

**Ms. Ivanka Corti, Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of
Discrimination against Women 1993 to 1996**

Statement at the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention

rights; and on the other, following the recommendations of Vienna Conference that “human rights of women should form an integral part of the United Nations human rights activities, including the promotion of all human rights instruments relating to women”, starting with the active cooperation with different United Nations bodies and NGOs from all continents.

The first step in this direction was the beginning of our participation in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women which today is a normal practice.

For the Vienna Conference, we prepared Suggestion No. 4 which was issued as an official document and several parts of the Vienna Declaration concerning women’s human rights were taken from this document (A/157/PC/62/Ass.13).

The examination of States parties’ reports continued in the spirit of the constructive

sponsorship of UNFPA, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women, in a meeting entitled “Roundtable on human rights approaches to women’s health, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights”. It was the first meeting of representatives from all the human rights treaty bodies on a thematic issue. Besides the representatives of the treaty bodies, several NGOs participated as well as representatives of different universities dealing with women’s health problems.

The cooperation with UNIFEM became more active and fruitful and there is a long list of its activities on behalf of spreading knowledge on the importance of the Convention for de jure and de facto equality of women. Its programme to further enhance public awareness and use of the CEDAW Convention among programme advisors for women’s human rights contributed extensively to its strategy of empowerment through the Convention.

The decision to send a group of NGO representatives from the Asia-Pacific region to attend the 16th session for one week and prepare them to spread knowledge and advocacy for the Convention at the grass-root level, represents one of many very important actions of UNIFEM in support of CEDAW.

During the Committee’s regular session, there was not enough time to prepare a document on the accomplishments as well as challenges faced by it and which the Committee had to present to the Beijing Conference. At the same time, the Committee had to play an

The contribution of NGOs was critical in the campaign for universal ratification, the