



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

Distr.
GENERAL

CEDAW/C/SR.58
30 January 1985

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Fourth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 58th MEETING

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna,
on Tuesday, 29 January 1985, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. BERNARD

CONTENTS

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)

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 distribution of this document to the
Chief, Translation Section, Conference Service, room D0748.

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 3.55 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 (CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1 and Add.1/Rev.1) (continued)

1. The CHAIRPERSON said that several amendments had been suggested at the previous meeting to the proposed introduction (CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1/Rev.1) to the Committee's contribution to the Nairobi Conference. She had circulated a paper to members in an effort to reconcile those amendments.
2. Ms. BIRYUKOVA said that, while appreciating the Chairperson's efforts to reach a compromise, she noted that the proposal made by Ms. Evatt at the previous meeting had been made after the proposals of the Working Group, which had not yet been fully discussed. She suggested that the Committee should go through the Working Group's text paragraph by paragraph. The discussion of paragraph 5 could be postponed until the proposed amendments had been translated into the working languages. If the efforts of the Working Group were not to be discussed, she herself had an amendment to propose. It was that there should be included between the introduction and chapter I a new chapter entitled "Political conditions for the achievement of world social progress and the attainment of full equality between men and women", with a text which she had already prepared and which she asked to be circulated.
3. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the Committee should go through the draft introduction paragraph by paragraph and deal with problems as they arose.
4. It was so agreed.

Paragraph 1

5. The CHAIRPERSON invited comments on the amendment submitted orally by Ms. Macedo de Sheppard at the previous meeting.
6. Ms. REGENT-LECHOWICZ thought that the term "a new stage" (or "a new phase") in the first sentence was inapt. It would be better to say "a further stage".
7. Ms. BIRYUKOVA proposed leaving the first sentence as set out in the document but ending it with the word "women". In the second sentence, "and a just" should be replaced by "and also a new, just". The last sentence would remain the same except that it should end with the word "Decade".
8. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that she agreed with Ms. Biryukova in principle, but her suggestion for the last sentence might be misinterpreted. It might be possible to have peace and stable development under dictatorships, without democracy and without equality for women. If the word "only" were removed that might solve the problem.
9. Ms. SINEGIORGIS said that she did not care for the word "stage".
10. Ms. EVATT said that Ms. Biryukova's proposal was similar to her own, which she had introduced at the previous meeting, and she supported it. The word "only" could, however, raise difficulties. In the second part of her own proposed amendment, she had suggested that the establishment of a just international economic order and stable global development would contribute to equality between men and women. She proposed removing the word "only" from the last sentence and

(Ms. Evatt)

saying: "The achievement of these conditions will make a significant contribution towards the promotion of equality between men and women and to the other objectives of the Decade".

11. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the last sentence should begin with the words "In these conditions". She asked the Committee whether they accepted Ms. Sheppard's proposal as amended by Ms. Biryukova.

12. Ms. MACEDO DE SHEPPARD read out the text of paragraph 1 incorporating, as she saw it, Ms. Biryukova's amendment:

"The convening of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace will be an event of the greatest importance because in this way a new phase in the advancement of women will begin. The achievement of peace, global development and a new, more just international economic order are inseparable objectives for the international community. In these conditions, it will be possible to fully attain the objectives of the Decade for Women."

13. Ms. SMITH suggested changing "new phase" to "further step".

14. It was so agreed.

15. Ms. IDER proposed deleting the word "more" in the second sentence. The present international economic order was not just. She also wondered whether the article before the word "new" should be "a" or "the".

16. Ms. PEYTCHEVA suggested saying "the new international economic order".

17. It was so agreed.

18. The CHAIRPERSON said she took it that the text of paragraph 1 just read out by Ms. Macedo de Sheppard, as further amended, was adopted.

19. It was so agreed.

Paragraph 2

20. Ms. SINEGIORGIS proposed the insertion of the words "in Mexico" between "adopted" and "in 1975" in the first line.

21. Ms. de REGO da COSTA SALEMA thought that the paragraph should refer to "a" rather than "the" Convention, since in 1975 it had not yet been adopted.

22. Ms. OESER (Rapporteur) explained that, when the World Plan of Action was being drafted, a working group on the preparation of the Convention had already been sitting. The phrase had in fact been taken from the World Plan of Action itself.

23. Paragraph 2, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 3

24. Ms. SINEGIORGIS proposed two drafting amendments to the beginning of the second sentence so that it should read "The Convention was opened for signatures and ratifications by all States on 1 March 1980 and entered into force ...". The full title of the Committee should also be given since it was the first time it was mentioned. She also proposed the addition at the end of the paragraph of a sentence reading "The adoption and enactment of the Convention represents one of the most significant achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women."

25. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the second sentence should read "The Convention, which was opened for signatures and ratifications by all States on 1 March 1980, came into force ...".

26. Ms. de REGO da COSTA SALEMA said that she did not agree with the reference to the Committee in paragraph 3, since its exact nature was only stated in paragraph 12. The phrase "the opening date of the Committee's fourth session" should therefore be deleted.

27. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that paragraph 12 should be moved to follow paragraph 3 or 4.

28. Ms. GONZALEZ said that initially the Working Group had been of the same opinion but had later considered the current sequence more logical since it referred first to the importance of the World Conference, then to the World Plan of Action, then to the entry into force and ratification of the Convention and then to the commitments undertaken by States parties when ratifying or acceding to it. It would not be logical to insert a paragraph describing the Committee before that mentioning the commitments entered into, especially since they were the basis for the Committee's work when examining the reports. The form to be taken by paragraphs 5-11 had not yet been decided but she considered that the paragraph describing the Committee should not be moved. Reference to it should also be deleted from paragraph 3.

29. Ms. BIRYUKOVA also supported the current order, which she considered logical.

30. Ms. PEYTCHEVA supported the deletion of the reference to the opening date of the Committee's fourth session.

31. Ms. EL-FETOUH said that if the Committee was not mentioned until paragraph 12, it would not be given the required emphasis.

32. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee should first agree on the substance of the paragraph and then decide whether or not to change the order.

33. There seemed to be a general consensus that apart from the deletion of the reference to the Committee's fourth session and the drafting amendment to the second sentence, the paragraph should remain unchanged.

34. Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 4

35. Paragraph 4 was adopted.

Paragraph 5

36. Ms. EVATT said that, with some slight modifications, the amendment proposed by the Chairperson which had just been distributed appeared an acceptable way of solving the problem of whether or not to delete paragraphs 5-10.

37. Ms. BIRYUKOVA said that the Committee had not yet agreed on the deletion of those paragraphs. Perhaps the amendment could be translated into all working languages and discussed at the next meeting.

38. Ms. CARON suggested that it might be possible to discuss it if it was read out slowly and translated by the interpreters, as in the case of the amendment to paragraph 1 introduced by a Spanish-speaking expert.

39. Ms. MUKAYIRANGA said that, when paragraphs 5-10 had been introduced in the Working Group, it had been decided to annex only the Convention to the Compendium and not its preamble.

40. Ms. IDER said she thought that, in courtesy to members who worked in languages other than English, the amendment should be translated.

41. Ms. GONZALEZ said that, if members insisted on having every amendment translated, there would be no time to discuss the report on the session, as had happened at the second session.

42. Ms. CARON said that all agreed that the preamble to the Convention should be mentioned but, since it had been decided to annex it to the Compendium, a formula should be found drawing attention to its importance without actually repeating the text.

43. Ms. PEYTCHEVA, supported by Ms. REGENT-LECHOWICZ, said she thought that discussion of paragraphs 5-10 should be deferred until all relevant texts had been translated into all working languages. Meanwhile, the Committee might proceed with the discussion on paragraph 11.

44. Ms. SMITH said she agreed that, since some members were evidently not ready to discuss the Chairperson's suggestion, the Committee should proceed immediately to the consideration of paragraph 11.

45. Ms. GONZALEZ said that, as far as the Spanish-speaking members were concerned, the Chairperson's suggestion could be considered forthwith.

46. Ms. EL-FETOUH said that it would be most regrettable if the Committee again failed to adopt the report on the work of its session owing to lack of time.

47. The CHAIRPERSON agreed that such a situation should be avoided at all costs. She had been informed by the Secretariat that translations into all working languages of the revised text of the introduction prepared by the Working Group, of her own suggested text for paragraphs 5 and 6 to replace paragraphs 5-10 of the revised text and of Ms. Biryukova's proposed text for insertion between the introduction and chapter I could be made available by 9 a.m. on the following day.

48. Ms. GUAN MINQIAN expressed the hope that the spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding which appeared momentarily to have departed from the Committee would be recaptured when work was resumed on the following morning.

49. Replying to a question from Ms. PEYTCHEVA, Ms. CORTES, speaking as Chairperson of the Working Group, said that paragraphs 12-18 of the revised draft of the introduction corresponded wholly or with only minor changes to paragraphs 4 and 12-17 of the original draft appearing in document CEDAW/C/1985/CRP.1/Add.1.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.