



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

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against Women**

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

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Responses to the list of issues and questions for consideration of the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

General

1. Describe the strategy followed for disseminating the Committee's concluding comments on the third periodic report and the mechanism for approval of the present report. Indicate whether non-governmental organizations and women's groups were consulted and whether the report was submitted to the National Assembly.

Five hundred copies of the third periodic report (1987-1995), which was considered in January 1997, were published with a view to its discussion and dissemination.

Ministerial institutions of the executive branch and women's organizations of various kinds were consulted in connection with the preparation of the combined fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports. It should be explained that the reports were prepared during a period of far-reaching economic, social and political change and that there are some so-called "civil society" organizations that, given the country's political polarization, refuse to participate in the process currently under way in the country.

Constitution and laws

2. According to article 23 of the Constitution, "The treaties, covenants and conventions concerning human rights ... shall have constitutional rank ... and they shall be immediately and directly applicable by the courts and other bodies of the public authority" (para. 21). Describe what has been done to ensure that women are aware of this remedy and indicate whether the Convention has been invoked before the courts.

Active participation by the people, both men and women, is one of the main foundations of the current political process in Venezuela and people are encouraged to familiarize themselves with, study and discuss the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Training workshops on women's human rights have been conducted continuously and systematically, providing information on the international agreements and conventions signed and ratified by Venezuela, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. A free tabloid publication containing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), the Equal Opportunities for Women Act, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Violence against Women and the Family Act was published and given mass distribution. In 2004, workshops on women's human rights were held with national women's organizations. A pamphlet on the same subject prepared under the INAMUJER-UNICEF workplan for 2004 was promoted at the workshops.

3. What has been done to amend the Penal and Civil Codes to bring them into line with the provisions of the new Constitution adopted in 1999? Indicate also whether the “offences against morality and the proper family order” contained in the 1937 Penal Code have been eliminated. What is the status of the preliminary draft Law on Responsible Fatherhood which was submitted to the National Assembly by the women’s movement in 2002 (para. 50)?

As regards the Penal Code, meetings have been held, as part of a participatory, inclusive process, with some grass-roots organizations and women’s non-governmental organizations, presenting an alternative preliminary draft amendment to the Penal Code that introduces a gender perspective into the draft.

The National Women’s Institute (INAMUJER) has said that a new Penal Code is needed and that amending it is not enough. The preliminary draft Law on Responsible Fatherhood was an INAMUJER initiative, drawn up in conjunction with the women’s movement in all its diversity. Meetings on the failure to discuss this preliminary draft have been held with some women deputies in the National Assembly and INAMUJER has written to the Commission on the Family, Women and Youth, which is responsible for following up the draft’s discussion in the National Assembly.

4. Describe the measures taken to disseminate the amendments to the 1982 Civil Code that deal with rights and duties in marriage, the Equal Opportunities for Women Act and article 88 of the Constitution on the recognition of housework and housewives’ right to social security. Indicate also what action has been taken to ensure that these laws are effectively implemented.

The amendments to the 1982 Civil Code were incorporated and amplified in the 1999 Constitution. With regard to the duties and rights of spouses in marriage, a document entitled “Una visión de país con ojos de mujer” (seeing the country with a woman’s eyes) was prepared and submitted to the 1999 Constitutional Assembly and almost all its precepts were incorporated in the current Constitution. INAMUJER edited the document several times and it was distributed and discussed in communities throughout the country.

The Equal Opportunities for Women Act passed in 1993 was not implemented until 1999. President Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías, through its enabling act, amended one article to permit its implementation, including the creation of the National Women’s Institute and the Office for the Defence of Women’s Rights. There are regional and municipal women’s institutes, with their respective offices for the defence of women’s rights, all over the country which provide care and protection for women victims of domestic violence and have managed to inform women of their rights through talks, workshops and radio programmes.

The women’s movement as a whole is keenly interested in seeing that article 88 of the Constitution is implemented. At present, it is being discussed by the National Assembly with a view to its implementation through the social security subsystems. The Government also included the issue in article 46 of the draft Social Charter of the Americas recently submitted for consideration to the Organization of American States (OAS) in Caracas.

On 12 September 2005, the National Assembly adopted the Social Services Act, article 41 of which provides an allowance for needy housewives of “between a

minimum of sixty per cent (60%) and a maximum of eighty per cent (80%) of the current urban minimum wage”.

National machinery

5. Explain why the Parliamentary Commission on Women’s Rights was dissolved. Indicate what has been done to ensure that the laws adopted by the National Assembly are non-discriminatory and egalitarian and to promote legislation aimed at guaranteeing women’s rights.

With the adoption of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in 1999, a number of changes were made in the political and administrative structure of the State. The former Congress of the Republic became the National Assembly and its Parliamentary Commission on Women’s Rights was replaced by the National Assembly’s Commission on Women, the Family and Youth, which has four subcommissions: the subcommission responsible for bringing the Organic Law on the Protection of Children and Adolescents into line with the National Constitution; the subcommission on youth; the subcommission on at-risk families, children and adolescents; and the subcommission on women’s rights. The latter subcommission is responsible for ensuring that the laws adopted by the Assembly guarantee women’s rights.

6. Indicate what strategic areas are covered by the 2003 Equal Opportunities Plan, what results have been achieved and how effective gender mainstreaming in all government bodies has been (para. 32).

The implementation phase of the 2003 Equal Opportunities Plan, known as the National Plan for Women’s Equality, 2004-2009, covers the following five strategic areas: international, economic, political, territorial and social (comprising health and quality of life; and education, information and communication).

Some of the achievements resulting from the implementation of the Plan for Women’s Equality, 2004-2009 are:

- The signing on 17 May 2005 by Hugo Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, of a proposal to mainstream a gender perspective in the national budget. To implement this important achievement, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), INAMUJER and the Women’s Development Bank (BANMUJER) signed a cooperation agreement with a view to initiating a process of review and analysis of mechanisms and instruments for the design and preparation of a gender-sensitive budget in Venezuela.
- The signing in September 2004 of an agreement with the National Statistical Institute (INE) to mainstream a gender perspective in national statistics. This agreement is an important step forward in the collection, production and analysis of gender-disaggregated information and gender indicators. With support from UNFPA, a diagnostic study is being made of the supply of and demand for gender statistics in Venezuela (*Diagnóstico de la Oferta y la Demanda en Estadística de Género en Venezuela*) and a national subcommittee on gender is being established to produce statistics with a gender perspective.

- The establishment of technical, intersectoral and inter-institutional working groups for the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in public policy, with:
 - (a) The Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme of the Ministry of Health;
 - (b) The Metropolitan Council on the Rights of Children and Adolescents of the Metropolitan District of Caracas, to provide care and protection for children and adolescents who live on the street or whose circumstances keep them on the street;
 - (c) The Metropolitan Council on the Rights of Children and Adolescents of the Metropolitan District of Caracas and other public and private institutions working in this area, to formulate public policy on the prevention of teen pregnancy in girls and adolescents and the provision of care for pregnant girls and adolescents;
 - (d) The Ministry of Education and Sport and the Ministry of Health, to provide care for pregnant adolescents;
 - (e) The National Council on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, to carry out joint action in the design of public policies targeting children and adolescents;
 - (f) The Ministry of Science and Technology, to strengthen the design and use of new indicators for analysing and measuring the effect and impact of public policies on the living conditions and health of children;
 - (g) The Ministry of Planning and Development, to mainstream a gender perspective in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in the case of Venezuela.

7. In 1997, the Committee suggested that the Government should work for early approval of the establishment of national machinery that was sufficiently integrated into the political system and provided with adequate human and financial resources (see A/52/38/Rev.1). Indicate the status within the Government of the National Women's Institute (INAMUJER) and the availability of human and financial resources for its effective functioning and for that of regional institutes and councils, centres and shelters for women throughout the country.

INAMUJER is an autonomous body attached to the Ministry of Popular Participation and Social Development. Measures are currently being taken for the President of INAMUJER to become part of the Executive Cabinet as a Minister of State. In 2000, INAMUJER began its activities with a staff of 58 men and women, which increased to 135 in 2005.¹

INAMUJER's budget in 2000, when it was set up, was 710 million bolívars (1,014,648.09 US dollars); for 2005, it is 5,460,291,067.00 bolívars (US\$ 2,539,670.26).

The budgets of municipal and regional institutes, shelters and offices for women are financed by their respective regional and local authorities, such as mayor's and governor's offices.

¹ See table 6 in the annex.

8. In the report, “Meeting Points with INAMUJER” are said to be grass-roots organizations that function as centres for linking communities with the government body (para. 32). What machinery exists to ensure wide access by all women and existing community organizations to these Meeting Points?

Article 62 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela promotes and encourages citizens’ participation as a means of giving them an active role that will ensure their all-round development both individually and collectively. The Meeting Points are set up pluralistically and democratically. Any woman wishing to form or join a Meeting Point has the right to do so. The Meeting Points form networks for addressing and preventing violence against women and for promoting women’s human rights.

Stereotypes and education

9. Indicate the measures taken to eliminate sexist language and the image of women as sex objects in the media and the results achieved. Indicate also the status of the preliminary draft Law on Social Responsibility in Radio and Television, which establishes penalties for “any provider of radio and television services who broadcasts messages that promote (...) discrimination against persons or groups for reasons of (...) gender” (para. 29).

Measures taken to eliminate sexist language and the image of women as sex objects include educational workshops for State and private media journalists.

A booklet on the use of non-sexist language, published with support from UNFPA, has been reissued for mass distribution and is used in workshops on the subject.

Furthermore, 3,000 copies annually of a pamphlet on the use of non-sexist language have been distributed and there have been 96 radio and television programmes dealing with such topics as women as persons in their own right and non-sexist language.

The Act on Social Responsibility in Radio and Television was approved by the National Assembly on 7 December 2004. Article 3 stipulates as one of its general objectives that providers of radio and television services should endeavour to disseminate information and messages of social and cultural interest directed, inter alia, at the achievement of gender equality.

Since the Act on Social Responsibility in Radio and Television entered into force, no administrative proceedings have been instituted for the application of penalties. It should be stressed that complaints to the media concerning breaches of the Act must be lodged by listeners’ and viewers’ organizations. The complaint must be taken up by CONATEL, which investigates it and attaches the evidence needed to institute proceedings. The case is transmitted to the Directorate, which is empowered to decide on penalties. To date, no complaints have been received from listeners’ and viewers’ committees. The Act also provides for a Directorate and a Council on Social Responsibility, of which INAMUJER is a member.

10. In paragraph 97, information is provided about the second phase of the Educating for Equality Programme intended to promote changes in educational texts and other materials and in the practices of communication of knowledge.

Please report on the results of this Programme and its influence on the vocational guidance of young girls towards technical careers.

As a result of the Educating for Equality Programme, the Ministry of Education and Sport has applied a number of criteria for the selection of school textbooks that promote positive values such as freedom, justice, equity, cooperation and plurality of ideas. These selection criteria exclude texts that contain statements in support of any kind of discrimination, violence, vice or criminal offence.

The Ministry of Education and Sport is also promoting the production of books that provide information on such topics as sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, human rights and laws and instruments for their protection, and some biographies of women who played a leading role in the history of Venezuela and Latin America, such as Manuela Sáenz and Luisa Cáceres de Arismendi.

11. Indicate what other measures to eliminate stereotypes have been taken in the workplace and in family life and what the results have been. Specify the efforts made to disseminate and ensure compliance with article 76 of the Constitution on the shared responsibility of women and men for the education and development of their children.

Since March 2000, there has been an annual campaign on democratization of the family, which includes printed materials and radio and television programmes. The campaign emphasizes the content of article 76 of the Constitution, which stipulates that fathers and mothers have a shared duty to raise, train, educate and support their children.

12. Provide data on school enrolment rates and the school dropout rate and its main causes, disaggregated by gender, population group, including indigenous people and persons of African descent, urban and rural areas, level of education and type of institution (private or public).

According to statistics provided by the Ministry of Education and Sport, the Integrated System of Social Indicators for Venezuela and the National Statistical Institute, school enrolment rates in the country rose steadily between the 1998/99 school year and 2003/04. This increase is most significant at the preschool level, where enrolment rose by 9.1 per cent, followed by basic education, with an increase of 8.1 per cent. There was also a 6.9 per cent increase at the secondary and diversified level (see table 7 in the annex). The following is a brief summary of the statistics given in the annex:

- Secondary, diversified and vocational education, has seen significant growth, including a sharp increase in the proportion of girls, from 31.7 per cent in the 1998/99 school year to 40.3 per cent in 2003/04 (see table 8).
- Of total enrolments at the national level (including preschool, basic, secondary, special, out-of-school and adult education), 83.4 per cent correspond to public schools and 16.6 per cent to private schools (see table 9).
- The school dropout rate at the basic level, calculated on the basis of the number of pupils enrolled, does not show significant variations. At secondary level, however, the dropout rate fell during the period under review from 13.4 per cent to 8.7 per cent (see table 14).

- During the 2003/04 school year, 22.45 per cent of preschool pupils were in rural areas, while 77.55 per cent were in urban areas. The proportion of boys was 50.88 per cent, compared with 49.2 per cent for girls.
- The proportion of pupils in basic education in the 2003/04 school year was 21.57 per cent in rural areas and 78.43 per cent in urban areas. Of these, 50.78 per cent were boys and 49.22 per cent were girls.
- Lastly, in diversified education, 9.37 per cent of pupils were in rural areas, while 90.6 per cent were in urban areas (see tables 11, 12 and 13). Of these, 44.87 per cent were boys and 55.13 per cent were girls.

Violence against women

13. The report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (E/CN.4/2003/75/Add.1), notes that the Violence against Women and the Family Act does not consider violence between partners who have not lived together. Indicate whether the Government plans to adopt an amendment to fill this gap in the law and guarantee protection for victims who have not lived with their aggressors.

The Violence against Women and the Family Act does not exclude aggressors who have not lived with their victims. Article 4 of the Act is so worded as to allow the interpretation that the aggressor may be someone who does not live with the woman who is his victim. Moreover, the mention in the Act of family members who do not usually live in the same home confirms that the persons concerned may or may not live together, as in the case of in-laws and collaterals.

14. Describe the measures that have been taken to disseminate and ensure compliance with the Violence against Women and the Family Act, with specific reference to action to train judges, police and health centre staff.

To ensure compliance with the Violence against Women and the Family Act, workshops and talks are held regularly to train and raise the awareness of officials authorized by the Act to receive complaints of violence, namely the staff of civil authorities, public prosecutor's offices and police departments, which receive complaints and apply protective measures to safeguard the lives of the women bringing such complaints. Regional and municipal women's institutes and shelters also conduct training activities on the application of the Act.

15. Provide information about the measures taken to ensure compliance with article 19 of the Violence against Women and the Family Act, which criminalizes sexual harassment (para. 54), and state whether any study or impact analysis has been made of the effectiveness of this provision.

Article 19 on sexual harassment has been incorporated into the implementing regulations of the Organic Law on Work, since one of the forms of violence included in that article occurs in the workplace. At the international forum on violence held by INAMUJER in 2002, a judgement passed by the judge of the State of Táchira, effectively analysing the impact of that provision, was read out. This judgement constitutes an analytical study of article 19.

16. Provide additional information explaining the reasons for Government Attorney's appeal against provision for precautionary measures against perpetrators of domestic violence in the Violence against Women and the Family Act. Indicate what results have been achieved by efforts to prevent his appeal from being upheld by the Supreme Court and to ensure that judges can take precautionary measures in favour of victims of violence.

No decision has been reached on the appeal lodged by the Government Attorney's Office. INAMUJER has talked to judges of the Supreme Court, explaining the gravity of the situation of women victims of violence if there is no provision for such measures. The women's movement and INAMUJER have staged demonstrations in front of the Supreme Court building in protest against the appeal. It should be explained that the appeal is not aimed at judges, but at the bodies authorized to receive complaints, which are administrative bodies acting as officers of the court. Such bodies exist throughout the country and are truly accessible to women victims of violence. Following a meeting with the Government Attorney, an inter-institutional commission has now been set up, on which the Government Attorney's Office, the Office of the People's Defender and the National Women's Institute are represented, to review the Act in order to improve some of its provisions and to make it an Organic Law that gives greater prominence to the crime of domestic violence.

17. The report describes the functions of the National Office for the Defence of Women's Rights and specifies the number of women it has assisted. Indicate trends and the number of cases dealt with involving violence against women, whether or not there is a tendency to have recourse to conciliation and the measures of prevention and protection offered.

The central office of the National Office for the Defence of Women's Rights assisted 4,384 women in the three years up to August 2005. Of these, 58 per cent of cases involved violence; there is no recourse to conciliation and the women's views are respected. Women who wish to file complaints are given support and referred to the bodies authorized to receive such complaints. If a woman's life is in danger, she is offered the choice of going into a shelter. The National Office is not a judicial body and is not empowered to apply precautionary measures under the Violence against Women and the Family Act.

Exploitation of prostitution and trafficking of women and girls

18. Provide statistics on trafficking in women and girls and detailed information on the extent of this phenomenon in border areas.

According to figures provided by the investigation and protection division for children, adolescents, women and the family of the Scientific, Criminal and Forensic Investigation Unit, six cases were open and under investigation in 2004-2005.

Three of those cases involve a total of nine individuals, six females and three males; the other three cases are still being investigated and the number of victims is unknown. Prostitution and trafficking do not appear to be a major social problem in the country; nevertheless, the Government of Venezuela, as part of its obligation to

deal with that problem, has begun a process of reviewing, investigating and identifying the elements, modalities and mechanisms of those crimes.

19. What measures and strategies have been implemented to ensure compliance with and the monitoring of article 54 of the Constitution on human trafficking? Provide information on prevention and victim-protection programmes and penalties against perpetrators.

In order to comply with article 54 of the Constitution, the Scientific, Criminal and Forensic Investigation Unit, through its investigation and protection division for children, adolescents, women and the family, has established a specialized intervention team and implemented strategic measures including:

- The creation of a human trafficking squad at Unit headquarters to define strategic lines of intervention, assistance and prevention with regard to the crime of trafficking and to receive related complaints.
- Increased border controls at all international ports and airports.
- Design and implementation of regional research projects on human trafficking, in collaboration with undergraduate and post-graduate centres at the country's universities.

In order to prevent trafficking, protect victims and punish perpetrators, prevention and information activities are being carried out through the holding of discussion groups in educational centres, communities (640 local groups have participated) and police bodies. An information campaign aimed at preventing such crimes is being carried out through alternative and community media. The Crime Prevention Department of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice also organizes training and education workshops on human trafficking for civil service and police personnel of the investigation and protection division for children, adolescents, women and the family, in conjunction with other government bodies responsible for tackling these crimes.

In the area of prevention, the Ministry of the Interior and Justice organized a technical seminar on human trafficking and illegal migration, in conjunction with the Bolivarian University, the Centre for Women's Studies, Andrés Bello Catholic University, the Coordinating Office of the Venezuelan Network on Violence against Women and the Popular Women's Circles, among others.

Investigations of these crimes are currently coordinated directly by special prosecutors from the Attorney-General's Office, with a view to ensuring that the appropriate legal procedures are followed and the appropriate penalties imposed in each case. The investigation and protection division for children, adolescents, women and the family provides information and legal advice urging parents and guardians to ensure that their children carry identity documents when travelling, both within the country and abroad, and to submit those documents to the competent authorities whenever necessary or requested.

A toll-free hotline, 0-800-CONTIGO, is available for victims of trafficking in women, children and adolescents and related crimes such as child abuse, abuse of women and prostitution. The webpage of the Office of the Government Attorney advises affected individuals on the steps to follow in filing a complaint with the competent bodies. There is also a toll-free hotline, 0-800-FISCA-00, on which complainants are assisted by the victim services unit.

20. Provide information on laws and other measures prohibiting prostitution and specify the action taken to reduce demand and punish exploitation of and profiting from prostitution.

Venezuela has no specific legislation prohibiting prostitution, but the Penal Code establishes penalties for those who “encourage, facilitate or promote prostitution”; the penalty for these offences is imprisonment. Venezuela has also signed and ratified relevant international instruments, such as the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, ratified in 2002, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, ratified in 2002, and the Andean Charter for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, signed in 2002.

Prostitution is also a focus of the National HIV/AIDS Programme, which has training and education programmes on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS and on human rights aimed at women involved in prostitution. The Programme has also funded six projects aimed at prostitutes and implemented by non-governmental organizations and has funded the Asociación de Mujeres para el Bienestar y la Asistencia Recíproca (Women’s Association for Mutual Well-Being and Assistance) (AMBAR), which is responsible for the Shelter Project, under which comprehensive assistance is provided to adolescents involved in prostitution in order to give them different lifestyle choices so that they can get off the streets.

21. In considering the third periodic report, the Committee expressed concern that the Government had yet to respond effectively to problems such as prostitution (A/52/38/Rev.1). Provide more details on the measures, including legal measures, adopted to reduce the exploitation of prostitution, and their impact.

With regard to measures to reduce demand and punish exploitation of and profiting from prostitution, the Ministry of the Interior and Justice is currently providing operational support to judicial bodies, prosecutor’s offices and courts in cases before them, in coordination with other police bodies, with a view to implementing measures for the monitoring and supervision of places or locations, such as bars, discothèques, taverns or motels, which lend themselves to nocturnal activities and which allow or facilitate illegal access by children and adolescents who may become victims of prostitution. Efforts and actions are also under way at the national level to provide information to educational centres, community organizations, universities and non-governmental organizations on such crimes and alert them to criminal organizations which lure women, children and adolescents with false promises of high pay and a better standard of living.

Political and public life

22. Provide gender-disaggregated data on the ratio of women to men in the National Assembly, in political parties and in the central and local public administration.

1998 elections

<i>Office</i>	<i>Percentage of women</i>
Legislative Assembly	19.2
Deputies	11.1
Senators	9.0

July 2000 elections

<i>Office</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Presidency of the Republic	1	1	100.00	0	0.00
Latin American Parliament	12	11	91.67	1	8.3
Andean Parliament	5	3	60.00	2	40.00
Deputies National Assembly	165	147	89.09	18	10.91
Governors	23	21	91.30	2	8.70
Deputies Legislative Councils	219	190	86.76	29	13.24
Mayors	335	315	94.03	20	5.97
Mayor or Mayoress Metropolitan area	1	1	100.00	0	0.00
Councillors Metropolitan City Council	13	11	84.62	2	15.38
Total	774	700	90.44	74	9.56

October 2004 elections

<i>Office</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Governors offices	22	20	90.91	2	9.09
Regional Legislative Councils	229	190	82.97	45	19.65
Mayor's offices	333	309	92.79	24	7.21

Executive Cabinet — January 2005

<i>Office</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
23 Ministries	4	17.39	19	82.60
33 Vice Ministries	4	12.12	29	87.87

Central Administration — August 2005

<i>Office</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Directors of the 487 Government Institutes	133	27.31	354	72.68

23. Indicate the reasons for the low proportion of women in the National Assembly and the measures planned to increase the representation of women in publicly elected bodies and the State administration, given that it was decided to eliminate the 30-per-cent quota previously applied under the Basic Act on Suffrage and Political Participation.

As a result of representations by the National Women's Institute, the National Electoral Council, as the organ of electoral authority, issued resolution No. 050401-179 of 1 April 2005 requiring that women and men candidates for national, municipal, and parochial deliberative bodies be nominated on an alternating and equal basis.

The resolution is one of the first formal steps towards the creation of the normative framework which must promote equality, seen as 50/50 political participation and representation for men and women. Through this specific electoral provision the resolution implements and regulates the content of article 21 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Prior to the promulgation of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of 1999, a 30-per-cent quota for political representation had been stipulated in article 144 of the Basic Act on Suffrage and Political Participation. The Act is still in force, but article 144 was abrogated by the National Electoral Council; that derogation was confirmed by the Supreme Court of Justice, ruling as an electoral chamber, in its decision of 19 May 2000 (file 0037), on the grounds that the percentage in question was incompatible with the principle of full equality enshrined in the Constitution, a principle whose spirit and rationale is a cross-cutting theme throughout the Constitution.

The National Electoral Council, in exercise of its power under article 293 (1) of the Constitution, which stipulates that one function of the electoral authority exercised by that body shall be to regulate electoral laws and remove any doubts or gaps raised by or contained in such laws, and based on the sole derogation provision of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which affirms the validity of the rest of the legal order to the extent that it does not contradict the Constitution, and on article 334 of the Constitution, which provides that in the event of incompatibility between the Constitution and a law or other legal norm, the provisions of the Constitution shall apply, interpreted the Constitution correctly and decided to abrogate article 144 of the Basic Act on Suffrage and Political Participation on the grounds that it was incompatible with the Constitution and therefore derogated by it.

It should be explained that while the inclusion of the provision contained in article 144 of the Basic Law on Suffrage and Political Participation was a result of the struggle by Venezuelan women for full exercise of their citizenship and thus their political rights, it is also true that women's primary, original demand was political participation on the basis of complete equity, equality and equal

opportunity, in other words, 50 per cent, in recognition of the crucial importance of empowering women and making them real participants in the running of the country in all areas and given that they represent half the population. However, despite their real demands, the then National Congress of the Republic, now the National Assembly, legislated to the detriment of the legitimate aspirations of Venezuelan women and established as a form of affirmative action the 30-per-cent quota referred to in article 144. Since prior to 1999 there was no political will to recognize the value and importance of women's political participation and representation, their only hope was the 30-per-cent affirmative action quota, which in fact was never fully implemented by the political parties and electoral groups of the time. Nor was it enforced by the competent electoral body, resulting in window-dressing and "implementation" of the quota by putting women at the bottom of electoral lists, reserving the privilege of being at the head of the list, where better options were available, for the traditional male figureheads of national politics.

The current National Electoral Council, correctly interpreting the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, therefore concluded that not only is the principle of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in the general provisions of the Constitution and in the specific provisions of the chapters on nationality and citizenship and on political rights, but the principle of equality between men and women citizens is a cross-cutting theme throughout the whole Constitution, beginning with its preamble, and is emphasized by the use of non-sexist language.

The National Electoral Council, in exercise of its power to remove the doubt created by the parallel existence of a discriminatory legal provision that contradicted the principle of absolute equality established in the Constitution, decided to apply the latter, in accordance with the provisions thereof, it being a juridical principle that when two norms conflict, the one which benefits the citizen, male or female, shall apply. The same approach was adopted by the Supreme Court of Justice in its decision mentioned above.

24. The report states that, under the Organic Law on Public Administration, "the public administration organs and bodies shall promote citizen participation in public administration (...) [and] each public organ or body is required to draw up a register of the organized communities and public non-governmental organizations whose aims relate to that sector and who freely request to be listed" (paras. 70 and 71). Which public entity is responsible for promoting the public participation of women? Provide information on the existing mechanism for requesting registration and the criteria and authorities for approval of women's organizations that request it.

Under the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Organic Law on Public Administration, all public bodies covered by the five public authorities at all levels — national, state, municipal and parochial — must promote the public participation of all without discrimination; in principle, therefore, attaining equal participation of men and women is a goal pursued by the Venezuelan State through its various public bodies.

The National Women's Institute, as the body directing public policies relating to women, is the body whose objectives and main functions specifically include the achievement of women's participation, not just as a mechanism for women's integration in public management processes but through their joint participation on an equal footing and with equal opportunities.

The direct mechanisms for women's participation have evolved through the promotion of women's organizations and through the Meeting Points with INAMUJER and the Women's Assemblies on topics of national interest. Organized participation has also been promoted through the legal guidance and registration of non-governmental organizations specializing in the area of violence against women and all other areas of interest covered by the Equal Opportunities for Women Act.

For the aforementioned registration, any group of organized women, whether national, state, municipal, parochial or local, must simply present a copy of the document detailing the group's identification, constituent data and membership. There is no restriction on the type of document which may be a statutory or constituent document or simply a private, non-registered, non-notarized document drawn up by a community or group of organized women and detailing its identification, membership, aims and purposes and the date on which it was formed. This means that no prior approval by any authority is required and the legal office of the National Women's Institute is therefore empowered to register women's organizations in the appropriate list at their request and upon presentation of the appropriate documents as indicated above.

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela also promotes the voluntary, democratic organization and participation of women and men with a view to achieving equity and social justice. In this connection, a host of channels for participation exist in grass-roots bodies such as the health committees promoted by the Ministry of Health; the urban land committees promoted by mayor's offices and the Ministry of Housing, among others; the listeners' and viewers' committees promoted by the National Telecommunications Council; and the water boards promoted by HIDROCAPITAL. Interestingly, women outnumber men in these bodies.

Employment

25. The Committee expressed concern at the disparity between women's and men's wages and the high percentage of women receiving less than the minimum wage (see A/52/38/Rev.1). Indicate the measures taken to act on the Committee's concluding comments in this regard, and the results achieved, and include information on women's and men's wage levels in the private, public and informal sectors.

There are no disparities between women's and men's wages in the public administration, which applies the principle of equal pay for equal work at all levels of the salary scale, which includes tabulators per post classification and a minimum wage. This applies equally to female and male employees, manual workers and casual workers.

It should be noted that the following minimum wage scales have been in force since 1 May 2005:

- Urban and rural minimum wage: 405,000.00 bolívars per month
- Minimum wage in firms with fewer than 20 employees: 371,232.80 bolívars per month

- Minimum wage for female domestic employees: 371,232.80 bolívares per month
- Minimum wage for caretakers: 405,000 bolívares per month
- Minimum wage for male and female adolescent workers and apprentices: 303,735.90 bolívares per month
- Female and male retirees and pensioners: 405,000 bolívares per month.

For the first time in history, the rural minimum wage has been matched to the urban minimum wage, thereby dignifying the work done by women and men working outside the cities.

As established in article 129 of the Organic Law on Work, no worker may be paid less than the minimum wage, which must be paid in cash and never in kind. The minimum wage does not include payment for overtime, night-work bonuses, gratuities, holiday bonuses, profits and other benefits, all of which must be paid separately. All employers, male and female, in both the public and private sectors, must comply with the provisions of this Law. Workers may report any irregularity by filing a complaint with the Labour Inspectorate or the Workers' Attorney's Office nearest to their home.

26. In considering the third periodic report, the Committee expressed concern at the presence of women in the informal economy and in low-paid service jobs (ibid.). Indicate what measures have been taken to integrate women in the formal sector and to reduce unemployment rates, and the results achieved.

The Ministry of Labour is seeking to implement measures based on the principles and the duties and rights of all citizens enshrined in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Unemployment being a structural problem, attempts are being made gradually to check its development, addressing the population's needs, influencing citizens' lives and guaranteeing access to a productive occupation based on the principles of equality and equity between women and men in the exercise of their right to work.

The following projects included in the Annual Plan of Action 2005 and directly benefiting women are currently being carried out by the Department of Employment:

- Comprehensive labour intermediation, training, guidance and information services for production sectors;
- Promotion of small and medium-sized industry, cooperatives, associations, family businesses and other forms of community associations (resolution 2.888);
- Transformation and extension of labour migration services;
- Employment training programme.

These projects give priority to the unemployed, especially young people, female heads of household, unemployed female domestic workers and persons with any degree of disability, and are supported by the network of public sector socio-productive training organizations.

In this connection, the National Employment Service has improved its services to users in terms of both quality and access to the processes of intermediation, employment counselling and placement in productive jobs, as can be seen from the following comparative figures for the first six months of 2004 and 2005:

Total population

<i>Year</i>	<i>Users of the National Employment Service</i>	<i>Requests by firms to the Ministry of Labour</i>	<i>Workers integrated in the labour market</i>
2005	86 616	14 567	10 432
2004	40 363	5 602	3 896

Female population

<i>Year</i>	<i>Women users of the National Employment Service</i>	<i>Applications by firms to the Ministry of Labour</i>	<i>Women integrated in the labour market</i>
2005	36 702	4 917	3 240
2004	15 276	1 743	1 242

Source: Division of Control and Management. Department of Employment.

The Ministry of Labour is working to consolidate the endogenous development model, creating conditions that will guarantee productive occupations and thereby strengthen enterprise in keeping with the thrust of article 87 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic. It is within this framework that resolution 2.888 was formulated for the purpose of strengthening or creating small and medium-sized industries, cooperatives, family businesses, microenterprises and all other forms of community association for work.

The resolution supports initiatives in such areas as agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and landownership, making for gradual progress in which over half the direct and indirect beneficiaries are women and their families, especially in urban land regularization projects.

Projects funded under resolution 2.888 include those relating to the agreement concluded with the Women's Development Bank, whose purpose is to support the implementation of socio-productive projects submitted to the Bank within the framework of endogenous development and executed in communities experiencing problems of access to sustainable production.

Agriculture and tourism projects funded by the Ministry of Labour in the states of Bolívar, Apure, Trujillo and Guárico have benefited 197 women.

Progress has been made in the labour migration project through educational awareness-raising activities such as the "Introductory workshop on the rights and duties of migrant workers and their families in Venezuela", which seeks to enhance assistance to migrant workers through the operational units of the Ministry of Labour and other public bodies.

With respect to employment training for people with disabilities, the Employment Department's Vocational Rehabilitation Division is modernizing its

facilities and increasing the number of and enrolment in courses for such persons, considerably improving the service provided by the Division.

In 2004 and 2005, a total of 816 disabled persons received employment training, 41.42 per cent of them women.

Lastly, the Ministry of Labour is gradually improving its coordination with public and private bodies in order to strengthen its projects for employment and production integration. There is now a nationwide network of over 100 institutions that support the process of providing training, funding, legal advice, health care and family care, among other things. In the case of Venezuelan women, work is being done in cooperation with INAMUJER and the Women's Development Bank.

In 2004, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela created the "Vuelvan Caras" Mission, geared to employment generation and sustainable economic development through training for work and production. Thus far, it has directly benefited 264,720 workers, 62 per cent of them women.

Health

27. The report describes a series of measures to ensure maternal and child and sexual and reproductive health (paras. 156 to 170). However, results have not shown those measures to be effective. Provide additional information to explain the causes of this phenomenon and detail any new steps taken to reverse the situation.

In 1999, the Ministry of Health and Social Development identified a number of constraints inherent in the model of maternal and sexual and reproductive health-care provision, including: lack of equity; low level of coverage; an individual, medicalized biology-based approach; low levels of efficiency, effectiveness and quality of services, and client dissatisfaction; lack of knowledge among health personnel about the health situation in the community and an emphasis on individual rather than teamwork; a fragmented and disorganized service network; inadequate patient referral and cross-referral systems; inefficient use of medical technology; inadequate allocation and distribution of human resources; dehumanization of care; lack of intra and intersectoral coordination; low social participation and limited power of patients; predominance of high-cost hospital care, to the detriment of health promotion and preventive health activities; rising costs; centralized management; weak managerial capacity; provision of poorly planned services; fragmented, poorly defined levels of care; and an unsatisfactory non-automated information system.

To tackle all these constraints, a nationwide epidemiological monitoring system for maternal and infant mortality was set up in 2000, implemented by a national committee which coordinates its activities, at the regional level, with state councils for the prevention and control of maternal and infant mortality. The latter, in turn, coordinate their activities with municipal councils and hospital perinatal committees. The state councils conduct research and analysis and produce monthly reports on maternal deaths. They also assess the efficiency of establishments according to the quality of care provided during childbirth, supplies, material resources, rules and procedures, infrastructure or physical plant, human resources, planning, administration and referral, health education and community participation.

The National Programme for Sexual and Reproductive Health was officially launched in 2000. It promotes the improvement of sexual and reproductive health care on a universal and equitable basis and directs the relevant services and projects by means of comprehensive and gender-specific activities aimed at all population groups at all stages of the life cycle, indigenous people, territories and social classes, through social networks in which families and communities play an active role.

To adapt legislation to the new legal, political and institutional framework and to the new model for sexual and reproductive health care, the Official Regulations for Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Care were adopted in 2003 and published in 2004.

Since 2000, in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Social Development's manual of rules and procedures for the epidemiological monitoring of maternal and infant mortality, maternal deaths must be reported immediately to the monitoring system and a form containing important information about aspects associated with these deaths must be submitted for analysis. As part of the Misión Barrio Adentro project, the State of Venezuela is implementing a number of strategies, including Proyecto Vida, which aims to monitor and reduce maternal mortality by improving the coverage and quality of antenatal care and care during childbirth, providing comprehensive outpatient care, addressing the reproductive health needs of adolescents, strengthening the decision-making capacity of establishments and enforcing standards and oversight. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is focusing its efforts on reducing the country's maternal and infant mortality rate.

28. The report mentions the existence of a coordinated monitoring system and a comprehensive STI/HIV/AIDS intervention project. However, the data provided do not show their effectiveness. Provide detailed, up-to-date information on the prevalence of STIs and HIV/AIDS among women by age group, urban and rural areas and among indigenous women and those of African descent, and on the impact of the monitoring system and the comprehensive intervention project.

With the implementation of the National STI/AIDS Programme, the under recording of AIDS cases has begun to decline. In 2004, 49,629 cases were recorded. From 1997 to 2004, 34,931 cases among men and 14,698 cases among women were recorded. The results for 1997-1999 show a male:female prevalence ratio of 5.87:1, while for 2000-2004 the spread of HIV/AIDS among women increased the ratio to 2:1. To address this situation, the national Government provided free medication to 14,274 individuals between 1998 and 2004.

Disaggregated data on STI/HIV/AIDS prevalence among indigenous women and those of African descent are not available.

29. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences expresses concern about cases in which women infected with HIV/AIDS have been subjected to forced sterilization (see E/CN.4/2005/72). Detail the measures adopted to prevent that practice and indicate whether a gender perspective has been mainstreamed into HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes for pregnant women.

In Venezuela, there are no laws providing for the compulsory sterilization of HIV-positive women. The National HIV/AIDS Programme, into which a gender perspective has been mainstreamed, includes a programme for preventing the vertical transmission of HIV, under which women who have had multiple pregnancies and births since being diagnosed as HIV-positive have received treatment that does not pose any risk to their children. This programme basically focuses on the early diagnosis of HIV infection. Under a 2000 ministerial resolution, all pregnant women attending medical check-ups, regardless of the stage of their pregnancy, must be tested for HIV antibodies and receive counselling before and after the test. By law, two ELISA tests must be carried out, one at the beginning and one at the end of the pregnancy. Once diagnosed, the women receive free antiretroviral drugs and triple combination therapy and receive care during childbirth, which takes place at 38 weeks by elective Caesarean. The Venezuelan State guarantees children exposed to HIV free breast-milk substitutes during the first six months of life and free treatment during the first month.

The Official Regulations for Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Care, adopted in 2003, make it clear that, given its irreversibility, surgical sterilization requires the written consent of the patient or her legal representative and comprehensive pre-operative counselling.

The case cited by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women was reported in 1997, when there was no coordinated, efficient programme for addressing this issue. The National HIV/AIDS Programme was established in 1999 and, since then, strategies and policies have been developed for increasing universal access, free of charge, to drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS and for improving the network of laboratories in order to broaden diagnostic coverage for women and men.

Rural women

30. Provide detailed, up-to-date information on programmes and activities to assist indigenous women, women of African descent and, in general, women living in rural areas, particularly border communities, and their results in order to show the extent to which such women have access to education, health care, employment and basic services.

In order to address the social debt owed to previously excluded sectors of its population, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has developed a series of measures and programmes to consolidate the building of an equitable society with social justice. To that end, social projects have been rolled out across the country, reaching communities where indigenous people and those of African descent are concentrated. These projects have played an extremely significant role and have become fundamental to the implementation of a social policy based on inclusion and universal rights and designed to promote the social economy and reduce poverty. The fact that women have been in the majority in these projects has been essential for overcoming inequity and guaranteeing equality between women and men.

As far as educational projects are concerned, 1,174,726 people, 51.26 per cent of them women, have been taught to read and write since 2003 through Misión Robinson I educational project. Women account for 71.79 per cent of the project's

facilitators and receive an economic incentive for this laudable work. Under Misión Robinson II, 1,181,187 people, 59 per cent of them women, completed their primary education and 70 per cent of the project's staff were women.

The Misión Sucre project was established to guarantee access to university education for those sectors of the population who, because of the persistent inequalities in the formal education system, have not had or do not have access to higher education. The project is being implemented in grass-roots communities and consists of distance-learning with facilitator support. Misión Sucre is being implemented in coordination with programmes at the Bolivarian University of Venezuela, thereby promoting the decentralization of university education, and in conjunction with the university villages being established throughout the country. Women account for 71.9 per cent of the 303,463 participants in this project.

In the economic sphere, the Women's Development Bank has, since 2001, granted a total of 43,788 credits, 39,409 to women and 4,379 to men. In other words, 90 per cent of recipients have been women. Of those, 3.46 per cent were women from areas where the population is predominantly of African descent (1,363 credits), 3.22 per cent were indigenous women (1,267 credits) and 23.92 per cent were rural women (9,427 credits). These credits were granted in tandem with technical support and training in women's rights with a view to improving the quality of life of recipients and their families. The credits also generate direct and indirect employment in recipient communities.

Under the Land Act of 2001, over 2 million hectares of land have been distributed among more than 10,000 peasant families and dozens of Zamoran farms — integrated rural development areas promoted by the Misión Zamora project — have been established. The Zamora project is designed to strengthen the land democratization and food security process and focuses not only on redistributing land but also on providing seeds, machinery, advice, economic support and training and encouraging peasants to organize to achieve integrated development. It also promotes the coordination of rural development processes with food security policies, incorporating new producers into the production and marketing system established by the Misión Mercal project. As part of that process, female heads of household have become landowners, improving their access to and control over resources. Furthermore, in terms of services, there has been a significant increase in the population's access to drinking water, with coverage reaching 87 per cent; as we all know, this benefits women, who have primary responsibility in this area. In 2003, wastewater collection coverage also reached 71 per cent.

Since indigenous people of various ethnicities account for 1.5 per cent of the total population, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has declared their languages to be joint official languages of the Republic. A bilingual education system being promoted in the areas of influence of each of the nation's nearly 40 indigenous communities is currently at the consolidation stage. In May 2005, the Presidential Commission for the Prevention and Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and Other Distinctions in the Venezuelan Education System was established.

As part of the above-mentioned Presidential Commission, the National Women's Institute has included indigenous women and those of African descent in its Plan for Women's Equality 2005-2009. Likewise, a female representative of the

non-governmental Network of Women of African Descent has joined the team from the Department of Planning for the Advancement of Women to facilitate and monitor the achievement of the Commission's objectives. As part of efforts to recognize the rights of indigenous people, the Misión Guaicaipuro project was set up with a view to coordinating all policies designed to enhance the dignity of indigenous women and men by promoting the demarcation of their territories and the creation of adequate living conditions and enabling them to be fully involved in development policies in a way that fully respects their way of life and customs. The project focuses on four main areas: ethnodevelopment (health care, food, education, culture, sanitation, production, trade, etc.); community management capacity-building (organization for work, identification, participation, communication, etc.); care of migrant indigenous people and those living on the streets; and demarcation of the habitat and land of indigenous peoples and communities. In August 2005, the Government issued the first collective land titles to a number of communities.

With regard to health, the Misión Barrio Adentro I project was set up in 2003. It is a comprehensive programme that provides prevention and treatment primary health-care services in the community. Barrio Adentro II is the second phase of the new system and is being implemented through the establishment of diagnostic and comprehensive rehabilitation centres on the outskirts of communities. The new centres, which deal with cases referred from primary health-care centres, offer high-tech diagnostic systems as well as comprehensive rehabilitation gyms and alternative therapies. More than 17 million Venezuelans have benefited from their services.

Annex

National machinery

Question 7

Table 1
Annual budget of CONAMU in 1998 and 1999

<i>Year</i>	<i>Budget in bolívars</i>	<i>Budget in dollars</i>	<i>Exchange rate (bolívars)</i>
1998	161 200 000.00	292 691.78	550.75
1999	514 832 711.00	791 745.81	650.25

Source: INAMUJER.

Table 2
Annual budget of INAMUJER from 2000-2005

<i>Year</i>	<i>Budget in bolívars</i>	<i>Budget in dollars</i>	<i>Exchange rate (bolívars)</i>
2000	710 000 000.00	1 014 648.09	699.75
2001	1 212 911 709.00	1 600 147.37	758.00
2002	4 028 687 500.00	2 871 480.76	1 403.00
2003	3 403 705 785.00	2 127 316.12	1 600.00
2004	4 654 936 969.00	2 424 446.34	1 920.00
2005	5 460 291 067.00	2 539 670.26	2 150.00

Source: INAMUJER.

Table 3
Budgets allocated to Regional Women's Institutes

<i>Regional Institutes</i>	<i>Budget in bolívars</i>	<i>Budget in dollars</i>
Regional Institute of the State of Amazonas	40 000 000.00	18 604.65
Regional Institute of the State of Aragua	69 478 423.00	32 315.54
Regional Institute of the State of Barinas	120 000 000.00	55 813.95
Regional Institute of the State of Falcón	208 785 000.00	97 109.30
Regional Institute of the State of Mérida	180 000 000.00	83 720.93
Regional Institute of the State of Cojedes	No budget	No budget
Regional Institute of the State of Delta Amacuro	800 000 000.00	372 093.02
Regional Institute of the State of Táchira	120 000 000.00	55 813.95
Regional Institute of the State of Trujillo	130 000 000.00	60 465.11
Regional Institute of the State of Vargas	400 000 000.00	186 046.51
Regional Institute of the State of Yaracuy	No budget	No budget

<i>Regional Institutes</i>	<i>Budget in bolívares</i>	<i>Budget in dollars</i>
Metropolitan Regional Institute	No budget	No budget
Sucre State Council	84 000 000.00	39 069.76
Total	2 152 263 423.00	1 001 052.71

Source: INAMUJER.

Table 4
Budgets allocated to Municipal Women's Institutes

<i>Municipal Institutes</i>	<i>Budget in bolívares</i>	<i>Budget in dollars</i>
Palo Negro de Aragua Municipal Institute	132 000 000.00	61 395.34
Pedro Manuel Rojas Municipal Institute	15 000 000.00	6 976.74
Antonio José de Sucre Municipal Institute	100 000 000.00	46 511.74
Manuel Alberto Arvelo Municipal Institute	5 000 000.00	2 325.58
Páez Municipality Municipal Women's Institute	200 000 000.00	93 023.25
Ospino Municipal Women's Institute	10 000 000.00	4 651.16
Total	462 000 000.00	214 883.69

Source: INAMUJER 2005.

Table 5
CONAMU human resources in 1998 and 1999

<i>Year</i>	<i>Employees</i>	<i>Manual workers</i>	<i>Contractual employees</i>	<i>Senior staff</i>	<i>Total</i>
1998	23	11	10	5	49
1999	23	11	10	5	49

Source: INAMUJER 2005.

Table 6
INAMUJER human resources from 2000-2005

<i>Year</i>	<i>Employees</i>	<i>Manual workers</i>	<i>Contractual employees</i>	<i>Senior staff</i>	<i>Total</i>
2000	14	11	12	7	58
2001	17	11	18	7	71
2002	34	13	44	9	100
2003	39	14	39	10	102
2004	42	14	49	11	116
2005	37	14	69	15	135

Source: INAMUJER 2005.

Stereotypes and education

Question 12

Table 7

Net school enrolment rate by education level

(school years 1998/99-2003/04)

<i>School year</i>	<i>Education level</i>		
	<i>Preschool education</i>	<i>Basic education</i>	<i>Secondary and diversified education</i>
1998-1999	40.34	82.76	21.57
1999-2000	44.1	84.69	22.5
2000-2001	44.32	87.07	23.75
2001-2002	46.5	90.41	25.55
2002-2003	47.5	89.8	25.9
2003-2004	49.4	90.9	28.5

Source: Ministry of Education and Sport.

Table 8

Gender-disaggregated gross school enrolment rate in secondary, diversified and vocational education

(school years 1998/99-2003/04)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1998-1999	23.0	31.7
1999-2000	24.1	32.6
2000-2001	25.9	34.4
2001-2002	28.1	36.9
2002-2003	28.6	37.0
2003-2004	31.6	40.3

Source: Integrated System of Social Indicators for Venezuela, 2005 and Ministry of Education and Sport.

Table 9
Number of students enrolled in public and private institutions, disaggregated by different education level

(school year 2003/04)

<i>Education level</i>	<i>Public institutions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Private institutions</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Preschool	825 491	83.9	158 733	16.1	984 224	100
Basic	4 037 555	83.5	795 915	16.5	4 833 470	100
Secondary	412 612	72.4	157 003	27.6	569 615	100
Adult education	336 438	66.4	169 863	33.6	506 301	100
Special education	135 747	95.4	5 050	3.6	140 797	100
Out-of-school education (INCE) ^a	720 726	100	0	0	720 726	100
Total	6 468 569	83.4	1 286 564	16.6	7 755 133	100

Source: Ministry of Education and Sport, *Memoria y Cuenta 2004*.

^a National Institute of Educational Cooperation.

Table 10
Number of students enrolled in preschool, basic and secondary education, disaggregated by gender

(school year 2003/04)

<i>Education level</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Preschool	500 792	50.9	483 432	49.1	984 224 ^a	100
Basic	2 454 309	50.8	2 379 161	49.22	4 833 470	100
Secondary	255 573	44.9	314 042	55.1	569 615	100

Source: See Ministry of Education and Sport, *Memoria y Cuenta 2004*, chapter 8.

^a This figure includes 69,304 children enrolled in non-conventional preschool education.

Table 11
Number of pupils enrolled in preschool education, disaggregated by geographical area

(school year 2003/04)

	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Number of pupils enrolled in preschool education	205 378	22.5	709 542	77.5	914 920 ^a	100

Source: See Ministry of Education and Sport, *Memoria y Cuenta 2004*, chapter 8.

^a This figure does not include non-conventional preschool education.

Table 12
Number of students enrolled in basic education, disaggregated by geographical area

(school year 2003/04)

	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Number of students enrolled in basic education	1 042 446	21.6	3 791 024	78.4	4 833 470	100

Source: See Ministry of Education and Sport, *Memoria y Cuenta 2004*, chapter 8.

Table 13
Number of students enrolled in secondary education, disaggregated by geographical area

(school year 2003/04)

	<i>Rural</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Urban</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Number of students enrolled in secondary education	53 406	9.4	516 209	90.6	569 615	100

Source: See Ministry of Education and Sport, *Memoria y Cuenta 2004*, chapter 8.

Table 14
Percentage school drop out rate, disaggregated by education level

<i>School year</i>	<i>Basic education^a</i>	<i>Secondary education^a</i>
1998/99	4.7	13.4
1999/2000	3.7	11.3
2000/01	3.3	11.1
2001/02	6.8	19.2
2002/03	4.5	8.7

Source: See Ministry of Education and Sport, *Memoria y Cuenta 2004*, chapter 8 and Integrated System of Social Indicators for Venezuela.

^a This figure is calculated on the basis of the total number of enrolments each year.

Table 15
Indigenous population aged 3 years and over and their school attendance
 (2001)

<i>Attend school</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Do not attend school</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>No information</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
49 207	30.9	106 388	66.9	3 568	2.2	159 163	100

Source: National Statistical Institute, 2001 Census.

Exploitation of prostitution and trafficking of women and girls

Question 18

Table 16

Trafficking in persons

(Number of cases)

<i>Crime</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>Total</i>
Human trafficking	1	5	6
Total	1	5	6

Table 17

(Number of victims)

<i>Crime</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Total</i>
Human trafficking	Cases: 3, 4, 5	Female
		Male
	Cases: 1, 2, 6	*To be identified (at the case level)
Total		12

Health

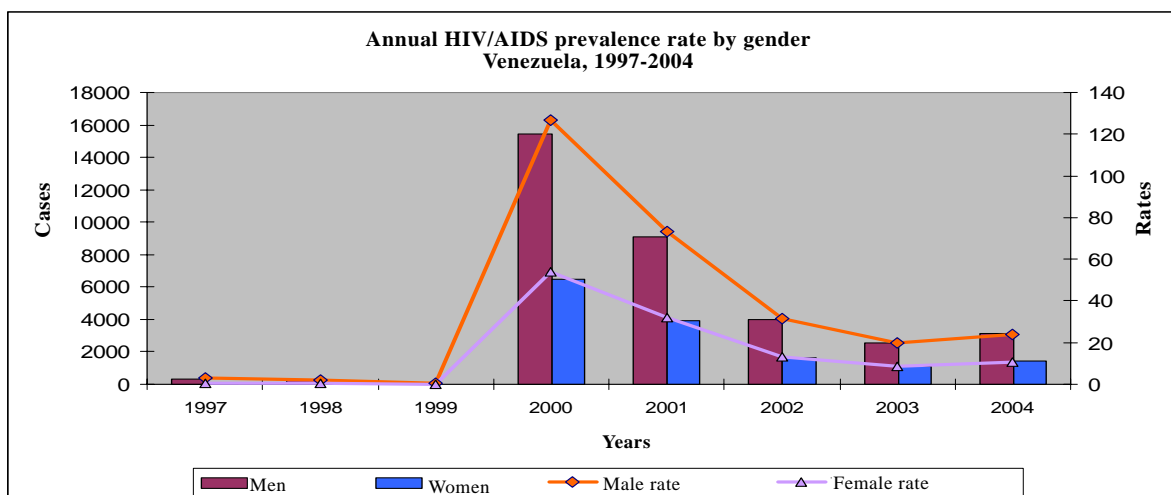
Question 28

Table 18

Reported AIDS cases

Annual HIV/AIDS prevalence rate by gender, Venezuela, 1997-2004

<i>Year</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate</i>
1997	329	2.84	55	0.48	384	1.67
1998	257	2.18	43	0.37	300	1.28
1999	54	0.45	11	0.09	65	0.27
2000	15 472	126.51	6 496	53.77	21 968	90.36
2001	9 115	73.19	3 934	31.95	13 049	52.69
2002	4 014	31.66	1 644	13.11	5 658	22.43
2003	2 545	19.73	1 107	8.67	3 652	14.22
2004	3 145	23.96	1 408	10.83	4 553	17.42
Total	34 931	282.99	14 698	120.48	49 629	230.20



Source: National HIV/AIDS Programme, Ministry of Health.