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h) Guarantee the freedom of the media and its subsequent protection within the framework of national law and encourage, consistent with freedom of expression, the positive involvement of the media in development and social issues.

Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.

- a) Promote research and implementation of a strategy of information, education and communication aimed at promoting a balanced portrayal of women and girls and their multiple roles;*
- b) Encourage the media and advertising agencies to develop specific programmes to raise awareness of the Platform For Action;*
- c) Encourage gender sensitive training for media professionals, including media owners and managers, to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotyped, balanced and diverse images of women in the media;*
- d) Encourage the media to refrain from presenting women as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities, rather than presenting them as creative human beings, key actors and contributors to and beneficiaries of the process of development;*
- e) Promote the concept that the sexist stereotypes displayed in the media are gender discriminatory, degrading in nature and offensive;*
- f) Take effective measures or institute such measures, including appropriate legislation against pornography and the projection of violence against women and children in the media."*

The February 1996 Beijing Cabinet commitments of the Department of Posts, Telecommunication and Broadcasting are to -

- a) Promote access for women to all areas and levels of the media;*
- b) Mainstream gender perspectives in all media and policies and programmes and develop gender sensitive training material for media staff;*
- c) Establish professional codes of conduct and forms of regulation that address the negative and degrading depiction of women in the media and advertising and promote positive images of women as key actors in the developmental process;*
- d) Support women's education and support equal opportunities at all levels;*
- e) Support research into all aspects of women and the media to define areas needing attention.*

Objectives of the committee:

Women as the majority of the poorest often have little access to official communication - they often do not know what their rights are in the new constitution, about the laws passed since 1994 or the institutions established to democratise South Africa. They often do not know how to access the tender system or other resources that the Government makes available. In addition, women are often undermined by stereotypes.

Communication by every Department or agency at national, provincial or local level must be refocused so that it becomes a tool to empower women by providing them with useful information (not merely propaganda - as in the past).

The Committee therefore chose to focus on the issue of communication as one which is critical to the empowerment of the women of South Africa. It is in this context that we examine both the internal media of departments in relation to communication as well as media institutions.

Steps taken:

The Committee called the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) before it to address the Committee on their work, particularly how the IBA is addressing, or planning to address, issues relating to the empowerment of women (both as broadcasters and as recipients) through their work and objectives, and what obstacles exist in this regard.

IBA Counsellor Dr Matabane represented the IBA at the meeting held on the 29th August 1997, and briefed the Committee on the work of the IBA.

Issues raised:

A number of issues were highlighted by Dr Matabane and Committee Members, including -

- 1) The commitment of the IBA to equal employment practices at all levels - specifically in terms of women, and the placement of women in fields other than administrative or human resources.
- 2) The active role of the IBA in the ITU (the global regulator and developer of technologies) - representing Southern Africa at ITU Councils.
- 3) The requirement that women be involved in stations that are applying for licenses - and the writing of such requirements into licensing agreements which are monitored by the IBA's Monitoring Department.
- 4) The IBA motivated that Government should consider establishing a media diversity fund so that community initiatives can be implemented. An example is the Mpumalanga community radio station *Mozi* which is spearheaded by a group of women from Moutsi. *Mozi* was granted a license but due to lack of funding has not been able to actually start broadcasting.

- 5) The IBA has committed to further developing their internal code of conduct in order to ensure the greater representation of women within the IBA at all levels.
- 6) The establishment of a code of conduct for licensees which includes sanctions for licensees who do not adhere to licensing agreements and conditions set out by the IBA.
- 7) The need for training for women - specifically in the processes involved in applying for licenses and obtaining funding, as well as in the specialised field of broadcasting.
- 8) The need for more local content (as opposed to the current overdose of American style sitcoms) to make visible and to celebrate all of South Africa's people .
- 9) The need for more programmes that move away from apartheid based images and content and promote the values of a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic society.
- 10) The need to develop a policy with regards to the stereotyping of men and women in advertisements and the media.
- 11) The need to address the absence images and contributions of rural women and women with disabilities.
- 12) The need to address how news is chosen, what is deemed newsworthy and by whom so as to ensure that women and issues relating to the empowerment and advancement of women - especially the poor - are represented.

Other critical areas & priorities that need to be addressed:

- 1) The Department of Posts, Telecommunication and Broadcasting needs to urgently give effect to their commitments in relation to the Beijing Platform of Action and to CEDAW. The Department needs to present a written report to the Committee by February 1998 on the relevant programmes, institutional and legislative changes that they are putting into place, the time-frames for this, and the budget allocated to implementation of the above.
- 2) Whether the South African Communication Service and the Governments Communication Policy is addressing the issue of the empowerment of women - specifically the difficulties women have in accessing information about their rights, and information on how to access resources that Departments make available. The tender system for example needs review to ensure that it does not give access only to long established suppliers.
- 3) The need for the media to address issues such as the representation of women in the media, the need for women's voices to be heard through the media and the need to promote non-sexist language and portrayals of men and women..
- 4) Engaging with technicons, universities and media institutions on their responsibility to integrate gender analysis into their education programme and to train women within the field of communication as well as in technical areas traditionally confined to men.
- 5) what criteria is used by the Advertising Standards Bureau and whether these have been adjusted since 1994 to reflect society's commitment to ending racism and sexism.

ELECTORAL PROCESS

Broad focus:

Article 7 of the Convention for Eliminating all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) states that -

“State 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 the public functions at all levels of government;*
- c) to participate in non governmental organisations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.”*

The Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) sets out the following strategic objectives for state parties -

- a) “Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making; and*
- b) Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.*

Actions to be taken by Governments, national bodies, the private sector, political parties, trade unions, employers' organisations, sub-regional and regional bodies, non-governmental and international organisations and educational institutions:

- (a) Provide leadership and self-esteem training to assist women and girls, particularly those with special needs, women with disabilities and women belonging to racial and ethnic minorities to strengthen their self-esteem and to encourage them to take decision-making positions;*
- (b) Have transparent criteria for decision-making positions and ensure that the selecting bodies have a gender-balanced composition;*
- (c) Create a system of mentoring for inexperienced women and, in particular, offer training, including training in leadership and decision-making, public speaking and self-assertion, as well as in political campaigning;*
- (d) Provide gender-sensitive training for women and men to promote non-discriminatory working relationships and respect for diversity in work and management styles;*
- (e) Develop mechanisms and training to encourage women to participate in the electoral process, political activities and other leadership areas.”*

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The February 1996 Beijing Cabinet commitments of the Department of Constitutional Affairs are -

- a) *“Use structures managed by it, such as intergovernmental bodies, to inform stakeholders about the Government’s Beijing Commitments;*
- b) *Help the Department of Foreign Affairs in the next year with the ratification process of CEDAW and;*
- c) *Help monitor CEDAW and the Beijing Platform of Action by making available, on an ongoing basis, its data with regard to the inequality in access to power sharing and decision-making in newly elected government structures.”*

Objectives of the Committee:

Flowing from the above commitments, the Committee chose to focus on the election process as an issue critical to the empowerment of women.

The Constitution requires that elections be free and fair, and for this to occur, the electorate must have the information and assistance necessary to exercise their vote. This is of particular concern for women because they have been disadvantaged and excluded from political information and processes in the past. As the majority of the population are women, and because of the government’s commitment to the empowerment of women, addressing issues relating to women as a large part of the electorate are critical to ensure that elections are free and fair.

Steps Taken:

The Committee called the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to address the Committee on their work with regards to the 1999 elections - specifically in relation to empowering and assisting women as voters. Judge Kriegler, Chairperson of the IEC, and Commissioner Mpholwana addressed the Committee on the 15th September 1997. Also present from the IEC was Mr Du Plessis.

Progress made and critical issues:

Progress has been made in the following areas -

- 1) The IEC was established under Section 180 - 190 of the Constitution in July 1997 and has therefore only begun to assess the work ahead in preparation for the 1999 elections. There are five Commissioners - two of whom are women.
- 2) The IEC is concerned about reaching voters in remote rural areas - especially since demography indicates that the majority of the population in these areas are women. In order to address this, the IEC is committed to ensuring that everyone has a voting station within a reasonably convenient distance from their home.
- 3) The IEC has drawn up a voter education plan which includes special facilities for voter education, as well as ensuring that the staff involved in this process are representative of society in terms of race and gender. The programme will specifically target rural areas and rural women.

- 4) The IEC is planning to increase the number of voting stations to approximately 10 - 12 000 stations with mobile voting facilities being made available around the country.
- 5) The IEC is also planning to make special voting provisions for people with disabilities, the aged and infirm.
- 6) The IEC is preparing for a general registration of voters to be held in October 1998, and all people wanting to vote must be on the voters role.
- 7) The Committee's report on the IPU conference in India on developing a partnership between men and women in politics has been used by a member of the Committee - Jomo Khasu - to propose that political parties which increase the number of women candidates be rewarded, and that this be incorporated into the legislation or regulations surrounding the legislation on the funding of political parties during elections.

The following are gaps and concerns that were raised by members of the Committee at the briefing -

- 1) The need for voter education programme for people who are illiterate.
- 2) The need to address obstacles and disparities related to the voting process including - lack of communication, navigable roads, and electricity.
- 3) The need for communities and community organisations to get involved in the elections process to ensure that facilities and support are available to enable women to vote, such as child care facilities.
- 4) The need for data on women voters - specifically how many women as a percentage of the voting population took part in the elections and what the obstacles to their participation were.
- 5) The need to ensure that voters - especially those in rural areas with little access to information - are free from harassment or pressure from political parties or any other interest groups (such as employers) when exercising their choice.

Priorities & other issues that need to be addressed:

The following issues need to be addressed -

- 1) The role of the private sector in relation to making resources available to assist with programmes such as voter education and information dissemination in remote areas.
- 2) The role of the media with regards to projecting positive images of women, as well as making the process visible.
- 3) The need to assess the position of women within political parties, specifically issues relating to how to encourage parties to put women up as candidates, how to reward parties for doing so and what sanction can be put in place if parties do not address the issue of empowering women.
- 4) The IEC committed themselves to undertaking research relating to legislation that had been adopted internationally that promoted the political participation of women, and that they were prepared to give advice on the basis of this.

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- 5) The Department of Constitutional Affairs could draw on the above in making the necessary urgent legislative amendments. The Department needs to urgently give effect to their commitments in relation to the Beijing Platform of Action and to CEDAW. The Department needs to present a written report to the Committee by February 1998 on the relevant programmes, institutional and legislative changes that they are putting into place, the time-frames for this, and the budget allocated to implementation of the above.
 - 6) The need to make specific commitments to ensure that women in remote rural areas are empowered and able to participate in an informed manner in the voting process.

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**PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND
WOMEN IN POLITICS**

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON
THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE
QUALITY OF LIFE & STATUS
OF WOMEN**

**Report from the
Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference
held in India 14th - 18th February 1997:**

***“Towards Partnership between
Men and Women in Politics”***

1. INTRODUCTION

This document has been compiled by the Parliamentary Committee On the Improvement of the Quality of Life and Status of Women as a report-back from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Conference entitled "*Towards Partnership Between Men and Women in Politics*" which was held in India from the 14 - 18th February 1997.

1.1 Context of the Conference

The IPU called this special conference against the backdrop of the slow pace at which women are being empowered politically around the world.

The IPU sent out a press release at the start of the conference which set out the realities of women in political life around the globe. These realities include:

↪	women make up less than 12% of the world's parliaments and less than 11 % of party leaders
↪	only 7.1% of parliaments are headed by women
↪	there is a huge gap between progressive gender policies and the implementation and practice of these policies
↪	only 10.8% of the world's political party leaders and less than one-third of political party executive members are women
↪	currently, men hold 33 981 of all seats in the world's parliaments and women just 4 512³
↪	only 9% of political party spokespersons are women
↪	only 7.7% of political party spokespersons are women

It is against this backdrop of poor representation of women in political life that the IPU decided to hold a conference to address the challenges and obstacles to the advancement of women in political life and how these can be addressed.

1.2 Background & Aims of the Conference

This conference was inspired by the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. The aim was to maintain the momentum of Beijing as well as ensuring that the various commitments made by governments in this regard are being implemented.

The Conference was guided by the IPU Plan of Action which was adopted in 1994 calling on political parties to adopt measures to help women's political integration, reminding them that women, to a greater extent than men, have to reach a balance

³ A gender breakdown is unavailable for the 2 260 other seats

"which often remains unsatisfactory and fragile" between party activities , family activities and professional activities.

The Conference sought to discover whether or not parties were implementing any IPU recommendations in this regard.

The IPU has committed itself to achieving parity in politics for men and women on the basis of the following vision of democracy:

"The concept of democracy will only assume true and dynamic significance when political parties and national legislation are decided upon jointly by men and women with equitable regard for the interests and aptitudes of both halves of the population."

The IPU Plan of Action is divided into 5 sections:

- conditions needed for women to participate actively in political life
- legal basis for equality of men and women
- participation in politics at a national level
- women's participation in IPU activities
- the mechanism for follow-up and assessment of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the plan

The President of India highlighted the role of the conference as "*extending and amplifying*" the role of the Beijing Parliamentary Declaration and the IPU plan of action to correct imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life.

India was the host and facilitator of this conference through Dr Heptullah and the Speaker of India.

78 National Delegations attended - 121 men and 119 women, 133 political parties were represented together with 9 independents and men and women representing several non-governmental organisations.

2. RESOLUTIONS AND KEY ISSUES RAISED AT THE CONFERENCE

In his concluding statement, the President of India placed this Conference, and the whole question of a partnership between men and women in politics, in its rightful place on the agenda of global politics when he stated that "*what is basically at stake is democracy itself*".

This was clearly a sentiment expressed by all delegates to the Conference.

Various resolutions and recommendations were made, these are listed below.

OPENING DEBATES:

- a clear consensus emerged that there should be a major shift in the minds of both men and women and a change of attitudes with regards to women in politics
- political integration of women was viewed as a factor of democratisation, and democracy was in turn viewed as a opening up of opportunities for women
- parliamentarians should create special committees to monitor national, international and regional provisions regarding the rights of women
- parliaments should ensure that legislation dealing with women's rights be adopted
- parliaments should support the work of NGOs focusing on women's issues and empowerment

FINANCING OF WOMEN'S ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS:

- where government funding is made available to political parties, this should be restructured so that parties with more women candidates get greater funding
- controls or limits on both nominations and campaign spending
- tax relief for women candidates (tax credits for political donations and tax credits for child care to assist women in running their offices)
- educational campaigns to promote the understanding and acceptance and value of women in political life
- child care facilities are critical
- budgets for Ministries for women could be used to help fund women candidates
- strong electoral commissions were encouraged

WOMEN IN POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL TRAINING:

- the opportunities for training and education must be increased
- facilities for training must be made available
- men and women need to be trained, not just women
- training must be conceptual and practical
- the exercising of citizenship should begin at school age

- parliamentary procedures must be popularised

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS:

- education, training and capacity building
- the importance of women's participation in political life to democracy
- the need to change mind-sets and attitudes to women and women in politics
- the need for national and international networking for support and sharing of resources and skills
- the need for financial support
- the need for quotas
- the unequal payment of men and women
- regional meetings be held along the same lines to continue discussions and support

WOMEN POLITICIANS AND THE MEDIA:

- governments should restructure their communication policy so as to make them more gender sensitive and promote partnership between men and women in politics
- media personnel at all levels should be made aware of 'stories' and information that perpetuate gender stereotypes and patterns which are adverse to the strengthening of democracy
- PR groups should be encouraged by parliaments and political parties to promote images of women politicians in the media

The South African delegation decided to take forward the recommendations made by at the Conference by:

- 1) Tabling a report on the conference to Parliament
- 2) Sending a copy of the report to the political parties
- 3) Sending a copy of the report to provincial and local governments through the National Council of Provinces and the South African Local Government Association

4. DELEGATES

Each country was allocated 4 seats - a breakdown of 50% men and 50% women was set down by the IPU. South Africa was given 6 seats instead of four due to the fact that the Speaker was invited separately, and she in turn invited the office-bearer of the Co-ordinating Committee of Management of Women Parliamentarians (for the Africa region), Ms Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge.

The Speaker requested that the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee On the Improvement of the Quality of Life and Status of Women, Ms Pregs Govender, attend and recommended that other delegates be drawn mainly from that Parliamentary Committee. In addition, the Speaker requested that Ms Govender and Ms Routledge draw up a list of delegates using the formula for multi-party participation and taking into account the IPU's formula (50% men and 50% women). Delegates were identified to take the resolutions and the report forward. Ms Govender was asked to lead the delegation.

The list of delegates were Ms P. Govender, Ms N. Madlala-Routledge, Mr M.J. Khasu, Mr L.D. Chuenyane, Ms. K. Mothoagae, and Ms S. Vos

The South African delegates to the conference were met, welcomed and given full support from the South African High Commissioner to India - Jerry Matsilla. He offered assistance and support for future meetings.

The South African delegation met daily to discuss making inputs during the various discussions and debates, and specific tasks were allocated to each delegate. Ms Vos was responsible for the session entitled "*The Image of Women Politicians in the Media*", Mr Khasu was responsible for various Plenary Sessions and was a keynote speaker on the session. entitled "*Financing Women's Electoral Campaigns*" which was reported by Mr Chuenyane, Ms Mothoagae was responsible for input into "*Women's Political and Electoral Training*", Ms Madlala-Routledge was responsible for the Regional Workshop on Africa session, and Ms Govender had overall responsibility and was responsible for the consultations between the President of the Conference, the Moderators, leaders of delegations and so forth. Members of the delegation also gave various radio and television interviews.

5. WORK OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

The objectives, format and procedures of the conference were initially workshopped by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, as well as being informed by the decisions of the Inter-Parliamentary Council on these subjects and the deliberations of the Conference Preparatory Committee which met in Geneva in 1996. This Preparatory Committee met again hours before the Conference to make final preparations.

The Committee agreed that the Conference should above all else provide *"opportunities for persons from difference backgrounds to get together and engage in joint reflection on the subject"*.

The Committee agreed on a single theme for the Conference namely *"Towards partnership between men and women in politics"*. Under this general wording, various topics of interest were identified.

6. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

Day 1 - 14 February 1997 - Opening Day of the Conference:

The Preparatory Committee met to finalise the proceedings followed by the Inaugural Ceremony of the Conference.

The opening lines of the inaugural speech reflected the onerous task of the Conference - *"to represent the aspirations of women who constitute half the population of the world"*, and to focus on the question of gender parity which is *"an issue transcending national boundaries"*.

Day 2 - 15 February 1997:

The President and Vice President of the Conference were elected and the debates were launched by various speakers.

The **aim** of this session was to give the general orientation of the Conference as well as setting the objectives to be attained by the time the discussions were closed. These include - looking at the partnership between men and women in politics, the setting of a new social contract for politics which respects the dual composition of society as a whole, and how this partnership can be achieved.

South African delegate Ms Pregs Govender made an input into this debate commenting on the notion of a partnership between men and women in politics noting that the IPU report defines partnership as the creative synergy between women and men. She argued that this demands transformative leadership of vision and depth based on the values of love, respect, courage, humility and effective action. This must be linked to transforming the political institutions themselves. The definitions and assumptions on which they operate, the culture, values and the understanding of power and leadership must be transformed so that they can serve the poorest and most powerless. She noted that "In South Africa, we have started a project between Parliamentarians and Civil Society to engender economics and budget". Her point was that governments and organisations need to translate their commitments into reprioritising budgets and resources.

The **Round Table with the Media** entitled *"The Image of Women Politicians in Media"* aimed at facilitating a debate between the media and the other delegates on how women in politics are viewed.

South African delegates Govender and Vos inputted into this debate. Ms Govender reflected on the successes of the quota system especially in getting rural women into parliament. She noted that *"As long as we ourselves in politics, in all institutions of the society operate on traditional patriarchal notions of leadership, the emergent and existing leadership of women and actions of women in a whole range of areas will be silent and invisible"*. Her point being the need for partnership, not just in government and politics, but in all levels of society and all institutions and she quoted the example of the complete lack of media coverage of a historical event on National Women's Day organised by a group of rural women in South Africa.

Ms Vos went on to add that the key issue of government communication in general had to be addressed as well as encouraging dialogue between men and women politicians which would "spin off" into the media. She argued that there is a need to engender government communication so that the work of women in parliament can be communicated as can the broader issues of what parliament is doing in this regard. In relation to the media, Ms Vos noted that three areas need to be focused on (1) there needs to be a focus on projecting women into politics, (2) there is a need for women to be shown how they can work upwards through party structures to leadership positions, and (3) there is a need for ongoing post election training in media/communication.

Day 3 - 16 February 1997:

A Thematic Discussion took place on "Women's Political and Electoral Training" and "Financing Women's Electoral Campaigns".

The discussion on "**Women's Political and Electoral Training**" focused on issues relating to electoral campaigns and techniques.

South African delegate Ms Kering Mothoagae reflected on the importance of *"redefining and reorienting all our programmes so that they are sensitive to issues of gender"* referring to the new South African Constitution and provisions for the Commission on Gender Equality, education and literacy and elections.

The discussion on "**Financing Women's Electoral Campaigns**" focused on the financial barriers women face, how this affects the financing of electoral campaigns and what potential solutions are to this.

South Africa made a formal presentation on this issue. All the delegates - Cheunyane, Govender, Khasu, Madlala-Routledge, Mothoagae and Vos - contributed to the development of the paper. In this formal presentation, South African delegate Mr Jomo Khasu explored the various complexities of this question referring to defining financing of an electoral campaign for women, strategy and environment needs which would *"make it possible for that financing to make a lasting impact on the advancement of women and women's issues"*. He went on to refer to the reallocation and reprioritisation of government funding and the importance of economic independence of women to their political participation. (This presentation is available from the Committee clerk).

Both South African delegates Ms Nozizwe Routledge and Mr Jomo Khasu touched on the question of shifting the burden from individuals to broader society in taking responsibility for financing women's electoral campaigns. Ms Routledge also referred to the need for pressure on governments who do not show improvements in terms of the gender composition of their parliaments. The two delegates raised the question of whether or not parties who were seen to be dragging their heels in relation to creating parity and partnership between men and women, should expect to have their funding reduced in relation to parties who are making progress in this regard.

Day 4 - 17 February 1997:

Regional Workshops took place focusing on practical experiences and proposals in order to achieve a more balanced sharing of political responsibilities between men and women.

Day 5 - 18 February 1997:

Formal Closure and Wrap Up of the Conference. Official Meetings and Receptions with an address by the Prime Minister of India, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda.

APPENDIX A

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION 687

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

Ms P Govender to ask the Minister for Welfare And Population Development:

With reference to the report being compiled by Government on the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), (a) (i) what stage has been reached in compiling the report, (aa) (ii) which departments (aaa) have and (bbb) have not submitted reports and (bb) why have the departments which have not yet submitted reports, not yet submitted such reports, (iv) what steps are being taken to ensure that departmental reports are being submitted and (v) what is the time-frame for the completion of the report being compiled by the Government, (b) in respect of the reports so received, which departments (i) have taken positive steps towards implementing CEDAW and (ii) are behind schedule in respect of the implementation or planning for the implementation of CEDAW and (c) in respect of the processing of the report, when is (i) Parliament going to have the opportunity to consider and make inputs in respect of the report and (ii) civil society going to have the opportunity to comment on and make inputs in respect of the report?

REPLY

- (a) (i) The first draft Report of Government on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is finally completed and comments are being invited from interested parties. It has been made available on the Internet and distributed by the Ministry for Welfare.

The planning process entailed the following steps:

At an intergovernmental meeting on 12 December 1996 departments were informed of the report writing process and their writing obligations, and given clear time-frames. On 20 January 1997 an Editorial / Drafting Committee was agreed upon. On this occasion a list of departmental contact persons (and departmental representatives on the Editorial teams, if they were different persons) was drawn up in order to facilitate communication.

Departmental reports were due for submission on 21 February 1997. On that day only nine departments submitted their reports. A series of extensions had to be granted. Because all reports were still not available by mid-April 1997, the initial drafting cycle had to be adjusted. The Editorial Committee, charged with producing the country report, was totally dependent on departmental reports.

The Editorial Committee comprises a designated person each from Justice, Foreign Affairs and Welfare, and two consultants..

- (aa)(ii) By 22 August 1997 only two departmental reports, i.e Finance and Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting remained outstanding.

- (bb) The respective Ministers will have to explain why their departments have failed to submit reports. The Secretariat and the Editorial Committee have gone to lengths to support departments, provided all of the necessary information and reasonable deadlines as well as to accommodate the problems of departments, hence the many extensions. A variety of reasons were forwarded to the Secretariat for the late submission, but we are unable to say what the particular difficulties were or are for the department who are still in default.
- (iv) Subsequent to the first due date, a progress report was written to Dr. Pahaad, in the Office of the Executive Deputy President, requesting their office to write to departments urging them to submit by the extension date 7 March.

Notwithstanding the extension, the slow submission rate prevailed. In April, the Minister for Welfare and Population Development verbally raised the matter in Cabinet and followed this up with written reminders.

The Office of the Minister for Welfare and Population Development was engaged in an continuous telephonic follow-up exercise with departments. In addition, since December this office provided information and assistance whenever departments indicated difficulties.

- (v) Projected time-frame for completion of the report. Due to slow submission of input by departments, the initial dates were changed and this amended time frame was followed:

Activity	Expected date
Five members of the Editorial Team were each responsible for a writing up a few Articles of the Convention. After studying each departmental report they had to compile a national response. One member was assigned the Editor. Submit collated response to editor	30 May 1997
Drafting Committee met to review and correction of first draft.	19 June 1997
Second draft distributed to interested parties and role-players	22 July 1997
A national workshop to review the first draft report.	22 August 1997
The editor incorporates workshop comments to report	5 September 1997

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TEL: (021) 403-2911



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
PO BOX 15
CAPE TOWN
8000

Ref No.

10 June 1997

Dr F Ginwala
Chairperson: Rules Committee
National Assembly

Dear Dr Ginwala

RE: STATUS OF AD HOC JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE IMPROVEMENT AND
QUALITY OF LIFE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

At a meeting of the above Committee held on Monday, 9 June 1997, it was resolved to approach the Rules Committee of the National Assembly to address its status.

The Committee was appointed to monitor and oversee progress with regard to the improvement of the quality of life and status of women in South Africa as stated in the *Minutes of Proceedings of National Assembly* of Tuesday, 12 March 1996. The Committee is of the opinion that the issue of the elimination of discrimination against women is an important and ongoing process.

It is against this background that the Committee specifically requests that the Rules Committee write into the rules that the Ad Hoc Committee becomes a permanent Joint Standing Committee of Parliament. We attach a copy of the Committee's programme, for your perusal.

Yours sincerely

Pregs Govender
Chairperson: Ad Hoc Committee on the Improvement of the Quality
of Life and Status of Women.

APPENDIX C

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ATTENDANCE LIST

AHJC on IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND STATUS OF WOMEN

African National Congress

Ms N G W Botha

* Mr Y Carrim

Dr T S Farisani

Ms P Govender

Ms F Hajaj

* Mr M J Khasu

Mrs N E Lamani

* Ms M C Mabuza

* Ms G L Mahlangu

Mr M W Mfebe

Sen P K Mothoagae

Ms Y L Myakayaka-Manzini

Ms L B Ngwane

Ms N C Routledge

Mrs N G Shope

Ms L M Xingwana

National Party

Mev S M Camerer

Mev P W Cupido

* Mev T J Malan

* Ms K W Nqwemesha

* Sen L J Swanepoel

Inkatha Freedom Party

Prof H Ngubane

Ms S C Vos

Freedom Front

Mnr P W Grobbelaar

Democratic Party

Ms M Smuts

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

Mrs P de Lille

This list below encompasses all MPs who have consistently attended meetings of the Committee over the entire year while waiting for their membership to be processed.

African National Congress

- Ms I W Direko
- Ms T Gamdana
- Ms M B Gxowa
- Ms E N Lubidla
- Ms F Mahomed
- Ms N S Mtsweni
- Ms N A A Njobe
- Ms M Seperepere
- Ms B P Sonjica
- Ms N Tsheole
- Ms L Ngwenya

Chairperson: Pregs Govender

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