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THIRD COMMITTEE
28th meeting
held on
Friday, 2 November 1984
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 28th MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. TIRONA (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 92: INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/511, 568; A/C.3/39/6)

AGENDA ITEM 93: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (continued) (A/39/185)

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AGENDA ITEM 94: ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued) (A/39/590 and Corr. 1)

(a) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (continued) (A/39/45, vol. I and II)

(b) STATUS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/486)

1. Mr. RUIZ CABAÑAS (Mexico) said that the United Nations Decade for Women had had a positive influence in that it had developed consciousness of the need to ensure the participation of women in society on equal terms with men. The United Nations had played a salutary role in that respect. On the other hand, with regard to development, especially in the health, employment and education fields, the situation of women had hardly improved at all. The international economic crisis, with the adjustments it required from the developing countries, had meant for women greater difficulty in access to employment, to education and even to essential goods such as food. That led to an increasing gap between legislative texts which proclaimed the equality of men and women and day-to-day economic reality. The acceleration of the arms race and the revival of tensions in various parts of the world showed that there had also been no progress with respect to peace, another theme of the Decade. The Nairobi Conference must therefore consider in all objectivity the principal obstacles which had prevented the attainment of the objectives of the Decade. His delegation considered the Secretary-General's report on the strategies envisaged at the level of the United Nations system with a view to improving the status of women which would be submitted to the Conference to be fundamental. On the other hand, it wished to express its disagreement regarding the composition of the Bureau of the Conference and emphasized the need to ensure proportional representation for the Group of Latin American countries.

(Mr. Ruiz Cabaffas, Mexico)

2. Mexico welcomed the action undertaken by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, particularly with respect to the restructuring of international economic relations. It hoped that the General Assembly would approve the draft statute for the Institute, as the Economic and Social Council had done.
3. Mexico was pursuing its activities aimed at responding to the increasing needs of Mexican women. The National Population Council had worked out a programme of action for the integration of women in the country's development, which covered the period 1983-1988 and which contemplated measures to improve the status of women from the educational, economic, social and cultural points of view. Mexico, one of the first countries to have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, attached great importance to the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to which it had already submitted its initial report, and welcomed that Committee's decision to ask the Secretariat to draft a report on the progress made and the obstacles encountered in implementing the Convention. That report would enable attention to be drawn to the difficulties encountered in that respect by certain developing countries owing to the economic situation.
4. Mrs. KAFAROVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the contemporary world was characterized by the wide participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural life, a considerable strengthening of their role in solving major international problems, especially activities designed to strengthen peace. For over two years, the participants in the peace camp at Greenham Common, in the United Kingdom, where new missiles were deployed, had been pursuing their courageous fight and had won wide international support; it was also women who had organized the peace camp at Seneca Falls in the United States. Even traditional feminist organizations were basing their activities on the conviction that peace was also a concern of women. More and more women were protesting against the arms race and the increase in military expenditure.
5. The rise in unemployment, which, according to data provided by the International Labour Organisation, affected over 50 per cent of women in some countries, was worrying. The studies carried out by the United States feminist organization Women for Racial and Economic Equality showed that resources allocated for military purposes would enable over one-and-a-half million jobs to be created in the service sector, where up to 50 per cent of workers were women, or more than a million jobs in the civil service, where over half the workers were women. According to that organization, 58 per cent of the people whose standard of living was below the poverty level were women. The reduction of social programmes in favour of military budgets was slowing down the establishment of infant schools, depriving women of the means of reconciling work and motherhood and adversely affecting their vocational training. The difference between the salaries of women and of men was still considerable, in some countries up to 60 per cent.
6. Equal rights for men and women had been proclaimed for the first time in history in the first legislative act of the young Soviet State - the declaration on the rights of working and exploited people. Since then, equal rights for men and women had been guaranteed in all spheres in the USSR.

(Mrs. Kafarova, USSR)

7. As Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR, she could confirm that one of the greatest Soviet achievements had been the emancipation of Azerbaijan women. Currently, 43 per cent of the Republic's labour force consisted of women. Over 60 per cent of doctors, 58 per cent of teachers and workers in cultural establishments and 26 per cent of qualified engineers were women. Women occupied important posts in all the organs of the Party and of the State and performed managerial functions in organizations, institutes, enterprises and collective and State farms in the Republic.

8. Soviet legislation stipulated that women had the right to special working conditions which enabled them to reconcile work and motherhood, and Soviet women's right to work was supported by a wide system of guarantees, because of which 51 per cent of women participated in production.

9. The Constitution guaranteed women the same right to education as men. Fifty-nine per cent of the persons with a higher education who were employed in the national economy were women. Women played a leading role in health and education, with more than two thirds of all doctors and nearly three quarters of the teachers being young women. More than half a million women managed industrial enterprises, State farms, construction sites, clinics, commercial establishments, public catering services and administrative bodies. Nearly 40 per cent of all scientific workers were women, and countless women had doctorates in science.

10. State expenditures for maternal and child welfare had increased 150 per cent in the past 10 years. Since 1981, working mothers could take leave with partial pay in order to take care of children less than a year old, an allowance was paid to families on the birth of a child, aid to single mothers had been increased and working mothers with several children were entitled to additional leave.

11. Soviet women were represented in all State bodies. Nearly one third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR were women. There were more than 3,000 women deputies, or 37 per cent of the total, in the supreme soviets of the republics and of the autonomous republics. Half the deputies to local soviets, 36.5 per cent of the people's judges and 55 per cent of the people's assessors were women. The standing committees of deputies established in 1976 to deal with questions concerning the living and working conditions of women and with maternal and child welfare had extensive powers and their recommendations, which were designed to improve legislation affecting the status of women, were binding on all ministries and institutions. Officials in various sectors of the economy reported to them regularly on the implementation of the objectives of the Plan which had to do with the working and living conditions of women.

12. Her country attached great importance to the United Nations Decade for Women and to the attainment of its objectives, namely, equality, development and peace. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should be universally recognized and applied. It was in the States which refused to accede to the Convention that discrimination against women was greatest. The Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation was just as important as the Convention for the attainment of the objectives of the Decade. Her country supported all the documents adopted at the international conferences organized as part of the Decade.

(Mrs. Kafarova, USSR)

13. Her country, which had established a Preparatory Committee for the World Conference in Nairobi, felt that it was necessary to give due attention to the preparations for the Conference. The Commission on the Status of Women had an important role to play in that connection, as did the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The United Nations Secretariat and its Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should make sure that the documents required for the Conference were prepared on time. In that connection her delegation deplored the fact that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 38/105 requesting the Commission on the Status of Women to consider what measures might be necessary in order to implement the Declaration on the Participation of Women in Promoting International Peace and Co-operation had still not been implemented. It was pleased, on the other hand, with the decision taken by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women to recommend the preparation of a report on the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; to be submitted to the World Conference.

14. The regional meetings had been an important step in the preparation of the 1985 World Conference. Her country, which had participated in the Asian regional meeting held in Tokyo in March 1984, believed that the documents of that meeting would be very useful during the debates at the Conference. Since the last phase of the preparations for the Conference had begun, her delegation supported the recommendation made by the preparatory body at its second special session that all United Nations bodies and organizations, including the specialized agencies, should take an active part in the preparation of the Conference. It was to be hoped that the latter would make an important contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade.

15. Mrs. REYNOLDS (United States of America) said that one of the important questions under consideration at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly was the future of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. As it had indicated in its views on that question (A/39/146), the United States believed that the Fund should promote economic development. That was why it had recommended that the Fund should remain in New York, the centre of United Nations development activities, and why it wanted it to be more closely associated with UNDP, while retaining an autonomous status. She was pleased to announce that her country would make a contribution of \$500,000 to the Voluntary Fund in 1985.

16. Her country followed with interest the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women which involved the collection of data about women and their economic and social roles.

17. Her delegation noted that the report of the Secretary-General on senior women's programme officer posts at the regional commissions (A/39/569/Add.1) showed some progress and welcomed the Secretary-General's assurances that efforts would continue to be made to provide those posts through the transfer of available resources. The Committee should be reminded that the distribution of senior administrative posts (P-4 to D-1) provided in the 1984 biennial budget for the regional commissions was: 96 for ESCAP, 105 for ECLA, 106 for ECA and 61 for ECWA. That distribution seemed to indicate a certain foot-dragging and her

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(Mrs. Reynolds, United States)

delegation hoped that it was not because those posts concerned women. It was important to have adequate institutional arrangements if the programme of activities which would be recommended by the 1985 World Conference for the period to the year 2000 was to be implemented.

18. The Conference offered women a historic opportunity to show what they could do when they joined their efforts. Since it was to last only two weeks, it should not deal with political questions unrelated to its themes (equality, development and peace) and sub-themes (health, education and employment). Women throughout the world expected the Conference to produce tangible results.

19. Women throughout the United States were aware of the activities which would mark the end of the United Nations Decade for Women and welcomed a chance to meet other women from all parts of the world. Her country had contributed \$140,000 for the preparations for the 1985 Forum, a meeting of non-governmental organizations to be held from 8 to 15 July 1985. Despite the differences which existed in the United States and in other countries regarding the priorities to be given to various problems and how to solve them, she was convinced that it was possible, as the most recent session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/1984/15) showed, to define a course of action on which there could be a consensus.

20. In the view of her delegation, equality was the great theme of the Decade. Although the task was not easy, it was essential to work towards giving women a greater voice in every area.

21. Her country felt that a special effort should be made to define practical measures which could be implemented through the United Nations system. The question of the full integration of women in development was critically important in that regard. Women must participate actively in the formulation and implementation of all development projects, and the United Nations development agencies should recruit and promote more women to Professional posts.

22. The theme of peace was equally important. Since the Second World War, countless human beings had died in civil strife. International conflicts had generated millions of refugees whose problems must be solved. Crime, too, should not be ignored, because women were particularly affected by violence wherever it occurred.

23. Her delegation noted with satisfaction that thanks to the perseverance and goodwill of all parties, the consensus on the preparations for the Conference had been restored at the last preparatory meeting in Vienna. It hoped that the Committee and the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/19 without a vote. However, her delegation had to express reservations concerning the financial implications of those recommendations as they appeared in document A/CONF.116/PC/19/Add.1. Although the Conference should have the necessary resources, some of the provisions relating to documentation and other services did not seem to be at all justified. Nevertheless, her delegation was confident that ACABQ, the Fifth Committee and the Committee on Conferences would give that question due consideration.

24. Mr. MATELJAK (Yugoslavia), speaking on agenda items 92, 93 and 94, said that the deterioration of the economic situation and the tensions in international relations had adverse effects on social development and, as a result, on efforts to improve the status of women. That explained why, despite some progress, the Decade had not yielded the expected results, even if it had promoted greater awareness of the fact that the solution to the problems of women was based on development and that, conversely, development required the participation of women in that process on an equal footing with men.

25. The Nairobi Conference should therefore consider documents which would enable it to identify the obstacles and the causes of the relative failure of the Decade and to define forward-looking strategies and practical ways of achieving the objectives of the Decade.

26. Yugoslavia was aware of the importance of the preparations for the Conference and participated in them actively, particularly within the framework of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. In that connection, the International Centre of Public Enterprises in Ljubljana was preparing, with the help of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, a study on the role of women in developing countries which would be submitted to the Conference. Furthermore, the Yugoslav Government had replied in detail to the questionnaire of the Secretary-General.

27. In Yugoslavia, although equality of the sexes was enshrined in the Constitution and the national legislation, it was sometimes impeded by underdevelopment, traditions and prejudices. Consequently, despite the economic crisis and the unjust nature of international economic relations, Yugoslavia was endeavouring to ensure its economic and social development and thus create the material conditions for guaranteeing in everyday life, the equality achieved by women at the legal and political levels.

28. Since the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women were essential to the attainment of the objectives of the Decade, his delegation felt not only that the Fund should continue to function after the end of the Decade, but also that its resources should be increased so that it could better meet the needs of women in developing countries; it also felt that other funds in the United Nations system should allocate more resources to women-oriented projects. Furthermore, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was an important instrument, to which all countries should be urged to accede, as Yugoslavia had already done.

29. Referring to the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which was considered under agenda item 92, he said his delegation was convinced that the importance of the Institute would increase as the idea that the aspirations of women were inseparable from the development process became established; the Institute could increase awareness of that concept, which favoured the wide participation of the entire population in decision-making and achieving the objectives of development. The Institute should encourage the individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries and allow its network of national focal points and correspondents to determine, as only they could, the needs of the women of those countries. Furthermore, the Institute had

(Mr. Mateljak, Yugoslavia)

already showed its innovative spirit by initiating co-operative relations with organizations within and outside the United Nations system, which enabled it, with its limited staff, to compile and disseminate statistical indicators and data on the situation of women and thus to encourage technical co-operation among developing countries in that field. The Institute should therefore be given the means to continue its research and training activities after the end of the Decade.

30. Mr. ABDELMAHMOUD (Sudan) said that his country, aware of the growing importance of women in a changing society, followed the questions relating to women with great interest. In the Sudan, women had the same economic, political and social rights and duties as men and participated in national construction and development efforts and in decision-making at the highest level. Women also played a crucial role in the family because they were the ones who trained future generations.

31. The establishment of the Federation of Sudanese Women had been a historic turning-point marking the beginning of the co-ordination of activities carried out by Sudanese women with those undertaken in other countries aimed at promoting peace and the establishment of a new international economic order. The Sudan, which was a member of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, had participated actively in all the activities of the Decade and felt that the Nairobi Conference, which would be the culmination of the efforts of the United Nations system for the advancement of women, should mark less the end of a decade than a new beginning. The Conference should define strategies for the year 2000 which took due account of past experience, an effort to which the regional preparatory meetings would also contribute through their recommendations. Within the framework of the Decade, the international community had successfully established certain institutions, such as the Institute, aimed at ensuring the integration of women in development and making Governments and public opinion aware of the problems of women. In order to maintain the progress made, the Institute should continue to co-operate with non-governmental organizations and Governments, establish clear priorities concerning its aid to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and define strategies to promote their self-reliance.

32. Since the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women was still an essential tool for solving the problems of women, which evolved according to economic and social changes, it should be maintained after 1985. Furthermore, contributions to the Fund should increase. The activities of the Fund for the advancement of women, particularly African women who were affected by the drought, should not be merely palliative measures, but should be fully incorporated into the national development programmes.

33. His country hoped that the Nairobi Conference would usher in a new era in which women could, within their societies, play a greater role in the search for peace and development.

34. Mrs. MORA de BRACHO (Venezuela), speaking on agenda items 92, 93 and 94, said that, despite the spectacular progress made over the last 50 years, during which women had assumed new functions and new roles in society, they were still, because of some irrational prejudices, treated as second-class citizens in many parts of the world. Efforts must therefore be made to ensure that women could simply take their rightful place in society and benefit from progress on the same footing as men. The Nairobi Conference would enable all countries to exchange experience and to analyse the results achieved and the obstacles encountered in the course of the Decade.

35. The Constitution and laws of Venezuela forbade discrimination against women and protected their rights, and the democratic system encouraged them to participate in elections as well as in political decision-making and to enter the widest range of professions. The law guaranteed equal wages, in accordance with the various ILO conventions to which her country had acceded, and recognized the right of all citizens to education without any discrimination whatever. Men and women were subject to the same provisions of the Penal Code. The reform of the Civil Code, which had taken effect in July 1982, had established the legal equality of the spouses for purposes of choosing the matrimonial domicile, administration of property and commercial transactions, and had instituted the sharing of parental authority and the equal rights of children whether or not they had been born in wedlock. Her Government had established, within the Ministry for Youth, Family and Children's Affairs, a Women's Affairs Department and had entrusted it with the task of formulating an employment, health and education strategy in keeping with the goals of the World Plan of Action. Responsibility for the implementation of programmes for the Decade had been divided among the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Agriculture.

36. Her country supported the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women Acting as the Preparatory Body for the World Conference, contained in document A/CONF.116/PC/19, to the effect that the Secretary-General should prepare various reports on particular aspects of the status of women.

37. Her country hoped that the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women would continue its activities beyond the Decade. It felt that the Fund made a valuable contribution to efforts for the integration of women in development and was the only technical co-operation mechanism of the United Nations that had the exclusive goal of meeting the needs of women. The Fund should, moreover, be more closely associated with UNDP in order to improve its effectiveness.

38. As could be seen from the growing number of States which had acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Governments were becoming increasingly aware of the role that women ought to play in society. It would be good if that trend was to become established.

39. Her country supported the statute of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, submitted in document A/39/511, and felt optimistic about the future of the Institute.

(Mrs. Mora de Bracho, Venezuela)

40. Development was only possible in a world at peace in which the enormous resources currently squandered on armaments were used to banish poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease from the lives of millions of human beings. It was both incomprehensible and unacceptable that such a beneficial programme as the WHO campaign against malaria, for example, should have been held up for want of resources when the amount necessary for its implementation represented only half the sums the world spent daily on the military sector. With the approach of the World Conference to be held at Nairobi, her country appealed to those nations currently engaged in the arms race to begin action to remedy underdevelopment.

41. Mrs. DAHGFOUS (Tunisia) said that, as a result of the legal and organizational framework that it was in the process of acquiring, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women would be in a better position to fulfil its catalysing and co-ordinating role in the integration of women in development planning. Her delegation attached great importance to individual and collective self-reliance, a subject mentioned in General Assembly resolution 36/74. It felt that a strategy based on technical co-operation among developing countries and the optimum use of national human resources, reinforced by international solidarity, was the best means of achieving self-reliance. Unfortunately, poverty and natural disasters were as much obstacles to the achievement of that goal as were the persistence of the apartheid régime in South Africa and the continuing illegal occupation of Namibia and of Palestine and other Arab territories. There could therefore be no self-reliance without the liberation of peoples from the colonial yoke and the establishment of a new international economic order. In that connection, her delegation welcomed the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women Acting as the Preparatory Body for the 1985 Conference, which would accord an important place at the Conference to the plight of women living under the apartheid régime and those who were refugees in Lebanon and elsewhere.

42. Referring to the status of women in Tunisia, she noted that, immediately following independence, Tunisia had adopted a personal status code faithful to the spirit of Islamic law, which provided for equal rights and duties of a couple. The promulgation of that code was commemorated each year by a national holiday known as the Women's Festival, which was a day of paid leave from work. The three areas in which Tunisia had taken forceful action in favour of women were education, health and employment. At present, it was devoting one third of its annual budget to education, with the result that there were more women in scientific, technical and agronomic research establishments, including establishments that required skills in disciplines such as mathematics and the technological sciences. Another factor considered essential for the advancement of women in Tunisia was birth control, which was implemented through a growing number of family planning centres. The country had also developed its network of maternal and child care centres. All those measures had enabled women to become more independent, particularly in the economic sphere. Women represented a considerable percentage of the active population of the country. They were to be found in all sectors of employment and a large number held posts at the highest level in the administrative and political organs and in the judiciary. Women participated, on an equal footing with men, in considering draft legislation, approving national development plans and drawing up the budget, and in decision-making on major domestic and foreign policy problems.

(Mrs. Dahqfous, Tunisia)

In 1979, the first woman joined the Political Bureau of the Parti Socialiste Destourien and, in 1983, the decision had been taken to establish a Ministry for the Family and the Advancement of Women. Moreover, an impressive range of legislative texts had been adopted, guaranteeing the equality of men and women, and certain bodies had been established, such as the Committee on Women's Work, in order to oversee implementation. That legislation was in keeping with the spirit and the letter of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women, which her country had signed and was preparing to ratify.

43. With regard to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, her delegation was in favour of continuing the activities of the Fund beyond the Decade, provided that it could preserve its identity so that its resources could be used in an appropriate manner.

44. Mrs. THOMAS (Liberia) said that the worsening international situation, in particular the arms race, the continuation of racial discrimination and intervention in the internal affairs of other States, threatened the implementation of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. Opportunities for the advancement of women had increased during the Decade, but not sufficiently to correct centuries of neglect. In Liberia, the Liberian Federation of Women's Organizations, with assistance from UNESCO, had in 1975 launched a Functional Literacy Programme. A research project on the contribution made by Liberian women to development in the most diverse areas - law, agriculture, education, science, medicine and business - had also been undertaken, again with assistance from UNESCO, and had served as a basis for planning integrated development programmes for the country.

45. Liberian women desired peace, which was why they fully supported their sisters struggling to secure the independence of their countries or to eliminate racial discrimination. Her delegation hoped that the World Conference at Nairobi would give absolute priority to the problems of women living in southern Africa, Namibia and Palestine and would attempt to design practical projects for the improvement of their status.

46. Regarding the future of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, her delegation believed that the Fund should work very closely with UNDP. It was essential for the Fund to be based in New York where various agencies which would be called upon to support it, in particular UNICEF, were also based.

47. Miss AL-TURAIHI (Iraq) said that the Iraqi Government that had come to power through the revolution of 30 July 1968 attached great importance to the role of women in society. The Arab Socialist Baath Party considered that women should free themselves from the chains of the past, and its general position had resulted in the adoption of many legal instruments designed to ensure the full equality of men and women in Iraq. The Provisional Constitution of the Republic of Iraq recognized women as having rights equal to those of men, including eligibility for responsible positions in the management of the country's affairs. Sixteen women currently occupied positions in the National Council. As a result of free education and literacy campaigns carried out in State schools, women would in future be represented in all areas of life in Iraq. Within the framework of strategies for

(Miss Al-Turaihi, Iraq)

the period until the year 2000, the Iraqi Women's Association organized training courses to further the involvement of women in the country's development. The protection of working women was ensured by the 1970 Employment Act, which guaranteed absolute equality of men and women in employment and contained provisions concerning maternity leave, retirement age (which for women was set at 55 years), and protection of women's health, as well as by the 1972 Act which prohibited the employment of women in work for which they were physically unsuited, and by the 1977 Agrarian Reform Act, which had put an end to feudalism in the countryside and improved the legal status of women in rural areas.

48. As far as the situation of women in marriage was concerned, the Iraqi Government had prohibited the marriage of women without their consent, legalized divorce and prohibited polygamy.

49. The Iraqi Government attached great importance to the 1985 World Conference. It had therefore established a committee to prepare for the Conference at national level and had responded promptly to the questionnaires which it had received from the United Nations Secretariat. It also welcomed the convening in Baghdad in 1984 of the regional preparatory meeting for the Conference. It was encouraging to note that the Commission on the Status of Women had stressed, among the items which the World Conference would have to deal with, the status of women in rural areas. Her delegation hoped that the Conference would also give the necessary attention to the status of women oppressed under the apartheid régime and in the occupied Arab territories. The Conference should also, within the framework of devising strategies for the year 2000, investigate means of placing at the service of development the enormous resources currently invested in the arms race.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.