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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**

Pre-session working group for the thirtieth session
12-30 January 2004

**List of issues and questions with regard to the consideration of
periodic reports**

Ethiopia

Introduction

1. The pre-session working group examined the combined fourth and fifth periodic report of Ethiopia (CEDAW/C/ETH/4-5).

**Constitution, legislation, and national machinery for the
advancement of women**

2. What is the legal status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women under the Ethiopian Constitution? In the event of a conflict between a national law and the provisions of the Convention, which would prevail? Has the Convention been invoked in national litigation?

3. According to paragraph 7 of the report, the national machinery “strives to ensure that women and children are not victims of systemic oppression ...”. The question of the national machinery’s competence and financial resources was raised as an issue of concern by the Committee in its previous concluding comments.¹ Please provide detailed information about the location of the national machinery within the government structure, its mandate and authority and the financial resources assigned to the Women’s Affairs Office and other entities comprising the national machinery on women.

4. Please provide information on the progress made towards the revision of the law of succession under the Civil Code. What specific aspects of the code are under revision, and how do those relate to the articles of the Convention? Please provide information on revisions to the Civil Code regarding the right to inheritance for widows.

5. Apparently, the Government has established an independent Commission on Human Rights and an ombudsman's office, as is noted in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (see CRC/C/15/Add.144, para. 5). Do their mandates include the protection and promotion of women's human rights, and have these bodies become fully operational? Describe their activities for the protection and promotion of women's human rights.

6. Please describe the concrete results of the implementation of the six most crucial areas targeted by the National Plan of Action developed by the Women's Affairs Office.

7. Please provide information on the implementation of the Committee's recommendation, from its previous concluding comments² to review the compatibility of all existing customary laws with international conventions and national legislation.

Participation in decision-making

8. Please provide statistical data on the presence of women in leadership and decision-making positions in the political sphere, including the percentage of women office holders in political parties, both at the federal and regional levels, as well as in the civil service, including in the diplomatic service. Describe the specific measures and programmes taken by the State party to develop and encourage women to take decision-making positions, as was recommended by the Committee in its previous concluding comments.³

Stereotypes and education

9. What efforts are being undertaken to change existing social practices that favour men's interests and have a negative impact on the initiatives and efforts emancipation?

10. Please provide sex-disaggregated data on literacy rates and enrolment in primary, secondary and tertiary education, including school drop-out rates. Provide information on the progress made and measures taken to ensure equal access for girls to education, and on the Government's efforts to increase the enrolment and retention rates of girls in primary schools. Please also provide information about teenage pregnancy rates and their impact on girls' school completion rates.

11. Paragraph 19 of the report states that "thirty per cent of the total number of seats has been reserved for female students in higher educational institutions (university)". Do female students generally take all the seats reserved for them, and does the 30 per cent quota apply to all higher educational institutions? Are there any areas where women exceed the 30 per cent of seats reserved for them? Please provide recent statistical data on the implementation of the Girls' Scholarship Program.

12. Paragraph 28 of the report mentions that "incorporation of gender issues in the training curriculum of judges, prosecutors and police is one of the successful ventures in this regard". Provide details about these programmes, whether they include training on the Convention, and how the success of these programmes is being monitored.

Employment, economic empowerment and the situation of rural women

13. Please describe measures undertaken to ensure equality between women and men in the area of employment, including criteria for employment, equal treatment and promotion.

14. Combating poverty is a major concern of the State party. Paragraph 56 of the report refers to the efforts to mainstream gender in the Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan, and the participation of women in its finalization by debating it at the local level, "where women will constitute 40 per cent of the participants". What were the results of these debates, and how were the concerns of women reflected in the final document?

15. Paragraph 15 of the report states that two major initiatives have been taken to address Ethiopian women's economic poverty, vulnerability and dependency, and to improve women's access to economic resources, namely the Women's Development Initiative Project (WDIP) and the Ethiopian Women's Development Fund (EWDF). Please provide information on the concrete results of these initiatives. How many women benefited from such initiatives?

16. How many women have benefited from the knowledge and skill-building measures as well as measures for capacity- and confidence-building initiated by the Government to strengthen the ability and confidence of female farmers (see paras. 45 and 73 of the report)? Please provide information on the number of women who have benefited from the income-generating activities mentioned in paragraph 46 of the report.

17. What were the specific findings of the research and from the statistics compiled in regard to the situation of women in the agriculture sector? As a result, what measures were taken to enhance the situation of women farmers and for the implementation of article 14 of the Convention?

18. The report refers to the policy framework in the water sector, and efforts to eliminate discrimination against women in this area. Provide details about the practical results of this policy in terms of women's quality participation in the sector, referred to in paragraph 52, in particular in their participation in decision-making and in allocation of resources.

19. Please provide detailed information on the reform of the Federal Civil Service Commission mentioned in paragraph 56 of the report, particularly in relation to maternity leave provisions.

Family relations

20. Some information about the new Family Code is provided in paragraph 74 of the report. Please provide detailed information about the discriminatory laws and provisions that have been revised by this new Family Code. What is the experience with implementation of the new Code? What kind of sanctions does it provide? Since the entry into force of the new Family Code in early 2001, has the number of early marriages declined? Please provide statistical data on early marriages. What measures are being undertaken by the Government to discourage early and forced

marriages, and abductions? Describe progress in ensuring that the civil law takes precedence over traditional and religious law.

21. Does the Family Code provide for women's property rights on the basis of non-discrimination? If so, how is such a provision being enforced? What types of initiatives have been undertaken to make women aware of their legal rights under the law and under the Convention?

Violence against women, including harmful traditional practices

22. Please provide statistical data on the number of girls and women who undergo female genital mutilation. Please explain the current legislative situation concerning female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices, including experiences with their implementation. Has there been a decrease in female genital mutilation over the years since the Government began its efforts against female genital mutilation? Provide details about the current initiatives of the National Committee on Traditional Harmful Practices.

23. Please describe the proposed revisions to the Penal Code and other related legislation with regard to violence against women and harmful traditional practices, including the type of penalties for perpetrators. Does such legislation apply to all women irrespective of their marital status? Please provide data on the number of perpetrators who have been brought to justice since the entry into force of such legal provisions (see, in particular, paragraph 67, ninth bullet). Is legislation in place that makes domestic violence a crime? Is marital rape criminalized?

24. Please provide a detailed description of the measures being implemented by the Government to prevent all forms of violence against women. Is legal aid available to women who are victims of domestic violence?

25. What are the results of the research and studies carried out in order to identify the socio-cultural determinants of violence against women and harmful traditional practices and their effects on girls' and women's lives in the long term?

26. How many women have benefited from the social rehabilitation and protection measures (described in paragraph 33 of the report) being carried out for women and children affected by violence against women and harmful traditional practices, and displaced by the border conflict and war?

Trafficking and prostitution

27. Please describe measures undertaken under the national plan of action (see paragraph 29 of the report) that has been elaborated to combat trafficking in women and girls. Provide data, if available, on the number of women and girls trafficked for purposes of prostitution, into and out of Ethiopia.

28. Please provide statistics, if available, on the number of women and young girls engaged in prostitution. What measures are being undertaken to prevent and punish the exploitation of prostitution?

Health

29. Please provide statistical information on early pregnancy and maternal mortality rates, and on the measures undertaken by the Government to ensure that women have access to health-care services, including those related to family planning.

30. Data from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) suggest a very high HIV/AIDS infection rate among women. Are any sex- and age-disaggregated statistical data available on HIV/AIDS prevalence and infection rates? If so, please provide such data. Please provide detailed information on the projects and programmes carried out to combat HIV/AIDS, including preventive measures for pregnant women. What measures are being taken in order to enhance access to antiretroviral medication and psychological assistance for women with HIV/AIDS?

31. What measures have been taken to reduce the high morbidity rate among pregnant women and newborns? Have any studies been undertaken on possible links between these high rates and the persistence of harmful traditional practices?

Vulnerable groups

32. Please describe the type of measures undertaken to address the needs of vulnerable groups of women such as migrant women, elderly women and women with disabilities.

Optional Protocol

33. Please indicate whether the Government intends to ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention.

34. Please provide information about the State party's intention to accept the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention concerning the Committee's meeting time.

Notes

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 51 (A/51/38)*, para. 145.

² See *ibid.*, para. 154.

³ See *ibid.*, para. 157.