



# Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

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## Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Sixty-eighth session

### Summary record of the 1559th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Friday, 10 November 2017, at 3 p.m.

Chair: Ms. Leinarte

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(continued)

*Combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Guatemala (continued)*

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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)*

*Combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Guatemala (continued)*  
([CEDAW/C/GTM/8-9](#); [CEDAW/C/GTM/Q/8-9](#) and [CEDAW/C/GTM/Q/8-9/Add.1](#))

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

*Articles 10 to 14*

2. **Ms. Song Wenyan** said that, according to alternative reports, indigenous girls spent only one year at school, only 3 out of every 10 indigenous girls reached the third year of primary school, only 2 out of 10 such girls reached the sixth year of primary school and only 31 per cent of indigenous women knew how to read and write. In view of that situation, she asked what measures the State party was taking, or intended to take, in order to improve the education of indigenous girls.

3. She asked whether the State party had assessed the efficiency of its education policies and programmes, whether it had run programmes to raise parents' awareness of the importance of educating girls, whether women's groups, charity organizations and the business community contributed to efforts to improve girls' education and whether a system of punishments and incentives had been established to encourage parents to send their girls to school.

4. She wished to know whether the education centres mentioned in paragraph 64 of the replies to the list of issues ([CEDAW/C/GTM/Q/8-9/Add.1](#)) as being part of the road map for caring for pregnant girls and adolescents were mainstream schools. She also asked what steps were taken when education centres refused to accept girls who had given birth, whether the road map was well publicized in all parts of the country, including rural areas, whether the impact of the programme had been assessed and what other steps the State party intended to take to improve the education of young mothers. She would welcome more information on the main elements of "the improved care for pregnant girls" mentioned in that paragraph.

5. The Committee wished to know whether schools provided age-appropriate education on sexuality and, if not, whether they intended to do so and whether a follow-up study had been conducted to determine what percentage of parents taught their children about sexuality and what form that teaching took.

6. Commending the State party for its efforts to improve the education of girls with disabilities, she asked whether all such girls had equal access to education.

7. **Ms. Arocha Domínguez** said that she wished to know whether the gender perspective incorporated into the country's policies in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development included specific strategies aimed at ensuring that women were prepared to enter the formal labour market. She also asked what steps would be taken to eliminate the informal labour market and what measures had been adopted to reduce disparities in the employment conditions enjoyed by men and women and between women working in different sectors and at different levels.

8. She asked whether the State party would consider ratifying the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and what obstacles had prevented it from doing so already. Noting that domestic workers were sometimes dismissed for taking sick leave for short periods, she asked what steps were being taken to prevent dismissals on such grounds and whether it was the case that some domestic workers were required to undergo tests for pregnancy or HIV/AIDS.

9. Noting that the complaints by domestic workers, cited in the replies to the list of issues, all appeared to concern only financial matters, she asked whether an investigation had been conducted into acts of sexual harassment and violence committed against such workers. She wished to know what action was taken in response to complaints filed by

domestic workers, how many employers had been sanctioned in that regard, whether a mechanism had been established to assess the conditions of domestic workers and punish employers who violated workers' rights and what measures had been taken to eliminate child domestic labour.

10. The Committee wished to know whether sexual harassment in either the formal or the informal labour sector had been criminalized and whether any mechanism had been established to detect incidents of sexual harassment and to enable victims to file complaints.

11. Noting that the State party aimed to reduce the number of complaints of violations of labour rights in the offshore assembly industry (maquila), she asked whether it aimed merely to reduce the number of complaints or also to reduce the number of violations. She wished to know what steps had been taken to detect and prevent violations of workers' rights in the maquila sector, whether any study of the risks associated with that sector had been carried out and whether the labour inspection system was empowered to inspect the sector.

12. **Ms. Chalal** said that, while she commended the State party for attempting to improve conditions for the country's women, she was concerned to note that rates of chronic malnutrition and maternal mortality remained high, that significant disparities existed in the accessibility of health care in different regions of the country and that a relatively small proportion of the State budget had been allocated to health care, leading to the emergence of costly private health-care services. Moreover, the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services was inadequate, particularly for indigenous women and girls; the use of contraception was limited among some communities; abortion was criminalized unless a woman's life was at risk; women and girls with disabilities were forcibly sterilized or forced to undergo abortions; persons with mental health problems at the Federico Mora National Mental Health Hospital suffered ill-treatment; and insufficient resources were allocated to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

13. In view of that situation, she asked what steps would be taken to prevent and combat chronic malnutrition in the most severely affected areas, whether the inter-institutional administrative protocol on chronic malnutrition established in accordance with a decision by the Constitutional Court had been adopted, whether the budget allocated to health services would be increased in order to enhance access to health care in rural areas, what additional measures would be taken to guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health services and ensure that children received sex education and whether the importance of using contraception would be highlighted in the media and publicized in different languages.

14. She wished to know whether the State party would consider legalizing abortion in cases where the pregnancy had been caused by rape or incest and in cases of fetal malformation. Lastly, she asked what steps would be taken to protect the human rights of patients in the Federico Mora National Mental Health Hospital.

15. **Ms. Teleguario Sincal** (Guatemala) said that a series of meetings had been held with representatives of various bodies, including Congress, with a view to ratifying ILO Convention No. 189. Both the employers' and the employees' sector had agreed on the need to adopt the Convention and the Government had referred the matter to Congress. In 2016, the bill on the adoption of the Convention had been awaiting its third reading prior to adoption.

16. In the period 2009-2016, 1,919 cases relating to the failure of employers to pay money owed to domestic workers had been processed. Some 213 similar complaints had been lodged by women working in the agricultural sector.

17. Women's organizations had collaborated with the National Office for Women's Affairs and the Women Workers' Unit of the Ministry of Labour to discuss how best to protect the rights of domestic workers. Amendments had been made to the Labour Code to facilitate the inspection of the conditions of domestic workers. In 2016/17, around 65,000 inspections and 34,000 visits to private companies, including maquilas, had been conducted. The Inspector General for Labour had overseen over 30,000 conciliation processes and recovered over 2 billion quetzales (Q) of workers' salaries. In order to enhance the

protection afforded to women working in the maquila sector, the Ministry of Labour had issued a number of ministerial agreements aimed at facilitating the inspection process and addressing complaints made about the failure of employers to pay their workers after the closure of a factory. The Coordinating Office for the Maquila Industry distributed information on workers' rights to workers, managers and other persons involved in the industry. The Guatemalan Social Security Institute and the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights, among other bodies, had played a key role in ensuring that the agreements in question were implemented. In the period 2009-2017, some 94 per cent of the 8,000 complaints filed by domestic workers, women working in the maquila industry and other private sector workers had been resolved in favour of the workers concerned.

18. **Mr. López Díaz** (Guatemala) said that the Constitutional Court had ruled that children had the right to be educated in their native language in a manner that was culturally relevant to them. The National Literacy Committee provided training in 17 Mayan languages and the Garifuna language. Pursuant to the 2012-2016 education strategy and the 2016-2020 strategic plan, the Ministry of Education had introduced the national basic curriculum in all State-run and private schools and had drawn up documents on "Curriculum implementation by peoples" to facilitate the teaching of the curriculum to the Maya, Xinka and Garifuna peoples. Teacher training programmes were being designed to ensure that teachers were competent to work in a bilingual, intercultural education system.

19. **Ms. Aguilar Theissen** (Guatemala) said that the Ministry of Education provided grants to pupils with disabilities in State-run educational centres at the primary and middle-school level. In the period 2012-2016, over 4,000 such grants had been made.

20. With regard to the challenge of reducing child pregnancy, the main difficulty facing the Government was to find a way of linking up and implementing all the relevant public policy instruments. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health had specific regulations to be implemented in accordance with the policy on appropriate remedies for cases of sexual violence, forced pregnancy and forced maternity in girls and adolescents, which would be adopted as a national policy in the near future. One of the goals of the policy was to ensure that pregnant girls and young mothers could remain in the school system. Congress was currently considering a comprehensive bill on sex education that was intended to bring together a number of existing instruments relating to sex education and ensure their implementation.

21. **Mr. González Valenzuela** (Guatemala) said that chronic malnutrition was a public health problem that required a multisectoral approach. In recent years, the Food Security Secretariat had collaborated with all the institutions involved in the area to formulate an approach to chronic malnutrition that operated at a local level and incorporated the intercultural and gender perspectives. In the areas of reproductive health and malnutrition, it was necessary to produce protocols, manuals and guides that all sectors of the population were able to understand. To that end, a number of manuals on abortion, hypertensive disorders and maternal and neonatal health had been produced. A substantial ring-fenced budget had been set aside for action in the area of reproductive health. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, steps would be taken to introduce sex education in order to help prevent sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy and sexual violence. To the same end, educational and regulatory materials had been drafted to improve the health care provided to adolescents. Quality standards had been drawn up to increase access to health services through the National Adolescent and Youth Pregnancy Prevention Plan of Guatemala (2013-2017) and guidelines had been established to encourage young persons to participate in responsible parenthood schools, at which information was provided by qualified professionals.

22. **Ms. Aguilar Theissen** (Guatemala) said that the provision of adequate mental health care in general was a major challenge for the country. With regard to the Federico Mora National Mental Health Hospital in particular, the Presidential Secretariat for Women had approached the Ministry of Health with a view to determining how many women were in that hospital and in what circumstances and conditions they were being treated. Those data were now being collected; once completed, specific measures to guarantee that the rights of women in the hospital were respected would be taken. Other initiatives for the general population were, however, already under way.

23. Abortion was an emotive issue in her country, and one that urgently needed to be recognized as both a health and a social problem. A public dialogue was required to allow for differing opinions to be heard. To that end, the Presidential Secretariat for Women was working with the Pan American Health Organization and other international organizations to establish a mechanism for promoting dialogue and identifying alternative options, taking into account the legislation in force.

24. The lack of progress made in promoting women's economic empowerment was linked to a legacy of discrimination against certain sectors of the population. An inter-agency strategy was therefore being devised to address the shortage of specific mechanisms, tools and measures for women's economic empowerment, to highlight specific areas of concern and to gather the requisite data. The strategy was also part of an overarching initiative to implement a road map for Latin America on the economic empowerment of women in the changing world of work, which had been adopted at the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

25. **Ms. Song Wenyan**, referring to paragraph 141 of the State party's report (CEDAW/C/GTM/8-9), said that she wished to know what proportion of the 57 per cent of women graduates of higher education were indigenous women and what measures had been taken to encourage women and girls to study non-traditional subjects. She wondered what mechanisms were in place to ensure that distance-learning education for pupils living in rural and indigenous communities was of a high quality and whether teachers visited those areas for face-to-face teaching and mentoring.

26. **Ms. Arocha Domínguez** said that, while she welcomed the introduction of labour inspections, she remained concerned about the precarious situation of women working in the maquila factories, which were often shut down with little warning. The State party should take appropriate measures to ensure that women benefited from labour protection and prevent the sudden closure of factories. She would urge the State party to accelerate efforts to ratify ILO Convention No. 189, since it was essential that women domestic workers should have the right to holiday, maternity and other entitlements.

27. **Ms. Chalal** said that she wished to know to what extent the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Assistance 2011-2015 had helped reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence among women and prevent mother-to-child transmission. Noting that the State party report contained information on the number of medical abortions that had been carried out between 2010 and 2017, she wondered how many unsafe abortions there had been over the same period.

28. **Ms. Acosta Vargas** said that, in view of the high rate of maternal mortality in rural and indigenous areas, she would be interested to know more about the national policy on the midwives of the four peoples of Guatemala.

29. **Ms. Teleguario Sincal** (Guatemala) said that, although significant progress had been made in improving women's access to higher education, the number of women indigenous graduates remained worryingly low. Efforts were therefore being made to set aside specific funding in the education budget to facilitate indigenous women's access to higher education.

30. The maquila factories were shut down only when the women workers needed additional support. Moreover, the use of labour inspections had proved effective in helping reinstate many women who had been unfairly dismissed. The cases that were still to be resolved were probably awaiting the enforcement of court rulings. One of the main objectives of the national policy on decent work was to provide support and guidance to women, in particular those working on their own income-generating activities.

31. **Mr. González Valenzuela** (Guatemala) said that abortion was one of the leading causes of maternal mortality. There were no reliable national data regarding unsafe abortions; however, estimates suggested that unsafe abortions represented as much as 15 per cent of all abortions performed.

32. Traditional midwives promoted intercultural relations and were a strategic component of the health-care system. Without their work in the community, the country's hospitals would not be able to meet the demand for maternity services. The Guatemalan

Social Security Institute, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the armed forces worked alongside the Ministry of Health to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Efforts were made to provide testing and support for victims of sexual violence and foster new perceptions of masculinity.

33. **Ms. Verges** said she was concerned that, despite the economic growth in the country, the poverty rate stood at almost 60 per cent, with women, in particular rural women, indigenous women and women of African descent, disproportionately affected. The unequal distribution of wealth had left more than half of the population living on just US\$ 3 per day. That being so, she wondered how effective the various policies aimed at improving the situation of women had been. She would like to know what measures had been taken to promote women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment by such means as soft loans and to improve women's access to housing, since they were less likely to own their own homes and were at greater risk of eviction. In that connection, she wished to know the status of Resolution No. 99-2016, on facilitating land access for rural women and for Maya, Xinka, Garifuna and mestiza women. Similarly, she wondered whether the 2014 gender equity policy of the Land Fund had improved women's access to land. Lastly, reports indicated that 86 per cent of workers, the vast majority of them women, were employed in the informal sector, which left them without social protection or benefits, and she asked what was being done to extend the coverage of the social protection regime to include such women.

34. **Ms. Arocha Domínguez** said that she would welcome information regarding the agrarian policy adopted in 2014, in particular whether it had sufficient resources to deal with gender-related issues and whether it involved temporary or long-term projects. She was concerned that foreign investments were having an adverse effect on the environment and on rural and indigenous populations. With that in mind, she wondered what measures had been taken or were envisaged to ensure that women could actively participate in the prior, free and informed consultations with the affected populations, namely rural, indigenous and Afro-descendent communities. She wished to know how the Government intended to respond to an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights report, which had raised concerns about the rising phenomenon of violent and forced evictions, often carried out by State armed forces and private security forces, that unduly affected women, particularly women heads of household. In a similar vein, she wondered what was being done to prevent the destruction of natural habitat and traditional sources of food and water.

35. She asked what specific measures were provided for under the National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women 2008-2023 to foster the participation of indigenous women in the country's cultural, economic and social development. Moreover, she wished to underline the need for coherent and comprehensive policies aimed at promoting the inclusion of certain vulnerable groups, such as women with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and addressing the challenges and vulnerabilities that they faced. Lastly, she would be interested to know what attention was paid to the situation of migrant and displaced women; whether the country's migration code contained provisions on non-refoulement and irregular migration; and whether the persons responsible for implementing that code had received appropriate training.

36. **Ms. Aguilar Theissen** (Guatemala) said that Guatemala faced structural challenges that limited its ability to effectively implement its development initiatives, including those aimed specifically at women and certain vulnerable groups. The lack of institutional coordination was partly due to the fact that the Presidential Secretariat for Women had seen both its coordinating role and its mandate reduced. It was clear that, unless and until all public institutions had mainstreamed gender issues into their plans and budgets, established measures for women's economic empowerment and set up monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, the country's hoped-for sustainable development would not be achieved.

37. In relation to agricultural questions and land reform, the importance of coordination, awareness-raising and dissemination had been emphasized, unfortunately to the detriment of the technical dimensions of implementation. The authorities needed to concentrate more on the establishment of effective institutions to give effect to government policies.

38. Activities for migrant women were a priority for the Presidential Secretariat for Women, which made constant efforts to identify their needs and to adopt short-term measures that hopefully would pave the way for longer-term, coherent solutions. The National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women 2008-2023 touched on the problems of migrant women and of other vulnerable groups, including those living with disabilities and those with HIV.

39. **Ms. Teleguario Sincal** (Guatemala) said that Guatemala had ratified the ILO Indigenous and Tribal People's Convention, 1989 (No. 169) in 1996 and that the Ministry of Labour had published guidelines for consultation with indigenous peoples and compliance with that instrument. The Ministry had worked with other government bodies, including the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women's Rights, to ensure that indigenous women were included in consultations. More recently, Congress had considered the adoption of a relevant bill that would further improve consultations and, pursuant to a decision of the Constitutional Court, a law on community consultation would have to be adopted within about six months.

40. To expand economic opportunity for rural women and other groups, the Government had initiated financing and credit programmes for small and medium-sized enterprises, and such programmes offered advantageous conditions for women. In 2016, some 2,700 loans had been granted with a value of about Q 125 million. About 2,000 women in 44 municipalities working in the production of crafts had received subsidies from the Ministry of Social Development. A subsidy and preferential loan programme had also been set up by the Housing Fund, specifically to assist persons living in poverty or extreme poverty, with a focus on women. In 2016, over 2,600 families had benefited from the programme for home construction and over 300 families had received home improvement assistance; additionally, some 3,000 families had received support to provide their homes with basic services.

41. The economic policy for the period 2016-2021 was specifically aimed at encouraging inclusive and sustainable economic growth, for example by creating opportunities for human development, in particular for women. Under an additional programme, persons over the age of 65 years living in extreme poverty received some Q 400 a month. Between 2009 and June 2017, over 82,000 women had been beneficiaries of the programme.

42. **Ms. Aguilar Theissen** (Guatemala) noted that the results of the census would enable the authorities to identify needs and address the problems faced by women in obtaining housing and access to land.

43. **Ms. Acosta Vargas** said that it had been reported to the Committee that rural women spent an inordinate amount of time fetching water and that the problem was becoming worse. She wondered whether the Government had prepared a law on the provision of water. The issue of evictions, too, was extremely serious. According to information received by the Committee, the military had been used to enforce evictions in operations reminiscent of a civil war, even involving the use of helicopters. Was the Government taking any steps to address the problem of evictions and reduce the resulting social tensions?

44. **Ms. Verges** said that the Committee had heard that only 22 per cent of the population was covered by the social security system and asked how the Government was working to expand its coverage to the rest of the population.

45. **Ms. Teleguario Sincal** (Guatemala) said that an inter-institutional agreement had recently been signed with the social security administration to integrate more people into the social security system, including women and indigenous people. Unfortunately, it was estimated that some 68 per cent of workers were engaged in the informal sector, which meant that they had no social security benefits. One of the main aspects of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's decent work policy was aimed at the transfer of economic activities, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises, to the formal sector, which would open up social security coverage to the employees concerned. Efforts had been made to simplify procedures for participation in the social security system and make them more flexible.

46. **Mr. Borrayo Reyes** (Guatemala) said that in recent times evictions had sometimes become problematic. For example, a number of people from Laguna Larga had recently been evicted from their homes by a court order. When such evictions occurred, some members of the evicted communities refused to register for humanitarian assistance such as medical care, medicines or food. In the past week, a specially formed presidential commission had conducted a census of over 400 families from the Laguna Larga site. It was only after the numbers of people involved had been established that the true scale of the problem could be ascertained. The State made every effort to assist persons who had been evicted, or even to relocate them, for example to farms on State land. The communities affected by evictions were often diverse and the issues complex. The Vice-President's Office had recently established an emergency commission to address the issue.

47. **Ms. Aguilar Theissen** (Guatemala) said that, for many years, efforts to adopt a law specifically addressing questions related to water rights had been held up in the country's parliament. That notwithstanding, access to water and water rights were still on the country's legislative agenda. In 2016, when the criteria for public investment priorities in development efforts had been defined with the help of civil society, water rights, sanitation and education had been given particular attention. That in itself had been something of an achievement.

#### *Articles 15 and 16*

48. **Ms. Acosta Vargas** said that she had some questions related to the legal capacity of girls and women. According to information at the Committee's disposal, some 2,500 girls under the age of 14 years became pregnant every year. It would be of interest to the Committee to find out whether they were able to report their situation at police stations, health centres, schools or hospitals in order to effectively assert their rights, and whether the health authorities were obliged to report the rape of girls under the age of 14 to law enforcement bodies. The Committee would specifically like to know whether such cases had been prosecuted and, if so, how many. According to information provided by NGOs, girls with disabilities were more likely than boys to be abandoned by their families. When such girls were placed in institutions or hospitals, their legal representatives were the facilities' directors. Many women and girls in institutions were subjected to sexual abuse or forced sterilization. The authorities might consider adopting a system with more personalized attention for institutionalized women and girls, as that might be a more effective way of preventing such violations of their rights.

49. The Committee had recently heard that the Congress was considering adopting a law imposing non-custodial sentences for hundreds of offences and she wondered what impact such a measure would have on women who were currently serving sentences or held in detention.

50. With the adoption of a new civil code, the State party had an opportunity to bring domestic law into line with the Convention, in particular in respect of the elimination of discriminatory legal provisions. The Committee would like to know whether the chapter of the Civil Code concerning marriage and divorce had been revised and, if so, whether traditional stereotypes concerning men and women in the family had been removed. For example, the old Civil Code included provisions that had been found unconstitutional and that referred to "good behaviour" or "disorderly lifestyles"; and, instead of prohibiting forced marriage, it used terms such as "abductor" and "abducted person". She wondered whether the State party planned to amend the provisions of the Criminal Code with a view to protecting girls between the ages of 14 and 18 years who were victims of sexual aggression or crimes and whether the provisions would be brought into line with the new legal age of marriage. It would be of interest to the Committee to know whether transitional measures had been adopted to protect the rights of girls between the ages of 14 and 18 who were currently married or in common-law partnerships and what measures were foreseen to raise awareness of the new legal age of marriage. Had dissemination activities been undertaken in all languages, including among members of the public service?

51. **Ms. Morales Aceña** (Guatemala) said that steps had been taken to raise the age of majority for girls. In the past, the only viable choice for girls to have a secure future had been to settle down with a man and become pregnant. The concept of proper development

for girls had still not been fully accepted and one of the most firmly rooted ideas at all levels of society had been that the purpose of a woman's body was to give pleasure to a man. It was thus a major challenge to combat harassment and abuse and to ensure that women's bodies were respected.

52. Representatives of civil society and the legislative and judicial branches had come together to address such stereotypes. In the end, it was judges who determined which underaged girls would be authorized to marry. Often, such a girl did not speak the same language as the judge and was subjected to pressure from her family, who considered that it should not be burdened by her when she became pregnant.

53. The raising of the minimum age for marriage was thus a big step forward. In future, the views of the adolescents concerned would be taken more fully into consideration. A team had been set up, with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to help disseminate and raise awareness, both generally and among judges, of the legal minimum age of marriage and to help end the practice of early marriage. The new measures would not have an effect on girls who had already married. The primary legal representatives of girls were their parents. If the parents failed to assume their responsibilities, the Public Prosecution Service designated a public body to perform that function.

54. Prosecutor's offices had been established at the country's five main hospitals to immediately identify cases of rape and initiate action. Many doctors and teachers failed to report when they suspected that rape had occurred because they were reluctant to become involved or to testify in court. It was a very serious problem. The Public Prosecution Service thus had plans to expand the number of units at medical facilities throughout the country. Efforts were also under way to encourage local judges to record complaints and to take action immediately.

55. Penalties would be imposed on anyone who married a minor. It was important to work with various institutions, including the Ministry of Education, since some schoolchildren with disabilities had been victims of sexual abuse. The Supreme Court, which had the power to propose new legislation, was currently considering a proposal to establish a genetic databank with information on all criminals, including sex offenders, and a register of sex offenders would soon be established and made available to the National Forensic Science Institute and the prosecution service, so as to make as many tools as possible available to prosecutors.

56. **Ms. Aguilar Theissen** (Guatemala) said that, mindful of the need to fight corruption, the Government had invested in results-based budgeting and accountability. It had collected information on access by women and men to banking services and loans, which would serve as an important input for determining future public policy. It was generally acknowledged that the State must modernize and, in that framework, emphasis had been placed on attending to the needs of indigenous women and girls. Guatemala took part in regional initiatives, including the Council of Ministers of Labour of the Central American Countries and the Dominican Republic, and it would continue to work with its regional partners to eliminate discrimination against women.

57. In implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, Guatemala had mainstreamed equality into its policy on sexual and reproductive health, among others. Efforts would continue to incorporate article 1 of the Convention into domestic law so that there would be a clear mandate for the full integration of women in all public policy. The Government had already taken steps to adopt domestic standards in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and would do the same with other instruments, including the Convention.

58. The dialogue with the Committee and the Committee's conclusions and recommendations would assist all branches of the Government and civil society in reorienting their activities to effectively ensure the rights of Guatemalan women and girls in the future.

*The meeting rose at 5 p.m.*