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**Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women**
Pre-session Working Group for the thirty-second session
10-28 January 2005

**List of issues and questions for the consideration
of periodic reports***

Paraguay

Prior to the session, after considering the combined third and fourth periodic reports and the fifth periodic re

2. The fifth report is inconsistent in its use of the terms “gender equity” and “equality”. Please explain the State party’s understanding of the difference between the two terms, if such a difference exists, and how the terms are applied. Also, the fifth report refers, on several occasions (e.g. on p. 11), to the “dichotomy of gender versus party”. Please explain.

3. Please inform the Committee as to whether the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments are part of national legislation and, if so, whether they may be invoked before the courts.

Political participation

4. The fifth report refers to the proposal of the Women’s Bureau of the Office of the President of the Republic and the Office of the Public Defender to reform the Electoral Code, with a view to ensuring women’s participation in the decision-

* The page references in this document are based on the English version of the combined third and fourth periodic reports and the fifth periodic report.

making bodies of the Republic by raising from 20 per cent to 50 per cent the minimum quota for participation by women in lists of electoral candidates and providing women with access to administrative posts (pp. 13-14). What progress has been made in this regard?

5. The fifth report states, on page 49, that “Women have won a significant proportion of second-tier posts, according to statistics from the Central Elections Commission: municipalities: 4.7 per cent of municipal mayors, 17.7 per cent of municipal councillors, and 14 per cent of departmental councillors”. The report further states (on pp. 21-22), that women’s participation is low, and that the obstacles to women’s political participation included lack of leadership by women, “women politicians’ lack of self-esteem vis-à-vis their male peers”, traditional sociocultural factors, the lack of support provided by the women’s movement to candidacies, and the lack of economic resources. What specific measures are planned to overcome these obstacles, particularly to implement the provisions of the Convention as obligations of the State party?

6. Pages 25 and 26 of the fifth report provide information concerning the international and regional forums attended by Paraguay’s women representatives. Please give information concerning women’s participation, over the past three years, in government delegations to regional and international forums that are not aimed exclusively at women, and please indicate the position and status of these women.

take reprisals against the victim (p. 5), please inform the Committee of the measures planned to ad