



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

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**
Exceptional session

Summary record of the 588th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 23 August 2002, at 4 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Abaka

Contents

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its exceptional session

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The meeting was called to order at 4.10 p.m.

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its exceptional session

1. **Ms. Hazelle** (Rapporteur) read out the list of documents proposed for adoption by the Committee (CEDAW/C/2002/EXC/L.1, CEDAW/C/2002/EXC/CRP.3 and CEDAW/C/2002/EXC/CRP.3/Add.1 to Add.8 as amended).

2. **The Chairperson** said that she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the documents of the exceptional session, as amended.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chairperson** said that she took it that the Committee wished to adopt the report on the exceptional session in its entirety.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **Ms. Hannan** (Director, Division for the Advancement of Women) congratulated the Committee on successfully clearing the backlog of reports of States parties during its exceptional session. The changes to working methods resulting from the Committee's informal seminar in Lund in April 2002 had borne fruit by improving the dialogue with States parties, and therefore also the prospects of seeing the Convention implemented. A further seminar in August 2002 had laid the groundwork for a general recommendation of the Committee on the use of article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

7. Briefing the Committee on the preparations for the fourteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, scheduled for March 2003, she said that the first thematic issue to be taken up would be women's participation in and access to the media and information and communication technologies (ICT), and the impact and use of ICT for the advancement and empowerment of women, and that the second would be the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Expert group meetings on both topics would take place.

8. She expressed her good wishes and those of Ms. Angela King, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, to the members of the Committee who were

retiring and those seeking re-election, as well as to Ms. Jane Connors, outgoing chief of the Women's Rights Service in the Division for the Advancement of Women.

9. **The Chairperson** said that during her two-year term she had actively sought to publicize the Convention, its Optional Protocol and the Committee's 24 general recommendations, and to emphasize how important it was to act on the concluding comments that the Committee made after considering each report. The first Inter-Committee Meeting of Human Rights Treaty Bodies had successfully discussed improvements to the State reporting process. The decision to keep the Committee machinery in New York had been important, as it would enable a large number of States parties to maintain their dialogue with the Committee. A number of developing countries would have been unable to do so had the Committee's secretariat moved to Geneva, because they had no representation there. As a way to improve dissemination of its general recommendations, she suggested that the Committee might consider publishing in booklet form those regarding violence against women, women's health and temporary special measures.

10. She thanked the members of the Committee, who had included past chairpersons Ms. Corti and Ms. González Martínez, for their support, and also expressed gratitude to Ms. Angela King, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, and to Ms. Hannan and Ms. Connors of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

11. After the customary exchange of courtesies, in which **Ms. González Martínez, Ms. Regazzoli, Ms. Kwaku, Ms. Shin, Ms. Manalo, Ms. Goonesekere, Ms. Livingstone Raday, Ms. Açar, Ms. Feng Cui, Ms. Hazelle, Ms. Tavares da Silva, Ms. Corti and Ms. Connors** (Division for the Advancement of Women) spoke, she declared the exceptional session of the Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.