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Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

**Twenty-second session
(17 January-4 February 2000)**

**Twenty-third session
(12-30 June 2000)**

Note

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Part one
Report of the Committee on the Elimination

Letter of transmittal

19 April 2000

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

A. Statement of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the legal framework for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the links between the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Platform for Action

1. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), now in force for over 18 years, has been ratified by 165 States to date. It is the only international instrument to set forth the human rights standards for women and girls in the full range of civil, political, economic, social and cultural areas of both public and private life. It is widely known as “the Women’s Convention”.

2. Many nations that have ratified the Convention have integrated it into their constitutional and legislative framework. It therefore has significance for women in the fields of both domestic and international law and has been influential in the formulation and implementation of government policy and in the development of the domestic jurisprudence that has advanced the human rights of women in all regions of the world.

3. The Convention and the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women¹ are closely connected. The Convention’s rights and provisions encompass all areas of concern set forth in the Platform for Action and its monitoring process enables the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to ensure compliance

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Decision 22/ IV

Pre-session working group

The Committee decided that in drawing up the list of issues and questions with regard to periodic reports, the pre-session working group should formulate a short list of questions and issues focusing, if possible, on major areas of concern in regard to implementation of the Convention by States parties.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

A. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

6. On 4 February 2000, the closing date of the twenty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 165 States parties to the Convention on the

Convention. She noted that, currently, only 23 States parties had accepted the amendment, the most recent being Turkey, on 9 December 1999.

13. The Special Adviser described some of the activities concerning the Convention and the Committee undertaken by the Division for the Advancement of Women since the twenty-first session. These included the Judicial Colloquium on the application of international human rights law at the domestic level, which had been held at the United Nations Office at Vienna to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex). A subregional training workshop (lu)14t4t4t4t*007967 Tc0pr5(n)-0.phe Udbe aa7(i1(a)a(n)-0.1(he)nt

E. Report of the pre-session working group

18. The Committee had decided, at its ninth session,² 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. The pre-session working group for the twenty-second session of the Committee was held from 28 June to 2 July 1999.

state level. The representative highlighted the ninth five-year plan (1997-2002), which had identified the empowerment of women as a strategy for development and mandated early finalization of a national policy on empowerment of women. She indicated that, pending the adoption of the national policy, many mechanisms identified therein had already been put in place. Recently, the Prime Minister's Office had directed that a review be made of the impact of gender mainstreaming in ministries and departments.

34. The representative indicated that progressive legislation to promote the interests of women existed at both state and central levels, and that the Government had tasked the National Council of Women to oversee the implementation of constitutional and legal safeguards for women. The review of 39 laws was under way; recommendations for amendments, including those with regard to the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, had been submitted; and a draft bill on violence against women had been prepared. *Lok adalats* (people's courts) and *parivarik mahila lok adalats* (family women's courts) had been established to provide less formal systems of justice delivery. India had a tradition of public interest litigation and the Supreme Court had issued landmark judgements, including on sexual harassment at the work place and child prostitution. Several training institutes had also introduced gender sensitization training for judicial officials.

35. The representative described steps that had been

maintenance, came within the jurisdiction of the family courts, which incorporated informal procedures and

violence against women, significant gender disparities and an adverse sex ratio, present major obstacles to the implementation of the Convention.

53. The Committee notes that the existence of regional disparities is an impediment to the effective implementation of the Convention.

Principal areas of concern and recommendations

54. The Committee notes that the Convention and the Beijing Platform for Action have not been integrated into policy planning and programmes. While there have been several national plans in the pre- and post-Beijing period, the Committee notes that these adopt a welfare approach towards women.

55. The Committee recommends that the proposed gender empowerment policy integrate the Convention and the Beijing Platform for Action and a rights-based approach.

56. The Committee considers that inadequate allocation of resources for women's development in the social sector and inadequate implementation of laws are serious impediments to the realization of women's human rights in India.

57. The Committee urges the allocation of sufficient and targeted resources for women's development in the social sector, as well as full implementation of relevant laws.

58. The Committee notes that there are many gaps in the legislative framework. The Committee considers that there is an urgent need to introduce comprehensive legislative reform to promote equality and the human rights of women.

59. The Committee recommends that proposals of the National Commission of Women on law reform be used in preparing new legislation and that the Commission be entrusted with the task of developing working papers on legal reform in critical areas, within a time-frame.

60. The Committee notes that steps have not been taken to reform the personal laws of different religious and ethnic groups, in consultation with them, so as to conform with the Convention. The Committee is concerned that the Government's policy of non-intervention perpetuates sexual stereotypes, son preference and discrimination against women.

61. The Committee urges the Government to withdraw its declaration to article 16, paragraph 1, of the Convention and to work with and support women's groups as members of the community in reviewing and reforming these personal laws. The Committee also

market economic policies, is not covered by constitutional standards.

67. The Committee recommends that a sex discrimination act be introduced to make the standards of the Convention and the Constitution applicable to non-State action and inaction.

68. The Committee is concerned that there is a high incidence of gender-based violence against women, which takes even more extreme forms because of customary practices, such as dowry, sati and the devadasi system. Discrimination against women who belong to particular castes or ethnic or religious groups is also manifest in extreme forms of physical and sexual violence and harassment.

69. The Committee urges the Government to implement existing legislation prohibiting such practices as dowry, devadasi and caste-based discrimination. It calls upon the Government to strengthen law enforcement and introduce reforms proposed by the National Commission on Women and women activists in regard to the law on rape, sexual harassment and domestic violence.

70. The Committee recommends that a national plan of action be developed to address the issue of gender-based violence in a holistic manner, in line with the Committee's general recommendations 19 and 24. It calls upon the Government to provide statistics and information on violence against women in its next report.

71. The Committee is concerned that women are exposed to the risk of high levels of violence, rape, sexual harassment, humiliation and torture in areas where there are armed insurrections.

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profession in creating awareness of the urgent need to eliminate practices associated with son preference.

80. The Committee is concerned about the low participation of qualified women in the administration and the judiciary, including family courts and *lok adalats* or conciliation tribunals.

81. The Committee urges the Government to take affirmative action to increase women's participation in the judiciary and *lok adalats*, and provide sex-disaggregated data in its next report.

82. The Committee is concerned with significant disparities in economic activity rates for men and women. It is concerned that the practice of debt bondage and the denial of inheritance rights in land result in gross exploitation of women's labour and their impoverishment.

83. The Committee requests the Government to enforce laws on bonded labour and provide women with self-employment opportunities and minimum wages in home-based production and the non-formal sector. It calls upon the Government to review laws on inheritance urgently and to ensure that rural women obtain access to land and credit.

84. The Committee is concerned that the National Commission on Women has no power to enforce its proposals for law reform or intervene to prevent discrimination in the private or public sector. It notes that the National Commission and state commissions are not supported by adequate financial and other resources. It also notes that the National Commission on Women is not as well resourced or as empowered as the Human Rights Commission of India, and that it has no formal link with the state women's commissions.

85. The Committee recommends that non-governmental organizations be represented on the National Commission of Women. The Commission's powers should be as wide as those of the Human Rights Commission and include a complaints procedure. The Committee recommends that state commissions be similarly strengthened and linked with the National Commission.

86. The Committee is concerned that, despite the willingness of the Government to work with non-governmental organizations and women's groups, women activists and human rights defenders are exposed to violence and harassment in the communities in which they work.

87. The Committee urges the Government to strictly enforce the law and protect women activists and human rights defenders from acts of violence and harassment.

88. The Committee encourages India to deposit its acceptance to the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention as soon as possible.

89. The Committee requests that the Government respond in its next periodic report to the specific issues raised in its concluding comments.

90. The Committee encourages the wide dissemination in India of the present concluding comments in order to make the people, civil society and Government sectors aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure de jure and de facto equality of women, as well as further steps that are required in that regard. It also requests the Government to disseminate widely, in all local languages, the Convention, its Optional Protocol, the Committee's general recommendations and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Myanmar

91. The Committee considered the initial report of Myanmar (CEDAW/C/MMR/1) at its 450th, 451st and 457th meetings, on 21 and 26 January 2000 (see CEDAW/C/SR.450, 451 and 457).

Introduction by the State party

Concluding comments of the Committee

Introduction

101. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Government of Myanmar for submitting its initial report and for engaging in a constructive dialogue with the Committee. It also commends the Government's efforts to produce an informative response, including some statistics, in a very short time. The Committee notes, however, that the report does not include sufficient reliable statistical data disaggregated by sex and provides insufficient information relating to the implementation of a number of articles in the Convention.

102. The Committee welcomes the fact that Myanmar ratified the Convention without reservations on substantive articles.

103. The Committee commends the Government of Myanmar for sending a high-level delegation, including an adviser of the Ministry of National Planning and Develop

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114. The Committee requests the Government to include in its next report more information and data on the process of implementation of the order and recommends that the Government take the action necessary to bring perpetrators to justice.

115. The Committee notes with concern that, although Myanmar has 135 ethnic groups, there is little information in its report about how the human rights of women in all ethnic groups are guaranteed, protected and promoted.

116. The Committee requests the Government to include in its next report more information and data on the situation of women in as many ethnic minority groups as possible and the measures taken by the Government of Myanmar to protect and ensure their human rights under the Convention.

117. The Committee is concerned about violations of the human rights of women, in particular by military personnel.

118. The Committee urges the Government to prosecute and punish those who violate the human rights of women, including military personnel, and to carry out human rights education and gender-sensitization training for all law enforcement and military personnel.

119. The Committee notes with concern that there is little information on the trafficking in women and girls, despite the magnitude of the problem.

120. The Committee requests the Government to include in its next report more information and data on the situation of trafficking in women and girls.

121. The Committee is concerned with the increasing number of women with HIV/AIDS.

122. The Committee requests more information on the situation of women affected by HIV/AIDS, including women in trafficking and prostitution, in the next periodic report. Information should also be given on their access to health care, as well as the Government's

social development plan for 1999-2003 was an indication of the Government's commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action.

145. Women's participation in political and public life had improved modestly in Jordan since ratification of the Convention, with progress hindered by prevalent social and cultural patterns that were not yet receptive to such changes. Women had been almost continuously present in the Cabinet since 1993, and for the first time in the country's history a woman currently occupied the post of Deputy Prime Minister. Women's representation had also increased within ministries and in the Senate, and there were now a total of seven women members of the judiciary. Women had made less progress in gaining electoral office, and none of the 17 women candidates was elected to Parliament in the 1997 election.

and further commitments would be achieved in the years ahead.

Concluding comments of the Committee

Introduction

152. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Government of Jordan for submitting its initial report as well as a timely, detailed and well structured second

Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Convention

165. The Committee considers that the country's current socio-economic situation, including the doubling of the population, owing largely to refugee influx, and the scarcity of natural resources, affect the full implementation of the Convention. The persistence of strong stereotypical attitudes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men also constitute an impediment to the full implementation of the Convention.

Principal areas of concern and recommendations

166. The Committee expresses its concern that cultural practices and strong stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men, affecting all spheres of life and impeding the full implementation of the Convention, persist.

178. The Committee expresses its concern that several provisions of the Penal Code continue to discriminate against women. In particular, the Committee is concerned that article 340 of the Penal Code excuses a man who kills or injures his wife or his female kin caught in the act of adultery.

179. The Committee urges the Government to provide all possible support for the speedy repeal of article 340 and to undertake awareness-raising activities that make “honour killings” socially and morally unacceptable. It also urges the Government to take steps that ensure the replacement of protective custody with other types of protection for women.

180. The Committee expresses its concern that the prohibition of abortion also applies to cases where pregnancy is due to rape or incest.

181. The Committee calls on the Government to initiate legislative action to permit safe3 to po12.6(at)7.8(ti)12.6(o)e3oee

193. The Committee requests the wide dissemination in Jordan of the current concluding comments in order to make the people, in particular government administrators and politicians, aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure de jure and de facto equality of women as well as of further steps that are required in this regard. It also requests the Government to continue to disseminate widely, in particular to women's and human rights organizations, the Convention, its Optional Protocol, the Committee's general recommendations and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

3. Initial report and second and third periodic reports

Democratic Republic of the Congo

194. The Committee considered the initial report and the second and third periodic reports of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CEDAW/C/ZAR/1, 2 and 2/Add.1 and Corr.1 and CEDAW/C/COD/1) at its

publicized the Convention. With the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Convention was now being translated into national languages.

200. Stereotypes about the role of women affected them from early girlhood. Since the creation of the Ministry of Advancement of Women in 1980, several awareness-raising campaigns had been organized to promote a more positive image of the role of women in society and in the family. A study on customary laws and the rights of women had been conducted by the Ministry of Advancement of Women and non-governmental organizations to develop strategies to eliminate all harmful customs and practices.

201. The representative noted that the majority of Congolese women remained illiterate and that literacy programmes had been initiated, targeting girls who dropped out of school and older women. Despite the right of all children to education without distinction based on sex, race, age and social class, the rate of young girls leaving school was very high, especially in the rural areas. Efforts were being made by the National Forum on the Rights and Leadership of Congolese Women, in partnership with the private sector, non-governmental organizations and churches, to increase the enrolment rate of young girls in secondary education.

202. The representative informed the Committee that Congolese women had been victims of physical, psychological and moral violence, but that much of this was unreported and undocumented. Young girls also suffered from various types of sexual violence, including rape and female genital mutilation. In the past several years, awareness-raising campaigns concerning violence against women had been organized by non-governmental organizations in collaboration with the Government. A study had been conducted in October 1999 by the Ministry of Advancement of Women and non-governmental organizations to provide a basis for strategies to address violence against women.

203. In concluding, the representative stated that, despite the difficulties being experienced by the country, her Government was making every effort to eliminate discrimination against women and improve the condition of women's lives, including through the establishment of a national machinery for the advancement of women, the elimination of

discrimination through the draft constitution, the adoption of a gender approach in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of all development projects and the elaboration of a national programme for the promotion of Congolese women. She emphasized, however, that even if all commitments were fulfilled, they would have little effect in the absence of peace.

Concluding comments of the Committee

Introduction

204. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for ratifying the Convention in 1985 without reservations and for submitting its initial report and second and third periodic reports, together with

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relations that they have established with the State will help to speed up the peace process in the country.

Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Convention

209. One of the main obstacles to the full implementation of the Convention is the current war. The Committee recognizes that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been facing economic, social and political problems related to the war, which have had a negative impact on the whole population, particularly on girls and women, who are often victims of rape and gender-based violence, and on most refugees and displaced persons, who are experiencing great hardship. The situation is also being aggravated by growing inflation, which has eroded the quality of life of millions of women who do not have enough resources to survive.

210. The Committee notes that the persistence of prejudices and stereotyped behaviours with respect to the role of women and men in the family and society, based on the idea of male superiority and the consequent subordination of women to men, is a serious obstacle to the implementation of the Convention.

Principal areas of concern and recommendations

211. The Committee notes with concern that despite some legislative gains, the Family Code, the Penal Code and the Labour Code still contain discriminatory provisions.

212. The Committee recommends that the Government give the highest priority to the adoption of legislation to protect the de jure and de facto equality of women, and to the enforcement of this legislation.

213. The Committee is concerned at the fact that the national machinery and the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Family do not have adequate resources to implement their plan of action.

214. The Committee encourages the Government to find the necessary resources

environment conducive to improving the situation of women in all sectors of public life and in private life.

222. The Committee recommends the adoption of temporary special measures with specific objectives, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

223. Notwithstanding the efforts made by the Government in the sphere of education, the Committee remains deeply concerned about the low rate of school enrolment of girls, their high drop-out rate and also the high female illiteracy rate, especially in rural areas.

224. The Committee encourages the Government to step up its efforts by establishing specific programmes to reduce female illiteracy and promote the access of girls to secondary schools. The Government should also envisage the provision of free primary education.

225. The Committee is concerned about de jure and de facto discrimination against women with regard to the right to work, particularly the requirement of the husband's authorization of a wife's paid employment and reduction of pay during maternity leave.

226. The Committee urges the Government to amend discriminatory laws in the sphere of employment in accordance with article 11 of the Convention.

227. The Committee notes with deep concern the high rates of maternal and infant mortality, the low rate of contraceptive use, particularly in rural areas, and the decline in health services.

228. The Committee calls upon the Government to make efforts to improve the use of contraceptive methods, to repeal article 178 of the Penal Code, which prohibits the dissemination of contraceptive methods, and to provide sex education for young people.

229. The Committee requests that the Government promote the improvement of health services for women throughout their life cycle, taking into account the Committee's general recommendation 24 on women and health.

230. The Committee is concerned about the situation of rural women, who constitute the majority of the population. In addition, customs and beliefs are most broadly accepted and followed in rural areas, preventing women from inheriting or gaining ownership of land and property.

231. The Committee urges the Government to pay the greatest attention to the needs of rural women and to ensure that they benefit from the policies and programmes adopted in all spheres, including recognition of their status as agricultural employees who should benefit from the rights accorded by labour law. Rural women's equal participation in decision-making, and access to health services and credit should be ensured. The Committee recommends that more studies be undertaken on the situation of rural women and that more statistical data be collected to provide guidelines for policies in this sphere.

232. The Committee expresses concern about food taboos, which are not only detrimental to the health of women, especially mothers, but also have serious consequences for the health of future generations. The Committee recommends that the Government address the issue of eliminating food taboos by raising awareness about their detrimental effects on the health of women.

233. The Committee regrets that the reports do not fully abide by its guidelines on the form and content of initial and periodic reports and do not take into account its general recommendations.

234. The Committee requests that, in preparing its next report, the Democratic Republic of the Congo take into account the Committee's guidelines and general recommendations.

235. The Committee encourages the Democratic Republic of the Congo to deposit its instrument of acceptance of the amendment to 988.3(t t)17.9(o.0449 (l)]TJT1(e)-6

Convention, its Optional Protocol, the Committee's general recommendations and the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.

4. Combined second and third periodic reports

Burkina Faso

239. The Committee considered the combined second and third periodic reports of Burkina Faso (CEDAW/C/BFA/2-3) at its 458th and 459th meetings, on 27 January 1999 (see CEDAW/C/SR.458 and 459).

Introduction by the State party

240. The representative of Burkina Faso informed the Committee that since ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1984, the Government had formulated new

Committee also recommends that, as in the case of the

285. The Committee calls upon the Government of Burkina Faso to include information on the subjects of concern raised in these concluding comments in the next periodic report, which it is required to submit in accordance with article 18 of the Convention.

286. The Committee requests the wide dissemination in Burkina Faso of the present concluding comments so that the people, and particularly administrators and politicians, are made aware of the steps to be taken to ensure de jure and de facto equality for women, and the further steps required in that regard. It also requests the Government to disseminate widely, in particular to

direct wage discrimination against women. Measures to create opportunities for women in the expanding information technology sector would be undertaken, as would measures to encourage women's

made in the implementation of the Convention since the consideration of the initial report in 1990. The Committee welcomes the steps taken by the Government following the reunification of Germany to

implementation of de facto equality for women is understood as a societal responsibility and achieved in practice.

310. The Committee urges the Government to take measures to ensure that public officials, including law enforcement officials, contribute to the realization of this principle in the entire territory of the country. It urges the Government to ensure that tertiary and continuing legal education of lawyers and the judiciary adequately covers the evolving understanding of equality and non-discrimination and international norms and standards in that regard. It also urges the Government to ensure the availability of effective domestic remedies and their accessibility to women, especially in the light of the pending entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention. It also encourages the Government to refer directly to the Convention in its legislative, policy and programmatic initiatives, since the Convention is legally binding and such use would increase awareness of the international commitments entered into by the State party.

311. The Committee expresses its concern at the continuing disadvantages women face in many aspects of work and the economy. In particular, the Committee is concerned at the persistence of the wage gap between women and men, notwithstanding women's high educational achievements, with women earning on average 77 per cent of men's earnings. It is concerned that, in 1997, although women accounted for 42.1 per cent of the gainfully employed population, they comprised 88 per cent of the persons working in part-time employment and 55.9 per cent of the unemployed. The Committee is concerned that those differences are

316. The Committee calls on the Government to increase its legislative and regulatory efforts to ensure that women are protected against all forms of discrimination in the private sector and to increase measures aimed at achieving de facto equality. It also encourages the Government to intensify its interaction with the private sector, including through incentives and other non-legislative measures, as well as with unions and with women's organizations to achieve that goal.

317. The Committee is concerned at the often precarious social and economic situation of foreign women living in Germany. It is also concerned at the incidences of xenophobic and racist attacks in the State party and notes the vulnerabilities that foreign women can face on the multiple grounds of sex, ethnicity and race.

318. Noting the Government's intention to commission a study on the living situation and social integration of foreign women and girls, the Committee requests the Government to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the situation of foreign women, including their access to education and training, work and work-related benefits, health care and social protection, and to provide such information in its next report. The

remained low, with 4.5 per cent women in the national Parliament, only one woman cabinet minister and two women ambassadors, despite the attention given to the issue by policy makers. She noted that women's participation at the higher levels of administration, management, the judiciary and in local parliaments had increased, with the number of women reaching 37 per cent on average.

339. The representative noted that the difficulties of transition, including declining living standards and increasing daily workloads, as well as the aftermath of the disaster in Chernobyl, had had a negative impact on

activities for the elimination of violence against women, as well as close cooperation with UNDP, UNICEF and non-governmental organizations in the field of gender issues.

Concluding comments of the Committee

Introduction

345. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Government of Belarus for submitting its third periodic report, which follows the Committee's guidelines and provided data disaggregated by sex. It notes the Government's efforts to provide written replies to the Committee's questions, which provided additional information on the current situation of women in Belarus and the status of implementation of the Convention and of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

346. The Committee commends the Government of Belarus for having sent a delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Justice and including officials from the national machinery for the advancement of women. The Committee welcomes the open and constructive dialogue established between the State party and the Committee, which enabled the Committee to obtain a better understanding of the present situation of women in Belarus.

Positive aspects

347. The Committee commends the Government for the adoption, in 1996, of a national plan of action to improve the situation of women for the period 1996-2000 and of a national programme entitled "Women of the Republic of Belarus".

348. The Committee welcomes the efforts made to establish a national machinery for the advancement of women and to achieve equality between women and

357. The Committee expresses its concern that no unified State policy is in place to eliminate discrimination against women and achieve equality between women and men. In particular, the Committee notes with concern that the Government predominantly uses an approach of service delivery to women rather than a human rights approach when implementing the Convention. In addition, such an approach emphasizes the protection of and the delivery of services to women mainly as mothers and members of families, thus perpetuating stereotypical attitudes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women.

358. The Committee urges the Government to reassess its overall policy towards women in a manner that recognizes women as individuals entitled to the realization of their human rights in accordance with the Convention. It calls on the Government, in its new national action plan to improve the situation of women in Belarus 2001-2005, to take a human-rights-oriented approach. It also urges the Government to ensure that its gender equality efforts target men as well as women.

359. The Committee expresses its concern that the country's legislation, in particular with regard to women's role in the labour market, appears to be overly protective of women as mothers and thus creates further obstacles to women's participation in the labour market.

360. The Committee calls on the Government to undertake a comprehensive legislative review so as to ensure that the full meaning of article 1 of the Convention is reflected in the country's Constitution and legislation. The Committee further urges the Government to create adequate remedies for women to obtain easy redress from direct and indirect discrimination, especially in the area of employment. It also calls on the Government to improve women's access to such remedies, including access to courts, by facilitating legal aid to women and embarking on legal literacy campaigns.

361. The Committee is concerned by the continuing prevalence of sex-role stereotypes and by the reintroduction of such symbols as a Mothers' Day and a Mothers' Award, which it sees as encouraging women's traditional roles. It is also concerned whether the introduction of human rights and gender education aimed at countering such stereotyping is being effectively implemented.

368. The Committee calls on the Government to collect data and information on women living in poverty, disaggregated by age and according to urban and rural areas, to develop targeted policies and support services, and make efforts to prevent more women from falling below the poverty line.

369. The Committee is concerned that, although some efforts have been made, there is no holistic approach to preventing and eliminating violence against women, and punishing perpetrators.

370. The Committee calls on the Government to assess the impact of measures already taken to address the incidence of violence against women. It recommends addressing the root causes of violence against women, especially domestic violence, so as to improve the effectiveness of legislation, policies and programmes aimed at combating such violence. It also recommends that the legislation on violence against women be

private sector and revision of the Civil Service Statute was planned, with a view to introducing positive action in the public sector. The current coalition Government had declared itself against the introduction of quotas on electoral lists.

387. The representative indicated that 1999 had been designated the national year against violence against women, during which extensive public awareness campaigns had been implemented to sensitize the public to the issue of domestic and marital violence. Training would continue to be offered for service providers in women's shelters, legislation on domestic violence would be further reviewed, and the experience of other countries with such legislation would be studied to sensitize further various ministries and the judiciary to this issue. Action on a law against sexual harassment in the workplace was expected.

388. A special commission on women had been created within the National Commission on Foreigners

and trainers, including the development of training manuals and modules.

396. The Committee welcomes the legislation of July 1998 requiring the appointment of equality officers in enterprises with at least 15 employees. It also welcomes the entry into force, as of 1 January 1999, of the law on implementation of the national action plan on employment, which introduced the right to non-transferable parental leave of six months for every parent, covered by State benefits.

397. The Committee also welcomes the fact that the same law of July 1998 now provides the legal basis for instituting affirmative action for women in the private sector.

398. The Committee welcomes the efforts already undertaken and the intention to expand the collection of data disaggregated by sex to develop a solid basis for further legislative and policy initiatives, inter alia, with regard to disadvantaged groups of women such as immigrant women.

Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Convention

399. The Committee notes that there are no significant factors or difficulties that prevent the effective implementation of the Convention in Luxembourg.

Principal areas of concern and recommendations

400. The Committee notes with concern the failure of the State party to amend the Constitution to include the principle of equality between women and men. This is not only a failure to comply with the State party's specific obligations

Government appears to lack the commitment to review

Action taken by the Committee under agenda item 6

1. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

419. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the adoption of the Optional Protocol by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session (resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999) and its opening for signature, accession and ratification, and requested Silvia Cartwright to prepare a working paper containing proposals on working methods of the Committee with regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention. The working paper would be discussed at the twenty-third session of the Committee.

2. Rules of procedure

420. The Committee adopted a significant part of the draft rules of procedure contained in working paper CEDAW/C/2000/I/WG.I/WP.1 and agreed to continue consideration of the remaining draft rules at its twenty-third session.

3. Overdue reports

421. The Committee requested the Secretariat to provide an analysis to be submitted to its twenty-third session of proposed approaches in cases where States parties have not submitted at least two reports required under article 18 of the Convention.

4. Members of the pre-session working group for the twenty-fourth session

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

Members

Mavivi Myabuyata-Manzini (Africa)

Rosario Manalo (Asia)

Third periodic reports

Egypt

Combined third and fourth periodic reports

Mongolia

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 second periodic report of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya or the third and fourth periodic reports of Finland.

Twenty-fifth session

Initial reports

Kazakhstan

Second periodic reports

Guyana

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

Viet Nam

Third and fourth periodic reports

Finland

Fourth periodic reports

Nicaragua

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 report of Iceland or Sri Lanka.

6. Dates of the twenty-third session of the Committee

424. Consistent with the calendar of conferences for 2000, the twenty-third session should be held from 12 to 30 June 2000. The pre-session working group for the twenty-fourth session will meet from 3 to 7 July 2000.

United Nations meetings to be attended by the Chairperson or members of the Committee in 2000

425. The Committee recommended that the Chairperson or an alternate should attend the following meetings in 2000:

(a) The Commission on the Status of Women acting as preparatory committee for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gend-13.5(:23(1)080)-

issued by the Division for the Advancement of Women
as one of the issues of

Part two
Report of the Committee on the Elimination
of Discrimination against Women on its
twenty-third session

Letter of transmittal

1 August 2000

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 twenty-third session from 12 to 30 June 2000 at United Nations Headquarters

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of States parties

A. Decisions

Decision 23/I **Revised rules of procedure**

The Committee decided to adopt the revised rules of procedure (CEDAW/C/2000/I/WG.1/WP.1) as to substance, but subject to editing by the Secretariat, in consultation with Ms. Silvia Cartwright. The rules of procedure would be adopted in final form at the twenty-fourth session of the Committee in January/February 2001.

Decision 23/II **Overdue reports required under article 18 of the Convention**

The Committee decided, on an exceptional basis and as a temporary measure in order to address the backlog of reports awaiting consideration and encourage States parties to fulfil their reporting obligations within article 18 of the Convention, to invite States parties with overdue reports to combine these outstanding reports in a single document. The Committee decided that the Secretariat should inform the relevant States parties of this decision.

Decision 23/III **General recommendation on article 4 of the Convention**

The Committee decided to prepare a general recommendation on article 4 of the Convention. Bearing in mind the Committee's three-stage process for the preparation of general recommendations adopted at its seventeenth session, the Committee decided that a general discussion and exchange of views with specialized agencies, other bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations should take place during its twenty-fourth session in January/February 2001.

B. Suggestion

Suggestion 23/I

Taking into account article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Committee requested that the Secretariat explore the possibility of the Committee holding one of its regular sessions in 2002 or 2003, such as the twenty-sixth or twenty-eighth session, outside United Nations Headquarters, and in particular in the Asia-Pacific region, in order to facilitate the consideration of the initial or periodic reports of States parties from that region.

Chapter II

Organizational and other matters

A. States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

1. On 30 June 2000, the closing date of the twenty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, there were 165 States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979 and opened for signature, ratification and accession in New York in March 1980. In accordance with article 27, the Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981.

2. A list of States parties to the Convention is contained in annex I to the present report. A list of States parties that have accepted the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention is contained in annex II. A list of States parties that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, and opened for signature on 10 December 1999, is contained in annex III.

B. Opening of the session

3. The Committee held its twenty-third session at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 30 June 2000. The Committee held 19 plenary meetings (467th-485th) and its working groups held 21 meetings. A list

of the documents before the Committee is contained in annex IV, section B.

4. The session was opened by the Chairperson of the

the Chairperson of the Committee and with the participation of a number of the Committee experts. It was her view that the 10 ratifications required for the entry into force of the Optional Protocol would be achieved during 2000.

13. Turning to the work of the Committee, the Director recalled that at its twenty-second session the Committee had decided to consider the reports of eight States parties during the current session; however, one of those States parties was unable to present its report. Experts would therefore consider the reports of seven States parties and would continue their consideration of the rules of procedure of the Committee, with a view to their finalization. Experts would also have before them a working paper on procedures with regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, prepared by Silvia Cartwright. In conclusion, the Director congratulated the members of the pre-session working

items 5 (Implementation of article 21 of the Convention) and 6 (Ways and means of expediting the work of the Committee) as a working group of the whole. The issues that it decided to consider were the revised rules of procedure of the Committee and procedures to be adopted with regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

Chapter III

Report of the Chairperson on the activities undertaken between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of the Committee

22. At the 467th meeting of the Committee, on 12 June 2000, the Chairperson of the Committee stated that since 4 February 2000, the date of closure of the twenty-second session, numerous events had taken place and many comments had been made regarding both the work and the functions of the Committee.

43. The Committee commends the Government of Cameroon for its measures aimed at eliminating the practice of genital mutilation, which is a violation of human rights and is injurious to the physical and psychological well-being of girls, and poses a threat to their lives and health.

Factors and difficulties affecting implementation of the Convention

44. The Committee recognizes that implementation of the structural adjustment programme, coupled with privatization, especially in the health and education sectors, poses serious challenges to the full implementation of the Convention.

Principal areas of concern and recommendations

45. The Committee notes with concern that, despite the incorporation of the Convention into domestic law and some legislative achievements, a number of discriminatory provisions exist, thus impeding full implementation of the Convention. The Committee is also concerned that the retention of discriminatory laws from two different legal systems, as well as customary law, compounds this problem.

46. The Committee recommends that the State party should urgently undertake a comprehensive reform of legislation in order to promote equality and human rights for women. The Committee also recommends the introduction of effective legal remedies and a review and revision of customary law that infringes the human rights of women.

47. The Committee considers that the inadequate allocation of resources for the advancement of women, with the resultant incomplete execution of programmes and projects, seriously jeopardizes the improvement of women's living conditions.

48. The Committee urges the Government to allocate sufficient resources for targeted programmes to promote the advancement of women.

49. The Committee notes with concern that, despite some efforts, there is no holistic approach to the prevention and elimination of the various forms of violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation and domestic violence.

50. The Committee invites the Government to apply the Committee's general recommendation 19 and

formulate policies and programmes to eliminate these violations of women's human rights. It recommends that the Government provide access to legal remedies and medical services, establish counselling services for the victims, train legal, health and police personnel, and launch public-awareness campaigns in order to achieve zero tolerance with regard to all forms of violence against women and girls.

51. The Committee is concerned that because of the increased feminization of poverty, more women and girls are entering prostitution and are thereby exposed to exploitation.

52. The Committee urges the Government to design and implement poverty alleviation programmes so that women and girls do not have to resort to prostitution for their livelihoods. It recommends that the Government develop programmes to reintegrate prostitutes, raise public awareness and prevent such exploitation. Moreover, in the light of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Cameroon, full attention must be paid to the health services available to prostitutes.

53. The Committee is disturbed by the persistence of cultural practices and deep-rooted stereotypes relating to the roles and responsibilities of women and men in all areas of life, which affect their enjoyment of all human rights.

54. The Committee urges the Government to review

57. Despite the Government's efforts in the area of education, the Committee is concerned at the low rate of female literacy, the high female dropout rate, and the low rate of female enrolment in basic education.

58. The Committee encourages the Government to intensify its efforts to promote female access to basic and secondary education and to develop programmes specifically designed to reduce female illiteracy.

59. The Committee notes with concern the high rate of fertility and repeated pregnancy, the high mortality rate among mothers and children and the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Cameroon.

60. The Committee urges the Government to review the abortion laws, to undertake to increase the use of

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81. Furthermore, a new Family Code intended to reflect the change in social relations, including family relations, and would also address the question of matrimonial property.

82. The representative noted that the Republic of Moldova's legislation covered the rights of women, but lacked a prohibition of, or sanctions against, discrimination against women. The Government was aware of the importance of such legislation to achieve equality and equal opportunity. She also noted that the Government had initiated the process of acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

Concluding comments of the Committee

Introduction

83. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Government of Moldova for submitting its initial report. It commends the Government on its frank and substantive oral presentation, which updated developments in the State party since the submission of its report in 1998, and which further clarified the present status of implementation of the Convention.

84. The Committee commends the Government of the Republic of Moldova for sending the Vice-Minister for Labour, Social Protection and the Family, who established a constructive and frank dialogue with the members of the Committee.

85. The Committee welcomes the fact that the Republic of Moldova adopted the Convention without reservations and formulated a plan of action pursuant to the Beijing Platform for Action.

Positive aspects

86. The Committee commends the Government for its expressed political will to implement the Convention.

trafficking and prosecute traffickers, as well as to ensure the protection of the human rights of trafficked women.

105. The Committee, while noting women's high educational levels, expresses its concern about the predominance of women in low-level educational sectors. It is also concerned about the lack of statistical information concerning women's representation in various fields of teaching, and in administrative and high-level posts at all levels of education. The Committee is also concerned about the persistence of stereotyped portrayals of women and men in curricula and teaching materials.

106. The Committee urges the Government to undertake curriculum reforms and textbook revisions addressing stereotyped images. It also recommends that the Government's educational policy include measures to encourage girls and women to seek education and training in non-traditional fields, as well as in growth areas of the economy. The Committee calls on the Government to implement temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to accelerate women's representation in educational decision-making.

107. The Committee is concerned about the situation of women in the labour market, including women's unemployment levels, job segregation and the fact that, because of lack of opportunity at home, many women seek employment abroad, often without obtaining work permits. The Committee is also

114. The Committee recommends that the Government take action to bring legislation on the marriage age for women and men into full conformity with the Convention, taking into consideration the Committee's general recommendation 21.

115. The Committee encourages the Government to accept the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the time of meetings of the Committee.

116. The Committee requests that the Government respond in its next periodic report to the specific issues raised in these concluding comments. It further requests the Government to provide in its next report an assessment of the impact of measures taken to implement the Convention.

117. The Committee requests the wide dissemination in the Republic of Moldova of the present concluding comments, in order to make the people of the Republic

part in local elections to municipalities. In 2000, women made up 30 per cent of all nominees, compared to 24 per cent in 1995.

123. The representative informed the Committee about the situation of women in the areas of education, employment and health. He noted that, in Lithuania, women and men had equal access to education and attained high educational qualifications. Women constituted 58.6 per cent of university and 70 per cent of high school graduates. Women's share in the labour force continued to rise: in 1998, women made up 48.5 per cent of the total number of the employed population. However, women had been negatively affected by the economic and financial difficulties in the country, which had led, in many cases, to a change of the nature of employment or loss of jobs. Many women had entered the informal sector or had started their own business. The Government was trying to address the concerns and needs of women in the labour market, including the needs of rural women and women entrepreneurs. In 2000, for instance, the Credit Line was established to assist women in small business. The Law on the National Health System provided for free health care and services for everyone in the national network of health care. All women had free access to maternity and child health care and were entitled to paid ante- and post-natal maternity leave. In addition, either parent was entitled to childcare allowance until the child reached his or her first birthday.

124. The representative informed the Committee that the Government was paying serious attention to the issue of violence against women, especially domestic violence. The Government was working in close collaboration with the local authorities, police and non-governmental organizations to prevent violence against women and to provide comprehensive assistance to the victims of violence. In 1999, the Government, with the support of UNDP, had launched a project on training police officials to deal with those issues. The Police Department had established, in the Academy of Law, a special course on preventive measures to combat violence against women and children. In addition, the Government had translated *Strategies for Confronting Domestic Violence: A Resource Manual*³ into Lithuanian, and distributed it in secondary schools.

125. The representative informed the Committee that the mass media had started to pay more serious attention to women's issues. To further raise the awareness of the media regarding gender issues, the

Office of the Ombudsman, together with UNDP, was organizing a conference, "Men and women: creation of negative stereotypes by mass media", to be held on 30 June 2000.

126. The representative informed the Committee that since 1997 Lithuania had started to compile all statistical data disaggregated by sex in order to show the de facto situation of women and men in all areas of life. Two annual statistical compendiums entitled *Women and Men in Lithuania* were published in 1997 and 1998. The 1999 edition was also completed and ready for publication.

127. The representative noted that Lithuania was making steady progress towards achieving gender equality and advancing the status of women. The Government was committed to continuing its work in that area and to overcoming the obstacles that women of Lithuania were still encountering.

Concluding comments of the Committee

Introduction

128. The Committee exprmta Tc6-10(s(r)--7.9(8(r)544(p)-i8-2.4096

to ensure equal opportunities for men and women. It welcomes the revision of various legal provisions, the adoption of the Law on Equal Opportunities and the establishment of the Office of the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman. The Committee also welcomes the broad mandate of the Ombudsman to monitor the implementation of the Law. It commends the fact that the Law's definition of discrimination fully corresponds to the definition articulated in article 1 of the Convention, that it allows for positive discrimination according to article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, prohibits

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large parts of Lithuanian society and in the government bureaucracy.

141. The Committee recommends that the Government raise public awareness about the importance of such measures and programmes by pointing to the positive example of Vilnius University and encourage similar programmes in various areas, especially that of political decision-making. The Committee also recommends that the Government introduce such special provisions in the educational field, including admission to disciplines in which one sex is under-represented, in government commissions and in public administration. Such provisions should be designed with measurable goals or quotas and time lines in order to accelerate the achievement of de facto equality between women and men in those areas.

142. The Committee is concerned about the situation of women in the labour market, and in particular about the fact that the official unemployment statistics do not take account of the hidden unemployment of women or of their informal employment and underemployment.

153. The Committee requests the Government to include in its next periodic report detailed information on the impact and results of the intended legal changes regarding prostitution, as well as of the intended National Programme on Control and Prevention of Prostitution and Trafficking. It also recommends that the Government increase its collaboration with other countries of origin, transit and destination of trafficked women and

leadership positions after the 1999 elections. Women currently comprised 8 per cent of members of Parliament, a figure exceeding the Arab country average of 3 per cent. The personal status code had been made more equitable through reform of regulations on alimony payments for women, which

non-discriminatory legislative basis. It also urges the Government to work towards the elimination of the practice of polygamy, in light of the Committee's general recommendation 21 on marriage and family relations. It also urges the Government to ensure that gender-sensitive public education campaigns at all levels create a non-discriminatory environment.

193. The Committee is0069 TwB

been established, and an advisory committee on the prevention of violence had also been set up within the Federal Ministry of the Interior. A series of large-scale training courses had been conducted during the past three years to sensitize all those concerned with domestic violence, and measures were being introduced to support sexually abused children and young people with regard to court proceedings.

214. Measures had also been introduced with regard to trafficking in women, including the creation in Vienna in 1998 of an intervention centre for women victims of trafficking and the introduction of a “humanitarian visa” to allow them to remain in Austria. Austria supported the ongoing negotiations relating to the revised draft Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/AC.254/4/Add.3/Rev.7).

215. The representative indicated that an inter-ministerial working group for gender mainstreaming had been established, comprising representatives of all ministries, which would develop and monitor the implementation of strategies for gender mainstreaming. She also noted that Austria had introduced several initiatives to make women aware of the opportunities and risks related to new technology. These included a project to encourage women to take up non-traditional technical professions, especially in regard to technology, and the development of a manual providing practical guidelines for the implementation of measures to increase the participation of women in technical fields.

216. In concluding, the representative informed the Committee that Austria had signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention and would soon be in a position to ratify the instrument, as well as to accept the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention relating to the time of meetings of the Committee. Austria would also shortly remove its reservation to article 7, subparagraph (b), of the Convention in the light of the introduction of the 1998

Factors and difficulties affecting the implementation of the Convention

224. The Committee considers that persisting cultural stereotypes of women as homemakers and child-rearers constitute an impediment to the full implementation of the Convention.

Principal areas of concern and recommendations

225. The Committee expresses its concern at the abolition of the Ministry of Women's Affairs. While acknowledging that the new Government has transferred the responsibility for women's and gender issues from the Ministry within the framework of the Federal Chancellery to the Ministry of Social Security

235. The Committee urges the Government to strengthen the powers of the Equal Treatment Commission in order to allow it to be more effective in its efforts to combat discriminatory practices and to guarantee equal opportunity and treatment for women in the workplace.

236. The Committee is concerned about the situation of single women and, in particular, the disadvantages suffered by never-married and divorced elderly women in terms of retirement pensions and social security benefits. The Committee urges the Government to take into consideration current social trends when designing policies so as to meet the needs of the increasing number of single women in the country.

237. The Committee recommends that the Government replicate, at the federal level, the Vienna programme on women's health and intensify efforts to apply a gender perspective in health care by, inter alia, initiating and sponsoring relevant research, taking into account the Committee's General Recommendation 24 on article 12, relating to women and health.

238. The Committee is concerned at the decrease in women's representation in the legislature in the recent elections. The Committee recommends that the Government undertake in this respect temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and consider, inter alia, the use of federal funding for political parties as an incentive for the increased representation of women in Parliament, as well as the application of quotas and numerical goals and measurable targets aimed at increasing women's political participation.

239. The Committee is concerned at the lack of data disaggregated by sex on the impact of policies and programmes. The Committee urges the Government, inter alia, to improve the collection of data on criminal proceedings related to violence against women, to evaluate policy as regards victims of trafficking, to assess the nature and outcome of equal treatment cases in the labour courts and to integrate gender perspectives into health care, taking into account sex-disaggregated data on causes of morbidity and mortality.

240. The Committee commendt dam 0.9(t9' da)-6ce374(t)9.8517]TJT*0.042443 -6.8(1 P)-961 P(a)-

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Vice-Minister for Science, Technology and the

women, including elderly women and against children. The Committee also notes with concern that there is insufficient information on the response of law enforcement officials, the judiciary and health care providers to such violence.

264. The Committee calls upon the Government to assess, in a comprehensive manner, the possible inci(o)-9-o.5(o)5(1)0.1 2.6(9.1(6)-12v3(1)-10.5(2.1(9)-4.7(.5(o)(e)2(5(1)0.1)5(7.7(nd20.30)-7.7(g)22.9(ns4)9.3(h)1.12.2(o)

to provide further information about the system of rural cooperatives and their benefits for women.

274. The Committee requests the Government to provide in its next report information, including

domestic procedures for the signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

Concluding comments of the Committee

Introduction

290. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Government of Romania for submitting its combined fourth and fifth periodic reports. It commends the Government for the comprehensive written replies to the Committee's questions, which also included data disaggregated by sex, and its oral presentation, both of which provided additional information on the current situation of the implementation of the Convention. It appreciates the manner in which the State party identified areas requiring further progress.

291. The Committee commends the Government of Romania for having sent a high-level delegation, headed by the Secretary of State, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, including officials from several branches of Government and representatives of non-governmental organizations. The Committee appreciates the open, frank and sincere dialogue that took place between the delegation and the members of the Committee.

292. The Committee welcomes the Government's statement that the domestic procedures for the signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention have already started, and looks forward to the early completion of these procedures by the State party.

Positive aspects

293. The Committee commends the Government for the efforts undertaken, in particular since the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, to implement the Convention and to harmonize Romanian law and policy on gender equality and women's equal opportunities with the provisions of the Convention.

294. The Committee welcomes the entry into force, in December 1999, of the law on paternal leave aimed at strengthening the principle of sharing of responsibilities in the family and society.

295. The Committee expresses its appreciation for efforts under way to reform the Romanian legislative framework with a view to eliminating remaining legislative gaps and discriminatory provisions and

achieving equality between women and men. It welcomes in particular the Government's efforts to prepare a law on equal opportunities for women and men, and to seek amendments to the Criminal Code with regard to domestic violence and trafficking in women.

296. The Committee welcomes the establishment, in 1998, of the Office of the Advocate of the People with the functions of human rights ombudsman, empowered to protect the human rights of women and children including in the family.

297. The Committee welcomes the Government's open and cooperative attitudes towards the ever-increasing number of non-governmental organizations and the joint efforts undertaken between the Government and actors of civil society to promote implementation of the Convention.

Factors and difficulties affecting the

awareness-raising and mobilization of public opinion in favour of equality measures and elimination of stereotypes.

301. The Committee is concerned that stereotypical attitudes about the roles of women and men in the family and society are reflected in women's low level

despite the decrease in marriages and a growing incidence of cohabitation, the rights of women in cohabitation are not protected by the legal system.

319. The Committee recommends that the Government take action to bring its legislation on the marriage age for women and men into full conformity with the

Members

Charlotte Abaka (Africa)

Savitri Goonesekere (Asia)

Committee will consider the third and fourth periodic reports of Zambia, or the combined fourth and fifth periodic reports of Ukraine, or the fifth periodic report of Denmark.

6. Dates of the twenty-fourth session of the Committee

330. Consistent with the calendar of conferences for

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-fourth session.

Chapter VIII

Adoption of the report

336. At its 485th meeting, on 30 June 2000, the Committee adopted the report on its twenty-third session (CEDAW/C/2000/II/L.1 and CEDAW/C/2000/II/CRP.3 and Add.1-6), as orally amended.

Notes

- ¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations

Annex I

States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as at 1 August 2000

States parties

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</i>	<i>Date of entry into force</i>
Czech Republic ^e Democratic Republic of the Congo ^f	22 February 1993 ^{c d}	24 March 1993

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</i>	<i>Date of entry into force</i>
Lebanon	21 April 1997 ^{a b}	21 May 1997
Lesotho	22 August 1995 ^{a b}	21 September 1995
Liberia	17 July 1984 ^a	16 August 1984
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	16 May 1989 ^{a b}	15 June 1989
Liechtenstein	22 December 1995 ^{a c}	21 January 1996
Lithuania	18 January 1994 ^a	17 February 1994
Luxembourg	2 February 1989 ^b	4 March 1989
Madagascar	17 March 1989	16 April 1989
Malawi	12 March 1987 ^{a c}	11 April 1987
Malaysia	5 July 1995 ^{a b}	4 August 1995
Maldives	1 July 1993 ^{a b}	31 July 1993
Mali	4 (pt11342)-7.7(m11342)Sept 86 (m11342)Sept 85 14Libbb12047Tc02034Hr 06 Feb 1985 40 119874 T02(D-935-86 (Jan-89)	10 October 1985

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date of receipt of the instrument of ratification or accession</i>	<i>Date of entry into force</i>
Singapore	5 October 1995 ^{a b}	4 November 1995
Slovakia ^e	28 May 1993 ^{c d}	27 June 1993
Slovenia	6 July 1992 ^d	5 August 1992
South Africa	15 December 1995 ^a	14 January 1996
Spain	5 January 1984 ^b	4 February 1984
Sri Lanka	5 October 1981	4 November 1981
Suriname	1 March 1993 ^a	31 March 1993
Sweden	2 July 1980	3 September 1981
Switzerland	27 March 1997 ^a	26 April 1997
Tajikistan	26 October 1993 ^a	25 November 1993
Thailand	9 August 1985 ^{a b c}	8 September 1985
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	18 January 1994 ^d	17 February 1994
Togo	26 September 1983 ^a	26 October 1983
Trinidad and Tobago	12 January 1990 ^b	11 February 1990
Tunisia	20 September 1985 ^b	20 October 1985
Turkey	20 December 1985 ^{a b}	19 January 1986
Turkmenistan	1 May 1997	

Annex II

States parties that have deposited with the Secretary-

Annex III

States parties that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date signed</i>	<i>Ratification, accession</i>
1. Argentina	28 February 2000	
2. Austria	10 December 1999	
3. Azerbaijan	6 June 2000	
4. Belgium	10 December 1999	
5. Benin	25 May 2000	
6. Bolivia	10 December 1999	
7. Bulgaria	6 June 2000	
8. Chile	10 December 1999	
9. Colombia	10 December 1999	
10. Costa Rica	10 December 1999	
11. Croatia	5 June 2000	
12. Cuba	17 March 2000	
13. Czech Republic	10 December 1999	
14. Denmark	10 December 1999	31 May 2000
15. Dominican Republic	14 March 2000	
16. Ecuador	10 December 1999	
17. Finland	10 December 1999	
18. France	10 December 1999	9 June 2000
19. Germany	10 December 1999	
20. Ghana	24 February 2000	
21. Greece	10 December 1999	
22. Iceland	10 December 1999	
23. Indonesia	28 February 2000	
24. Italy	10 December 1999	
25. Liechtenstein	10 December 1999	
26. Luxembourg	10 December 1999	
27. Mexico	10 December 1999	
28. Namibia	19 May 2000	26 May 2000
29. Netherlands	10 December 1999	
30. Norway	10 December 1999	
31. Panama	9 June 2000	
32. Paraguay	28 December 1999	
33. Philippines	21 March 2000	
34. Portugal	16 February 2000	
35. Senegal	10 December 1999	26 May 2000
36. Slovakia	5 June 2000	

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date signed</i>	<i>Ratification, accession</i>
37. Slovenia	10 December 1999	
38. Spain	14 March 2000	
39. Sweden	10 December 1999	
40. Thailand	14 June 2000	14 June 2000
41. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3 April 2000	
42. Uruguay	9 May 2000	
43. Venezuela	17 March 2000	

Annex IV

Documents before the Committee at its twenty-second and twenty-third sessions

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
A. Twenty-second session	
CEDAW/C/2000/I/1	Provisional agenda and annotations
CEDAW/C/2000/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/2000/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/2000/I/3/Add.1	Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
CEDAW/C/2000/I/3/Add.2	Report of the World Health Organization
CEDAW/C/2000/I/3/Add.3	Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
CEDAW/C/2000/I/3/Add.4	Report of the International Labour Organization
CEDAW/C/2000/I/4	Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee
CEDAW/C/2000/I/5	Report of the Secretariat on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1	Draft rules of procedure
CEDAW/C/2000/I/WG.I/WP.1	Proposals on the draft rules of procedure
Reports of States parties	
CEDAW/C/IND/1	Initial report of India
CEDAW/C/MMR/1	Initial report of Myanmar
CEDAW/C/JOR/1 and 2	Initial report and second periodic report of Jordan

<i>Document number</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
B. Twenty-third session	
CEDAW/C/2000/II/1	Provisional agenda
CEDAW/C/2000/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/2000/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/2000/II/3/Add.1	Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.2	Report of the World Health Organization
CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.3	Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
CEDAW/C/2000/II/3/Add.4	Report of the International Labour Organization
CEDAW/C/2000/II/4	Report of the Secretariat on ways and means of improving the work of the Committee
CEDAW/C/1997/WG.I/WP.1	Draft rules of procedure
CEDAW/C/2000/I/WG.I/WP.1	Proposals on the draft rules of procedure
CEDAW/C/2000/II/WP.2	Report on the Optional Protocol to the Convention
Reports of States parties	
CEDAW/C/CMR/1	Initial report of Cameroon
CEDAW/C/MDA/1	Initial report of the Republic of Moldova
CEDAW/C/LTU/1 and 2	Initial report and second periodic report of Lithuania
CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3	Combined second and third periodic reports of Iraq

Annex V

Annex VI

**Status of submission and consideration of reports submitted
by States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the**

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Belize	15 June 1991		Twenty-first (1999)
Benin	11 April 1993		
Bhutan	30 September 1982		
Bolivia	8 July 1991	8 July 1991	

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Gabon	20 February 1984	19 June 1987 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.54)	Eighth (1989)
Gambia	16 May 1994		
Georgia	25 November 1995	9 March 1998 (CEDAW/C/GEO/1) 6 April 1999 (CEDAW/C/GEO/1/Add.1) 21 May 1999 (CEDAW/C/GEO/1/Add.1/Corr.1)	Twenty-first (1999)
Germany	9 August 1986	15 September 1988 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.59)	Ninth (1990)
Ghana	1 February 1987	29 January 1991 (CEDAW/C/GHA/1-2)	Eleventh (1992)
Greece	7 July 1984	5 April 1985 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.28)	Sixth (1987)
Grenada	29 September 1991		
Guatemala	11 September 1983	2 April 1991 (CEDAW/C/GUA/1-2 and Corr.1) 7 April 1993 (CEDAW/C/GUA/1-2/Amend.1)	Thirteenth (1994)
Guinea	8 September 1983		
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1986		
Guyana	3 September 1982	23 January 1990 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.63)	Thirteenth (1994)
Haiti	3 September 1982		
Honduras	2 April 1984	3 December 1986 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.44)	Eleventh (1992)
Hungary	3 September 1982	20 September 1982 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.3D25venth (1992))	

States parties

Date due^a

Date of submission

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Madagascar	16 April 1990	21 May 1990 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.65) 8 November 1993 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.65/Rev.2)	Thirteenth (1994)
Malawi	11 April 1988	15 July 1988 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.58)	Ninth (1990)
Malaysia	4 August 1996		
Maldives	1 July 1994	28 January 1999 (CEDAW/C/MDV/1)	
Mali	10 October 1986	13 November 1986 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.43)	Seventh (1988)
Malta	7 April 1992		
Mauritius	8 August 1985	23 February 1992 (CEDAW/C/MAR/1-2)	Fourteenth (1995)
Mexico	3 September 1982	14 September 1982 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.2)	Second (1983)
Mongolia	3 September 1982	18 November 1983 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.20)	Fifth (1986)
Morocco	21 July 1994	14 September 1994 (CEDAW/C/MOR/1)	Sixteenth (1997)
Mozambique	16 May 1998		
Myanmar	21 August 1998	14 March 1999 (CEDAW/C/MNR/1)	Twenty-second (2000)
Namibia	23 December 1993	4 November 1996 (CEDAW/C/NAM/1)	Seventeenth (1997)
Nepal	22 May 1992	16 November 1998 (CEDAW/C/NPL/1)	Twenty-first (1999)
Netherlands	22 August 1992	19 November 1992 (CEDAW/C/NET/1) 17 September 1993 (CEDAW/C/NET/1/Add.1) 20 September 1993 (CEDAW/C/NET/1/Add.2) 9 October 1993 (CEDAW/C/NET/1/Add.3))))) Thirteenth (1994))))

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
New Zealand	9 February 1986	3 October 1986 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.41)	Seventh (1988)
Nicaragua	26 November 1982	22 September 1987 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.55)	Eighth (1989)
Nigeria	13 July 1986	1 April 1987 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.49)	Seventh (1987)
Norway	3 September 1982	18 November 1982 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.7)	Third (1984)
Pakistan	11 April 1997		
Panama	28 November 1982	12 December 1982 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.9)	Fourth (1985)
Papua New Guinea	11 February 1996		
Paraguay	6 May 1988	4 June 1992 (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2) 23 August 1995 (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2/Add.1) 20 November 1995 (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2/Add.2)	Fifteenth (1996)
Peru	13 October 1983	14 September 1988 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.60)	Ninth (1990)
Philippines	4 September 1982	22 October 1982 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.6)	Third (1984)
Poland	3 September 1982	10 October 1985 (CEDAW/C/5/Add.31)	Papdesnw[(Pola)-767137.01(98)w[(P98)w

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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Tunisia	20 October 1986	17 September 1993 (CEDAW/C/TUN/1-2)	Fourteenth (1995)

States parties

Date due^a

Date of submission

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Cameroon	22 September 1999		
Canada	9 January 1987	20 January 1988 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.11)	Ninth (1990)
Cape Verde	3 September 1986		
Central African Republic	21 July 1996		
Chad	9 July 2000		
Chile	6 January 1995	9 March 1995 (CEDAW/C/CHI/2)	Twenty-first (1999)
China	3 September 1986	22 June 1989 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.26)	Eleventh (1992)
Colombia	18 February 1987	14 January 1993 (CEDAW/C/COL/2-3) 2 September 1993 (CEDAW/C/COL/2-3/Rev.1)	Thirteenth (1994)
Comoros	30 November 1999		
Congo	25 August 1987		
Costa Rica	4 May 1991		
Croatia	9 October 1997		
Cuba	3 September 1986	13 March 1992 (CEDAW/C/CUB/2-3) 30 November 1995 (CEDAW/C/CUB/2-3/Add.1)	Fifteenth (1996)
Cyprus	22 August 1990	2 February 1994 (CEDAW/C/CYP/1-2)	Fifteenth (1996)
Czech Republic	24 March 1997		
Democratic Republic of the Congo ^b	16 November 1991	24 October 1996 (CEDAW/C/ZAR/2) 27 August 1998	

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Dominican Republic	2 October 1987	26 April 1993 (CEDAW/C/DOM/2-3)	Eighteenth (1998)
Ecuador	9 December 1986	28 May 1990 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.31)	Thirteenth (1994)
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		
Georgia	25 November 1999		
Germany	9 August 1990	8 October 1996 (CEDAW/C/DEU/2-3)	Twenty-second (2000)
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)	Twentieth (1999)
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		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Guyana	3 September 1986	20 September 1999 (CEDAW/C/GUY/2)	
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)
India	8 August 1998		
Indonesia	13 October 1989	6 February 1997 (CEDAW/C/IDN/2-3)	Eighteenth (1998)
Iraq	12 September 1991	13 October 1998 (CEDAW/C/IRQ/2-3)	Twenty-third (2000)
Ireland	22 January 1991	6 February 1997 (CEDAW/C/IRL/2-3)	Twenty-first (1999)
Israel	2 November 1996	7 April 1997 (CEDAW/C/ISR/1-2)	Seventeenth (1997)
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	19 November 1999 (CEDAW/C/JOR/2)	Twenty-second (2000)
Kenya	8 April 1989	4 December 1990 (CEDAW/C/KEN/1-2)	Twelfth (1993)

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
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<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Paraguay	6 May 1992	4 June 1992 (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2) 23 August 1995 (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2/Add.1) 20 November 1995 (CEDAW/C/PAR/1-2/Add.2)	Fifteenth (1996)
Peru	13 October 1987	13 February 1990 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.29)	Fourteenth (1995)
Philippines	4 September 1986	12 December 1988 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.17)	Tenth (1991)
Poland	3 September 1986	17 November 1988 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.16)	Tenth (1991)
Portugal	3 September 1986	18 May 1989 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.22)	Tenth (1991)
Republic of Korea	26 January 1990	19 December 1989 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.28 and Corr.1)	Twelfth (1993)
Republic of Moldova	31 July 1999		
Romania	6 February 1987	19 October 1992 (CEDAW/C/ROM/2-3)	Twelfth (1993)
Russian Federation	3 September 1986	10 February 1987 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.4)	Eighth (1989)
Rwanda	3 September 1986	7 March 1988 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.13)	Tenth (1991)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1990		
Saint Lucia	7 November 1987		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1986	27 September 1991 (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3) 28 July 1994 (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3/Add.1)	Sixteenth (1997)
Samoa	25 October 1997		
Senegal	7 March 1990	23 September 1991 (CEDAW/C/SEN/2 and Amend.1)	Thirteenth (1994)
Seychelles	4 June 1997		
Sierra Leone	11 December 1993		
Slovakia	27 June 1998		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Slovenia	5 August 1997	26 April 1999 (CEDAW/C/SVN/2)	
Spain	4 February 1989	9 February 1989 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.19)	Eleventh (1992)
Sri Lanka	4 November 1986	29 December 1988 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.18)	Eleventh (1992)
Suriname	31 March 1998		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Viet Nam	19 March 1987	2 November 1999 (CEDAW/C/VNM/2)	
Yemen	29 June 1989	8 June 1989 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.24 and Amend.1)	Twelfth (1993)
Yugoslavia	28 March 1987	31 May 1989 (CEDAW/C/13/Add.23)	Tenth (1991)
Zambia	21 July 1990	6 March 1991 (CEDAW/C/ZAM/1-2)	Thirteenth (1994)
Zimbabwe	12 June 1996		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Burkina Faso	13 November 1996	11 December 1997 (CEDAW/C/BFA/2-3)	Twenty-second (2000)
Canada	9 January 1991	9 September 1992 (CEDAW/C/CAN/3)	Sixteenth (1997)
Cape Verde	3 September 1990		
Central African Republic	21 July 2000		
Chile	6 January 1999	1 November 1999 (CEDAW/C/CHI/3)	Twenty-first (1999)
China	3 September 1990	29 May 1997 (CEDAW/C/CHN/3-4)	Twentieth (1999)
Colombia	18 February 1991	14 January 1993 (CEDAW/C/COL/2-3) 2 September 1993 (CEDAW/C/COL/2-3/Rev.1)	Thirteenth (1994)
Congo	25 August 1991		
Costa Rica	4 May 1995		
Cuba	3 September 1990	13 March 1992 (CEDAW/C/CUB/2-3) 30 November 1995 (CEDAW/C/CUB/2-3/Add.1)	Fifteenth (1996)
Cyprus	22 August 1994		
Democratic Republic of the Congo ^b	16 November 1995	2 July 1998 (CEDAW/C/COD/1)	Twenty-second (2000)
Denmark	21 May 1992	7 May 1993 (CEDAW/C/DEN/3)	Sixteenth (1997)
Dominica	3 September 1990		
Dominican Republic	2 October 1991	26 April 1993 (CEDAW/C/DOM/2-3)	Eighteenth (1998)
Ecuador	9 December 1990	23 December 1991 (CEDAW/C/ECU/3)	Thirteenth (1994)
Egypt	18 October 1990	30 January 1996 (CEDAW/C/EGY/3)	
El Salvador	18 September 1990		
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1993	6 January 1994 (CEDAW/C/GNQ/2-3)	

States parties

Date due^a

Date of submission

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Jamaica	18 November 1993	17 February 1998 (CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4)	
Japan	25 July 1994	28 October 1993 (CEDAW/C/JPN/3)	Thirteenth (1994)
Kenya	8 April 1993	5 January 2000 (CEDAW/KEN/3-4)	
Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 September 1990		
Liberia	16 August 1993		
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15 June 1998		
Luxembourg	4 March 1998	12 March 1998 (CEDAW/C/LUX/3) 17 June 1998 (CEDAW/C/LUX/3/Add.1)	Twenty-second (2000)
Madagascar	16 April 1998		
Malawi	11 April 1996		
Mali	10 October 1994		
Malta	7 April 2000		
Mauritius	8 August 1993		
Mexico	3 September 1990	1 December 1992 ^c 7 April 1997 (CEDAW/C/MEX/3-4)	Eighteenth (1998)
Mongolia	3 September 1990	8 December 1998 (CEDAW/C/MNG/3-4)	
Nepal	22 May 2000		
New Zealand	9 February 1994	2 March 1998 (CEDAW/C/NZL/3-4) 15 April 1998 (CEDAW/C/NZL/3-4/Add.1)	Nineteenth (1998)
Nicaragua	26 November 1990	15 October 1992 (CEDAW/C/NIC/3)	Twelfth (1993)
Nigeria	13 July 1994	13 February 1997 (CEDAW/C/NGA/2-3)	Nineteenth (1998)
Norway	3 September 1990	25 January 1991 (CEDAW/C/NOR/3)	Fourteenth (1995)

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Panama	28 November 1990	17 January 1997 (CEDAW/C/PAN/2-3)	Nineteenth (1998)
Paraguay	6 May 1996		
Peru	13 October 1991	25 November 1994 (CEDAW/C/PER/3-4)	Nineteenth (1998)
Philippines	4 September 1990	20 January 1993 (CEDAW/C/PHI/3)	Sixteenth (1997)
Poland	3 September 1990	22 November 1990 (CEDAW/C/18/Add.2)	Tenth (1991)
Portugal	3 September 1990	10 December 1990 (CEDAW/C/18/Add.3)	Tenth (1991)
Republic of Korea	26 January 1994	8 September 1994 (CEDAW/C/KOR/3)	Nineteenth (1998)
Romania	6 February 1991	19 October 1992 (CEDAW/C/ROM/2-3)	Twelfth (1993)
Russian Federation	3 September 1990	24 July 1991 (CEDAW/C/USR/3)	Fourteenth (1995)
Rwanda	3 September 1990	18 January 1991 (CEDAW/C/RWA/3)	Twelfth (1993)
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 May 1994		
Saint Lucia	7 November 1991		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1990	27 September 1991 (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3) 28 July 1994 (CEDAW/C/STV/1-3/Add.1)	Sixteenth (1997)
Senegal	7 March 1994		
Sierra Leone	11 December 1997		
Spain	4 February 1993	20 May 1996 (CEDAW/C/ESP/3)	Twenty-first (1999)
Sri Lanka	4 November 1990	7 October 1999 (CEDAW/LKA/3-4)	
Sweden	3 September 1990	3 October 1990 (CEDAW/C/18/Add.1)	Twelfth (1999)
Thailand	8 September 1994	3 March 1997 (CEDAW/C/THA/2-3)	Twentieth (1999)
Togo	26 October 1992		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Austria	30 April 1995	25 April 1997 (CEDAW/C/AUT/3-4)	Twenty-third (2000)
Bangladesh	6 December 1997	27 March 1997 (CEDAW/C/BGD/3-4)	Seventeenth (1997)
Barbados	3 September 1995		
Belarus	3 September 1994		
Belgium	9 August 1998	29 October 1998 (CEDAW/C/BEL/3-4)	
Bhutan	30 September 1994		
Brazil	2 March 1997		
Bulgaria	10 March 1995		
Canada	9 January 1995	2 October 1995 (CEDAW/C/CAN/4)	Sixteenth (1997)
Cape Verde	3 September 1994		
China	3 September 1994	29 May 1997 (CEDAW/C/CHN/3-4)	Twentieth (1999)
Colombia	18 February 1995	8 July 1997 (CEDAW/C/COL/4)	Twentieth (1999)
Congo	25 August 1995		
Costa Rica	4 May 1999		
Cuba	3 September 1994	27 September 1999 (CEDAW/C/CUB/4)	Twenty-third (2000)
Cyprus	22 August 1998		
Democratic Republic of the Congo ^b	16 November 1999		
Denmark	21 May 1996	9 January 1997 (CEDAW/C/DEN/4)	
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	30 March 2000 (CEDAW/C/EGY/4-5)	
El Salvador	18 October 1994		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Equatorial Guinea	22 November 1997		
Ethiopia	10 October 1994		
Finland	4 October 1999	23 November 1999 (CEDAW/C/FIN/4)	
France	13 January 1997		
Gabon	20 February 1996		
Germany	9 August 1998	27 October 1998 (CEDAW/C/DEU/4)	Twenty-second (2000)
Ghana	1 February 1999		
Greece	7 July 1996		
Guatemala	11 September 1995		
Guinea	8 September 1995		
Guinea-Bissau	22 September 1998		
Guyana	3 September 1994		
Haiti	3 September 1994		
Honduras	2 April 1996		
Hungary	3 September 1994		
Iceland	3 July 1998	15 July 1998 (CEDAW/C/ICE/3-4)	
Indonesia	13 October 1997		
Iraq	12 September 1999		
Ireland	22 January 1999		
Italy	10 July 1998		
Jamaica	18 November 1997	17 February 1998 (CEDAW/C/JAM/2-4)	
Japan	25 July 1998	24 July 1998 (CEDAW/C/JPN/4)	

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Malawi	11 April 2000		
Mali	10 October 1998		
Mauritius	8 August 1997		
Mexico	3 September 1994	1 December 1992 ^c 7 March 1997 (CEDAW/C/MEX/3-4) 9 July 1997	

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
Saint Lucia	7 November 1995		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3 September 1994		
Senegal	7 March 1998		
Spain	4 February 1997	20 October 1998 (CEDAW/C/ESP/4)	Twenty-first (1999)
Sri Lanka	4 November 1994	7 October 1999 (CEDAW/C/LKA/3-4)	
Sweden	3 September 1994	21 May 1996 (CEDAW/C/SWE/4)	
Thailand	8 September 1998		
Togo	26 October 1996		
Tunisia	20 October 1998		
Turkmenistan	31 May 2000		
Turkey	19 January 1999		
Uganda	21 August 1998		
Ukraine	3 November 1994	2 August 1999 (CEDAW/C/UKR/4-5)	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7 May 1999	19 January 1999 (CEDAW/C/UK/4 and Add.1-4)	Twenty-first (1999)
United Republic of Tanzania	19 September 1998		
Uruguay	8 Nover 1993m98		

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
E. Fifth periodic reports			
Austria	30 April 1999	20 September 1999 (CEDAW/C/AUT/5)	Twenty-third (2000)
Barbados	3 September 1999		
Belarus	3 September 1999		
Bhutan	30 September 1998		
Bulgaria	10 March 1999		
Canada	9 January 1999		
Cape Verde	3 September 1998		
China	3 September 1998		
Colombia	18 February 1999		
Congo	25 August 1999		
Cuba	3 September 1998		
Denmark	21 May 2000	13 June 2000 (CEDAW/C/DEN/5)	
Dominica	3 September 1998		
Dominican Republic	2 September 1999		
Ecuador	9 December 1998		
Egypt	9 October 1998	30 March 2000 (CEDAW/C/EGY/4-5)	
El Salvador	18 September 1998		
Ethiopia	10 October 1998		
Gabon	20 February 2000		
Gambia	16 May 2000		
Greece	7 July 2000		
Guatemala	11 September 1999		
Guinea	8 September 1999		
Guyana	3 September 1998		
Haiti	3 September 1998		
Honduras	2 April 2000		
Hungary	3 September 1998		

States parties

Date due

<i>States parties</i>	<i>Date due^a</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>	<i>Considered by Committee (session (year))</i>
F. Reports submitted on an exceptional basis			
Democratic Republic of the Congo ^b		16 January 1997 (oral report; see CEDAW/C/SR.317)	Sixteenth (1997)
Croatia		15 September 1994 (CEDAW/C/CRO/SP.1)	Fourteenth (1995)
Rwanda		31 January 1996 (oral report; see CEDAW/C/SR.306)	Fifteenth (1996)
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)		2 December 1993 (CEDAW/C/YUG/SP.1) 2 February 1994 (oral report; see CEDAW/C/SR.254)	Thirteenth (1994)

^a One year prior to the due date, the Secretary-General invites the State party to submit its report.

^b Effective 17 May 1997, Zaire was renamed Democratic Republic of the Congo.

^c Report withdrawn.