

**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**Distr.
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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMENCONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER
ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL
FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMENInitial report of States parties

SLOVAKIA

1. Pursuant to article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified by the former Czechoslovakia on 16 February 1982 and adopted on the basis of succession by the Slovak Republic on 1 January 1993, the Slovak Government presented to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women its initial report on the measures accepted to implement the Convention in Slovakia.

2. Important political and geographical changes have occurred in the country since the time the Convention came into force; the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic embarked in 1989 upon a programme of democratic development and economic transformation. The independent Slovak Republic, established following the partition of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic, adopted by succession the obligations of the former Czechoslovakia, including the Convention (published as decree No. 62:1987 (Digest) of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Czechoslovakia).

I

3. The Slovak Republic acquired independent sovereign statehood on 1 January 1993 after partition of the Czecho-Slovak State (existing as the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic in its last constitutional law form).

4. Since November 1989, Slovakia has been striving for the creation of a democratic, politically and ideologically pluralitarian society and for a socially and ecologically balanced market economy.

5. Integration within the framework of regional and European structures as soon as possible is a fundamental ambition of Slovakia. Its rapid acceptance as a member of the United Nations (19 January 1993) and of the Council of Europe (30 June 1993) was acknowledged as the first steps of the country taken in this direction.

Geographical outline

6. Slovakia is an inland central European country. It is not a large country by area and population, either from the global or European viewpoints. With its area of 49,014 square kilometres and a population of 5.3 million, Slovakia represents almost one thousandth of the population of Earth and from this aspect compares to Denmark, Finland or Georgia.

Social and economical outline

7. The population of Slovakia has run through specific developments; its special attributes and characteristics reflect not only its demographic situation and conditions but also its cultural-historical distinctions, political-economical arrangements and the corresponding social conditions, relevant to the lives of individuals and families.

8. The population of Slovakia developed as a variegated body in terms of nationality and creed. In addition to a majority of Slovak nationals, there are relatively strong Hungarian and Romany minorities, along with about 10 less

13. According to the Slovak Constitution, each materially needy citizen is entitled to the minimum amount of assistance needed for subsistence. In the interests of implementation of this right, a new social care system has been created in the framework of transforming the economy and related social reform, employing the institutions of social insurance, State social support and social assistance.

14. Women in Slovakia have been enjoying equal standing with men in the

19. However, total natality dropped below the 2.1 limit of "simple reproduction", having reached 1.92 in 1993.

20. The age composition of the population is changing with the decreasing number of births in preference to higher age categories. The population ratio

spiritual and cultural traditions, through a low level of social and geographical mobility, strong social control exerted by communities and - paradoxically - the socialist system enforcing uniformity in society.

26. Slovakia is currently in a period when "old habits" struggle with "new ways" and cultural and historical tradition with new economical and social conditions in all areas of life. This was not overtly manifest in the lives of families and demographic behaviour of the population before 1993, merely in their partial and/or individual modifications. Although the 1994 data indicate certain changes of more essential nature, any definitive confirmation of results of this struggle between political-economical circumstances, cultural norms and demographic conditions will as yet take some time.

II

27. In its discussions relating to the application and implementation of the Convention, the Government of Slovakia concluded that the principles emanating from the Convention were provided for in full within the Constitution (460:1992 (Digest), enacted by the Slovak Republic National Council on 1 September 1992 and in effect from 1 January 1993, i.e., from the inception of independent statehood of the Slovak Republic).

28. On the basis of the Constitution, the individual provisions of the Convention are also elaborated in the form of numerous original and amended laws and their executive measures, whose implementation is regularly controlled. Approximation of the Slovak Republic legislative system to that of the European Union countries has recently been implemented concurrent with the ongoing economical and social transformation as well as with the status of Slovakia as an associate member of the European Union.

29. In 1995, the Government enacted a series of new and amended laws within the social transformation process, thus gradually creating a new structure and demographic image of society. Specific data are shown, illustrating the situation in 1994 when considerable movements were apparent.

30. Slovakia abides by the principle that rights of women are indelible components of human rights.

31. In accordance with article 2 of the Convention, title 12 of the Constitution specifies that all people are free and equal in dignity and rights. Fundamental rights and liberties are non-divestible, inalienable, non-forfeitable and unbreakable. These fundamental rights and liberties are guaranteed to all regardless of sex, race, colour of skin, language, faith or religious denomination, political or other affiliation, national or social

citizens unable to exercise this right for reasons for which they hold no responsibility.

33. The right of all employees to just and satisfactory labour conditions is stipulated in title 36 of the Constitution:

(a) The right to compensation for work executed sufficient to maintain a dignified standard of living;

(b) Protection against licentious firing and discrimination in work;

(c) Protection of labour safety and occupational health;

(d) Maximum permissible worktime length;

(e) Adequate time for rest after work;

(f) Minimum permissible duration of paid vacation;

(g) The right to collective bargaining.

34. According to titles 38 and 39 of the Constitution, women are entitled to increased protection of occupational health and to specific working conditions. Pregnant women have the right to special care, protection in labour relations and corresponding working conditions.

35. Article 2 of the Convention is provided for in title 11 of the Constitution, establishing that international conventions on human rights and fundamental liberties, ratified by the Slovak Republic and promulgated by law, shall have preference before national laws in cases where they provide for a greater extent of constitutional rights and liberties, in expression of wishes of Slovakia to keep up with the pace of international developments in the field of protection and progression of human rights, including the rights of women.

36. The Constitution as well as judiciary laws offer equal legal protection to all men and women before the courts and other public institutions.

37.

of women which is most honourable and to which not only protection but also every care by society must be accorded, mainly through material support of mothers and children and assistance in their upbringing. Both parents are responsible for the proper upbringing and development of children in a way that reinforces the unity of interests of family and society.

42. Parents are the principal educating factors for the moral and emotional development of the personality of children as well as for instilling a system of family values on the basis of examples, and in the supply of information necessary for life in matrimony and in the family. Families are assisted in their educational functions by the entire society, primarily by schools, churches, the media and adult examples. Along with other subjects of society, the State creates informational and institutional conditions enabling families

Chapter	Subject	Number of persons convicted		
		1992	1993	1994
204	Pimping	-	1	3
246	Traffic in women	3	3	4
241	Rape	125	97	76

47. In terms of article 7 of the Convention, title 30 of the Constitution provides that citizens have the right to participate in the management of public issues, directly or through their freely elected representatives. The right to vote is universal, straight and direct, executed by ballot. Its conditions of execution are specified by law. Pursuant to law No. 80:1990 (Digest) of the Slovak National Council as amended by later legislation on Council elections, to Council law No. 346:1990 (Digest) (as amended by later legislation) on elections for communal self-government bodies, and to Council law No. 564:1992 (Digest) as amended by later legislation on execution methods of referendums, all voters regardless of sex have equal rights to vote in elections and referendums as well as to be elected to public office. Any Slovak citizen permanently residing in the territory of Slovakia, having the right of vote and having completed the twenty-first year of life to the date of elections is eligible for election as a representative of the Slovak National Council. Council law No. 346:1990 (Digest) as amended by later legislation, on elections for communal self-government bodies stipulates that all citizens permanently residing in a municipality and having completed their eighteenth year of life to the date of elections have the right of vote in elections for communal self-government bodies. Pursuant to chapter 3, paragraph 1, of the same law, all citizens having the right of vote are eligible for election as representatives of municipal representations.

48. Women participating in public life in the Slovak Republic represent

50. Slovakia is an active participant in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (an intergovernmental body, comprising representatives of 45 States Members of the United Nations, including Slovakia) and in activities of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men. The Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies was established in the framework of the International Year of the Family with the support of the Slovak Government to contribute to a deeper understanding of issues of families and women in both the national and international contexts.

51. Several non-governmental organizations in Slovakia are also active in the field of women issues.

52. The provisions of article 9 of the Convention are guaranteed by National Council law No. 40:1993 (Digest) on Slovak citizenship, according equal rights to men and women alike. No female citizen may, without expressing her wishes in the form of an application, lose citizenship by marriage with an alien or as the result of the changed citizenship of her spouse. Pursuant to title 5 of the Constitution and to chapter 9 of the above law, Slovak citizens may only be divested of citizenship by release based on their corresponding applications.

53. Pursuant to chapter 5, paragraph 1, subparagraph (a), of law No. 40:1993 (Digest), children are citizens of Slovakia if at least one of their parents (regardless of whether mother or father) is a citizen.

54. With regard to article 10 of the Convention, the criteria specified therein are included in the Constitution as well as in other legislation, and the usual standards of European countries are exceeded in practice. The State maintains subsidization even in fields that should be financed by enterprises and have increased participation of families, and provides training for certain professions where financing in the form of loans would be preferable. The amended and supplemented wording of the law on schools and the law on universities enables the Government to maintain equality of rights and to prevent discrimination against women. In the field of physical training, the specificities of women are taken into account. All citizens have access to elementary education and non-discriminatory access to higher education with no quota established for either sex, including postgraduate and doctorate studies. This approach has resulted in a high percentage of women in the teaching professions and a lower percentage in technical vocations.

55. Courses on sexual education and preparation for parenthood are organized by schools and adult education institutions.

56. Developments in the professional interests of women can be illustrated by the school orientation of girls. In 1993, girls represented 49 per cent of elementary school pupils, 62 per cent of secondary professional school pupils, 36.9 per cent of secondary apprentice school pupils and 60 per cent of grammar school students. The representation of women among university graduates was 52 per cent in the field of natural sciences, 64 per cent in medical and pharmaceutical sciences, 31 per cent in technical departments, 34 per cent in agriculture and forestry, 64 per cent in social sciences and 54 per cent in culture and the arts.

57. More than 60 per cent of all employees in cultural organizations are women, holding managerial positions in 40 per cent of such organizations.

58. With regard to article 11, paragraph 1 (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Convention, on equality in employment, the Labour Code stipulates in title III, on fundamental principles, that all citizens are entitled to work and to free selection of employment, to fair and satisfactory labour conditions and to protection against unemployment. These rights must not be restricted by any limitation and/or discrimination based on race, colour of skin, language, sex, social origin, age, faith, political or other opinions, political affiliation, trade-union activities, membership in a nationality or ethnic group or any other position.

59.

65. Determination of the duration of employment for purposes of the law on employment (chap. 13, para. 2 (e)-(g)) includes:

(a) Time spent in personal care for children affected by a severe long-term disease in need of special care or of particularly demanding special care, unless placed in an institute established for such care (subpara. (e));

(b) Time spent in personal care for a related person prevailingly or totally paralysed, unless accepted in the care of a social care institution or a similar establishment (subpara. (f));

(c) Time spent in care for a child below three years of age in cases when employment was, in the meantime, terminated for reasons specified by chapter 46, paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the Labour Code (organizational changes) (subpara. (g)).

66. The right to employment, including all advantages and conditions thereof, to professional training and retraining, including acquisition of a fully skilled status, specialized preparation and postgraduate schooling, is provided for in the corresponding stipulations of the Labour Code and applies equally to women and men.

67. With regard to article 11, paragraph 1 (e), of the Convention, title 39 of the Constitution provides that all citizens, regardless of sex, are entitled to adequate material subsistence in old age, when unable to work and in cases of loss of the breadwinner.

68. This constitutional right is specified in detail in law No. 100:1988 (Digest) on social care, as amended, specifying the conditions of title to the individual pension benefits; by law No. 54:1956 (Digest) on health insurance of employees, as amended; and by law No. 88:1968 (Digest) on extension of maternity leave and child allowance benefits based on health insurance, as amended, specifying the conditions of title to health insurance benefits payable in substitution of gainful employment.

69. In case of social care, persons qualified as old age citizens are entitled to pension benefits. The precondition for claiming such benefits is a required duration of past employment, which is equally determined for men and women as 25 years at least, and a specific age of the beneficiary. This age is determined differently for men and women. While the general requirement for men is 60 years of age (in the third working category), for women it is reduced from 53 to 57 years, depending on the number of children raised.

70. Citizens fully or partially disabled are entitled to full or partial disability benefits, with the respective conditions equally applicable to men and women alike.

71. In the case of the death of the breadwinner, citizens may claim widower's, widow's or orphan's benefits. The law presently in force grants preferential conditions to women who may generally claim widow's benefits for one year after the death of the spouse. Thereafter, continuing widow's benefits may be claimed, provided that one of certain defined conditions is met (e.g.,

disability, care for at least one child who has no means of subsistence, having raised children in the past or completion of 50 years of age). In comparison, men may claim widower's benefits exclusively contingent upon their care for at least one child who has no means of subsistence.

72. The present legal arrangement of pension benefits takes the specific

77. Female employees assigned to work that is not allowed to be performed by pregnant women or to work that, in medical opinion, would threaten the pregnancy and for that reason are reassigned to other lower paid work during pregnancy until the ninth month after childbirth are allocated complementary pregnancy and maternity benefits, amounting to the difference between their average earnings before being reassigned to lower paid work, and those earned in the individual calendar months following such reassignment.

78. It follows from the above evaluation of the legal arrangement of the

83. Chapter 7 of the Labour Code is specifically concerned with labour conditions of women, pregnant women and mothers, as follows:

(a) Under chapter 149, employers must establish, maintain and improve sanitary and other facilities for women;

(b) Under chapter 150, employers are forbidden to assign women to work in the underground mining of minerals or driving of tunnels and mining galleries, or to work that is physically unsuitable for or harmful to women mainly if it is potentially threatening to their maternal calling; they are furthermore forbidden to assign pregnant women to work that, in medical opinion, threatens their pregnancy. These interdictions apply similarly to mothers until the end of the ninth month after childbirth;

(c) Under chapter 151, women must be given a mandatory period of rest between two working shifts between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. of the following day;

(d) Chapter 152 establishes conditions allowing women above 18 years of age to perform overnight work in exceptional cases;

(e) Chapter 153, together with the interdictions outlined in paragraph 150 stipulates protection of pregnant women and mothers until the end of the ninth month after childbirth by their temporary reassignment to other, more suitable, work;

(f) Chapter 154 establishes business travel conditions applicable to pregnant women and women caring for children;

(g)

(e) Governmental decree No. 249:1992 (Digest) of the Slovak Republic on salaries of employees in State budgetary organizations and certain other organizations, as amended by later legislation.

85. All generally binding legislation respects the principle of equality with respect to emoluments and does not differentiate between men and women nor groups divided by any other aspect with respect to wages payable for work of the same value and performance within the same type of activities.

86. The method of incorporation of employees in tariff or salary classes is also specified by legislation and/or rules of execution ensuring equality of fundamental categorization, regardless of sex.

87. Similarly, job catalogues show individual activities categorized by complexities of work, levels of responsibility and by psychological as well as physical demands, refraining from differentiation by sex.

88. Wages agreed upon by the social partners in collective conventions are expressed regardless of applicability to male or female employees.

89. The social field has also been affected as a result of the ongoing transformation from a centrally controlled to market economy, primarily of the arms industry conversion, loss of Central and Eastern European markets, inflation and an unemployment rate of approximately 13 per cent (close to 30 per cent in certain regions). This situation is reflected in the undertakings expressed by the World Summit for Social Development in a resolution concerning countries with transforming economies. Women have been responding with particular sensitivity to the situation.

90. Major shifts resulting from the continuing changes (privatization and/or restitution of former State and cooperation ownership of assets, transition from centralized to market economy, transformation of the economical and social spheres) are manifested by a growth of the tertiary sector, including banking, services, and a decentralization of foreign trade, etc.

91. Certain phenomena are also derived from specificities of the developments in, and particularities of, Slovakia.

92. In the first quarter of 1994, the economically active ration of the population was 46.98 per cent, of whom 53.72 per cent were men and 46.28 per cent were women. The utilization level of second employment or part-time labour opportunities by women is generally low. The number of small private companies has been increasing in recent years. In 1994, the number of workers in administration and management increased from 197,681 in 1985 to 301,800, of whom 118,500 were men and 183,300 were women. Certain sectors, e.g., schools, are characterized by a higher number of women: 82 per cent of the staff in primary schools, 68.4 per cent in grammar schools, 61.5 per cent in secondary professional schools and 34.2 per cent in universities are women (1993 data).

93. In total, 560 women judges (52 per cent) and 233 female prosecutors (41.5 per cent) were working in the judiciary in 1994; and 111 women lawyers, representing 13.8 per cent, were active in the legal profession in 1993.

94. Moderate reduction (to below 13 per cent) in the rate of unemployment was expected in the 1995-1996 period, along with termination of the fundamental privatization process; transformation of the social sector will proceed concurrently. The Government controls and monitors the relevant processes, accepting the necessary measures in the context of their impact upon the situation of women and families.

95. Organizations subsidized by the State budget and certain other bodies use employee salary categorization by the creditable contributing service-time factor. This applies to female employees as well, and legislation is in force preventing discrimination against women based on maternal duties, stipulating that the duration of creditable service time must include the time spent in child care, equivalent in length to maternity leave or extended maternity leave (as specified by relevant legislation), as well as time spent in all-day care for a child with severely impaired health, as regulated by specific legislation (maximum six years of the sum of such creditable times).

96. Differences in wages may only be based upon differences in the performance or quality of work. This applies to men and women alike. Partial differences between the wages of male and female employees may be derived from the fact that chapter 150, paragraph 2, of the Labour Code forbids women to perform work considered physically unsuitable for women or harmful to them, mainly work executed in unsuitable or noxious conditions potentially threatening maternity.

97. Care of children and families by women is supported by relief measures prescribed by the Labour Code, primarily with respect to travel on official business, worktime modifications, overtime and nighttime work. These concessions may form the background of the reduced participation of women in managing activities, and also of their lower interest in management positions.

98. Closer views at the issue are offered by the Labour Price Information System statistical survey, executed in Slovakia in the second quarter of 1995 and participated in by 351 organizations, representing some 280,000 employees. Data on wages of approximately 165,000 men and 94,000 women were reviewed in the survey. It was found that the average hourly wages of women were 22.3 per cent lower than for men, primarily owing to the lower representation of female employees in higher tariff classes. The individual tariff classes show only minimal differences of the hourly wages of men and women - 3.2, 5.4 and 6.4 per cent in tariff classes No. 11, 10 and 9, respectively. The highest difference (26.9 per cent) between salaries of women and men appears in the extra-tariff category, occupied mostly by management personnel.

99. With respect to article 11, paragraph 3, of the Convention, legislation governing issues of protection as per article 11 is regularly re-evaluated and modified when necessary. This applies, for example, to the law on employment (1:1991 (Digest)), last amended as No. 197:1995 (Digest), as well as to the law on the Employment Fund (10:1993 (Digest)), last amended as article III of law No. 197:1995 (Digest).

100. Article 12 of the Convention is implemented within the entire health care

108. Such problems are highly topical for women forming the majority (1.2 million) of the rural population, accounting for approximately 2.3 million (44 per cent of the total population). The 1995 selective survey of the labour force showed that of the 273,700 persons working in agriculture, forestry and food production, women formed 37 per cent (101,500), with a substantially higher concentration (57 per cent) in the food industry.

109. Transformation of the agricultural sector introduced a considerable reduction of employment. From 1989 to 1994 the number of persons employed in this branch of the economy decreased from 360,700 to 158,100 with a simultaneous drop of the ratio of women, from 37.8 to 33.1 per cent. A lack of jobs in rural areas has resulted in a difficult situation in many regions showing comparatively insufficiently developed social infrastructures. Considering the present low subsidization of local cultural activities, problems have also appeared with respect to social and cultural life in the countryside.

110. There is still an insufficient number of women among agricultural and food-industry entrepreneurs. This can be explained by the pattern of rural settlement, a low degree of self-confidence, a lack of higher education and commuting into district seats. Consequently it appears necessary to organize scientific-technical educational programmes for women in the provinces, emphasizing such fields as business, education for public functions, nutrition, care of elderly family members and children and household management. The problem of a more uniform distribution of family care between both marital partners, linked to the development of entrepreneurship as well as to the increased absence of men for business or job-migratory reasons has begun to arise in the countryside as well.

111. In the 1,400 organizations constituting the agricultural and food sector, female directors comprise only 7.1 per cent. The situation is relatively better at medium levels - mainly economic and staff - of management.

112. Positive results in this respect are expected of the Agency for Rural Development, established on 1 April 1995, to which tasks of coordination and organizational assurance of branch-related institutions' activities, emphasizing socio-economic progression of the countryside, have been assigned by its founder, the Ministry of Agriculture.

113. With respect to article 15, paragraph 1, of the Convention, title 14 of the Constitution guarantees legal capacity to men and women alike. Legal capacity is defined by the Civil Code (40:1964 (Digest), as amended and supplemented) in its chapter 7, paragraph 1, as follows: "Legal capacity of a natural person is commenced by birth, including that of a conceived child if born alive". Thus the law makes no difference between male and female natural persons, or male and female children. Such capacity is terminated by death.

114. With regard to paragraph 2, civil and property relations of both natural and juridical persons, property relations between such persons and the State as well as relationships emanating from personal protection rights are defined by the Civil Code. Participants of civil-law relations may be natural as well as juridical persons; as such, they have equal status.

115. The capability of a persons, regardless of sex, to assume rights and liabilities through his or her own legal acts (legal competence) is fully established by coming of age, i.e., by completing the eighteenth year of life in the case of men and women alike. The coming of age at an earlier time in life is only possible through the act of matrimony (as specified in the commentary relating to article 16 of the Convention), and in such case it will remain valid even when a marriage is annulled or ended (chap. 8 of the Civil Code).

116. Natural persons regardless of sex may only be deprived of legal competence by judicial decision and only in cases when a person, because of a mental disorder other than a temporary one, is totally unable to execute legal acts.

117. The legal competence of a natural person may be limited by a court in cases when he or she, because of a mental disorder other than a temporary one or because of excessive use of alcohol or narcotics or poisons, is partly unable to execute legal acts. The range of such limitation must be determined in the verdict.

118. In terms of paragraph 3 of article 15, the Business Code (513:1991 (Digest), as amended and supplemented), derived from the Civil Code, governs the legal relations between entrepreneurs, business liabilities and certain other issues linked to business activities. Entrepreneurs are natural persons regardless of sex, or juridical persons meeting the conditions specified by law.

119. The conditions of trade licences are specified by Law No. 455:1991 (Digest) on trades as amended by later legislation. Natural and juridical persons may acquire a trade licence under certain conditions specified by the law. The general conditions applicable to natural persons regardless of sex are completion of 18 years of age, legal competence and probity. In the case of juridical persons these general conditions apply to their responsible representatives, men or women alike.

120. The constitutional right (title 46) to protection in court and to other types of legal protection is specified by the rules of civil proceedings (99:1963 (Digest), as amended and supplemented). This law specifies the procedures applicable to courts and civil litigation participants so as to ensure fair protection of rights and lawful interests of the participants. Participants are defined as natural and juridical persons of competence as to procedural rights and obligations who have equal status while executing and asserting such rights and obligations. All persons are entitled to seek protection from violation or threat of their rights in courts. All participants regardless of sex have equal positions in civil proceedings. The qualification to participate in such proceedings is linked to legal competence (chaps. 18 and 19 of the rules).

121. In terms of paragraph 4, title 23 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of movement and abode to all. Each person legally dwelling in the territory of Slovakia has the right freely to leave the territory. Such freedom may be restricted by law in unavoidable cases necessary for reasons of security of the

122. All Slovak citizens have the right to freely enter Slovak territory. No citizen may be coerced to leave his or her country or banished from the country or extradited to another State. Aliens may only be expelled in cases specified by law.

123. With respect to article 16, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the principle of equal status of men and women in all matters of the family is consistently executed by the law on the family (94:1963 (Digest), as amended by later legislation):

(a) The right to enter into marriage is equal for men and women. It is primarily assumed by being of the age required for marriage, which is 18 years for all citizens;

(b) The voluntary decision of a man and woman to create a harmonic, firm and permanent association in life is an essential condition of marriage. Nobody is compelled by the law to enter into marriage with a specific partner, or at all;

(c) Marriages may be entered into by civil procedure as well as by religious ceremony;

(d) Men and women have equal rights and equal obligations in marriage. The law does not recognize supremacy, mutual matrimonial relations included, of men above women. The rights and obligations of marital partners arise by entrance into marriage, and only end with its termination;

(e) The parents hold the responsibility for rights and obligations with respect to children as a matter of principle; they should execute their rights and obligations by mutual accord. This means that parental rights and obligations relating to the upbringing and sustenance of children are uniform in the law, regardless of whether the parents are or had been married, or whether a child was born within or outside of a matrimonial relation. However the parents must abide, in the execution of parental rights, by the axiom that child interests - if in compliance with those of society in specific directions - are of paramount importance. In cases where parents are unable to reach agreement in substantial matters relating to the execution of their parental rights and obligations, the respective decision is taken by a court of justice. A child cannot be represented in such cases by either of the parents, and courts must appoint a custodian to represent the child in the proceedings or in specified legal acts ("collision custodian"). The objective of the mandatory appointment of a collision custodian is to ensure generally increased protection of legal interests of minors. The collision custodian function, usually fulfilled by the district office of venue expires by the time of conclusion of the legal proceedings that had initiated its establishment. Following inquiries and the establishment of findings the collision custodian submits to the court his or her proposal of adjustment of parental rights and obligations with respect to the child, particularly when commitment into custody of one of the parents is involved, always acting in the best interests - evaluated in accordance with those of society - of the child. The same principles govern the decisions of courts of justice in matters of parental rights and obligations;

(f) The State protects the right of parents to beget children in numbers and time intervals in accordance with their own wishes, creating conditions for the protection of the health of women, men and children. With respect to adults the State disseminates general information on the principles of human fertility, and on methods regulating conception (natural physiological methods, contraceptives);

(g) Also in cases of child adoption or substitute family upbringing which is realized by delivery of the child into the charge of a person other than its parent for purposes of upbringing, by delivery into foster-parent care or by appointment of a custodian to a child whose parents died or were deprived of their parental rights or lack full legal competence, the principle of equal status of men and women remains in effect. Such forms of upbringing of children are decided by courts of justice, and child interests are of paramount importance in all cases. Foster parents are entitled to claim child subsistence allowances as well as foster-parent remuneration with respect to the child in their foster-parent care. In cases of such care jointly executed by marital partners both the remuneration and contributions are payable to the woman. Compensations for custodianship are resolved similarly, according to the law No. 50:1973 (Digest) on custodian care as amended by later legislation;

(h) A man and woman entering matrimony are required to agree on a joint declaration on their future names. They have the following alternatives: they may either select one or both names to be used as their joint name, or both of them may keep their present names. They have equal rights when opting for either of their present names but cannot choose a different (third) name to be used as the joint one. In practice, selection of the name of the man prevails. The only exception of the principle of joint decision of marital partners in family matters is in the exercising of the respective vocations and selection of employment of both spouses. In this issue no consent of the other partner is needed by either of them as the Constitution guarantees the right of free selection of vocation to all citizens, which must not be limited by others, i.e., not even by the spouse. However the question is usually settled by agreement in the majority of marriages;

(i) Article 1 of the law on the family stipulates that a marriage in Slovak society is based on strong emotional relations between a man and woman, and that both have equal status therein.

124. Issues of ownership in matrimony are dealt with by chapters 143 to 151 of the Civil Code, stipulating undivided co-ownership of both spouses in appreciation of the unity in marriage and equal rights of both spouses from economic aspects as well.

125. Undivided co-ownership of the spouses relates to all tangible assets (including money) that may be considered property, lawfully acquired by any one of the spouses in the time of the existence of the marriage. Assets acquired by one of the spouses prior to the marriage, those inherited by or donated to one of the spouses over the duration of the marriage or those that, by nature, serve the personal or vocational needs of one of the spouses are not included in the undivided co-ownership. Exclusive individual ownership by a spouse also applies to assets delivered to him or her pursuant to legislation on restitution,

provided that they had been in their respective ownership prior to the marriage, or were delivered to them as to legal successors of the original owner.

126. Property in undivided co-ownership is jointly used by both spouses who cover jointly all expenditures appearing in connection with such assets, including their maintenance and use. Each

ANNEX I

Population and participation in the labour force, 1988-1993

(Thousands of persons)

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Population total ^a						
Men	2 577	2 587	2 596	2 583	2 590	2 600
Women	2 687	2 701	2 715	2 713	2 724	2 736
Total	5 264	5 288	5 311	5 296	5 314	5 336
Population below working age (under 14 years) ^a						
Male	695	687	680	665	653	642
Female	667	659	651	637	626	614
Total	1 362	1 346	1 331	1 302	1 279	1 256
Working age population ^a						
Men (15-59 years)	1 561	1 576	1 591	1 595	1 612	1 632
Women (15-54 years)	1 433	1 451	1 468	1 481	1 500	1 520
Total	2 994	3 027	3 059	3 076	3 112	3 152
Population aged 15 to 64 years ^a						
Men	1 668	1 682	1 697	1 701	1 717	1 736
Women	1 702	1 717	1 732	1 742	1 758	1 776
Total	3 370	3 399	3 429	3 243	3 475	3 512
Total labour force ^b						
Men	1 338	1 313	1 275	1 335	1 360	1 352 ^c
Women	1 261	1 242	1 231	1 213	1 142	1 156 ^c
Total	2 599	2 555	2 506	2 548	2 502	2 508 ^c
Employed persons ^b						
Men	1 338	1 313	1 255	1 190	1 230	1 181 ^c
Women	1 261	1 242	1 211	1 056	1 012	1 011 ^c
Total	1 599	2 555	2 466	2 246	2 242	2 192 ^c
Registered unemployed ^d						
Men			20	145	130	193
Women			20	157	130	175
Total			40	302	260	368
Unemployed according to the ILO definition ^c						
Men						171
Women						145
Total						316

(Footnotes on following page)

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(Footnotes to table)

^a Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, demographic statistics.

^b Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, employment statistics.

^c Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, labour force surveys.

ANNEX II

Categories of workers, 1993-1994

(Thousands of persons)

	February 1993	March 1993	April 1993	January 1994
Total	2 196	2 198	2 192	2 162
Men	1 176	1 178	1 181	1 161
Women	1 020	1 020	1 011	1 001
Education				
Elementary	299	295	285	258
Vocational	892	886	889	8

	February 1993	March 1993	April 1993	January 1994
Secondary	406	413	418	419
University	124	121	118	118
Age				
-24	156	153	151	147
25-29	133	135	135	135
30-39	327	330	329	327
40-49	292	294	291	287
50-54	85	85	82	82
55-59	18	16	18	19
60+	9	7	5	4

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, labour force surveys, quarterly.

ANNEX III

Employment statistics, 1993-1994

(Thousands of persons)

<u>Code/Title</u>	<u>1993^a</u>	<u>1994^b</u>
<u>Employment</u>		
E1 Total	2 195.5	2 103.0
E2 Females	1 017.0	932.3
<u>Sectoral employment</u>		
E3 Public sector	-	1 387.8
E4 Private sector	-	715.1
E5 Agriculture	233.6	213.8
E6 Mining	36.5	34.3
E7 Manufacturing	604.3	564.4
E8 Power and water	44.7	48.1
E9 Construction	192.4	187.0
E10 Trade and catering	264.1	257.9
E11 Transport and communication	166.5	162.8
E12 Financial services and real estate	107.7	108.2
E13 Health and education	342.5	319.0
E14 Public administration	122.8	126.3
E15 Other services	78.4	77.1
<u>Self, full and part-time employment</u>		
E16 Self-employment	138.2	132.7
E17 Full-time employment	2 035.9	1 998.1
E18 Part-time employment	65.7	59.2
E19 Male part-time employment	18.2	15.5
<u>Employment and education</u>		
E20 With higher education	284.5	274.6
U20a With university degree	284.5	274.6
U20b With other higher education	-	-
E21 With secondary general education	89.0	87.1
E22 With vocational education ^c	1 529.0	1 493.1
E23 With primary education or less	292.9	248.2
<u>Employment and age</u>		
E24 Youth	323.6	297.9
E25 Female youth	153.5	130.3
E26 Male youth	170.1	167.7
E27 Prime age	1 824.5	1 763.6

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<u>Code/Title</u>	<u>1993^a</u>	<u>1994^b</u>
E28 Female prime age (25-54 years)	839.2	779.5
E29 Male prime age (25-59 years)	985.4	984.2
E30 Older	32.1	29.4
E31 Female older (55-59 years)	14.9	17.2
E32 Male older (60-64 years)	17.2	12.2
E33 Post retirement	47.2	41.6
E34 Female post retirement	24.3	22.7
E35 Male post retirement	23.0	18.9

ANNEX IV

Average earnings by sex and age for all occupations, 1995

Age	Total		Men	Women
	Number of employees	Number of organizational units	Average earnings ^a	Number of employees

ANNEX V

Average earnings by sex and tariff class for all occupations, 1995

Tariff class	Men			Women		
	Number of employees	Number of organizational units	Average earnings ^a	Number of employees	Number of organizational units	Average earnings ^a
Total	164 777	325	46.1	93 652	318	35.83
1	2 194	181	26.26	5 236	243	24.20
2	5 068	234	30.09	10 104	224	27.69
3	14 219	270	35.61	15 077	242	30.72
4	23 583	274	38.80	12 810	240	33.36
5	35 255	276	44.29	8 670	242	38.91
6	20 757	258	48.03	6 043	246	41.43
7	12 443	249	51.24	5 090	240	43.55
8	5 066	221	52.53	3 063	192	46.06
9	4 278	188	54.84	1 624	149	51.35
10	2 470	130	55.26	823	75	52.26
11	690	79	64.50	188	30	62.46
12	199	25	73.11	26	11	69.29
Extra-tariff	3 569	209	84.61	1 029	136	61.88

Source: Labour Price Information Survey, second quarter, 1995.

^a Slovak koruny per hour.

Notes to columns in annex VI

- (4) Increment = Current vs. previous month difference.
- (5) Index: Previous month = 1.00.
- (6) Increment = Difference between current month vs. same month of previous year.
- (7) Index: Same month of previous year = 1.00.
- (8), (9), (10) The numbers of current-month unemployed calculated on basis of the economically active population:

In 1990: data relating to 31 December 1988; 1991: data relating to 31 December 1989; 1992: data relating to 31 December 1990; 1993: data relating to 31 December 1991; 1994: data relating to the first half of 1994 mean values; 1995: data relating to 1994 mean values.

Calculation of mean values:

Mean values (1) and (2) in 1990 calculated from the weight of September to December data relating to (3).

Mean values (8) and (9) in 1990 calculated from the weight of September to December data relating to (10).

Other mean values:

(1), (2) and (3) chronological annual mean:

$$\frac{(\text{Dec. last})/2 + \text{Jan.} + \dots + \text{Nov.} + (\text{Dec. current})/2}{2}$$

Chronological semiannual means are calculated similarly.

(4) Arithmetic mean:

i ... number of months considered

(5) Geometric mean:

i = 1, 2, 3, ... 12 (months considered)

(6) Difference of means from (3).

(7) Difference of means from (3).

(8), (9), (10) Arithmetic means; 1995 = ratio of mean values vs. EA.

(11) Ratio of mean values (2), (3) for the same period, multiplied by 100.

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ANNEX VII

Number of job seekers, the rate of unemployment and

Year Month	Job seekers		Unemployment rate (percentage) ^a	Subsistence beneficiaries
	Total			

ANNEX VIII

Women employed in the judiciary, 1980-1994

A. Number and percentage of female judges			
Year	Total number of judges	Number of women	Percentage
1980	626	247	40
1985	707	310	44
1994	1 072	560	52

Source: Ministry of Justice.

B. Number and percentage of female prosecutors	
Year	Total number of prosecutors

D. Number of women in comparison with men at individual postings in the Slovak Foreign Service					
	Ambassador	Chargé d'affaires	Other diplomats	Administrative and technical delegates	Total
Men	38	19	141	113	311
Women	5	0	23	41	69
Total	43	19	164	154	380

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Source.
