



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

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Fourteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 283rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 3 February 1995, at 11 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. CORTI

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The meeting was called to order at 11.20 a.m.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES (continued)  
(CEDAW/C/1995/7; CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2 and Add.1)

1. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee had requested that a day be devoted to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the Fourth World Conference on Women, during which various non-governmental organizations and agencies would hold events or workshops relating to the Convention. She proposed that the Committee should hold a workshop in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on ways and means of publicizing and implementing the Convention, in the context of both the NGO Forum and intergovernmental meetings. The Committee would ask the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to include a joint workshop on the Convention in its programme for the Conference.

2. It was so decided.

3. Ms. AOUIJ proposed that a new paragraph should be inserted after paragraph 32 of document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2, requesting that the UNESCO study on rape as a weapon of war be transmitted to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

4. It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 11.20 a.m. and resumed at 11.35 a.m.

Report of Working Group II (continued) (CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2/Add.1)

Section A: UNESCO document on CEDAW

Paragraph 6

5. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING said that the word "non-discriminatory" should be inserted at the beginning of the first sentence. In the eleventh line, the word "changing" should be deleted. The phrase "irrespective of gender" should be added at the end of the last sentence.

6. Paragraph 6, as orally amended was adopted.

Paragraph 7

7. Ms. GARCIA-PRINCE said that the text should be amended to avoid giving the impression that legal literacy, health and reproductive rights were the only foundations of women's autonomy; it had been emphasized repeatedly that employment and income generation were also of primary importance.

8. Paragraph 7, as orally amended, was adopted.

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Paragraph 8

9. Paragraph 8 was adopted.

10. The CHAIRPERSON said she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the CEDAW/UNESCO Manifesto contained in the annex to document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2 and in section A of document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2/Add.1, as orally amended, and to transmit the final text of the Manifesto to UNESCO.

11. It was so decided.

12. Ms. AYKOR requested the Secretariat to send the final version of the Manifesto to Committee members so that they could disseminate it in their own countries.

Section B: Contribution of the Committee to the Fourth World Conference on Women

Draft decision

13. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) said that an additional preambular paragraph should be added to the draft decision after the fifth preambular paragraph, reading as follows: "Recognizing further the Committee's responsibility to develop and foster a relationship with the specialized agencies which share common areas of current concern affecting women". In paragraph 1, the word "full" should be added before "participation".

14. Ms. SINEGIORGIS said that, in the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "minimal" should be deleted. In the fourth line of paragraph 2, the words "one-day" should be deleted and the remainder of the paragraph, after "thematic meeting", should read: "to the extent possible with members of the other treaty bodies and specialized agencies attending the Fourth World Conference on Women".

15. Ms. SHALEV, referring to paragraph 4, said that if the word "Declares" was to be used, the rest of the sentence should read "that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is an essential mechanism ...".

16. With regard to paragraph 2, she was concerned that the suggestion by Ms. Sinegiorgis might create confusion, in the light of the contents of section 7 of the report of Working Group I (CEDAW/C/1995/WG.I/WP.2). She proposed that the paragraph should be amended to read as follows:

Requests further the Secretariat to be the focal point for the organization of a thematic meeting, to the extent possible with members of the other treaty bodies and specialized agencies attending the Fourth World Conference on Women, and to implement the technical and administrative arrangements set forth in document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.I/WP.2;".

17. Ms. BERNARD said that she shared Ms. Shalev's concern and supported the proposed amendment.

18. The draft decision contained in Section B, as orally amended, was adopted.

19. Mr. MATHIASON (Deputy Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) suggested that, in the light of the discussion at the previous meeting, the Committee might wish to replace the final paragraph of section B with the following:

"The committee decided to adopt its contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women and authorized the Chairperson of the Committee, in consultation with members of the Committee, to prepare the final text, such consultation to take place, inter alia, at the informal meeting of the Committee in Madrid."

20. Section B, as orally amended, was adopted.

Section C:        General recommendations on articles 7 and 8; general recommendation on article 2

21. Section C was adopted.

Section D:        Follow-up with regard to the International Conference on Population and Development

Draft recommendation

22. Ms. SHALEV, after reading out minor drafting changes to the Committee's recommendation on the follow-up to the Cairo Conference, said that, since its drafting, a letter had been received from the Executive Director of the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization, transmitting to the Committee a document which detailed, from the perspective of women's rights, issues relating to human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) under the relevant articles of the Convention. She proposed that the recommendation should include an additional paragraph suggesting that the aforesaid document be brought to the attention of the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, should such a meeting be convened as requested.

23. The CHAIRPERSON suggested that the matter should be dealt with when the agenda for that meeting was prepared.

24. Ms. SINEGIORGIS, referring to the first operative paragraph of the draft recommendation, said that the phrase "monitor the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action" might be inappropriate. She also failed to grasp the meaning of the final clause of the third paragraph, which read "bearing in mind the administrative, budgetary and programme implications of such possibility".

25. Following consultations with Ms. Shalev, she proposed the following amendments to the draft recommendation. First, a new preambular paragraph

should be inserted between the fifth and sixth preambular paragraphs, reading as follows:

"Noting also information received by the Committee at its fourteenth session from the World Health Organization on HIV/AIDS and women's human rights in the context of the Convention;".

Second, in the first operative paragraph, the word "monitor" should be amended to "follow", and after "Programme of Action" the remainder of the paragraph should read "with respect to women's human rights;". Third, the second operative paragraph should be amended to read as follows:

"Decides further that the Committee shall develop a jurisprudence of standards of international law in the field of women's reproductive health;".

Lastly, in the third operative paragraph, the words "United Nations Development Fund" should be replaced by "United Nations Population Fund". After the words "exchange of information among them", the remainder of the paragraph should read: "as well as coordination with relevant organs of the United Nations system, as regards the follow-up to the Cairo Programme of Action with respect to human rights."

26. The draft recommendation contained in section D, as orally amended, was adopted.

27. Section D was adopted.

Section E: The Committee's input to the World Summit for Social Development

28. Section E was adopted.

29. Document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2/Add.1 was adopted.

30. The CHAIRPERSON said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of the report of Working Group II as contained in document CEDAW/C/1995/WG.II/WP.2 and Add.1.

WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued)

31. Ms. BERNARD, noting that women's lack of mobility within the Division for the Advancement of Women was a matter of great concern, proposed that the Committee should send a letter to the Secretary-General, urging that he take action to end such discrimination.

32. Ms. JAVATE DE DIOS endorsed the proposal and suggested that the scope of the letter should be broadened to include all agencies of the United Nations system which dealt with issues relating to women.

33. Ms. SCHOPP-SCHILLING said that, while she supported the proposal to send a letter to the Secretary-General concerning the plight of women at the

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Professional level in the Division, an issue about which the Committee had definite information, she believed that to broaden the scope of the letter would weaken the Committee's position.

34. Ms. LIN Shangzhen, noting that the Commission on the Status of Women had adopted a resolution on discrimination against women within the United Nations system, said that she supported Ms. Bernard's proposal.

35. Ms. GARCIA-PRINCE said that she, too, supported the proposal. She suggested that a copy of the letter should be sent to the Coordinator of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

36. Ms. ESTRADA CASTILLO, Ms. MUÑOZ-GOMEZ, Ms. OUEDRAOGO, Ms. ABAKA and Ms. AOUIJ expressed their support for the proposal.

37. Ms. JAVATE DE DIOS suggested that the letter should refer to statements made by the Secretary-General in the past concerning his desire to achieve parity for women in the Secretariat.

38. The CHAIRPERSON said that she would draft the letter in accordance with the suggestions made.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.