



**Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women**

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**
Forty-ninth session

Summary record of the 982nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 July 2011, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Pimentel

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention *(continued)*

Sixth periodic report of Italy (CEDAW/C/ITA/6 and CEDAW/C/ITA/Q/6 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the members of the delegation of Italy took places at the Committee table.*

2. **The Chair** said that, at the invitation of the Committee, other members of the delegation would be speaking by teleconference from Rome.

3. **Mr. Brasioli** (Italy), after reading out a message from the Minister for Equal Opportunities, introduced the State party's sixth periodic report (CEDAW/C/ITA/6). Italy was firmly committed to furthering women's rights and had carried out a number of initiatives to that end. In 2010, the Equal Opportunities Code had been amended and supplemented by Legislative Decree No. 5, which provided that women and men must be given equal treatment and opportunities in all areas of life, including in the workplace. Also in 2010, Italy had adopted its first national action plan on women, peace and security as well as a national plan on violence against women and stalking. The latter plan provided for ad hoc awareness-raising campaigns, support measures for victims, and human rights training, particularly for judicial personnel. Act No. 11/2009 had specifically defined stalking as a crime, and the rise in the number of complaints of stalking was thought to be a direct result of women's increased awareness about their rights in that regard. Although sexual harassment complaints appeared to have decreased, violence against women continued to be a problem. Further to a memorandum of understanding with the Department for Equal Opportunities, the Carabinieri Corps had established a unit on stalking and sexual violence. His Government had participated in the preparation of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and was currently preparing legislation to be enacted once the Convention had been signed and ratified.

4. Italy was committed to combating the scourge of trafficking in women. Its budget for the biennium 2011-2012 provided for the maintenance of the national protection system for victims of trafficking and exploitation. Furthermore, the Government was

preparing its first national action plan against human trafficking. Italy strove to eradicate the root causes of human trafficking and exploitation through its development cooperation programmes, which aimed at supporting women in vulnerable and conflict situations; advancing women's economic and political empowerment, while informing and shaping national policymaking; and assisting with the implementation of international conventions.

5. Further to the recent adoption of draft legislation on the establishment of a national independent human rights institution and the subsequent approval by the relevant committees of the Senate, such an institution was expected to be established in accordance with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Paris Principles) by the end of 2011. Italy had also established an office for the promotion, analysis, monitoring and support of equal treatment of all persons without discrimination on the grounds of sex within the Department for Equal Opportunities pursuant to Council Directive 2004/113/EC on implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services.

6. Much remained to be done with regard to Roma and Sinti women, who were at a particular disadvantage in Italian society. The stigmatization of any minority was cause for concern; and recent cases of violence against Roma communities, in addition to being duly investigated, had been expressly condemned by all political forces. The situation in unauthorized camps was particularly worrying, as housing, education, vocational training and work were prerequisites for true integration into society.

7. The dramatic increase in arrivals from the coast of North Africa had put the Italian system for the reception of immigrants, including asylum-seekers, under strain. In addition to increasing the capacity of publicly funded housing schemes, the Italian authorities needed to ensure that all centres of accommodation for asylum-seekers provided adequate access to legal aid and psychosocial assistance. Italy had launched a wide range of social integration projects across the country, including language courses for migrant women. It should be noted that the legislative and administrative acts known collectively as the "security package", which aimed at dealing with the organized crime that exploited migrants, did not

oblige public institutions — hospitals and schools, for instance — to report undocumented migrants to the police.

8. While firmly believing in the concept of meritocracy regardless of sex, Italy acknowledged the need to increase the participation of women in politics and their representation in leadership positions. Accordingly, draft legislation had recently been submitted to Parliament by the Minister for Equal Opportunities to ensure the equal access of men and women to elected and public positions, which would affect also the criteria used to select candidates for municipal elections. Although in 2006, the Ministry of Defence had abolished quotas for the initial entry of female staff into the labour market generally, it had also established a consultative committee to monitor the hiring of female personnel and an observatory to identify any mobbing or hazing cases.

9. The number of women choosing science careers had increased markedly in the past 20 years, although that trend had not yet translated into higher numbers of women in leadership positions. Full literacy for girls had been achieved; the Government was now focusing on providing women, especially middle-aged women, with access to science and technology through training courses. Gender disparities continued to persist with a debilitating effect on research and the labour market. To address such shortcomings, the Government had instituted a programme to report good practices and establish guidelines regarding gender equality in the science as well as a programme to monitor and analyse gender-related issues in academia, the results of which would become available shortly. To ensure effective gender equality in the sciences, the Minister for Equal Opportunities had signed a memorandum of understanding in 2010 with the Minister of Education establishing a scientific committee comprising representatives of the Government, universities and civil society to deal with the underrepresentation of women in the sciences.

10. In December 2009, the Government had adopted a national action plan, entitled “Italy 2020”, for the inclusion of women in the labour market, later supplemented by a national plan on the reconciliation of work and family obligations. The two plans encouraged women to join the labour market by introducing measures such as childcare services, financial assistance, and tax breaks for women entrepreneurs in southern Italy. Women represented

46.1 per cent of workers in Italy in 2010. On average, they earned some 5 per cent less than men, which in turn meant less retirement savings. Decree No. 5 of 2010 prohibited discrimination, whether direct or indirect, and imposed fines and prison terms for employers found guilty of perpetuating the gender pay gap.

11. The Constitution guaranteed the right to maternal health care, and health centres were required to provide for the voluntary interruption of pregnancy upon the request of the woman concerned. The drug RU486 had been registered with the Italian drug administration in April 2010 at the request of the manufacturer, but after a medical study commissioned by the Senate and the publication of mortality data relating to its use, the Ministry of Health had issued guidelines for the regional health authorities based on those findings warning of the possible risk to women who chose that abortion option.

12. Women living in rural areas, who accounted for 18.7 of the Italian female population, increasingly played a leading role in local development. Not only had it had been found that women working in agriculture were better prepared to introduce innovations on their farms, but some 38 per cent of farms started by foreign nationals had been founded by women, showing also the potential of immigration in Italy’s primary sector. Overall, around one fourth of all Italian companies were headed by women entrepreneurs. The Minister for rights and Equal Opportunities was developing a strategy to further raise the rate of women workers in various regions of the south.

Articles 1 to 6

13. **Ms. Schulz** said that it was regrettable that the reporting State had not respected the reporting guidelines of the Committee with regard to the length of Convention-specific documents, or that it had not adequately described the situation of women’s rights in Italy. The failure to act on the Committee’s previous concluding observations and the recommendations contained therein was also a cause for concern, as was the Government’s failure to disseminate the concluding observations in Italian for use by all stakeholders, including the Parliament and civil society. It was furthermore unclear whether civil society had been involved in the drafting of the periodic report.

14. The legislative system in Italy seemed overly complicated and it might be difficult for women to understand the scope of guarantees under the law, and especially the availability of remedies when their rights were violated. She asked what steps Italy was taking to improve the situation.

15. It was important to recall that while certain powers could be delegated to regions, it remained the responsibility of the central Government to ensure that international conventions were complied with throughout the national territory. She would like to know how the central Government coordinated the various levels of authority — national, regional and local — to ensure a minimum standard of uniform application of the Convention; which national authority was responsible for intervening if a regional or local body adopted a law that was inconsistent with the Convention; and whether any training was given to local authorities in that regard. She commended Italy for its stated commitment to address discrimination against the Roma and Sinti people, and suggested that an appropriate first step in that regard would be the repeal of the current nationwide state of emergency.

16. **Ms. Açar** said that the reporting State's limited distribution of the Committee's previous concluding observations fell short of the Committee's expectations. Furthermore, she had received information according to which the Convention and Optional Protocol as well were not easily accessible in Italian to the public at either the national or local level. While posting such information on a website satisfied a formal requirement, it was not useful unless potential beneficiaries knew where to find it. The visibility of the Convention was of the utmost importance in combating persistent stereotypes in Italy.

17. **Ms. Ameline** commended the reporting State on its progress towards establishing a national independent human rights institution. However, consistency seemed to be lacking in compliance throughout the country with international standards and the directives of the European Union. She asked whether Parliament had established a mechanism for the ongoing evaluation of Italian legislation at all levels of government from that viewpoint.

18. **Ms. Neubauer** said that the Italian Government had failed to disseminate widely across the country, in particular to women's and human rights organizations, the Convention, its Optional Protocol and the

Committee's general recommendations. She herself had been unable to find an Italian-language version of the sixth report or the Committee's general recommendations online. Moreover, the Italian Parliament had reportedly failed to provide the Inter-Parliamentary Union with information on its involvement in the preparation of the report. That was symptomatic of a lack of interest across all branches of Government in women's rights and gender equality.

19. She asked about the reversal of the burden of proof in cases of discrimination in the workplace and cases involving access to and supply of goods and services, and whether that reversal was limited to only those two categories. Lastly, despite the impressive array of instruments in its national machinery for the advancement of women, Italy did not appear to have one body specifically devoted to gender equality. She wondered what proportion of the budget of the Department for Equal Opportunities was allocated to gender equality issues; the number of staff who were gender equality experts and vested with the obligation to monitor gender equality issues at national level; and the nature of their employment contracts.

20. **Ms. Ameline** said that Italy should be commended for the many temporary special measures it had adopted in an effort to achieve equality between men and women. However, she sought clarification about the decision by the Ministry of Defence to eliminate quotas for women and to seek other ways of achieving equality. She asked whether the regions had the power to adopt legislation to implement temporary special measures, and whether there were administrative networks or other coordination mechanisms to ensure that such measures were replicated in other regions of the country. Considering that employment rates remained low and sexual harassment continued unabated, it would be useful to know whether the Government intended to adopt other temporary special measures. Lastly, she wondered if the Government had contemplated any specific measures to address the needs of migrant and refugee women.

21. **Mr. Brasioli** (Italy) said that the current report was somewhat lengthy because more information had been included in response to the Committee's criticism that the fifth periodic report had been short on statistical data. During the drafting process, the working group had held discussions with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics,

trade unions and other entities to solicit their views, which had then been incorporated into the report. The working group had also submitted a report of its activities to Parliament, including translations of the Committee's 2005 concluding observations or references to websites where they could be downloaded. The concluding observations had also been translated and circulated among members of inter-ministerial departmental committees representing the local, regional and national levels of government, NGOs and other stakeholders.

22. Nonetheless, efforts would be made to disseminate the concluding observations on the current report more widely. In that connection, a booklet about the Convention and its Optional Protocol that had been published in 2002 would be supplemented with the Committee's concluding observations from the current session and then reissued in December 2011 during a special event devoted to the Convention.

23. **Ms. Alitto** (Italy) said that the principle of non-discrimination was enshrined in the Italian Constitution and could be applied directly by judges without the need for a specific normative law. Other principles enshrined in the Constitution included those of equal employment conditions for men and women, and equal access by men and women to public office. Those principles had also been incorporated into the Equal Opportunities Code, which had been amended to bring it in line with European Union standards.

24. Under the country's anti-discrimination laws, any alleged victim of discrimination might bring legal action alone or with the assistance of an equal opportunities adviser. In cases of collective discrimination of national or regional relevance, the national equal opportunities adviser might file a class action suit on behalf of the complainants. The adviser might also decide to seek a conciliatory solution with the employer through an out-of-court settlement.

25. With regard to the burden of proof, under Italian law an accuser normally had the burden to prove the alleged wrongdoing; but in cases of discrimination, the burden was reversed. The plaintiff was merely required to provide information, such as hiring and promotion statistics that showed a pattern of discrimination, in order to establish no more than a presumption of discrimination. The defendant then had the onus to prove that his or her practices were not discriminatory.

26. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that the Department for Equal Opportunities was divided into four sections dealing respectively with violence and disability; strategic action, structural funding, communication and national equal opportunity policies; international affairs, including human trafficking and female genital mutilation; and gender, racial and other types of discrimination. The Department had more than 90 employees and a total budget of approximately 100 million euros for the promotion of gender equality. Four subsidiary bodies were charged with pursuing anti-discrimination objectives in the regions. Also, the Constitution itself contained a number of articles relating to discrimination.

27. The Department's decentralized structure did not hamper its operations in any way, because some of the issues it addressed had local implications and required local management. Nonetheless, there was a strong central monitoring system to ensure that appropriate resources were transferred to regional offices, and oversight mechanisms were in place to ensure that the regional bodies did not violate the Constitution.

28. With regard to temporary special measures and affirmative action, his country preferred to adopt measures that were permanent in nature and reflected the concept of "positive action" — long established in the European Union — rather than "affirmative action". Through positive-action measures, disadvantaged groups such as women were identified as requiring a positive advantage. In that connection, a bill proposing a quota system for women in provincial elections had been introduced and, if approved, would become the law of the land. By definition, that was not a time-bound temporary special measure, but a permanent measure that would remain in place until it was repealed.

29. **Mr. Vulpiani** (Italy), speaking by teleconference from Rome, said that since its foundation, the National Racial Discrimination Office (UNAR) had paid particular attention to discrimination against the Roma and Sinti communities, primarily relating to education and housing. The Office worked with relevant associations, to guarantee the right to education and enforce the prohibition on racial segregation in schools, as well as ensuring non-discriminatory access to places of business for Roma and Sinti.

30. In the prevention of discrimination, Italy had been a pioneer in carrying out the Council of Europe's

“Dosta!” campaign, organizing events such as seminars and workshops in 30 cities during 2010. The campaign had also involved media activities, including a major television programme on Roma women’s issues and training courses for journalists. Since 2008, UNAR had been running a major regional project to promote improved governance and policymaking and to create tools for social inclusion.

31. There was not a specific plan of action for Roma inclusion, but the European Union had presented a framework for integration of Roma people at the country level covering the period up to 2020, and UNAR would be the focal point for it in Italy. The intention was to have a strong emphasis on the gender perspective, by involving Roma women in the global empowerment strategy so as to ensure their full inclusion in the labour market, politics and the life of society.

32. **Ms. Pria** (Italy) said that so far in 2011, over 50,000 immigrants had arrived in Italy, of whom only about 2,000 were women. They had initially been received in government centres run by the Protection System for Asylum-Seekers and Refugees (SPRAR). These centres acted as the sites for the Praesidium project, co-financed by the European Union, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, Save the Children and the Italian Red Cross, a project which offered initial assistance to arriving migrants and subsequently also provided legal guidance regarding the Italian asylum and immigration regulations as well as information on voluntary return; basic teaching of Italian; and social and psychological support. Within SPRAR, which had the capacity and funding to house only 3,000 people, and which consequently needed to move them through the centres so as to make room for new arrivals, there were also a certain number of places assigned to vulnerable people and those with special needs. In addition, under the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals, the Italian authorities had created annual programmes targeting women, on the grounds that they were more likely than men to drive the integration process.

33. **Ms. Cinque** (Italy) said that initially quotas for the employment of women had been set at 20 per cent of available posts in each category. Following review, they had then been increased every year, until 2006 when the quota system was abolished and replaced by a

policy of recruiting the best candidates regardless of sex. The quota system had been intended as a temporary measure for the time needed to solve logistical problems, particularly adapting barracks and ships for the presence of women.

34. **Ms. Baroni** (Italy) said that combating illicit or undeclared work represented one of the programme priorities of the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Policies and indeed of the entire Government. It was not only a matter of combating tax evasion; it was also a question of enforcing health and safety standards in the workplace, and of avoiding social dumping. It was noteworthy that although there had been a reduction in the number of inspection visits, they were now organized according to more targeted criteria, and as a result the number of labour irregularities detected was increasing steadily. In 2010, over 30,000 cases of completely undeclared work had been discovered, and appropriate penalties applied.

35. **Ms. Šimonović**, returning to issues raised earlier, asked whether there were any cases, and if so how many, in which the Convention had been invoked before the national courts. Referring to article 5, she asked what Italy was doing to address gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes, whether published in the media or expressed by public figures. She recalled that in its previous concluding observations, the Committee had been deeply concerned about the persistence and pervasiveness of patriarchal attitudes, deep-rooted stereotypes and the portrayal of women in the media and in advertising as sex objects. Was there, in fact, the political will to address such issues?

36. Regarding the situation of Roma women, she asked whether statistical data were available on early marriages in those communities. If it was part of the cultural heritage of the Roma that girls married very early, she asked how the authorities were going to change that attitude. Also, what was done when information surfaced concerning verbal abuse and sexual harassment of Roma women by law enforcement officials? The number of cases of women murdered by their husbands, partners or ex-partners was unclear from the statistical information given in the written responses (CEDAW/C/ITA/Q/6/Add.1). She would appreciate more information also about shelters for women, for instance, how many there were, whether they were State-funded, and whether women found it easy to gain access to them.

37. Noting that Italian practice provided for mediation between the victim and the perpetrator of domestic violence, but that article 48 of the new Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence contained a prohibition of mandatory alternative dispute resolution in cases of domestic violence, she asked whether Italy was going to change its practice in that area, and also when Italy was going to ratify that Convention.

38. **Ms. Acar** asked whether Italy's efforts to combat the prevalence of stereotypes were effective enough, and whether they were undertaken in a comprehensive, sustained and coordinated way. She wondered whether the project "Women, politics and institutions", launched in universities by the Department for Equal Opportunities in 2005, was a one-time event or an ongoing part of a regular curriculum. She also asked at whom the project was directed, and whether there had been any evaluation of it and similar programmes as to impact and results.

39. It would be interesting to know something of what was being done in a sustained and coordinated fashion in the educational system and through the mass media specifically to combat violence against women. Noting the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry for Equal Opportunities and the Ministry of Education on holding a yearly "Week Against Violence" in the schools, she cautioned that that undertaking was too broad, covering all categories of violence. Overgeneralizing the phenomenon made gender-based violence against women and its structural root causes invisible.

40. **Ms. Gabr** asked whether Italy was taking into account the twin facts that migrant women were on the one hand facing negative stereotypes, and at the same time needed to preserve their cultural identity.

41. Turning to Italy's efforts against trafficking, she asked to what extent the business sector, and civil society at large, were involved in that endeavour; what the Government was doing to lessen or eliminate the demand for trafficked women; and whether there was a special fund for the protection of trafficking victims.

42. **Ms. Hayashi** asked about the time frame for the establishment of a nationwide anti-trafficking focal point. She wondered whether there was a way to overcome the apparent fragmentation of jurisdiction represented by the fact that the crime of trafficking fell

within the purview of the anti-Mafia department, while that of smuggling came under the Office of the Public Prosecutor.

43. She asked whether it was true that the special residence permits for victims of trafficking (responses, para. 104) were issued only under very restrictive conditions, and in particular that women who were trafficked from outside Italy were excluded from the protection offered by such permits, and if so, how the Government thought it could improve the situation.

44. Lastly, she wished to know if the Government had allocated funding for anti-trafficking activities carried out by or in conjunction with NGOs and other stakeholders. Such activities might include a toll-free telephone service for victims of trafficking, awareness-raising campaigns on the forcible nature of prostitution, or training for social workers active in the shelters for trafficking victims.

45. **Ms. Jahan** asked if any progress had been made in implementing the Committee's recommendation in its 2005 concluding observations that Act No. 189/2002 should be amended to ensure that all victims of trafficking benefited from stay or residence permits on the grounds of social protection. She asked also whether the series of restrictive measures relating to immigration put in place since May 2008, and commonly known as the "security package", might have an unintended consequence for victims of trafficking, who might unwittingly find themselves falling into the category of illegal immigrants and thus become subject to prosecution. Lastly, it would be useful to have information on the effects of the law adopted at the end of 2008 to eradicate street prostitution, in which many migrants were engaged, as well as on what had been done to address indoor prostitution.

46. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that in the past year the Minister for Equal Opportunities had developed three anti-stereotyping initiatives aimed at promoting the proper perception and public image of women: working with a media oversight organization, the Ministry could require the withdrawal of print and TV advertising and marketing materials that were sexist or gave a distorted image of women; under a contract with RAI Italia, the State-owned broadcasting network, the Ministry could require it to change the representation of women on State television; and, contingent upon approval by Parliament, a proposed

code would be established for self-regulation of the private broadcasting services.

47. Courses on the role of women in government and private enterprise had existed since 2005, and the Italian universities were envisaging the establishment of Master's and PhD programmes on equal opportunity issues. A protocol of understanding had been signed with the Ministry of Education, University, and Research providing for a week of training in schools on all forms of violence. Another protocol signed by the Ministry of Education, University, and Research and the Ministry of Equal Opportunities provided for the creation of guidelines for training secondary school teachers in equal opportunity issues and the overcoming of stereotypes.

48. **Ms. Musto** (Italy), speaking by teleconference from Rome, said that since 2008, specific training in citizenship, the Constitution and related subjects had existed in all elementary and secondary schools for both Italian citizens and foreigners.

49. **Mr. Ardita** (Italy) said that two committees of the Superior Council of the Magistracy oversaw courses for training judges in matters of discrimination and human rights. It was required by law to invoke any relevant articles of the Convention in court cases.

50. Trafficking and smuggling were under the jurisdiction of special anti-Mafia investigative judges at the district level, who were able to refer cases to investigative instruments at the national and European level. He cited statistics for the number of trafficking convictions: in each of the past two years, there had been about 200 convictions, the average penalty being six years' imprisonment.

51. **Ms. Giacomantonio** (Italy) said that, while the "security package" legislation had in fact greatly reduced the number of illegal entries into Italy, foreign citizens who had been victims of violence, criminal exploitation and trafficking could, even if they were illegal immigrants, be allowed, subject to official approval, to participate in the special victim-protection and assistance programme. If, however, it was recognized that the victim's life was in danger, no official authorization was required for a special residence permit, and in such cases the permit was issued on the basis of a statement by the victim, regardless of whether she had reported the crime to the police or not.

52. Many crimes of violence against women, especially sexual violence, went unreported because of fear and shame. Of course, any cases of police abuse of Roma women brought to the attention of the authorities would be investigated and punished. Specialized training was being given to police officers in that regard, and the frequent training seminars on gender violence had been attended by thousands of officers, criminal lawyers and other first-responders. A special database existed for collection of information on femicides.

53. **Mr. Palma** (Italy) said that his Government had begun work in 2010, in conjunction with local authorities and NGOs active in the field, on a national plan for the protection and social integration of victims of trafficking, and completion was expected in November 2011, with a proposed budget of 8.5 million euros. It included programmes for immediate assistance to victims, irrespective of their country of origin, and for subsequently training them for reintegration into society.

54. A bill to prohibit street prostitution had been introduced in 2008. It had aroused very strong debate in society between the proponents of public safety and those — mainly in the NGO community — who argued that prohibition would merely drive the problem underground. It was still under consideration in Parliament.

55. **Ms. Schulz** asked, concerning the scope of protection guaranteed by the Equal Opportunities Code, if issues involving tax law, health law, and education that were covered by the Code could be brought before the courts.

56. **Ms. Šimonović** said that she would be interested in the statistics on femicides.

57. **Ms. Gabr** asked if a national focal point on trafficking existed, and if not, whether establishment was envisaged.

58. **Ms. Ameline** said that the French newspaper *Le Monde* had published an article the previous day concerning an Italian industrialist who had dismissed his female employees on the grounds that this would make it easier for them to bring up their children, and she asked about the likely outcome of this event.

59. **Ms. Muratore** (Italy) said that information was being collected on stereotypes concerning migrant

women, sexual orientation, ethnicity, and religion, and that data would be available at the beginning of 2012.

60. A campaign specifically against domestic violence had recently been carried out by civil society groups and certain political groups, designed on the pattern of the periodic surveys of violence against women. The most recent time-use survey showed that there had been a slight lessening of the strong asymmetry of gender roles in couples, a situation particularly problematic for women with jobs and children, and for older women. The survey showed that better-educated men were becoming somewhat more participatory in household duties and childcare.

61. The last survey on gender-based violence dated from 2006. The absence of surveys since then was ascribable to financial problems, but possibilities existed for a new survey in 2011 involving shelters, NGOs, focus groups, and interviews. The Government took part in numerous international activities and a number of international expert groups and task forces working on gender-based violence, and expected to participate in a 2013 European survey on the indicators of violence.

62. Increased reporting of violence by victims was indicative of an increase not in the occurrence of violence but rather in awareness and willingness to report, thanks to changes in cultural attitudes. Available data indicated a decrease in cases of sexual harassment in the workplace. Various types of data pertaining to prosecution of human trafficking offences and interesting information from groups working on the problem had been collected and would be made available to the Committee.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.