

CEDAW in a Nutshell

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Article 1

- For the purposes of the present Convention, the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.



Article 2

State Parties agree to undertake:

- (a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation**
- (b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;**
- (c) To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men**
- (d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women**
- (e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise;**
- (f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women;**
- (g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women.**



Three CEDAW core principles:

- Principle of equality
- Principle of non-discrimination
- Principle of State obligation



Contents:


- Articles 2-4 outline the nature of State obligation in the form of law policy and programs that the State needs to undertake in order to eliminate discrimination.
- Articles 5-16 specify the different areas under which States are obligated to eliminate discrimination through measures described in articles 1-4.



The latter includes..

- sex roles and stereotyping and customary practices detrimental to women (article 5),
- prostitution (article 6),
- political and public life (article 7),
- participation at the international level (article 8),
- nationality (article 9),
- education (article 10),
- employment (article 11),
- health care and family planning (article 12),
- economic and social benefits (article 13),
- rural women (article 14),
- equality before the law (article 15),
- marriage and family relationship (article 16)



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- Articles 17-22 detail the establishment and functions of the CEDAW Committee; and
 - Articles 23-30 deal largely with the administration and other procedural aspects of the convention.