



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Sixty-fifth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 1458th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 10 November 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Hayashi

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

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

Sixth periodic report of the Netherlands (continued) (CEDAW/C/NLD/6; CEDAW/C/NLD/Q/6 and Add.1)

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

Articles 7 to 9

2. **Ms. Nadaraia** said that she would appreciate an explanation of why female representation in local politics was still so low, having barely increased over the years, and why there were no official statistics on the participation of black, migrant and refugee women in politics. She would also be interested to learn whether the Government planned to investigate structural obstacles to women's political participation in municipal councils and whether it would consult with local administrators for that purpose.

3. While the Government was to be congratulated for achieving its target of appointing women to 30 per cent of senior civil service posts, the underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions and senior academic positions had not been addressed. The Committee also wished to know why no public commitment had been made to addressing the problem of female underrepresentation in academia, especially in scientific and technological disciplines.

4. Regarding women's representation in the international arena, it was laudable that increased numbers of high-level diplomatic positions were held by women. In that regard, the State party was requested to indicate the time frame for achieving full gender equality in the diplomatic service, along with any additional policies that might be beneficial for women diplomats.

5. She was also interested to learn what steps the Government was taking to promote international norms on gender equality, since the Committee had been informed of a lack of gender mainstreaming in the design and implementation of policies, programmes and projects in areas other than women's rights and sexual and reproductive health care. The Committee would be grateful for an explanation for why funding modalities under the Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW) programme had shifted from Southern-based women's rights organizations to Northern-based NGOs.

6. **Ms. Bussemaker** (Netherlands) said that her Government strove to increase women's participation in politics; however, changing the law to introduce quotas required parliamentary and municipal support that was not always forthcoming. The current approach was to stimulate discussion and to encourage political parties to recruit female members and to select them as candidates. Moreover, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations was funding an orientation programme for people interested in mayoral vacancies, in which women were especially invited to participate. Women accounted for 76 out of 334 Dutch mayors, a number that was steadily rising. No data were available on migrant and ethnic women in politics; however, the Government engaged with and supported Etnische Zaken Vrouwen Nederland, an ethnic businesswomen's foundation. The Netherlands had some way to travel in that regard and needed to carry out more work to create opportunities for ethnic minority and migrant women.

7. With regard to gender mainstreaming and funding modalities, she said that the 2016-2020 edition of the FLOW initiative did not differ greatly from its predecessor and that it would finance 10 programmes led by international NGOs in conjunction with 100,000

partner organizations in 36 countries. As to the representation of women in senior diplomatic positions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had given special attention to the training of managers, detection of prejudice, the composition of selection panels and the nomination of women to visible offices. The Ministry had worked hard to facilitate women's progress in the diplomatic service and was making slow but steady progress.

Articles 10 to 14

8. **Ms. Gbedemah** commended the Netherlands for its overall performance in education and for the Compulsory Youth Training project in Curaçao. However, the Committee remained concerned about gender stereotyping, which had been an issue raised in its last concluding observations. Given that alternative sources had reported that comparatively few girls chose technical studies at the secondary and tertiary levels, she would be interested to learn whether the Government envisaged temporary special measures to address the problem and to meet European Union targets.

9. In respect of Aruba, the Committee was concerned to note that the ratio of boys to girls decreased at each higher level of education, and it wished to know what corrective measures might be taken in that regard. Considering the troubling statistic that the number of boys progressing to senior secondary general education (HAVO) was almost 50 per cent lower than those attending junior secondary general education (MAVO), could the Government provide an explanation for the phenomenon?

10. As regards Curaçao, the State party's report showed that there was significant horizontal gender segregation at the University of the Netherlands Antilles, which turned out twice as many female graduates as male ones. The delegation should therefore indicate how the Government intended to reverse that trend and should comment on reports that the education system was not responsive to the needs of the socially disadvantaged. Had the Government assessed the compatibility of the education system with relevant gender indicators? The Committee also wished to learn how the Netherlands planned to tackle the specificities of education in its non-metropolitan territory in order to attain uniformity with the rest of the Kingdom, to prevent brain drain and to increase the visibility of minorities.

11. The Committee would be interested to know how the Government planned to address legislative shortcomings in relation to pregnancy-related discrimination in the higher-education workplace, since Dutch universities appeared reluctant to hire female candidates or to provide additional research time to compensate for maternity and paternity leave. The delegation should also comment on how the Netherlands intended to increase the number of female professors, which was below the European Union average.

12. **Mr. Bruun**, having commended the Netherlands for its action plan on discrimination in the labour market and its efforts to increase economic independence for women, said that the State party should pay special attention to the situation of minority groups and women who might face intersectional discrimination. More information was needed on how the Government planned to guarantee women's access to the labour market and to remedy any discrimination that they might face. He also wished to know the extent to which the large proportion of women engaged in part-time work was the result of free choice rather than a structural problem, given that the figures in that respect had changed little since the State party's last report. Did the Government envisage decisive measures to support women's transition from part-time to full-time work?

13. Mindful that difficulties in accessing childcare diminished women's opportunities for full-time work, the Committee wished to know how the State party could improve the availability of affordable childcare services and how it might encourage fathers to take parental leave. Information would also be appreciated on measures to address pregnancy-related discrimination in the workplace, as reported by 43 per cent of women, and to amend

the narrow definition of sexual harassment, which had been criticized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and had resulted in few cases being brought. The Committee would be interested to learn of the Government's current position on the ratification of the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), in view of the fact that domestic workers still did not enjoy full social rights.

14. **Ms. Nwankwo** said that she welcomed the steps taken by the State party to enhance awareness of the need for gender-aware health care among stakeholders and wished to know whether those initiatives were applied throughout the State party's territory and what had been their outcomes. Had they been allocated resources, and did they take intersectional discrimination into account?

15. Referring to the reportedly low prevalence of contraceptive use in Curaçao, despite the fact that contraceptives were covered by health insurance and could be purchased inexpensively, she would be grateful if the delegation could provide an updated figure on the prevalence of contraceptive use on the island. The delegation should also describe the barriers faced by teenagers and by vulnerable women in accessing contraceptives and any State measures taken to overcome those barriers.

16. The State party had reported that abortion was illegal on Sint Maarten and that the Penal Code sanctioned those providing information or services in that regard, although that legislation was being revised and a new policy drafted. The Committee would therefore welcome information on the scope and implementation of the new policy on sexual and reproductive rights, along with details of consultations held and of whether conflicting laws had been identified and assessed for potential amendment. Since menstrual regulation medication was still not available from pharmacies, the Committee wished to know whether the Government would accept the Supreme Court ruling to the effect that menstrual regulation was not subject to abortion legislation and thus did not have to take place in an abortion clinic.

17. Finally, information should be provided on the steps taken to provide care for persons living with HIV/AIDS, considering reports that Curaçao was facing a shortage of HIV-specific health-care specialists and difficulties in the supply of antiretroviral medications, while Aruba was experiencing increased incidence of the disease. Such information might describe the formulation of new plans, consultations with civil society, the allocation of resources and timetables for the adoption and implementation of measures.

18. **Ms. Bussemaker** (Netherlands) said that her country had recently seen a welcome shift in girls' subject choices, with between 40 and 55 per cent of girls now electing to take a technical subject in secondary education. In tertiary education, the proportion of girls in science and technology courses had climbed to between 20 and 30 per cent. Those figures were the result of concrete measures by the Government, which had encouraged companies active in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to arrange open days for girls aged 10 to 15 years. Other initiatives included a role model project involving a database of women working in STEM professions and a pact with representatives of employers, employees and regions that sought to make technology careers attractive to both girls and boys.

19. The Government acknowledged that the Netherlands was underperforming in terms of the number of female professors. While female students formed a large majority at some Dutch universities, it was less common to find women in senior academic positions. However, professors and university boards had finally recognized that the current situation was undesirable and efforts were under way to remedy it. Universities and faculties had been asked to set targets for female appointments, while the Ministry of Education planned to provide financial support for a national network to link up female professors and it would shortly submit a letter to the Parliament on talent development in academia.

20. Academic centres were obliged to look after the interests of students who were pregnant or had young children, and they had the legal and financial leeway to do so. Measures taken in that regard included a compensation fund for students whose studies had been delayed by pregnancy or sickness, an investigation into the practical problems experienced by students and the launch of a pilot project on flexible study arrangements. Universities were empowered to find solutions for pregnant employees, for example by extending their temporary contracts or converting them into permanent ones. The Government believed that new legislation to protect the position of flexible workers would not be detrimental to the protection of pregnant women, and it hoped to see a cultural change in academia and in the workforce.

21. Literacy and basic skills programmes were run at the municipal level for persons who lacked schooling or had no previous work experience in order to enable them to access the labour market. Women chose to work part-time of their own volition; while the Government wished to encourage women to be economically independent, it did not wish to make it a legal requirement for them to work more hours. The Flexible Working Arrangements Act guaranteed the right of employees to increase or decrease their working hours according to their needs. A request for flexible working arrangements could only be denied if granting it would entail serious economic or organizational consequences for the company in question. Under the Act, employees could also request to telecommute, which could prove useful if they also had caring responsibilities. Discrimination on the grounds of working hours was prohibited by Dutch law.

22. The Government was committed to helping both men and women to reconcile their work and family lives. Under the amended Work and Care Act, fathers were now entitled to five days of paid paternity leave instead of two. Moreover, an information campaign had been launched to raise awareness among workers and employers of the different flexible working arrangements and leave schemes provided for under Dutch law. An online budgeting tool had been developed to help couples who had to combine work and caring responsibilities to determine the financial feasibility of one or both partners working part-time.

23. The decision to increase the budgetary allocations for childcare had made that service more affordable and, consequently, the option of combining work and caring responsibilities more attractive to couples with children. The previous few years had witnessed an increase in the number of children placed in childcare, including children from low-income families. Municipal authorities had been allocated additional resources to support the implementation of policies and programmes to alleviate poverty and debt. The Government was working to encourage more low-income parents to avail themselves of childcare services prior to their children beginning compulsory primary education.

24. The Government and the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights had organized a dialogue with relevant stakeholders for the purpose of devising a common approach to tackling discrimination in the labour market. A progress report on the implementation of the national action plan to combat discrimination in the labour market would be submitted to the Parliament in 2017, along with further information on the additional measures to be taken in that connection. A number of information campaigns to raise public awareness of labour market discrimination and of the need to put an end to it had been launched and the relevant section of the Government's website had been updated.

25. A new law intended to improve the situation of domestic workers in the publicly funded care system was due to enter into force on 1 January 2017. However, privately employed domestic workers providing care to ill or elderly persons would not benefit from that law. An information campaign to raise awareness among publicly and privately funded domestic workers and their employers of their respective rights and responsibilities had been launched in October 2015.

26. There had been no reduction in the funding allocated to initiatives to prevent female genital mutilation. The Government continued to subsidize the activities of the national network set up to combat that phenomenon.

27. The Netherlands applied the criteria set out in the European Union Code of Conduct on Arms Exports when processing requests for the export of military equipment. Pursuant to criterion 2 on respect for human rights in the final destination country, the risk of the equipment in question being used to violate international human rights and humanitarian law was duly assessed and, if such a risk was found to exist, the request was rejected. The Netherlands understood the human rights referred to in criterion 2 to encompass women's rights.

28. **Ms. Hooyboer-Winklaar** (Netherlands) said that, in Aruba, compulsory education lasted until 17 years of age and that the gender disparity in the different forms of secondary education could be explained by the fact that, prior to completing their primary education, students were tested and placed in either an academic or a vocational stream on the basis of their academic aptitude. The Government of Aruba recognized that the existing system did not always serve the needs or successfully gauge the potential of students on account of its rigidity, which sometimes had the effect of perpetuating gender stereotypes. As part of its commitment to make the existing system more flexible, the Government was attempting to reduce recourse to testing as the sole means of determining students' academic aptitude.

29. A survey conducted in 2012 had showed that a large number of girls tended to dislike or feel that they underperformed in mathematics, which often informed the direction that they took in their future studies. In an effort to encourage more girls to study scientific subjects, the mathematics curriculum had been redesigned and teachers had been provided with training on how to deliver the content of the new curriculum in a more user-friendly manner. The statistical data provided did not reflect the number of students attending higher education institutions outside Aruba.

30. Regrettably, the number of new HIV infections, which had remained stable for several years, had risen in 2016. Contrary to the trend observed in other Caribbean countries, the vast majority of the persons newly infected with HIV in Aruba were men. The increase had occurred despite contraceptives being provided free of charge under the country's universal health-care system. Several information campaigns to raise public awareness of the risks of unprotected sex and of the availability of free contraceptives had been launched in an attempt to reverse that trend. It was hoped that the strides made in mainstreaming sex education in schools would encourage students to take steps to protect their sexual and reproductive health.

31. **Ms. Nisbet** (Netherlands) said that, in Curaçao, the low enrolment rate of boys in higher education could be attributed to the fact that they were less interested in pursuing their studies than their female counterparts. Although the Government of Curaçao recognized that the key to increasing boys' participation in higher education lay in convincing them of its merits and in providing them with equal opportunities to reach their full potential at both the primary and secondary education level, it had yet to take any specific measures in that connection.

32. In Curaçao, low-income parents were entitled to subsidized childcare and all children aged between 0 and 4 years who came from a low-income family were entitled to free health care. A sexual and reproductive health education programme had been introduced in secondary schools in 2009.

33. **Ms. Arnell** (Netherlands) said that, although, strictly speaking, abortion remained illegal in Sint Maarten, the national sexual and reproductive health policy set out a number of commitments relating to the medical termination of a pregnancy, including a commitment to guarantee women access to abortion services, counselling and post-abortion

care. Once the policy had been formally adopted, all laws that would otherwise impede its implementation would be amended. No time frame had been established for the completion of that process.

34. The majority of the girls who had dropped out of school on account of pregnancy were aged between 18 and 19 years and were therefore considered to be adults. In Sint Maarten, compulsory education lasted until 18 years of age. Whereas, in the past, girls who had become pregnant two or three times had been discouraged from returning to school, girls who had dropped out several times before were now encouraged to remain in school for as long as possible, especially if they were due to sit an examination, and to return when it was feasible for them to do so.

35. **Ms. Juliet-Pablo** (Netherlands) said that, in Curaçao, the high prevalence of HIV remained a serious problem and that various campaigns to educate primary, secondary, vocational and pre-university students about sexual and reproductive rights and responsible sexual behaviour had been launched in an attempt to curb the HIV infection rate.

36. **Ms. Gbedemah** said that it would be useful for the different jurisdictions making up the Kingdom of the Netherlands to work together to streamline or develop common education standards as a means of curbing the brain drain experienced by the Caribbean jurisdictions. She asked whether the State party planned to undertake such an initiative in the near future and what steps had been taken to ensure that the education system in the Caribbean jurisdictions responded effectively to the needs of students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

37. **Ms. Nwankwo** said that she would appreciate additional information on the rate of use of contraceptives and medication for menstrual regulation in the different jurisdictions, as well as an update on the state of implementation of the strategy for mainstreaming a gender perspective in the health-care system.

38. **Ms. Bussemaker** (Netherlands) said that the different jurisdictions shared best practices in the field of education policy and inspection through, inter alia, periodic conferences. Secondary students from the Caribbean jurisdictions who were eligible to continue their studies at a Dutch university were informed of the practicalities of moving to the Netherlands ahead of time.

39. According to the Dutch Penal Code, a general practitioner who administered treatment to a pregnant woman knowing or suspecting that it could terminate her pregnancy was liable to criminal prosecution unless he or she was in possession of a permit and administered the treatment in a legally sanctioned health-care facility. The Government wished to broaden women's access to abortion services by providing them with the option of obtaining such services from their general practitioner, who would be familiar with their medical history and personal circumstances, as well as from anonymous abortion clinics in cases where the need for discretion was paramount. In any case, it was up to the woman herself to decide which setting best suited her needs.

40. **Ms. Arnell** (Netherlands) said that the majority of secondary school students from the Caribbean jurisdictions who went on to pursue higher education did so in the Netherlands, where admission was contingent upon them having attained a certain standard of education. The Government was moving towards the adoption of a national health insurance system, which would cover the cost of contraceptives. In the meantime, a Government-subsidized NGO distributed condoms and dispensed training to health-care professionals on how to promote the use of contraceptives and responsible sexual behaviour.

41. **Ms. Juliet-Pablo** (Netherlands) said that the delegation would provide statistical data on the contraceptive use rate in Curaçao within 48 hours.

42. **Ms. Hooyboer-Winklaar** (Netherlands) said that, although there were well-established channels of cooperation among the different jurisdictions in the field of education, there was still a need to strengthen those channels to keep pace with evolving educational practices. Contraceptives were available free of charge to persons resident in Aruba under the country's universal health-care system and could be accessed by persons in an irregular immigration situation through a Government-run service.

43. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** said that she still had doubts over whether the new policy intended to encourage families to take on more informal caring responsibilities in respect of ill or elderly relatives actually took full account of the differential impact of such responsibilities on men and women. Although it appeared from the statistical data provided that the gap between the proportion of men and women providing informal care to ill or elderly family members was relatively small, those data reflected only the situation of informal caregivers who also worked 12 hours or more each week and so did not illustrate the gender gap accurately. Indeed, a number of studies suggested that almost 70 per cent of informal caregivers were women and that the intensive nature of the care that they provided often precluded them from participating in the labour market, which was not the case for men. She asked what measures the State party had taken to guarantee a more equal distribution of informal care responsibilities between men and women, to address the differential impact of providing informal care on men and women's participation in the labour market and to ensure that the increasing need for informal care arrangements did not disproportionately encumber women.

44. **Ms. Gabr** said that she regretted the lack of information and statistical data in the State party's report on the situation of rural women, women with disabilities and older women and on the steps taken to address the concerns raised by the Committee in its previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/5) over the feminization of poverty in the Netherlands, the increased poverty and isolation of older women and single mothers, the negative impact of social security reforms on their living conditions and the consequences of cuts in the health-care system for older women. Moreover, the statistical data annexed to the State party's written replies (CEDAW/C/NLD/Q.6/Add.1) were presented in such a way that it was difficult to discern meaningful trends in the economic independence of women. She requested the delegation to outline the main trends in that connection and to explain how those data were used in practice.

45. She said that she wished to know what efforts had been made to combat the stereotypes that made it harder for vulnerable groups of women, including migrants and women with disabilities, to find employment. In view of information indicating that the State party intended to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, she asked whether programmes specifically targeting women with disabilities would be developed. Information about the situation of women living in non-urban areas of the Dutch Caribbean, in particular regarding their access to transport, would be welcome, as would a brief account of the efforts the State party had made to implement the Committee's general recommendations Nos. 27 and 34.

Articles 15 and 16

46. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** said that she would welcome information on the steps taken by the State party to raise awareness among judicial officials of the importance of removing obstacles to the dissolution of forced marriages and to ensure that women who left marriages that were tantamount to captivity were safe from reprisals. In addition, she wished to know whether the State party's courts defaulted to ordering the shared physical custody of children even in high-conflict divorces, as that arrangement, according to at least one study, led to outcomes for children worse than those of any other custody arrangement.

47. In connection with the division of marital property, she wondered whether any measures had been taken — for example, by viewing human capital as part of the property to be equally divided upon divorce or dissolution of a marriage — to ensure that people whose marriages had ended were compensated for any reduction of their earning potential caused by their decision to play traditional gender roles or by other structural inequalities. She also wondered what steps the Government intended to take to ensure that illiterate or uneducated migrant women were not disproportionately affected by the requirement to pass a civic integration test to be eligible for family reunification.

48. **Ms. Bussemaker** (Netherlands) said that municipalities had become increasingly responsible for managing the provision of long-term care, in particular informal care. A new regulation, set to enter into force in early 2017, stated that informal caregivers who were not direct relatives of the person to whom they were providing care were to be offered regular employment contracts. At a 2015 expert meeting on gender-sensitive policies of local governments, the more equal sharing of the burden of providing care had been discussed. In addition, local officials had been encouraged to take a more gender-sensitive approach to informal caregivers in their jurisdictions. Discussion of the difficult relationship between providing long-term informal care and finding paid work was currently on the public agenda.

49. As a small, densely populated country, the Netherlands had no rural population to speak of. In addition, economic statistics showed that there were very few differences between women living in highly urbanized areas and those living in less urbanized areas. The greater differences were between migrant and non-migrant women or between women with and without disabilities. The extensive statistical information published by Statistics Netherlands and the Netherlands Institute for Social Research enabled the authorities to monitor those differences.

50. The Government had launched a comprehensive plan to combat discrimination against ethnic minorities in the labour market. Efforts had also been made to stimulate the hiring of persons with disabilities, including women. A recently launched plan focused on reducing unemployment among older workers.

51. The Netherlands had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2016. The process had taken a long time because it had first been necessary to ensure that all the country's laws were compatible with the Convention, article 6 of which concerned women with disabilities.

52. Health care in the Netherlands, including for asylum seekers and migrants in an irregular situation, was of the same high standard for all. Support for older or disabled women was generally the responsibility of the municipalities.

53. **Ms. Verleg** (Netherlands) said that shared child custody was the preferred outcome in divorce cases. If parental conflict made such an arrangement impractical, however, the courts asked the Child Protection Board to make a recommendation on what was in the best interests of the child, in which case custody could be awarded to one parent. Partner and child maintenance could offset for the drop in a woman's income after a divorce.

54. **Ms. Bussemaker** (Netherlands) said that since women, single mothers in particular, were disproportionately likely to be poor, steps had been taken to improve their situation. For instance, the Government funded the organization Single SuperMom and, although the anti-poverty policies of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment were officially gender-neutral, Ministry officials were well aware that single mothers and other groups, such as migrant women, often needed special assistance and thus shifted the focus of their efforts accordingly.

55. **Ms. Hooyboer-Winklaar** (Netherlands) said that Aruba was too small for there to be the kind of differences in rural and urban areas that could be found on larger Caribbean islands. Migrant women in an irregular situation, who did not have full access to health care and generally lived in poverty, were the most vulnerable group of women on the island. The authorities attempted to ensure that basic services were provided to all without creating incentives for further irregular immigration.

56. **Ms. Hofmeister** said that she would welcome information, as she had noted earlier, about the role municipalities had played in illegally requiring sex workers to register with the authorities.

57. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** said that the delegation had not commented on the State party's efforts to combat marital captivity or forced marriage. She would welcome a comment on the possibly disparate impact on women of burdensome family reunification requirements. She asked whether the Child Protection Board, in making recommendations on custody arrangements, was required to consider any instance of domestic violence, whether directed at the child or one of his or her parents. In addition, the delegation should elaborate on plans to introduce time limits to post-divorce maintenance awards, in respect of which she drew the attention of the State party to the Committee's general recommendation No. 29.

58. **Ms. Gabr** said that the delegation should comment on reports that women in less urbanized areas of the State party, including in the Caribbean, did not have access to public transport or the labour market on an equal basis with other women. A comment on the efforts that the State party had made to protect the human rights of older women — the topic of the Committee's general recommendation No. 27 — would also be welcome.

59. **Ms. Bussemaker** (Netherlands) said that the bill on the regulation of prostitution and combating abuses in the sex industry had been amended to remove the provisions on the compulsory registration of prostitutes. The bill had been adopted by the House of Representatives and was expected to come up for a vote in the Senate in the coming months.

60. It was not yet possible to determine whether the institution of integration requirements in 2013, which newcomers had three years to fulfil, had had a disparate impact on any particular group. The impact of the requirements would be evaluated, but it should not be surprising if it turned out to be greater on women than on men, as women ordinarily accounted for the larger share of those arriving in the Netherlands for the purpose of family reunification.

61. She acknowledged that in some areas of the Netherlands, birth rates were falling and young people were moving away. The authorities would keep the possible implications of those demographic shifts in mind.

62. **Ms. Verleg** (Netherlands) said that in high-conflict divorces, judges could order official supervision of custody and other arrangements. The authorities had recently sought input from the public on solutions to the complex problems posed by custody arrangements and divorce. Lawmakers had not yet decided whether to introduce time limits for post-divorce maintenance.

63. **Ms. Juliet-Pablo** (Netherlands) said that although support was provided, access to transport and thus to the labour market or training venues could be difficult for some women in Curaçao.

64. **Ms. Bussemaker** (Netherlands) said that, in early 2017, the authorities, in partnership with civil society organizations, would hold a conference on how to implement the Committee's recommendations. Together, the Government and civil society would continue making efforts to ensure gender equality in the four countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 5 p.m.