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special measures so as to accelerate the achievement of women's de facto equality, as called for in article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and in the Committee's general recommendation 25, and in relation to all areas of the Convention where appropriate and necessary.

11. The Committee is concerned about the significant wage gap between women and men, which increases with women's age, level of education and job responsibilities, and where women employed in management positions are paid on average 50 per cent less than men. The Committee also notes with concern that women have higher unemployment rates than men in spite of the fact that the female labour force is better educated than the male. Furthermore, while recognizing the efforts made by the State party to improve the working conditions and opportunities for women seasonal and casual workers, including the provision of childcare centres, the Committee remains concerned that only 39.7 per cent of lower-income women workers have an employment contract, which puts them also at a significant disadvantage in the social security system.

12. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct a detailed study on women's participation in the labour market and collect sex-disaggregated data in particular to determine the factors that contribute to women's disadvantage in the labour market as reflected in the wage gap, high unemployment and scarcity of women in managerial positions. The Committee also requests the State party to develop a comprehensive system to monitor the contracts of temporary and seasonal women workers and take measures to eliminate practices that disadvantage women in the social security system. The Committee requests the State party to provide detailed disaggregated data and information on the situation of women in the formal and informal labour markets. The above information should be disaggregated by women's age, level of skills, education and specialization and employment sector, as well as by urban and rural areas, and be included in the next report.

13. While welcoming the recent progress in decision-making positions in public life, the Committee expresses concern about the fact that women's participation in parliament, in municipalities and in the foreign service remains slight.

14. The Committee urges the State party to intensify its efforts to reform the binominal electoral system, which is unfavourable for women's political representation, and take measures, in particular temporary special measures, aimed at accelerating de facto equality between women and men in order to increase the participation of women in political life, particularly in parliament and municipalities, in line with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, on temporary special measures, and general recommendation 23, on women in public life. The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to increase the number of women studying for a career in the foreign service in order to meet the commitments to gender equality introduced in the Management Improvement Programme and to comply with the State party's obligations under article 8 of the Convention.

15. While noting the State party's recent initiatives to address the problem of trafficking in women and girls, including the ratification in November 2004 of the Proues, y

destination country, the lack of national legislation and the absence of adequate measures to combat the phenomena of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution.

16. The Committee calls on the State party to adopt necessary legislation and develop a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy and plan of action to combat this phenomenon. Such a strategy should include qualitative and quantitative research and the implementation of preventive and protective programmes, including measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of women and girls who are victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking as well as the prosecution of traffickers. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report comprehensive information and data on trafficking in women and girls and on prostitution, as well as the measures in place to combat these phenomena and their impact.

17. The Committee notes the State party's goal to reduce teenage pregnancy by 45 per cent by 2015 and welcomes measures taken so far in this regard, as well as measures to ensure the right to education for pregnant girls and young mothers. However, the Committee remains concerned about the high rates of teenage pregnancy and the rising levels of pregnancy in early adolescence, which continue to be a major cause of girls dropping out of school.

18. The Committee requests the State party to strengthen measures aimed at the prevention of unwanted pregnancies among adolescents. These should include measures, including prosecution, against men who have sexual intercourse with underage girls, as well as educational measures for girls and boys aimed at responsible partnerships and parenthood. The Committee also calls on the State party to ensure appropriate measures for continuing the education of young mothers and their access to schooling and to monitor the effectiveness of these measures and report on results achieved in its next report.

19. The Committee expresses its concern about the inadequate recognition and protection of the reproductive health and rights of women in Chile. It remains concerned that abortion under all circumstances is a punishable offence under Chilean law, which may lead women to seek unsafe, illegal abortions, with consequent risks to their life and health, and that clandestine abortions are a major cause of maternal mortality.

20. The Committee calls on the State party to take concrete measures to enhance women's access to health care, in particular to sexual and reproductive health services, in accordance with article 12 of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 24, on women and health. It requests the State party to strengthen measures aimed at the prevention of unwanted pregnancies, including by making a comprehensive range of contraceptives and family planning methods more widely available and affordable and without any restriction, and by increasing knowledge and awareness about family planning among women as well as men. The Committee also calls on the State party to reduce maternal mortality rates through safe motherhood services and prenatal assistance and take measures to ensure that women do not seek unsafe medical procedures

in accordance with general recommendation 24, on women and health, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

21. The Committee notes with concern that the Civil Marriages Act, which has been in force since November 2004, increased the minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls to only 16 years of age.

22. The Committee urges the State party to further revise its legislation with a view to raising the minimum legal age of marriage to 18 years, in order to bring it into line with article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and with article 16, paragraph 2, of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and general recommendation 21, on equality in marriage and family relations.

23. The Committee regrets the lack of sufficient sex-disaggregated data throughout the report and responses to the list of issues and questions in relation to many of the provisions of the Convention.

24. The Committee requests the State party to include in its next report sex-

those instruments enhances the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects of life.

30. The Committee requests the wide dissemination in Chile of the present concluding comments in order to make the people, including Government officials, politicians, parliamentarians and women's and human rights organizations, aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure de jure and de facto equality of women, as well as the further steps that are required in that regard. The Committee requests the State party to continue to disseminate widely, in particular to women's and human rights organizations, the Convention, its Optional Protocol, the Committee's general recommendations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

31. The Committee requests the State party to respond to the concerns expressed in the present concluding comments in its next periodic report under article 18 of the Convention. The Committee invites the State party to submit its fifth periodic

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