



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

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women (CEDAW)

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Initial reports of States parties

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE REPORT SUBMITTED
BY THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE
ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

PART I

GENERAL GUIDELINES

3(a). In Equatorial Guinea a woman is considered a human being with the same rights and opportunities as a man. On the social side, the Government approaches discrimination against women by adopting measures which bring women more and more into prominence in all aspects of life, thereby gradually eliminating those obstacles which impede the advance of women. As a specific measure along these lines mention should be made of the acceptance of adolescent mothers returning to the classroom, since early maternity is no longer a limiting factor that stops women from acquiring the same education and training as men and being able, as a result, to have access, under the same conditions as men, to jobs and to social, economic and other benefits.

From the economic standpoint, there are more and more government-approved projects promoting the income-generating capacity of women; these projects are administered and implemented by women themselves. As an example we may cite project UNDP/ILO EQG/83/003, on activities for promoting women, under which production shops were set up (furniture, clothes-making and dyeing) and managed and administered by women, and project EQG/87/004, on direct support to small-scale women's enterprises, which is aimed at developing the already existing small-scale enterprises and the promotion of new production units.

From the political point of view, there are an ever-growing number of women who occupy elected posts and positions of responsibility in the Government. Women Members of Parliament have risen from four in the first legislature following approval of the Fundamental Law in August 1982 to eight in the present legislature; government appointments and traditional directorships which used to be exclusively the reserve of men are now occupied by women.

As far as the legal side is concerned, with the approval of the Fundamental Law of Equatorial Guinea in August 1982, Article 20.3 prohibits any discrimination for reasons of sex and accords to women, whatever their civil status, the same civic rights as men; this has created a favourable legal framework since no subsequent legislation passed may lay down principles contrary to what is stated in the Fundamental Law, such being unconstitutional and therefore automatically rescinded; the same would happen in the case of previous legislation establishing contrary principles.

3(e). When an international treaty is approved by the Chamber of People's Representatives under the terms of Article 119(i) of the Fundamental Law, and ratified by the Head of State in exercise of the power conferred upon him by Article 92(i) of the same Law, the agreement or treaty then forms part of the Internal Law and, as a consequence, when the procedure relating to the Convention described in this report has been implemented its provisions can be invoked before the courts or administrative authorities and may be directly enforced by the latter.

PART II

Article 12.1. Article 69 of the Fundamental Law accords the right to health protection, while Article 20(3) of the same Law stipulates that women, whatever their civil status, shall have equal rights and opportunities with men in all spheres of public, private and family life in civil, political, economic and social and cultural matters.

Pursuant to this principle, the Social Security Law, while granting medical and pharmaceutical benefits to those insured, does so without regard for sex, and the same procedure is applied by the hospitals and health centres of the country recognized in Decree No. 97/1987, dated 18 August, regulating medical, pharmaceutical and hospital care at all official hospitals and health centres on national territory.

(2) The Social Security Law grants medical benefits, relating to general and specialized medicine, as well as pharmaceutical benefits during pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period (Article 12), while Article 25 of the same Law accords the insured party a maternity grant equivalent to 50 per cent of the base salary for six months prior to and six months following confinement.

Uninsured women in a state of pregnancy receive medical benefits under public welfare from the first month of pregnancy up to childbirth. This assistance covers medical consultations, medical treatment in hospital and surgical intervention, and care for all classes of confinement, including subsequent obstetric-gynaecological intervention and the obstetric-gynaecological consultations required by pregnant women from the first month of pregnancy up to childbirth.

Article 13. When according the right to family benefits, Article 53 of the Social Security Law does not make any distinction between men and women.

The granting to women of the same rights and opportunities as men in civil, political, economic, social and cultural matters (Article 20(3) of the Fundamental Law), gives them free access to bank loans and any other financial arrangements. In fact, commercial banks operating in the country offer credit to all women who apply to them for this purpose and meet the set requirements, which are the same for both men and women.

Women take an active part in literary contests, courses of lectures and other cultural activities organized in the country and also occupy many senior posts in the country's cultural and educational centres.