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Part One

Report of the Committee on the Elimination  
of Discrimination against Women on its

eighteenth session

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## Letter of transmittal

6 February 1998

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, according to which the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, established pursuant to the Convention, “shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities”.

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women held its eighteenth session from 19 January to 6 February 1998 at United Nations Headquarters. It adopted its report on the session at its 383rd meeting, on 6 February. The report of the Committee is herewith submitted to you for transmission to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

*(Signed)* Salma **Khan**  
Chairperson  
Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women

## **Chapter I**

### **Matters brought to the attention of States parties**

#### **A. Decisions\***

##### **Decision 18/I. Participation in the pre-session working group**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women decided that representatives of the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations, as well as national and international non-governmental organizations, should be invited to provide country-specific information to the pre-session working group on those States parties whose reports were before the group.

##### **Decision 18/II. Specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women decided that representatives of the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations should be invited

goals of the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women.

6. She stressed that, with the two annual sessions of the Committee, which would strengthen its visibility and allow greater opportunities for clear elaboration of the obligations of the Convention, the possibilities for full implementation were enhanced. High expectations had been created requiring renewed commitment from Committee members both during sessions and inter-sessionally.

7. The Special Adviser informed the Committee that the 10th meeting of States Parties to the Convention would be held on 17 February 1998, to elect 12 Committee members for a four-year term from 1 January 1999.

8. She informed the Committee that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would meet with the Committee on 4 February 1998 and that that meeting would provide an opportunity to discuss the anniversary of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the strengthening of the goals and the work of the treaty bodies in respect of gender. She also reported that the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences, had regretted her inability to attend the eighteenth session as planned, but that the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief would address the Committee on 28 January 1998.

9. The Special Adviser informed the Committee that, as a result of the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform proposals, the Division for the Advancement of Women was now part of a new department, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, whose mandate was to focus on work in the area of normative, analytical and advisory services. It would also monitor, analyse and assess economic and social policies and trends from a global as well as a gender perspective.

10. The Special Adviser also informed the Committee about the expert group meetings which the Division had organized or co-hosted on the themes "Adolescent girls and their rights", "Gender-based persecution", "Women's enjoyment of economic and social rights" and "Caregiving for older persons - Gender dimensions", in preparation for the forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

11. She also informed the Committee that, in her capacity as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, she had participated in a round table on the theme "Crimes of sexual violence", held at Arusha from 4 to 6 October 1997, and had led the United Nations Inter-agency Gender Mission to Afghanistan from 12

to 21 November 1997. In that connection, she noted that the women of Afghanistan were not alone in experiencing violations of their human rights and that women and girls around the world, particularly in conflict situations such as in Rwanda, Burundi and Algeria, were especially at risk. Strategies were needed to address such violations.

### **C. Attendance**

12. Twenty-one members of the Committee attended the session. Ms. Desirée Bernard attended from 19 to 23 January, Ms. Silvia Cartwright from 19 to 23 January and 29 January to 6 February, Ms. Aída González from 22 January to 6 February, Ms. Ginko Sato from 2 to 6 February and Ms. Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling from 27 January to 6 February 1998. Not in attendance were Ms. Tendai Ruth Bare and Ms. Mervat Tallawy.

13. A list of the members of the Committee, together with an indication of the duration of their term of office, is contained in annex II to the present report.

### **D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work**

14. The Committee considered the provisional agenda and organization of work (CEDAW/C/1998/I/1 and Corr.1) at its 360th meeting, on 19 January 1998. The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Report of the Chairperson on activities undertaken between the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Committee.
4. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
5. Implementation of article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
6. Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee.
7. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighteenth session.

## **E. Report of the pre-session working group**

15. The Committee had decided, at its ninth session,<sup>1</sup> to convene a pre-session working group for five days before each session to prepare lists of questions relating to second and subsequent periodic reports that would be considered by the Committee at the session.

16. The following four members, representing different regional groups, participated in the working group: Emna Aouij (Africa), Ivanka Corti (Europe), Yolanda Ferrer (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Sunaryati Hartono (Asia and the Pacific).

17. The Working Group prepared lists of issues and questions relating to the subsequent reports of four States parties, namely, Bulgaria, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia and Mexico.

18. At the 365th meeting, on 22 January 1998, the Chairperson of the pre-session working group introduced the report of the group (CEDAW/C/1998/I/CRP.1 and Add.1-4). She informed members that for the first time the pre-session working group had invited representatives of the specialized agencies to provide it with information with regard to the countries under review. The following participated: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In the light of the information provided, the working group agreed to suggest to the Committee that this practice be adopted as a normal practice of pre-session working groups.

19. The Chairperson of the pre-session working group also informed the Committee that the group had invited representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations, on an experimental basis, to provide it with information with respect to the States parties under review. The Chairperson of the group indicated that the group was recommending that this practice also be adopted as a normal practice of pre-session working groups.

20. The Committee took note of the report of the pre-session working group and agreed that representatives of the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations, as well

as national and international non-governmental organizations, should be invited to provide country-specific information to the pre-session working group on those States parties whose reports were before the group.

## **F. Composition and organization of work of the working groups**

21. At its 360th meeting, on 19 January 1998, the Committee agreed on the composition of its two standing working groups: Working Group I, to consider ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee, and Working Group II, to consider ways and means of implementing article 21 of the Convention.

22. Working Group I was composed of the following



dialogue” with non-governmental organizations involved in information on the Committee’s consideration of the reports

42. The representative of Azerbaijan provided a comprehensive retrospective analysis of the changes in the

49. The Committee appreciates the submission of the report one year after ratification, and welcomes the supplementary





action, in particular to encourage greater participation of women in decision-making bodies.

73. The Committee further recommends the elaboration of adequate family-planning programmes, with the help of the United Nations Population Fund, so as to avoid the use of abortion as a means of family planning and thereby diminish the risks of maternal mortality resulting from unsafe abortions.

74. The Committee recommends that the Government review the legislation relating to the exploitation and trafficking of women so as to eliminate the discriminatory content of such legislation.

81. The representative of Croatia indicated that her country had acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All

82. The representative informed the Committee that, at the time of submission of the initial report, peace is the priority

87. Women are not allowed to work in jobs involving hard

(h) The need to collect more detailed information on the situation of rural women.

98. The Committee notes with great satisfaction the existence of programmes to assist women with special needs.

99. The Committee is pleased to be informed of the measures implemented to eradicate gender stereotypes within the education system. It is also pleased with the introduction of measures to introduce human rights education into schools.

100. The Committee is generally impressed by the health-care system in Croatia and by the Government's clear commitment to universal coverage.

**Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Convention**

101. The Committee notes that Croatia faced significant economic and social difficulties as a consequence of the country's recent involvement in armed conflict. Repercussions include the presence of large numbers of

104. The Committee expresses concern that data has not been collected in some areas. In particular, the Committee is

numerical goals and quotas, in particular in those areas such as political and decision-making positions in public life where women's de facto equality has not been improving at the desired pace.

111. The Committee urges the Government of Croatia to

governmental organizations in the preparation of the country's next report to the Committee.

people of Croatia, and particularly government administrators



genital mutilation, are still accepted. Although the constitution criminalizes any act of discrimination on the ground of sex and, furthermore, the practice of *lobola* has been made illegal, tradition and customary law still ensure continued discrimination.

142. The Committee notes with concern that much of the violence against women, especially in society and in the domestic sphere, is not recognized by law. Violence against women is a serious violation of women's human rights. In addition, there is not enough support provided by the Government to help victims of violence, such as rehabilitation programmes and temporary shelters.

143. The Committee expresses concern that the Ministry of National Affairs, Employment Creation and Cooperation, as the National Machinery for the Advancement of Women, has no real power or responsibility to initiate and implement policy measures to eliminate discrimination against women.

144. While the Committee agrees with the effectiveness of having gender focal points in all Ministries, the Committee is concerned about the absence of a functional central coordinating body with a regular budget.

145. The Committee is concerned at the low level of women's participation at the decision-making level.

146. The Committee notes with dissatisfaction that prostitutes are criminalized by law while their clients go unpunished. The Committee notes with concern that poor women, migrant women and women from other marginalized

150. The Committee is concerned at the lack of support systems to enable pregnant teenagers to continue their schooling. The Committee also notes with dissatisfaction that there are no detailed statistics available on teenage pregnancy.

as to enable it to develop assistance programmes in this regard.

159. Noting that illegal abortion is cited by the Government as a major cause of death for women in Zimbabwe, the Committee recommends that the Government reappraise the law on abortion with a view to its liberalization and decriminalization.

160. The Committee urges the Government to increase its efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic and to ensure that

meetings, on 26 January 1998, and at its 373rd meeting on 27 January 1998 (see CEDAW/C/SR.370, 371 and 373).

168. In introducing the report, the representative of the Czech Republic indicated that more than two years had elapsed since her country's initial report had been submitted and, consequently, her statement would focus on important changes in protecting women's rights as individuals.

169. The representative referred to the ratification of a number of International Labour Organization (ILO)



expressed concern that organized prostitution continues to be a lucrative source of money for criminal gangs. A number of measures have been adopted by the Czech Republic to fight prostitution, including the creation of a special unit for detecting organized crime.

176. The representative referred to the foundations of the Czech legal system, which protect women's rights, focusing on individual citizens, based upon the principle of uniform, general and equal protection of both men and women.

177. In concluding her presentation, the representative of the Czech Republic indicated that she looked forward to the Committee's questions so that she could provide a complete and objective picture of women in the Czech Republic.

infant and perinatal mortality rates attained by the Czech Republic.

183. The Committee is pleased to note that the legal system of the Czech Republic gives supremacy to international

provisions can be found in the Constitution, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and in several other codes.

## **Concluding comments of the Committee**

### **Introduction**

178. The Committee compliments the Government of the Czech Republic for exhibiting a clear commitment to the promotion of the human rights of its citizens since the independence of the country and for ratifying the Convention without reservations. It is also pleased to note the positive spirit in which its comments and suggestions has been received by the delegation of the Czech Republic.

179. The additional and updated information presented in the oral report of the representative of the Czech Republic is welcomed by the Committee, as an aid to its understanding of the conditions of women and the extent of the implementation of the Convention in the Czech Republic.

### **Positive aspects**

180. The Committee is particularly satisfied at the information included in the oral report of the delegation about the very creation of an inter-ministerial coordinating body within the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Similarly, the reported effort to draft a National Plan on the basis of the Beijing Platform for Action by a commission on the status of women is especially welcomed by the Committee.

181. The Committee notes that there have been significant gains in the status of women in the Czech Republic, particularly with regard to education and participation in economic life, as well as social support services, such as child care.

182. The Committee is also happy to note the high standards of health coverage in general, and for maternal health in particular, that exist throughout the Czech Republic. In this context, it is especially gratified to note the exceptionally low



measures in the area of women's political and economic participation in leadership positions. In this context, it recommends instituting numerical goals and targets, as well as a plan of action with timetables to boost women's participation in these areas.

202. The Committee also urges the enactment of a special law and introduction of policies to combat all forms of

temporary measures, such as effective use of paternity leave, to share family responsibilities equally with women.

government administrators and politicians, aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure de facto equality for women

29 of the Convention concerning the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. She also outlined steps taken by the Government of Bulgaria to translate and disseminate the Convention widely throughout the country. The representative stated the Government's position that equality between women and men was a *conditio sine qua non* of democracy.

212. The representative pointed out that article 6 of the constitution of Bulgaria guaranteed equality and non-discrimination. In addition, the Committee was informed that, although there are no special laws on human rights and gender equality, article 5 of the constitution provided for the incorporation of international treaties to which the Republic of Bulgaria was a party into domestic law.

213. The representative cited statistics demonstrating that infant mortality in Bulgaria had decreased substantially since the years from 1970 to 1980. She referred to the substantial increase in the number of births outside of wedlock in Bulgaria and reported that the Government saw this as a reflection of more flexible choices of family partnerships for women than previously.

214. The representative outlined some measures that had been adopted to improve the situation of Roma children, in particular with regard to education. Several reports had been prepared relating to the Roma minority and various consultations carried out with the specialized agencies on the

217. The representative reported that some very favourable advances had been made regarding the participation of women in decision-making and political life. In some Ministries, the number of women significantly exceeded the number of men. The situation was similar in the judiciary.

discrimination against women were still evident, with some employers preferring to fill vacancies with men or with very young women who had no family responsibilities. It was acknowledged that women were more affected by unemployment than men.

In particular, she referred to measures taken to strengthen provisions against the illicit trafficking in persons and emphasized the Government's commitment to strengthen international and regional cooperation on the issue.

only be commenced upon the complaint of the victim. The representative acknowledged that domestic violence in Bulgaria was still not seen as a human rights abuse and that more awareness-raising campaigns were needed. The Parliament was at present considering draft legislation that

the delegation has failed to address many of the questions transmitted to the Government of Bulgaria by the pre-session working group and that some of those posed are not addressed in depth. In addition, many of the questions that have been raised by members of the Committee during the delegation's oral presentation have not been responded to. The Committee appreciates the time constraints imposed, but nonetheless requests that all those questions be answered in the next report.

#### **Positive aspects**

225. The Committee commends Bulgaria for withdrawing its reservation to article 29 of the Convention.

226. The Committee notes that the Bulgarian constitution enshrines formal equality between women and men.

227. The Committee notes the willingness of the Bulgarian Government, expressed in frequent oral statements, to

231. The Committee notes the difficult economic and political process Bulgaria is undergoing in its transformation to democracy and a market-oriented society.

*jure* equality and that the Government has not demonstrated a commitment to introduce special, temporary measures in the near future.

this issue and looks forward to information about the progress achieved in the State party's next report.

239. The Comm

heads of households with children, to combat all forms of discrimination against women in employment and to improve women's access to free legal aid and the standard of living of rural women.

250. The Committee urges the Government to introduce a definition of discrimination modelled on article 1 of the Convention into its constitution and other relevant laws.

251. The Committee recommends that, despite the economic difficulties associated with transition, the Government give priority to the establishment of a strong and effective national machinery with adequate financial and human resources for advancing the position of women in Bulgaria. Special

of a complaint by the victim. The Committee urges the Government to develop an array of medical, psychological and other measures to assist women victims of violence and to change prevailing attitudes to domestic violence, which

260. The Committee urges the Government to facilitate consultations between Bulgarian women's non-governmental organizations and other European women's non-governmental organizations, in order to discuss Bulgarian women's issues and receive any necessary assistance.

development. The representative noted that, in spite of that progress, the national machinery was still underresourced, both financially and in terms of human resources.

261. The Committee requests the wide dissemination in

of Harmonious Gender Partnership between Men and Women



and traditional norms reduce the impact of the legal framework.

271. The representative reported that the current economic crisis affects both women and men, although the Government has taken measures at both the central and regional levels to provide for equal access to employment for disadvantaged women, in addition to existing efforts to encourage entrepreneurship and access to resources such as land and credit.

279. The Committee is pleased to note the role of women's non-governmental organizations in Indonesia, which have a

280. The Committee recognizes the success of the Government's family planning programme. The Committee views this as an example of the Government's ability to take highly effective steps to improve the situation of women. However, some concern is expressed that the focus of the programme is so predominantly upon women, and Committee

**Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Convention**

281. The Committee notes the current economic crisis in Indonesia and urges the Government not to allow it to become a justification for failing to implement the Convention.

282. The Committee is convinced that the existence of cultural attitudes that confine women to the roles of mothers and housewives presents a great obstacle to the advancement of women. Policies and programmes developed on the basis of those stereotypes limit women's participation and entitlements, thereby impeding implementation of the Convention. The Committee expresses the view that cultural and religious values cannot be allowed to undermine the universality of women's rights. It also stated its belief that culture is not a static concept and that the core values in Indonesian society are not inconsistent with the advancement of women.

283. The Committee notes Indonesia's failure to collect data on certain issues that are crucial to the well-being of women, such as the prevalence of violence against women. Without such data, neither the Government nor the Committee can accurately monitor the situation of women's equality in Indonesia and the Committee could not offer recommendations as to what measures might be taken to combat the problem.

**Principal areas of concern**

284. The Committee is very concerned at the existence of laws that are not in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. It notes that discrimination against women exists in laws regarding:

(a) Family and marriage, including polygamy; age for marriage; divorce and the requirement that a wife obtain her husband's consent for a passport;

(b) Economic rights, including ownership and inheritance of land; access to loans and credits; entitlement to social, health and other benefits in the labour sector and the

equal the situation actually is in practice and how many women benefit from the application of civil law.

287. The Committee was informed that Muslims may choose whether Islamic or civil law is to be applied to them. However, the Committee is concerned as to who decides this

288. The Committee expresses concern that marriages between partners of different religions are prohibited de facto in certain regions of Indonesia.

which present a serious obstacle to the advancement of women in Indonesia. Traditional gender stereotypes are also perpetuated in formal education; and textbooks have not been revised to eliminate such stereotypes.

294. The Committee is gravely concerned about information it has received with regard to violations of women's human rights in East Timor.

295. The Committee is concerned that the information provided on the situation of women in areas of armed conflict reflects a limited understanding of the problem. The Government's remarks are confined to the participation of women in the armed forces and do not address the vulnerability of women to sexual exploitation in conflict situations, as well as a range of other human rights abuses affecting women in such contexts.

296. The Committee notes the information on the situation of migrant women, which has been presented in the form of a supplement to the report. However, the Committee remains concerned that this does not include discussion of reports of the death as a result of mistreatment and abuses of Indonesian migrant women abroad, as well as cases of trafficking for the purposes of prostitution. It is concerned that the Government lacks the mechanisms to respond to abuses of Indonesian women abroad.

297. The Committee is gravely concerned about reported cases of coercion in the course of the implementation of the family planning programme. The Committee points out that such coercion contravenes the Government's obligations under the Convention to ensure women's reproductive rights to freedom of choice and informed consent with respect to methods of family planning.

298. The Committee is concerned that limited information has been provided on the problem of HIV/AIDS. There is no data on the extent of the problem, rates of increase or any sex-disaggregated data. The Committee is particularly concerned that the problem of HIV/AIDS is being attributed to women in prostitution. Concern is also expressed about programmes designed to "clean the city streets" of prostitutes whenever there is a major international event in Jakarta. Information provided to the Committee by other sources suggests that women taken off the streets have been subjected to forced vaginal examinations.

299. The Committee is seriously concerned about the extent of unemployment amongst women, particularly those from female-headed households, in the light of the current economic crisis. It is also concerned about wage disparities between female and male workers, job-segregation in the workforce, with women disproportionately occupying low-skilled and low-paying jobs, as well as women's unequal access to social security, employment and health benefits.

300. The Committee is concerned that not enough is being done to address the issue of prostitution and trafficking in women as envisaged in article 6 of the Convention. It is also

concerned that not enough is being done to assist these women through socio-economic and health programmes and that preventive measures and re-socialization efforts are aimed principally at prostitutes and do not address male clients.

### **Suggestions and recommendations**

301. The Comm



poverty affected women in particular ways and limited their economic participation and access to services, specific projects for women, in particular women heads of households, formed part of the Government's poverty eradication efforts.

320. The representative concluded that the new Government, which had been installed in mid-1996, had embarked on a policy of reform and modernization. While the impact of reform on the situation of women could not yet be evaluated, she noted that the Dirección General de Promoción de la Mujer and the national women's movement remained committed to ensuring that a gender approach was reflected in those reforms. The Convention would provide continuing guidance into the next millennium on measures to improve the status of women.

## **Concluding comments of the Committee**

### **Introduction**

321. The Committee commends the Government for the

324. The Committee welcomes the many important initiatives and measures undertaken in different areas by the Dirección General in a short period of time and commends it for its ongoing work on a number of legislative drafts aimed

325. The Committee notes with appreciation the adoption of several new laws and legal revisions to bring the domestic situation into greater conformity with the Convention. In particular, the Committee applauds the adoption, in 1997, of the law against domestic violence following the country's ratification, in 1995, of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará). The Committee furthermore commends the Government on the holistic and

330. The Committee notes the persistence of a high poverty level and of situations of extreme poverty, with 57 per cent of the Dominican population living below the poverty line. As women are most affected by poverty, which is aggravated by discrimination and inequality, this constitutes a serious obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention in the Dominican Republic.

331. Although the Dominican Republic is a secular State, the

335. The Committee expresses concern that, while close ties exist between the Dirección General de Promoción de la Mujer and women's groups, insufficient cooperation and networking has been established between the Dirección General and women in decision-making in all areas of political, economic and social life.

Advisers to the Senate, to intensify cooperation with other sectors and entities of civil, political and economic life, so as to ensure more systematic attention to gender issues in these areas.

341. The Comm

Public information campaigns aimed at particularly vulnerable groups of women should also be conducted to alert them to potential dangers when seeking work overseas.

continue to disseminate widely, and in particular to women's decision-making. The federal election legislation called on  
and human rights organizations, the Convention, the po



female population, after recognizing the disadvantages faced by women and girls in terms of food, education and health. The Government also provided microcredits to women and supported women entrepreneurs.

364. The situation of rural women in Mexico was very diverse, depending on their ethnic origin and the region. However, women in rural areas generally had less access to education and health care. The national machinery had launched policies and programmes to improve the situation of women in rural areas, such as the conformation of a rural women national network, in order to link governmental organizations, with the goal of promoting integral development.

365. The representative concluded by stating that Mexican women had advanced significantly in recent years, but still faced many obstacles to the full enjoyment of their rights. She underlined the commitment of the Mexican Government to continue to design policies aimed at granting women and girls equal treatment and opportunities. She also recognized that the most profound changes were born in the deepest values and attitudes of society, which could only be achieved through processes that demanded time and a strong political will.

terms of both legislative reform and real progress in improving the status of women.

economic and political situation of women in her country and her Government's efforts to implement the Convention and for her objective and analytical presentation of the obstacles to the advancement of women in Mexico.

provided on the situation of indigenous women in Chiapas to be extremely important.

## **Concluding comments**

### **Introduction**

366. The Committee expresses its appreciation for the third and fourth reports submitted by the Government of Mexico, which reflect the current state of compliance with the Convention in Mexico and the programmes established and actions taken to improve the status of women.

367. The Committee points out that the significance attached by the Mexican Government to the Convention has also been illustrated by the high level of the delegation representing the State party at the session.

368. The Committee thanks the Government of Mexico for its oral report, as well as its replies to the Committee's questions and its representative's statement, translated into both French and English.

369. The Committee expresses its thanks for the Mexican

and implement the Convention and that constitutional reform has been followed by changes in other legislation.

378. The Committee notes with appreciation that pursuant to constitutional reforms, primary and secondary education is now compulsory for women and girls.

379. The Committee observes with satisfaction that the civil, civil procedure and penal codes have been modified in order to facilitate proceedings with regard to violence against women in the family, including marital rape. It also commends the 1996 Federal District law to prevent and assist victims of intrafamilial violence and the fact that Mexico has

**Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Convention**

387. The Committee notes that, while the Convention is part of the Supreme Law and its implementation is compulsory at the federal level, the specific legislation of a number of

388. The Committee notes that implementation of the Convention is hampered by the fact that Mexico is a territorially vast, multi-ethnic and multicultural developing

women, rural women and adolescents. It also notes with concern cases in some localities in which contraceptive methods have been used without women's express consent, which is required under Mexican law.

395. The Committee expresses serious concern at the possible existence of an illicit traffic in women. It notes that if there is trafficking in women, that this is a serious violation of their human rights.

396. The Committee warns that, in the present circumstances, the gender-equality policy in the regular educational system may be affected by the decentralization of education in Mexico.

397. The Committee draws attention to the lack of access to health-care services for children and old people.

398. The Committee considers that the policies to promote equality within the family are insufficient, since stereotyped roles are perpetuated in the family by deeply rooted traditions of men's superiority. In addition, the Committee notes that certain legal provisions might continue to promote inequality

Committee would welcome a more equitable redistribution of wealth among the population.

action and, in its next report, submit a consolidated evaluation of all affirmative-action initiatives.

to enable women to seek redress from the courts on the basis of the Convention.

factories and pursue the work of raising awareness among factory employers.

407. The Committee also requests the Ministry of Agrarian Reform to continue its institutional intervention to persuade public land (*ejido*) assemblies to allocate to women the parcels of land to which they are entitled.

prostitution and whether this issue has been subject to public 425. The Committee recommends that the Government of

organization. The letter would also outline the information the Committee required from those organizations and would request that each nominate an individual member to serve as the focal point for the Committee.

432. The Committee decided to nominate a focal point from among its members to liaise with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

433. The Committee agreed that the pre-session working group should make it its usual practice to invite the specialized agencies to present to the Group country-specific

it draws up the list of questions and issues. The three members should be drawn from different regions. The Committee agreed that the country rapporteur should take the lead in drawing up the list of questions and issues and that her

Health Rights”, held at Glen Cove, New York, in December to in three of the expert group meetings convened by the

**Fourth periodic reports**

Peru (third and fourth)

In the event that one of the above-mentioned States parties should be unable to present its report, the Committee will consider the third periodic reports of Belarus or Spain.

448. The Committee decided that the members of the pre-

**Twentieth session**

**Initial reports**





addressed the Committee. Emphasizing the central importance of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the United Nations human rights system and the importance of placing women's human rights at the forefront of the development agenda, she noted that support for the ratification and implementation of the Convention is central to the advancement of the rights of women.

462. She noted that the United Nations Development Fund for Women is in a unique position within the United Nations system to promote ratification and implementation of the Convention because its regional programme advisers are frequently called upon to act as brokers and facilitators between women's organizations, national Governments and other parts of the United Nations system and pledged the full and active support of the Fund in this regard.

463. Recognizing that the transformation of social values and creating a culture of respect for the human rights of women is a lengthy process, and that implementation of these rights must take place at national level, she described several country-based initiatives of the Development Fund concerning the Convention. She also described the joint United Nations Development Fund for Women/International Human Rights Action Watch (Asia/Pacific) training initiative, "From global to local: a convention implementation and

465. She indicated that the human rights of women will be a highlight of commemorative activities for the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and commended the Committee for its willingness to contribute to these activities through its work on reservations. Noting that the commemoration and the five-year implementation review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on

466. She stressed that one of her priorities as United Nations High Commissioner would be the struggle against gender discrimination, which would incorporate several initiatives,

470. The High Commissioner's initiative to campaign for the universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to encourage the removal of substantive reservations, was noted with appreciation. Her support for the development of an optional protocol to the Convention and her announcement that the Office of the High Commissioner will make available a substantive officer to assist the Working Group of the Commission on the Status of Women with its elaboration of an optional protocol was also welcomed.

471. Members noted with appreciation and accepted the proposal of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty

for discrimination or reservations to the Convention or other treaties.

## **Chapter VIII**

### **Adoption of the report**

478. At its 383rd meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Committee adopted the report on its eighteenth session (CEDAW/C/1998/I/L.1 and Add.1-9), as orally amended.



## Part Two

Letter of transmittal

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## **Chapter I**

### **Matters brought to the attention of States parties**

#### **A. Statements on reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

1. The Committee adopted the following statement on reservations to the Convention which it wishes to bring to the attention of States parties as its contribution to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### **Introduction**

2. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women wishes to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action with a statement concerning the adverse impact that reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have on the achievement by women of full and substantive equality with men. The Committee has extensive experience of the impact

through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;

(b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;

(c) To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the

to withdrawing them. In spite of these recommendations, to date few reservations to article 2 have been modified or



of commitment of the reserving State to full compliance with the particular treaty.

15. When reservations are made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, there can be a double impact. By entering a reservation, the State indicates its unwillingness to comply with an accepted human rights norm. It also ensures that women's inequality with men will be entrenched at the national level. The promise given to its women when the State ratifies the Convention is not therefore fulfilled. This not only affects women's ability to exercise and enjoy their rights, but also guarantees that they will remain inferior to men and have less access to the full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights enjoyed by men. The ramifications for women are significant. They must compete with men on an unequal footing for such fundamental rights as equality of income, access to education, housing and health care, and equality of rights and responsibilities within the family. Reservations to articles 2 and 16 perpetuate the myth of women's inferiority and reinforce the inequalities in the lives of millions of women throughout the world. They continue to be treated in both public and private life as inferior to men, and to suffer greater violations of their rights in every sphere of their lives.

16. The Committee holds the view that article 2 is central to the objects and purpose of the Convention. States parties which ratify the Convention do so because they agree that discrimination against women in all its forms should be condemned and that the strategies set out in article 2, subparagraphs (a) to (g), should be implemented by States parties to eliminate it.

17. Neither traditional, religious or cultural practice nor incompatible domestic laws and policies can justify violations of the Convention. The Committee also remains convinced that reservations to article 16, whether lodged for national, traditional, religious or cultural reasons, are incompatible

(c) "Regularize" its situation by replacing its impermissible reservation with a permissible reservation;

(d) Renounce being a party to the Treaty.

## **Conclusion**

25. Fifty years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the great majority of Member States have signified their commitment to the Convention by ratification or accession. It is now time to re-examine States' self-imposed limitations to full compliance with all the principles in the Convention by the entry of reservations. Removal or modification of reservations, particularly to

**B. Decisions**

i.e., violence against women, human rights of women, women and armed conflict and the girl child. The Commission on the Status of Women urged Governments to ratify and accede to the Convention in order to achieve one of the Platform for Action's objectives, that of universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the year 2000, and also addressed the issue of reservations to the Convention, a question that the Committee will take up as it completes its statement for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She noted that the open-ended working group of the Commission established to draft the optional protocol to the Convention had met in parallel to the Commission and had moved forward in drafting the text of the protocol. The working group would meet again in 1999 during the forty-third session of the Commission to continue its work.

32. The Special Adviser noted that the year 2000 would mark five years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. In order to mark this important anniversary, the Commission on the Status of Women had called for a high-level plenary review by the General Assembly to appraise progress achieved in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action. The General

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its nineteenth session.

## **F. Report of the pre-session working group**

38. The Committee had decided, at its ninth session, to convene a pre-session working group for five days before each session to prepare lists of issues and questions relating to periodic reports that would be considered by the Committee at the session.

39. The following three members, representing different regional groups, participated in the working group at the nineteenth session: Aída González-Martínez (Latin America and the Caribbean), Yung-Chung Kim (Asia and the Pacific), and Ahoua Ouedraogo (Africa), Chairperson of the pre-session working group. The Chairperson of the Committee, Ms. Salma Khan, also served as a member of the pre-session working group.

40. The pre-session working group prepared lists of issues and questions relating to the subsequent reports of six States parties, namely, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, the Republic of Korea and the United Republic of Tanzania.

41. At the 392nd meeting, on 30 June 1998, the Chairperson of the pre-session working group, Ms. Ahoua Ouedraogo, introduced the report of the working group (CEDAW/C/1998/II/CRP.1/Add.1-6). The pre-session working group noted that the majority of reports reviewed followed the guidelines of the Committee and described the major social, economic and political changes that had occurred since the States parties last reported to the Committee. States parties had made efforts to respect and implement the Convention through the passage of legislation and other measures. Most of the reports under review indicated that Governments and non-governmental organizations were cooperating with respect to the Convention, and a greater awareness of the Convention and its principles had been achieved; however there remained a lack of reliable statistical data relating to several areas of the Convention.

42. In accordance with the decision of the Committee at its eighteenth session, the pre-session working group received country-specific information on the States parties that were before the working group from representatives of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations. Also in accordance with the Committee's decision at the eighteenth session, the pre-session working group received country-specific information on those States parties from representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations.

43. The pre-session working group encouraged States parties to take advantage of available United Nations support to countries seeking to develop statistical databases. It noted that the reports suggested that women continued to be subject to persistent discrimination and difficulties in the context of education, employment, health and nationality, although some gains had been made where women's representation in decision-making positions was concerned.

44. The pre-session working group also noted the persistence of cultural and customary norms in some States parties that sometimes impeded the implementation of the Convention and that could also pose obstacles to the introduction of measures designed to advance the status of women. It also noted the persistence of violence against women and sexual exploitation in all the countries under review. This constituted a serious obstacle to the

members; and issues raised at the ninth meeting of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies.

(b) Working group II: Statement on reservations; draft general recommendation on health; joint statement on indivisibility and gender in enjoyment of human rights; recommendations to the Committee from the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights.

Assembly to be held in the year 2000 on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. The major focus of

53. The Chairperson informed the Committee that she had attended the annual session of the UNDP/United Nations

## **Chapter III**

and third periodic reports; two combined third and fourth periodic reports; one third and fourth periodic reports.

57. As decided at its thirteenth session, in 1994, the Committee prepared concluding comments on each report considered.

Women, and had organized a world conference to evaluate the International Year of the Family in 1995.

63. Slovakia has been actively implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, including through the establishment, in March 1996, of the Coordination Committee for the Problems

offices, and was expected to encourage cooperation between



78. The Committee requests in the next report detailed information on the status and function of the Coordinating Committee for the Problems of Women, its programmes and arrested, prosecuted and sentenced as a result of their involvement in trafficking.

of childcare, they have to interrupt their employment career, which again has negative effects on their employment status, pay and promotion.

90. The Committee recommends that the Government of Slovakia provide options to women who have children and choose to work, including establishment of and access to public day-care facilities. The Committee further recommends the funding and support of pre-school child-care centres at both the local and national levels to ensure women the opportunity to work.

91. The Committee expresses deep concern at the high rate of abortions among Slovak women. The Committee is concerned that abortion is being used as a form of family planning.

92. The Committee strongly recommends an increase in family planning education and accessibility to affordable and safe contraception in order to reduce the number of abortions carried out.

93. The Committee is concerned about the absence of development programmes for rural women to assist them in obtaining the skills and resources necessary to become competitive in the labour market.

94. The Committee recommends that the Government provide information on the measures undertaken to empower rural women and to encourage economic self-sufficiency.

95. The Committee is concerned that inadequate information was provided to the Committee on minority women in Slovakia.

96. The Committee recommends that the Government of Slovakia collect and make available statistical information pertaining to the social, economic and political status of minority women, with a view to developing specific policies to respond to the needs of different groups. The Committee also urges the Government to address the high rate of unemployment among Roma women and to provide further information on assistance programmes in the next report.

97. The Committee expresses regret that the report did not comply fully with its guidelines on the form and content of initial reports and that its general recommendations were not taken into account in the report.

98. The Committee requests that the next report follow the guidelines provided by the Committee in order to improve the presentation of information. It also recommends the serious

99. The Committee requests the wide dissemination in Slovakia of the present concluding comments in order to make the people of Slovakia, and particularly government

Equality was charged with facilitating the transformation of gender relations in civil society through education and public advocacy. Despite those advances, the representative indicated that the national machinery still required consolidation.

providing services that will improve the quality of life for women in South Africa.

104. The representative noted that continuing deep



130. The Committee recommends that special temporary measures, in accordance with article 4 of the Convention, be used to address the low number of women in the judiciary.

131. The Committee expresses serious concern at the chronic high rate of unemployment for women and the insufficient implementation of article 11 of the Convention. Given the large number of self-employed women and of women domestic/household workers, the level of their protection, including through insurance or social security schemes, raises grave concerns, as does the move towards regulated flexibility in employment legislation.

132. The Committee urges the Government to focus, as a matter of priority, on creating income generating activities for women. Existing efforts, including the use of quotas in job creation schemes, such as the community-based public works programme, should be expanded into areas where the number of unemployed women workers is particularly high.

133. The Committee is concerned about the uneven distribution of health care services in the country. It notes that insufficient data disaggregated by sex are being kept on birth rates and in disease registers. It notes with concern that the practice of female genital mutilation has not been given attention.

134. The Committee encourages the Government to continue its efforts to ensure equal access to health services throughout

137. The Committee requests the wide dissemination in South Africa of these concluding comments in order to make the people of South Africa, and particularly government

on the Rights of the Child. The National Commission for Women Decree had established a National Commission for Women in 1989 to coordinate the implementation of programmes to facilitate and enhance the advancement of women in Nigeria. The Commission had been upgraded to the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development. In addition, the state Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development had been established in the 36 states of the Federation.

143. The representative informed the Committee that the Ministry of Women's Affairs sought to raise awareness among women and men of the need to empower women and to forge a new partnership based on mutual respect for the family. The Ministry of Women's Affairs had emphasized the importance of education and the acquisition of skills for women and girls.

144. The representative described several temporary special measures which had been adopted by the Government,

decade. She described several Government measures to address that situation.

Nigeria include answers to these questions in its next periodic report.

156. The Committee is very concerned about religious and customary laws and practices in the family context that violate women's human rights.

157. The Committee recommends that effective measures be taken to change laws and cultural norms which allow such practices as polygamy, one-sided repudiation, unequal subsistence rights and shares, as well as preventing women to travel without the permission of a male relative.

158. Notwithstanding ratification of the Convention without reservations, the Committee is concerned that the Convention is not being implemented within an adequate legal and constitutional framework.

159. The Committee recommends that the Government should fully respect the commitments and obligations arising under the Convention and that it should adopt all necessary measures in this regard.

160. The Committee is concerned by the lack of statistical data in the reports. While there are financial constraints in this context, the use of statistics allows a clearer understanding of progress since the previous report, including in the areas of domestic violence, prostitution, women's labour, including in the informal sector, and women's and children's health.

161. The Committee recommends that the Government should collect statistical information disaggregated by sex in all areas of importance in the lives of women and that such data should be used in future reports.

162. The Committee is concerned about the inadequate

166. Notwithstanding the Government's efforts in the field

## **Panama**

175. The Committee considered the second and third periodic reports of Panama (CEDAW/C/PAN/2-3) at its 392nd and 393rd meetings, on 30 June 1998 (see CEDAW/C/SR.392 and 393).

### **Introduction by the State party**

176. In introducing the report, the representative of Panama stated that Panama had recently gone to great efforts to





## **United Republic of Tanzania**

206. The Committee considered the combined second and third periodic reports of the United Republic of Tanzania

of international aid, meant that there were few resources to implement programmes, including those for the advancement of women.

225. The Committee is of the view that traditional practices and the existence of a multiplicity of laws hinders the advancement of women. It also notes the problems associated

## **Concluding comments of the Committee**

### **Introduction**

218. The Committee congratulates the Government of the





259. The Comm

at the impact of the repeal of the Employment Equity Act on Forms of Discrimination against Women into the Mā

the people of New Zealand, and particularly Government administrators and politicians, aware of the steps that had been taken to ensure de facto equality for women and further steps that are required in that regard. It also requested the Government to continue to disseminate widely, and in particular, to women's and human rights organizations, the Convention, the Committee's general recommendations and

297. The representative informed the Committee that domestic and sexual violence continued to be a serious problem. However, only a fraction of victims reported incidents of abuse. He noted approaches which had been introduced to eradicate violence against women, including the 1993 Domestic Violence Act, awareness-raising campaigns, the establishment of police offices for women, training of



## **Concluding comments of the Committee**

### **Introduction**

303. The Comm

It also recommends systematic dissemination of the Convention at all levels, to men and women in communities, and in particular to all government authorities and persons responsible for its implementation. There is also a need for penalties against those infringing current legislation.

315. The Committee notes that, under the 1993 constitution, international agreements form part of national legislation. It is not clear whether, in order to implement this provision, the Convention has been adopted by Congress.

316. The Committee recommends that an explanation be given in the next report as to whether the Convention is already incorporated in legislation, whether the judiciary has the authority to implement Convention provisions before the courts, what degree of access there is for women to the Convention and to the Ombudsman and, lastly, whether cases of discrimination have been resolved by the courts with reference to the Convention.

317. The Committee notes the prevalence, throughout Peruvian society, of socio-cultural patterns of behaviour that perpetuated prejudices and discrimination against women.

321. The Committee observes that article 4 is being misinterpreted and that no distinction is being made between protective measures and the definitions of affirmative temporary special measures contemplated in the Convention. However, reference is made, in the supplementary report, to

322. The Committee recommends that the Government take

323. The Committee is concerned at the lack of information on the migration of Peruvian women abroad and on the



programmes to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as to treat this disease.

344. Despite the support given by Peru to microcredit, the report does not describe activities in this area, which are extremely important and necessary in order to improve the

350. The representative described several major legal reforms, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Act

employment were already in place, the entry of women into the workforce had not proceeded as rapidly as expected.

357. In concluding her presentation, the representative stated that, although Confucian ideology still hindered the complete realization of gender equality, it was a matter of time before

advancement of women and identification of ten priorities in that respect. The Committee commends the 1995 enactment

370. The Committee is concerned that the reports contain insufficient information on the actual impact of laws and policies on women's lives.

371. The Committee recommends that subsequent reports provide detailed information on the implementation and enforcement of laws and policies. The Committee also recommends that subsequent reports include a comparative analysis of the progress achieved since the previous reports through, *inter alia*, statistical data disaggregated by sex.

372. The Comm

encourage the private sector to introduce quotas for women, particularly in non-traditional areas.

women in the labour market and emphasizes the current Asian economic crisis and its impact on the situation of women. The Committee raises the following concerns:

services. The Committee also recommends more studies on the situation of rural women, and the collection of statistical data to inform policies in this area. The Committee also recommends that the Government facilitate access to credit for rural women.

382. The Committee's further concerns include:

(a) The status and role of the national machinery, including the Commission on Women's Affairs, its authority and budget;

### **3. Follow-up to the Committee decision 18/III**

393. The Committee decided that its decision 18/III, prohibiting the participation of members of the Committee in the consideration of the reports of countries of which they are nationals, should be made widely known, and, in particular, to States parties whose nationals are members of the Committee at the time these States parties are presenting their reports. The Committee decided that the Chairperson of the Committee should make this decision, as well as the procedures of the Committee, known to new experts.

### **4. The Guidelines of the Human Rights Committee**

394. The Committee decided that the Guidelines of the Human Rights Committee for the exercise of functions by members should be discussed by Working Group I at the twentieth session of the Committee in January 1999, if the programme of work of the Committee permits.

### **5. Concluding comments**

395. The Committee decided to streamline those parts of the Committee's concluding comments relating to "factors and difficulties" and "positive aspects", while retaining flexibility in this regard. The sections relating to "principal areas of concern" and "recommendations and suggestions" of the Committee's concluding comments should be combined in



(k) The concluding comments include reference to any commitments of the State party made at the Fourth World Conference on Women;

(l) Where appropriate, the concluding comments include specific suggestions to the States parties with regard to possible technical assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other

Equatorial Guinea  
Uruguay

### **Third periodic reports**

Belarus  
Luxembourg  
Finland

### **Fourth periodic reports**

Sweden

In the event that one of the above-mentioned States parties should be unable to present its report, the Committee will consider the fourth periodic report of Denmark.

## **8. Members of the pre-session working groups for the twentieth and twenty-first sessions**

400. The Committee decided that the members of the pre-session working group for the twentieth session and their alternates should be:

#### *Members*

Ms. Emna Aouij (Africa)  
Ms. Ivanka Corti (Europe)  
Ms. Salma Khan (Asia)  
Ms. Yolande Ferrer (Latin America)

#### *Alternates*

Ms. Charlotte Abaka (Africa)  
Ms. H. B. Schöpp-Schilling (Europe)  
Ms. Chikako Taya (Asia)  
Ms. Aída González (Latin America and the Caribbean)

The Committee decided that the members of the pre-session working group for the twenty-first session and their alternates should be:

#### *Members*

Ms. Charlotte Abaka (Africa)  
Ms. H. B. Schöpp-Schilling (Europe)  
Ms. Yung-Chung Kim (Asia)  
Ms. Aída González (Latin America and the Caribbean)

#### *Alternate*

Ms. Kongit Sinegiorgis (Africa)  
Ms. Feride Acar (Europe)  
Ms. Savitri Goonersekere (Asia)  
Ms. Rosalyn Hazelle (Latin America and the Caribbean)

## **9. Dates of the twentieth session of the Committee**

401. Consistent with the calendar of conferences for 1998, the twentieth session should be held from 18 January to 5 February 1999. The pre-session working group for the twentieth session will meet from 11 to 15 January 1999.

#### *Notes*

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/52/38/Rev.1)*, part II, para. 469.

<sup>2</sup> At its thirteenth session, the Committee agreed that for those States parties that have entered substantive reservations to the Convention, it would include, in the concluding comments it prepares following the review of their reports, a section in which the Committee's views would be reflected: *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/49/38)*, chap. I, sect. C, para. 10.

## Chapter VI

### Implementation of article 21 of the Convention

402. The Committee considered the implementation of article 21 of the Convention (agenda item 6) at its 384th and 403rd meetings, on 22 June and 10 July 1998 (see CEDAW/C/SR.403).

403. The item was presented by the Deputy Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, who introduced the following documents:

(a) Draft general recommendation on article 12 of the Convention (CEDAW/C/1998/I/WG.II/WP.3 and Add.1 and 2);

(b) Working paper containing a draft of the contribution of the Committee to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (CEDAW/C/1998/WG.II/WP.2);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on reports of the specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities (CEDAW/C/1998/II/3 and Add.4).

### Action taken by the Committee on the report of Working Group II

404. At its 403rd meeting, on 10 July 1998, the Committee took the following action on the basis of the report of Working Group II (CEDAW/C/1998/WG.II/WP.1/Rev.2 and CEDAW/C/1998/II/WG.II/WP.2) (see CEDAW/C/SR.403).

#### 1. Revised text on reservations

405. The Committee adopted the revised text on reservations as a contribution to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### 2. Draft general recommendation on article 12

406. The Committee agreed that the secretariat should make the text in CEDAW/C/1998/II/WG.II/WP.2 available to Committee members, along with an annex containing proposals for amendment. Members may wish to submit comments to the secretariat by no later than 1 October 1998 to enable a further discussion and adoption of a full text to

take place at the twentieth session of the Committee in January 1999.

### 3. Statement on the indivisibility of civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights and the centrality of gender awareness to the enjoyment of those rights

407. At their ninth meeting, the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies took note of a proposal by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that that Committee, along with the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights consider issuing a joint statement on the indivisibility of civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights and the centrality of gender awareness to the enjoyment of those rights as part of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (report of the ninth

The principle of indivisibility of all human rights

establishes that women and men are equally entitled to the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. In so doing it reflects the principle of indivisibility of rights.

The two Covenants are premised on the entitlement of all human beings, without distinction based on sex, to the rights in these instruments. They also oblige States parties to ensure the equal entitlement of women and men to the enjoyment of these rights.

The 1990s have been characterized by a growing understanding of the interdependence between human rights and fundamental freedoms, sustainable development, and democracy. This decade has also

in the consideration of the reports of States parties, in concluding comments and general comments and recommendations.

Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women reaffirm their individual and joint responsibility to contribute to the enjoyment of all human rights by all members of society, as foreseen in the Declaration upon which they

**Chapter VII**  
**Provisional agenda for the twentieth**  
**session**

412. The Comm

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States parties	of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Albania	11 May 1994 <sup>a</sup>	10 June 1994
Algeria	22 May 1996 <sup>a b</sup>	21 June 1996
Andorra	15 January 1997 <sup>a</sup>	14 February 1997
Angola	17 September 1986 <sup>a</sup>	17 October 1986
Antigua and Barbuda	1 August 1989 <sup>a</sup>	31 August 1989
Argentina	15 July 1985 <sup>b</sup>	14 August 1985
Armenia	13 September 1993 <sup>a</sup>	13 October 1993
Australia	28 July 1983 <sup>b</sup>	27 August 1983
Austria	31 March 1982 <sup>b</sup>	30 April 1982
Azerbaijan	10 July 1995 <sup>a</sup>	9 August 1995
Bahamas	6 October 1993 <sup>a</sup>	5 November 1993
Bangladesh	6 November 1984 <sup>a b</sup>	6 December 1984
Barbados	16 October 1980	3 September 1981
Belarus	4 February 1981 <sup>c</sup>	3 September 1981
Belgium	10 July 1985 <sup>b</sup>	9 August 1985

States parties	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Democratic Republic of the Congo <sup>f</sup>	17 October 1986	16 November 1986
Denmark	21 April 1983	21 May 1983
Dominica	15 September 1980	3 September 1981
Dominican Republic	2 September 1982	2 October 1982
Ecuador	9 November 1981	9 December 1981
Egypt	18 September 1981 <sup>b</sup>	18 October 1981
El Salvador	19 August 1981 <sup>b</sup>	18 September 1981
Equatorial Guinea	23 October 1984 <sup>a</sup>	22 November 1984
Eritrea	5 September 1995 <sup>a</sup>	5 October 1995
Estonia	21 October 1991 <sup>a</sup>	20 November 1991
Ethiopia	10 September 1981 <sup>b</sup>	10 October 1981
Fiji	28 August 1995 <sup>a b</sup>	27 September 1995
Finland	4 September 1986	4 October 1986
France	14 December 1983 <sup>b c</sup>	13 January 1984
Gabon	21 January 1983	20 February 1983
Gambia	16 April 1993	16 May 1993
Georgia	26 October 1994 <sup>a</sup>	25 November 1994
Germany <sup>g</sup>	10 July 1985 <sup>b</sup>	9 August 1985
Ghana	2 January 1986	1 February 1986
Greece	7 June 1983	7 July 1983
Grenada	30 August 1990	29 September 1990
Guatemala	12 August 1982	11 September 1982
Guinea	9 August 1982	8 September 1982
Guinea-Bissau	23 August 1985	22 September 1985
Guyana	17 July 1980	3 September 1981
Haiti	20 July 1981	3 September 1981
Honduras	3 March 1983	2 April 1983
Hungary	22 December 1980 <sup>c</sup>	3 September 1981
Iceland	18 June 1985	18 July 1985
India	9 July 1993 <sup>b</sup>	8 August 1993
Indonesia	13 September 1984 <sup>b</sup>	13 October 1984
Iraq	13 August 1986 <sup>a b</sup>	12 September 1986
Ireland	23 December 1985 <sup>a b c</sup>	22 January 1986
Israel	3 October 1991 <sup>b</sup>	2 November 1991
Italy	10 June 1985 <sup>b</sup>	10 July 1985
Jamaica	19 October 1984 <sup>b</sup>	18 November 1984
Japan	25 June 1985	25 July 1985
Jordan	1 July 1992 <sup>b</sup>	31 July 1992
Kenya	9 March 1984 <sup>a</sup>	8 April 1984
Kuwait	2 September 1994 <sup>a</sup>	2 October 1994
Kyrgyzstan	10 February 1997 <sup>a</sup>	12 March 1997
Lao People's Democratic Republic	14 August 1981	13 September 1981
Latvia	14 April 1992 <sup>a</sup>	14 May 1992
Lebanon	21 April 1997 <sup>a b</sup>	21 May 1997

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States parties	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Lesotho	22 August 1995 <sup>a b</sup>	21 September 1995
Liberia	17 July 1984 <sup>a</sup>	16 August 1984
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	16 May 1989 <sup>a b</sup>	15 June 1989
Liechtenstein	22 December 1995 <sup>a c</sup>	21 January 1996
Lithuania	18 January 1994 <sup>a</sup>	17 February 1994
Luxembourg	2 February 1989 <sup>b</sup>	4 March 1989
Madagascar	17 March 1989	16 April 1989
Malawi	12 March 1987	11 April 1987



States parties	Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession	Date of entry into force
Singapore	5 October 1995 <sup>a b</sup>	4 November 1995
Slovakia <sup>c</sup>	28 May 1993 <sup>c d</sup>	27 June 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992 <sup>d</sup>	5 August 1992
South Africa	15 December 1995 <sup>a</sup>	14 January 1996
Spain	5 January 1984 <sup>b</sup>	4 February 1984
Sri Lanka	5 October 1981	4 November 1981
Suriname	1 March 1993 <sup>a</sup>	31 March 1993
Sweden	2 July 1980	3 September 1981
Switzerland	27 March 1997 <sup>a</sup>	26 April 1997
Tajikistan	26 October 1993 <sup>a</sup>	25 November 1993
Thailand	9 August 1985 <sup>a b c</sup>	8 September 1985
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 <sup>d</sup>	17 February 1994
Togo	26 September 1983 <sup>a</sup>	26 October 1983
Trinidad and Tobago	12 January 1990 <sup>b</sup>	11 February 1990
Tunisia	20 September 1985 <sup>b</sup>	20 October 1985
Turkey	20 December 1985 <sup>a b</sup>	19 January 1986
Turkmenistan	1 May 1997 <sup>a</sup>	31 May 1997
Uganda	22 July 1985	21 August 1985
Ukraine	12 March 1981 <sup>c</sup>	3 September 1981
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 April 1986 <sup>b</sup>	7 May 1986
United Republic of Tanzania	20 August 1985	19 September 1985
Uruguay	9 October 1981	8 November 1981
Uzbekistan	19 July 1995 <sup>a</sup>	18 August 1995
Vanuatu	8 September 1995 <sup>a</sup>	8 October 1995
Venezuela	2 May 1983 <sup>b</sup>	1 June 1983
Viet Nam	17 February 1982 <sup>b</sup>	19 March 1982
Yemen <sup>h</sup>	30 May 1984 <sup>a b</sup>	29 June 1984
Yugoslavia	26 February 1982	28 March 1982
Zambia	21 June 1985	21 July 1985
Zimbabwe	13 May 1991 <sup>a</sup>	12 June 1991

<sup>a</sup> Accession.

<sup>b</sup> Declarations and reservations.

<sup>c</sup> Reservation subsequently withdrawn.

<sup>d</sup> Succession.

<sup>e</sup> Before becoming separate States on 1 January 1993, the Czech Republic and Slovakia formed part of Czechoslovakia, which State had ratified the Convention on 16 February 1982.

<sup>f</sup> Effective 17 May 1997 Zaire was renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo.

<sup>g</sup> With effect from 3 October 1990, the German Democratic Republic (which ratified the Convention on 9 July 1980) and the Federal Republic of Germany (which ratified the Convention on 10 July 1985) united to form one sovereign State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation "Germany".

<sup>h</sup> On 22 May 1990 Democratic Yemen and Yemen merged to form a single State, which acts in the United Nations under the designation "Yemen".

## Annex II

### Membership of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

<i>Name of member</i>	<i>Country of nationality</i>
Charlotte Abaka*	Ghana
Ayse Feride Acar**	Turkey
Emna Aouij*	Tunisia
Tendai Ruth Bare*	Zimbabwe
Desiree Patricia Bernard*	Guyana
Carlota Bustelo García del Real**	Spain
Silvia Rose Cartwright**	New Zealand
Miriam Yolanda Estrada Castillo*	Ecuador
Ivanka Corti*	Italy
Yolanda Ferrer Gómez**	Cuba
Aída González Martínez**	Mexico
Sunaryati Hartono*	Indonesia
Aurora Javate de Dios*	Philippines
Salma Khan**	Bangladesh
Yung-Chung Kim**	Republic of Korea
Lin Shangzhen*	China
Ahoua Ouedraogo**	Burkina Faso
Anne Lise Ryel**	Norway
Ginko Sato*	Japan
Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling**	Germany
Carmel Shalev*	Israel
Kongit Sinegiorgis**	Ethiopia
Mervat Tallawy*	Egypt

\* Term of office expires in 1998.

\*\* Term of office expires in 2000.

## Annex III

### Documents before the Committee at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions

#### A. Eighteenth session

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CEDAW/C/1998/I/1	Provisional agenda and annotations
CEDAW/C/1998/I/2	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention
CEDAW/C/1998/I/3	Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities
CEDAW/C/1998/I/4	Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee
CEDAW/C/1998/I/CRP.1 and Add.1-4	Report of the pre-session working group
CEDAW/C/1998/I/INF.1/Rev.1	List of participants
CEDAW/C/1998/I/L.1 and Add.1-9	Draft report of the Committee

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
CEDAW/C/1998/II/1	Provisional agenda and annotations
CEDAW/C/1998/II/2	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of submission of reports by States parties under article 18 of the Convention
CEDAW/C/1998/II/3	Note by the Secretary-General on reports of specialized agencies on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities
CEDAW/C/1998/II/3/Add.1/ Part.1 and Part.2	Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization
CEDAW/C/1998/II/4	Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee
CEDAW/C/1998/II/CRP.1 and Add.1-6	Report of the pre-session working group
CEDAW/C/1998/II/INF.1/Rev.1	List of participants
CEDAW/C/1998/II/L.1 and Add.1-9	Draft report of the Committee
CEDAW/C/1998/II/WG.I/WP.1	Report of Working Group I
CEDAW/C/1998/II/WG.II/WP.1/ Rev.1	Draft statement on reservations
CEDAW/C/1998/II/WG.II/WP.1/ Rev.2	Statement on reservations

## Annex IV

### Status of submission and consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as at 10 July 1998

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
<b>A. Initial reports</b>			
Albania	10 June 1995		
Algeria	21 June 1997		
Andorra	14 February 1998		
Angola	17 October 1987		
Antigua and Barbuda	31 August 1990	21 September 1994 (CEDAW/C/ANT/1-3)	Seventeenth (1997)
Argentina	14 August 1986	6 October 1986 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.39)	Seventh (1988)

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Botswana	12 September 1997		
Brazil	2 March 1985		
Bulgaria	10 March 1983	13 June 1983 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.15)	Fourth (1985)
Burkina Faso	13 November 1988	24 May 1990	Tenth (1991)

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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Iraq	12 September 1987	16 May 1990 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.66/Rev.1)	Twelfth (1993)
Ireland	22 January 1987	18 February 1987 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.47)	Eighth (1989)
Israel	2 November 1992	12 January 1994 <u>b</u> / 7 April 1997 (CEDAW/C/ISR/1-2)	Seventeenth (1997)
Italy	10 July 1986	20 October 1989 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.62)	Tenth (1991)
Jamaica	18 November 1985	12 September 1986 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.38)	Seventh (1988)
Japan	25 July 1986	13 March 1987 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.48)	Seventh (1988)
Jordan	31 July 1993	27 October 1997 (CEDAW/C/JOR/1)	
Kenya	8 April 1985	4 December 1990 (CEDAW/C/KEN/1-2)	Twelfth (1993)
Kuwait	1 October 1995		
Kyrgyzstan	12 March 1998		



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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Mauritius	8 A		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Republic of Moldova	31 July 1995		
Romania	6 February 1983	14 January 1987 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.45)	Twelfth (1993)
Russian Federation	3 September 1982	2 March 1983 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.12)	Second (1983)
Rwanda	3 September 1982	24 May 1983 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.13)	Third (1984)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1986		
Saint Lucia	7 November 1983		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1982	27 September 1991 (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3) 28 July 1994 (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3/Add.1)	Sixteenth (1997)
Samoa	25 October 1993		
Senegal	7 March 1986	5 November 1986 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.42)	Seventh (1988)
Seychelles	4 June 1993		
Sierra Leone	11 December 1989		
Singapore	4 November 1996		
Slovakia	27 June 1994	29 April 1996 (CEDAW/C/SVK/1) 11 May 1998 (CEDAW/C/SVK/1/Add.1)	Nineteenth (1998)
Slovenia	5 August 1993	23 November 1993 (CEDAW/C/SVN/1)	Sixteenth (1997)
South Africa	14 January 1997	5 February 1998	Nineteenth (1998)

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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Turkey	19 January 1987	27 January 1987 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.46)	Ninth (1990)
Turkmenistan	31 May 1998		
Uganda	21 August 1986	1 June 1992 (CEDAW/C/UGA/1-2)	Fourteenth (1995)
Ukraine	3 September 1982	2 March 1983 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.11)	Second (1983)

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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Belgium	9 August		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Egypt	18 October 1986	19 December 1986 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.2)	Ninth (1990)
El Salvador	18 September 1986	18 December 1987 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.12)	Eleventh (1992)
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1989	6 January 1994 (CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3)	
Estonia	20 November 1996		
Ethiopia	10 October 1986	22 April 1993 (CEDAW/C/ETH/1-3) 16 October 1995 (CEDAW/C/ETH/1-3/Add.1)	Fifteenth (1996)
Finland	4 October 1991	9 February 1993 (CEDAW/C/FIN/2)	Fourteenth (1995)
France	13 January 1989	10 December 1990 (CEDAW/C/FRA/2 and Rev.1)	Twelfth (1993)
Gabon	20 February 1988		
Gambia	16 May 1998		
Germany	9 August 1990	8 October 1996 (CEDAW/C/DEU/2-3)	
Ghana	1 February 1991	29 January 1991 (CEDAW/C/GHA/1-2)	Eleventh (1992)
Greece	7 July 1988	1 March 1996 (CEDAW/C/GRC/2-3)	
Grenada	29 September 1995		
Guatemala	11 September 1987	2 April 1991 (CEDAW/C/GUA/1-2 and Corr.1) 7 April 1993 (CEDAW/C/GUA/1-2/ Amend.1)	Thirteenth (1994) Thirteenth (1994)
Guinea	8 September 1987		
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1990		
Guyana	3 September 1986		
Haiti	3 September 1986		
Honduras	2 April 1988	28 October 1987 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.9)	Eleventh (1992)
Hungary	3 September 1986	29 September 1986 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.1)	Seventh (1988)
Iceland	18 July 1990	5 May 1993 (CEDAW/C/ICE/1-2)	Fifteenth (1996)
Indonesia	13 October 1989	6 February 1997 (CEDAW/C/IDN/2-3)	Eighteenth (1998)
Iraq	12 September 1991		
Ireland	22 January 1991	6 February 1997 (CEDAW/C/IRL/2-3)	
Israel	2 November 1996	7 April 1997 (CEDAW/C/ISR/1-2)	Seventeenth (1997)

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Italy	10 July 1990	1 March 1994 (CEDAW/C/ITA/2)	Seventeenth (1997)
Jamaica	18 November 1989	17 February 1998 (CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4)	
Japan	25 July 1990	21 February 1992 (CEDAW/C/JPN/2)	Thirteenth (1994)
Jordan	31 July 1997		
Kenya	8 April 1989	4 December 1990 (CEDAW/C/KEN/1-2)	Twelfth (1993)
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1986		
Latvia	14 May 1997		
Liberia	16 August 1989		
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 June 1994		
Luxembourg	4 March 1994	8 April 1997 (CEDAW/C/LUX/2)	Seventeenth (1997)
Madagascar	16 April 1994		
Malawi	11 April 1992		
Maldives	1 July 1998		
Mali	10 October 1990		
Malta	7 April 1996		
Mauritius	8 August 1989	23 February 1992 (CEDAW/C/MAR/1-2)	Fourteenth (1995)
Mexico	3 September 1986	3 December 1987 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.10)	Ninth (1990)
Mongolia	3 September 1986	17 March 1987 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.7)	Ninth (1990)
Namibia	23 December 1997		
Nepal	22 May 1996		
Netherlands	22 August 1996		
New Zealand	9 February 1990	3 November 1992 (CEDAW/C/NZE/2) 27 October 1993 (CEDAW/C/NZE/2/Add.1)	Thirteenth (1994)
Nicaragua	26 November 1986	16 March 1989 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.20)	Twelfth (1993)
Nigeria	13 July 1990	13 February 1997 (CEDAW/C/NGA/2-3)	Nineteenth (1998)
Norway	3 September 1986	23 June 1988 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.15)	Tenth (1991)
Panama	28 November 1986	17 January 1997 (CEDAW/C/PAN/2-3)	Nineteenth (1998)

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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Tunisia	20 October 1990	17 September 1993 (CEDAW/C/TUN/1-2)	Fourteenth (1995)
Turkey	19 January 1991	7 February 1994 <sup>b</sup> 3 September 1996 (CEDAW/C/TUR/2-3)	Sixteenth (1997)
Uganda	21 August 1990	1 June 1992 (CEDAW/C/UGA/1-2)	Fourteenth (1995)
Ukraine	3 September 1986	13 August 1987 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.8)	Ninth (1990)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 May 1991	11 May 1991 (CEDAW/C/UK/2 and Amend.1)	Twelfth (1993)



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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Greece	7 July 1992	1 March 1996 (CEDAW/C/GRC/2-3)	

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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Turkey	19 January 1995	3 September 1996 (CEDAW/C/TUR/2-3)	Sixteenth (1997)
Uganda	21 August 1994		
Ukraine	3 September 1990	31 May 1991 (CEDAW/C/UKR/3) 21 November 1995 (CEDAW/C/UKR/3/Add.1)	Fifteenth (1996)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 May 1995	16 August 1995 (CEDAW/C/UK/3) 8 August 1997 (CEDAW/C/UK/3/Add.1)	
United Republic of Tanzania	19 September 1994	25 September 1996 (CEDAW/C/TZA/2-3)	Nineteenth (1998)
Uruguay	8 November 1990	3 February 1998 (CEDAW/C/URY/2-3)	
Venezuela	1 June 1992	8 February 1995 (CEDAW/C/VEN/3)	Sixteenth (1997)
Viet Nam	19 March 1991		
Yemen	29 June 1993	13 November 1992 (CEDAW/C/YEM/3)	Twelfth (1993)
Yugoslavia	28 March 1991		
Zambia	21 July 1994		
<b>D. Fourth periodic reports</b>			
Australia	27 August 1996		
Austria	30 April 1995	25 April 1997 (CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4)	

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Dominica	3 September 1994		
Dominican Republic	2 October 1995	29 October 1997 (CEDAW/C/DOM/4)	Eighteenth (1998)
Ecuador	9 December 1994		
Egypt	18 October 1994		
El Salvador	18 October 1994		
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1997		
Ethiopia	10 October 1994		
France	13 January 1997		
Gabon	20 February 1996		
Greece	7 July 1996		
Guatemala	11 September 1995		
Guinea	8 September 1995		
Guyana	3 September 1994		
Haiti	3 September 1994		
Honduras	2 April 1996		
Hungary	3 September 1994		
Iceland	3 July 1998		
Italy	10 July 1998		
Indonesia	13 October 1997		
Jamaica	18 November 1997	17 February 1998 (CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4)	
Kenya	8 April 1997		
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1994		
Liberia	16 August 1997		
Mauritius	8 August 1997		
Mexico	3 September 1994	7 March 1997 <sup>b</sup> (CEDAW/C/MEX/3-4)	Eighteenth (1998)
Mongolia	3 September 1994		
New Zealand	9 February 1998	2 March 1998 (CEDAW/C/NZL/3-4) 15 April 1998 (CEDAW/C/NZL/3-4)	Nineteenth (1998)
Nicaragua	26 November 1994	16 June 1998 (CEDAW/C/NIC/4)	
Norway	3 September 1994	1 September 1994 (CEDAW/C/NOR/4)	Fourteenth (1995)
Panama	28 November 1994		
Peru	13 October 1995	25 November 1994 (CEDAW/C/PER/3-4)	Nineteenth (1998)

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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Philippines	4 September 1994	22 April 1996 (CEDAW/C/PHI/4)	Sixteenth (1997)
Poland	3 September 1994		
Portugal	3 September 1994		
Republic of Korea	26 January 1998	27 March 1998 (CEDAW/C/KOR/4)	Nineteenth (1998)
Romania	6 February 1995		
Russian Federation	3 September 1994	31 August 1994 (CEDAW/C/USR/4)	Fourteenth (1995)
Rwanda	3 September 1994		
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1998		
Saint Lucia	7 November 1995		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1994		
Senegal	7 March 1998		
Spain	4 February 1997		
Sri Lanka	4 November 1994		
Sweden	3 September 1994	21 May 1996 (CEDAW/C/SWE/4)	
Togo	26 October 1996		
Ukraine	3 November 1994		
Uruguay	8 November 1994		
Venezuela	1 June 1996		
Viet Nam	19 March 1995		
Yemen	29 June 1997		
Yugoslavia	28 March 1995		

**E. Reports submitted on an exceptional basis**

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