for the manner in which the issue of women's equality was being dealt with in Tanzania, where great efforts were being made to abolish traditional customs and to achieve de facto equality.
- 37. In her comments on article 2, she would refer only to the original report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57) and not to the amendment. The Marriage Act of 1971 gave women the right to own and dispose of property, making them equal partners in marriage. She wished to know whether that right was granted under both administrative and common law. The representative of Tanzania had said that while most women were entitled to 84 days of paid maternity leave, there were some cases in which that

(Ms. Corti)

right was not granted. She would appreciate further clarification and wondered whether legal measures were envisaged to extend that right to all women. She commended the Government on exempting women from the two years of work experience normally required before entering an institution of higher education.

- 38. Ms. ESCOBAR asked how many women were serving in public ministries in Tanzania and whether there were any women judges. In general, did the law provide for the punishment of those who engaged in discriminatory practices?
- 39. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU disagreed that customary practices and traditions which entailed discrimination against women would gradually disappear. Instead of waiting for customs to die out, Governments had a responsibility to intervene actively to change social structures. She wondered, therefore, whether the Tanzanian Government had any plans to abolish the dowry custom, pursuant to article 2 of the Convention.
- 40. Ms. Guan Mingian took the Chair.

- 41. Ms. CORTI noted that paragraph 2.4 of the original report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57) stated that the legislations and creeds safeguarding women's rights and equality were implemented by several bodies, such as the judiciary. The amendment to that report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57/Amend.1) referred to the establishment of various bodies responsible for promoting women's development. She would appreciate more information on the nature of those bodies and their achievements.
- 42. According to the report, Tanzanian women had recently become more aware of their rights under the law. How had such information been disseminated and had any cases of discrimination against women been brought before the courts?
- 43. Ms. ALFONSIN DE FASAN said it was her impression that the Tanzanian Government was prepared to respect the Convention fully and stood ready to assist the population in accepting the changes needed to achieve women's equality.
- 44. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING said that she had been impressed by the efforts of the Tanzanian Government to establish divisions for women's affairs within existing ministries. She wished to know how those divisions operated, how their activities were co-ordinated and how duplication of effort was avoided. She wondered whether a national plan of action for women was being implemented and, if that was not the case, how the Government would view such an idea.
- 45. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said she would appreciate more information on women's rights to buy and own land and on any plans to abolish customs that prevented women from exercising such rights.

46. The CHAIRPERSON, speaking in her personal capacity, said that according to the report, there was no automatic prosecution of rapists and no minimum punishment for offences of that nature. She wished to know the position of women's organizations in Tanzania on that matter.

Article 4

- 47. Ms. CORTI said that since the report made frequent reference to traditional practices that impeded women's advancement, she wished to know whether the Government was planning to take special measures, other than those already mentioned, to bring about equality between the sexes. To assist women in the informal sector, the Government was emphasizing the use of appropriate technologies and she would appreciate more details on the type of technologies being introduced.
- 48. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that she had been particularly interested to read about the efforts of the Tanzanian Government to support and promote co-operative movements. There seemed to be a contradiction between such efforts and the fact that by law women were not permitted to obtain bank loans and other financial support. She wished to know whether the Government was envisaging any measures to assist women in rural areas in forming co-operatives and obtaining loans.

- 49. Ms. CORTI said that the report stated that the school drop-out rate was increased by the fact that early marriage often forced female children to abandon their studies. In that connection, she would appreciate a more precise definition of the term "pre-arranged marriages", including the minimum age required to enter into such a marriage.
- 50. Ms. DIALLO SQUMARE said that, given the weakening of parental authority, she wondered how the Tanzanian Government handled the problem of family education. She also wished to know what measures had been taken to co-ordinate Government priorities with those of women's organizations, and what results had been achieved.
- 51. Ms. SAYOGYO said that she had been impressed by efforts at both the national and local levels to promote the role of women, particularly in agricultural activities. Did any studies exist on the division of labour between men and women with regard to household tasks and income-producing labour? It was her impression that females dominated the agricultural system in Tanzania as a result of both the custom of polygamy and the pressures on males to migrate to cities in search of industrial jobs.
- 52. Ms. UKEJE said she would appreciate some clarification with respect to incentives for women in the family area. Was the Tanzanian Government encouraging women to have more children?
- 53. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING said that she would like to have more detailed information on the problem of young women dropping out of school because of pregnancy. In particular, she wished to know whether family planning was part of the school curriculum.

- 54. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS said she would like more information on the issue of assessing the value of women's work in money or in kind. In particular, she wished to know how the general public and the Government viewed that issue.
- 55. The report stated that FAO and UNICEF had carried out certain programmes in Tanzania, particularly in the area of education for family life. She wished to know whether those programmes had been successful.
- 56. Ms. ESCOBAR asked what percentage of women in Tanzania worked solely as homemakers.
- 57. Ms. TALLAWY said that the excellent introduction and frank comments by the representative of Tanzania had diffused any negative feelings in the Committee. Even prior to its ratification of the Convention, the Tanzanian Government had been doing everything possible to promote the advancement of women. As in any developing country, a number of problems remained to be solved. However, aside from its late submission, the report could serve as an excellent example to other developing countries.
- 58. Since Tanzania was a country with many ethnic groups, she wondered how the Government managed to reconcile their various traditions in enacting measures to improve the status of women.
- 59. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU asked whether female circumcision was practised in Tanzania and to what extent. Did Tanzania participate in the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children and had that body made any specific recommendations with respect to Tanzania?
- 60. The CHAIRPERSON, speaking in her personal capacity, asked whether any measures had been taken to change the social attitudes underlying discriminatory practices against Tanzanian women.

Article 6

- 61. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that she would appreciate some clarification of the situation of prostitution in Tanzania.
- 62. Ms. SAYOGYO asked what measures had been taken to control prostitutes as well as their clients.
- 63. Ms. BERNARD asked whether there was a specific law prohibiting prostitution. According to the report, chapter 16 of the Tanzanian Penal Code provided punishment only for those who exploited prostitutes.
- 64. Ms. ESCOBAR asked how many women teachers there were in Tanzania and what measures existed or were planned to encourage more women to become teachers.

Article 7

65. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU asked whether there was a women's movement in Tanzania, what were the major women's mass organizations and what their demands were.

- 66. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ said she would like more information about the position of women in political life. Concerning the reservation of seats for women in Parliament and in the party, a quota system was useful only if it was used as a temporary, positive measure. Tanzania's initial report did not indicate the percentage of women in the party, the Government, Parliament or the judiciary. She would also like to know more about the composition of women's organizations.
- 67. Ms. SCHÖPP-SCHILLING said she understood the need for quotas but would like more data on the extent to which women were able to advance outside the quota system. She also wanted to know how the Women's Organization of Tanzania (UWT) was viewed and how its decisions were reflected in party and Government policies.
- 68. Ms. OESER asked how it was that the percentage of women in the party's Central Committee had dropped from 14 per cent to 5 per cent despite the official policy of promoting women. She also wanted to know how many women were affected by early pregnancy and pre-arranged marriages.
- 69. Ms. DIALLO SOUMARE asked how the progress already made was being consolidated and how the political role of women was to be promoted even further.

Article 9

70. Ms. AKAMATSU observed that discrimination still existed in Tanzania in respect of family law. She wished to know whether children received Tanzanian nationality when the mother was Tanzanian but the father was not.

- 71. Ms. ALFONSIN DE FASAN asked what was being done to care for children whose mothers were in prison.
- 72. Ms. SAYOGYO drew attention to page 35 of the amendment to the initial report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57/Amend.1) and asked for information on changes in the pattern of male as well as female enrolment in education.
- 73. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS said that the statistics given in the report showed that the increase in school enrolment for girls was not as great as the increase for boys. Turning to the table on primary school drop-out rates (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57/Amend.1, p. 64), she asked whether any study had been made of the reasons for dropping out of school, such as death and pregnancy. In particular, what was meant by death as a cause? Did schools provide sex education or health services? Did they make any effort to stress the responsibility of fathers? She commended Tanzania's excellent and highly successful literary programmes, which could well be studied by others.
- 74. Ms. WALLA-TCHANGAI asked whether any efforts had been made, through scholarships and the like, to encourage vocational training for girls in non-traditional sectors.

- 75. Ms. GUAN MINQIAN asked whether the rule that an expelled student could not return to school had an adverse effect on literacy rates.
- 76. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU asked what the many girls who dropped out of school did afterwards. Did they work? Did they help in the fields? She also wished to know whether the co-educational system would become compulsory and at what age girls usually got married.

Article 11

- 77. Ms. DIALLO SOUMARE asked what measures were planned by the Government or by women's organizations to combat discrimination against women in public and private enterprises. What measures were being taken to integrate women into the private sector and to promote them and keep them there? She would also appreciate some information on self-help groups and women's co-operatives. What measures were being planned to organize such initiatives and what difficulties had been encountered?
- 78. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ said that Tanzania's initial report showed that women's participation in the wage-earning employment sector had increased far less than men's and that 97.8 per cent of economically active women were engaged in agriculture (CEDAW/C/5/Add.57/Amend.1, p. 83). Women bore the brunt of the work in the home and also in agricultural production, where they received no fixed wages or social protection. She wondered how they could be, and how they were being, protected.
- 79. Ms. AKAMATSU drew attention to paragraph 2.22 on page 8 of document CEDAW/C/5/Add.57 and asked just how much time women actually spent on maternity leave.
- 80. Ms. SAYOGYO asked how much women earned in the informal sector as compared with men and by what percentage their earnings had increased as compared with men.
- 81. Ms. ESCOBAR asked what action the Government was taking to end discrimination against women by enterprises and what percentage of the labour force were women.

Article_12

82. Ms. CORTI asked what percentage of medical and health personnel were women. Concerning family planning, she wished to know how contraceptives were distributed and whether they were provided free of charge. The report stated that 5 to 7 per cent of women between the ages of 15 and 44 used modern family planning methods, of whom 87 per cent used oral contraceptives. What were the traditional methods of contraception? Was there discrimination against unmarried women in terms of access to family planning services and, if so, what was the attitude of non-governmental organizations? Did women have to obtain their husbands' permission before undergoing sterilization or did they have a free choice?

- 83. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU noted that abortion was legal in Tanzania when the mother's life was at risk. What kind of risk did women actually have to prove before they were entitled to an abortion? Life expectancy for women was very low in Tanzania and she wondered whether that could be attributed in any degree to excessive smoking or drug use.
- 84. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS asked whether there were any traditional customs, such as self-mutilation, that affected the health of women and what measures were being taken to eliminate them.
- 85. Ms. ESCOBAR asked whether a husband must obtain his wife's permission before he could be sterilized. She would also like more information about the country's health programmes.
- 86. Ms. WALLA-TCHANGAI asked what was being done about prostitution and to help prostitutes.
- 87. Ms. SELLAMI-MESLEM (Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) announced that the Convention had just received its 100th instrument of ratification, from Trinidad and Tobago.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.