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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**  
**Thirty-first session**  
6-23 July 2004

**Responses to the list of issues and questions for consideration of  
the combined second, third, fourth and fifth periodic reports**

**Constitution, laws and national machinery**

2. Under Equatorial Guinea's legal system, international conventions prevail over any existing or future domestic law once they have been ratified by the President of

well as to promote media coverage of events designed for the same purpose. The

national resources and management of the nation's wealth, and are equitably represented in the country's political, social, economic and cultural structures. In order to achieve this goal, the policy is divided into four strategic areas, each of which encompasses many strategic goals.

The policy's main strategic aims are to:

(a) Improve the legal framework and improve women's access to decision-making bodies. (Law);

(b) Promote women's capacity to sustain themselves economically. (Economy);

(c) Ensure that women and men enjoy equal access to basic services and a healthy environment. (Health);

(d) Strengthen institutional machinery for women's advancement. (Education).

The policy will be implemented, and given concrete form, through a Plan of Action. Although this Plan is still at the drafting stage, actions and activities are already being carried out under the National Gender Policy.

9. The phrase "differences are observed in practice" thus refers to everyday life and to behaviour that is not based on equal rights and opportunities or on respect for women, as noted in the response to question 5.

Because most marriages are contracted in accordance with tradition or custom, and because there are no laws governing these practices, the Government is currently working on a draft act regulating customary marriages.

#### **Temporary special measures**

10. This is an election year for bodies such as the House of Representatives and Parliament, and some 150 women have presented themselves as candidates or delegates. If women accounted for at least 30 per cent of the members of the House of Representatives, more attention would be paid to gender issues in the preparation and adoption of laws and regulations providing for equal rights and opportunities, and those condemning acts of discrimination against women.

#### **Social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women**

11.

2. Uses deception, violence, or authority against a person over the age of twenty-three in order to satisfy indecent desires ... shall be liable to a sentence of short-term ordinary imprisonment of between four and six years and general disqualification in the case of a public authority or public official and a specific disqualification in the case of other individuals.”

Paragraphs (b) and (c) of the same article provide, respectively, for prison sentences of two to four years for accomplices and sentences of six months to two years and four months for owners, managers, administrators and employees of

The report refers to women and children from abroad, mainly from Benin, who appear to be related but whose exact relationship is not easy to determine due to the “conspiracy of silence” among them. Mostly, the children are listed in the women’s passports as their own children. However, if, when they reach adolescence, the authorities identify a case of trafficking, the putative family bond is dissolved, and the individual is free either to return to his or her country of origin or to remain in Equatorial Guinea.

## Education

19. (a) Enrolled in or attending school: girls 49 per cent, boys 50.5 per cent
- (b) Drop-out rate: primary 43 per cent; secondary 29 per cent; university 11 per cent
- (c) Pregnancies at primary and secondary levels: rural areas 8 and 12 per cent, respectively; urban areas 4 per cent

Girls drop out because of early pregnancy and marriage; children also drop out because they are failing in school and want to find employment as unskilled labour or because they have no means of subsistence in the large cities of Malabo and Bata.

At the secondary and university levels, the drop-out rate for men and women is 24.3 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively.

Measures adopted by the Government include: the establishment of experimental centres, in particular in Bata and Malabo, to provide evening primary education for over-age children and evening high school diploma courses for adults. A number of secondary and university level educational centres have also been established.

- 160 primary education centres in rural areas and 64 high school diploma programmes in district and municipal capitals throughout the country;
- Between 2001 and 2004, 600 pre-school, 1,600 primary level and approximately 250 secondary level teachers, both men and women, were appointed.

20. The “Education for All” programme is somewhat similar. Its primary objective is to ensure basic education for all segments of society. When enrolling, people must state their family name, given names, age, sex and place of residence, but no information is required concerning ethnicity; therefore it is not possible to provide statistics broken down by ethnic groups.

The situation regarding professional and occupational training is as follows:

- One accredited professional training centre in Bata (the “Modesto Gené Roig”

**School enrolment rates**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Enrolment rate</i>			<i>School-age children</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
5-9	98.5	98.0	98.9	30.6	31.1	30.2
10-14	96.4	96.3	96.6	26.3	26.8	25.8
15-19	84.8	95.2	75.1	24.5	24.0	25.1
20-24	44.5	51.9	37.5	18.5	18.1	18.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.6</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source:* Statistical and National Accounts Office.

**Literacy levels**

<i>Age</i>	<i>Male</i>			<i>Female</i>	
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Can read and write</i>	<i>Cannot read and write</i>	<i>Can read and write</i>	<i>Cannot read and write</i>
5-9	149.575	52.878	18.860	52.321	25.516
10-14	1j 2950.26(14) Tj 9.9219 0 TD 0 Tc -0.3709 Tw ( ) Tj 27.2852 0 .25 10.5 re h W n BT 0.9071 9071 0 0 1 246 fe0 0				





24. The Government has adopted the following measures for the advancement of women:

- (a) Free and preferential vocational training;
- (b) Social security contribution incentives for enterprises which hire women;
- (c) Special protection for women during pregnancy pursuant to article 52 of the Labour Act.

25. Although there have been some changes, a majority of the economically active population still works in the agricultural sector (mostly growing traditional export crops), followed by the service sector (28.8 per cent) and retail trade (7.4 per cent).

#### **Economically active population broken down by gender and sector**

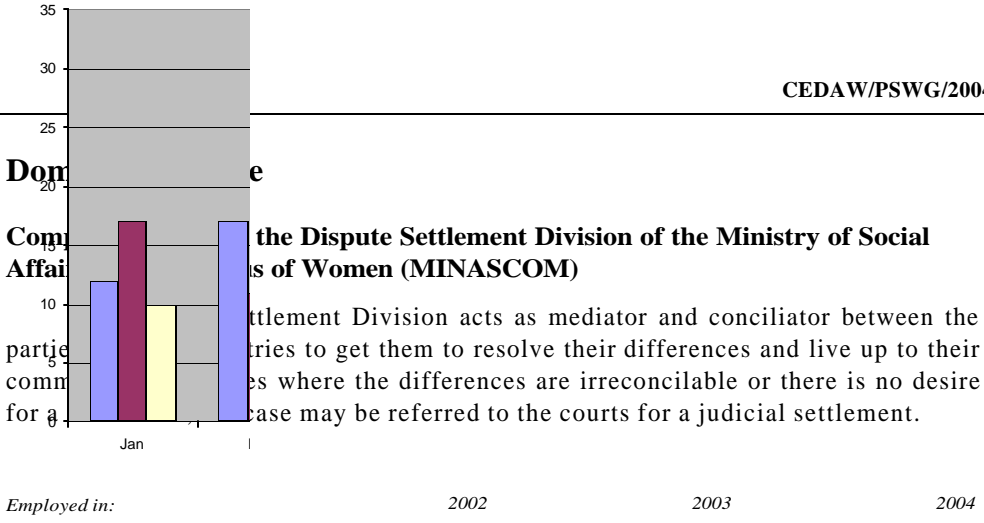
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i> <i>%</i>	<i>Men</i> <i>%</i>	<i>Women</i> <i>%</i>
Farming, ranching, fishing, forestry	219 134	93 8				

## **Health**

29. HIV/AIDS

The national reproductive health policy is reflected in the draft law on reproductive health, which is awaiting approval by Parliament. The law prioritizes the following:

- Risk-free maternity, gynaecological care, diagnosis and treatment of neonatal problems and follow-up care (growth, nutrition, child vaccination), comprehensive approach to childhood illnesses up to 5 years old and health care for children between 6 and 9 years old.
- The law includes specific measures for women and children living with HIV/AIDS, considers abortion to be a crime as specified in the Penal Code altho



**Summary of complaints**

<i>Complaints</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2004</i>
Mediated	163	198	19
Mediated, settled in court	35	61	7
Settled in court	6	12	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>23</b>

*Source:* Dispute Settlement Division (MINASCOM).

Mediated

ü Mediated, settled in court

