



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

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination  
against Women**

**Pre-session working group**

**Thirty-seventh session**

15 January-2 February 2007

**List of issues and questions with regard to the consideration  
of the combined fifth and sixth periodic report\***

**Viet Nam**

The pre-session working group examined the combined fifth and sixth periodic report of Viet Nam (CEDAW/C/VNM/5-6).

**Preparation of the report**

1. Please indicate whether the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports were adopted by the Government and presented to the National Assembly prior to its submission.

**Constitution, legislation and national machinery for the advancement of women**

2. The report indicates that the Constitution provides that all citizens, regardless of sex, ethnicity, and social strata are equal before the law (p. 5). The report also notes that very few administrative cases have been filed by women for alleged gender-based discrimination. Please provide reasons for this situation, as well as information as to the type of cases filed by women who faced discrimination, and the outcome of those cases, and also indicate what administrative or other remedies are available to women victims of discrimination.

3. The report describes the “National Strategy for the Advancement of Women until 2020”, which was approved by the Prime Minister in 2002 (p. 10). Please provide updates on the implementation of the Strategy until now, including on the Action Plan on Women’s Advancement (until 2005). This should include details on progress, challenges and gaps in implementation as well as on monitoring and

4. The report notes that the National Committee for the Advancement of Women has been strengthened (p. 11). Please provide more detail on the status of the Committee within the Government; its reporting structure; the human and financial resources available to the Committee; and its relationship with the Viet Nam Women's Union.

5. The report notes that the National Assembly decided in 2003 to draft a Law on Gender Equality. Please provide further information on the substantive provisions of the draft and current status of this initiative, as well as on the anticipated time frame



21. Please provide information on the extent and conditions of women working in the informal sector, and measures in place to support the economic empowerment of this group of women.

### **Health**

22. The report notes that the Government has been implementing the “National Strategy on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS to 2010 and vision 2020” (p. 39). Please indicate whether and how this strategy integrates a gender perspective and also provide updated information on the number of women currently infected with HIV/AIDS; the availability of antiretroviral medication and psychosocial services for women with HIV/AIDS and their children.

23. Please provide information on steps being taken to reduce the high abortion rates in Viet Nam and to provide comprehensive contraceptive services. Also provide information on the range of adolescent reproductive health services and information.

### **Rural women and ethnic minorities**

24. Please provide information on progress and remaining challenges following the implementation of the “Gender Plan of Action in Agriculture and Rural Development to 2005”. What steps are being taken in particular to enhance skills and improve employment rate of women in rural areas as well as to increase their productivity and participation in small-scale businesses? What steps have been taken to increase access to health care and education for rural women and girls?

25. Please provide more information on the living conditions of rural women living in mountain and remote areas, with a special focus on female-headed households, ethnic minorities and older women.

26. The report mentions several times that customs and practices prevail among ethnic minorities that lead to discrimination against women in areas such as divorce (p. 52), inheritance (p. 49) and access to health care (p. 36). What measures are being taken to address these issues?

### **Marriage and family relations**

27. The report addresses the new land use certificates which allow the registration of land under the names of both husband and wife (p. 49). However, particularly in rural areas land remains to be registered under the name of the head of household, mostly men. Please provide detailed information on the measures taken to ensure that women’s right to property is guaranteed.

### **Optional Protocol**

28. Please indicate whether any measures or actions have been undertaken to accede to the Optional Protocol.

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