



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

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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Second session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Monday, 8 August 1983, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. IDER

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRPERSON said that the first part of the Committee's draft report on the work of its second session was available in all working languages except Arabic. The Egyptian expert, however, had agreed that the document should be distributed without waiting for the Arabic version. In addition, the section headed "Attendance", on page 4 of the English text, would have to be revised.
2. She requested the members of the Committee to study the report with a view to considering it on Friday 12 August.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF THE CONVENTION (continued)

Initial report of Sweden (CEDAW/C/5/Add.8)

3. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Lindgren (Sweden) took a place at the Committee table.
4. Ms. LINDGREN (Sweden) said that equality between the sexes, which meant that men and women enjoyed the same rights and the same opportunities for personal development, affected all aspects of social life and was based on the practice of a profession and financial independence.
5. At the time of ratification of the Convention, Sweden had fulfilled the undertakings implied by the articles, which were not specifically mentioned in the report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.8). A summary of the work and organization for the promotion of sexual equality could be found in the fact sheet on Equality between Men and Women in Sweden and in "Step by step", National Plan of Action for Equality, published in the two appendices to the report. In that connection, she apologized to the members of the Committee on behalf of her Government, which had not been able to send them those appendices; besides, they existed only in English. The Swedish Government intended to rectify that situation and to make those documents available to the experts promptly.
6. In order to implement its policies for the promotion of sexual equality, the Swedish Government had made certain organizational reforms in 1983: a Minister with a special secretariat for that purpose in the Ministry of Labour, had been made responsible for ensuring that the Government took account of sexual equality when it prepared policies, and a special body, made up of senior officials from all Ministries, had been established to help him carry out his task. A Council for questions relating to equality had been established to ensure contacts between the Government, the political parties represented in the Parliament, employers' and workers' organizations and womens' associations. In addition, a commission made up of politicians and social workers had been made responsible for research.

(Ms. Lindgren, Sweden)

7. The National Plan of Action for Equality contained a broad range of measures and recommendations aimed at strengthening equality in a number of fields.

8. In education, the Plan recommended:

- Improving the dialogue between the parents of pupils and the teaching staff on the subject of sexual equality;
- Translating the national programmes of action into local programmes for equality at the level of every school and every pre-school institution;
- According a more prominent place to questions of equality in secondary education, providing on-the-job training for teachers and ensuring that men and women were equally represented among the teaching staff of schools and pre-school institutions;
- Preparing textbooks and curricula to highlight the question of sexual equality; making the sex of the student less of a factor in the choice of courses;
- Developing research on sexual equality and encouraging more women to become involved in it;
- Implementing similar measures to promote equality in continuing education;
- Undertaking systematic and practical activities in the education and training of immigrant women.

9. In employment, the measures should aim at:

- Increasing the real opportunities for women to obtain gainful employment;
- Reducing the differences between men and women in working hours and salaries;
- Abolishing job classification according to sex;
- Eliminating all sexual discrimination.

10. It should be possible to take specific measures based on the following considerations:

11. When planning in the field of employment or considering activities to be undertaken to promote sexual equality, the municipal and county boards should work on the assumption that the female work-force will increase:

- It is essential to reduce the length of the working day to six hours as early as possible. In the meantime, the working conditions of part-time workers must be improved;

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(Ms. Lindgren, Sweden)

- Night workers with young children should be given priority when they wish to take a daytime job;
- Employers should inform the fathers of young children of their rights, particularly with respect to parental leave and a shorter working day;
- Housewives wishing to obtain gainful employment should be actively encouraged;
- The education sectors and employers should co-operate to eliminate the selection of careers by sex, to enable students, by practical work, to acquire experience in the areas traditionally dominated by the other sex and to meet training requirements;
- Priority for vocational training should be accorded to the under-represented sex.

12. In the area of family policy and family law, the following measures should be taken as soon as possible:

The municipalities should respect the commitment made to establish, as soon as possible, 100,000 new places in kindergartens by the end of 1981. Part-time or "à la carte" kindergarten services should be offered to children raised at home or in family-care centres;

Parents should be able to take, at the same time, leave giving rise to payment of a parental indemnity during the month following the birth of a child, so that they would both be able to look after it;

The parents of twins should be entitled to the parental indemnity during the first four months following the birth of the children;

The widow's pension and the annuity paid to the surviving spouse under the head of work accident insurance should be abolished and replaced by more generous benefits paid to children;

The fiscal advantages granted to workers whose spouses had no income should be gradually abolished. The funds thus liberated should be redistributed to families with children.

13. In the area of housing and community planning, the following measures should be envisaged:

Promotion of equality between the sexes in the context of urban planning of residential zones, traffic routes, services, etc.;

Creation of a committee on equality in each municipal and county council;

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(Ms. Lindgren, Sweden)

Preparation of statistics on the scale of the individual and studies on housing preferences;

Experimentation with various collective services in residential zones;

The increasing of job openings in public services and measures to facilitate the installation of light and non-pollutant industries in residential zones, which must offer inhabitants municipal and commercial services within reasonable working distance;

Account should be taken, in the planning of the physical environment, of the fact that the population spent a large part of its leisure time in residential zones;

Planning should seek to reduce and facilitate the journey between home and work;

Communal transport should be developed.

14. In the field of health and in the social field, the Plan set forth the following principles:

Preventive health activities carried out in the work-place, at school and elsewhere by the central Government, the local authorities, the county councils, commercial firms and popular associations should be adequately developed and financed;

Methods to make confinements less painful should be used on a wider scale;

There should be a public opinion campaign against the increased abuse of tobacco and alcohol by women;

Breast-examination services should be developed so as to eliminate waiting periods;

Particular attention should be given to the linguistic difficulties experienced by immigrant women and to their distinctive cultural situation;

Research should be encouraged on battered wives, and statistics in that field should be improved, with a view to the adoption of more effective measures;

Prompt medical and psychological assistance should be provided to women who were victims of rape;

Support and assistance should be given to prostitutes in order to enable them to escape prostitution.

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(Ms. Lindgren, Sweden)

15. The Committee on Equality identified a number of methods that had been used successfully to increase the representation of women in trade unions and political parties. Those methods consisted of the following:

Setting a quantifiable objective for the immediate future and drawing up concrete plans for the attainment of that objective;

Drawing up, for electoral committees, guidelines specifying the desirable quotas and the methods to be used for achieving them; those methods might consist, for example, of nominating women for all vacant posts until they were equitably represented, reserving a certain proportion of mandates for each of the two sexes, having men and women alternate on the list of candidates, etc.;

Stressing the importance of equality between the sexes by incorporating in the statutes of the organization concerned a clause stating that the organization aimed at equal representation of the two sexes in terms of responsibilities;

Creating a "name bank" listing the names of active women;

Proposing the candidate of either sex for all posts of authority;

Organizing activities, in trade unions and political parties, taking account to the fact that men as well as women had, moreover, family and parental responsibility.

16. The sensitization of public opinion to the problem of equality between the sexes should proceed parallel with all the other activities for the formation of equality; future efforts in that area should be more systematic;

It was of capital importance to stimulate discussions by small groups in the work-place, in associations, etc.;

Subsidies should be given to free organizations and associations to sensitize public opinion to the question;

Access to information should be facilitated for personages influencing public opinion and other officials;

Fellowships should be created in order to enable journalists to extend their knowledge of problems relating to equality between the sexes;

An effort should be made to eliminate sexual discrimination in language, and information officials should, to that end, analyse carefully the material which they disseminated.

17. Sweden attached particular importance to equality of the sexes in its international co-operation activities. Nevertheless, in order to strengthen equality of the sexes in that field efforts could be made to:

(Ms. Lindgren, Sweden)

- Increase the number of women in Swedish delegations to organizations in the United Nations system and other international organizations;
- Pay particular attention to the effects of assistance programmes for women;
- Devote special efforts and more funds to improving the status of women, who were directly affected by the negative consequences of technological progress in many developing countries;
- Ensure, through action at the United Nations, that the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women - to which Sweden had contributed - more strongly supported projects aimed at promoting equality of the sexes in developing countries.

18. She referred the members of the Committee to the reply given by the Swedish Government to the request for information addressed to it by the United Nations with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women (document dated 16 September 1981), and to its reply to an earlier United Nations questionnaire on its implementation during the period 1975-1978 of the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year (May 1979, issued November 1981).

19. With regard to article 1 of the Convention, she said that the results of the survey carried out by the Committee on Equality between Men and Women referred to in the report submitted by her Government revealed that the Swedish were sports lovers, that they were reasonably satisfied with their jobs and that they felt that men should devote more time to their children and household chores, but that the respondents did not do so themselves. It therefore appeared in that respect, men had been poorly prepared by traditional education for the demands of contemporary living.

20. In that connection, Sweden had a parental insurance scheme which could be considered as being aimed at encouraging men to share with women responsibility for bringing up children: during the first 12 months following the birth of the child, the father, as well as the mother, could take paid leave. He received 90 per cent of his salary for the first nine months, followed by a fixed allowance for the last three months. Moreover, parents holding paid jobs were entitled to 60 days' paid annual leave to care for their children when they were ill. In addition, fathers were entitled to 10 days' leave establishing eligibility for a parental allowance on the birth of a child, even where the mother already was receiving a parental allowance in respect of the same child. Despite all those benefits, the survey revealed that only 10 per cent of men who had recently become fathers had taken advantage of the entitlement to parental leave in 1980. Nevertheless, of all parents who had received the parental allowance in 1980 and remained at home to care for an ill child, 47.7 per cent were men (including fathers who had taken the 10 days' leave granted when the child was born).

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(Ms. Lindgren, Sweden)

21. Young men, men with higher education and those whose wife or partner were working full time were the ones who spent most time with their children. Seventy per cent of men and 50 per cent of women spent less than 40 hours a week with their children. Men between 20 and 24 did very little work in the house and those men who did 20 hours or more a week of household chores almost all had children under six years of age. The latter were primarily involved in maintenance of the house and the family car, paying bills and making major purchases, etc.

22. Finally, she indicated, with regard to article 3, that since July 1983, women's organizations had been receiving State subsidies for the promotion of equality of the sexes.

23. In conclusion, she recalled that job equality was a pre-condition for equality in all other fields. Any adult with a job and thus able to meet his needs could be independent, and that financial independence was a pre-condition for equality in all other areas. Sweden would continue to implement its national plan for equality and was determined to spare no efforts in that sphere.

24. Ms. BERNARD welcomed the positive steps referred to in the report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.8) taken by the Swedish Government to promote equality of the sexes. She noted in particular the measures taken to encourage girls to broaden their range of educational choices (p. 7), the entry into force of the Act concerning Equality between Women and Men at Work (p. 9) and the appointment of an Ombudsman responsible for ensuring equal opportunities and empowered to submit cases of discrimination on the basis of sex to the Labour Court. She noted with interest the establishment of an Equal Opportunities Commission whose first task was to consider complaints submitted to it by the Ombudsman with a view to summoning employers to appear or be fined.

25. Nevertheless, she regretted that the report contained no information on the organization of the courts. She would also have liked information on the percentage of women in senior posts in the legal system and, more generally, executive positions in the public and private sectors in Sweden. The report contained no information on divorce, in particular on the existence of a family court, and was sufficiently detailed concerning rape and prostitution, and abortion. She would like to know how widespread the former were and whether the latter was free or subject to restrictions. In addition, it would be interesting to know whether Sweden had provisions governing the detention of young female offenders and the rehabilitation of teen-age mothers.

26. In conclusion, she trusted that the appendices referred to in the report, particularly the one relating to the Equal Opportunities Act and the Ombudsman, would be made available to members of the Committee, and she thanked the representative of Sweden for presenting the report.

27. Ms. OESER said that the Swedish report was especially interesting because it described the concrete steps taken by the Swedish Government to eliminate



(Ms. Oeser)

discrimination against women in a number of areas. While acknowledging the precision and conciseness of the report, she regretted that the reference on page 2 of the report to Sweden's participation in international organizations in general and United Nations institutions in particular, left certain important points unclear such as implementation of article 7 of the Convention, which dealt with the equality of women in political matters and of article 8, which provided for participation by women in the work of international organizations. It would be useful to have additional information on those points. Under article 1, the report offered an interesting example of Sweden's approach to the Convention. It stated that "... the Convention should not have been confined to discrimination against women. Instead it should have been given a wider approach, in terms of sexual discrimination. Changes with a view to sexual equality must include measures affecting men as well as women". She wondered whether there might be discrimination against men in Sweden which could justify such an extension of the scope of the Convention.

27a. Referring to article 2 (b) of the Convention, the report stated that "The Committee on Equality between Men and Women has been instructed by the Government to investigate the feasibility of legislation against sexually discriminatory advertising, and this investigation is now in progress". It would be interesting to know whether the work of that Committee had already produced results and whether there was any intention of amending the relevant legislation. Finally, she wished to know whether, in Sweden, men and women took advantage of the opportunities opened by the new Names Act passed by the Riksdag in June 1982 which had entered into force on 1 January 1983.

28. Ms. CARON felt that the summary distributed that morning had clarified many of the questions she had wanted to ask the representative of Sweden, particularly on abortion. However, with respect to adoption, she would like to know, if, in Sweden, a single man or woman could adopt one or more children and under what conditions.

29. Ms. EL-FETOUEH felt that Sweden had done much to ensure the equality of women. The position of women in Sweden seemed extremely enviable. However, the report did not mention any women's social, political or cultural organization that had taken part in drawing up the measures guaranteeing that equality. It would appear that the women themselves had done nothing to obtain from the Swedish Government what had been granted them. Thus, in connection with article 4 of the Convention, the report mentioned the Equal Opportunities Act, which had come into force in July 1980 and guaranteed a number of job rights. She would like to know if women themselves had taken part in the promulgation of that Act or if it had been initiated by men. She would also like to know the percentage of women represented in Swedish legislative bodies and in the Swedish population as a whole.

30. The Swedish Government had made great efforts to ensure equality of opportunity in education. The educational system established in 1982-1983 included some extremely positive innovations which were likely gradually to eliminate discrimination against women. There was, for example, the principle by which child

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care and home economics were compulsory subjects at the secondary level and therefore had to be studied by boys as well as girls. Similarly, the new system of admission to secondary and higher education had been designed in a way that would give girls greater freedom in choosing the studies they wished to pursue. She hoped that, in its next report, Sweden would be able to report the first results of that new admission system.

31. Turning to article 16 of the Convention, which dealt with measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations, she said that she regretted that the information provided was not sufficiently detailed. She hoped that the annexes to the report which had been mentioned would include more complete details on those questions. She would have liked to know, for example, the situation regarding short-term marriages, dealt with in a number of films by Ingmar Bergman. It would be interesting to know if such marriages of limited duration occurred in Sweden and if there was a law regulating such contracts.

32. Ms. MACEDO DE SHEPPARD said that Sweden provided an example of a society in which the equality of men and women was almost a reality. However, she regretted not having received the annexes mentioned; their contents would have made for a better understanding of the report. She asked the representative of Sweden if it would be possible for the Swedish Government to prepare a summary of those annexes, if they were very long. Such a document would be extremely useful since Swedish legislation on the subject was very advanced, and all countries would like to know about it.

33. She wondered whether it would be possible to add to that summary the document submitted two years previously by the Committee on Equality between Men and Women to the Equal Opportunities Minister concerning gainful employment and parenthood. That document was of great interest to other countries and they would be able to learn from it. She had also been struck by the fact that the question of alcoholism arose several times in the report, which suggested that the problem was of some significance in Sweden. It would be interesting to know if studies had been carried out on the causes of that social ill.

34. The report included many interesting aspects which should be highlighted such as, for example, the survey on male attitudes towards equality between men and women. That was an extremely important problem of which society should be aware. Similarly, she had noted that immigrants residing in Sweden had the opportunity of deciding for themselves the extent to which they wished to retain and develop their original cultural identity. That freedom of choice should have been defined precisely so as to avoid the acceptance of values contrary to the basic principles of Swedish law, particularly in relation to equality between men and women. It should be noted that Sweden had a very liberal policy towards foreigners. She felt that the annexes would provide more detailed information, which would make the report of Sweden a very useful guide for many countries.

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35. Ms. MUKAYIRANGA considered that the report of Sweden, although very interesting, did not provide sufficient information on the way in which the Swedish Constitution conceived equality between men and women and on how the Convention was applied. In particular, she would like to have more details on equality between men and women in the field of civil and political rights as well as in private and international law. It would be useful to annex the text of the relevant provisions, to indicate what organizations were active in promoting equality between men and women and to provide more information on the Ombudsman. It would also be interesting to know the underlying causes of the problem of prostitution in Sweden.

36. Ms. LAMM said that the report contained extremely interesting information, particularly on the education system for girls, as well as on the problem of immigrant women and women in the labour market. However, Sweden's report called for some criticism because it focused excessively on the legislative and administrative measures adopted to give effect to the Convention. Some problems were barely touched upon, such as prostitution and drug abuse, which could not be studied in the absence of statistics and social surveys. Similarly, additional information would be necessary on the participation of women in political and public life, as well as on the Ombudsman appointed by the Government to monitor the implementation of the Act concerning equality between men and women at work. It would also be interesting to know if women had other remedies in the event of sex discrimination in employment.

37. Ms. VILLALVILLA noted that the initial report of Sweden was a little too general and did not give a clear idea of Swedish legislation relating to the implementation of the Convention. It was also important to know whether the articles of the Convention on which no comments had been made were already enforced in Sweden and how.

38. She would like to have more detailed information on the implementation of the articles mentioned in the report. With respect to article 1, for example, it was important to know whether discrimination against women was regarded as a crime and whether it was accompanied by criminal penalties. With regard to article 5 of the Convention, mention was made of measures affecting immigrants in respect of equality between men and women. It was obvious that the adoption of such measures was the result of efforts of certain organizations, and it would be interesting to know what programmes had been implemented to obtain the results achieved. In addition, the report did not mention the participation of women in political life and in government, particularly at the decision-making level and in international forums.

39. The results achieved in education were noteworthy. It would be extremely interesting for other countries to know how Sweden had managed to lower the drop-out rate among women and what percentage of women entered higher education and obtained degrees. In addition, the Committee would like to know the system of maternity leave not only after the birth, but during the prenatal period, and what services were provided for women during pregnancy. Similarly, it would be interesting to know what social services made it possible for parents to reconcile their family duties with their professional obligations.

(Ms. Villalvilla)

40. Finally, she referred to the question which had already been asked by Ms. Oeser regarding article 1 of the Convention. She was not very clear why "the Convention should have been given a wider approach in terms of sexual discrimination" as the title of the Convention itself referred only to discrimination against women.

41. Ms. ILIC expressed surprise at the statement by the representative of Sweden that there was still much to be done in her country with respect to discrimination against women; the results appeared to be very satisfactory. She was glad to learn that copies of the documents referred to in the report would be made available in the near future. Those documents would be of particular interest in relation to the legislation against advertising involving sex discrimination, referred to in connection with article 2 (b). In referring to article 10 (c), the report made mention of an action programme for work in schools related to equal opportunities and sex roles. It would be extremely helpful to receive a copy of that document, especially as it contained details on the practical application of the action programme. The measures taken to assist immigrant women and children were extremely encouraging, and she drew attention to the statement in connection with article 5 (a) to the effect that minorities could, if they wished, retain their original cultural identity. She would like to know how that worked out in practice for women and children. The report as a whole reflected many new developments that could serve as a model for other countries and gave a comprehensive picture of what Sweden had achieved in the area of equality between men and women.

42. Ms. SALEMA said that she had noted with interest the statement, in the part of the report devoted to article 1, to the effect that the Convention, rather than being confined to discrimination against women, should have been of a more general scope and covered sex discrimination. She would like to have more details concerning the Committee on Equality between Men and Women. She had also read with great interest the information on the Equal Opportunities Act, the Ombudsman and the action taken to promote equality between the sexes at work. She would like to know how many women were members of the Riksdag and to what the cases of sex discrimination referred to in connection with article 11 were attributable.

43. Ms. SMITH asked whether the Equal Opportunities Commission confined itself to questions of discrimination at work or dealt also with sex discrimination in general.

44. Ms. PEYTCHEVA said that the reports submitted by States parties should include legislative provisions of interest to the Committee. She would have liked the report to contain more information on the Ombudsman, the way in which he was selected and trained and his role in Government and the Riksdag. With reference to article 11 of the Convention, concerning discrimination in the field of employment, she said that, according to data in the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics published by the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the unemployment of women was increasing. Was the Swedish Government taking measures to improve the situation? According to the report, the Ombudsman was required to induce employers to comply with the provisions of the Act. But what was the

(Ms. Peytcheva)

situation in practice? She would like to receive statistical data on the unemployment rate for women, compared with men, for the period July 1980-July 1983, and if there was a disparity she would like to know the reasons for it. It would also be helpful to know the distribution of unemployment by age. Young people and women were generally the first to be affected and, despite the existence of an unemployment benefits system, could suffer greatly.

45. Ms. CORTES, referring to the paragraph on women and penal institutions, asked whether an increasing number of women were being convicted and receiving prison sentences. In connection with article 6, the report referred to the activities of "sex clubs". What were they and how did they operate? With regard to the Ombudsman, the Committee should know the proportion of men and women submitting applications to him. In the summary, it was stated that 10 per cent of those who took parental leave were men. It would be of interest to know the consequences of that type of leave (for promotion, for example) in the case of men who decided to take it. It was also important to be acquainted with the situation with respect to salaries, whether every enterprise was required to employ a particular proportion of women and, if so, how that proportion was determined.

46. Ms. NGUYEN NGOC DUNG asked whether the measures taken to combat discrimination against women were proposed by a single organization, each administrative sector or the Committee on Equality between Men and Women, and whether the Committee was independent or attached to a ministry. She would also like to be informed of the relationship between the Ombudsman and the Committee on Equality between Men and Women. Were there, at the practical level, negative reactions in the circles affected by those measures, for example the measures taken to promote the employment of women or to prohibit pornographic spectacles, and what effects did those measures have on public opinion.

47. How was labour market training, referred to in connection with article 11 (a) to (d), financed? Lastly, what role was played by non-governmental organizations in the combating of discrimination against women?

48. Ms. BIRYUKOVA noted with interest the action taken in schools to change the traditional outlook, both within the family and in society in general. She noted that the information concerning the implementation of the World Plan of Action, which was supposed to appear in appendices 3 and 4, had not been communicated and the Committee had also failed to receive the information on legal and administrative action and the statistical data on the practical application of the Convention, and in particular on the way in which the Equal Opportunities Act was applied, on the percentage of women in the market place and the access of women to various sectors of the economy, on the number of women participating in cultural and artistic life, on the percentage of women holding management posts, working as engineers, doctors, lawyers, teachers and on the number of women in the Riksdag. Like the speakers who had preceded her, she would like to have details of the Equal Opportunities Commission and to know whom it represented, whether it was a State body or composed of representatives of independent organizations. The report stated that the proportion of women among job-seekers had declined from 56 per cent in

(Ms. Biryukova)

October 1981 to 49 per cent in April 1982 but it should be stated that the percentage exceeded that of women in the labour market.

49. With regard to penal institutions, she noted that some new local prisons had been fitted out specially for women. Was it therefore correct to infer that the number of women criminals had increased?

50. Ms. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ inquired, with reference to article 11, whether parental leave could be taken by women as well as men.

51. Ms. MOSCOSO asked whether the Committee on Equality between Men and Women was a governmental or an autonomous body and whether it represented the community. She would like further information on the Ombudsman and his role and statute. Lastly, the measures referred to in connection with prostitution did not state whether rehabilitation was provided for and shed no light on many aspects of the problem.

52. Ms. REGENT-LECHOWICZ said that, as Ambassador of Poland to Sweden, she was thoroughly acquainted with the problems of that country and therefore had no questions to ask.

53. Mr. NORDENFELT asked what was meant by the words "negative effects" (p. 7) in connection with the information drive aimed at "drawing the attention of girls to the negative effects of sexually biased choices on their employment prospects" and what was the system referred to, on the same page, in the statement "a new admission system, whereby sex may, on certain conditions, influence a candidate's ability to gain admission to a study route of first preference". Did that measure encourage boys too to select a walk of life other than the traditional occupations? Lastly, was it possible for a woman to become Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces?

54. Ms. CREYDT (Secretary of the Committee) said that it had not been possible to circulate the annexes to the report because there had been no provision for their translation by the Secretariat and in view of their length.

55. Ms. MACEDO DE SHEPPARD observed that those documents were vital to the consideration of the report.

56. Ms. ILIC expressed the view that the Secretariat should make up a reference file for each country consisting of the report, the additional information and any document relevant to the Convention. That file would be kept by the Secretariat and made available to the members of the Committee.

57. Ms. CARON, endorsed the comments of the preceding speaker and suggested that each State party should include more information in the report itself, which would be translated, thereby facilitating the Committee's work.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.