



**Convention on the Elimination  
of all Forms of Discrimination  
Against Women**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UN LIBRARY

CEDAW/C/SR.43  
11 April 1984

MAY 8 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UN/ISA COLLECTION

---

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Third session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 43rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 6 April 1984, at 9.30 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. IDER

CONTENTS

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE  
COMMITTEE (continued)

---

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE (continued) (CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.4-8, 10, 11 and 16)

CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.4

1. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) read out the following redraft of paragraph 22 of document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.4: "In connection with the question of the participation of social and political bodies, clarification was sought as to whether the terms of article 68 of the Hungarian Constitution authorizing citizens to make proposals of public interest with respect to social and political organizations specified a particular political party and whether citizens had to be active members of that political party in order to be allowed to exercise that right, or whether mere citizenship was sufficient".
2. Paragraph 22, as amended, was adopted.
3. Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.4 as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.5

Thirteenth paragraph

4. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) read out a revised version of the third sentence of the paragraph, as follows: "As a marriage licence was not issued to a widow before 30 days following her husband's death, it was asked whether the same constraint applied to a widower, a divorced woman and a divorced man".
5. The thirteenth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.
6. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) suggested that the revised text of the thirteenth paragraph eliminated the need for the twenty-second paragraph, which dealt with the same subject.
7. It was so decided.

Thirty-third paragraph

8. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) suggested that the phrase ", in his perception," should be inserted after the words "the representative of the State party explained that" in the thirty-third paragraph.
9. The thirty-third paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Thirty-fifth paragraph

10. The thirty-fifth paragraph was adopted with minor drafting changes.

Thirty-eighth paragraph

11. Ms. BERNARD (Rapporteur) suggested the following revised wording for the thirty-eighth paragraph: "In responding to questions raised by the experts, the representative of the State party expressed some personal views and perceptions on the role of women in the Philippines. He said that it was preferred that Philippine women retain their femininity and gentleness because in such a way they had obtained many advantages and progress. It was for that reason that no women's liberation movement had existed in the Philippines. Other questions would be answered during the session by a designated member of his Government."
12. Ms. REGENT-LECHOWICZ said that the name and official status of the representative of the Philippines should be specified in paragraph 38, so that it would be clear that the reference was to the Ambassador of the Philippines and not to the other representatives of the Philippines who had given the replies to Committee questions after the Ambassador left New York.
13. Ms. MACEDO de SHEPPARD and Ms. ESCUDERO-MOSCOSO felt that it would be repetitious to give the name of the speaker.
14. After a discussion in which Ms. CORTES, Ms. PATIÑO, Ms. PEYTCHEVA, Ms. REGENT-LECHOWICZ and Ms. OESER participated, concerning the clarification proposed by Ms. Regent-Lechowicz, Ms. BERNARD, Rapporteur, suggested that the first sentence in the thirty-third paragraph could be amended to read as follows: "In replying to some of the questions raised, the Permanent Representative of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations, as representative of the State party, explained that, in his perception, there were cultural and traditional aspects in every country which could not be legislated". It would not be necessary, then, to identify him specifically in the thirty-eighth paragraph. When the Committee later discussed document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.9, the identity of the other member of the Mission, who had replied to the Committee's questions could be specified.
15. It was so decided.
16. The thirty-eighth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.
17. Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.5 as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.6Third, fourth, seventh and eighth paragraphs

18. The CHAIRPERSON read out the following corrections to Add.6 proposed by Ms. Guan Mingian: in the third paragraph, after the phrase "in 1982", insert the words "at the fifth session of China's National People's Congress". In the second sentence of that paragraph, change "organs" to "laws", delete "the National People's Congress" and capitalize Marriage Law, Electoral Law and Criminal Code. In the third sentence, change "specifically" to "specially".

(The Chairperson)

19. In the fourth paragraph, substitute "mandated" for "requested" in the first sentence, and insert a full stop after the word "constitution". Then insert the sentence "A Law Committee has been set up which is responsible for the study, review and preparation of proposals and motions". The rest of the paragraph would remain unchanged.
20. In the first sentence of the seventh paragraph, insert the words "of the partners" after the word "choice".
21. In the second sentence of the eighth paragraph, change the word "population" to "popular". Change the semicolon after the word "women" to a comma and replace "it" with "which", and replace "communist youth" with "the Communist Youth League". In the last sentence of the eighth paragraph, delete the words "grass roots organizing had led to the setting-up of" and begin a new sentence which would read "Legal counselling booths have been set up by women's federations, at both national and local levels, giving legal guidance to people who came to them with their problems." The rest of the last sentence would be deleted.
22. The third, fourth, seventh and eighth paragraphs, as amended, were adopted.

Tenth paragraph

23. Ms. BIRYUKOVA, supported by Ms. MACEDO de SHEPPARD suggested replacing the word "praised" in the first sentence by "thanked the representative of the Government of China for". She felt that the Committee should adopt a uniform approach to the various country reports: in its report on its second session, value judgements had consistently been removed. In the case of China, not all members of the Committee had praised the report.
24. Ms. ILIĆ, supported by Ms. BERNARD, Ms. MACEDO de SHEPPARD and Ms. CORTES, said that Ms. Biryukova's point was valid and that the word "thanked" should be used to express the reaction of the Committee as a whole. However, many experts had in fact praised the report of China and its introduction and that should be reflected in the Committee's report. She suggested the insertion of a phrase to cover the point.
25. Ms. CARON agreed with Ms. ILIĆ and observed that if the expert of the USSR had been present at the meeting at which the Committee had considered the report of China she would have been aware of how many experts had indeed praised it.
26. Ms. GUAN Mingqian said that China's aim in its report had been to present facts on the achievements and difficulties encountered in bringing about genuine equality between the sexes and eliminating all forms of discrimination against women. Since China was not concerned with compliments, the wording of the paragraph was immaterial. Ms. Ilić's proposal was, however, acceptable.
27. Ms. BERNARD, Rapporteur, with the concurrence of Ms. BIRYUKOVA, suggested using a formulation similar to that just adopted in Add.4, paragraph 15 with reference to the report of Hungary. The tenth paragraph would then read: "The

(Ms. Bernard)

Committee commended the representative of China on the introduction of the report as well as its contents. Some members of the Committee praised its frankness", etc.

28. The tenth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Twentieth paragraph

29. Mr. NORDENFELT, supported by Ms. SMITH, suggested clarifying the paragraph by putting a full stop after "this ensured fewer and 'better' children". The rest of the paragraph would read: "It was asked through what means 'better children' could be assured".

30. The twentieth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

31. Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.6 as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

32. Ms. BIRYUKOVA, commenting on Add.6 and on the draft report as a whole, said that the Committee ought to apply a single standard in reporting on its consideration of country reports. In the draft report of its second session, for instance, the Committee had devoted a maximum of four pages to each given country report, whereas in Add.6, eight pages had been devoted to a single State. She deplored that inconsistency.

33. Ms. SMITH said that several reports had taken the Committee much longer to consider than others and the Committee had asked more questions. That fact must be reflected in the Committee's draft report: every country could not be allotted the same number of pages.

34. Ms. CARON, noting the very poor quality of the French translation of the draft report as a whole, proposed corrections to the grammar in the French text of the fifth and twenty-fourth paragraphs of Add.6.

35. Ms. SMITH drew attention to redundancies in Add.6.

36. Ms. CREYDT (Secretary of the Committee) assured Ms. Smith that the draft report, which had been prepared by the Secretariat in great haste, would be carefully edited by the competent Secretariat service with a view to eliminating repetitions.

37. Ms. MACEDO de SHEPPARD complimented the Secretariat for having completed the draft report in record time and observed that the pressure of time had inevitably led to numerous drafting errors. She reminded the Secretariat that the Spanish-speaking experts had requested that references by Government representatives to actual legislation or the situation prevailing in the reporting country should be in the present tense, and that the simple rather than the compound past tense should be used as appropriate.

38. Ms. BIRYUKOVA said that the failure of the Secretariat to number the paragraphs in the various parts of the draft report had been time-consuming because the documents were difficult to follow and discuss.

CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.7

Second, third and fourth paragraphs

39. Ms. EL-FETOUH suggested that the words "she conveyed her country's desire to eliminate any form of discrimination against women" in the second paragraph should be replaced by "she stated that there was no discrimination against women in her country". She also wished to add another sentence reading: "She added that Egypt believed in equality between men and women and considered that the discrimination against women was a violation of the principles of respect for human dignity and an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries."

40. In the third paragraph, she proposed replacing the words "considered that women were equal partners with men as" by "guaranteed their rights and responsibilities as". The second sentence would be deleted and replaced by "The Egyptian Constitution enshrined equality of citizens before the law regardless of sex, race or religion.". The third sentence should be amended to read: "Its article 11 assured that the proper co-ordination between the duties of women towards the family and their work in the society, considering them equal with men in the fields of political, social, cultural and economic life without prejudice to the prescriptions of Islamic law (Sharia)." Lastly, she proposed deleting the words "amended in 1979" at the end of the paragraph.

41. In the fourth paragraph the word "legislative" should be added before "councils" and the words "ministers and judges" should be replaced by the phrase "ministers, judges, diplomats, not to mention other occupations".

42. The second, third and fourth paragraphs, as amended, were adopted.

Sixth paragraph

43. Ms. EL-FETOUH proposed replacing the words "the equality of women" in the first sentence by the words "the principle of equality". The remainder of the paragraph would be redrafted to read: "As examples, she stated that 30 seats in the National Assembly were allocated to women, as well as at least one or two seats in local councils; in addition to that women had to compete with men for the other seats. A National Commission for Women and a General Department for Women's Affairs in the Ministry of Social Affairs were created and, among others, vocational training centres were opened up to young women."

44. The sixth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Eighth paragraph

45. Ms. EL-FETOUH proposed changing the figure "39,000" in the eighth paragraph to "160,000" and the figure "6,000" to "106,000".

46. The eighth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Tenth paragraph

47. Mr. NORDENFELT proposed that the first five sentences of the tenth paragraph be deleted and replaced by: "Referring to an earlier discussion, one expert requested an opinion from the Legal Office with regard to reservations. The expert remarked that reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention were not permitted, according to its article 28. Articles 2 and 16 laid down principles of equality which were fundamental to the Convention. In the case of Egypt, for instance, the wording of its reservations gave no guidance as to what extent the applicability of the Convention was limited for Egypt."

48. The tenth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Thirty-first and thirty-second paragraphs

49. Ms. EL-FETOUH proposed adding the phrase "and guaranteed their equality with men" at the end of the thirty-first paragraph.

50. The thirty-first paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

51. Ms. EL-FETOUH proposed deleting the first sentence of the thirty-second paragraph.

52. Ms. SALEMA saw no reason to delete that sentence since it reflected exactly what had been said at the Committee meeting.

53. Ms. EL-FETOUH said that in reporting on the consideration of the Egyptian report the Committee should make allowance for the poor quality of the interpretation, which had led to misinterpretation of the remarks of the representative of Egypt.

54. The thirty-second paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

55. Document CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.7 as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.8

Third paragraph

56. Ms. BERNARD, Rapporteur, proposed that the words "women had brought actions successfully against discrimination in some areas" be replaced by "steps had been taken successfully in Hungary to remove discrimination in some areas", to make it

(Ms. Bernard)

clear that both men and women had been involved in the struggle to eliminate discrimination.

57. The third paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

Fourth paragraph

58. Ms. BERNARD, Rapporteur, said that the figure "16" should be replaced by "18".

59. The fourth paragraph, as amended, was adopted.

60. CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.8 as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.9

61. The CHAIRPERSON, acting on a suggestion made by Ms. CORTES, proposed that the consideration of Add.9 be postponed.

62. It was so decided.

CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.10 (Rwanda)

63. CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.10 was adopted.

CEDAW/C/L.1/Add.11 and Add.16

64. The CHAIRPERSON, in response to a proposal by Ms. BIRYUKOVA, suggested that Add.11 and Add.16 be considered together, since they both dealt with organizational matters.

65. It was so decided.

66. After a procedural discussion in which Ms. BIRYUKOVA, Ms. PEYTCHEVA, Ms. BERNARD, Ms. REGENT-LECHOWICZ, Mr. NORDENFELT, Ms. OESER, Ms. GONZALES-MARTINEZ, Ms. CORTES, Ms. EL-FETOUH and Ms. ILIC took part, the CHAIRPERSON suggested that the Committee postpone consideration of the documents in order to enable the Rapporteur to produce revised texts incorporating proposed amendments.

67. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.