



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

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Sixth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 89th MEETING

Held at the Vienna International Centre, Vienna,
on Wednesday, 1 April 1987, at 2.30 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. BERNARD
later: Ms. NOVIKOVA

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Convention (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 2.40 p.m.

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

Initial report of Spain (CEDAW/C/5/Add.30 and Amend.1)

1. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Bustelo (Spain) took a seat at the Committee table.
2. Ms. BUSTELO (Spain), introducing the report, said that some of the sociological and legal data which her country had submitted in August 1985 required updating; the relevant new data were to be found in the report on the status of women prepared by the Institute for Women's Affairs, which should have reached the Committee Secretariat. However, since August 1985 there had been no major changes so radical as to alter the main content of the report.
3. Spain had become a party to the Convention on 4 February 1984, although article 14 of the Spanish Constitution of 1978 already stipulated that all Spaniards were equal before the law, with no discrimination on grounds of sex. Reforms had been introduced in Spain with respect to marriage, access to work, wages and other matters related to article 14 of the Constitution, and there had also been legislative reforms with respect to civil law, penal law, labour and the status of workers.
4. Nevertheless it was recognized that, after 10 years of democracy, which had brought about great social change, the behaviour patterns of Spanish society had still not changed sufficiently; parts of the population still clung to traditional views on the role of women and some sectors of society were still seeking full integration. The economic crisis which had affected Spain had had a negative impact on the labour force and had limited the access of women to the labour market. However, current economic forecasts gave grounds for greater optimism with respect to the prospects for women.
5. One of the most important constitutional changes to have occurred since the drafting of the report was Spain's admission to the European Economic Community in January 1986, which had strengthened the legislative support for the status of women. There had also been the enactment of the General Health Law, which provided that the public health system was to include family planning services and that workers' health was also to cover the aspects of maternity and reproduction. Spain had also introduced for the first time regulations concerning work in the domestic sector; about 800,000 Spanish women worked in that sector of the economy.
6. For the past two years the Institute for Women's Affairs had been represented on the commission which established standards for television advertising. As a result, a number of advertisements which had exploited women or portrayed them as sex objects had been withdrawn. New administrative units in the form of interdepartmental or parliamentary committees specifically concerned with the status of women had been set up in 10 of Spain's 17 Autonomous Communities.
7. There had been a problem with respect to women's work in the mining sector, and it was hoped that an appeal would be lodged against a court ruling banning such work. Pressure was being exerted by certain trade union and women's groups which were opposed to such activity. There was also the question of entry into the Air Force Academy; the Government's view was that women had the right to join the armed forces but that special norms and standards would have to be drawn up.

(Ms. Bustelo)

8. As far as progress towards true sociological equality was concerned, especially in the field of education, the female population still encountered obstacles at the material and cultural levels which rendered their professional and political lives in posts which were traditionally male-dominated incompatible with their role as members of a family. There were still serious deficiencies in the extension of social services to women: whereas 85 per cent of children aged 4 or 5 were in school, only 9.6 per cent of children aged 2 or 3 were in school. Considerable progress had been made at the university level, however, where the percentage of women had increased in the past five years at a higher rate than that of men: 53 per cent, compared with 12 per cent. Despite the progress in higher education, women nevertheless still encountered barriers which impeded their access to employment. The active female population in Spain in the fourth quarter of 1986 represented 28 per cent of the population over 16 years of age, or 31.2 per cent of the total active population. That did, however, represent a considerable increase over the previous 10 years. In particular, the rate for married women aged between 25 and 29 had risen from 22 per cent in 1976 to 41.6 per cent in 1985.

9. Marriage and maternity had led to a drop in the number of wage-earning women because of the reduced expectation of being able to continue in work after children were born. Women were distributed unequally in the various sectors of Spanish society, although they did enjoy a high representation in certain sectors. Some 36.5 per cent of women worked in trade, agriculture, domestic work, education and health. There was the traditional representation of women in services (67 per cent), whereas the figure was lower in agriculture (15 per cent) and industry (16 per cent). The unemployment rate for women was 25.9 per cent, while that for men was 19.6 per cent. The representation of women in political life was very low - the average for most institutions being about 6 per cent. Most Spanish women, though, were not particularly interested in politics. Women occupied only four adviser-level posts in the Autonomous Communities and the percentage of female representation was approximately 10 per cent. For the first time in Spain a woman was now in charge of a radio and television network and a woman member of the Autonomous Community of Madrid was in charge of the police and the civil guard.

10. Since its establishment in 1983, the Institute for Women's Affairs had created increased public awareness of the right of women to participate in public life and had done a great deal to bring about equality between men and women on the basis of non-discrimination.

11. The Institute attached considerable importance to co-operation with the Spanish Ministry of Education in the matter of teacher training, particularly with respect to the participation of women in programmes related to new technology. There were 65 women's information centres connected with various institutions and organizations; there were care centres for battered women and there were also family planning centres, although they had not been set up by the Institute itself. The Institute was composed of representatives from 12 of the 15 ministerial departments and six private individuals.

12. It was recognized that the achievements to date had not been sufficient and that a more effective policy was desirable. A three-year action plan covering the years 1987-1990 had been drawn up and submitted to the Parliament. It was currently being examined by ministerial departments.

(Ms. Bustelo)

13. Generally speaking, measures had been taken to improve practical observance of the principle of equality without discrimination based on sex, to provide better information for women, to distribute household tasks between men and women on a more equitable basis, to provide better maternity and paternity rights, to provide improved health services for women and especially to those at highest risk, to identify educational opportunities and expand cultural activities in order to reduce unemployment, to extend the operation of women's collectives, to bring about greater participation by women in public and political life, and to improve the social status of women. The short- and medium-term objective was to speed up the introduction of equality between men and women at all levels and to achieve better implementation of international treaties and covenants.

14. The CHAIRPERSON thanked Ms. Bustelo for her introduction of the report and called on members of the Committee to make general comments.

15. Ms. AKAMATSU remarked upon the lucidity, comprehensiveness and informative nature of the report, which she said had shown great frankness in acknowledging the discrimination that still existed in Spain. Ten years of democracy and measures in support of women were not sufficient to change the behaviour patterns of an entire society.

16. She requested information concerning the schedule of and prospects for the proposed new legislation in respect of the Civil Code referred to on page 8 of the report. The implication of the phrase "the woman benefits from the application of her husband's law rather than her own national law, if the former is more advantageous to her" in the last paragraph of page 7 was at variance with the idea of equality expressed in the Convention.

17. Ms. SALEMA said that she had been very impressed by the achievements made by the Spanish Government in only 10 years of democracy. Spain's membership of the European Economic Community would have many implications with respect to law. It was her understanding that the main problem in Spain was the interpretation and application of the law by the courts, both because of the mental attitudes of judges and because of some shortcomings in the new legislation. She had been told by Spanish lawyers that if the judges applied the new law wrongly women would not find their rights so well defended. She therefore asked whether many cases concerning discrimination against women or implementation of the principle of equality between the sexes had come before the Constitutional Court, whether the State was able to interfere in the legislation of the Autonomous Communities, whether the Spanish Constitution applied directly to the whole country or whether the Autonomous Communities had their own courts, and whether the appeal to the Constitutional Court in the matter of work in the mines would be a lengthy process. She also understood that a problem in connection with the Spanish Penal Code which had a negative impact with respect to the status of women still had to be resolved.

18. Ms. CORTI said that Spain's very detailed and frank report demonstrated that significant progress had been made in 10 years of democracy, especially if one took into account what the position of Spanish women had been only a decade ago. That achievement had been largely due to the efforts of the Institute for Women's Affairs, and represented a considerable effort in view of the strong patriarchal attitudes that still existed in Spain.

19. Ms. CARON said that the report was most interesting, well prepared and frank; it demonstrated that there was a political will and a will among the women of Spain to see that the Convention was implemented in full. She had one question relating to the right of women to be represented by a lawyer in the case of violation of laws; she wondered whether they would have to pay for the services of such a lawyer or whether those services would be provided free of charge by the State. Women who had been the object of discrimination seldom had sufficient resources to pay for a lawyer.

20. Ms. MONTENEGRO de FLETCHER said that the most noteworthy features of the report were its thoroughness and its recognition that, in addition to the Institute for Women's Affairs, with its co-ordinating function, the Autonomous Communities had an important role to play in implementing their own programmes to ensure equality of treatment for women. The report was also commendably frank in acknowledging that many social problems affecting women in Spain had yet to be resolved.

21. Ms. NOVIKOVA said that the strongest aspect of the report, apart from its very useful statistics, was its concentration on the legal status of women in Spain. It was clear that, despite the Government's efforts on behalf of women, the situation at the level of the Autonomous Regions was not wholly satisfactory.

22. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that their shared experience of dictatorship had made the peoples of Greece and Spain keenly aware of the value of democratic institutions, as could be seen from the reports submitted by those countries. There was no lack of political will in Spain to achieve democracy in all aspects of society, including equality between the sexes. The establishment of the Institute for Women's Affairs was an important step forward in the attempt to give due prominence to issues affecting women, although on such questions as abortion - where the individual woman should have the unimpeded right to choose - progress was still slow, and many discriminatory provisions survived in penal, labour and family law. The report candidly recognized that the constitutional principle of equality was not sufficient to ensure that the sexes were treated equally in practice.

23. Ms. PILATAXI de ARENAS said that Ms. Bustelo's introduction had dispelled some of the misgivings to which the written report had given rise. That report had referred to the preparation of legal norms on human rights aimed at harmonizing Spanish domestic legislation with international covenants and conventions. She wondered whether those national instruments had indeed been finalized, however, and how much impact they would have in practical terms: that aspect was not addressed in the written report. Some existing legislation, such as articles 1066 and 1267 of the Spanish Civil Code, for example, were clearly discriminatory against women: was it intended to abolish them?

24. Ms. FORDE said that the part of the report containing statistics (CEDAW/C/5/Add.30/Amend.1) was impressive testimony to the statistical resources available to the developed countries, which were often unaware of the problems facing developing countries in that regard.

25. Three aspects of the report were of particular importance: the decriminalization of termination of pregnancy in specific circumstances, the right of the woman to have her domicile adjudicated by a court (though it would be better if she had the right to choose without adjudication), and the efforts being made to combat illiteracy among women. Further information on all those aspects would be welcome.

26. Ms. WADSTEIN, referring to article 2 of the Convention, said that annex I to the report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.30/Amend.1) mentioned that a number of court rulings on issues involving discrimination on the basis of sex were available in Spanish at the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and could be consulted. She wondered whether it would be possible to provide a summary in English of some of those rulings.

27. She was interested to note that one of the functions of the Institute for Women's Affairs was to receive and channel, within the administrative system, complaints by women of specific cases of de facto or de jure discrimination on grounds of sex. She wished to know how the Institute dealt with such cases, how many there had been, and what sanctions, if any, had been applied.

28. Ms. Novikova took the Chair.

29. Ms. ESCOBAR, referring to article 3 of the Convention, said that, while the report claimed that the principle of equality could not under the Spanish legal system be restricted or limited either by the law or by practice, it was nevertheless admitted that the number of women in Parliament had not increased between 1977 and 1982, that veiled discrimination continued to operate within the political parties, and that in the State administration women occupied lower-level posts. Did the lack of de facto as distinct from de jure equality reflect the failure of women themselves to mobilize?

30. Another question raised by the report concerned cases of ill-treatment of women. If in such cases compensation was paid, was it received by the victim or by the State? She would be interested to know what statistics were available on crimes of violence against women.

31. She would also welcome clarification on the degree to which the new law on abortion was being implemented in practice.

32. In connection with article 6, she wished to know whether the law on prostitution punished persons practising prostitution or only those exploiting others for that purpose.

33. Regarding article 11, she noted that the report recognized the need for labour law reform and she welcomed the further progress in that area represented by the enactment in 1980 of the Statute of Workers. However, the participation of women in the labour force was still relatively small, apparently because a large proportion of women who married and had children withdrew from the labour market. She wondered whether enough was being done by employers and the State to enable mothers to continue working and improve their occupational status. She would welcome further information on Spain's experience in that regard.

34. Ms. CORTI said it appeared from the report that in Spain women were still poorly represented in Parliament and in the Administration, despite the stated aim of promoting women's participation in activities and professions which were not female stereotypes. She wondered why the gap between intention and achievement remained so wide, and what steps were being taken by the Institute for Women's Affairs to reduce it. Would the Institute be in favour of positive action in the form of a quota system for the representation of women in parliamentary commissions and other official bodies?

35. Ms. SOUMARE asked what reaction there had been from Spanish women themselves to the new law on abortion.
36. She also wished to know what was the attitude of the Institute for Women's Affairs towards the existing law on inheritance, which clearly favoured males, and what co-operation there was between the Institute and other women's organizations, for example in implementing the programme for rural women.
37. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that, with reference to article 3 of the Convention, she would be grateful for more information on the decentralization of the issue of equality to the Autonomous Communities, which had established a variety of bodies to promote equality at local and regional level: were those bodies elected, or were they composed of civil servants?
38. Ms. AKAMATSU asked, with reference to article 4 of the Convention, whether any special temporary measures had been taken in Spain aimed at accelerating the achievement of de facto equality between men and women.
39. Ms. WADSTEIN said that she too was interested in that point. Once the pending legal reforms mentioned on page 9 of the report had been introduced, might it be possible to bring in such temporary measures?
40. Ms. MONTENEGRO de FLETCHER asked, in connection with article 4, what specific educational measures had been introduced to prepare young people for their role in marriage. She would also like to know whether the Institute for Women's Affairs worked in co-ordination with women's non-governmental organizations in trying to overcome ideological stereotypes.
41. In connection with article 5, she would like information about the status of children born outside wedlock or a stable relationship and about the rights of women in such relationships.
42. Ms. WADSTEIN, on article 5, inquired whether the new draft law regulating advertising had been enacted.
43. She also asked whether the Catholic church had a beneficial or negative influence on the work of improving the position of women, and whether men were involved in the process of achieving equality between men and women.
44. She welcomed the reference to the issue of household work in the introductory statement, since the double workload of women was a great handicap in attaining equality. In addition, she would like to know whether any information was available on the distribution of paid and unpaid work between men and women in Spain, on the extent to which men contributed to housework, and on the prospects of changing the situation in that regard.
45. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU, referring to article 5, asked whether the nine months of leave granted to working women for nursing their children was paid leave, and whether there were any measures introducing responsibility of the father in the bringing up of children.
46. Ms. SALEMA asked why the Institute for Women's Affairs was subordinate to the Ministry of Culture.

47. Ms. CORTI asked whether during their 14-week maternity leave from work women received their wage or salary in addition to a social security allowance. She would also like further information concerning parental leave: was it compulsory and was it divided between the mother and the father?
48. Ms. AKAMATSU, on article 6 of the Convention, inquired whether Spain had introduced any measures for the protection and rehabilitation of former prostitutes.
49. Ms. CARON recalled that when the Committee had considered the report of Portugal it had been informed that Spain was importing Portuguese women as prostitutes. Was the Spanish Government aware of that problem and had matters changed?
50. Despite the legislation adopted on prostitution, she had learnt from other sources that there was a high level of prostitution in Spain. Had any rehabilitation programmes been adopted to improve the situation? She also understood that sexual assault was a widespread problem in Spain and she wondered whether any remedial policies had been adopted.
51. She asked whether there was any special service for the victims of rape and other sexual assaults, and whether rape within marriage was considered an offence.
52. She also requested clarification of the paragraph in the Penal Code dealing with battered wives, which seemed difficult to apply. She would like to see the text of that provision.
53. Ms. Bernard resumed the Chair.
54. Ms. AKAMATSU, referring to article 7, said that the report of Spain provided statistics on the number of women in the civil service in 1984. In several sectors the number of women seemed still to be rather low. She wondered whether their numbers were now increasing and whether any particular posts or sectors in the civil service were not open to women.
55. Ms. EVATT congratulated the Government of Spain on its efforts to transform the laws and institutions of that country and tackle the still formidable problems facing women there.
56. With regard to article 7 of the Convention, the report acknowledged the continued existence of unspoken discrimination affecting women's participation in politics. Such participation had not increased, whereas women were now more numerous in the administration. She welcomed the proposal for a quota system, as long as it did not produce a restrictive effect.
57. Both the Convention and the Forward-Looking Strategies adopted at Nairobi (General Assembly resolution 40/108) emphasized the need to involve women in political decision-making. In her view affirmative action was needed to ensure their involvement. The establishment of the Institute for Women's Affairs could be a valuable development in that connection. The plan of action for the period to 1990 was important in showing a clear determination to introduce the principle of equality. She would like to have further information concerning that plan, in particular on the measures to be taken to encourage role-sharing within the family between men and women, to reduce unemployment of women and to raise their level of political participation.

(Ms. Evatt)

58. She hoped that Spain's reservation in respect of article 7 of the Convention in connection with succession to the throne might be reconsidered, since discrimination at the level of Head of State clearly had an influence throughout the entire social system.
59. Ms. SALEMA, in connection with article 17 of the Convention, asked for updated statistics on the participation of women in the Cortes and the political parties in Spain since the last general election.
60. Ms. VELIZ de VILLALVILLA congratulated the Government of Spain on its outstanding report. In relation to article 7 of the Convention valuable information and statistics had been presented in an honest fashion, showing that the participation of women in decision-making bodies was still limited. She would like to know what were the plans of the Institute for Women's Affairs for attainment of the participation objectives. She noted from pages 16 to 18 of the report that, although the number of women candidates had increased, the number of women actually elected still remained very small.
61. The report stated that the presence of women in the internal decision-making organs of the political parties bore no relationship to the percentage of women members. She wondered if there had been any research on the causes of that phenomenon. The report did not mention the attitude of the Spanish political parties towards the very active feminist organizations in Spain.
62. The statistics provided in document CEDAW/C/5/Add.30/Amend.1 showed that there were very few women civil servants and diplomats in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, despite the large percentage of women with higher educational qualifications employed there. She asked how many women ambassadors Spain had and how many woman representatives there were on its delegations to the United Nations and the specialized agencies.
63. Ms. OESER congratulated the Spanish Government on its frank and informative report and thanked it for having followed the Committee's guidelines in preparing the document.
64. The report confirmed that Spain's return to democracy had greatly changed Spanish society and hence the position of Spanish women.
65. With respect to articles 7 and 8 (pages 18 and 19 of the report) she inquired why women had lost their representation on the Commissions for Education, Culture, Health and Social Security following the 1982 elections.
66. She would also like to know whether there was a special reason for the only woman holding a high State position to be in charge of the Autonomous Communities, since there seemed to be considerable problems in those Communities, especially in Aragon and Navarra, as shown on page 8 of the report.
67. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU observed that the report made it clear that men still predominated in Spanish politics, and that it was still very difficult for women to take part. In Spain, as in Greece and elsewhere, the more powerful political parties did not put forward women candidates, whereas the smaller parties did.

68. Ms. EL-TALLAWY congratulated the Government of Spain on its detailed and self-critical report.

69. She requested the Secretariat to ask Governments to number the paragraphs of their reports in future.

70. Referring to articles 7 and 8 of the Convention, she inquired as to the status of women on Spanish electoral lists. In her own country women rarely headed electoral lists, so that even if their party won they were not elected. She asked whether it could be explained why the major parties in Spain put forward fewer women candidates, and only parties with scant prospects of coming to power were more accessible to women.

71. She wondered why the share of women in politics appeared to be declining: in some developing countries there had been more women in parliament in the 1960s than there were today. She suggested that the Committee might recommend that the Economic and Social Council carry out a case-study in countries with strong feminist movements where the number of women in parliament was nevertheless dwindling.

72. Ms. AKAMATSU, in relation to article 8 of the Convention, asked for details of the activities of Spanish women in international conferences and organizations.

73. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ, referring to the tables in amendment 1 to the report, asked whether any attempt had been made to find out why civil servants with secondary and basic general education occupied so many posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and why no women with primary education were employed in that Ministry.

74. In connection with the table entitled "Participation of women in the upper echelons of the central administration", she asked whether the technical scale posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs corresponded to "expert" posts in the United Nations.

75. Ms. WADSTEIN, referring to article 9, expressed concern about the effects of private international law on women's rights. In matters concerning the spouse's personal relations, women tended to benefit from application of the husband's law rather than their own. She wondered how the problem could be solved, and whether there had been any legal innovations in that field.

76. Ms. FORDE, referring to articles 9 and 15 in connection with nationality and domicile, said that a woman had the same rights as a man with respect to nationality. However, if there was disagreement between a man and a woman over domicile, the courts had to adjudicate. She wished to know whether under Spain's family law there was a nationality or a domicile requirement (or both) for bringing a petition before a court. Also, what was the history of court decisions when adjudicating domicile? Did the court allow a woman freely to choose her domicile? Could a woman be prevented from going to court on a question of divorce, maintenance or custody if the matter of domicile had not been settled in her favour? Should married women not be granted free choice of domicile?

77. Ms. CORTI, commenting on article 10, said that much appeared to have been done to eliminate stereotypes of women in Spain's schools. She wished to know whether school textbooks had been introduced which modified the traditional image of women and whether sex education was compulsory in Spanish schools. Did the shortage

(Ms. Corti)

of kindergartens prevent women from pursuing studies? Did child-minders and women working in domestic service have compulsory social security coverage? Regarding the tendency of women to opt for literary rather than scientific studies, were there measures to attract more women towards the sciences? Lastly, what had been done to draw women into the new technologies market?

78. Ms. NOVIKOVA asked whether the reference to "women" and "men" in the penultimate paragraph on page 26 of the report was to men and women in general or only to the young, and whether the idea expressed in the "Report on Spanish Youth" was a fundamental principle informing Spanish government activities?

79. Ms. FORDE, commenting on article 10, noted that an attempt had been made in Spain to deal with the problem of illiteracy among older women. She was nevertheless concerned to learn that there were not yet any "result-oriented campaigns of literacy training and permanent adult education designed especially for women". She wondered whether there had been any improvement in that regard since 1985 and whether any particular measures had been taken to improve the quality of life of older women.

80. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that she had noted Ms. Bustelo's particular reference to Spanish women's efforts to enter military academies. That had, in fact, long been an objective of women's groups. However, the peace movement was making progress throughout the world, and it was perhaps arguable whether women should be so keen to join armed forces and thus participate in the crime of war.

81. Ms. AKAMATSU said that the report indicated that in Spain women workers were the object of a form of segregation in terms of the types of employment they could obtain. What were the reasons for that segregation and why was the proportion of economically active women lower in Spain than in other EEC countries? It would be useful to have some information on the number of married women who were economically active. She asked why the unemployment rate for single women was so high compared with that for married women and why, between 1975 and 1984, the number of economically active women had risen and the number of men in that category had declined.

82. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ asked, in relation to article 11 of the Convention, what kinds of work were done by women in the various economic sectors. Did they work mainly in agriculture, industry, construction or services? The Spanish Government was to be congratulated for its achievements in the area of social security for women. She would like to know whether the children, spouses or parents of Spanish women workers automatically enjoyed health benefits by virtue of the women's employment and whether as a mother, daughter, or wife, a woman automatically received State health benefits. Lastly, did Spanish women receive widowhood benefits?

83. Ms. WADSTEIN, referring to article 11, asked if there was an equal pay policy in Spain. She would also like to know whether job evaluations were conducted with a view to providing equal pay for work of equal value; what was the position regarding unemployment benefit, especially considering that many more women than men were out of work; and whether any measures were being taken to enable women part-time workers to increase their number of hours of gainful employment. It was encouraging to note that the Spanish Government intended to review protective legislation, as such legislation tended to promote sex-based wage discrimination. She asked what kind of jobs were not open to women and for what reasons and whether anything was being done to integrate migrant workers returning to Spain.

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84. Ms. OESER said that the report suggested that the low participation of women in the economically active population was due both to the economic crisis and to difficulties in continuing work after marriage. Were those the only reasons, however, and were there perhaps, also, deficiencies in the social infrastructure, such as a shortage of kindergartens and day-care centres?

85. Ms. EL-TALLAWY echoed the previous speaker's concern about the low proportion of women in the economically active population. Did the figure of 30.1 per cent take account of the non-formal sector of the economy and did it include rural work, work in cottage industries and work in small family businesses? Additional information would be helpful on the statistical criteria used in gathering the data. In Egypt, for example, the officially determined labour force did not include women working in rural areas.

86. Ms. LAIOU-ANTONIOU said that the National Foundation for the Protection of Labour referred to on page 30 of the report would doubtless help Spanish women to participate in national life. She would like to know what the results of the Foundation's work had been; how many women had benefited from its work promotion programme for women; what sort of businesses had been started by women who had obtained low-interest loans; and what kind of jobs were performed in the co-operatives by the recipients of subsidies.

87. Ms. CORTI said that Spain was to be congratulated for all that had been done in that country in the field of vocational training for women. She wondered whether it was planned to include the new technologies in such training. She would also like to know the length of the working week in Spain and whether women working on a part-time basis signed contracts and enjoyed social security benefits.

88. Ms. EVATT, referring to articles 12 and 13 of the Convention, asked if family planning and contraception schemes were available to all women in Spain, especially those living in rural areas. Had the high abortion rate (said to be some 300,000 per year) been reduced? Were women still prosecuted for having abortions or doctors for performing them and did the present law induce women to go overseas to have abortions?

89. Ms. ILIĆ, referring to article 14 of the Convention, said she believed much had been done in Spain to help women in rural areas beyond what was mentioned in the report. However, she would like to know how rural women's lives were affected by internal and external migration. What were the effects on the home when the father, the mother, or both parents migrated? The Spanish Government had done commendable statistical work in the field of migration but more data on migration and rural women might usefully have been included in the report. Regarding article 15, she asked whether the dowry, now prohibited by law, had been fully abolished in rural areas.

90. Ms. SALEMA, referring to articles 15 and 16, noted that article 127 of the Spanish Civil Code dealt with adjudication in respect of affiliation. Courts could request biological proof of paternity only on a voluntary basis. They therefore tended to avoid declarations of paternity, except where there was undeniable proof. Another problem arose in connection with articles 66 and 91 of the Spanish Civil Code, under which the courts did not allow women to dispose of their goods as they wished while a case was being heard. Furthermore, courts did not award a maintenance allowance for food to working women. With respect to article 104 of the Civil Code, there was deficient implementation of the law. For example, attribution of the use of domicile could be delayed for anything up to a year after the start of proceedings. She understood that Spanish lawyers had produced a report on that issue and she would be glad to learn more about the matter.

91. Ms. EVATT, referring to article 16 of the Convention, asked what social security coverage was provided for women and children who had deserted the home for reasons of violence or other causes. Could adultery disbar a woman from gaining custody of her children? How was property divided after divorce? Could a single woman adopt children? Lastly, was there free choice in the selection of surnames?
92. Ms. MONTENEGRO de FLETCHER said that the cost of day-care centres was a serious problem. How did the Spanish Government hope to improve the situation? Would incentives be provided for the establishment of private and community centres?
93. The CHAIRPERSON thanked the representative of Spain for her introduction of an excellent report.
94. Ms. Bustelo (Spain) withdrew.

The meeting rose at 6.45 p.m.