



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

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Ninth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 151st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 22 January 1990, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairperson:

Ms. EVATT

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. THE CHAIRPERSON said that the tenth anniversary year of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which had begun in December 1989, had already been marked by a number of events, including a conference organized by the International Women's Rights Action Watch, an organization whose untiring efforts had provided the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women with valuable information regarding the status of women.
2. The Committee had a very important role to play in making the Convention effective. Its reports were the main source of information on the implementation, of the Convention, and its questions, suggestions and recommendations defined the scope of the Convention and the obligations of States parties. By pursuing a constructive dialogue, the Committee encouraged States to take a positive view of their obligations and assisted them in finding the best means of fulfilling those obligations.
3. Under rule 14 of the Committee's rules of procedure the officers of the Committee at its ninth session would be those elected at its eighth session, namely, Ms. Evatt (Australia), Chairperson; Ms. Ukeje (Nigeria), Rapporteur; and Ms. Guan (China), Ms. Oeser (German Democratic Republic) and Ms. Pilataxi de Arenas (Ecuador), Vice-Chairpersons.
4. Miss ANSTEE (Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna) said that the United Nations Office at Vienna had just undertaken a review of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which would be presented to the Commission on the Status of Women in February 1990. That review showed clearly that progress had fallen far short of expectations. In fact, the Convention and its implementation was one of the few bright spots in an overall picture of loss of momentum for the advancement of women.
5. While the existence of the Convention was reason for celebration, there was no room for complacency. Although 100 countries had become States parties to the Convention, a further 60 Member States had not. Moreover, in some countries the mere existence of the Convention and its national enabling laws did not mean that women were aware of their rights and of the legal mechanisms available to them.
6. It was the work of the Committee that would determine the success of the Convention at both the international and the national level. The Commission on the Status of Women, the Economic and Social Council and, most recently, the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly had all recognized the importance of the Committee's work and had called upon the Secretary-General to give higher priority to strengthening support services for it. While committed to fulfilling its support function, the Division for the Advancement of Women had to compete for resources with other priorities, in an environment in which most of the players

(Miss Anstee)

were men. Under the regular budget for the biennium 1990-1991, Professional posts in the Division had been reduced by over 14 per cent, despite an increased work-load, to permit redeployment to "higher priority" programmes. The Division, would therefore have to make do with what it had and try to make the most efficient use of the personnel and time available. As a result, the talents of the entire staff of the Division, including personnel involved in policy research and information dissemination centred on the Commission on the Status of Women, were to be placed at the disposal of the Committee. The Committee would thus be able to benefit from the wealth of research, statistical analyses and published and unpublished material produced by the Division, and the Division would be able to integrate the Committee's concerns into its main body of work.

7. The availability of such resources was a powerful reason why the servicing of the Committee must remain the responsibility of the Division for the Advancement of Women. The Committee could not work properly simply by examining laws: it must also consider the political, economic, social, cultural and legal aspects of women's advancement.

8. The holding of the Committee's sessions in New York affected the Division's ability to service it, however. The number of staff available for the current session was far below what would have been available at Vienna and the number necessary to service the Committee fully. Furthermore, staff sent to New York were unable to consult most of the reference material normally available at Vienna. Lastly, staff remaining at Vienna were unable to gain an insight into the Committee's work or to give it the benefit of their specialist knowledge.

9. In the final analysis, however, the work must be done by the Committee and, in that connection, she wished to congratulate the Committee on its increasingly positive performance. That performance was bound to improve as the Committee streamlined its working methods. One improvement had been the introduction of a pre-sessional working group. Another would be to seek to frame general recommendations in such a way that they could be of direct, practical use to States parties in implementing the Convention. The Division could assist in that task if it was informed in advance of the general issues the Committee wished to address. The Committee might also examine how to tie its work in more closely with that of the Commission on the Status of Women. Lastly, the procedures for reviewing reports would have to be improved as the number of reports and States parties increased.

10. The celebration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention had already been marked by many events, including the unveiling of a sculpture, the launching of a series of publications entitled "The Work of CEDAW" and the issuing of the first in a series of sales publications on the participation of women in decision-making for peace. The Department of Public Information had also prepared a new kit on the Convention, which was being widely distributed. The Division hoped to begin work on updating the report, originally prepared for the Nairobi Conference, on the achievements of and obstacles encountered by States parties to the Convention. A number of regional and international meetings and seminars related to the Convention were also planned for 1990. Outreach work relating to

(Ms. Anstee)

the Convention was being greatly aided by the tireless efforts of non-governmental organizations, among which she wished to pay special tribute to the International Women's Rights Action Watch.

11. While the adoption of a convention was important, what really counted was its entry into force. The tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women would be on 3 September 1991 and the Division would welcome any suggestions on using that date to focus further attention on the Convention.

12. The 60 countries that had not acceded to the Convention justified their non-accession on the basis of traditional values or national practice. The task of the Committee and the Division in the next decade must be to change a situation in which one third of the world's women did not have access to the benefits of the Convention and a large majority did not even know of its existence.

13. Ms. SELLAMI-MESLEM (Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) said that since March 1989, four more States had become parties to the Convention, bringing the total number of States parties to 100. Several other States were in the process of ratifying or acceding to the Convention.

14. The United Nations had organized a number of events and prepared a number of materials in conjunction with the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention. A vast effort had been made to promote the dissemination of information on the Convention. Particular mention should be made of the launching at Vienna in December 1990 of the new sales publication entitled "The Work of CEDAW". The book, which would be available in English, French and Spanish, was the first in a series of compilations of the reports and summary records of Committee sessions. While the series was intended to make the Committee's work more visible and accessible to scholars, legal specialists and the public, it was not addressed to the lay person. To fill that gap, the Department of Public Information had produced a concise, accessible and comprehensive information kit on the Convention, aimed not only at the academic world but also at the mass media, non-governmental organizations and the general public.

15. Governments and non-governmental organizations had marked the tenth anniversary of the Convention by making special declarations and issuing brochures on the Convention. There had also been an increase in the number of meetings and conferences relating to the Convention. A commemorative seminar on the Convention would be held in September 1990 in the Soviet Union. That seminar, the third such seminar to be held since the beginning of 1989, was intended to promote implementation of the Convention by providing a forum for discussion of the benefits of accession and the measures various States parties had undertaken in implementation of the Convention. A regional training seminar on the Convention had taken place in Guatemala in October 1989, organized jointly by the Guatemalan Government and the United Nations for the Spanish speaking countries of the region. The 14 participating countries had recognized the need to, inter alia, reflect in their periodic reports the de facto situation encountered by women in

(Ms. Sellami-Meslem)

their countries, set up national machinery for co-ordinating the implementation of the Convention and organize training seminars for journalists in order to correct the image of women in the media. Another regional seminar was scheduled in October 1990 for members of the South Pacific Forum, most of whom were not yet States parties.

16. The Committee's ninth session had been preceded by the meeting of a working group whose task it had been to discuss questions that would arise out of the consideration of second periodic reports. Those questions could be presented to the countries concerned once they had been approved and finalized by the Committee.

17. The Committee's mandate also included making general recommendations. In that connection, there was a close link between the Convention and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, which set forth guidelines to help Governments achieve equality for women. The Committee's task was to identify from the reports submitted to it the progress made and the obstacles encountered by States parties in improving the situation of women in their countries. The Division had routinely provided the Committee with extensive documentation, materials and statistical data from various sources, and it hoped that the Committee would also tap its own sources and experience in examining reports and drawing conclusions. It was in response to a request from the Committee that the Division had circulated an overview of the action taken at international level on the issue of traditional practices affecting the health of women and children (CEDAW/C/CRP.11), as well as relevant information from the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

18. In terms of reporting methodology, the Committee would have to consider the draft consolidated guidelines contained in document CEDAW/C/CRP.9. Those guidelines had been prepared by the Centre for Human Rights with a view to consolidating the guidelines issued by the various human rights treaty bodies and would help to avoid duplication of effort on the part of States parties and expedite the submission of reports. The backlog of reports outstanding to CEDAW was still high. Thirty-two initial reports were overdue and 34 second periodic reports were still outstanding. Some third periodic reports were also due for the first time in 1990.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK (CEDAW/C/19; CEDAW/C/CRP.7)

19. The CHAIRPERSON drew attention to the provisional agenda in document CEDAW/C/19 and the programme of work in document CEDAW/C/CRP.7.

20. The provisional agenda and the programme of work were adopted.

21. The CHAIRPERSON said that under agenda item 1, the Committee would also decide on the composition and agenda of Working Group I, set up to consider and suggest ways of expediting the Committee's work and Working Group II, set up to consider and suggest ways of implementing article 21 of the Convention.

(The Chairperson)

22. The Committee must set its own agenda priorities, in the light of its possibilities and resources. It could get help from the Secretariat in the form of data, statistics, background information on the work of other treaty bodies, advice on draft recommendations, the advice of experts in specialized subjects and invitations to specialized agencies to provide information. Information should be requested from one session to the next, however, in other words, with adequate notice, and each working group should bear that in mind when planning its work and formulating its agenda. It might also be helpful if documents, when required in large quantities, were provided only to those who had direct need of them. The working groups might also have a role to play in helping the Committee co-ordinate its work with that of the Commission on the Status of Women, and in helping the Secretariat update reports by establishing priorities as to what parts should be updated first.

23. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS, noting that reservations had been expressed on certain parts of the Convention, asked in what context those reservations would be analysed.

24. The CHAIRPERSON said that the question of reservations had been dealt with in an earlier recommendation, but that the matter could also be considered by Working Group II.

25. Turning to the composition of the working groups, Ms. Akamatsu, Ms. Forde, Ms. González Martínez, Ms. Guan, Ms. Ilic, Ms. Oeser, Ms. Tallawy, Ms. Ukeje and Ms. Walla-Tchangai had expressed a desire to serve on Working Group I. Ms. Alfonsin de Fasan, Ms. Corti, Ms. Escobar, Ms. Fenger-Moller, Ms. Laiou-Antoniou, Ms. Novikova, Ms. Pilataxi de Arenas, Ms. Sayogyo, Ms. Schopp-Schilling and Ms. Sinegiorgis had expressed a desire to serve on Working Group II. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee agreed to the proposed composition of the two working groups.

26. It was so decided.

27. The CHAIRPERSON, turning to the agenda of the working groups, said that Working Group I might examine the draft consolidated guidelines of human rights treaty bodies governing the initial part of the States parties, reports for the tenth session, the report to the Nairobi Conference and procedural matters. Working Group II could review the reports already received by the Secretariat for the Committee's tenth session and make proposals for the agenda of that session. It might also consider draft recommendations on female circumcision and violence against women. Lastly, it should consider the dates proposed for the Committee's tenth session - 14 to 25 January 1991 at Vienna, for which the Committee's approval was requested.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

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

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

Initial report of the Federal Republic of Germany (CEDAW/C/5/Add.59 and Amend.1)

1. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mrs. Lehr (Federal Republic of Germany) took a place at the Committee table.
2. Mrs. LEHR (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the delegation which she headed, as Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health, included two Länder representatives who dealt with women's issues, which attested to the importance that the Federal Republic of Germany attached at all levels - Federal Government, Länder and municipalities - to the status of women as well as to the subject dealt with in her country's initial report, namely, the application of the principle of equality between the sexes. Her country whole-heartedly supported the efforts of the United Nations to ensure the universal application of that principle.
3. The Federal Republic, which in 1985 had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, regarded the Convention as an important element in a series of international instruments relating to the protection of human rights. Since the submission of her country's initial report in 1988, new developments had taken place in the country that had perceptibly influenced the situation of women. Also, new data were available as a result of the 1987 population census. The report had therefore been supplemented by an addendum containing complete statistical data, as well as an overview of laws and measures adopted to ensure equality of rights, and developing some points not treated in sufficient detail in the initial report.
4. Generally speaking, the current situation in the Federal Republic was the following: equality between men and women was recognized de jure, but de facto there were still many examples of discrimination against women. The principle of equality between the sexes was enshrined in the Constitution. In 1949, as a result of pressure by women members of the Parliamentary Council, the Basic Law had been modified so as to specify that "men and women shall have equal rights". Since then the laws had been gradually adjusted to make them conform to that principle. The 1977 law amending the legislative provisions relating to marriage and the family, in particular, had ended all de jure discrimination against women. In 1979, when the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had been adopted, the legislation of the Federal Republic had already been largely in conformity with the provisions of the Convention that obligated States parties to ensure women equal rights with men in all areas.
5. In reality, however, many gaps remained, particularly in public life and professional life, and, to a certain extent, even in education. In public life, despite signs of a positive development, women were still underrepresented at all levels. Even in the sectors in which the presence of women was significant, such

(Mrs. Lehr, Federal Republic of Germany)

as in political parties or trade unions, they held a tiny portion of high-level posts. The same applied to their representation in business and science, as well as in universities, where tenured professors were almost exclusively men.

6. The proportion of women in gainful employment continued to grow. It currently amounted to 39 per cent and was particularly high among young single mothers (54 per cent). Employed for the most part in the service sector, women were still largely underrepresented in the technical professions. Part-time work, most of which was done by women, had become more widespread. Almost one third of gainfully employed women were in part-time employment. Unemployment had increased in the past two years but continued to affect proportionally more women than men. The average gross income of women remained lower than that of men, basically because of structural factors, particularly the fact that women were by and large less qualified than men and had difficulty, because of their family obligations, in continuing their training. A radical change was taking place in the perception of the value of the work of women, mainly under the influence of the courts, which had challenged the criteria previously used in evaluating gainful activity.

7. In the field of education girls now had the same opportunities as boys, and they constituted approximately half of the school population at the secondary level. Nevertheless, they tended to concentrate in a small number of fields of study and training, which reduced the range of activities they could engage in later.

8. The explanation was the traditional perception of the role of women and men that was still common in society, as well as such factors as the inadequate number of crèches and kindergartens, which prevented women from participating fully in public life. That was where the Convention played an important role because in acceding to it every State undertook not only to modify its laws so as to eliminate any trace of discrimination against women but also to create conditions conducive to the full exercise of their rights.

9. What was the Federal Republic of Germany doing in that connection? At the level of Länder and local communities, a network of institutions, the "equal rights offices" of the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health, had been established with the task of implementing measures of the kind recommended in the Convention.

10. Facilitated by the growing public awareness of questions concerning discrimination and equal rights, those measures were aimed primarily at ensuring the advancement of women in professional and political life. At the federal level, as well as at the level of the Länder and many municipalities, guidelines had been adopted giving priority to women in the areas in which they were underrepresented. Moreover, pilot programmes had been started at all levels to facilitate access of women to professions previously dominated by men. In the private sector, special programmes instituted by firms to promote the advancement of women were increasingly widespread. Participation of women in the management of political parties was now encouraged by the parties themselves.

(Mrs. Lehr, Federal Republic of Germany)

11. A special effort had been made at the level of schools and the media to prevent them from perpetuating stereotypes that impeded genuine equality between men and women. The Standing Conference of Ministers of Education of the Länder had adopted "principles for the designing of textbooks" and the German Advertising Council was combating advertisements that discriminated against women. Legislative provisions had also been adopted against traffic in women, and shelters provided protection and assistance to women victims of violence in the home, whose number, unfortunately, remained very high in the Federal Republic.

12. In the field of education, information campaigns and pilot programmes had been started at the level of the Länder to encourage young girls to choose fields of study and training traditionally dominated by men. The Government was also in the process of re-evaluating the coeducational system in order to tailor it more closely to the needs of girls. In the field of research, centres concerned with women's issues were increasingly numerous.

13. In order to enable women with children to combine professional and family life more easily, which was what 82 per cent of young mothers wanted, important measures had been adopted. In addition to the monthly allowance paid to parents in the first months of the child's life, either parent could take leave to raise the child with a guarantee of keeping his or her job. None the less, efforts still had to be made at the level of the Länder to increase the number of crèches, which was currently insufficient. Legal protection was also guaranteed to firms that agreed to provide part-time jobs. The Federal Government also took measures to facilitate the re-entry into the work-force of women who had devoted some time to the education of their children. In the field of health, research projects financed by the Federal Government were placing greater emphasis on the specific problems of women.

14. In conclusion, she said that her country spared no effort to ensure the de facto equality of women. That was a challenge it would take up in the 1990s.

15. The CHAIRPERSON thanked Mrs. Lehr for her introduction of the initial report of the Federal Republic of Germany and for the additional information she had given. The report closely analysed the obligations which the Convention imposed on States. It stressed the need to rethink, within a context of complementarity, the role of men and women and to adjust working conditions so as to enable both to reconcile professional necessities and family requirements. There were many other interesting aspects to the report. She therefore wished to open the general debate and thus enable members first to make comments on the report as a whole and then to raise questions in the order of the articles of the Convention.

16. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS congratulated Mrs. Lehr, whose statement had brought the report, which was geared more to the legal status of women in the Federal Republic, into sharper focus. She would like to know if the Government intended to withdraw its reservations to article 7 (b) of the Convention.

17. Ms. DIALLO SOUMARE said that the dynamism of women's organizations and the commitment of the Government operated in tandem to enhance the social and professional status of women in the Federal Republic of Germany. She hoped that with that good start the Government would withdraw the reservations it had expressed when it had ratified the Convention.

18. Ms. ALFONSIN DE FASAN said she appreciated the efforts undertaken in the Federal Republic of Germany to give women their proper place in professional life and would like to know specifically the results of measures to promote the professional training, advanced training and retraining of women.

19. Ms. TALLAWY said that she welcomed the special measures taken in the Federal Republic of Germany under article 15 of the Convention, particularly those designed to prepare women for new jobs. It was regrettable, however, that the report did not give a full picture of the economic and social factors that impeded full equality of women on the professional level, particularly in terms of salaries. That gap was all the more regrettable inasmuch as the Federal Republic of Germany, an economically developed country, did not have to face the problems encountered by other countries in that field.

20. Ms. OESER said that she had read with particular interest the passages in the report describing the measures undertaken in the Federal Republic of Germany, apparently with success, to ensure the de facto equality of women, but she wondered why the bodies and services that dealt with those questions at different levels hired only women. She would like to know whether any effort was being made to change that situation, which was similar to the one that prevailed in many other countries.

21. Ms. NOVIKOVA, like many other members of the Committee, expressed regret at the late distribution of the addendum to the initial report of the Federal Republic and felt that the highly developed and democratic countries should set an example in that respect. Having often visited the Federal Republic of Germany she could attest to the efforts being made there to improve the situation of women and was convinced that the good will of the Government, in conjunction with trade-union initiatives, would be reflected in even more thoroughgoing reforms. Like other speakers, she regretted the fact that the Federal Republic had felt it necessary to make reservations when it had ratified the Convention.

22. Ms. ILIĆ said that, in order to facilitate the discussion she would have preferred it had the ample information contained in the addendum just distributed, particularly the impressive list of specific measures adopted by the Federal Republic of Germany, appeared in the initial report. With regard to the guidelines to ensure the advancement of women in companies (para. 29 of the report) and in the civil service (para. 32), she would like more specific information about the result of those measures. She would also like to know about the activities of the Federal Republic of Germany in regional organizations, particularly the European Council and the European Parliament.

23. Ms. AKAMATSU said that she would like to know to what extent the ratification of the Convention had resulted in the Federal Republic of Germany, as it had in Japan, in a modification of the traditional conception of the role of women and if, again as in Japan, it had caused controversy. She would also like more information about the organization of the Ministry for Women established in 1986 and particularly if it was authorized to ensure the protection of working women or whether that was within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour. In respect of abortion (paras. 68-70 of the report) she would like to know who was responsible for the decision to induce an abortion under conditions conforming to the Penal Code and what criteria were applied.

Article 2

24. Ms. CORTI raised a number of questions regarding the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health. How was the work divided among those four areas and was there an overall budget or a budget for each category? What steps was the Ministry taking to promote the advancement of women in the civil service (para. 45 of the report)? What was the relationship between the equal rights offices of the Länder (paras. 47 and 48) and the Ministry? Did the latter have the right to initiate bills (para. 48) or was the Ministry limited to a consultative status? What were the new measures being considered by the Ministry (para. 52 (1)) in order to bring about equality of the sexes? Were employers obliged to follow the chronological order of registration on the unemployment office lists (para. 65)? Did foreign workers, apparently not mentioned in the report, have the right to invoke article 3 of the Constitution when they believed themselves to be victims of discrimination (para. 66)? Were there clandestine abortions or did women seek abortions abroad? From what year did the German legislation on abortion date (paras. 68 to 70)?

25. Ms. GUAN viewed the establishment of the Ministry for Women as a demonstration of the willingness of the Government to improve the situation of women. She appreciated the frankness of the report, which did not attempt to hide any weak points, particularly with respect to the status of women in professional life. She would appreciate information on women's organizations and movements.

26. Ms. FORDE commended the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for having ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1985 and for its promptness in submitting its initial report. She associated herself with previous speakers who had requested that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany should consider withdrawing its reservation to article 7 of the Convention.

27. With respect to the issue of induced abortion, which was treated in paragraphs 68 to 70 of the initial report, she would like to know in concrete terms how the Federal Republic of Germany was implementing its legislation in that field.

28. Ms. NOVIKOVA wished to know who in the Federal Republic of Germany, at both the Federal and the Länder levels, was responsible for taking action in cases of breaches of the legislation prohibiting discrimination against women. Had such cases given rise to studies and, if so, what were the results of those studies?

29. Ms. ESCOBAR said that she would appreciate more information with regard to discrimination against women in the workplace. With respect to the situation of Turkish women, she wished in particular to know if they could invoke German laws in order to protect their rights.

30. The CHAIRPERSON pointed out that, in the Federal Republic of Germany, the provisions of the Basic Law relating to basic rights did not apply to discriminatory acts committed by private persons. She would therefore like to know how the provisions of article 2 (e) of the Convention were implemented in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Article 3

31. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU observed that the decision-making bodies in the Federal Republic of Germany were decentralized. She wondered how, in practice, women participated in economic planning at all levels. She would also like to know what demands had been made by women within those decision-making bodies.

Article 4

32. Ms. TALLAWY said that she had noted with great interest the measures taken in the Federal Republic of Germany, especially in the retraining project, which opened new professions to women. She would like to know if guidelines on that matter were provided to businesses and if studies had been made in that field from which other countries might benefit. Were there any pamphlets on the subject?

33. She wished also to know what impact the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had had at the governmental level. Had the Convention encouraged the authorities to adopt more measures favourable to women?

34. She observed that, for various reasons, the adoption of special measures often evoked a certain amount of resentment from the public. Was that the case in the Federal Republic of Germany?

35. Ms. NOVIKOVA said that, in general, the role of women in decision-making often remained very limited. She would like to know what the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany could do in order to improve that situation.

Article 5

36. Ms. NOVIKOVA said she would like to know what efforts had been made in the Federal Republic of Germany to overcome social and cultural prejudices with respect to women and whether those efforts had produced concrete results.

37. With respect to the raising of children, she wished to know if, in the Federal Republic of Germany, the responsibilities of men and women in that area were recognized and how that was demonstrated in a concrete fashion.

38. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that she would appreciate information on the women's movement in the Federal Republic of Germany. In attempting to change attitudes towards women, government action was obviously very important, but women themselves could exert considerable influence in that sphere. Was the women's movement in the Federal Republic of Germany on the decline or was it maintaining its momentum? Did it operate in a manner similar to political parties?

39. Lastly, she wished to know if sex education was part of the academic curriculum.

40. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ, referring to paragraphs 76 and 77 of the report of the Federal Republic of Germany, said that public relations activities and information campaigns were being undertaken in the Federal Republic of Germany in order to change public attitudes towards the roles of women and men. In that connection, she drew attention to the problem of advertising which, unfortunately, was a problem in every country. Specifically, she wished to know whether the Federal Republic of Germany had a law or regulations covering television programmes and television advertising that portrayed a distorted image of women.

41. She also wished to know if the German Government planned to continue reviewing school-books in order to change the stereotyped roles of men and women often portrayed in those books.

42. The CHAIRPERSON wished to know the number of fathers who were taking advantage of the current provisions concerning parental leave.

43. In her introduction, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had referred to women who were victims of violence in the home. She wished to know if programmes had been planned to assist those women.

Article 6

44. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS, referring to the problem of prostitution noted that the Ministry headed by Mrs. Lehr had undertaken an investigation of the causes of prostitution. She would like to know what the results of that investigation had been. Referring to the question of "prostitution tourism" mentioned in the report of the Federal Republic of Germany, she noted also that a pilot project had been envisaged to come to the aid of aliens who engaged in prostitution. She would like to know whether the causes of that type of prostitution - unemployment, maladjustment, etc. - had been analysed.

45. Ms. ESCOBAR asked whether prostitutes received social assistance and whether provision had been made for health services for them.

46. Ms. GUAN, referring to paragraph 79 of the report of the Federal Republic of Germany, where it was said that the penal provisions concerning prostitution were primarily intended to protect the prostitute against threats directed against her person or her personal freedom, asked what those provisions consisted of. It would also be useful to know the number of prostitutes and whether that number was increasing or decreasing.

47. The CHAIRPERSON asked whether special programmes existed for combating AIDS and protecting particularly vulnerable women against that disease.

Article 7

48. Ms. DIALLO SOUMARE said she would like to have further information on the structure of the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health headed by Mrs. Lehr. She would like, in particular, to know what were the relations between that Ministry and the Government, the political parties, the trade unions and the women's movements. She would also like to know what portion of that Ministry's budget was allocated to women's affairs.

49. Ms. TALLAWI considered that the part of the report of the Federal Republic of Germany that dealt with article 7 of the Convention seemed to be the weakest. The indications contained in it concerning the participation of women in the political and public life of the country were very insufficient. No information was provided about the programmes drawn up by the political parties to promote the participation of women and combat the obstacles hindering such participation. She would like to know the number of German women occupying posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for example or representing their country in international organizations. She would also like to know how the Ministry for Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health co-ordinated its activities with the other ministries in order to ensure programme follow-up. The report submitted by Australia contained very clear indications on the subject. It would be interesting, particularly for the developing countries, to learn the experience of the Federal Republic of Germany in that area.

50. Ms. ESCOBAR said that she would like to know the percentage of women who were victims of industrial accidents.

51. Ms. CORTI said that she believed that women played a very active role in political parties in the Federal Republic of Germany and, in particular, article 3 of the Basic Law, relating to the equality of men and women, had been adopted following pressures exerted by the latter in Parliament. It was therefore a pity that the report gave little information on the subject of the participation of women in political life.

52. According to the statistics provided by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the number of seats occupied by women in Parliament had considerably increased. She would like to know how that progress had been achieved and whether the parties were subject to a quota system. Many countries were witnessing a wave of conservatism. Was that the case in the Federal Republic of Germany and, if so, was the Federal Government envisaging concrete measures for continuing to promote the participation of women in public life?

53. Ms. BERNARD commended the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for its report and also Mrs. Lehr for the excellent presentation of the situation of women in her country that she had given at the beginning of the meeting. She had noted, however, a gap in the report of the Federal Republic of Germany. It did not

(Ms. Bernard)

contain any indication concerning the presence of women in the legal system. She would like to have some information on the subject.

Article 8

54. Ms. NOVIKOVA said that she would like to know what concrete measures had been adopted in the Federal Republic of Germany to ensure conditions of equality with men with regard to the representation of the Government at the international level.

55. Another concrete question: what criteria were applied in the Federal Republic of Germany for selecting the women who occupied posts at the international level? A country like the Federal Republic of Germany, where there was a Ministry specially entrusted with questions relating to women, as well as research centres on those questions, might serve as an example to others in that field.

56. Lastly, she would like to know the number of women from the Federal Republic of Germany who were working in the United Nations. That question seemed to her particularly relevant since the United Nations itself had set the objective of having 30 per cent of United Nations Secretariat posts occupied by women.

57. Ms. ESCOBAR said that she would like to know whether women in the Federal Republic of Germany occupied administrative posts in trade unions and employers' associations and, if so, what were the percentages.

Article 9

58. Ms. AKAMATSU said that she understood that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany had modified the law on nationality before ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Was there a link between that revision and the ratification of the Convention? Had that revision aroused opposition and to what extent?

59. Ms. BERNARD said that she understood, from the report of the Federal Republic of Germany, that, just as a German man, if he married an alien, conferred on her his nationality, a German woman could confer her nationality on her alien husband. However, she would like to have that confirmed.

Article 10

60. Ms. ALFONSIN DE FASAN noted that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was encouraging the education of women. She would like to know, specifically, whether the Government encouraged women to request scholarships for the purpose of following advanced training programmes. Similarly, was the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany encouraging women, in one way or another, to take up careers in non-traditional fields?

61. Ms. ESCOBAR noted, from paragraph 99 of the report, that between 1978 and 1985, the Federal Government had set up pilot projects aimed at opening up technical and industrial occupations to women. She would like to know whether those projects had yielded results and whether it would be possible to have some figures on the subject. She would also like to know the percentage of illiterate women compared to the percentage for men.

Article 11

62. Ms. GUAN, referring to paragraph 115 of the report, where it was mentioned that labour courts in the Federal Republic of Germany had awarded damages to women who had applied for posts and been rejected because of their sex, said that she would like to know the reasons that had been invoked for that rejection.

63. Ms. PILATAXI DE ARENAS considered that the legal provisions adopted in the Federal Republic of Germany to ensure the equality of men and women in active life were admirable. Referring to paragraph 120 of the report, which stated that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was considering an amendment of the act to harmonize legislation in the European Economic Community, she asked what act was referred to in that paragraph.

64. Furthermore, she noted in paragraph 141 that, in the "light wage group", to which women generally belonged, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany itself recognized that there was discrimination with regard to women. She asked what trade unions had done to improve that situation and what power women workers had within trade unions. Since the Federal Government had submitted a report on the subject in 1986, she would like to know whether measures had been taken on the basis of that report and what they consisted of.

65. Lastly, in view of the opening up of the Eastern countries and the resultant movements from one country to another, she asked whether the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was envisaging the establishment of programmes for Eastern women seeking work in the Federal Republic of Germany.

66. Ms. ALFONSIN DE FASAN requested information about the measures taken in the Federal Republic of Germany to allow women to balance professional and family life. She would also like to know whether the law on the promotion of employment had had repercussions on part-time employment.

67. Ms. TALLAWI emphasized that, although the number of women in paid employment had grown continuously over the last few years, that increase was still very slight, in spite of the positive action of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in favour of the employment of women. She also asked, on reading the report, whether the fact that the proportion of women in the active population had increased since 1975 might signify a decrease in male employment. She would therefore like to know the statistics for unemployment in the Federal Republic of Germany and, more specifically, to have some figures regarding the situation of men in the field of employment.

68. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ asked what were the 20 occupations referred to in paragraph 130 that were not open to women because of statutory regulations and what were those statutory regulations. Referring to paragraphs 151 and 152 of the initial report, she expressed the wish that, once they were known, the results of the debate in the Bundestag on the draft for an act on working hours should be communicated to the Committee. What, moreover, would be the consequences of that act for the employment of women: would they stimulate it or would they be an obstacle. With regard to professional training to help women to return to working life, which was the subject of paragraph 97, she asked whether those programmes were financed by the Government alone or with the participation of businesses and trade unions. With regard to paragraph 135, she requested clarifications on the conditions for entitlement to benefits and the benefits themselves. With regard to paragraph 141, she would like to know what were the light wage sectors of activity and, specifically, the difference between those wages and normal wages. With regard to paragraph 142, she asked whether the principle "equal pay for equal work" was not incompatible with another principle that required that women should benefit from different working conditions, which obliged the employer to remunerate them differently. With regard to maternity leave, she asked what was its duration in the Federal Republic of Germany, whether a woman received her salary in full during the leave period, whether she could keep her job with all her acquired rights and what were the procedures for paying the 600 deutsche mark allowance to which women who took 10 months supplementary leave following maternity leave were entitled.

69. Taking up a question raised by Mrs. Lehr, she asked also what were the working conditions for immigrant women in the Federal Republic of Germany and, in particular, what provisions had been made for them with regard to social security.

70. Ms. FORDE pointed out that, in several places in the initial report and the addendum, mention was made of part-time work; she asked why part-time work concerned mainly women; she would also like to know why, as mentioned in paragraph 34 of the report, part-time work had been put "on an equal footing with full-time employment". Was it a question of social benefits such as health insurance, the right to unemployment or the right to a pension?

71. Ms. OESER requested precise figures regarding crèches and kindergartens, which Mrs. Lehr had said were insufficient; she also asked how it was possible to meet the needs of working households in that area.

72. With regard to the principle "equal pay for equal work", what was the situation in private businesses? Were there, as in other countries, cases of discrimination? The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany had evoked a principle that represented a step forward, namely, "equal wages for work of equal value". She would like to have further information about the programmes set on foot in the Federal Republic of Germany to overcome the obstacles hindering the application of that principle and also about available studies and the experience acquired in that field where countries were experiencing so many difficulties and where the Federal Republic of Germany was among the most advanced.

73. Ms. AKAMATSU, referring to the provisions of article 611 of the Civil Code of the Federal Republic of Germany, mentioned in the report, pointed out that similar measures had been introduced in Japan, not without arousing criticisms. She asked how far the efforts to harmonize labour legislation in the European Economic Community, referred to in paragraph 120 of the report, had gone and how subparagraphs a and b of article 611 were being implemented.

74. Ms. CORTI observed that unemployment was proportionally higher among women than among men, which the report explained by the fact that women limited themselves to traditional professions in spite of the vocational training programmes set up by the Government. She wondered what solutions could be found. Could the problem be remedied by a reduction in the number of work hours or by more frequent use of part-time work? With regard to part-time work, she wished to add to the questions already raised that of regulations: was part-time work regulated by governmental acts or by collective agreements? Did it allow women to make careers for themselves? With respect to the violations referred to in paragraph 115, was the application of the European Community Directive automatic or did the woman have to take action on her own behalf? Had the Vocational Training Act had any impact on lowering the unemployment rate? With regard to unemployment, would the recent immigration of nationals from the German Democratic Republic pose a problem in that sphere?

75. Ms. ILIĆ, returning to the issue of low salaries raised by Ms. Gonzalez Martinez and having taken note of the statistics on that matter provided in annex I of the amendment, was astonished that there should still be that type of discrimination after the ratification of ILO Convention No. 100 in 1956 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1985. There must be some way to speed up the action designed to eliminate that discrimination. What was the role played by Governments, trade unions and employers in that area and what was the time-frame?

76. Ms. GUAN, referring to paragraph 154, asked what society's attitude was towards a father who took child-raising leave subsequent to the mother's maternity leave. Were there many such fathers and under what circumstances did they take such leave?

Article 12

77. Ms. CORTI took up the questions raised by Ms. Oeser with respect to child-care facilities and by the Chairperson on the subject of AIDS. What measures had been taken in the Federal Republic of Germany to prevent the spread of the epidemic and what statistics did the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany have with respect to the disease? She would also appreciate more detailed information with respect to steps taken in the Federal Republic of Germany to provide child-care facilities, to which Mrs. Lehr had referred in her statement.

78. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ wished to know the extent of the drug problem in the Federal Republic of Germany and to what degree women were affected.

79. The CHAIRPERSON asked what was being done in terms of health care for immigrant women, whose language and culture were different.

Article 15

80. Ms. CORTI welcomed the fact that the new family legislation of the Federal Republic of Germany had abandoned the idea of the "housewife". She observed that, in certain countries, housewives were organizing and were claiming special benefits, housework being viewed as having a social value. Was there a movement in the Federal Republic of Germany similar to the very strong one, for example, in Italy? What was the policy of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany in that field and were there any bills under consideration?

81. Ms. LAIYOU-ANTONIOU raised the issue of older, divorced women who found themselves without any social security. The Federal Republic of Germany was one of the few countries with legislation designed to protect that category of women, but there was no reference in the report to that matter. What was the nature of that legislation and how was it implemented?

82. Ms. FORDE, referring to paragraphs 184 and 185 of the report, expressed concern at the signs of a difference in treatment regarding certain categories of children. She wondered if children born out of wedlock were legally protected in the Federal Republic of Germany, in particular from the viewpoint of child support and inheritance rights. With respect to property rights, it was her belief that the three régimes described in paragraph 191 might pose problems. She wished to know which régime was chosen the most often and what problems for women arose from those régimes upon the dissolution of the marriage, whether due to divorce or the death of the spouse.

83. Ms. AKAMATSU asked, in reference to the choice of family name, whether married women frequently took the name of their husband and if there were any cases where the family name was that of the wife.

84. The CHAIRPERSON thanked the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany for her excellent presentation of her country's report and thanked the Committee members for their participation.

85. Mrs. LEHR thanked the Committee members for their judicious questions and explained that the addendum to the report had been submitted late because it contained very recent information. She would do her best to respond in detail to the questions which had been put.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.