



**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women  
Fifty-sixth session**

**Summary record of the 1169th meeting\***

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 8 October 2013, at 10 a.m.

*Chairperson:* Ms. Neubauer (Vice-Chairperson)

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\* No summary record was issued for the 1168th meeting.

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*In the absence of the Chairperson, Ms. Neubauer (Vice-Chairperson) took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

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

*Combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Cambodia (CEDAW/C/KHM/4-5, CEDAW/C/KHM/Q/4-5 and Add.1)*

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Cambodia took places at the Committee table.*
2. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia), introducing the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Cambodia (CEDAW/C/KHM/4-5), said that gender equality was guaranteed by the Constitution and other legislation, and discrimination against women was a criminal offence. Since the examination of the previous periodic report, the legal and institutional frameworks empowering women and combating discrimination had been strengthened by several laws, notably the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims. It had been accompanied by training for police, military and judicial officials, information for the general public and continued provision of services for victims. The new Penal Code contained several provisions for a comprehensive response to gender-based violence and the amended Civil Code granted compensation to victims. The Law on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and other international instruments, provided for prison sentences for the sale, purchase or exchange of people.
3. In terms of policies, the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency Phase II facilitated the implementation of government policies and the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, recognized the connection between gender equality and the socioeconomic development of the country and promoted educational opportunities and economic empowerment for women and girls. The National Strategic Development Plan 2006–2010 and the National Strategic Development Plan Update 2009–2013 incorporated gender equality and promoted the implementation of gender policies and strategies. The *Neary Rattanak* (Women are precious gems) III strategic plan focused on five strategic areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women; the Ministry of Women's Affairs was currently developing the *Neary Rattanak* IV strategic plan in consultation with other ministries and civil society. The Second National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2013–2017 had been drawn up in consultation with numerous stakeholders, including women's organizations, and built on the experience of its predecessor and of other countries.
4. The Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Cambodian National Council for Women (CNCW) had led efforts promoting gender equality. An internal evaluation in 2010 had resulted in the development of a capacity-building strategy, implemented in 2013. Gender mainstreaming action groups had been established in ministries to devise actions plans for implementing and monitoring gender equality policies. At the subnational level, bodies such as gender focal points and children's committees had been established and civil society organizations had played a key role in improving the status of women. At the national level, a Technical Working Group on Gender had been set up, bringing together stakeholders to monitor progress annually.
5. Together with stakeholders, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was drafting the Cambodian Gender Assessment 2014, a core document reporting on the status of women and trends in gender relations that formed the basis for activities relating to gender equality and provided information to be used by all those working on women's issues.

6. Women represented less than a third of workers in the formal sector but comprised 82 per cent of those in the more vulnerable informal sector. The Cambodian Women's Entrepreneurs Association had been established to promote connections between women business leaders; it currently had 150 members. Although gender gaps in agriculture and industry were narrowing, the service sector, where women were poorly represented, needed attention. Employment opportunities for women were hampered by factors such as illiteracy and gender stereotypes, thus preventing them from overcoming poverty and accessing vocational training. Women required information about their rights and about job opportunities. There was a link between unemployment among women and trafficking and vulnerable employment in the entertainment sector.

7. Literacy rates were almost equal between men and women, especially among the young. Policies had been devised to improve access to education for children with disabilities; more than 4,000 girls with disabilities had received scholarships and more than 30,000 women with disabilities had been taught using special education techniques. Primary education indicators had been improved and gender parity had been achieved in primary and lower-secondary education, although disparity remained at the upper-secondary and tertiary levels.

8. As far as sexual and reproductive health was concerned, maternal, infant and child mortality had decreased substantially. Furthermore, Cambodia had garnered international praise for its effective response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic; it was on track to meet Millennium Development Goal 6. Such developments had resulted from various measures, including investment in health infrastructure, in particular maternity facilities, and the provision of free health care to poor women. Nevertheless, the transmission of HIV between spouses and from mother to child, and the remaining problems relating to health care affecting some women, including distance and costs, must be addressed.

9. Women's representation in the executive had increased in the last five years: the current and former deputy prime ministers were women, as were more than 20 per cent of the secretaries of State and almost 19 per cent of under-secretaries of State. Similar progress had been made at the local level and there had been an increase in the proportion of women civil servants. That progress was thanks to several policies and guidelines, including a policy adopted by the Government in 2013 to promote women in the executive, guidelines on gender quality promoting women in the civil service. However, traditional gender stereotypes persisted and women faced stigma when participating in political life. More women needed to be included on electoral lists and more female judges and prosecutors appointed.

10. Between 2000 and 2005, the number of women who had suffered violence by their partners had decreased by more than 15 per cent. However, recent data was unavailable and prevalence rates were believed to be underestimated, surveys were being carried out by the World Health Organization, UN-Women and the United Nations Children's Fund. A survey conducted by the Ministry of Women's Affairs in 2009 had shown that gender-based violence was becoming increasingly unacceptable and less prevalent, demonstrating a change in values.

11. The number of convictions for rape and sexual assault had doubled between 2010 and 2011, although services for victims and the legal and police response to gender-based violence needed to be improved. Campaigns aimed at changing behaviour, strengthening victims' economic empowerment and preventing their stigmatization were needed, and health professionals must be better able to detect and support victims of gender-based violence. Women who had recently become unemployed and those working in unstable sectors should be warned of trafficking and exploitation. Research into gender-based violence and to compile reliable data on rape and trafficking was under way.

12. In conclusion, she said that the Government supported the Convention and its aims. The Ministry of Women's Affairs and the CNCW advocated gender equality and recognized the role of civil society and the need to combat the exclusion of disadvantaged women. They would continue to work with partners to achieve gender equality, especially in education, politics and employment.

*Articles 1 to 6*

13. **Ms. Šimonović**, while commending the Government on its ratification of the Optional Protocol, said that more needed to be done to give full effect to the Convention. The Committee had not yet received an answer as to why the Convention had not been published in the Official Gazette. She asked whether the Optional Protocol had been published there, whether it was disseminated like the Convention, whether the Committee's jurisprudence under the Optional Protocol was followed and why the Convention had not been invoked in the courts. Was indirect discrimination prohibited?

14. **Ms. Patten**, commending the work of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, asked whether it had carried out an analysis of the impact of the conflict on women, why national legislation establishing the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia did not refer to the Convention or Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and what the Government was doing to ensure that women received justice and adequate reparations. She was concerned at the failure of the Extraordinary Chambers to fully investigate sex crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge. She asked what the Government was doing to bring the perpetrators to justice, guarantee the independence, impartiality and integrity of the judicial system and to ensure that impunity for violations of women's rights was not tolerated.

15. **Ms. Al-Jehani** said that the Committee had received reports that elderly women suffered multiple discrimination. She asked whether the relevant statistics would be analysed and published, whether there was training on the protection of women of all ages, which institution supervised such measures and what the main achievements had been. How many elderly women were involved in decision-making and politics, particularly at the rural and municipal levels? Were there statistics on women victims of domestic violence and what measures were taken to care for them? Were those services free of charge? She asked whether Cambodia had taken steps to protect women with disabilities and promote their rights, and what legislation existed to protect them from violence.

16. **Ms. Pires** enquired about the mandate and monitoring role of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the CNCW, in particular whether they monitored the situation of women who had lost their land and helped to assess related government policies to ensure that they did not impact negatively on women. She asked whether the Legal Protection Department for Women and the CNCW provided legal assistance to women human rights defenders, particularly those defending land rights and protesting against forced evictions. The Committee had been informed that women were prevented from accessing basic services and justice because of corruption; were the Ministry and the CNCW aware of the issue? Both bodies had broad mandates; had there been an assessment of the budgetary resources they required?

17. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia) said that the Official Gazette published new laws year by year, but had not been in existence when the Convention had been ratified. Since 2000, the Convention had been disseminated by the CNCW through an annual campaign to raise awareness and monitor its implementation. The Optional Protocol, ratified in 2010, had appeared in the Official Gazette. Legislation defining discrimination was being considered; however, because gender equality was covered in the Constitution, it was not strictly necessary. Furthermore, the new Penal Code provided penalties for all the forms of discrimination specified in the Convention, which had been fully incorporated into domestic law. Five cases of unequal pay for equal work had been recorded. Indirect

discrimination was prevalent in Cambodian society; however Cambodia was recovering from 30 years of war and much progress had been made since implementation of the Convention had begun in 2000, when awareness campaigns on legal literacy had been launched to encourage changes in attitude.

18. **Ms. Chan** (Cambodia) said that Cambodia had ratified the Convention in 1992 without reservation. It had been recognized in the 1993 Constitution, and all of its provisions had been incorporated into national legislation, which was applied by the Extraordinary Chambers. Many cases before the Extraordinary Chambers involved sexual and gender-based violence and torture committed by the police during the Khmer Rouge period. Convicted perpetrators must pay compensation to the victims, who could participate in proceedings as civil parties.

19. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia) said that although 60 per cent of Cambodians were under 30 years of age, its population policy took into account all age groups and older women's needs were therefore covered. Local community organizations cared for older women, especially the poor, and an action plan to prevent violence against women applied to all age groups. Employment issues only indirectly affected older women. Most notable was the phenomenon of the middle generation migrating to cities or abroad to work, leaving their children in the care of grandparents and leading to many rural areas being populated only by older people and children. Social and nutrition programmes had been implemented to ensure that they had access to food and basic services.

20. Acknowledging that more efforts should be focused on meeting the needs of women with disabilities, she pointed out that legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities had only been in place for five years. It included a provision setting a 2 per cent quota for the employment of persons with disabilities, which the Government hoped to increase to 4 per cent, in line with the French model. Furthermore, a centre providing specialized training to persons with all kinds of disabilities had been set up.

21. The Ministry of Women's Affairs had been established in 1993, with a mandate to improve the status and conditions of women in Cambodia. Realizing that one ministry alone could not integrate gender policies, the CNCW had been set up in 2001. The Queen was honorary President, the Prime Minister honorary Deputy President and the Minister of Justice and Minister of the Interior were vice-chairpersons. The CNCW also had representatives from 24 ministries, key stakeholders and development partners, including civil society, to reflect that gender was a cross-cutting issue. It met once a year to evaluate the impact of gender policies and legislation. Monitoring was still weak, however, mainly due to a lack of broad-ranging indicators. A working group worked with civil society to address technical issues and report to the CNCW.

22. **Ms. Chan** (Cambodia) said that the Government was aware of the problem of corruption, especially within the police force and judiciary, and figures to date showed that 134 judges, prosecutors and police officers had been prosecuted.

23. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia) said that 0.2 per cent of the national budget was allocated to the Ministry of Women's Affairs; a figure that would increase in the future. Under the public finance reform, a move from a budget line for gender activities to a programme-based budget had been piloted by seven ministries. Free legal aid was available to persons unable to afford lawyers' fees through the Bar Association, working in conjunction with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

24. **Ms. Patten** sought responses to her questions on the Extraordinary Chambers' handling of the cases of sexual and gender-based violence committed by the Khmer Rouge and on an analysis of the impact of the conflict on women.

25. **Ms. Šimonović** sought clarification on whether the Optional Protocol had actually been published in the Official Gazette. It was important for the judiciary and other legal bodies to have clear information about applicable international law.

26. **Ms. Al-Jehani** requested more information on the services provided under the Poor Household Identification Programme (ID Poor). What was the definition of “poor” in Cambodia? She asked for a response to her question on steps to prevent violence against women with disabilities in care institutions. Did the quota for the employment of persons with disabilities include both sexes and how many women benefited from the measure?

27. **Ms. Pomeranzi** requested clarification of the budget figure for gender activities, as the head of delegation had given a figure of 0.2 per cent but documentation gave another figure. She requested more information on the programme-based budget system being piloted by seven ministries. Was it similar to gender budgeting mechanisms and which bodies were involved?

28. **Ms. Jahan** requested more information on the apparent loophole in the law governing sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations, which referred only to officers as being the perpetrators of such crimes and not lower-ranking soldiers, many of whom had committed rape and other sexual offences during the Khmer Rouge period. Her concern was that with the Extraordinary Chambers due to close in 2014 many women would miss out on justice. What follow-up mechanism would be established and reparations be available to women who, afraid of being stigmatized, had felt unable to report such crimes before?

29. **Ms. Pires** sought clarification regarding reports that women were being asked to pay for basic health services. What was the total national budget allocated to gender equality and women’s empowerment?

30. **Ms. Patten** asked whether the Government was prepared to take a comprehensive approach to transitional justice, incorporating non-judicial measures to allow the Extraordinary Chambers to be used as a truth-telling and truth-seeking platform for victims. Such an approach would address the problem of survivors being given limited opportunities to talk about past abuses because they were prevented from doing so in a safe setting.

31. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia) said that the Ministry of Justice was currently reviewing all laws to ensure that legislation was in line with the Convention. Persons meeting certain criteria received free health-care services under the ID Poor system. The 2 per cent quota for the employment of persons with disabilities included women and men. It had only been introduced three years’ previously, so it was too soon to evaluate its effectiveness. The State party would furnish statistics in its next report. All women were protected against violence, including women with disabilities, under a national action plan to prevent violence.

32. It was difficult to determine the percentage of the total budget spent on gender because the move from a budget line to a programme-based budget system had only just been piloted. Once the programme-based budget had been expanded to all ministries, it would be clear how much of the budget had been spent on gender issues. She wondered if the Committee could ask how much official development assistance had been spent on gender activities because she had been unable to find out from development partners. She clarified that the correct figure for her ministry’s gender budget was 0.26 per cent.

33. **Ms. Tung** (Cambodia) said that women had access to free health-care services once they had been identified as poor, following which they would receive an ID Poor card entitling them to free health care. A committee working from eight health facilities was responsible for identifying and assessing persons for eligibility for the scheme and distributing the ID Poor card. Women who were not eligible for the ID Poor scheme paid

for health services, but at discounted prices subsidized under the Government's health equity funding scheme

34. **Ms. Pires** asked whether the Government had taken a systematic approach to introducing temporary special measures to address ongoing inequalities in women's representation in politics, education, vocational training, employment and economic empowerment. How were such measures evaluated? Expressing concern about reports of women being prevented from taking maternity leave, she asked how maternity provisions were monitored and implementation ensured.

35. **Ms. Šimonović** asked why indirect discrimination was not prohibited by law, despite discrimination being a criminal offence in the Penal Code. She requested more information on the types of support provided to women victims of sexual and gender-based violence during the Khmer Rouge regime. Did the Government support the work of NGOs and were there plans to establish compensation and rehabilitation programmes for victims?

36. **Ms. Acar** expressed concern about the breadth and depth of the definition of discrimination in the Penal Code because its emphasis was on the public sphere and access to employment. Did the definition include discrimination against women in the private sphere, including in the home and between family members, which was also a human rights violation? She was also concerned at reports that domestic violence was handled by mediation, which was unacceptable for such an extreme human rights violation. She requested statistics on the number of reported cases and protection orders issued. What services had been set up for victims of violence such as shelters, health care, counselling and legal aid? She enquired about the legal distinction between "serious" and "non-serious" violence and steps taken to change the culture of stereotyping prevalent in the judiciary and police in order to combat impunity and address discrimination.

37. **Ms. Leinarte** requested more information on legislation regarding prostitution in Cambodia. Why did the definition of prostitution in the Constitution use the term "obscenity"? She was concerned about reports that women and girls were being forced into prostitution under traditional cultural norms. What assistance was provided to victims to help them move out of prostitution? She asked whether local sex buyers and foreign sex tourists were punished.

38. **Ms. Gabr** asked whether any measures had been taken to harmonize the provisions of the anti-trafficking law with the Penal Code. She asked for further information on the national anti-trafficking mechanism established in 2009, including its mandate, headquarters, scope of action, and whether it had a database. She asked when the new action plan to combat human trafficking would be implemented, how it would be funded, what the main measures would involve, and what bodies would be responsible for its implementation.

39. Had the root causes of trafficking been analysed and had the State party signed any agreements with neighbouring States on the protection of migrants? Were there measures in place to compensate victims of trafficking, and did the State party have any rehabilitation and reintegration programmes or referral mechanisms? She expressed concern regarding the lack of data on migrant workers, and asked whether the Government planned to create a database. She asked whether the State party had analysed the situation of migrant workers engaged in domestic work in neighbouring countries, and requested further information on marriages between Cambodian women and foreigners, the status of such unions, and the steps the Government was taking to recognize and register them.

40. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia) said that a range of temporary special measures had been implemented, including quotas for civil servants and guidelines on how to increase women's participation in government. The measures had been successful, as they had

changed social attitudes towards women as decision-makers. More women had stood for election, with a positive impact on the structure of the Government and society as a whole.

41. Temporary special measures in the field of education had included scholarships for disadvantaged students, including girls from poor backgrounds. There were schemes in place to support female heads of households and to provide vocational training for women in rural areas as well as measures to facilitate access to the labour market and to credit, and to promote female entrepreneurship.

42. As far as maternity rights were concerned, employers were prohibited from discriminating against pregnant women during the recruitment process. The Government, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, had strengthened the inspection system to ensure compliance with labour legislation. While certain weaknesses remained, there were legal guidelines on labour inspections and the activities of recruitment agencies providing services to workers seeking employment abroad.

43. It was difficult to criminalize all forms of discrimination, but the definition and concept of discrimination would be discussed with legal experts, and the Government would review existing legislation and constitutional provisions, in order to assess the best course of action. All countries had to tackle negative stereotypes, and in Cambodia girls were not traditionally raised to be heads of households. Measures to change behaviour required time and effort, and the State was conducting awareness-raising campaigns to promote women's rights and change attitudes. A range of measures had been adopted to ensure that prosecutors and judges were more sensitive to gender issues, inter alia, through the establishment of a specialized forum, and training on relevant domestic legislation, including provisions on gender-based violence and the Convention.

44. Mediation was not always the ideal solution, especially in domestic violence cases, but it did provide a way of dealing with the lengthy delays and case backlogs in the courts. Currently there were delays of more than 12 months for criminal cases. Protection orders were designed to protect the rights of victims, who had access to shelters and a one-stop service centre, which covered access to police services, health care, legal advice and counselling. An awareness-raising campaign on legal literacy had been launched providing information on the relevant legislation and rights. The Government also organized awareness-raising campaigns targeted at young men, in order to reduce the rate of gender-based violence.

45. **Ms. Chou** (Cambodia) said that the national mechanism on trafficking had a multidisciplinary team in which other ministries and civil society participated. At the national level, the mechanism focused on the implementation of legislation, and had working groups on prevention, protection, law enforcement and partnership strategies, as well as on international cooperation and migration issues. The results of the current assessment of the national action plan to combat human trafficking would provide the basis for the next five-year strategic plan. Protection activities involved a number of ministries, which worked with NGOs and civil society, as well as cooperation with countries of origin and destination, as trafficking was a transnational problem and required multilateral and cross-border solutions. Cambodia had signed memorandums of understanding, including on domestic workers, with a number of neighbouring countries.

46. **Ms. Chan** (Cambodia) said that there were no specific provisions establishing penalties for prostitution, except for article 24 of the anti-trafficking law. Efforts had been made to harmonize the provisions of the new Penal Code of 2009 with those of the anti-trafficking law of 2008. In that connection, explanatory notes had been drafted in 2012 by the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with UNICEF.

47. **Ms. Gabr** asked whether studies had been conducted into the root causes of trafficking, such as poverty. She asked about the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and



Cambodian consulates abroad, and wished to know whether any complaints mechanisms existed. Did the Government have any special measures to tackle child trafficking and trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labour? She also asked about shelters and the assistance provided to victims.

48. **Ms. Acar** said that although the State party had incorporated the provisions of the Convention into the domestic legal framework, the concept of discrimination was not explicitly defined, and there were no provisions relating to discrimination in the private sphere. Therefore, domestic legislation did not fully comply with the Convention, and she requested clarification on the measures the Government was taking to resolve that problem. She expressed concern about the use of mediation to deal with domestic violence cases, as it might discourage women from bringing complaints and reinforce stereotypical roles and understanding of women's position in society. The heavy caseloads of the courts was not a valid reason for dealing with human rights violations out of court. She enquired about ex-officio prosecutions and third party complaints. Stressing the need for a safe and secure environment for women to bring complaints, she requested more detailed information on protection measures and facilities available.

49. **Ms. Leinarte** asked about the legislation covering prostitution and related offences. Was pimping a criminal offence? Were persons who engaged in prostitution subject to administrative fines? What kind of assistance was provided to victims of prostitution who wanted to leave that life behind? Were measures being taken to dismantle the market for sexual services?

50. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia) said that trafficking was linked to poverty, unemployment and domestic violence, which led to people to migrate and made them vulnerable to human trafficking networks. Bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries, such as Viet Nam, as well as a number of memorandums of understanding had either been signed or were pending. An agreement had also been signed between six countries in the region, including China and Thailand, to combat trafficking. There were also a number of related national and regional action plans. Protection afforded to migrant workers included Ministry of Labour regulations and minimum standards for recruitment agencies, which were required to have branches in the relevant countries so that workers could contact them or the nearest Cambodian embassy. The Government also cooperated with civil society in countries of origin and destination.

51. The Convention had indeed been incorporated into the domestic legal framework, but the definition of indirect discrimination posed certain problems, including for the judiciary. It was not enough to criminalize discrimination, but also necessary to raise awareness of it, including indirect discrimination. It was difficult to know what measures to implement in the private sphere to foster cultural change. Various ministries were working together on how to tackle the problem.

52. **Ms. Acar** explained that her comment had related to understanding violence against women as a form of discrimination, and incorporating that concept into domestic legislation.

53. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia) said that domestic legislation already covered violence against women but stressed that it was difficult to know how to tackle traditional attitudes which could constitute discrimination. She explained that mediation was not simply used in order to cope with heavy court caseloads, but that it had been introduced at the request of communities wishing to settle minor conflicts out of court, without incurring expensive legal fees. For example, in civil cases where NGOs were not able to provide financial support, mediation was used as an alternative solution. However, it was not used in criminal cases, which were referred to the courts.

54. **Ms. Pires** asked about violence against sex workers and measures taken to tackle the problem. She asked whether any cases involving sex workers being raped by police officers had come to the attention of the Ministry of the Interior.

55. **Ms. Ing** (Cambodia) said that, in such cases, the prostitute would be considered to be a victim and referred to a dedicated centre to receive support and legal advice, and the offender would be prosecuted. She added that the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation would also be involved in providing assistance to the victim. To date, no cases of rape by police officers had ever been reported, although measures had been taken to encourage the public to report cases anonymously.

*Articles 7 to 9*

56. **Ms. Xiaoqiao Zou** said that women were still underrepresented in high-level posts in the judiciary, legal profession and police force, the Senate and the National Assembly. It was regrettable that, in the most recent national elections, the number of women lawmakers had fallen, making it unlikely that the State party would meet its Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015. She urged the Government to take the necessary steps to remedy the situation. How did the Government intend to overcome obstacles to women's participation in politics and decision-making? Were there plans to adopt special measures to promote women's involvement in political and public life? What plans did the Government have for evaluating its current five-year strategic plan, and developing a new plan?

57. According to the State party's report, it was government policy to have at least one female deputy governor at regional level. Why only deputy governors and not governors? She asked what the rationale behind the policy was, and whether a change in approach was planned, in order to ensure that women were appointed on equal terms. Were there any awareness-raising or training programmes to promote women as leaders and decision-makers? She asked about the participation in politics of women from ethnic minorities, and whether there were any special measures or policies in that regard. To what extent were women in general involved in the activities of political parties, trade unions or other associations? Lastly, she asked whether the Government had introduced any special measures to promote women in the diplomatic and foreign services, where they were still underrepresented, and whether any evaluation mechanism existed to ensure the effective implementation of such measures.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*