



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

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Seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 113th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 22 February 1988, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Ms. BERNARD

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

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

Initial report of Indonesia (continued) (CEDAW/C/5/Add.36/Rev.1 and Amend.1)

1. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Mrs. Luhulima (Indonesia) took a place at the Committee table.
2. Mrs. LUHULIMA (Indonesia) said that, in response to Committee members' questions, she would supplement Indonesia's report with more information on women's role outside the family.
3. Her country's social development was aimed at achieving, not only material, but also spiritual, well-being. In the expression "man of integrity", "man" had the larger sense of human being. The State philosophy of "belief in one Supreme God" did not mean that Indonesia was a theocracy. Rather, the principle was meant to guarantee religious tolerance and prevent discrimination in civic and professional life on religious grounds. Women had held posts in the Indonesian Government since the attainment of independence. By 1965, two had already served as Ministers, and several as ambassadors. Women's organizations did play a role in development, focusing mainly on education, employment and equal pay for equal work. Women's associations and individual women were also active in political and labour groups. The law guaranteed women freedom to choose their area of employment and some women held typically "male" jobs. Since 1968, the armed forces had been open to women. Women were admitted to the police force and other branches of the military as well. Indonesia would be sending a woman astronaut into outer space with the United States space programme.
4. Women held leadership roles at all levels of the educational system, serving as rectors, deans of university faculties and high school principals. As they became better educated, Indonesian women were entering the professional and business worlds in growing numbers. In fact, women business-owners had grown powerful enough to organize themselves into an association. More women were also choosing careers in the sciences. More than half of the students enrolled in the biology, mathematics and statistics faculties at the National Institute for Agriculture were women.
5. The Indonesian Women's Congress (KOWANI), a federation of all women's organizations, was a member of the International Council of Women and served on its Board. It also belonged to the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Confederation of Women's Organizations. Members of the Government and of women's organizations were equally represented in the Indonesian Commission on the Status of Women, established in 1968. In 1968, the Commission had drafted strategies for the enhancement of women's role in development towards the year 2000. The strategies would be embodied in the Government's 1989-1994 development plan.

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6. Indonesian women had been involved in politics as early as the struggle for independence. Women's organizations were affiliated with the political parties and women were represented in the Central Governing Body. Indonesian women had had the right to vote and run for office ever since the country's first general election in 1957. Female candidates' platforms covered a broad range of issues and not only issues relating to women, family welfare and health. Since 1972, women had been elected to the House of Representatives and the People's Consultative Assembly in steadily increasing numbers. By 1987, 10 per cent of the members of the People's Consultative Assembly were women.
7. The Junior Minister in charge of the Ministry for Women's Affairs had been promoted to the rank of State Minister. The decrease in the Ministry's budget was the consequence of an overall decrease in the national budget.
8. As Indonesia moved from an agricultural to an industrial economy, respective male and female roles of bread-winner and housekeeper had begun to merge. That was particularly true in the case of young married couples. With industrialization, more women were gainfully employed, usually in small-scale industries, and rural women were working away from the farms. The Government had set up programmes to help rural women to hold industrial and non-farming jobs and heighten their awareness of their legal rights. The programmes were particularly important because 70 per cent of Indonesia's population lived in rural areas.
9. She said that she had answered questions concerning article 2 in her general remarks. Responding to questions on article 4, she said that Indonesia had no quota system designed to accelerate the integration of women into economic and political life.
10. Responding to questions on article 5, she said that, according to recent studies, men and women in rural areas shared income-earning and domestic responsibilities more than men and women in middle-class urban areas. In an effort to change the situation, women's organizations, including religious organizations, were running advocacy programmes and confidence-building courses for women leaders.
11. Indonesian women were active in international conferences and organizations. An Indonesian woman served on the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). Indonesia had also been a member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women four times. The term "10 years of age and over" was an ILO classification and did not mean that children 10 years of age were already working.
12. The emphasis placed in Indonesia's report on the home and family welfare had to be viewed within the larger context of improving the quality of rural life. It was the Government's belief that a better family life would ultimately serve to guarantee women's rights and broaden their opportunities. Other government priorities included expansion of women's role in the labour force and in the development process. The Indonesian guidelines of State policy specifically referred to equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for women in the field

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of development. Information on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was distributed in legal literacy programmes. At legal literacy centres, information was also provided on the marriage law, non-discrimination against female workers and credit facilities.

13. Referring to article 6, she said that adultery and rape were crimes under the Penal Code. Prostitutes were rehabilitated through religious and vocational training. There was strong support for the establishment of a minimum penalty for trafficking of women and minors. Indonesia had no special centres for the victims of physical violence. Though not considered a crime, rape by the husband did constitute grounds for divorce.

14. Replying to questions concerning article 7, she said that Indonesian women usually joined a women's organization and were also very active in community volunteer work. Women's organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were financed through membership contributions, fund-raising activities, donations, etc. Most women participants in political life were from the middle class. Those elected to the People's Consultative Assembly represented political parties, but not necessarily women's organizations. The voting age in Indonesia was 17 years.

15. Concerning questions of nationality under article 9, she said that an Indonesian woman's citizenship status did not automatically change if she married an alien. Conversely, Indonesian nationality was granted to the alien wife of an Indonesian one year after marriage. Indonesian nationality lost through marriage could be regained if the marriage was dissolved. Children of an Indonesian mother and an alien father were entitled to Indonesian citizenship.

16. Referring to article 10, she said that primary education in Indonesia had been compulsory since 1984. Children could attend either public or private primary schools. Approximately one sixth of the primary schools were privately run by Islamic, Christian or Hindu religious groups. Financed under the State budget, the Small Business Learning Fund Programme offered technical training and credit facilities to prospective small business owners.

17. In 1985, one fourth of Indonesian women, most of them aged 50 or older, had been illiterate. In rural areas, twice as many women as men were illiterate, and almost four times as many in the urban areas. The kindergartens run by women's organizations were privately funded. With a few exceptions, schools in Indonesia were co-educational.

18. Replying to questions under article 11, she said that women accounted for 40 per cent of Indonesia's six million unemployed. Rural women received training at vocational centres along with men. Under article 7 of Civil Employment Act No. 8 of 1974, salaries were determined by status and grade. The All-Indonesian Workers' Union had a special women's bureau with women negotiators. As co-signer of collective labour agreements, the Ministry of Manpower was responsible for ensuring that distinctions were not made between male and female workers. Most rural women were employed in agriculture, while in urban areas the majority worked in service industries.

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19. The pension age and benefits, sick pay and leave were the same for men and women in the public sector. In the private sector, however, differences persisted. The Ministry of Manpower was urging companies and the major trade union to rectify the situation in collective labour agreements. The Labour Regulations empowered the Ministry of Manpower to make exceptions to the prohibition of night work for women. Work safety provisions did not distinguish between men and women, but protection was afforded to pregnant women. Most companies had health centres and family planning services. Paid maternity leave in both the public and private sectors covered the six-week periods before and after birth, but after the fourth child there was no further entitlement to a child allowance. State and privately-sponsored day-care services were run in many companies, offices, estates and even in markets. The Department of Social Affairs was responsible for training day-care workers and inspecting centres.

20. With respect to article 12, the Family Nutritional Improvement Programme conducted a national programme to prevent iron deficiency and anaemia in pregnant women. Indonesia's comprehensive community health services, known as POSYANDU, had been recognized by the World Health Organization and awarded a prize. Abortion was illegal in Indonesia, except when the mother's health was in danger. Family planning services had been adapted to the Indonesian perception of religion and morality.

21. Referring to article 16, she said that polygamy was an exception to Indonesian law, which adhered to the principle of monogamy. The courts permitted polygamous marriages only if the first wife consented, and the husband proved he could support his wife and children, and treat all his wives and children fairly. According to several studies, the number of polygamous marriages had declined. Religious courts were required to uphold the civil marriage laws. Under Indonesian law, husbands and wives enjoyed equal rights and both had full legal capacity. For legal purposes, children born out of wedlock were identified with the mother. As mentioned earlier, legal literacy campaigns for Indonesian women were a priority activity.

22. The minimum marriage age was officially 16 years for females and 19 years for males, but local officials encouraged teenagers to defer marriage for a few years. Legal aid institutions dispensed free legal advice on marriage and divorce. The law did not require a married woman to take her husband's name. Children took the clan name, and in bilineal societies, such as Java, children either took the father's name or had their own names.

23. Grounds for divorce included: adultery; alcoholism or drug addiction; abandonment; imprisonment of a spouse for five years or more; cruelty or mistreatment. A divorce suit could be filed by either spouse. Cohabitation had no legal status in Indonesia. Replying to a more general question, she said that issues raised by the Commission on Human Rights should not be addressed by CEDAW.

24. Transmigration had long been an integral part of her country's economic development strategy. It had been used to develop agriculture in Sumatra, and as a

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means of land redistribution after Indonesia had gained independence in 1945. Transmigration was also a means of caring for the victims of natural disasters, bringing skills to the country's least developed regions and relieving population pressure. Thus, far from disrupting family life, transmigration had raised the standard of living and created opportunities.

25. Mrs. Luhulima (Indonesia) withdrew.

The meeting was suspended at 4.05 p.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

Initial report of Uruguay (continued) (CEDAW/C/5/Add.27 and Amend.1)

26. At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms. Giambruno (Uruguay) took a place at the Committee table.

27. Ms. GIAMBRUNO (Uruguay), replying to the questions raised by the members of the Committee, said that the lack of women representatives in the Uruguayan Parliament was not a result of the country's electoral system, which was based on both proportional and general representation. In the most recent national election, two women candidates from minority parties had been candidates for the posts of President and Vice-President. There were no women however among the leaders of the major political parties. A number of studies had showed that the reasons for the lack of political participation by women included a reluctance to engage in political activities because women were not encouraged to do so, the negative image of some women politicians who adopted a masculine style of behaviour, the double workload of women who were active in politics and also had family and household obligations, lack of flexibility in the majority political parties which impeded upward mobility by women, and a certain lack of solidarity among women themselves in political organizations and activities. Women were also criticized for having a double loyalty: both to their political party and to their status as women.

28. A number of institutes had been set up within various ministries in order to co-ordinate work relating to the problems of women. Such institutes were not autonomous, as they did not have their own budgets, and were made up of representatives of public agencies whose programmes were directly linked to women and of various Ministries and non-governmental organizations which promoted the advancement of women in Uruguay. The Institute of Women, which operated within the Ministry of Education and Culture and therefore was not autonomous, was composed of delegates from governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Institute had the task of co-ordinating the different plans of ministries and agencies relating to the advancement of women and making recommendations to improve the situation of women in Uruguay and promote their integration into society and their participation in political decision-making. The Institute had set up a number of committees composed of women from various non-governmental organizations who were specialists in questions relating to women. One of those committees had the task of promoting greater participation by women in political activities.

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29. The Institute had a television programme which dealt with its activities and the situation of women at the national level. As part of its programme for the first quarter of 1988, the Institute would analyse various problems affecting women in Uruguay and put forward concrete proposals, which would include measures to assist elderly women. The Institute had also established a women's information and counselling centre, which was financed by funds from a United Nations specialized agency. The organization La Sala de la Mujer was part of the Children's Institute and did not have its own budget. It was headed by a woman co-ordinator selected from women's non-governmental organizations and staffed by three officials of the Institute.

30. The population of Uruguay basically consisted of descendants of Catholic immigrants from Mediterranean countries, particularly Spain and Italy. In accordance with the traditions of those countries, household tasks were carried out by women. The younger generations in Uruguay, however, adopted a more democratic approach whereby husbands often shared household duties with their wives. Abortion was illegal in Uruguay, as was the case in almost all Latin American countries. It was permitted in cases of pregnancy resulting from rape and when there were serious medical reasons to terminate pregnancy. Furthermore, if an abortion was performed for serious socio-economic reasons, the penalty under the law was reduced or not imposed at all. In 1985, a number of draft laws had been submitted in order to amend the law on abortion but had not been adopted. There was no consensus in Uruguay that abortions should be legalized.

31. Although the Government was in favour of family planning, that question was not a priority issue in her country because of its low fertility rate. In the 1970s, the Government had begun to provide greater information on oral contraceptives and the use of intra-uterine devices. Although abortion was not legal in Uruguay, studies indicated that it was very widely practised. Accordingly, the Ministry of Public Health had set up a programme to provide free birth-control pills to low-income women. The need for family planning was becoming more acute in that population group.

32. Under the legal system in Uruguay, married couples could own property either jointly or separately. In divorce cases, jointly held property was divided equally between the two parties. When property was held separately, the spouses retained their own property upon the dissolution of the marriage. The lack of day nurseries was a national problem and was particularly serious in rural areas. There was no general system of day nurseries which operated throughout the country.

33. The women's movement in Uruguay was large and active. There were many groups which studied the situation of women and put forward concrete proposals to improve it. Such groups included El Plenario de Mujeres del Uruguay, which co-ordinated the activities of women's groups at various levels to promote greater participation by women in different areas; the Uruguayan Association of Women Journalists, which sought to improve the professional status of women journalists and disseminate information on the situation of women through radio and television programmes; the National Council of Women, which was a branch of the International Council of Women

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and provided information on cases of discrimination against women in reports circulated throughout the country and the region; and the Uruguayan Association of Family Planning and Research on Human Reproduction, which conducted studies of problems confronting women in gaining a better awareness of their sexuality. Although women workers participated actively in Uruguayan trade unions, there were no women trade-union leaders.

34. A committee on the situation of women had been set up in the Senate in order to promote the participation of women in the legislative decision-making process. There were a number of women's organizations which made their positions on various questions known to political parties and the Institute of Women. In the executive branch, one of the 11 members of the Cabinet was a woman. No women were represented among the leaders of the trade union movement and the national student movement.

35. The phenomenon of "invisible work" existed in rural areas where many women often had to carry out both household and agricultural tasks. However, unsalaried family workers, including housewives, were considered part of the economically active population. It was difficult to provide statistical information on the everyday life of women in Uruguay because until recently the situation of women had not been viewed as a problem. Furthermore, not all the categories in official statistics were broken down according to sex. Since 1985, however, the Government had been compiling new tables of statistics and a document containing some of them had been forwarded to the Secretariat. Under article 8 of the Uruguayan Constitution, women could sue for discrimination in a court of law. Unfortunately, she did not have specific information on the overall number of court cases involving discrimination against women.

36. Details of fines levied under Law No. 13,640 in respect of violations of the Convention were not immediately available, but would be provided in due course. The Sala de la Mujer comprised various non-governmental organizations within the country. The Convention had been published in Spanish, which was the only language used in Uruguay. The amendment to Uruguay's report (CEDAW/C/5/Add.27/Amend.1) had been prepared by the Instituto de la Mujer, based on the work of a number of women's non-governmental organizations. Uruguay's initial report would be disseminated within the country together with information on the results of the Committee's seventh session.

37. Turning to low-income families, she noted that various assistance programmes were available throughout the country. With respect to juvenile delinquency, women's participation was important in accordance with the Constitution.

38. The Committee would appreciate that the elimination of social prejudices was a long-term endeavour. In that connection the Ministry of Education periodically revised textbooks, and various campaigns to eliminate stereotypes had been conducted by non-governmental organizations. Uruguay had been a secular State since 1918. Accordingly, no official religion was promoted by the education system.

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39. Referring to the question of prostitution, she noted that procurement was a punishable offence. Information on the number of cases currently before the courts would be provided subsequently. Although prostitutes were required to register with the authorities, many did not do so, as a result of which official figures were unreliable and it was difficult to determine any trend. With regard to violence against women, various non-governmental organizations had recently proposed the establishment of a women's commission on violence in an endeavour to promote a multidisciplinary approach to the problem. A number of centres had already been established to assist women who were the victims of family violence.

40. One of the five Supreme Court judges was a woman. The reference in the report to offences by police officials simply reflected the view that such officials had a special responsibility to act in accordance with the law owing to their official position.

41. Turning to the question of women in the work-force, she noted that, for example, 76 women occupied diplomatic posts, while three government departments dealing with trade would soon be headed by women.

42. On the question of participation by women in education, she said that 55,000 of the 115,000 university graduates in 1985 had been women. In the education system in general the vast majority of academic staff were also women. The slightly lower percentage of women in tertiary education could be explained by the heavier work-load women were called upon to bear.

43. Referring to article 11 of the Convention, she noted that protection was provided for expectant and new mothers, who were entitled to a minimum of 12 weeks' paid leave. Medical allowances were available through the social security system. Employers who sought to dismiss workers because of pregnancy were subject to official penalties. Pregnant women were also prohibited from working in hazardous conditions. Turning to participation by women in sports, she said that football was the most popular sport in Uruguay and that women participated only at an amateur level. With respect to the provision of health care, the Government was currently concentrating its efforts on extending coverage in rural areas.

44. Upon marriage, women kept their own surnames in addition to using their husbands'. All children, whether legitimate or illegitimate, must bear two surnames. No young person under the age of 21 could marry without the authorization of his or her legal guardian, although persons under that age could, in certain circumstances, petition the court directly for permission to marry. Lastly, the right of women to petition for divorce without the consent of their spouses had been recognized since 1913 and was considered to be in accordance with the provisions of article 4 of the Convention.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.