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# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA NASIONALE VROUERAAD VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Affiliated to the International Council of Women — 1913 — Geaffilleer met die Internationaal Vroueraad

BOARD OF OFFICERS

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~~28 February~~ 1992  
17 MARCH

WORKING GROUP 2 +1  
C O D E S A  
P O Box 507  
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Dear Sir/Madam

CODESA WORKING GROUP 2

Thankyou for inviting organisations to make submissions of behalf of women's rights and interests. We are glad to do so.

1. We have previously submitted to Min Viljoen the 1980 UN CCONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (20.11.1990). Please re-submit this again, so that our request for ratification and signature can go foward once more. (See copy enclosed, and the ICW - Intl Council of Women Standing Committee on Laws and the Status of Women Plan of Action, Bangkok, September 1991.)

2. UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD - with emphasis on the protection of children from exploitation and abuse (please see our ICW Resolution passed at Bangkok, September 1991). Please submit on our behalf.

3. PROTECTION FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE AGED : it has come to our attention from our Krugersdorp Council that a lack of accommodation for the middle income aged is prevalent. Particularly since the present Old Age Homes have been turned into frail aged homes and are very overcrowded. The greater majority of rent-controlled flats have now been made Sectional Title Schemes or, as in one case, have been bought by Jehovah's Witnesses for their members. How this need can be met is a difficulty. But it is a very real need for those without children at hand and limited income. (See ICW Term of reference for the new Standing Committee on Aging & Minutes of Ad Hoc Committee on Aging, Bangkok, September 1991). Please also submit this - we are all going to be old one day, so now is the time to prepare!

Thankyou very much for opening the door for us to Working Group 2.

Yours sincerely

*Heather Tracey*  
MRS HEATHER TRACEY.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT.

Encs:

DO UNTO OTHERS AS YE WOULD THAT THEY SHOULD  
DO UNTO YOU

Date Rec'd : ...23/3/92....

Date Ackn : ...23/3/92....

Docs Sent : ...7/7:.....

Handed for Processing to :  
.....23/3/92.....

Nts. The marked portions were for  
study we did - 445

Recd 17/10/83

DATE RECEIVED: 4/12/80 ANSWERED:



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/RES/34/180  
22 January 1980

Thirty-fourth session  
Agenda item 75

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/34/830 and A/34/L.61)]

34/180. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of  
Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Considering that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to ~~promote and encourage~~ for human rights and fundamental freedoms ~~without distinction~~ of any kind, ~~including~~ ~~distinction~~ as to ~~sex~~,

Recalling the proclamation by the General Assembly, in its resolution 2263 (XXII) of ~~17 November 1967~~, of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women,

Taking into account the conventions, resolutions, declarations and recommendations of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies designed to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to promote equal rights for men and women,

Noting, in particular, its resolution 33/177 of 20 December 1978 concerning the drafting of a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women,

Considering that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and the welfare of society and constitutes an obstacle to the full realization of the potentialities of women,

Affirming that women and men should participate and contribute on a basis of equality in the social, economic and political processes of development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recognizing that the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the full participation of both men and women in society,

80-01858

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✓ Convinced that it is necessary to ensure the universal recognition in law and in fact of the principle of equality of men and women,

1. Adopts and opens for signature, ratification and accession the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;

2. Expresses the hope that the Convention will be signed and ratified or acceded to without delay and will come into force at an early date;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to present the text of the Convention to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women for its information;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session a report on the status of the Convention under an item entitled "Status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

107th plenary meeting  
18 December 1979

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ANNEX

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Noting that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women, ✓

Noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex, ✓

Noting that the States Parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ have the obligation to ensure the equal right of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, ✓

Considering the international conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women, ✓

Noting also the resolutions, declarations and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women, ✓

Concerned, however, that despite these various instruments extensive discrimination against women continues to exist, ✓

Recalling that discrimination against women violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity, ✓

Concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs, ✓

Convinced that the establishment of the new international economic order based on equity and justice will contribute significantly towards the promotion of equality between men and women, ✓

1/ General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

2/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Emphasizing that the eradication of apartheid, of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism, neo-colonialism, aggression, foreign occupation and domination and interference in the internal affairs of States is essential to the full enjoyment of the rights of men and women, ✓

Affirming that the strengthening of international peace and security, relaxation of international tension, mutual co-operation among all States irrespective of their social and economic systems, general and complete disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control, the affirmation of the principles of justice, equality and mutual benefit in relations among countries and the realization of the right of peoples under alien and colonial domination and foreign occupation to self-determination and independence, as well as respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, will promote social progress and development and as a consequence will contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women, ✓

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields, ✓

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, so far not fully recognized, the social significance of maternity and the role of both parents in the family and in the upbringing of children, and aware that the role of women in procreation should not be a basis for discrimination but that the upbringing of children requires a sharing of responsibility between men and women and society as a whole, ✓

Aware that a change in the traditional role of men as well as the role of women in society and in the family is needed to achieve full equality between men and women, ✓

Determined to implement the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and, for that purpose, to adopt the measures required for the elimination of such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations, ✓

Have agreed on the following:

#### PART I

##### Article 1

For the purposes of the present Convention, the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Article 2

States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake:

(a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;

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

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

(d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation;

(e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;

(f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women;

(g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women.

Article 3

States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

Article 4

1. Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the present Convention, but shall in no way entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved. ✓

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2. Adoption by States Parties of special measures, including those measures contained in the present Convention, aimed at protecting maternity shall not be considered discriminatory.

#### Article 5

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures:

(a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

(b) To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of men and women in the upbringing and development of their children, it being understood that the interest of the children is the primordial consideration in all cases.

#### Article 6

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

### PART II

#### Article 7

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

(a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;

(b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;

(c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

Article 8

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.

Article 9

1. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality. They shall ensure in particular that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless or force upon her the nationality of the husband.

2. States Parties shall grant women equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of their children.

PART III

Article 10

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure to them equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

(a) The same conditions for career and vocational guidance, for access to studies and for the achievement of diplomas in educational establishments of all categories in rural as well as in urban areas; this equality shall be ensured in pre-school, general, technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training;

(b) Access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality;

(c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of men and women at all levels and in all forms of education by encouraging coeducation and other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programmes and the adaptation of teaching methods;

(d) The same opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

(e) The same opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes, particularly those aimed at reducing, at the earliest possible time, any gap in education existing between men and women;



7. (f) The reduction of female student drop-out rates and the organization of programmes for girls and women who have left school prematurely;

(g) The same opportunities to participate actively in sports and physical education; ✓

(h) Access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families, including information and advice on family planning. ✓

#### Article 11

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of employment in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

(a) The right to work as an inalienable right of all human beings; ✓

(b) The right to the same employment opportunities, including the application of the same criteria for selection in matters of employment; ✓

(c) The right to free choice of profession and employment, the right to promotion, job security and all benefits and conditions of service and the right to receive vocational training and retraining, including apprenticeships, advanced vocational training and recurrent training; ✓

(d) The right to equal remuneration, including benefits, and to equal treatment in respect of work of equal value, as well as equality of treatment in the evaluation of the quality of work; ✓

(e) The right to social security, particularly in cases of retirement, unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age and other incapacity to work, as well as the right to paid leave; ✓

(f) The right to protection of health and to safety in working conditions, including the safeguarding of the function of reproduction. ✓

2. In order to prevent discrimination against women on the grounds of marriage or maternity and to ensure their effective right to work, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To prohibit, subject to the imposition of sanctions, dismissal on the grounds of pregnancy or of maternity leave and discrimination in dismissals on the basis of marital status;

(b) To introduce maternity leave with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances;

(c) To encourage the provision of the necessary supporting social services to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and

participation in public life, in particular through promoting the establishment and development of a network of child-care facilities;

(d) To provide special protection to women during pregnancy in types of work proved to be harmful to them. ✓

3. Protective legislation relating to matters covered in this article shall be reviewed periodically in the light of scientific and technological knowledge and shall be revised, repealed or extended as necessary. ✓

#### Article 12

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning. ✓

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article, States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connexion with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.

#### Article 13

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular:

a. (a) The right to family benefits;

b. (b) The right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit;

c. (c) The right to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life. ✓

#### Article 14

1. States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention to women in rural areas.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

(a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels;

(b) To have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counselling and services in family planning;

(c) To benefit directly from social security programmes;

(d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy, as well as, *inter alia*, the benefit of all community and extension services, in order to increase their technical proficiency;

(e) To organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self-employment;

(f) To participate in all community activities;

(g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes;

(h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

#### PART IV

##### Article 15

1. States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.

2. States Parties shall accord to women, in civil matters, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. In particular, they shall give women equal rights to conclude contracts and to administer property and shall treat them equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals.

3. States Parties agree that all contracts and all other private instruments of any kind with a legal effect which is directed at restricting the legal capacity of women shall be deemed null and void.

4. States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile.

##### Article 16

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

- (a) The same right to enter into marriage; ✓
- (b) The same right freely to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with their free and full consent; ✓
- (c) The same rights and responsibilities during marriage and at its dissolution; ?
- (d) The same rights and responsibilities as parents, irrespective of their marital status, in matters relating to their children; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount; ?
- (e) The same rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children and to have access to the information, education and means to enable them to exercise these rights; ?
- (f) The same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children, or similar institutions where these concepts exist in national legislation; in all cases the interests of the children shall be paramount; ?
- (g) The same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation; ?
- (h) The same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration. ?

2. The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

## PART V

### Article 17

1. For the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the present Convention, there shall be established a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) consisting, at the time of entry into force of the Convention, of eighteen and, after ratification of or accession to the Convention by the thirty-fifth State Party, of twenty-three experts of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention. The experts shall be elected by States Parties from among their nationals and shall serve in their personal capacity, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as the principal legal systems. ✓

2. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States Parties. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its own nationals.

3. The initial election shall be held six months after the date of the entry into force of the present Convention. At least three months before the date of each election the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit their nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties.

4. Elections of the members of the Committee shall be held at a meeting of States Parties convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. At that meeting, for which two thirds of the States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

5. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. However, the terms of nine of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election the names of these nine members shall be chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.

6. The election of the five additional members of the Committee shall be held in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this article, following the thirty-fifth ratification or accession. The terms of two of the additional members elected on this occasion shall expire at the end of two years, the names of these two members having been chosen by lot by the Chairman of the Committee.

7. For the filling of casual vacancies, the State Party whose expert has ceased to function as a member of the Committee shall appoint another expert from among its nationals, subject to the approval of the Committee.

8. The members of the Committee shall, with the approval of the General Assembly, receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.

9. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention.

#### . Article 18

1. States Parties undertake to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they have adopted to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and on the progress made in this respect:

- (a) Within one year after the entry into force for the State concerned; and
- (b) Thereafter at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

2. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfilment of obligations under the present Convention.

Article 19

1. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.
2. The Committee shall elect its officers for a term of two years.

Article 20

1. The Committee shall normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually in order to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article 18 of the present Convention.

2. The meetings of the Committee shall normally be held at United Nations Headquarters or at any other convenient place as determined by the Committee.

Article 21

1. The Committee shall, through the Economic and Social Council, report annually to the General Assembly of the United Nations on its activities and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

2. The Secretary-General shall transmit the reports of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for its information.

Article 22

The specialized agencies shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their activities. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities.

PART VI

Article 23

Nothing in this Convention shall affect any provisions that are more conducive to the achievement of equality between men and women which may be contained:

- (a) In the legislation of a State Party; or
- (b) In any other international convention, treaty or agreement in force for that State.

Article 24

States Parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures at the national level aimed at achieving the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

Article 25

1. The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States.
2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is designated as the depositary of the present Convention.
3. The present Convention is subject to ratification. Instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
4. The present Convention shall be open to accession by all States. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 26

1. A request for the revision of the present Convention may be made at any time by any State Party by means of a notification in writing addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. The General Assembly of the United Nations shall decide upon the steps, if any, to be taken in respect of such a request.

Article 27

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

/...

2. For each State ratifying the present Convention or acceding to it after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of its own instrument of ratification or accession.

#### Article 28

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall receive and circulate to all States the text of reservations made by States at the time of ratification or accession.

2. A reservation incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.

3. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time by notification to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall then inform all States thereof. Such notification shall take effect on the date on which it is received.

#### Article 29

1. Any dispute between two or more States Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation shall, at the request of one of them, be submitted to arbitration. If within six months from the date of the request for arbitration the parties are unable to agree on the organization of the arbitration, any one of those parties may refer the dispute to the International Court of Justice by request in conformity with the Statute of the Court.

2. Each State Party may at the time of signature or ratification of this Convention or accession thereto declare that it does not consider itself bound by paragraph 1 of this article. The other States Parties shall not be bound by that paragraph with respect to any State Party which has made such a reservation.

3. Any State Party which has made a reservation in accordance with paragraph 2 of this article may at any time withdraw that reservation by notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

#### Article 30

The present Convention, the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, duly authorized, have signed the present Convention.

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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN  
13, rue Caumartin  
75009 - Paris - France

SC/Laws & the Status  
of Women/91/2  
(original English)  
Paris, 15th November 1991

XXVIth PLENARY CONFERENCE

Bangkok, Thailand, 23rd-30th September 1991

ICW STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAWS AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN

PLAN OF ACTION 1991-1994

Theme I : The Child and the Family

- (a) Safeguarding the rights of children by legislation.
- (b) Safeguarding women's legal rights within the family.

Theme II : The Status of Women in Politics

- (a) Women in government, local authorities and in public offices.
- (b) What do National Councils do and what can they do to promote women in government, local authorities and public offices.

Theme III

- (a) Women should promote legislation prohibiting discrimination against women. In those countries where such legislation already exists, women should work to ensure that such legislation is effective in preventing discrimination.
- (b) Women should lobby for the full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN  
13, rue Caumartin  
75009 - Paris - France

SC/Child & Family/91/2  
(original English)  
Paris, 14th November 1991

XXVIth PLENARY CONFERENCE

Bangkok, Thailand 23rd - 30th September 1991

ICW STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILD AND FAMILY

PLAN OF ACTION 1991 - 1994

THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

- a) The Convention - Ratification, Provision of Information.
- b) The World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children.  
Plan of Action for Implementating the Declaration
- c) Children in especially difficult circumstances, e.g. prostitution, child abuse, child labour etc.
- d) Provision of accessible, affordable, adequate child care.
- e) New reproductive technology

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN  
13, Rue Caumartin  
75009-Paris-France

SC/Child & Family/91/1  
(original English)  
Paris, 18th October 1991

XXVith PLENARY CONFERENCE  
Bangkok, Thailand 23rd - 30th September 1991

MINUTES OF CHILD AND FAMILY STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Child and Family Standing Committee Meeting, Friday, September 27th, 1991

Present: see list at end.

Convener: Diane Alley in the chair.

The Convener introduced the two Vice-Conveners present, Senel Aksu of Turkey and Monica Glenn of Australia. She reported that she had asked the 3 Vice-Conveners to work with the regions of the world in which they lived. She expressed her regret that many countries had not responded to the Plan of Action for the Triennium 1988-91.

The Plan of Action was then discussed. Concern was expressed that so many children are being bought and sold as commodities or kidnapped in many parts of the world.

Thailand - explained their tourist policy, concern was expressed over "Sex Tours". Parent education is important to strengthen the family. It was stated that Japan, Korea, Germany, Hong Kong and Malaysia need a campaign to prevent trade of children, sex exploitation and the promotion of sex tours.

Israel - There is a link with AIDS. The incidence is high in children who are sexually exploited. This should link up with the ICW Resolution on AIDS and AIDS prevention.

New Zealand - stated that sexually transmitted diseases can be responsible for infertility in women.

Monica Glenn, Vice-Convener, then spoke of her concern of the rights of children to know their parents, and that National Councils need to work for uniform legislation, as in Article 8 of the Convention. She read out her suggested resolution, "Uniform Legislation Protecting the Rights of the Child born of new reproductive technology so that every child had access to both identifying his or her legal, medical and parents history and records".

This resolution was agreed to by all present, and was to be put forward as an emergency resolution.

India - expressed concern that children were being kidnapped for their human organs, e.g. kidneys and eyes.

"New reproductive technology" was recommended as a better expression than "Genetic Engineering" in the Plan of Action. The Washington Resolution 14 was "Women and Reproductive Technologies".

The ICW Conference to be held in Brussels from 8th - 12th February 1992 - "Changing Families and Changing Societies" was then discussed. Concern was expressed that it did not include contributors from Asia and the Pacific. Australia has an Institute of Family Studies which has researched all aspects of the family. It was agreed that those present should inform the President of suitable people from these areas.

Indonesia - Now has 3 models on Family, Home Management and Child Care, and Communication. Relationships need improving.

Problems of the elderly were discussed and the "Sandwich Generation" who are caring for the young and the old. It lays stress on women of child-bearing age.

Israel and Thailand both stated life expectancy for women greater than men. Concern was expressed about divorce and separation giving rise to single parent families.

Discussion centred around the programmes for the elderly which support them to remain in their own home. Day care, respite care etc for the frail or disabled elderly is as necessary as quality child care for children.

India is concerned that child marriages are still occurring.

The Plan of Action for the next triennial is to be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 3.30pm.

#### **PRESENT AT THE MEETING WERE:**

Monica Glenn (Australia) - Mary MacGiven (New Zealand) - Prapaipau Subhachaturas (Thailand) - Mrs. Sentanu (Indonesia) - M.R. Chalumanok Bronthai (Thailand) - Somchit Kaiyanapoklu (Thailand) - Sasithorn Wasuwat (Thailand) - Yarunee Chittayasathorn (Thailand) - Dorothy Kurz (Australia) - Sri Nirmala (Indonesia) - Roojtoeti M. Partonedardo (Indonesian Embassy, Thailand) - Boon Choo Saikasem (Thailand) - Merrinelle Sullivan (USA) - Pimchai Sooksmai (Thailand) - Koonying Vanna Chaimouanvong (Thailand) - Somsri Ekaboosa (Thailand) - Vimolratana Kamneodploy (Thailand) - Colonel Asanee Saowapap (Thailand) - Amarisa Thansathit (Thailand) - Kuerkul Tonkul (Thailand) - Piew-on Ngernsri (Thailand) - Chief (Mrs) O.T. Soyeye (Nigeria) - Fatimah Fihanta (Indonesia) - Tuti Suwarno (Indonesia) - Lili Ramkumar Bhargava (India) - Judy Edwards (Australia) - Catharine Sly (Canada) - Palti Hava (Israel) - Siti Hertati Hartono (Indonesia) - Beatrice Ubeku (Nigeria) - Laeka Piya Ajariya (UNICEF Thailand) - Harriet Samuels (Hong Kong) - Pranit Rabieb (Thailand) - Pugprink Akarasawart (Thailand) - Beatrice Leinback (Canada) - S.A. Yussuff (Nigeria) - Rommy Suttiteth (Thailand) - Mrs. Subhaporn-Peters (Thailand) - Srisomwong Wanasilpin (Thailand).

MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILD AND FAMILYSaturday, September 28th 1991

Present : Diane Alley, Convener (Australia), Senel Aksu, Vice-Convener (Turkey), Lila Ramkumar Bhargava (India), Adelaya David (Nigeria), Monica Glenn, Vice-Convener (Australia), Tati Hartono (Indonesia), Somchit Kanjanapokin (Thailand), Bea Leinback (Canada) Annie Mukhopadhaya (India), Merrinelle Sullivan (U.S.A.)

A UNICEF report on Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances was discussed and it was decided that action should be taken concerning the sexual exploitation of children.

Discussion of Resolutions - It was suggested that the Committee support a resolution to "endorse the Campaign to End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism" which was launched in Thailand in March 1991.

The resolution of this Standing Committee of Child and Family, on Sexual Mutilation, was discussed: the Committee decided no addition was necessary.

The Committee reaffirmed support for the following resolutions:

- # 6 - NC/Canada - War Toys
- #17 - SC/Social Welfare - Trafficking in Human Organs
- # 5 - NC/Cameroon - Sexual Violence within the Family and Society
- #19 - Women and HIV Infection and AIDS

An emergency resolution was adopted on Reproductive Technology and a child's right to know its parental background.

Discussion of Plan of Action - The Committee discussed the necessity of urging their governments to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ICW President Mrs. Lily Boeykens joined the meeting to inform the Committee of Belgium's concern about child prostitution. Recently, King Baudoin, in a private meeting, asked Mrs. Boeykens to work nationally and internationally to stop the trade in children. Belgium is a way - station for the Thai and Phillipine child trade. Children are brought to Belgium, given new names, stripped of their identity and subjected to abuse if they do not cooperate in training as prostitutes. When these children become too old or diseased, they simply disappear.

The Chair noted that there are two useful information sources available from UNICEF:

1. A kit on the Convention on the Rights of the Child
2. A publication: "World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children" from the World Summit for Children, United Nations, 30th September, 1990.

UNICEF has also produced a new video on the Summit goals called "One Day in September." (28 minutes - \$10.00. It may be borrowed without cost).

Members of the Committee noted positive programs involving young people in taking part in solving their own problems:

- \* Nigeria spoke of the program sponsored by the International Jaycees in which participants from 143 countries took over the United Nations for one week. Resolutions are being presented to the UN by the group.
- \* Thailand sponsors an Annual Children's Day on September 20 - UN Youth Day.
- \* Turkey has a Youth Day each April 23 with participants from other countries.
- \* Since 1976, Indonesia has recognized the Decade of Children. Annually, children aged 11 to 18 celebrate National Children's Day (July 23) with the President of Indonesia.
- \* Nigeria celebrates Children's Day May 27. There is also a weekly TV Program called "Speak Out" in which children interview top government officials.

The meeting concluded with the drafting of resolutions.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN  
13, rue Caumartin  
75009 - Paris - France

EXEC/91/9  
(original English)  
Paris, 13th November 1991

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEW STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGING

Adopted by the Executive Committee  
at the 26th ICW Plenary Conference  
Bangkok - Thailand, 23rd - 30th September 1991

- To become aware of the growing number of the aged;
- to enhance their ability to remain independent and active contributors to their communities; and preserve their dignity;
- to become knowledgeable about the aged, their specific needs and difficulties;
- to protect them, where necessary, by legislation and other appropriate social measures;
- to increase and improve opportunities for personal growth and community service;
- to encourage intergenerational co-operation in all its aspects;
- to recapture the honour and respect which in the past was given to the aged.

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to encourage the support of all Councils for the King Baudouin Foundation initiative and the need for prompt reply. She then referred to her circulars NC/91/3 giving the first draft of the programme for the International Conference on the Family and the Rôle of Parents, to be held in Brussels for the three days 8th/10th February 1992, when the problems of the aged in the family would be dealt with. She referred particularly to the problems of the Third Generation, those between 50/65, who are being squeezed between the needs of grandchildren and the care of elderly and infirm parents. This point was also taken up by Switzerland, who said that her country was very active in regard to the problems of the "sandwich" generation. She questioned whether a second career in old age was realistic in times of unemployment.

Australia made a very interesting contribution on the methods of dealing with the problem in Australia and said that a Board of 13 advised the Government and had asked for anti-discrimination legislation in regard to the ageing. She said that it was no longer mandatory to retire from Government posts at the age of 65. Nigeria said that her country reflected some aspects of all these problems and mentioned the break-up of tribal life and the tendency to migrate to urban areas, leaving the old people behind. Zimbabwe has a 4% elderly population but an approximate 50% population under the age of 15. Their "sandwich" generation is being decimated by AIDS and it is feared that there will be no-one to take care of the future elderly and orphaned children. A Thai delegate spoke on behalf of the Senior Citizen Association of Thailand and said that there were many small elderly groups throughout the provinces. She spoke of the university of the Third Age. The Chairman drew attention to the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging, which arose from the World Assembly on Aging July/August 1982. Another delegate from Thailand spoke of the Council of Social Welfare of Thailand and mentioned that Thailand had 16 persons over the age of 100: all are illiterate, use no modern drugs, only herbal remedies, eat fish and live with their families. She said that the extended family system was favoured, not homes or hospitals. India spoke of the experiment of a schoolchild "adopting" an elderly woman and the proposal that college students would take on the rôle of elderly persons to gain insight into the difficulties. Canada mentioned an overwhelming number of elderly women, cared for by women. The Government did not wish to make grants. For nearly two generations people had been educated away from looking after the elderly. Turkey contrasted the old days, when it was a pleasure to live with grandparents - now homes for the elderly are springing up.

Due to lack of further time the meeting closed.

A Second Meeting of the Committee was held on Saturday, 28th September and Mrs Margaret McGee of Canada was congratulated on her election as Convener of the new Standing Committee on Ageing. Proposed Terms of Reference were discussed and accepted for submission to the Plenary. A Preamble and Plan of Action were also accepted for submission to the Executive Committee.

The Terms of Reference and Preamble and Plan of Action were later adopted.

The new Standing Committee was wished every success by all present.