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Agenda item 85

UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY,  
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women

Texts adopted by the Working Group on the Draft Convention  
on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its  
11th meeting held on 29 November 1977

Preamble

Paragraph 8: Adopted with the understanding that the text will be accompanied by the amendments submitted to it by Yugoslavia, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Romania. The compromise text proposed by some interested delegations reads as follows:

"Convinced that the establishment of a new, just and equitable international economic order will contribute significantly towards the promotion of equality between men and women,

"Emphasizing that the eradication of apartheid, of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, colonialism and foreign domination, 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 under strict and effective international control, the affirmation of the principles of justice, equality and mutual benefit in relations among countries, and the right to self-determination will promote social progress and development and as a consequence will contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women,"

Amendments

Preambular paragraph 8 (a) Yugoslavia: replace the word "a" by the word "the" after the words "the establishment of". Delete the words "just and equitable" before the words "international economic order". After these words add the words "based on equity and justice".

Syrian Arab Republic

Add the word "the" before the words "new international economic order".

Preambular paragraph 8 (b) Romania: add the words "neo-colonialism" after the word "colonialism". Syrian Arab Republic: add the words "foreign domination and foreign occupation".

Preambular paragraph 8 (c) Morocco: after the words "relations among countries," replace the words "and the right to self-determination" by the following: "the implementation of the right to self-determination and respect for the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of States".

Syrian Arab Republic

Retain the words "about fundamental rights" contained in the previous compromise text.

Article 2, paragraph (c): Adopted as proposed by the small negotiating group and introduced by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with the understanding that it will be the last paragraph of article 2. The text reads as follows: "Each State party undertakes 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;"

Article 2, paragraph (e): Adopted as amended by the representative of Morocco. The text reads as follows: "Each State party shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;"

Article 4, paragraph 1: Adopted with the understanding that the views expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom will be reflected in the report and the comments made by the representative of Morocco concerning the word "discontinued" will be reflected in the French text. The text reads as follows: "Adoption by States of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality of women with men shall not be considered discrimination as defined in this Convention, but shall in no way entail, as a consequence, the maintenance of unequal or separate standards and shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved."

Article 5, paragraph 2: Adopted with the understanding that the views on it expressed by Morocco will be reflected in the report to the Third Committee. The text reads as follows: "2. To ensure that family education includes a proper understanding of maternity as a social function and the recognition of the common responsibility of both men and women in the upbringing and development of their children".

Article 8, paragraph (b): Adopted by consensus as amended by Australia and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The text reads as follows: "To participate in the formulation of government policy and the administration thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;"

Article 8, new paragraph (c): The Working Group postponed decision on this paragraph.

Note: At its 9th meeting on 17 November 1977 the Working Group adopted the introductory phrase to article 8. In document CRP.7/Add.6 it was stated that the text of this introductory phrase would appear in CRP.7/Add.7. The text reads as follows: "Each State Party shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and in particular shall ensure on equal terms with men the right:"

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