



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

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First meeting of the States parties
New York, 16 April 1982

DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST WOMEN

Submitted by the Secretary-General

I. Representation and credentials

- Rule 1. Each State party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, hereinafter referred to as the Convention, shall be represented at the meeting of States parties, hereinafter referred to as the meeting, by an accredited representative; if more than one representative is named, one shall be designated as the head of the delegation. Each delegation may also include such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.
- Rule 2. The credentials of the representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the meeting. The credentials shall be issued by the head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Secretary-General shall report to the meeting on the credentials.
- Rule 3. Pending the decision of the meeting upon the report on credentials, the representatives of the States parties shall be entitled to participate provisionally in the meeting.

II. Officers

- Rule 4. The meeting shall elect a Chairman and one to four Vice-Chairmen from among the representatives of the States parties.

- Rule 5. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman nominated by him shall preside. The Vice-Chairman, when acting as Chairman, shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.
- Rule 6. The Chairman or Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman may in his capacity as representative appoint one of his alternates or advisers to participate in the proceedings and to vote in the meetings in his place. In such a case, the Chairman or Acting Chairman shall not vote.

III. Secretariat

- Rule 7. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be responsible for making the arrangements connected with the meeting. He or his representatives may make either oral or written statements to the meeting concerning any question under consideration.

IV. Conduct of business

- Rule 8. A quorum shall be constituted by the representatives of two thirds of the States parties to the Convention.
- Rule 9. The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, and at such meetings shall direct the discussions, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, announce decisions, rule on points of order and, subject to these rules of procedure, have complete control of the meeting. In exercising these functions the Chairman shall remain under the authority of the meeting.

V. Voting and elections

- Rule 10. Each State party represented at the meeting shall have one vote.
- Rule 11. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "representatives of States parties to the Convention present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.
- Rule 12. Decisions of the meeting shall be made by a majority of the representatives present and voting except as regards the election of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women which shall be conducted in accordance with rules 13, 14 and 15 of these rules of procedure.
- Rule 13. The twenty-three members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, who shall be experts of high moral standing and competence in the field covered by the Convention, shall be elected from a list of persons nominated by the States parties and submitted by the Secretary-General, in conformity with the Convention, consideration

being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as of the principal legal systems. Each State party may nominate one person from among its nationals.

- Rule 14. Elections of members of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women shall be held by secret ballot.
- Rule 15. The persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the representatives of States parties present and voting. If in the first ballot the number of nominees so elected is less than the number of persons to be elected, additional ballots shall be held to fill the remaining places, the voting being restricted to the nominees obtaining the greatest number of votes in the previous ballot, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled; provided that, after the third inconclusive restricted ballot, votes may be cast for any nominee. If three such unrestricted ballots are inconclusive, the next three ballots shall be restricted to the nominees who obtained the greatest number of votes in the third of the unrestricted ballots, to a number not more than twice the places remaining to be filled, and the following three ballots thereafter shall be unrestricted, and so on until all the places have been filled.

VI. Languages

- Rule 16. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish shall be the languages of the meeting.

VII. Records

- Rule 17. Neither verbatim nor summary records shall be made. Sound recordings of the meeting shall be made and kept in accordance with the practice of the United Nations.
- Rule 18. The text of all formal decisions adopted by the meeting shall be distributed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the languages of the meeting as soon as possible after the meeting to all States parties and all States eligible to become parties to the Convention.

VIII. Publicity

- Rule 19. The meetings shall be held in public unless decided otherwise.

IX. Observers

Rule 20. States that have ratified or acceded to the Convention but in respect of which the Convention has not yet entered into force may participate fully in the meeting except for the right to vote.

X. Reference to rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Rule 21. Any procedural matter arising at meetings which is not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Chairman in the light of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly which may be applicable to the matter at issue.

XI. Amendments

Rule 22. These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the meeting of the States parties to the Convention, provided that the amendment is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Convention.
