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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-eighth session
New York, 7-18 March 1994
Agenda item 4

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING
STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Argentina*, Australia, Canada*, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark*,
Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway*
and Turkey*: draft resolution

Convention of the Elimination of All Forms
of Discrimination against Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Discrimination against Women 1/ is a key international human rights instrument
for the promotion of equality between women and men,

Welcoming the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now
stands at one hundred and thirty-one,

Noting with deep concern that the Convention is still one of the human
rights instruments with a large number of reservations, many of which run
contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention, despite the fact that some
States parties have withdrawn their reservations to it,

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional
commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

Also noting the suggestions and recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in accordance with its mandate, as demonstrated most recently by the Committee at its thirteenth session, at which the Committee adopted suggestion No. 6 on the International Conference on Population and Development and general recommendation No. 21 relating to articles 9, 15 and 16 of the Convention as its contribution to the International Year of the Family,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 2/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in June 1993, in which the Conference stipulated that the human rights of women and of the girl-child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Recalling also that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Conference recommended the adoption of new procedures to strengthen implementation of the commitment to women's equality and human rights, including a call upon the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to quickly examine the possibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/94 of 16 December 1992,

Recalling its resolution 1993/14 of 27 July 1993 and other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to support for the Committee,

Noting suggestion No. 5, on the feasibility of preparing an optional protocol to the Convention, adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth session,

Noting that the workload of the Committee has increased because of the growing number of States parties to the Convention, and that the annual session of the Committee is still the shortest of all the annual sessions of the human rights treaty bodies,

Welcoming the Committee's efforts to further improve its working methods by adopting concluding observations containing specific suggestions and recommendations,

1. Supports the request made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twelfth session for additional meeting time, with adequate support from the Secretariat, so as to allow the Committee to meet once a year for three weeks for its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions 3/ and

2/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/48/38), para. 622.

recommends that the request for additional meeting time, made by the Committee at its thirteenth session, be considered within the existing level of budgetary resources;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the working methods of the Committee and its capacity to fulfil its mandate effectively, including a comparison with the working situation of other treaty bodies;

3. Requests the General Assembly, in the light of the above report, to review the working situation of the Committee and its capacity to fulfil its mandate effectively, and in this context also to consider the possibility of amending article 20 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women so as to allow for sufficient meeting time for the Committee;

4. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall examine at its thirty-ninth session, in cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and taking into account the results of any expert meeting on this question that may be convened prior to that session, the feasibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

5. Notes with appreciation suggestion No. 6 on the International Conference on Population and Development and general recommendation No. 21 on equality in marriage and family relations, adopted by the Committee at its thirteenth session, both of which were transmitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session, and encourages the Committee to continue its work in adopting detailed general recommendations;

6. Once again urges all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

7. Encourages States to consider limiting the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible, and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international law;

8. Requests States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to review regularly their reservations, with a view to withdrawing them expeditiously so that the Convention may be fully implemented;

9. Urges the Secretary-General to continue to publicize widely the decisions and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
