

MAY 6 1953



UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH SESSION

(16 MARCH - 3 APRIL 1953)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS: SIXTEENTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 2

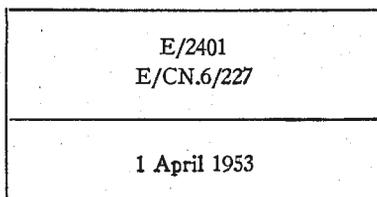
NEW YORK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Organization of the seventh session of the Commission	1- 13	1
II. Agenda	14- 16	2
III. Nationality of married women	17- 26	3
IV. Status of women in private law	27- 36	5
V. Political rights of women	37- 50	7
VI. Status of women in public law	51- 52	9
VII. Equal pay for equal work	53- 59	9
VIII. Economic opportunities for women	60- 71	10
(a) Part-time work for women	61- 67	10
(b) Older women workers	68- 71	11
IX. Educational opportunities for women	72- 84	11
X. Participation of women in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies	85- 92	13
XI. Technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women	93- 96	14
XII. Action taken upon decisions reached by the sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women	97- 98	14
XIII. Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to the eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights and to the fifth session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities	99-100	15
XIV. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women	101	15
XV. Communications concerning the status of women	102-103	15
XVI. Programme of work and establishment of priorities	104-110	15
XVII. Consideration of the place of the next session	111	16
XVIII. Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council	112	16

ANNEXES

1. Draft resolutions for the Economic and Social Council	16
2. Financial implications of the resolution concerning the technical assistance programmes (see chapter XI)	19



Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the seventh session of the
Commission, held at Headquarters, New York, from 16 March to 3 April 1953

CHAPTER I

Organization of the seventh session of the
Commission

1. The seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women opened on Monday, 16 March 1953, in the United Nations Headquarters. The Commission held twenty-six plenary meetings and terminated its work on 3 April 1953.

2. The following representatives of member States of the Commission attended:

Burma: Miss Daw Ohn, representative;

Byelorussian SSR: Mrs. Faina Novikova, representative;

Chile: Miss Gabriela Mistral, representative, Mrs. Margarita Gallo-Muller, alternate;

China: Miss Pao Swen Tseng, representative;

Cuba: Miss Uldarica Mañas, representative;

Dominican Republic: Miss Minerva Bernardino, representative;

France: Madame Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, representative;

Haiti: Madame Fortuna Augustin Guéry, representative;

Lebanon: Mrs. Laure Tabet, representative;

Netherlands: Miss Elisabeth Ribbius Peletier, representative;

New Zealand: Miss Joan Young, alternate;

Pakistan: Begum Anwar Ahmed, representative;

Poland: Mrs. Zofia Wasilkowska, representative;

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mrs. Elizavieta Popova, representative;

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Mrs. John Warde, representative;

United States of America: Mrs. Lorena Hahn, representative;

Venezuela: Mrs. Isabel Sánchez de Urdaneta, representative.

3. The representative of Iran, Mrs. Safiyeh Firouz, was unable to attend the session.

4. At the 123rd meeting, the representative of the USSR, speaking on a point of order, moved that "the Kuomintang representative" be excluded from membership of the Commission and that a representative of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China be invited to take her place; this motion was

supported by some members. The acting Chairman ruled that this question was outside the Commission's competence. The representative of the USSR requested that her protest and disagreement with the ruling of the acting Chairman be recorded in the report.

5. The Commission at its 123rd meeting elected the following officers:

Chairman: Miss Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic);

First Vice-Chairman: Miss Elisabeth Ribbius Peletier (Netherlands);

Second Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Faina Novikova (Byelorussian SSR);

Rapporteur: Begum Anwar Ahmed (Pakistan).

6. The following representatives of specialized agencies were also present at the session:

International Labour Organisation: Miss Mildred Fairchild

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Mrs. Alva Myrdal, Mr. Solomon Arnaldo

World Health Organization: Dr. Mabel Ingalls

7. The Inter-American Commission of Women, an inter-governmental organization, was represented by Mrs. Amalia de Castillo Ledón and Mrs. Esther N. de Calvo, in accordance with resolution 48 B (IV), paragraph 7, of the Economic and Social Council.

8. The following authorized representatives from non-governmental organizations were also present:

CATEGORY A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions: Miss Toni Sender, Mr. Martin Wagner;

International Federation of Christian Trade Unions: Mr. Gerard Thormann;

World Federation of Trade Unions: Miss Elinor Kahn;

World Federation of United Nations Associations: Mrs. Evelyn W. Fox;

CATEGORY B

Catholic International Union for Social Service: Mrs. A. D. Vergara;

International Alliance of Women: Miss Ruth Woodsmall; Mrs. Charlotte B. Mahon, Miss Anne Guthrie;

International Conference of Catholic Charities: Dr. Louis C. Longarzo;

International Co-operative Women's Guild: Mrs. Margaret R. Bender;

International Council of Women: Mrs. Eunice H. Carter, Mrs. Frances M. Freeman;
International Federation of Business and Professional Women: Mrs. Esther W. Hymer;
International Federation of Friends of Young Women: Miss Anna Lagemann;
International Federation of University Women: Dr. Janet Robb, Miss Frances McGillicuddy;
International League for the Rights of Man: Mr. Max Baer, Miss Nora Poses, Mrs. Rose Wishner, Dr. H. Wolle-Egenolf, Mrs. Jack Roitburd;
Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations: Mrs. Barbara D. Evans;
Pax Romana: Mrs. Margaret L. McGivern;
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: Mrs. Gladys, D. Walser, Mrs. Caroline B. Malin;
World's Women's Christian Temperance Union: Miss Helen G. H. Estelle;
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations: Miss Catherine Schaefer, Miss Jean Gartlan, Miss Alba Zizzamia, Dr. Helena Weber;
World Union for Progressive Judaism: Mrs. Eleanor S. Polstein;
World's Young Women's Christian Association: Mrs. Constance M. Anderson, Miss Elizabeth Palmer, Miss Margaret E. Forsyth;
Young Christian Workers: Mrs. Joan Peter Grady.

REGISTER

Associated Country Women of the World: Mrs. Eleanor S. Roberts, Mrs. Raymond Sayre;
International Federation of Women Lawyers: Miss Agatha O. LaLonde, Miss Viola Smith;
St. Joan's International, Social and Political Alliance: Miss Wanda Grabinska, Miss Magda de Spur.

9. At the 123rd meeting of the Commission, the representative of Poland inquired why a visa had not been granted to the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation, a non-governmental organization in Category B, who had been appointed to attend the seventh session of the Commission. The Commission had before it a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.105/Rev.1), submitted by the representative of Poland. This question was discussed at three meetings of the Commission and several members participated in the debate on the draft resolution. At its 140th meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of 14 in favour, 1 against, and 2 abstentions.

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women

Having been informed of the delay in the admission of the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation into the United States, to enable her to take part in the work of the Seventh Session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Taking into account section 11(4) of the Headquarters Agreement concerning the admission of representatives of non-governmental organizations which have consultative status,

Regrets that the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation has not been granted an entry-visa which would enable her to come to the

United Nations Headquarters and to take part in the work of the Seventh Session of the Commission;

Calls the attention of the Economic and Social Council to that abnormal situation and requests the Economic and Social Council to examine this question at its fifteenth session in order to take appropriate measures.

At the 147th meeting of the Commission, the representative of the USSR pointed out with satisfaction that the Economic and Social Council, at its fifteenth session, decided to include this item as item 34 of its agenda.

10. Mrs. Giannina de Castille, observer representing Ecuador, Mr. Nathir Umari, observer representing Iraq, and Mr. Kresimir Horvat, observer representing Yugoslavia, attended meetings of the session.

11. Mr. Guillaume Georges-Picot and Mrs. Mary Tenison-Woods represented the Secretary-General; Mrs. Sophie Grinberg-Vinaver acted as Secretary to the Commission.

12. The expression of the views of the members of the Commission are embodied in the summary records of the plenary meetings (E/CN.6/SR.123 to E/CN.6/SR.148).

13. In order to expedite its work the Commission established two Committees, as follows:

Committee on Resolutions: The representatives of France (Chairman), New Zealand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Venezuela.

Committee on Communications: The representatives of the United Kingdom (Chairman), Burma, China, Haiti, Pakistan and Poland.

CHAPTER II

Agenda

14. The Commission considered its provisional agenda (E/CN.6/205) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman, at its 123rd meeting.

15. The representative of Cuba proposed that the question of nationality of married women which was item 11 on the provisional agenda, should become item 3, in view of the great importance which the majority of members of the Commission attached to this question. The representative of France proposed that the positions of item 6, "Economic Opportunities for Women", and item 7, "Equal Pay for Equal Work", should be reversed since the latter question should logically be considered before the former. Both proposals were accepted. In addition the Commission decided to transfer sub-item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda, "Report on Vocational Guidance and Training", to item 8, "Educational Opportunities for Women", as sub-item (d).

16. The agenda in its final form, which was adopted unanimously, reads as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Nationality of married women:
 Report on the action taken by the International Law Commission and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the drafting of a convention on the nationality of married women.
4. Status of women in private law:

- (a) Reports on family law based on replies of governments to part III of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women;
 - (b) Report on property rights of women based on replies of governments to part II of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women;
 - (c) Report on replies of non-governmental organizations to questions on the status of women in private law as to changes considered desirable in order to eliminate discrimination against women.
5. Political rights of women:
- (a) Report on the action taken on the draft convention on political rights of women adopted by the Commission at its sixth session;
 - (b) Memorandum prepared annually by the Secretary-General on the advancement of political rights of women;
 - (c) Report on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories;
 - (d) Report on women in public office based on data received from governments.
6. Status of women in public law:
- (a) Supplementary reports on women in public services and functions and civil liberties for women including information on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories;
 - (b) Draft pamphlet on discriminations against women in the fields of public services and functions and civil liberties.
7. Equal pay for equal work for men and women workers:
- Progress reports on the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women workers, including information on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.
8. Economic opportunities for women:
- (a) Reports on part-time work for women;
 - (b) Report on the number and employment status of older women workers.
9. Educational opportunities for women:
- (a) Report on the findings of the UNESCO-IBE Conference of 1952 on access of women to education;
 - (b) Reports on access of women to education, including information on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories;
 - (c) Report on legal provisions concerning educational opportunities for girls and women in various countries;
 - (d) Report on vocational guidance and training.
10. Participation of women in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies:
- Report on the participation of women in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.
11. Technical Assistance Programmes in relation to the status of women:
- Reports on the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations in relation to the status of women.

12. Action taken upon decisions reached by the sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women: Report of the Secretary-General.
13. Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to the eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights and to the fifth session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
14. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
15. Communications concerning the status of women.
16. Review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities.
17. Adoption of the report to the Economic and Social Council.

CHAPTER III

Nationality of married women

17. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th and 131st meetings. It had before it two notes by the Secretary-General on the action taken by the International Law Commission and the Economic and Social Council respectively since the sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women with respect to the drafting of a convention on the nationality of married women (E/2343 and E/CN.6/217). The Secretary-General also circulated to the members of the Commission the report on "Nationality including Statelessness" submitted to the International Law Commission by its special rapporteur (A/CN.4/50) together with the summary records of the 155th and 156th meetings of the International Law Commission at which the draft Convention on Nationality of Married Persons was discussed. The Commission also had before it a supplementary report on statutory and constitutional provisions relating to the nationality of married women (E/CN.6/206 and Add.1 and 2).

18. Some representatives felt that the action taken by the International Law Commission at its fourth session amounted to a refusal by that body to draft a convention dealing with nationality of married women and that therefore the Commission on the Status of Women should prepare and adopt a text of a convention on this urgent matter to be transmitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. These representatives stated that recommending such a convention was a particularly appropriate form of action for the Commission to take since nationality and citizenship are closely related to the exercise of political rights and that elimination of discrimination against married women in the field of nationality could in no way duplicate the studies and recommendations on the broader and more complex problem of nationality including statelessness to be made by the International Law Commission.

19. Other members, however, while recognizing the urgent necessity of action to improve the status of married women in the field of nationality, thought it advisable to entrust the task of drafting a convention to an expert legal body such as the International Law Commission. Some members of the Commission stated that any convention in the field of nationality of married women could constitute undue interference with the

national jurisdiction of States and therefore there is no need for such a convention.

20. The Commission heard a statement by the Secretary of the International Law Commission to the effect that that Commission had not considered it possible to study the question of nationality of married women except as part of the general subject of nationality and that in view of the heavy agenda of the next session of the International Law Commission it was improbable that that body would be able to reach this subject in the near future.

21. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women and of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

22. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representative of Cuba (E/CN.6/L.89) which, after outlining the history of this matter in United Nations organs, asked the Economic and Social Council to adopt a resolution containing the full text of a convention on the nationality of married persons with a recommendation to the General Assembly for its opening for signature and ratification.

23. The Commission also had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representatives of New Zealand and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.90) which, recognizing the urgency of the matter, expressed the hope that the International Law Commission would find it possible to study and approve, at its 1953 session, the principles previously adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to furnish the Commission with information on new laws concerning nationality of married women.

24. Both draft resolutions were referred by the Commission to its *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions. A verbal amendment to the Cuban draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.89) was submitted by the representative of the Dominican Republic as a compromise between the two attitudes expressed in the draft resolutions. It substituted for the first two paragraphs of the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a request from the Council to the Secretary-General to circulate the text of the draft Convention on Nationality of Married Persons prepared by the Commission on the Status of Women to Governments of Member States for comments on its text, such comments to be sent to the Secretary-General by 1 January 1954, for consideration by the Commission at its eighth session. This compromise proposal was incorporated in the draft resolution on nationality of married women, recommended to the Commission by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions (E/CN.6/L.95).

25. The sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.90 withdrew their proposal and accepted this compromise, stating that the compromise proposal did not affect their basic position that a convention on the Nationality of Married Women should not be separate from other necessary provisions on the general subject of nationality. Some members of the Commission who favoured the immediate adoption by the Commission of a text of a convention also supported this compromise with a view to achieving the largest possible measure of

agreement, while regretting that more direct action apparently did not meet with general support.

26. At its 131st meeting the Commission adopted by 12 votes in favour, 3 against, and 2 abstentions, the following resolution proposed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its recommendation made at its fourth session to the Economic and Social Council that a convention on the nationality of married women be drafted embodying the following principles:

"(i) There shall be no distinction based on sex as regards nationality, in legislation or in practice;

"(ii) Neither marriage nor its dissolution shall affect the nationality of either spouse. Nothing in such a convention shall preclude the parties to it from making provision for the voluntary naturalization of aliens married to their nationals;"

Recalling resolution 304 D (XI) in which the Economic and Social Council proposed to the International Law Commission that it undertake the drafting of a convention to embody the principles recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women and the resolution adopted by the International Law Commission at its second session deeming it "appropriate to entertain the proposal of the Economic and Social Council in connexion with its contemplated work on the subject of 'nationality including statelessness'",

Noting, however, that at its fourth session the International Law Commission considered a report by its special rapporteur on nationality including statelessness which contained a draft convention on the nationality of married persons following closely the principles approved by the Economic and Social Council, but that it decided not to draft such a convention and to communicate the Commission's decision to the Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the Economic and Social Council decided at its resumed fourteenth session to place the item "draft convention on nationality of married women" on the list of items for its sixteenth session,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, at its seventh session, that a Convention on the nationality of married persons be opened for signature by interested States,

"Desiring to expedite by every appropriate means, in accordance with the principles of the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the extension to women in all countries of equal rights in the field of nationality,

"Requests the Secretary-General to circulate to the governments of Member States, for their comments, the following text of the draft Convention on Nationality of Married Persons, with the request that such comments be sent to the Secretary-General by 1 January 1954, to be made available to the Commission on the Status of Women for consideration at its eighth session:

"CONVENTION ON THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED PERSONS

"The Contracting Parties,

"Recognizing that conflicts in law and in practice with reference to nationality arise as a result of distinctions based on sex,

"Recognizing that in article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed that 'Everyone has the right to a nationality', and that 'No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality',

"Desiring to co-operate with the United Nations in promoting universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to sex,

"Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

"Article 1

"Each of the Contracting States agrees that it will make no distinction based on sex either in its legislation or in its practice in regard to nationality.

"Article 2

"Each of the Contracting States agrees that neither the celebration nor the dissolution of a marriage between one of its nationals and an alien shall affect the nationality of the spouse who is its national.

"Article 3

"1. Each of the Contracting States agrees that it will, whenever possible, give to the alien spouse of one of its nationals the right to acquire its nationality at his/her request.

"2. Each of the Contracting States agrees that this Convention shall not be construed as affecting any existing legislation or practice which gives to the alien spouse of one of its nationals the right to acquire the latter's nationality, either at his/her request or through privileged naturalization procedures.

"Article 4

"Each of the Contracting States agrees that neither the voluntary acquisition of the nationality of another State nor the renunciation of its nationality by one of its nationals will affect the retention of its nationality by the spouse of such national.

"Article 5

"1. This Convention shall be open for signature on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and also on behalf of any other State to which an invitation has been directed by the General Assembly.

"2. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"Article 6

"1. This Convention shall be open for accession to all States referred to in paragraph 1 of article 5.

"2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"Article 7

"1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the date of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession.

"2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

"Article 8

"1. At the time of signature, ratification, or accession, any State may make reservations to any article of this Convention other than article(s)

"2. Any State making a reservation in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article may at any time withdraw the reservation by communication to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"Article 9

"1. Any State may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

"2. This Convention shall cease to be in force as from the date when the denunciation which reduces the number of Parties to less than six becomes effective.

"Article 10

"Any dispute which may arise between any two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, which is not settled by negotiation, shall at the request of any one of the Parties to the dispute be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision, unless they agree to another mode of settlement.

"Article 11

"The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify all Members of the United Nations and the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article 5 of this Convention of the following:

"(a) Signature and instruments of ratifications received in accordance with article 5;

"(b) Instruments of accession received in accordance with article 6;

"(c) The date upon which this Convention enters into force in accordance with article 7;

"(d) Communications and notifications received in accordance with article 8;

"(e) Notifications of denunciation received in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 9;

"(f) Abrogation in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 9.

"Article 12

"1. This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts shall be equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

"2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy to all Members of the United Nations and to the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article 5."

CHAPTER IV

Status of women in private law

27. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda, Status of Women in Private Law, at its 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th and 131st meetings. It decided to

consider sub-items (a), (b), and (c), as a whole. The Commission had before it a report by the Secretary-General on Family Law, based on replies of governments to part III of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women (E/CN.6/185 and Add.1 to 10); a report by the Secretary-General on Property Rights of Women based on replies of governments to part II of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women (E/CN.6/208); and a report by the Secretary-General on the Status of Women in Private Law, covering both family law and property rights of women, based on replies of non-governmental organizations to questions as to changes considered desirable in the legal systems of various countries in order to eliminate discriminations against women (E/CN.6/186 and Add.1 to 3).

28. At the outset, the representative of the United States of America introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.88) which was subsequently withdrawn and replaced by the following procedural proposal (E/CN.6/L.92) which was adopted by the Commission after a brief general debate at its 128th meeting by 10 votes in favour, none against, and 6 abstentions:

The Commission on the Status of Women

Decides to discuss the documentation only in relation to the formulation of general principles regarding the status of women in private law;

Decides to give attention at the present session to the situation of women in family relationships, particularly as to entrance into marriage (betrothal, substantive marriage requirements, and marriage formalities) the personal relations of spouses, and the property rights of women in marriage, as set forth in documents E/CN.6/185 and addenda, E/CN.6/208, and in the pertinent sections of document E/CN.6/186 and addenda.

29. The Commission also had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representatives of France, Lebanon and Pakistan (E/CN.6/L.91/Rev.1) recommending to the Economic and Social Council that it request the Commission on Human Rights to include article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

30. A verbal amendment to this draft resolution, submitted by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, incorporating the full text of article 16 in the draft resolution was adopted by the Commission at its 130th meeting, by 7 votes for, 2 against and 8 abstentions. At the same meeting the Commission on the Status of Women adopted by 12 votes in favour, none against, and 5 abstentions,¹ the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

In view of the fact that the United Nations General Assembly, at its sixth session held in Paris, requested the Commission on Human Rights to draft two covenants implementing the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights, one to contain civil and political rights and the other to contain social, economic, and cultural rights,

Requests the Commission on Human Rights to include in the covenant on civil and political rights, article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reads as follows:

“(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

“(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

“(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”

31. In the course of the general debate on private law all members of the Commission agreed that the discriminations existing against women, particularly married women, in the fields of family law and property rights, were extensive and linked with the question of political equality of women; measures should therefore be taken as soon as possible for their elimination. Several members of the Commission expressed their concern with the necessity to reconcile equality of rights and duties of spouses with the principle of unity of the family but felt that since, in family matters, equality denotes reciprocal rather than identical rights and duties, the principle of equality did not preclude family unity.

32. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Friends of Young Women, and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

33. The Commission had before it a joint draft resolution submitted by Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, France and Venezuela (E/CN.6/L.93), inviting the Economic and Social Council to ask governments to take measures to ensure the equality of married women in family matters and in the exercise of property rights. It also had before it a joint draft resolution submitted by Cuba, France and Venezuela (E/CN.6/L.94), requesting the Economic and Social Council to recommend to Member States to adopt a statutory matrimonial régime consisting in separation of property during marriage and in the creation of a common fund at the dissolution of marriage, to be equally divided between the spouses or their heirs.

34. The Commission referred these proposals to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions. That Committee recommended to the Commission the adoption of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.93 with certain additions and changes in its paragraphs 2, 3 and sub-paragraph (b) of the operative part (E/CN.6/L.96); it also recommended to the Commission the postponement until its next session of the study of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.94 which was subsequently withdrawn by its sponsors. In this connexion, the Commission expressed the wish to have before it at its next session a comparative study on matrimonial régimes, particularly régimes embodying the principles outlined in draft resolution E/CN.6/L.94.

35. The representatives of Poland and of the Netherlands submitted verbal amendments to the draft resolution E/CN.6/L.96 as follows:

¹ The representative of Pakistan abstained in the vote because she was not in favour of the USSR amendment.

(a) The first amendment² of the representative of Poland to the second paragraph of the draft resolution recommended to the Economic and Social Council was adopted by 4 votes for, 2 against and 11 abstentions. Two other verbal amendments³ by the representative of Poland were rejected respectively by 4 votes for, 13 against and no abstention, and by 4 votes for, 13 against and no abstention.

(b) The verbal amendment by the representative of the Netherlands consisting in the addition of the phrase "without the formal consent of the husband" to subparagraph (b) of the operative part of the draft resolution, after the words "outside the home" was withdrawn by its sponsor after a lengthy debate on the scope of the phrase "right to engage in work outside the home".⁴

36. At its 131st meeting the Commission adopted unanimously the following resolution on the status of women in private law:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the discrimination against women in family law and property rights apparent in the reports prepared by the Secretary-General,

Noting that in many countries these discriminations are of particular significance in relation to the subordinate status of the wife during marriage, the limited authority of the mother over her children, the non-participation of the wife in the choice of the family domicile, the restrictions imposed upon the right of the wife to administer and dispose of her property and to engage in independent work,

Believing that these aspects of the status of women require particular attention,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for future sessions, detailed comparative studies of these and related questions in family law and property rights,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Considering that the principle of equality of rights for men and women is solemnly proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations,

"Recognizing, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that 'the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State' and that men and women 'are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution',

"Believing that legal equality of husband and wife and the sharing by spouses of the authority, preroga-

tives and responsibilities involved in marriage is of benefit not only to the status of women but also to the family, as an institution, and

"Noting that the legal systems of many countries result in a subordinate status of the wife in family matters of fundamental importance and that under numerous legal systems women are, during marriage, deprived of important personal and property rights or are subject to the authority and control of their husbands in the exercise of these rights,

"Recommends that governments:

"(a) Take all possible measures to ensure equality of rights and duties of husband and wife in family matters;

"(b) Take all possible measures to ensure to the wife full legal capacity and the right to engage in work outside the home; the right, on equal terms with her husband, to acquire, administer, enjoy and dispose of property."

CHAPTER V

Political rights of women

37. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 132nd to 136th meetings. It had before it documents A/2154 and Adds. 1 and 2, A/2156 and Adds. 1 and 2, A/2334, E/CN.6/209, E/CN.6/210, E/CN.6/211, E/CN.6/212 and Add. 1). The Commission considered sub-items (a), (b), (c) and (d) as a whole.

38. In the course of the general debate, most of the members of the Commission expressed their satisfaction with the adoption by the General Assembly at its seventh session of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women and with the fact that the Convention was being opened for signature and ratification or accession by Member States on 31 March 1953. Some members felt, however, that the provisions of this Convention did not ensure the implementation of political rights of women in all areas of the world, particularly in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

39. The majority of the Commission felt that non-member States of the United Nations who are or who become members of specialized agencies or of the Statute of the International Court of Justice should be invited by the General Assembly to become parties to the Convention; others felt that such a recommendation would unnecessarily limit the possibility for all States, without any distinction, to become parties to the Convention under its articles 4 and 5.

40. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations, International Alliance of Women, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, International Council of Women and International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

41. The Commission had before it a joint draft resolution on political rights of women submitted by Cuba, Dominican Republic and France (E/CN.6/L.98). This text was referred to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions which recommended to the Commission a slightly amended text (E/CN.6/L.98/Rev.1). At the 135th meeting of the Commission, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a verbal amendment to delete the penultimate paragraph of document E/CN.6/L.98/Rev.1 because it was felt

²Deleting in line 2 the words "based on marriage" (in order to conform with the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and inserting in line 3 after the words "unit of society" the phrase "is entitled to protection by society and the State" (addition of quotation marks before *the family*, after *state*, before *men and women*).

³Inserting, between the last two paragraphs, the following paragraph: "Noting that in order to guarantee to women their equality of rights in the family it is necessary to protect the mother and child"; adding, at the end of sub-paragraph (a), the following words: "and to protect the interests of mother and child".

⁴The representative of the Netherlands stated that this provision of the resolution was acceptable to her on the understanding that the right of a woman "to engage in work outside the home" was being considered solely from the point of view of relationship between husband and wife.

to be restrictive. This amendment was rejected by the Commission by 3 votes for, 8 against and 4 abstentions.

42. At the same meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by 10 votes in favour, none against, and 7 abstentions:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Expresses its satisfaction that the Convention on Political Rights of Women was adopted by the General Assembly at its seventh session and will be open for signature and ratification or accession by States Members of the United Nations, and

Requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on Constitutions, Electoral Laws and other Legal Instruments relating to the Franchise of Women and their Eligibility to Public Office and Functions prepared for the General Assembly the list of governments who have signed and ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting that the Convention on Political Rights of Women approved by General Assembly resolution 640 (VII) of 20 December 1952 is now open for signature and ratification or accession by States Members of the United Nations,

"Urges Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women,

"Considering that articles IV and V of this Convention provide, *inter alia*, that the Convention shall be open to signature and ratification or accession on behalf of any non-member State to which an invitation has been addressed by the General Assembly,

"Recommends that the General Assembly invite signature and ratification or accession by non-member States which are or become members of one or more of the specialized agencies of the United Nations or are or become parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice,

"Requests that States Parties to the Convention report every two years to the Economic and Social Council on the measures taken by them to implement the provisions of the Convention on Political Rights of Women."

43. The memorandum prepared annually by the Secretary-General on the advancement of political rights of women (A/2154 and Adds. 1 and 2) was discussed by the Commission together with the report on women in political and public life (E/CN.6/212 and Add.1).

44. Some members were of the opinion that the annual report could be expanded to include more detailed information. They also felt that the reporting on women in political and public life should be continued but not on an annual basis and that a plan, including an outline and a list of sources, should be prepared by the Secretary-General. Some others noted that the report did not reflect the real position in the field of political rights of women.

45. The Commission had before it a joint draft resolution on political rights of women submitted by the Netherlands, United States of America and Venezuela (E/CN.6/L.97/Rev.1), and referred it to the *Ad Hoc*

Committee on Resolutions which recommended to the Commission a slightly amended text (E/CN.6/L.104); at its 136th meeting, the Commission adopted the following resolution, by 14 votes in favour, none against, and 3 abstentions:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the completion by the General Assembly of a convention on the political rights of women, and its decision to open this convention for signature and ratification,

Noting that in several countries, notably Bolivia, Lebanon and Greece, action has been taken since the last session of this Commission to extend the franchise to women or to improve laws regarding the right to vote,

Believing that Member Governments of the United Nations continue mindful of the determination they voiced in the Charter to reaffirm the equal rights of men and women, and are therefore desirous of granting equal suffrage to women if they have not already done so,

Noting that the Economic and Social Council has requested its Commissions to give special emphasis to projects likely to contribute directly to the fulfilment of its recommended priority programmes, among which is the formulation and wider observance of human rights,

Commends the Secretary-General on the inclusion of historical data in his 1952 memorandum on political rights of women, document A/2154, and suggests that this memorandum include pertinent information on all countries and also as to whether women who have been granted the vote had an opportunity to participate in an election;

Welcomes the information in the reports of the Secretary-General on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, based on information in regular reports from the administering authorities;

Suggests that the Secretary-General include in his annual memorandum on Constitutions, etc., a table showing suffrage grants originally involving limitations on grounds of sex, such as limitations to certain areas within a country, or to certain types of elections, or on the basis of educational or property qualifications not required of men, and legislative changes subsequent to such grants in relation to the achievement of equal suffrage for women;

Invites the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with available information on fellowships and other assistance available to governments through the United Nations or the specialized agencies for the training of persons interested in improving the status of women through legislation, education, or other constitutional means;

Requests the Secretary-General to summarize suggestions on ways in which equal political rights for women can be achieved and made effective, with particular attention to the situation in countries which have not yet granted women political rights or have only recently done so, as to legislation, political education of women, and other matters he considers pertinent, these suggestions to be based on the records of the Commission, the pamphlet on *Political Education of Women* and materials gathered from governments and non-govern-

mental organizations in preparation therefor, and other sources he deems appropriate;

Expresses its appreciation of the report on *Women in Political and Public Life* and suggests that the Secretary-General prepare a plan for a more complete report along these lines, to be issued at a later date, possibly in 1955;

Expresses its appreciation also of the publication of the historical account of woman suffrage, in a revised and less expensive form, under the title of *The Road to Equality*.

46. In the course of the discussion on the political rights of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/210 and E/CN.6/211), several members of the Commission expressed the opinion that this question should not be dealt with separately from the question of those rights in sovereign States inasmuch as in some of the latter States women did not enjoy any more political rights than women in dependent territories and that separate treatment would amount to discrimination. Other members stated that women in these territories still had no rights and that special attention should be given by the Commission to the improvement of the status of women in dependent territories; they referred particularly to the decisions taken by the Trusteeship Council on this matter at its last session.

47. The Commission had before it draft resolutions E/CN.6/L.99, concerning the revised questionnaire adopted by the Trusteeship Council under Article 88 of the Charter, and E/CN.6/L.100/Rev.1 dealing with political rights of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, both submitted jointly by Cuba and the Dominican Republic; it also had before it an amendment submitted by the United Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.103) to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.100/Rev.1. These texts were referred by the Commission to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions.

48. The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions recommended to the Commission a revised text of the resolution dealing with the questionnaire (E/CN.6/L.102). This text was adopted by the Commission at its 136th meeting by 16 votes in favour, none against, and one abstention:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with satisfaction that the Trusteeship Council has included in its questionnaire adopted under Article 88 of the Charter⁵ questions 23 and 91 to 97 on the status of women which contain some suggestions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixth session,

Expressing the hope that the Administering Authorities responsible for the administration of Trust Territories will reply in detail to all these questions in their annual reports to the General Assembly or to the Security Council,

Invites the Secretary-General to transmit regularly to the Commission on the Status of Women information forwarded by the Administering Authorities in their annual reports on questions 23 and 91 to 97 of the questionnaire, all relevant documents of the Trusteeship Council relating to this subject, as well as records

of all discussions in the Trusteeship Council concerning the Status of Women in Trust Territories,

Requests the Economic and Social Council to draw the attention of the Trusteeship Council to this resolution.

49. The sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.100/Rev.1 accepted paragraphs 1 and 3 of the United Kingdom amendment (E/CN.6/L.103). Subsequently, the sponsor of the amendment revised the text of its paragraph 2 and this revision was also accepted by the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.100/Rev.1.

50. At its 136th meeting the Commission on the Status of Women adopted unanimously the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Considering that in some areas of the world, including certain Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, women do not enjoy full political rights and that progress in this field can be achieved more readily if the education of women receives greater emphasis,

1. *"Invites* the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council, as appropriate, in collaboration with the governments of all States which administer territories, including Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, where women do not enjoy full political rights, to take all necessary measures leading to the development of political rights of women in such territories, in particular by means of education,

2. *"Invites* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women on the steps taken in order to implement this resolution."

CHAPTER VI

Status of women in public law

51. The Commission discussed this item of its agenda at its 146th meeting. It had before it supplementary reports on sections C and E of part I of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women prepared by the Secretary-General based on the additional information supplied to him by governments, Women in Public Services and Functions (E/CN.6/158/Add.2, 3 and 4) and Civil Liberties for Women (E/CN.6/157/Add.2, 3 and 4). The Commission also had before it a draft survey on Women in Public Services and Functions prepared by the Secretary-General at the request of the Commission. This draft survey was circulated to the members of the Commission as a confidential document (SW-Misc.1) at its 146th meeting.

52. Due to the complexity of the subject the Commission decided to postpone consideration of this item to its next session so as to give the members of the Commission sufficient time to study the material and to submit to the Secretary-General any comments and suggestions they might deem desirable.

CHAPTER VII

Equal pay for equal work

53. The Commission considered this item of its agenda at its 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd and 144th

⁵ Document T/1010.

meetings. The commission had before it a report prepared by the International Labour Office (E/CN.6/220) on the application of the Convention (No. 100) and Recommendation (No. 90) on Equal Remuneration for Work of Equal Value for Men and Women Workers, adopted by the 34th International Labour Conference in 1951.

54. The Commission heard the representative of the International Labour Office who paid tribute to the work of the Commission in raising this question and in pressing for its consideration during the past five years and expressed the hope that the efforts of members of the Commission would be continued both to secure further ratification of the Convention and to promote the application of the principle in law as proposed in the recommendation on equal remuneration.

55. The majority of members noted that, in view of the formal ratification of the Convention by three countries, Belgium, Mexico and Yugoslavia, the Convention would come into force on 23 May 1953. It noted also the continuing study of the question by some countries and the progress made in application of the principle of equal remuneration reported by others.

56. In the debate, several members of the Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress made on the adoption and implementation of the Convention and reported on the action taken by their own governments to implement the principle of equal pay. Several members stressed that the implementation of equal pay benefited both employers and workers by increasing the purchasing power of women workers. One member of the Commission expressed the opinion that it would be inadvisable to force equal pay on national economies too quickly, and was therefore in favour of urging that the principle of equal pay should be borne constantly in mind when wage rates were being fixed. Some other members of the Commission, however, felt that the Convention was inadequate in that it failed to make equal pay obligatory in ratifying States and did not set a definite time-limit for the implementation of its provisions; it was also pointed out that the provisions of the Convention did not extend to certain Non-Self-Governing Territories.

57. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of University Women, and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

58. The Commission had before it two draft resolutions proposed respectively by the representatives of France, Netherlands and Pakistan (E/CN.6/L.110) and by the representatives of Cuba and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.112). During the course of the debate, the sponsors of both proposals withdrew their texts in favour of a joint revised version which was submitted jointly by Cuba, France, Netherlands, Pakistan and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.112/Rev.1); the representative of Haiti asked to be associated with the sponsors of the draft resolution. Verbal amendments were made by the representatives of Cuba and the Dominican Republic. The Commission referred draft resolution E/CN.6/L.112/Rev.1 to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions. The Committee

recommended to the Commission a revised text of this proposal.

59. At its 144th meeting, the Commission adopted the following resolution by 14 votes in favour, none against, and 3 abstentions:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting that the Convention on Equal Remuneration adopted by the International Labour Organisation in 1951 has been brought into force by the ratification of at least three countries and that progress also is being made in many countries toward voluntary acceptance of the equal remuneration principle by labour and industry,

Believing, that equal pay for equal work is a sound practice which promotes the efficiency of workers and decreases labour turnover,

Requests the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting the action of countries who have formally ratified the Convention on Equal Remuneration adopted by the International Labour Organisation in 1951,

"Noting also the progress being made in other countries toward obtaining increased acceptance, in law and in practice, of the equal remuneration principle as set forth in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter, in article 23 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in the International Labour Organisation Convention and Recommendation on this subject,

"Noting the work of non-governmental organizations in many countries in creating a favourable public opinion for the application of this principle by calling attention to the value of women's work and the need for establishing improved personnel practices and the necessity of securing equal opportunities for training and advancement and by promoting the adoption of legislation and other appropriate means,

"1. Urges increased efforts toward widespread implementation of the principle of equal remuneration in all countries, whether or not members of the International Labour Organisation, by means appropriate to their systems of wage fixing;

"2. Invites the Secretary-General in collaboration with the International Labour Office to furnish annually additional information on the progress being made in the various countries toward elimination of discriminatory wage practices against women, as well as similar reports on steps taken or methods used in those countries to put the principle of equal remuneration into force."

CHAPTER VIII

Economic opportunities for women

60. The Commission discussed this item of its agenda at its 142nd and 143rd meetings .

(a) Part-time work for women

61. The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/213) concerning part-time work for women; the Commission also had before it a preliminary report prepared by the International Labour Office (E/CN.6/222) on part-time employment.

62. In the course of the debate, several members of the Commission stressed the importance of accurate definition of part-time work as distinct from short-time work and forms of disguised unemployment. Several representatives noted that the extent and importance of part-time work for women workers varied considerably in countries at different stages of economic development and particularly in the under-developed areas. The need for careful consideration of the effects of part-time work for women on the welfare of the family and on the labour market was noted by several members. Several members of the Commission considered that the question of part-time work should be related to the over-all problems of the economy in each country and to the granting of economic, political and civil rights. Some members felt that part-time work is in reality concealed unemployment. Some other members stated that it would be preferable for the Commission not to continue its studies of this problem. The majority of the members of the Commission were, however, of the opinion that further studies were desirable and would be necessary before any conclusions could be reached.

63. The Commission expressed the wish that the Secretary-General would prepare a bibliography of books and pamphlets on this subject.

64. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of the International Labour Office who said that the report before the Commission was a preliminary one only. She stated that the problems of the under-developed areas were of particular concern to the ILO, which was devoting careful attention to part-time work in connexion with the development of cottage industries in these areas. She emphasized that wages and benefits for the relatively less organized part-time workers must be carefully safeguarded in the interests of the entire labour force.

65. The Commission heard representatives of the Catholic International Union for Social Service, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

66. The Commission had before it two resolutions presented by the representative of the Netherlands (E/CN.6/L.107) and by the representative of Pakistan (E/CN.6/L.114). These resolutions were both withdrawn by their sponsors in favour of a joint draft resolution presented by the Netherlands and Pakistan (E/CN.6/L.116) which incorporated the substance of the earlier draft resolutions.

67. At its 143rd meeting, the Commission adopted, after a paragraph by paragraph vote, the following resolution by 12 votes in favour, 3 against, and 1 abstention:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with interest the preliminary reports prepared by the Secretary-General and the International Labour Office concerning part-time employment of women,

Requests the Secretary-General in co-operation with the International Labour Office to continue study of this question with a view to preparing such further reports as may be needed to serve as a basis for full discussion of the question at the eighth session of the Commission,

Invites the Secretary-General in co-operation with the International Labour Office to give special attention in this connexion to the work of women in cottage industries and handicrafts and in seasonal agricultural work in the economically under-developed countries of the world.

(b) *Older women workers*

68. The representative of the Secretary-General informed the Commission that the Secretariat did not have at this time sufficient information available on which to base a satisfactory report, in view of the complex nature of the problem and of the necessity for consideration of its statistical, psychological, economic and sociological aspects. The Secretary-General hoped to be in a position to do so for the next session of the Commission.

69. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of the International Labour Office who said that the ILO would endeavour to present a report to the eighth session of the Commission, although it was not possible to promise that a comprehensive report would be ready at that time.

70. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

71. It was decided to postpone consideration of this item to the next session of the Commission.

CHAPTER IX

Educational opportunities for women

72. The Commission discussed item 9 of its agenda at its 137th, 138th, 139, 140th, and 141st meetings. At its 137th meeting, it decided to consider agenda item 8 (c) concerning vocational guidance and vocational and technical training of women with the item on educational opportunities for women, as item 9 (d).

73. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/214) on the findings of the Fifteenth International Conference on Public Education convened by UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education in July 1952, together with the official report of this Conference (Publication No. 143); a note by the Secretary-General on legal provisions concerning educational opportunities for girls and women (E/CN.6/215) transmitting a joint publication of UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education (Publication No. 141); a progress report prepared by UNESCO on access of women to education (E/CN.6/223); and a progress report prepared by the International Labour Office on vocational guidance and vocational and technical training of women (E/CN.6/221).

74. In the course of the debate several members expressed strong disappointment with certain parts of recommendation 34 which was adopted by the Fifteenth International Conference on Public Education above referred to in July 1952, particularly with the statement of principle contained in the Preamble of the Recommendation to the effect that general education for girls should be "equal in value and status to that for boys", as being capable of an interpretation inconsistent with true equality; with article 15 of the operative part of recommendation 34 as being too ambiguous and limited, and with article 33 which refers to "... university studies . . . particularly suited to feminine aptitudes". These members also regretted that an article

which had appeared in the draft recommendation concerning equality of access for women to professional and vocational training had been omitted in the recommendation as adopted by the Conference.

75. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of UNESCO who underlined the advances made by women in many countries with regard to secondary and higher education, as revealed by the statistical reports in the annex. She gave an account of recommendation 34 adopted by the Fifteenth International Conference on Public Education on the Access of Women to Education. The increase of women students and teachers at the regional centres for training of fundamental education leaders was mentioned, as were the three proposed pamphlets on women's political education. UNESCO had also under way sociological studies on women's actual exercise of their political rights in four European countries and had prepared similar studies in Southeast Asia through a regional social science seminar in Delhi, December 1952.

76. In the general discussion which followed, some members expressed the opinion that while the situation with respect to educational opportunities for women as indicated by the report of UNESCO, was by no means satisfactory in sovereign States, it was particularly unsatisfactory in respect to Non-Self-Governing Territories and Trust Territories. Other members felt that there was no indication that women in Non-Self-Governing or Trust Territories were discriminated against any more than women of various metropolitan States as far as education was concerned, and that a disproportionate emphasis was placed in the UNESCO report on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Some members also felt that the UNESCO report failed to give a complete and accurate picture, particularly since the statistics did not give adequate attendance figures for women pupils and students. Several members expressed appreciation for the activities of UNESCO in the field of education for women and the hope that UNESCO would continue its studies in this field.

77. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of the International Labour Office who requested members to indicate their attitudes toward a proposal of the ILO to expand the study on discrimination against women with respect to apprenticeship. She also pointed out the dependence of vocational and technical education upon an adequate basic education for girls and women. The request for study of apprenticeship opportunities for women in all its aspects had been welcomed by the governing body of the ILO as an integral part of the extended and continuing effort of the ILO to promote vocational and technical education for women as well as for men.

78. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the work which the ILO intended to undertake in the field of vocational guidance and training of women and suggested that its studies be continued in co-operation with the Secretary-General and include the field of access to apprenticeship.

79. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of University Women, World Fed-

eration of Trade Unions, and World Union of Catholic Women.

80. The Commission had before it a joint draft resolution on educational opportunities for women submitted by Cuba and France (E/CN.6/L.108), recommending that the Economic and Social Council draw the attention of governments and the specialized agencies to the need for ensuring identity of school curricula for pupils of both sexes. This text was referred by the Commission to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions which recommended its adoption with a limitation to the basic curriculum in order to safeguard freedom of choice in other subjects (E/CN.6/L.111).

81. At its 140th meeting, the Commission adopted the following resolution by 15 votes in favour, none against, and 2 abstentions:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Being of the opinion that identity of basic programmes is essential if all children are to have an equal chance of really benefiting from educational opportunities;

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council

"Draws the attention of governments and of specialized agencies to the need of ensuring the identity of basic school curricula for pupils of both sexes."

82. The Commission also had before it a draft resolution submitted by France (E/CN.6/L.101) recommending that the Economic and Social Council invite Member States to inform the Secretary-General of the number of scholarships and fellowships granted respectively to men and women students in primary, secondary, higher and technical educational and a joint draft resolution submitted by Haiti and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.109) urging equal opportunities for girls and women in the distribution of scholarships, requesting the Secretary-General to continue his co-operation with UNESCO on education for women and expressing the hope that attention would be given to providing equal opportunities for women, particularly in studying a language, in addition to their own, which would give them access to resources of knowledge in the general culture of the country. A revised and extended version of this joint resolution was submitted by Haiti and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.109/Rev.1).

83. Draft resolutions E/CN.6/L.109/Rev.1 and E/CN.6/L.101 were referred to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions which merged the two texts with minor changes and recommended an amended text (E/CN.6/L.113) to the Commission.

84. At its 141st meeting, the Commission adopted unanimously the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women

1. *Takes note* of the collection of laws and statistical information gathered by UNESCO and IBE for the Fifteenth Conference on Public Education and looks forward to continued reports by UNESCO on these matters;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Director-General of UNESCO, to provide the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session with all available information on the number of

scholarships and fellowships granted to men and women students respectively in primary, secondary, higher and technical education;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to cooperate with the Director-General of UNESCO to advance opportunities for education of women, and to assure full consideration of the needs of and participation by women in all programmes relating to education on equal terms with men;

4. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to Member States that laws and regulations regarding the distribution of scholarships provide equal opportunities for girls and women, and that such scholarships be made available to them for education in any field and in preparation for all careers;

Expresses the hope that in countries where native and official languages exist attention will be given in programmes of education to the importance of providing equal opportunities for women to acquire the language, in addition to their own, which will permit them access to the resources of knowledge in the general culture of the country."

CHAPTER X

Participation of women in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies

85. The Commission discussed item 10 of its agenda at its 143rd, 144th and 145th meetings.

86. The Commission had before it a report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/216 and Add.1) containing information on the nature and proportion of positions occupied by women in the Secretariats of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. The report also contains information on the number and proportion of women who have served on delegations since the San Francisco Conference.

87. In the course of the debate, several representatives expressed dissatisfaction with the exceedingly small number of women occupying senior and policy making positions, and with the differences in the conditions of employment of men and women. They strongly emphasized their wish to see the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the chief administrative officers of the specialized agencies appoint women to responsible positions in the secretariats in accordance with Article 8 of the United Nations Charter and eliminate discriminations existing against women in the conditions of employment.

88. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted jointly by the Dominican Republic and Venezuela (E/CN.6/L.115) on the participation of women in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

89. During the discussion on this draft resolution, various verbal amendments were made by the representatives of Chile, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France, New Zealand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America; these amendments were accepted by the sponsors of the resolution and incorporated in its revised text (E/CN.6/L.115/Rev.1).

90. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the International Council of Women and the International Federation of University Women.

91. At the request of the representative of New Zealand a separate vote was taken on paragraph 3 of the amended resolution (E/CN.6/L.115/Rev.1) which was adopted by 15 votes in favour, none against, and 2 abstentions. A separate vote was also taken on the Chilean amendment to invite the Secretary-General "to make annual reports on the number and proportion of applications presented by the women and accepted", which was adopted by 11 votes in favour, none against, and 6 abstentions.

92. The Commission adopted by a vote of 15 in favour, none against and 2 abstentions the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women

Recalling the provision in Article 8 of the Charter that "the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs",

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, including information supplied by the specialized agencies, on the situation of women in the various secretariats, and the information on the number and proportion of women who have represented their countries in United Nations bodies, conferences of the specialized agencies and associated meetings,

1. *Deplores* the exceedingly small number of women occupying senior and policy-making posts in the secretariats of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies and the fact that no upward trend is discernible in the reports of past years;

2. *Urges* the Secretary-General, and the chief administrative officers of the specialized agencies in making appointments to senior and policy-making positions in the secretariats of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, to give equal consideration to qualified women, in conformity with Article 8 of the Charter;

3. *Urges* also that all discrimination against women be eliminated from the conditions of employment in the secretariats of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to make annual reports on the number and proportion of women in the secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, to include in these reports data on the number and proportion of applications presented by women and accepted, and to continue supplementing this report by information on the number and proportion of women serving during the year as delegates and alternates for their countries in sessions of the General Assembly, their participation in the principal organs and commissions of the United Nations, including UNICEF, as well as in the permanent delegations to the United Nations, in the International Court of Justice and in conferences of the specialized agencies, and suggests that in addition this report include information available on the number and proportion of women in fellowship and internship programmes of the United

Nations and the specialized agencies, and also those serving as experts on technical assistance projects;

5. *Recommends* to non-governmental organizations that they emphasize the importance of expanding opportunities for women at the national level, as a means of encouraging appointment of more women to policy-making posts in the United Nations and specialized agencies.

CHAPTER XI

Technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women

93. At its 145th meeting, the Commission considered item 11 of its agenda; it had before it a report by the Secretary-General on technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women prepared for the sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/189) and a supplemental report prepared for the seventh session (E/CN.6/189/Add.1). The following documents were also circulated to the Commission: United Nations Technical Assistance, Background Paper No. 74 (ST/DPI/SER.A/74); Report by the Secretary-General on United Nations Programmes of Technical Assistance (E/2209); Evaluation of the Programme of Advisory Social Welfare Services 1947-1951 (E/CN.5/266); and Programme of Fellowships and Scholarships for 1954.

94. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by Pakistan (E/CN.6/L.106), in its revised form (E/CN.6/L.106/Rev.1). In connexion with this draft resolution, a statement by the Secretary-General on financial implications (E/CN.6/L.106/Rev.1/Add.1)⁶ was circulated to the Commission pursuant to rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure of Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council. According to this statement the sole financial implication contained in the draft resolution would result from proposed paragraph 3, according to which the Economic and Social Council, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, would authorize the Secretary-General to render expert advice and services to governments upon their request, including advice regarding drafting of legislation and other matters which he might deem appropriate. Such assistance, the Commission was informed, would be provided within available funds to the maximum extent possible through use of staff members seconded from the existing establishment. The Commission was informed that at this early stage and in the absence of indication as to the probable volume and character of requests by governments, it was not possible to estimate the costs.

95. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the World's Young Women's Christian Association and the International Alliance of Women.

96. After a brief discussion, in which several delegates expressed approval of the ideas contained in the draft resolution, the Commission adopted unanimously the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

The Commission on the Status of Women

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

⁶ See annex 2.

The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting the constructive nature and extent of the technical assistance programmes administered by the United Nations and the various specialized agencies,

"Noting the statement by the Secretary-General that technical aid in promoting the status of women may be provided in response to requests from governments in specific cases where such assistance falls within the framework of the various United Nations programmes of technical assistance for economic and social development,

"Bearing in mind that under Article 66 of the Charter of the United Nations the Economic and Social Council "may, with the approval of the General Assembly, perform services at the request of Members of the United Nations and at the request of specialized agencies",

"Believing that the fields in which the Secretary-General is presently authorized to render assistance for the purpose of improving the status of women may appropriately be broadened,

"1. Recommends to Member Governments that where women are not already participating in the formulation of requests for technical assistance, consideration be given to appointing qualified women to posts in which they may share in framing policy and planning specific technical assistance projects;

"2. Recommends to the organizations participating in the technical assistance and other programmes providing aid or assistance at the request of governments that they give sympathetic consideration to the requests which governments may submit for aid within the framework of those programmes which would be useful in raising the status of women;

"3. Decides that, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General shall be authorized to render, at the request of Member States, expert advice and other services in order to assist these States in improving the status of women, such services to include advice regarding the drafting of legislation and other matters which he deems appropriate;

"4. Recommends that the United Nations and the specialized agencies, when sponsoring conferences, seminars, and training courses relating to social welfare, health, education or public administration, encourage increased participation of women in conferences, seminars, and training courses in regions where the position of women in the community needs to be raised."

CHAPTER XII

Action taken upon decisions reached by the sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

97. The Commission took note of a report by the Secretary-General on action taken upon decisions reached by the sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/207).

98. In connexion with the action taken by the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session, allocating three weeks for the seventh session of the Commission, it was agreed that three weeks would be required for subsequent sessions as well.

CHAPTER XIII

Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to the eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights and to the fifth session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities

99. Miss Uldarica Mañas, representative of the Commission on the Status of Women at the eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights, described those proceedings at that session which concerned the status of women. She reported particularly on the following articles of the draft covenant on economic, social and cultural rights adopted at that session: article 3 dealing with equal social and cultural rights for men and women; article 7 (b) concerned with equal pay for equal work; and article 10 dealing with protection to be accorded motherhood and the family. Miss Mañas also reported on the fifth session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, which she attended as representative of the Commission on the Status of Women.

100. Appreciation was expressed for the able representation by Miss Mañas at these sessions. Madame Lefauchaux was appointed by the Chairman to represent the Commission at the ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

CHAPTER XIV

Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women

101. The Commission had before it the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/224). At its 146th meeting the Commission heard a statement by the representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women. Several members expressed their appreciation of the part played by the Inter-American Commission of Women in promoting women's rights. The Commission decided to take note of the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

CHAPTER XV

Communications concerning the status of women

102. In accordance with resolution 76 (V) as amended by resolution 304 (XI) of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission had before it two lists of communications prepared by the Secretary-General, a non-confidential list (E/CN.6/CR.6) and a confidential list (SW Communication No. 3), which was distributed in a closed meeting, together with a reply from a member government against whom a complaint had been made (SW Communication No. 1). The originals of the communications in the non-confidential list were considered by the Committee on Communications.

103. The report of the Committee on Communications (E/CN.6/L.117) was adopted by the Commission at its 146th meeting by 13 votes in favour, none against and 3 abstentions.

CHAPTER XVI

Programme of work and establishment of priorities

104. At its 146th and 147th meetings the Commission considered item 16 of its agenda; it had before it a note by the Secretary-General on "Review of Programmes and Establishment of Priorities" (E/CN.6/218). It also had before it a working paper presented by the representative of the United States of America in tabular form on "Programmes of Priorities for the Commission on the Status of Women, 1953-1954" (E/CN.6/L.119).

105. Several representatives felt that not only should the Programme of Priorities chart indicate *ad hoc* projects of high priority, continuing projects and *ad hoc* projects of low priority, but also the order in which agenda items should be considered at the next session.

106. In the course of the discussion several representatives expressed the opinion that nationality of married women was the problem to be dealt with most urgently. Others considered that political and economic rights were basic to all others and that these subjects ought to be granted first and second places respectively. Other representatives felt that education was the most important item of the Commission's future work.

107. The Commission decided by 14 votes in favour, none against and 2 abstentions that Political Rights should be placed first and that the Status of Women in Public Law should be considered as part of this item.

108. The Commission also decided by 11 votes in favour, 4 against and one abstention that Nationality should be the second item; by 15 votes in favour, none against and one abstention that Economic Rights including Equal Pay come in third place; by 10 votes in favour, 2 against and 4 abstentions that Private Law come in fourth place; and decided unanimously that Education be in fifth place.

109. The representative of Poland, supported by some members, proposed that the question of the protection of mother and child be included in the programme of work as part of the item on Equal Pay for Equal Work. The Commission decided by general agreement that a sub-item be added instead in the column "Activities of other United Nations Organs affecting the Status of Women", entitled "Study of the Documentation prepared by the Secretary-General for the Social Commission on the subject of Protection of Mother and Child".

110. The following programme of priorities was unanimously adopted by the Commission at its 147th meeting:

<i>Political rights and public law</i>	<i>Nationality</i>	<i>Economic rights and equal pay</i>	<i>Private law</i>	<i>Educational opportunities</i>	<i>Activities of other United Nations organs affecting the status of women</i>
<i>Ad hoc projects of high priority</i>					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report by the Secretary - General on legislative measures subsequent to restricted suffrage grants. 2. Summary of suggestions on ways in which political rights for women may be achieved and made effective. 3. Study and publication of draft pamphlet on women in public services and functions. 	<p>Report by the Secretary-General on comments from governments on the draft convention on nationality of married persons.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Part-time work for women: further reports by the Secretary-General and the International Labour Office. 2. Older women workers: reports by the Secretary-General and the International Labour Office. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further reports by the Secretary-General on (a) family law, (b) property rights. 2. Status of women in Trust and Non-Self - Governing Territories. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report by UNESCO on scholarships, etc. 2. Report by the International Labour Office on vocational guidance and training, including apprenticeship opportunities. 	
<i>Continuing projects</i>					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual memorandum on political rights, expanded to include all countries. 2. Supplementary report by the Secretary-General on women in public services and functions, civil liberties for women, etc. 3. Status of women in Trust and Non-Self - Governing Territories. 	<p>Report on legislative changes concerning nationality of married women.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress report by the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the International Labour Office on equal pay for equal work. 2. Status of women in Trust and Non-Self - Governing Territories. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual report by UNESCO on statistics, laws, etc. 2. Status of women in Trust and Non-Self - Governing Territories. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress report by the Secretary-General on technical assistance. 2. Progress report by the Secretary-General on participation of women in the United Nations, etc. 3. Study of documentation prepared by the Secretary-General for the Social Commission on protection of mother and child. 4. Newsletter.
<i>Ad hoc projects of low priority</i>					
<p>Report by the Secretary - General on plans for more complete information on women in political and public life (to be issued in 1955).</p>					<p>Plans for exhibitions on status of women during Commission sessions.</p>

CHAPTER XVII

Consideration of the place of the next session

111. At its 146th meeting, the Commission considered the place of its next session. Several members recalled that sessions held outside the Headquarters had resulted in the advancement of the status of women in the areas where the Commission met. The Commission unanimously expressed the wish that its eighth session be held away from Headquarters, either in Geneva or else-

where, should the Commission receive an invitation from a Member State.

CHAPTER XVIII

Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council

112. At its 148th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the report of its seventh session to the Economic and Social Council.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

Draft resolutions for the Economic and Social Council

A

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (seventh session).

B

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, at its seventh session, that a convention on the Nationality of Married Persons be opened for signature by interested States,

Desiring to expedite by every appropriate means, in accordance with the principles of the Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the extension to women in all countries of equal rights in the field of nationality,

Requests the Secretary-General to circulate to the governments of Member States, for their comments, the following text of the draft Convention on Nationality of Married Persons, with the request that such comments be sent to the Secretary-General by 1 January 1954, to be made available to the Commission on the Status of Women for consideration at its eighth session:

Convention on the Nationality of Married Persons

The Contracting Parties,

Recognizing that conflicts in law and in practice with reference to nationality arise as a result of distinctions based on sex,

Recognizing that in article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed that "Everyone has the right to a nationality", and that "No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality",

Desiring to co-operate with the United Nations in promoting universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to sex,

Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

Article 1

Each of the Contracting States agrees that it will make no distinction based on sex either in its legislation or in its practice in regard to nationality.

Article 2

Each of the Contracting States agrees that neither the celebration nor the dissolution of a marriage between one of its nationals and an alien shall affect the nationality of the spouse who is its national.

Article 3

1. Each of the Contracting States agrees that it will, whenever possible, give to the alien spouse of one of its nationals the right to acquire its nationality at his/her request.

2. Each of the Contracting States agrees that this Convention shall not be construed as affecting any existing legislation or practice which gives to the alien spouse of one of its nationals the right to acquire the latter's nationality, either at his/her request or through privileged naturalization procedures.

Article 4

Each of the Contracting States agrees that neither the voluntary acquisition of the nationality of another State nor the renunciation of its nationality by one of its nationals will affect the retention of its nationality by the spouse of such national.

Article 5

1. This Convention shall be open for signature on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and also on behalf of any other State to which an invitation has been directed by the General Assembly.

2. This Convention shall be ratified and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 6

1. This Convention shall be open for accession to all States referred to in paragraph 1 of article 5.

2. Accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 7

1. This Convention shall come into force on the ninetieth day following the date of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. For each State ratifying or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession, the Convention shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 8

1. At the time of signature, ratification, or accession, any State may make reservations to any article of this Convention other than article(s) . . .

2. Any State making a reservation in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article may at any time withdraw the reservation by communication to this effect addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Article 9

1. Any State may denounce this Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Denunciation shall take effect one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

2. This Convention shall cease to be in force as from the date when the denunciation which reduces the number of Parties to less than six becomes effective.

Article 10

Any dispute which may arise between any two or more Contracting States concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, which is not settled by negotiation, shall at the request of any one of the Parties to the dispute be referred to the International Court of Justice for decision, unless they agree to another mode of settlement.

Article 11

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify all Members of the United Nations and the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article 5 of this Convention of the following:

(a) Signature and instruments of ratifications received in accordance with article 5;

(b) Instruments of accession received in accordance with article 6;

(c) The date upon which this Convention enters into force in accordance with article 7;

(d) Communications and notifications received in accordance with article 8;

(e) Notifications of denunciation received in accordance with paragraph 1 of article 9;

(f) Abrogation in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 9.

Article 12

1. This Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts shall be equally

authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the United Nations.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy to all Members of the United Nations and to the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article 5.

C

STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

The Economic and Social Council,

In view of the fact that the United Nations General Assembly, at its sixth session held in Paris, requested the Commission on Human Rights to draft two covenants implementing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one to contain civil and political rights and the other to contain social, economic and cultural rights,

Requests the Commission on Human Rights to include in the covenant on civil and political rights, article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reads as follows:

“(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

“(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

“(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.”

D

STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the principle of equality of rights for men and women is solemnly proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State,” and that men and women “are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution”,

Believing that legal equality of husband and wife and the sharing by spouses of the authority, prerogatives and responsibilities involved in marriage is of benefit not only to the status of women but also to the family as an institution, and

Noting that the legal systems of many countries result in a subordinate status of the wife in family matters of fundamental importance and that under numerous legal systems women are, during marriage, deprived of important personal and property rights or are subject to the authority and control of their husbands in the exercise of these rights,

Recommends that governments:

(a) Take all possible measures to ensure equality of rights and duties of husband and wife in family matters;

(b) Take all possible measures to ensure to the wife full legal capacity and the right to engage in work outside the home; the right, on equal terms with her husband, to acquire, administer, enjoy and dispose of property.

E

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the Convention on Political Rights of Women approved by General Assembly resolution 640 (VII) of 20 December 1952 is now open for signature and ratification or accession by States Members of the United Nations.

Urges Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify or accede to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women,

Considering that articles IV and V of this Convention provide, inter alia, that the Convention shall be open to signature and ratification or accession on behalf of any non-member State to which an invitation has been addressed by the General Assembly,

Recommends that the General Assembly invite signature and ratification or accession by non-member States which are or become Members of one or more of the specialized agencies of the United Nations or are or become parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice,

Requests that States Parties to the Convention report every two years to the Economic and Social Council on the measures taken by them to implement the provisions of the Convention on Political Rights of Women.

F

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that in some areas of the world, including certain Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, women do not enjoy full political rights and that progress in this field can be achieved more readily if the education of women receives greater emphasis,

1. *Invites the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council, as appropriate, in collaboration with the governments of all States which administer territories, including Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, where women do not enjoy full political rights, to take all necessary measures leading to the development of political rights of women in such territories, in particular by means of education,*

2. *Invites the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women on the steps taken in order to implement this resolution.*

G

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the action of countries who have formally ratified the Convention on Equal Remuneration adopted by the International Labour Organisation in 1951,

Noting also the progress being made in other countries toward obtaining increased acceptance, in law and in practice, of the equal remuneration principle as set forth in the Preamble of the United Nations Charter, in article 23 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in the International Labour Organisation Convention and Recommendation on this subject,

Noting the work of non-governmental organizations in many countries in creating a favourable public opin-

ion for the application of this principle by calling attention to the value of women's work and the need for establishing improved personnel practices and the necessity of securing equal opportunities for training and advancement and by promoting the adoption of legislation and other appropriate means,

1. *Urges* increased efforts toward widespread implementation of the principle of equal remuneration in all countries, whether or not members of the International Labour Organisation, by means appropriate to their systems of wage fixing;

2. Invites the Secretary-General in collaboration with the International Labour Office to furnish annually additional information on the progress being made in the various countries toward elimination of discriminatory wage practices against women, as well as similar reports on steps taken or methods used in those countries to put the principle of equal remuneration into force.

H

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council

Draws the attention of governments and of specialized agencies to the need of ensuring the identity of basic school curricula for pupils of both sexes.

I

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to Member States that laws and regulations regarding the distribution of scholarships provide equal opportunities for girls and women, and that such scholarships be made available to them for education in any field and in preparation for all careers;

Expresses the hope that in countries where native and official languages exist attention will be given in programmes of education to the importance of providing equal opportunities for women to acquire the language, in addition to their own, which will permit them access to the resources of knowledge in the general culture of the country.

J

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES IN RELATION TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN⁷

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the constructive nature and extent of the technical assistance programmes administered by the United Nations and the various specialized agencies,

Noting the statement by the Secretary-General that technical aid in promoting the status of women may be provided in response to requests from governments in specific cases where such assistance falls within the framework of the various United Nations programmes of technical assistance for economic and social development,

Bearing in mind that under Article 66 of the Charter of the United Nations the Economic and Social Council

"may with the approval of the General Assembly, perform services at the request of Members of the United Nations and at the request of specialized agencies",

Believing that the fields in which the Secretary-General is presently authorized to render assistance for the purpose of improving the status of women may appropriately be broadened,

1. *Recommends* to Member Governments that where women are not already participating in the formulation of requests for technical assistance, consideration be given to appointing qualified women to posts in which they may share in framing policy and planning specific technical assistance projects;

2. *Recommends* to the organizations participating in the technical assistance and other programmes providing aid or assistance at the request of governments that they give sympathetic consideration to the requests which governments may submit for aid within the framework of those programmes which would be useful in raising the status of women;

3. *Decides* that, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General shall be authorized to render, at the request of Member States, expert advice and other services in order to assist these States in improving the status of women, such services to include advice regarding the drafting of legislation and other matters which he deems appropriate;

4. *Recommends* that the United Nations and the specialized agencies, when sponsoring conferences, seminars, and training courses relating to social welfare, health, education or public administration, encourage increased participation of women in conferences, seminars, and training courses in regions where the position of women in the community needs to be raised.

ANNEX 2

Financial implications of the resolution concerning the technical assistance programme (see chapter XI)

NOTE BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. The only financial implication of the draft resolution [J] is that arising from the proposal in paragraph 3 of the resolution.

2. Under paragraph 3, the Economic and Social Council, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, would authorize the Secretary-General to render expert advice and services to governments upon their request, including advice regarding the drafting of legislation and other matters which he deems appropriate.

3. To the maximum extent possible, the assistance would be provided within available funds, through the use of staff members seconded from the existing establishment. It is foreseen that such requests would necessitate expenditures for the travel and per diem of such staff, for necessary miscellaneous expenses, and possibly for temporary replacement of staff in the case of prolonged absences.

4. At this early stage and in the absence of indication as to the probable volume and character of such requests, it is not possible to estimate the costs which would be entailed for 1954 and subsequent years.

⁷ For statement of financial implications see annex 2.