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Twenty-fifth session

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The main report of the Secretary-General on the political rights of women (A/8132), prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1132 (XII), included information furnished by thirty-nine Member States on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women up to 15 October 1970. By 17 December 1970, nine additional replies had been received from the following Member States: Afghanistan, Australia, Ethiopia, Ireland, Kenya, Kuwait, Nigeria, Norway and Romania. The information received in these additional replies is summarized below.
2. Any additional information received subsequently will be incorporated in the report on political rights of women which the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session.

AFGHANISTAN

[Original: English]  
29 October 1970

Article 25 of the Constitution grants equal political rights to men and women. The Parliamentary Election Law in order to implement the Constitutional law expressly states that women may vote (article 6) and be candidates for election (article 7) on an equal basis with men.

The following information is furnished concerning women elected to parliament.

	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
Senate	2	-

The growing awareness by Afghan women of their political rights and duties is manifest by the past two elections. In the twelfth parliamentary election held in 1965 six women were candidates for seats in the Parliament. For that session there were four women among 216 members in the House of Representatives and two members were women among the fifty-three members in the Senate.

In the thirteenth parliamentary election, held in 1969, there was one woman candidate. She was not elected, however.

Women have also gained high government positions. In 1965 two women were appointed as senators. In the same year a woman was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Public Health. At the present time there are women serving as Minister without Portfolio, Head of the Publications Department, Minister of Education, President of the Afghan Women's Institute and as principals of women's high schools in Afghanistan. In addition several women have been appointed by the Supreme Court as judges in the Juvenile Court of Kabul and other courts.

Afghanistan does not currently have women serving in any diplomatic post, although women have served as representatives of Afghanistan to some United Nations and other international conferences in the past.

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]  
3 December 1970

The following information is furnished concerning women elected to the national parliament and those holding high posts:

	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
Senate	3 (one is a Minister of State for Housing)	-
State Parliaments	4	-
State Legislative Councils	9	-
Local Government	251	-
Mayor, President, Chairman	7	-
Deputy Mayor, President or Chairman	5	-
Deputy Lord Mayor	1	-
Judiciary	1	-
Stipendiary Magistrate	1	-
Foreign Service	10 (two have Counsellor rank)	-

Women are frequently included on Australian delegations to international conferences.

Civil Service

Assistant Directors-General	2	-
Senior positions in the clerical/administrative structure		

There are no women at present holding Head of Department rank in the Commonwealth Public Service, although this rank is open to women officers.

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ETHIOPIA

[Original: English]  
17 December 1970

The following information is furnished concerning women elected to Parliament, and those holding high posts:

	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
Parliament (1970 election)		over 2
Senate	1	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	3 (Vice-Minister, Acting Director-General, Acting Director, Educational Attaché)	-
Ministry of Education	23 (1 Assistant Minister)	-
Ministry of Community and Development	4	-
Ministry of Information	7 (2 Directors-General, 4 Directors)	-
Ministry of Public Health	57	-
Statistics Bureau	3	-
Development Bank	1	-
Planning and Development Commission	1	-
Institute of Public Administration	1	-
His Imperial Majesty's Cabinet	1	-
Ethiopian Tourist Department	5 (1 Director)	-
Telecommunications Board	3	-

IRELAND

[Original: English]  
23 October 1970

Article 16.1 of the Constitution provides that every citizen without distinction of sex, who has reached the age of twenty-one and who is not disqualified by law, shall have the right to vote and to be elected in the National Parliament.

The following information is furnished concerning women elected to Parliament and holding high posts:

	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
<u>National Parliament</u>		
Dáil Éireann (Lower House)	3 (1 Assistant Whip in the Government Party)	Out of a total of 144
Seanad Éireann (Upper House)	5	Out of a total of 60
<u>High governmental posts</u>		
Council of State	1	Out of a total of 6
National Drug Advisory Board	1 (Medical Director)	-
<u>Irish Red Cross Society</u>	1 (Chairman)	-
<u>Judiciary</u>	1 (Children's Court)	-
<u>Education</u>		
Higher Education Authority	1	-
Committee of Enquiry into Reformatory and Industrial Schools	3 (1 Chairman)	-
UNESCO National Commission and Executive Committee	2	-
UNESCO General Conference	Several	-

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	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
Council of Europe	1 (Permanent Representative)	-

As regards the implementation of the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Government has recently set up a Commission on the Status of Women under the chairmanship of a woman. It is most unlikely that the Commission will deal with the matters about which reservations were made when the Convention was ratified by this country.

KENYA

/Original: English/  
26 November 1970

The Constitution of the Republic of Kenya guarantees the exercise of political rights by all, without discrimination on grounds of sex.

In the 1969 general election, a woman was elected to Parliament, and another nominated by the President to Parliament.

In the delegations to sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, Kenya normally includes at least one delegate. As far as employment is concerned, the number of women has steadily increased, as the enclosed list of 1968 and 1969 indicates.

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EMPLOYMENT AND MONTHLY AVERAGE INCOME BY JOB CATEGORY, SEX AND SECTOR  
1968 and 1969

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English  
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JOB CATEGORY		SEX	1968				1969			
			PRIVATE		PUBLIC		PRIVATE		PUBLIC	
			Employees	Monthly Av. Income	Employees	Monthly Av. Income	Employees	Monthly Av. Income	Employees	Monthly Av. Income
A	REGULAR EMPLOYEES									
	Directors and top level administrators . . . . .	Males Females	5,875 444	2,126 907	900 133	3,220 1,670	8,931 635	2,200 1,000	1,058 11	3,200 1,800
B	Professional . . . . .	Males Females	2,083 921	2,359 1,863	2,256 967	2,156 2,000	2,084 631	2,600 2,100	2,825 339	2,400 2,000
C	Executive and managerial . .	Males Females	5,275 470	2,543 1,550	6,085 553	2,240 1,360	5,509 810	2,600 1,600	6,564 461	2,000 1,400
D	Technicians works, managers, workshop foremen and other supervisory personnel . . .	Males Females	8,203 399	1,322 979	9,395 447	1,220 860	9,278 314	1,450 1,300	13,124 2,141	1,400 1,000
E	Teachers . . . . .	Males Females	6,218 1,602	291 514	27,102 6,776	390 600	1,697 4,595	320 520	25,794 9,716	400 600
F	Secretaries, stenographers and typists . . . . .	Males Females	510 2,903	912 1,102	308 1,850	780 1,010	575 3,034	950 1,200	409 1,857	720 980
G	Clerks . . . . .	Males Females	10,120 1,070	697 781	16,614 1,661	500 630	11,004 1,089	700 790	19,158 1,097	500 600
H	Book-keepers, cashier and book-keeping clerks . .	Males Females	2,932 297	935 926	953 95	1,150 1,100	3,190 305	1,000 990	1,655 95	1,150 1,100
I	Operators of office machines . . . . .	Males Females	613 292	787 782	669 23	560 550	810 349	800 800	1,057 252	560 550
J	Technical sales representa- tives and brokers . . . . .	Males Females	1,843 92	1,261 829	289 14	830 470	1,580 56	1,300 908	366 13	1,000 550
K	Shop assistants . . . . .	Males Females	2,223 372	373 432	172 31	400 440	2,397 468	400 440	129 30	420 450
L	Skilled and semi-skilled not included above . . . . .	Males Females	53,800 2,222	371 321	46,670 1,728	290 240	55,683 3,009	380 360	50,797 4,000	300 250
M	Unskilled labourers . . . . .	Males Females	184,091 21,551	146 107	50,446 5,310	260 190	184,659 21,488	200 180	50,894 2,475	260 200
TOTAL		Males Females	283,786 32,635	365 335	161,859 19,588	490 460	288,397 36,783	400 355	173,830 22,087	515 485

KUWAIT

/Original: English/  
28 October 1970

Women in Kuwait are eligible to high governmental posts without discrimination, provided they have the required qualifications for such posts. Moreover, Kuwaiti laws pertaining to government service contains provisions which take into consideration the special circumstances of married women.

However, until now women in Kuwait have not occupied certain positions such as Member of the National Assembly, a judicial post, a Cabinet post, Ambassador or a member of any Kuwait delegation to sessions of the General Assembly.

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NIGERIA

/Original: English/  
16 October 1970

The Government has adhered strictly to the provisions of the Convention on Political Rights of Women, in particular articles I to III.

The following information is furnished concerning women holding high posts:

	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
Civilian Commissioners (Ministers)	2	-
Judge of the High Court	1	-
Permanent Secretary of a Ministry	1	-

Several women are holding senior posts like chief magistrates, principal State counsel, medical officers, university lecturers, administrative officers and State counsel.

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NORWAY

[Original: English]  
28 October 1970

The following information is furnished concerning women elected to Parliament and holding high posts:

	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
<u>National Assembly</u>		
Nominated	343	18.8
Elected representatives	14	9.3
Elected alternates	80	26.4

In the Parliamentary election in 1969 the following votes were cast in percentage of total electorate:

Cities and urban areas	84.1 (85.2 men)
Rural districts	81.8 (84.6 men)

High administrative posts

Applications	53	3.5
Appointees	8	1.8
		(constituting 15 per cent of women applicants).
Royal Commissions, Government Committees, other official bodies	547 members	9.7
		Increase in percentage of women over 1965/66 was 1.8.

In 1968 and 1969 no women were appointed delegates to the United Nations.

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## ROMANIA

[Original: French]  
11 November 1970

In the Socialist Republic of Romania the full equality of rights, including political rights, of women and men is established as a fundamental principle of all social activity under articles 17 and 23 of the Constitution adopted on 21 August 1965. This equality of women and men was also established by the Constitution adopted in 1952 and 1948.

In application of the constitutional provisions, Act No. 28/1966 relating to the election of deputies to the Grand National Assembly and to the People's Councils guarantees to women the right to elect members to and to be elected to the organs of State authority on equal terms with men. The following information is furnished concerning women elected to parliament and holding high posts:

	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
Grand National Assembly	67	(out of a total of 465 deputies)
Vice-President of the State Council	1	-
Members of the State Council	2	-
People's Councils deputies (for departments, municipalities, municipal districts in Bucarest, towns and communes).	41,000	1/3 of the total number of deputies
Standing Committees of People's Councils	over 10,000	-
National Council of the Socialist Unity Front	51	-
Judges of the Supreme Court	3	-
Courts of the first instance	1/3 of the total	-
Women active in the governing committees of trade union organization	154,000	-
Council handicrafts co-operatives		20%
Consumer co-operative councils		16%
Council of the National Union of agricultural co-operatives	40	-

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	<u>Number of women</u>	<u>Percentage of women</u>
Members of creative unions of writers, composers, plastic artists, actors and journalists over 1,000		-

The principle of equality between men and women is also applied in recruitment to and the participation of women in the work of the organs of State administration and justice.

A considerable number of women work in the executive committees of the departmental, municipal, urban and communal councils of the National Socialist Unity Front, a number of them holding the office of chairman or vice-chairman.

Dozens of women exercise directive functions - Secretary-General, Director-General, Director or Deputy Director - in the ministries or other central institutions or enterprises. In the judicial services, from which women were excluded in the past several hundred women exercise the functions of presidents of courts, prosecutors, judges, notaries, etc.

Women at present form part of the Romanian delegations to the sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations and other United Nations bodies, to international congresses and meetings of international organizations of which Romania is a member.

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