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the creation of a data-collection system on domestic violence cases. Courts were also dealing more severely with cases of domestic violence and had adopted a “no-drop” policy for such cases. Increased attention was also being paid to trafficking in women.

6. Women’s representation in Parliament remained low, where women held 3 of 49 seats — although 2 of them occupied senior positions. This was due to the fact that only chiefly title holders were eligible to run for Parliament and, despite some improvements, a preference for men to hold this position remained. At the same

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26. The Committee is concerned about the continuing low representation of women in public life and decision-making, including women's limited access to family chiefly titles (matai), and their resulting low representation in the Parliament. It is concerned that sociocultural stereotypes and traditions continue to prevent women from seeking public, and especially elective, office.

27.

28. The Committee is concerned about the situation of women in the employment sector and their lower level of participation in the labour force. The Committee is concerned that existing legislation is discriminatory or has significant gaps with respect to articles 11 and 13, such as lack of provisions on equal pay for work of equal value, protection against discrimination on the basis of pregnancy and against sexual harassment in the workplace. The Committee is also concerned about the extremely limited provision of paid maternity leave in the private sector and the lack of adequate childcare services.

29.

30. The Committee expresses concern that complications from pregnancy and childbirth remain one of the leading causes of morbidity for women. It is also concerned about the rising incidence of teenage pregnancy, the limited family-planning efforts, the low contraceptive prevalence rate and the lack of sex education in schools, despite comprehensive access for women to health services,



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