

15 February 2005

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**
Thirty-second session
10-28 January 2005

Concluding comments: Algeria

1. The Committee considered the second periodic report of Algeria (CEDAW/C/DZA/2) at its 667th and 668th meetings, on 11 January 2005 (see CEDAW/C/SR.667 and 668).

Introduction by the State party

2. In his introduction, the representative of Algeria stated that the situation in his country in 2005 was not the same as it had been in 1999, when the initial report had been submitted. Algeria had endured a long decade of ordeals in terms of terrorist crime, of which women were among the main targets. With the policy of civil concord which had accelerated the normalization of the security situation, terrorism — on the decline — today no longer constituted a serious threat to the country's institutions and people.

3. The principle of equality between women and men was guaranteed by the Constitution and various legal codes. For example, no legislative or regulatory provision prohibited or restricted participation by women in political life. There had been an increase in the number of women candidates in the 2002 elections. Thanks to the abolition of proxy voting, the decline in terrorist violence and women's determination to affirm their citizenship by exercising the vote, significant numbers of women had taken part in the recent presidential election. It should also be noted that, although the number of women elected to office remained small, there had been a considerable increase in the number of women in senior civil service posts.

4. Free and compulsory education without discrimination on the basis of gender was fundamental to women's emancipation. The percentage of young women attending institutes, senior schools and universities had increased from 39.5 per cent in 1990 to 55.4 per cent in 2003. Textbooks had been revised. Social and cultural attitudes were gradually changing and negative attitudes towards women along with stereotypes of them were declining.

31. The Committee is concerned about the high incidence of violence against women, including domestic violence, and about the continuing lack of specific legislation to address and eliminate violence against women.

32.

