



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

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Third session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 2 April 1984, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. IDER (Mongolia)

CONTENTS

Consideration of reports and information submitted by State parties under
article 18 of the Convention (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

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

Initial report of Hungary (continued) (CEDAW/C/5/Add.3)

1. Mr. SOMOGYI (Hungary), responding to questions raised with regard to his country's report, said that the general principle of the prohibition of all forms of discrimination and the principle of equality of rights of men and women were enshrined in the Constitution of the Hungarian People's Republic. Additional measures had, however, been taken in the form of Acts and rules of implementation to further safeguard women's effective enjoyment of equal rights by acknowledging that the biological differences between men and women must be addressed to ensure women's equal treatment with men.
2. Since the problems specific to women called for a comprehensive approach, individual Acts had been promulgated to protect women's civil, political, economic and cultural rights and violation of those rights constituted a crime or an offence, depending on its seriousness. Women could appeal to the courts if their rights were violated and in recent years, a number of women had taken their grievances to the labour courts and legal action had been taken to end discrimination in employment in such areas as seniority and promotion.
3. Under the Constitution any citizen could be elected to political office. Thus, in theory and in practice, a woman could be elected President of the Republic. While no administrative steps had been taken to increase the number of women in political office since to do so would be a violation of the principle of equality, measures had been taken to increase their political participation and hence their chances of being elected. While he agreed with members of the Committee that statistics alone did not give a clear idea of women's role in a country's political life, he wished to point out that a third of the deputies to the National Assembly were women, one of the two deputy speakers of the Assembly was a woman and there were women in the Presidential Council, the Council of State and the Political Committee. Women accounted for a third or more of the members of municipal, county and local councils and youth organizations and over half of all trade union officials. There were also women judges on the Supreme Court, the district courts and the Court of Appeals.
4. As a measure of women's substantive participation in politics, he pointed out that the National Council of Women, a non-governmental organization in which membership was voluntary, played a very important political and social role. It presented the Government with proposals and views relating to women's questions, dealt with economic questions and also with labour law in co-operation with the trade unions. Its initiatives were intended only as guidelines, however, and it was no substitute for Parliament.

(Mr. Somogyi, Hungary)

5. In labour matters, no labour law or regulations could be adopted without the consent of the trade unions.
6. Any woman could present political or legislative initiatives to the Communist Party, whether she was a Party member or not, as an individual or as the member of an organization. In that connection, non-Party members could be elected or appointed to any public office other than posts in the Party.
7. There was no general feeling of antagonism towards women in Hungary: women were accepted as equal partners in all areas of life. The National Council encouraged women's awareness of their situation and their proper place in the family and in society. Women were in the vanguard of the peace movement. The President of the National Council for Peace was a woman and many of the officials of the National Solidarity Committee were also women. Both organizations co-operated actively with the international peace movement and national liberation movements.
8. In the course of the development of a socialist society, women had become very valuable members and prejudice against them had been eliminated. The objective conditions for equality between men and women now existed and all that remained was to remove the subjective impediments to equality. Education played a valuable role in that connection. At present, 50 to 60 per cent of students in higher education, 60 to 80 per cent of those in secondary education and 33 per cent of those in vocational schools were girls. Forty per cent of those with university degrees, 54 per cent of graduates from secondary schools and 58 per cent of skilled workers were women. After 40 years of compulsory education up to the age of 16, illiteracy had been virtually eliminated.
9. The new social order had created the basis for women's total liberation and self-realization. The fact that women had become independent wage earners had altered their position in the family; while traditions could not be changed overnight, women's position in family relations was much improved.
10. With regard to employment, he said that the right to work was guaranteed by the Constitution. Prior to the introduction of a socialist system, half of all women in Hungary had been unable to find work and the remainder had been employed mainly in menial agricultural or domestic work. Nowadays, if women were unable to work for health or other reasons, they were assisted under the social security system.
11. Women accounted for a substantial proportion of the labour force in industry, non-material sectors, agriculture and forestry, and trade. They represented a small proportion of the labour force in transport and telecommunications, construction and water supply management. The largest concentration of women was to be found in the health, social and cultural services where they represented 75.4 per cent of the labour force. Thirty-nine per cent of wage-earning women were blue collar workers and 61 per cent were white collar workers. At 10 per cent, women's representation in managerial posts was considerably lower because of their generally lower level of education and skills. That situation was improving, however, as women's education gradually reached the level of men's.

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(Mr. Somogyi, Hungary)

12. The principle of equal pay for equal work generally applied in Hungary, pay being based on performance rather than sex. However, on the average women earned from 20 to 30 per cent less than men in most occupational groups and 15 per cent less in leadership posts.
13. The Labour Code and the Social Security Act did not differentiate between the sexes except in so far as was required to protect women and motherhood. A list of work-places barred to women because they were hazardous or harmful to health was regularly revised and updated, and there were restrictions relating to pregnant women and mothers of young children. Working mothers were not allowed to work after the fourth month of pregnancy and until their children reached six months of age and were not allowed to work overtime or on night shift until their children were one year old. Pregnant and nursing women were not allowed to work in places which were dangerous to their health and must be guaranteed the same pay if they were transferred from such work. The Labour Code also prohibited termination of employment for pregnant or nursing mothers during child care leave or unpaid leave to care for a sick child and while mothers were nursing their own or another child in a State-operated nursery. The retirement age for women was 55 as opposed to 60 for men. Women were not compelled to retire at that age and could work part-time to supplement their pensions.
14. Since 1967 a child care allowance had been paid to working mothers once they had completed 20 weeks of maternity leave on full pay and if they decided to remain at home until the children reached the age of three. That allowance increased according to the number of children and represented a major legal, social and political achievement. Throughout the period of child care leave, women acquired the same rights with regard to pay, holidays, pensions etc. as if they were actually at work. That provision had created controversy, however, since it reduced the labour force and had created psychological or material problems for some mothers. Steps had therefore been taken to remedy the situation by offering the mothers vocational training courses or allowing them to return to work. A new rule stipulated that they could work up to four hours a day once their children had reached one and a half years of age and still receive the full child-care allowance. If the mother chose to return to work rather than be paid the allowance, she was paid for sick leave if she had to stay at home when her child was ill. Nurseries and kindergartens had also been established for the children of working mothers and, in 1982, had the capacity to receive 90 per cent of all children in the pre-school age group. In fact, all children could attend nursery school for one year prior to commencing primary school.
15. The problem of child care leave was one aspect of the contradiction between women's family and career responsibilities. That contradiction remained to be resolved but the general circumstances of women's lives have been improved and the two-fold burden represented by women's role as mothers and workers had been reduced.
16. With regard to recreation and leisure facilities, he pointed out that most companies and trade unions offered recreation facilities at which workers could spend two weeks' holiday a year. Discounts or bonuses were paid to families with more than three children or to single parents.

(Mr. Somogyi, Hungary)

17. Under the 1974 Family Law, men and women enjoyed full equality with regard to family rights and responsibilities. They were both free to choose their partners, to marry, divorce, have children of their own or adopt children. Women had the right to choose the name they wished to use, husbands could use the wife's name and the parents decided jointly the name to be given to their children. The two-year difference in the minimum marriage age was a recognition that women matured earlier than men. Marriage was not compulsory at that age. Men and women were fully responsible for the upbringing of their children and custody in the event of divorce was, if possible, decided by the parents, both retaining access to the children. Under current legislation, a single person could not adopt a child since the pre-condition for adoption was that the normal development of the child was best ensured by his integration into a two-parent family.

18. The family allowance was paid to families with two or more children and increased with the number of children. The annual amount for each child was equivalent to 25 per cent of the average national income. Abortion was provided free of charge for women over 35 years of age or with more than three children. In all other cases, requests for abortion were reviewed by special committees and it was generally allowed if the woman insisted. Prostitution was prohibited by law.

19. None of the measures to protect women violated men's rights with regard to working conditions, bonuses and allowances and the possibility of being elected to public office.

20. Any further questions by the Committee would be answered in future reports submitted by his Government. He appreciated the Committee's endeavours to ensure an end to discrimination against women everywhere and for the interest shown in the situation of women in Hungary.

21. Ms. CARON, referring to the prohibition banning adoption of children by single persons, said that, a couple which adopted a child might later divorce or one of the partners might die, leaving the child with only one parent. That being so, why should a person who was single not be allowed to adopt a child?

22. Ms. REGENT-LECHOWICZ, Ms. CORTES, Ms. BIRYUKOVA and Ms. PEYTCHEVA congratulated the representative of Hungary on the major advances made by his country in eliminating discrimination against women. The detailed information which he had provided had led to the conclusion that the provisions of the Convention were being fully implemented in Hungary.

23. Ms. EL-FETOUH thanked the representative of Hungary for his statement concerning the social problems of women in Hungary, but reminded the Committee that the question of women was not only social but also economic and political.

24. Mr. SOMOGYI (Hungary) replied that his country, as had been amply demonstrated in his replies, approached the problem of women's rights in its entirety, including its social, economic and political aspects. In response to Ms. Caron's question, he said that a draft law was being considered on the possibility of allowing adoption by a single parent.

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25. The CHAIRPERSON, speaking on her own behalf and on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Hungary on its progress in the implementation of the Convention.

26. Mr. Somogyi (Hungary) withdrew.

Initial report of China (CEDAW/C/5/Add.14)

27. Ms. ZHANG Zhong-an (China), replying to the principal questions raised by the experts concerning the report submitted by her country, noted that the influence of the feudal system which had shackled Chinese women for several thousand years, could not be eliminated in a short time. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, however, China had made important advances in promoting the principle of equality between men and women. China's family planning policy of encouraging married couples to have only one child conformed to its economic development goals. Since China had a large rapidly growing base population, with a large proportion of young people, the Government had to strive to keep the population under 1.2 billion by the end of the century. If each of the 12 million young couples who married each year had two children, the population figure would reach 1.3 billion by the year 2000. Her Government also paid a great deal of attention to genetics and to improving the quality of the population, as shown by the prohibition by law of consanguineous marriages and the promotion of medical examination and treatment of pregnant women and nursing mothers. Bonuses and other incentives were provided for the one-child couple, including priority in housing, medical care and nursery enrolment. Couples were encouraged to have a second child only if the first child was disabled, if one of the remarried partners had never had a child, if there had been only one child in the family for many generations or if the family was living in a remote area. Contraception was the method most relied upon, although tubal ligation was an option. The Government had to rely on the willingness of couples to have only one child since they could not be forced to do so.

28. With regard to marriage and the family, the 1950 law and the revised marriage law of 1980 were identical in the sense that they both provided for free choice of partners, monogamy, equal status of husband and wife and the protection of rights within the family. Both laws prohibited arranged marriages. The sections on the prohibition of concubines and child wives had been deleted in the 1980 law because they were obsolete. The more recent law stated that married couples were duty bound to practise family planning and raised the legal age of marriage from 20 to 22 years for men and from 18 to 20 years for women. Children could adopt either their father's or their mother's family name, and a woman could become a member of the man's family, or vice versa by agreement between the two parties.

29. Family relations were relatively stable in China, and the percentage of divorce was low. However, in the event of divorce the child was still considered as belonging to both the mother and the father no matter who had custody. Custody issues were settled by the parents or, if they could not agree, by the court. Generally speaking, nursing babies were placed in the custody of their mothers, the custody of young children was determined by the child's best interests and children old enough to express their opinions were allowed to live with whichever parent they chose.

(Ms. Zhang Zhong-an, China)

30. Elderly people were cared for and respected in China, and normally children did their best to ensure a happy life for their aging parents. The rare cases of maltreatment of parents were punishable by law, and parents could legally demand financial support from their children.

31. Single mothers were divided into three categories: the divorced woman who lived with her child or children, in which case the father of the child was responsible for the child's living and educational expenses; the widow, who was provided with a pension; and the unmarried mother. The last case was very rare in China because Chinese ethics prohibited couples from living together before marriage, and most young people abided by that norm. However, a child born out of wedlock had the same rights as one born within wedlock, and the father was responsible for the living and educational expenses of the child.

32. A Chinese citizen could not lose citizenship by marrying a foreigner, but could apply for foreign citizenship.

33. Traffic in women and prostitution were illegal in China. Since the early days of the new China, the Government had undertaken a re-education programme under which prostitutes had been given educational and technical training, and prostitution had almost been eliminated. To suppress a resurgence in some regions, the State public security bureaux were enforcing penalties.

34. In China's 3000-year history, women had been denied education, and before 1949 the illiteracy rate had been as high as 80 per cent. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, however, the Government had abrogated all laws and regulations prejudicial to the education of women. Schools, many of them with flexible programmes to accommodate seasonal occupations in the various geographical regions, enrolled women at all levels. The sharing of chores was advocated within the family to encourage women to return to school, and mobile schools and special educational funds had been provided. All those improvements had led to an increase in female enrolment in schools and a decrease in the drop-out rate. In 1982, women accounted for 25.7 per cent of the university population, an unprecedentedly large number. Enrolment in schools had gone from 20 to 93 per cent of all school-age children, and illiteracy had been cut down from 80 to 25 per cent. Greater efforts needed to be made with respect to rural women's education, however, as women still represented 70 per cent of the illiterate population, mainly in the rural areas.

35. In support of women's participation in politics, efforts were being made to help women advance to leadership posts. The Constitution guaranteed equal rights for women, and article 48 was unprecedented in its stipulation that the training and election of female cadres should be included in the work plan at all levels of government, ensuring the participation of a specified percentage of women. While the actual number of women leaders was unfortunately still too low, at the national level, approximately 21 per cent of the delegates to the Sixth National People's Congress, 9 per cent of its Standing Committee and 20 Vice-Chairmen of that Committee were women, 7 per cent of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Sixth National Congress of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference were

(Ms. Zhang Zhong-an, China)

women, one of the nine State Councillors was a woman, and 5 per cent of the Ministers and Life Ministers of the State Council were women. At the provincial level, there were seven women Governors and Vice-Governors. At the county level, 14 per cent of the leadership posts were held by women.

36. China had emphasized education as a means of combating discrimination against and the abuse of women, safeguarding their legitimate rights and eradicating the concept of male superiority. In the past year, a mass-media campaign had been launched to publicize the legitimate rights and interests of women and children, what could be done to implement the principle of equality of the sexes, protect the family and property rights of women and children and deal with cases of violations. It was aimed particularly at rural women who, because of their limited education, were least aware of their rights and of how they could use the law to promote their interests. That was what had been meant in the report by the use of law as a weapon.

37. In addition, the All-China Women's Federation had set up advisory legal services for women and assisted them, in co-ordination with government agencies, by bringing their cases to court if necessary. In the process some male-chauvinist ideas had been altered and those guilty of crimes had been punished. The Federation's programme had been effective nation-wide.

38. The Constitution and the laws were not sufficient of themselves, however, to guarantee equality between men and women. It was imperative to increase women's level of education, to raise their consciousness, to enhance their self-respect and to encourage them to improve their status.

39. The Committee had requested further information regarding the All-China Women's Federation. It had been founded in 1949 to safeguard women's rights. It served as a bridge between the masses of women and the Government and was largely funded by the Government. The Federation had provincial and local branches under the leadership of the Communist Party and a grass-roots organization known as the National Women's Congress. Its staff of 400 (as against some 100,000 women's affairs specialists nation-wide) was playing an important role in mobilizing women to participate in political and economic life. Its representatives in the National People's Congress and other national bodies took a direct part in drafting national policy, programmes and legislation relating to women. The Federation had been involved in formulating the family planning policy and was implementing it in the local communities. It had also been one of the main organizers of the legal advisory programme mentioned earlier. The Government authorized it to participate in United Nations agencies dealing with women's affairs and it maintained relations with some 230 women's organizations in 126 countries. The Fifth National Women's Congress held in September 1983 had defined the Federation's main tasks for the next five years: to organize women to participate actively in the construction of socialist civilization; to guarantee the healthy growth of children; to safeguard the rights of women and children; and to contribute to national unification and world peace.

(Ms. Zhang Zhong-an, China)

40. Since China was a developing country with 80 per cent of its population in rural areas, improving the status of rural women had been one of China's priorities. Recent achievements included the institution of the responsibility system in rural collective economies, which had spurred production and brought the initiative of rural women into full play; this, in turn, had wrought tremendous changes in the countryside. More detailed information on the complex question of the status of rural women would be contained in China's next report.
41. Ms. CARON asked the representative of China to give an example of illnesses that would make persons unfit for marriage, and to indicate whether women as well as men could institute divorce proceedings.
42. Ms. CORTES asked whether a minor child could choose his family name and whether consensual unions existed in China. She also would like a fuller explanation of what was meant by freedom of marriage. Also, it was her impression that criticism by public opinion was an important feature of Chinese society and she would appreciate further comment on that subject. The report and the additional information provided by the representative of China had given a good picture of the magnitude and complexity of the population question in China, present and future.
43. Ms. MUKAYIRANGA said that the family planning programme in China was a good programme that could serve as a model for other countries, such as her own, which had similar population problems and concerns.
44. Ms. PATIÑO observed that family planning was of concern in China as in developing countries everywhere, but she wondered whether a State had the right to limit the number of children permitted in each family, as China did, in view of article 16 of the Convention which guaranteed the right of couples to decide on the number and spacing of their children.
45. Ms. ZHANG Zhong-an (China) replying to the further questions put to her, said that nervous illnesses would be an example of illnesses that made persons unfit for marriage. The revised Marriage Law explicitly established the freedom of marriage as opposed to the tradition of arranged marriages. It was normally up to the parents to decide the family names taken by the children, but when children were old enough to express an opinion, they had the right to change their names. In view of the current population situation, Government policy was that there should be one child per couple. It should be noted, however, that in 1983 only 40 per cent of couples had observed the one-child rule and the other 60 per cent had had two and even three children. The remaining questions would be answered in the next report of China.
46. Ms. Zhang Zhong-an (China) withdrew.

Initial periodic report of the Philippines (continued) (CEDAW/C/5/Add.6)

47. Mrs. REBONG (Philippines), giving further replies to questions raised by the members of the Committee, said that when the Philippines had ratified the Convention, it had done so without reservations because it believed that all the provisions of the Convention - except for certain minor areas which it was now assessing and updating - were already covered by the existing Philippine legislation.
48. The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women had been established as the official organ authorized to recommend measures to ensure the full integration of women into economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels and to achieve equality between men and women. The National Commission operated under the Ministry of Human Settlements and advised the President on policy and programmes for greater participation by women in the country's development. Its relationship to other women's organizations in the Philippines was assured by the fact that one of its members was the President of the Civic Association of Women, the umbrella organization for some 75 women's associations. As stated in the introduction to the report of the Philippines, the National Commission was the agency designated by the Letter of Instructions No. 974 of 5 January 1980 to monitor what was being done by all other Government offices and agencies to eliminate discrimination against women. The Letter of Instructions had called upon Government agencies to take steps to ensure equal pay for equal work among their own employees; to promote qualified women employees to managerial and decision-making posts (only 22.7 per cent of such posts being currently held by women); to eliminate practices that discriminated against women in both Government and private enterprises which were subject to their jurisdiction or with which they had dealings; and to make periodic reports to the Office of the President.
49. In response to the question on international treaties to which the Philippines was a party and the relationship between those treaties and Philippine law, she said that the Philippines was a party to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, conventions for the suppression of the traffic in women and children and women of full age, and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. Those treaties formed part of Philippine law in accordance with section III, article 2, of the Constitution.
50. The family laws embodied in the Civil Code had been created not to discriminate against women, but to protect women and the family, in which women occupied a very special position. Under those laws, a daughter aged 21 to 23 could not leave her parents' home without their consent except to become a wife, to exercise a profession or if her father or mother had remarried. Sons of the same age were not similarly restricted. A wife could not acquire property, except in special cases, without her husband's consent. A husband could oppose his wife's having a profession or engaging in business if his income was sufficient to maintain the family at its social level, but a woman with sufficient income to support the family could not object to her husband's professional activities or business ventures. A wife's mobility was subordinated to her husband's choice of residence. Although husband and wife had equal rights to conjugal property, the husband was considered the administrator of that property.

(Mrs. Rebono, Philippines)

51. Those restrictions formed part of the country's law, but they were not applied in practice. Wives administered conjugal property jointly with their husbands or alone and engaged in business or professional activity if they wished even if the husband's income was more than sufficient to support the family. They had an equal, if not greater right, to choose the family's place of residence. If women did not engage in those activities, it was out of choice, nor because of the legal restrictions. Nevertheless, since the laws as they stood were discriminatory, the authorities were re-examining them with a view to correcting the inequities, and some amendments had already been submitted to the National Assembly.

52. In response to the questions on legal separation, divorce and abortion, she said that divorce was not recognized except for the Moslem population, but that legal separation was allowed. In such cases the court determined whether the mother or the father was best qualified to have custody over the children; generally, children under five years of age stayed with the mother. All family planning measures were allowed, although only therapeutic abortion was permitted. Children born out of wedlock were entitled to support from the father and to receive inheritances. The special court for family relations had been abolished and its functions transferred to the regular courts.

53. Prostitution was a crime and punishable by law. Since the main cause of prostitution was economic, the Government, through the Ministry of Labour and other ministries and councils, tried to give jobs to unemployed young women and to those who were out of school. Some women, nevertheless, sought to supplement their income by prostitution. The Government did not sanction the sexual exploitation of males and females which was part of the infamous sex tours organized by foreign travel agencies. It had called upon foreign Governments to put an end to those package deals and had issued an order to all travel agencies to stop organizing them under penalty of revocation of their permits. The Ministry of Tourism had set up a special trip for journalists from a country whose travel agencies were heavily involved in sex tours in order to give them a true picture of the country.

54. Political affairs was one area in which Philippine women fully enjoyed equal rights. They had been given the vote as early as 1937, and since independence in 1946, they had been elected to legislative bodies and served as mayors, governors and vice-governors. The voting age for Philippine women was the same as for men. In the 1978 elections for the National Assembly, 49.96 per cent of the voters had been women. There were no laws or practices whatsoever that prohibited Philippine women from seeking election to public office. In fact, one of the candidates for President in 1981 had been a woman. There was no quota for women in public office.

55. Women had the same rights to education as men. The latest figures showed that more women were enrolled at the tertiary level, preparing themselves for a wide variety of careers, than men. The Constitution provided for equal employment opportunities and for equal pay for equal work. Cases of violations of those rights were handled by the National Labour Relations Commission, which had exclusive jurisdiction to hear and rule on cases involving unfair labour practices,

(Mrs. Rebong, Philippines)

wage disputes, overtime compensation and separation pay and other benefits. In response to the question whether such cases were ever brought to court, she gave the example of a complaint by a Philippines Air Lines stewardess who had been discharged for getting married. The Secretary of Labour had decided in favour of the complainant.

56. Agricultural workers were also protected by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The results of the seminars which the Committee had asked about were not tangible, but the seminars had helped to educate men and women about their roles in society.

57. In response to the question on why research was being done on the condition of Philippine women in Hong Kong, she said that many Philippine women had found gainful employment as domestics there, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, recognizing that they required protection, was monitoring the situation to ensure that they were given equal treatment.

58. Philippine children used the father's surname, but the mother's surname became their middle name and was essential for determining the child's identity.

59. She explained that under Philippine labour laws, "hospitality girls" were those who worked in nightclubs, cocktail lounges and massage parlours. The Government had initiated a programme to establish a labour union for them in order to ensure that they were protected under the labour laws.

60. Responding to other questions, she said that a bill now before the National Assembly was designed to repeal the prohibition against employing women on night shifts. Single women were entirely free to negotiate bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credits but a husband's approval was needed if it was a case of conjugal property, and there were restrictions on the right of married women to enter into contracts. The Committee would be provided with statistics on the number of women enrolled in courses on subjects which were traditionally directed to male students as soon as they were available.

61. Ms. CARON said that the Philippines was an exception to the rule that divergence in practice from what was set out by law might prejudice implementation of the Convention, for many legal provisions actually discriminated against women. Although much was being done to eliminate discrimination, it still was a problem in a number of areas, especially civil law. She was glad to hear that the Civil Code was to be amended.

62. Referring to the statement made by Mr. Moreno-Salcedo at the thirty-third meeting, she said that his chauvinistic and paternalistic remarks were an insult to all the women throughout the world who were working in politics and striving to eliminate discrimination.

63. Ms. OESER said there seemed to be a discrepancy between the statement made at the current meeting that all the provisions of the Convention formed part of Philippine law and Mr. Moreno-Salcedo's remark that those provisions of the Convention which were not incorporated into the country's legislation were complied with in practice. Furthermore, it was not sufficient to say that the principles of international law were reflected in Philippine legislation: principles differed from legislative provisions. She agreed with Ms. Caron that the remarks made by Mr. Moreno-Salcedo were an insult to the Committee, the Convention and the many women who were actively involved in political life.

64. Ms. SMITH asked whether women were participating in the Government's formulation of the new family law. She agreed with other speakers about the tone of Mr. Moreno-Salcedo's remarks and said that she doubted that Philippine women were entirely satisfied to exercise their influence only through their husbands. She wondered, moreover, if there was really no women's liberation movement in the Philippines.

65. Mr. NORDENFELT recalled Mr. Moreno-Salcedo's remark that harmony among the sexes and the traditional allocation of labour, privileges and duties was the backbone of Philippine society. If that statement reflected official policy, it would appear that the Philippines was not complying with its obligations under the Convention. He, too, had found Mr. Moreno-Salcedo's remarks offensive to the women and the men who were working to achieve equality of the sexes.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.