



Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Tenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 188th MEETING

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna,  
on Friday, 1 February 1991, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. TALLAWY  
later: Ms. ILIC

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The meeting was called to order at 11.28 a.m.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE  
(CEDAW/C/L.9)

1. Ms. SINEGIORGIS proposed that a new item entitled "Consideration of the report of the pre-session working group" should be added after item 1 of the provisional agenda.
2. It was so decided.
3. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) said that it would be the Secretariat's responsibility to submit the output of the Committee and its proposals for the period 1992-1993 as part of the programme budget, and that would be done.
4. The provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the Committee, with documentation (CEDAW/C/L.9), as amended, was adopted.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS TENTH SESSION (CEDAW/C/L.8 and Add.1-19)

5. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur) thanked the Secretariat for its help in drafting the report. The report had been kept as concise, though substantive, as possible.

CEDAW/C/L.8

6. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU (Rapporteur) announced some revisions to document CEDAW/C/L.8. The words "both of which were States parties to the Convention" should be inserted after the words "Federal Republic of Germany" in the footnote to paragraph 1. A new paragraph would be inserted after paragraph 5 covering the statement by Ms. Anstee, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. In paragraph 8 the following was to be inserted at the end of the second sentence: "Ms. Walla-Tchangai and Ms. Schöpp-Schilling on 24 January, Ms. Gonzalez Martinez and Ms. Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey on 28 January 1991. Ms. Schöpp-Schilling and Ms. Fenger-Möller were absent from 26 January 1991 and Ms. Ukeje from 30 January 1991".

7. In paragraph 9 the following words should be inserted in the last sentence after "Ms. Ukeje (Nigeria)": "and at the 181st meeting, on 28 January 1991, Ms. Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey (Ecuador)".

8. In paragraph 11, item 8 should read: "Consideration of the report of the third meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies ...".

9. Document CEDAW/C/L.8, as revised, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.1

10. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.1 was adopted with minor editorial changes.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.2

11. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.2 was adopted with minor editorial changes.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.3

12. The CHAIRPERSON said that paragraph 3 should be corrected to include the names of Ms. Gonzalez Martinez, Ms. Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey and Ms. Walla-Tchangai.

13. With this correction and other minor drafting changes, document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.3 was adopted.

14. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that, for the remaining documents, necessary editorial corrections should be left to the Secretariat.

15. It was so decided.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.4

16. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.4 was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.5

17. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.5 was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.6

18. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.6 was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.7

19. The CHAIRPERSON said that it was suggested by Ms. Quintos-Deles that the twelfth sentence of paragraph 7, reading: "All programmes on television were reported as being gender sensitive with regard to role models and some concentrated on projecting a positive image of women", should be deleted.

20. It was so decided.

21. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.7, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.8

22. Ms. NIKOLAEVA proposed that in the fourth sentence of paragraph 7 the words: "but, according to research conducted by ... hidden prostitutes" should be deleted, as there were no official statistics available.

23. Ms. EVATT said that she had discussed with Ms. Corti, who was absent, whether that material should be included in the report. Ms. Corti had felt that the matter had been accurately reported and should therefore be included.

24. Ms. NIKOLAEVA said that Italy produced no official statistics on the number of prostitutes in the country; the figures quoted in the report had come from a commission of the European Parliament. She had spoken informally to the Italian representative after the presentation, and the representative had expressed doubts about the accuracy of the figures. Since there seemed to be some doubt about the figures, she felt that it would be more diplomatic to omit them.

25. Ms. SINEGIORGIS said that, whether the figures were accurate or not, they were the ones which the Italian representative had quoted, and they should therefore be included in the report.

26. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the relevant section of the report should be submitted to the Italian Government, which could submit a correction if it wished.

27. It was so decided.

28. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.8 was adopted, subject to possible correction by the Government of the State party concerned.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.9-12

29. Documents CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.9-12 were adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.13

30. Ms. SINEGIORGIS said that paragraph 12 referred to "specialists from the bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations". What were the "bodies" in question?

31. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director-General, Division for the Advancement of Women) said that the word "bodies" was generally used to describe parts of the United Nations, such as the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), which were not specialized agencies.

32. The CHAIRPERSON suggested the wording: "specialists from United Nations bodies and specialized agencies".

33. The amendment suggested by the Chairperson was adopted.

34. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.13, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.14-18

35. Documents CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.14-18 were adopted.

36. The CHAIRPERSON thanked the Rapporteur for her hard work in preparing the report, as well as the Secretariat staff for their assistance.

37. Ms. ILIC said she wished to draw the Committee's attention to a change in the working methods of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, which would have implications for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The Third Committee had decided to adopt a substantive resolution on the work of the human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, every two years instead of every year as at present. In alternate years, the Third Committee would merely take note of the reports of the treaty bodies. However, the Third Committee would discuss a body's report in more detail if there had been an international conference or some other noteworthy event. The decision would not affect the obligation of all treaty bodies to submit a report every year to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. She had thought it important to draw that point to members' attention.

38. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director-General, Division for the Advancement of Women) said that the decision had been contained in a working paper of the Third Committee; when the Secretariat received the official text, it would circulate it

(Mr. Mathiason)

to members. He did not yet know when the new system would come into operation. However, if the Committee had any substantive points to raise in a year when its reports were not to be discussed in detail by the Third Committee, those points could be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Covenant, which would still be discussed on an annual basis.

The meeting was suspended at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 12.50 p.m.

39. Ms. ILIC took the Chair.

CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.19

40. The CHAIRPERSON said that, since document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.19 was available in English only, the Secretariat would read it out so that all members of the Committee could take an informed decision on it.

41. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) read out document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.19.

42. Ms. SINEGIORGIS thought that the last sentence of paragraph 7 should be amended, since it was not for the Committee to decide whether resources could be made available.

43. Ms. WALLA-TCHANGAI said that many countries which attached importance to the Convention were unable to adopt the necessary measures for its implementation because of financial constraints.

44. Ms. EVATT proposed that the last sentence should be amended to read: "Furthermore, the view was expressed that, while many States parties had resource constraints, it was important that they assign appropriate priority to the Convention".

45. It was so agreed.

46. Ms. NIKOLAEVA noted the reference to a "closed meeting" in the second sentence of paragraph 8. She wondered whether it was appropriate to refer to "closed" meetings in that context.

47. Ms. EVATT said that she had no objection to the wording as it stood, on the understanding that it did not imply that a formal proposal had been accepted by the Committee.

48. Ms. OESER said that she agreed with Ms. Evatt. The rules of procedure did make provision for the holding of closed meetings.

49. Ms. AOUIJ said that it was her understanding that a decision had been made that the Committee could hold closed meetings in order to facilitate a free exchange of views on points arising from the reports, provided that the State party concerned was apprised of the Committee's conclusions.

50. The CHAIRPERSON, speaking as a member of the Committee, said that she had reservations with regard to the holding of closed meetings at the end of presentations. However, the text of the report merely reflected the proposals that had been made.

51. Ms. SINEGIORGIS said that she also had reservations with regard to the holding of closed meetings.

52. The CHAIRPERSON said that the relevant part of the paragraph could be reworded to reflect the fact that a suggestion had been put forward for consideration at the eleventh session regarding the possibility of holding a closed meeting.

53. Ms. OESER said that another solution would be to begin the penultimate sentence with the words "It was suggested by one member ....", and to end the last sentence with the words "... was suggested by another member".

54. Ms. EVATT suggested that the reference to the eleventh session should be deleted from the penultimate sentence. She agreed that the sentence should begin: "It was suggested by one member ...". The words "by other members" could be added at the end of the last sentence. There seemed to be a consensus that the Committee did not wish to commit itself to considering the question of a closed meeting at any specific time.

55. Summing up, the CHAIRPERSON said that it was understood that consideration of the holding of a closed meeting had been proposed as a possibility, but that there was no commitment. If the Committee agreed, the Secretariat could be left to determine the appropriate wording, taking into account members' comments and proposals.

56. It was so agreed.

57. The CHAIRPERSON, turning to paragraph 9, suggested that the second sentence of the paragraph should begin "It was felt by one expert that ...".

58. It was so agreed.

59. Ms. FORDE proposed that the last sentence should be deleted.

60. It was so agreed.

61. Document CEDAW/C/L.8/Add.19, as amended, was adopted.

62. The report as a whole (CEDAW/C/L.8 and Add.1-19), as amended, was adopted.

63. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRPERSON declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.