



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION

11-29 March 1963

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION

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NOTE

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.

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E/CN.6/413



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the seventeenth session of the Commission,
held at United Nations Headquarters from 11 to 29 March 1963 inclusive

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its seventeenth session at United Nations Headquarters. The session began on 11 March and ended on 29 March 1963.
2. The session was opened by Mrs. Zofia Dembinska (Poland), Chairman of the Commission at its sixteenth session (386th meeting).

Attendance

3. Attendance at the session was as follows:

MEMBERS

- Argentina: Mrs. Esther Zemborain de Torres Duggan, Mr. Florencio Mendez;**
- Australia: Mrs. Ada Norris, Mr. Peter C.J. Curtis;**
- China: Mrs. Chu-sheng Yeb Cheng, Mr. Shung-chai Huang;**
- Colombia: Mrs. Anacarsis Cardona de Salonia, Mrs. Clara Nieto de Ponce de León;*
- Czechoslovakia: Mrs. Helena Leflerová, Mr. Hubert Vaclík,* Mrs. Anna Sobotková;**
- Finland: Mrs. Helvi Sipilä, Mr. Klaus Törnudd;*
- France: Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, Mr. Michel Combal;*
- Ghana: Mrs. Annie R. Jiagge, Mrs. Amon Nikoi;*
- Indonesia: Miss Endang Sulbi Satrodiredjo, Mr. Tan Bian Kit,* Miss E.H. Laurens;**

* Alternate.

** Adviser.

Japan: Mrs. Setsu Tanino, Mr. Teruyuki Sawai,* Miss Kazusa Hattori;**

Mexico: Miss María Lavallo Urbina, Miss Alicia Merino,* Mr. Javier Cureño Pérez;**

Netherlands: Miss J.C.H.H. de Vink, Mr. H. Th. Schaapveld;*

Peru: Mrs. Eva María Robertson de Otayza;

Philippines: Miss Helena Z. Benitez, Mrs. Lourdes Paredes San Diego,*
Mrs. Lily T. Galindo;**

Poland: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska;

Sierra Leone: Mrs. Lati Hyde-Forster;

Spain: Miss Carmen Salinas, Miss María Victoria Eiroa;*

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mrs. Z.V. Mironova, Mrs. V.I. Kastalskaya;**

United Arab Republic: Mrs. Aziza Hussein, Mr. Abdel-Monem Ghoneim;**

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Miss Joan Vickers,
Mr. H.P.L. Attlee;*

United States of America: Mrs. Gladys Avery Tillett, Mrs. Rachel C. Nason,*
Mrs. Alice A. Morrison.*

OBSERVERS

Canada: Mr. Jacques Robichaud;

Dominican Republic: Miss Carmen Natalia Martínez Bonilla;

Guinea: Mrs. Jeanne Martin, Mrs. Safiatou Mato, Mrs. Kadiatou Diallo,
Mrs. Rosemonde Achkar;

Hungary: Mr. Tibor Arányi;

Iran: Mrs. Homa Vakil, Mrs. Yarshatar;

Senegal: Mrs. Gnagna Diop.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation (ILO): Mrs. Elizabeth M. Johnstone,
Mr. L.H. Segovia;

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): Mr. J.L. Orr;

* Alternate.

** Adviser.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):
Miss Nicole Friderich;

World Health Organization (WHO): Mrs. Sylvia Meagher.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION^{1/}

Inter-American Commission of Women: Miss Gabriela Peláez Echeverri.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CATEGORY A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions: Miss Marcelle Dehareng,
Mrs. Leona Graves, Mrs. Bessie Hillman, Miss Ann Draper, Mrs. Clara Allen,
Mrs. Carolyn Davis, Mrs. Dorothy Haener, Miss Cecilia Corrigan;

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

World Federation of Trade Unions: Mr. Philip M. Connelly;

World Federation of United Nations Associations: Mrs. Oliver Weerasinghe,
Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf.

CATEGORY B

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs: Mrs. Esther W. Hymer,
Mrs. Youssef Sidhom;

Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations: Mrs. Helene B. Kadane;

Friends World Committee for Consultation: Mrs. Nancy Smedley;

International Alliance of Women: Miss Anne Guthrie, Miss Freida S. Miller,
Mrs. Frances A. Doyle;

International Conference of Catholic Charities: Mr. Luis C. Longarzo;

International Council of Women: Mrs. Mary Craig Schuller,
Miss Rosario Ortiz de Zevallos;

International Federation of Business and Professional Women: Mrs. Vera Campbell,
Miss Adela Grondona, Mrs. Esther W. Hymer, Miss Isabel Menzies;

International Federation of University Women: Mrs. Althea K. Hottel,
Mrs. Anna-Liisa Sysiharju;

^{1/} In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 48 (IV), part B,
paragraph 7.

International Federation of Women Lawyers: Mrs. Rose Korn Hirschmann;
International League for the Rights of Man: Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf,
Mrs. Claudia Lavenstein;
International Union for Child Welfare: Miss Freida S. Miller;
International Union of Family Organizations: Mrs. Elizabeth S. Collins;
League of Red Cross Societies: Mrs. John W. Sheppard, Mrs. Janet Jainschigg;
Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association: Mrs. A. Day Bradley,
Mrs. Quincy Wright, Mrs. Winthrop Munyan;
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: Mrs. Elsie Picon;
World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls: Mrs. Peter J. Cass;
World Movement of Mothers: Mrs. Aldona Jannace;
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations: Miss Catherine Schaefer,
Miss Alba Zizzamia;
World Young Women's Christian Association: Mrs. Arthur Forrest Anderson,
Mrs. James Forsyth, Mrs. Robbins Strong.

REGISTER

International Council of Social Democratic Women: Mrs. Simone MacDonald;
International Humanist and Ethical Union: Mrs. Walter M. Weis;
St. Joan's International Alliance: Miss Frances McGillicuddy;
Soroptimist International Association: Mrs. Dora S. Lewis, Miss Dorothy Frost;
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts: Mrs. Edward F. Johnson,
Mrs. John J. Carney;
World Federation for Mental Health: Mrs. Myer Cohen.

4. Mr. C.V. Narasimhan, Under-Secretary for General Assembly Affairs and Chef de Cabinet, and Mrs. Margaret K. Bruce, Chief of the Section on the Status of Women, represented the Secretary-General at various meetings. Mrs. Pillar Santander-Downing acted as Secretary to the Commission.

Election of officers

5. At its 386th meeting, on 11 March 1963, the Commission unanimously elected the following officers: Chairman: Miss María Lavallo Urbina (Mexico); First Vice-Chairman: Miss Helena Z. Benitez (Philippines); Second Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Helvi Sipilä (Finland); Rapporteur: Mrs. Aziza Hussein (United Arab Republic).

Committees

6. The Commission at its 389th meeting established two ad hoc committees: a Committee on Resolutions (the Committee was composed of the representatives of France, Ghana, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America) and a Committee on Communications (the Committee was composed of the representatives of Czechoslovakia (Chairman), Japan, the Netherlands, Peru and Sierra Leone).

Meetings, resolutions and documentation

7. The Commission held twenty-six plenary meetings. The views expressed at those meetings are summarized in the records of the 386th to 411th meetings.

8. The resolutions and decisions of the Commission appear under the subject-matters to which they relate. The draft resolutions submitted for consideration by the Economic and Social Council are set out in chapter XIV of the present report.

9. The documents before the Commission at its seventeenth session are listed in annex I to this report.

10. In the course of its seventeenth session, the Commission took note of statements of financial implications made by the Secretary-General in respect of proposals the implementation of which might involve additional budgetary provisions. A summary of these statements relating to proposals adopted by the Commission is given in annex II to this report.

Agenda

11. The Commission considered its agenda at the 386th meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/404 and Add.1) which had been drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the sixteenth session of the Commission.

12. The Commission unanimously accepted a number of changes in the provisional agenda suggested by the Chairman.

13. The text of the agenda in its final form (E/CN.6/404/Rev.1), as adopted by the Commission, is reproduced below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Political rights of women:
 - (a) Progress achieved in the field of political rights of women;
 - (b) Implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (General Assembly resolution 640 (VII) of 20 December 1952) by the States Parties thereto;

- (c) Pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women";
 - (d) Status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories.
4. Access of women to education:
 - (a) Activities of UNESCO of special interest to women;
 - (b) Education for women in rural areas.
 5. Economic rights and opportunities for women:
 - (a) Activities of the ILO which have a bearing on the employment of women;
 - (b) Access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields;
 - (c) Age of retirement and right to pension.
 6. Advisory services in the field of human rights and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries.
 7. Status of women in private law:
 - (a) Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages;
 - (b) Legal conditions and effects of the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation.
 8. Nationality of married women.
 9. Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women on the fifteenth (1963) session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and on the eighteenth (1962) session of the Commission on Human Rights.
 10. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
 11. Communications concerning the status of women.
 12. Survey of the work of the Commission - Review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities - Control and limitation of documentation.
 13. Report of the Commission on its seventeenth session.

II. POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

14. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 387th to 391st and 398th, 401st and 407th meetings. It had before it the following documents: a memorandum by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women (A/5153); a supplementary report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by the States Parties thereto (E/CN.6/360/Add.2); a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing the draft of a revised pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women" and a statement on financial implications relating thereto (E/CN.6/405 and Add.1-3); and a report by the Secretary-General containing information on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/406).

15. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (E/CN.6/NGO/140) and the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/134). During the debate oral statements were made by the observers for the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of University Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers and the World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls.

16. The Commission decided to consider together sub-items (a), (b) and (d) of this item of its agenda, and to take up sub-item (c) separately.

Progress achieved in the field of political rights of women

Implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by the States Parties thereto

Status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories

17. The memorandum by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women (A/5153) which had been circulated to the General Assembly at its seventeenth session showed that as of 1 June 1962 women were entitled to vote in all elections and were eligible for election on an equal basis with men in ninety-six countries; that the right of women to vote or be eligible for election was subject to limitations not imposed on men in eight countries; and that they had no voting rights and were not eligible for election in nine countries.

18. During the debate the observer from Iran informed the Commission that a legislative decree of 3 March 1963 authorized Iranian women for the first time to vote and be eligible for election to both houses of Parliament on equal terms with men. It was also noted that women had recently been granted political rights in Monaco.

19. Members of the Commission noted with satisfaction the great progress that had been achieved in the field of political rights of women, especially in recent years. Several, however, regretted that, despite these encouraging developments, there were still some countries and territories in which women did not enjoy full political rights, and it was hoped that this situation would soon be changed. It was suggested that it might be useful for the Commission to receive each year, if appropriate, a report containing any new information which became available after the annual memorandum on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women had been circulated to the General Assembly.

20. Several members expressed the view that the Commission was entering a new phase of its work and that emphasis should now shift to implementation and the effective use of the political rights gained by women. The importance of education was emphasized in this connexion. It was also pointed out that, in countries with a high percentage of illiteracy, the number of illiterates was generally much higher among women than among men and, therefore, that the elimination of illiteracy was of great importance to the exercise of political rights by women. The very important role played by the non-governmental organizations throughout the world in helping women both to secure political rights and to exercise freely and fully the rights they had acquired was recognized. It was emphasized that the Commission should encourage their work. Some representatives drew attention to the fact that a number of new women's organizations were being established and manifesting an increasing interest in international problems, especially in the maintenance of peace and disarmament. The same questions were discussed at international women's conferences and congresses held outside the United Nations in 1962. One representative said that women's organizations should be concerned with family planning as a solution to the problem of overpopulation.

21. Satisfaction was expressed that there were now thirty-nine States Parties to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, although some members regretted that this number was not larger. It was noted that the supplementary report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties thereto (E/CN.6/360/Add.2) included information which some Governments had supplied on the participation of women in public life, as well as information on relevant legislation enacted. It was suggested that, in addition to States Parties to the Convention, other States Members of the United Nations might be asked to furnish information on measures taken by them in accordance with the principles of the Convention. It was also suggested that detailed information might be collected on the actual participation of women in public life including, for example, statistics on the number of women elected to parliament, to local organs of government, the number of women holding positions of leadership, the number appointed to high government posts or being trained in practice for the foreign service, and the number of women in organized political parties and trade unions where they could both defend their rights and acquire the experience necessary for occupying high public office.

22. It was noted that some progress had been made in improving the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories since the previous report of the Secretary-General containing information on this subject had been issued two years ago, although several representatives commented that the rate of progress remained very slow. The view was expressed that the situation would improve when the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and

peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)) had been fully implemented. It was suggested that an appeal might be addressed to the competent organs of the United Nations to examine ways to secure the improvement of the status of women in these Territories. One representative pointed out the considerable progress in territories under her Government's administration. Some representatives suggested that future reports by the Secretary-General might indicate not only the actual status of women, but also steps being taken by the administering Powers to give women equal rights with men.

23. In the course of the debate, four representatives expressed their regret that the People's Republic of China was not represented on the Commission. Two representatives stated that since the Economic and Social Council, and not the Commission, decided its membership, this was not appropriate for discussion in the Commission.

Consideration of draft resolutions

24. A draft resolution on the political rights of women was submitted by Poland (E/CN.6/L.365). In this text it was proposed that Governments of all States should be invited to supply the Secretary-General, every two years, with statistical information relating inter alia to: the number of women elected to Parliament; the number of women elected to local authorities; the number of women appointed to senior posts in the executive branch; the number of women belonging to political parties; the number of women belonging to trade unions; and the number of women belonging to non-governmental organizations.

25. This draft resolution was subsequently revised and, in its revised form (E/CN.6/L.365/Rev.1), was sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Poland, the United Arab Republic and the United States. At its 401st meeting, on 21 March 1963, the Commission unanimously adopted the revised draft resolution. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

1 (XVII). Political Rights of Women

The Commission on the Status of Women

Invites the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following draft resolution:

For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution I./

26. A second draft resolution on the political rights of women was submitted by Czechoslovakia (E/CN.6/L.366). The third preambular paragraph and the operative paragraph of this draft resolution read as follows:

"Bearing in mind the necessity of strengthening the co-operation of all international non-governmental organizations of women with the United Nations aimed at bringing about as rapidly as possible the equality of men and women,

"Requests the Economic and Social Council to consider sympathetically this question and, in conformity with the principles set out in resolution 288 (X), to grant consultative status to all international non-governmental organizations of women which desire to attain such a status and approach the Economic and Social Council with such a request."

27. The following amendments to these two paragraphs of the draft resolution were submitted by the United States (E/CN.6/L.372):

(1) In the third preambular paragraph, replace "necessity of strengthening the co-operation of all" by "value of co-operation with";

(2) In the operative paragraph:

(a) Replace "Requests" by "Expresses confidence that" and insert "will continue" before "to consider", so that this paragraph will begin: "Expresses confidence that the Economic and Social Council will continue to consider sympathetically this ...";

(b) Between the words "status to all" and "international", insert "qualified";

(3) Add a second operative paragraph to read as follows:

"Expresses appreciation to the non-governmental organizations in consultative status represented at its seventeenth session for their constructive contributions to the work of the Commission."

28. The representative of Czechoslovakia accepted the United States amendment providing for the addition of the word "qualified" (amendment (2) (b)); she also accepted the addition of a new operative paragraph (amendment (3)). In accepting these amendments, the representative of Czechoslovakia suggested some change of wording as a result of which the representative of the United States did not press for a vote on its amendment (2) (a) above.

29. The United States amendment to the third preambular paragraph of the Czechoslovak draft resolution was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

30. At its 398th meeting, on 19 March 1963, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as a whole, as amended, by 19 votes to none, with 1 abstention. The text reads as follows:

2 (XVII). Co-operation of international non-governmental organizations of women with the United Nations

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind resolution 288 (X) of the Economic and Social Council containing the Statute on Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations, in which it has been recognized that the peoples of the United Nations have a basic and continuing interest

in the policies and operations of the United Nations, and that the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations provide an important means for ensuring that this interest may be fulfilled,

Bearing in mind the value of the co-operation of international non-governmental organizations of women with the United Nations aimed at bringing about as rapidly as possible the equality of men and women,

1. Expresses appreciation to the non-governmental organizations in consultative status represented at its seventeenth session for their constructive contributions to the work of the Commission;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to consider sympathetically this question and to grant consultative status to all international non-governmental organizations of women which are qualified in conformity with the principles set out in resolution 288 (X), and which desire to attain such a status and approach the Economic and Social Council with such a request.

Pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women"

31. In accordance with the Commission's resolution 1 (XV), the Secretary-General prepared the draft of a pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women" (E/CN.6/405 and Add.1 and 2), which was a revision of the publication entitled Political Education of Women (ST/SOA/6) ^{2/} issued in 1951. As the Commission had requested, the discussion leaders of each of the three United Nations seminars on the participation of women in public life were consulted in the preparation of this draft. It included an annex giving examples of techniques used for the civic and political education of women and an annex containing bibliographical material. A statement concerning the financial implications of publishing and distributing the pamphlet was issued in document E/CN.6/405/Add.3.

32. Some members of the Commission expressed satisfaction with the revised text and pointed out that a pamphlet intended for world-wide distribution had to be somewhat general in character and could not fully take into account the circumstances prevailing in any one country. Other representatives felt that the draft revision did not adequately meet present needs and that a change in approach was required. It was thought that the 1951 pamphlet should be rewritten rather than merely revised.

33. Suggestions were made by several representatives for new approaches to be taken and for material to be added. These included the following: that the pamphlet should be addressed to civic and educational leaders; that it should contain an account of the historical development of the political rights of women, and an account of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the advisory services programme; that it should contain relevant provisions

^{2/} United Nations publication, Sales No.: 51.IV.8.

of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and statements on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, the ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, and the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in education; that it should emphasize how women could participate in politics and assist in solving great social problems.

Consideration of draft resolutions

34. A draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.363) was submitted by the USSR, by which the Commission would request the Secretary-General to redraft the pamphlet in the light of the opinions expressed by members of the Commission and to circulate the new text to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations for their comments. Indonesia, the Philippines, the United Arab Republic and the United States submitted another draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.364), by which the Commission would recommend that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to revise the draft pamphlet in the light of the views expressed in the Commission and to publish and distribute it in 1964.

35. At its 390th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted a United Kingdom proposal to appoint a working group consisting of the representatives of Argentina, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, the Netherlands and the Philippines, which was to review the draft pamphlet and to indicate the general guiding lines along which it might be revised. The two draft resolutions were also referred to the Working Group.

36. The Working Group held four meetings. It elected Miss H.Z. Benitez (Philippines) as its Chairman and Mrs. E.Z. de Torres Duggan (Argentina) as its Rapporteur. After reviewing the draft pamphlet in the light of the comments made at the 389th and 390th meetings of the Commission, it recommended (E/CN.6/L.390) that the draft pamphlet should be redrafted along the following lines:

(a) The final version should be a new pamphlet rather than a revision of the 1951 pamphlet (ST/SOA/6);

(b) The pamphlet should be written for the use of persons responsible for the civic and political education of women, whether government-appointed or leaders of non-governmental organizations, youth organizations, etc. It should be a basic document for such leaders, who might adapt it in the light of local conditions and the specific needs of the group with which they work;

(c) Since the political rights of women are now recognized in most countries, the pamphlet should aim at awakening interest in the proper exercise of those rights, and at enlisting the support of men as well as women;

(d) In drafting the pamphlet, the writers should keep in mind that leaders will hear such questions as: What is the vote for? How is it to be used? How can one obtain the information necessary to use it properly? What does the individual woman stand to gain by exercising

her right to vote? Why should she participate in public life? What are the goals to be achieved by the proper exercise of these rights?;

(e) The pamphlet should stress responsibilities as well as rights. It should draw attention to the importance of government action and legislation in raising the position of women, and indicate that exercise of political rights can help in securing improvements in laws affecting women;

(f) The pamphlet should emphasize the importance of education. It should also point out that if women are to enjoy full civic and political rights, discrimination based on such grounds as race, creed or religion as well as on the ground of sex must be abolished. It should emphasize the need to train women leaders, and stress the importance of women's participation in public life at both the local and the national level. It should show how obstacles facing women in their efforts to participate in public life may be overcome;

(g) The pamphlet should include the human rights provisions of the United Nations Charter, the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the provisions of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, and of the seminars in matters concerning political rights and the status of women, and a summary statement of the position of women in respect of the franchise and of eligibility for offices in the various countries. Tables, such as those in the Secretary-General's memorandum (A/5153), should be included in an annex to the pamphlet. All conventions dealing with the status of women concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies should be mentioned. The pamphlet should give information on assistance available from the United Nations and from specialized agencies to improve the status of women such as seminars, fellowships, etc.;

(h) The sources of material should be primarily United Nations reports, especially those of the three United Nations seminars on the participation of women in public life and the background and working papers prepared for these seminars;

(i) Annex I, relating to techniques, might be expanded. Examples could be added to show how informal education may be given by women's participation in civic duties and in community development;

(j) Annex II containing the bibliography might include information on how United Nations publications can be obtained.

37. These recommendations met with the general approval of the Commission.

38. The report of the Working Group (E/CN.6/L.390) also contained a draft resolution for adoption by the Commission. The draft resolution read as follows, with passages in brackets indicating alternatives where no unanimity had been reached in the Working Group:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Noting the substantial achievements made in the field of political rights of women since the pamphlet on Political Education of Women (ST/SOA/6) was published on 1 October 1951,

"Having considered the revised draft of that pamphlet which was prepared by the Secretary-General at the request of the Commission in resolution 1 (XV) (E/CN.6/405 and Add.1 and 2),

"Believes that a new pamphlet on 'Civic and Political Education of Women' might prove more helpful to women who have recently acquired political rights or are preparing to exercise these rights for the first time;]

"Believing that a new pamphlet on 'Civic and Political Education of Women' would prove helpful to persons responsible for the civic and political education of women, whether government-appointed or leaders of non-governmental organizations, youth organizations, etc.;]

"Requests the Secretary-General to redraft the pamphlet in the light of the recommendations (E/CN.6/L.390) of the Working Group set up by the Commission, to review the text and to indicate general guiding lines for its revision [and to present the final draft to the Commission at its eighteenth session;] [and to forward the new draft to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations for their observations;]

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women in resolution ____ (XVII) for the preparation of a pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women";

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare such a pamphlet and arrange for its wide distribution in English, French and Spanish in 1964;

"2. Invites Member States to take steps to translate the pamphlet into the language or languages of the country."

39. At its 407th meeting the Commission considered the draft resolution submitted by the Working Group. The Commission unanimously adopted the following text as the third preambular paragraph:

"Believing that a new pamphlet on 'Civic and Political Education of Women' would prove helpful to persons responsible for the civic and political education of women, whether government-appointed or leaders of non-governmental organizations, youth organizations, etc.,".

40. There was some discussion of the procedure which should be followed once the pamphlet had been redrafted. Some representatives felt that the new draft should be submitted to the members of the Commission for comments and should

be revised in the light of their comments and issued as soon as possible. Others suggested that the new text should also be sent to specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations for comments. Still others felt that the text should be sent to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations for comments.

41. The representative of the United States of America submitted an oral amendment which would add the following words in the fourth paragraph of the draft resolution after the phrase "for its revision":

"and to circulate the revised draft for comment to members of the Commission and to the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status attending its seventeenth session, and to take the comments received before the end of 1963 into account in preparing the final text".

The representative of Ghana submitted a sub-amendment to the United States oral amendment, which would insert after "members of the Commission" the words "to other States Members of the United Nations". The Commission rejected the Ghanaian sub-amendment by 10 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions. The United States amendment was unanimously adopted.

42. At its 407th meeting, on 26 March 1963, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution as a whole, as amended. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

3 (XVII). Draft pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women"

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the substantial achievements made in the field of political rights of women since the pamphlet on Political Education of Women (ST/SOA/6) was published on 1 October 1951,

Having considered the revised draft of that pamphlet (E/CN.6/405 and Add.1 and 2) which was prepared by the Secretary-General at the request of the Commission in resolution 1 (XV),

Believing that a new pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women" would prove helpful to persons responsible for the civic and political education of women, whether government-appointed or leaders of non-governmental organizations, youth organizations, etc.,

Requests the Secretary-General to redraft the pamphlet in the light of the recommendations (E/CN.6/L.390) of the Working Group set up by the Commission to review the text and to indicate general guiding lines for its revision, and to circulate the revised draft for comment to members of the Commission and to the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status attending its seventeenth session, and to take the comments received before the end of 1963 into account in preparing the final text;

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

For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution II.7

III. ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

43. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 391st to 396th meetings. It had before it the following documents: a report by UNESCO on its activities in 1961-1962 of special interest to women, and main activities proposed for 1963-1964 (E/CN.6/407); a report by UNESCO on the access of girls and women to education in rural areas (E/CN.6/408); and a report by the International Labour Office on employment and conditions of work of women in agriculture (E/CN.6/422).

44. During the debate the Commission heard statements by the observer for Guinea and the representatives of UNESCO and of the ILO.

45. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (E/CN.6/NGO/133) and the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/135). Oral statements were made by the observers for the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of University Women and the World Young Women's Christian Association.

46. The Commission decided to consider together sub-items (a) and (b) of this item of its agenda.

47. Many members of the Commission welcomed the reports submitted by UNESCO and the ILO, and were of the opinion that the information they contained provided a clear picture of the situation in the field concerned. Some representatives expressed the view that the frequent use of statistics, as in the UNESCO report on access of girls and women to education in rural areas, might lead to erroneous conclusions as a result of methodological differences. One representative expressed the view that this report should have referred to developed as well as to developing countries.

48. In introducing the report on UNESCO activities in 1961-1962 of special interest to women, and main activities proposed for 1963-1964, the representative of UNESCO pointed out that the number of States members of UNESCO had increased considerably during 1961-1962. The new member States were for the most part developing countries, in which the situation with regard to education for women was not yet satisfactory, but in which women had an important role to play in economic and social development. UNESCO's opportunities for action aimed at improving educational opportunities for women had thus grown accordingly. The rapid expansion of regional programmes of educational development in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Arab States, and the establishment of regional training and documentation centres, were certain to improve the access of women and girls to education. Moreover, the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in education, adopted in 1960, had been ratified by fifteen countries, and a protocol instituting a conciliation and good offices commission to be responsible for the settlement of any disputes arising between States Parties to the Convention had been adopted in 1962. UNESCO would present to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a review of the question of the eradication

of mass illiteracy throughout the world, containing a proposed programme of international action. The programme of activity proposed for 1963-1964 was in the direction of still more effective action and the continuation of close co-operation with the Commission on the Status of Women.

49. Several representatives commended UNESCO for the numerous and very useful activities which it had undertaken in 1961-1962 and referred to those which they considered to be of the greatest interest and value to women, such as the establishment of regional training and documentation centres and the organization of regional programmes of educational development, of meetings of experts on illiteracy, and of international exchanges of women. One representative expressed the hope that the records and conclusions of such programmes would be made available to interested persons and organizations. Various members of the Commission described the situation existing in their respective countries and the steps taken, either in law or in fact, to overcome illiteracy and to improve the educational opportunities open to women.

50. The progress achieved during 1961-1962 in combating discrimination in education, and in particular the speed with which the Convention against discrimination in education had been brought into force, was noted with satisfaction. The general view, however, was that the situation as regards access of women and girls to education was still far from satisfactory and much remained to be done; it was felt that it was of the greatest importance that women should have equal access with men to all types of education at all levels, and that general education should be made free and compulsory, due priority being given to primary education. One reason given was that education of women and girls was essential to their progress in all fields, and in particular to their full participation in the political, social and economic life of their communities and countries. Another reason put forward was that women were important in their own right as well as being instruments for promoting the development of society and the education of children.

51. Several representatives expressed their deep concern about the continued existence of illiteracy, particularly since the majority of illiterate persons in the world today were women. The fear expressed that the population explosion in the world might even increase the proportion of illiterates since the development of educational facilities did not follow the same pace. While the efforts of UNESCO to combat illiteracy were noted with satisfaction, some representatives expressed the view that substantial results could only be achieved when the individual States concerned assumed greater responsibility for combating illiteracy and allocated a larger share of their resources for this purpose. In this connexion reference was made to the accomplishments of certain non-governmental organizations in combating illiteracy among women.

52. While discussing the possible means of overcoming illiteracy, many representatives, without denying the importance of the various types of general education, referred to the necessity of developing adult and out-of-school education. They also pointed out that it was important that women should benefit from modern methods and techniques applied to adult education, such as radio and television programmes.

53. In introducing UNESCO's report on the access of girls and women to education in rural areas, which had been prepared at the Commission's request, the representative of UNESCO pointed out that it dealt with an important and complex problem inasmuch as most women in the world at present lived in rural areas where they encountered difficulty in gaining access to education. The report, prepared on the basis of ninety replies to a questionnaire sent to each State member of UNESCO, included an analysis of the replies, certain statistical data, and the report and recommendations of the working group of non-governmental organizations on equal access of women to education. The report of the Meeting of Experts on the Access of Girls and Women to Education in Rural Areas in Asia, held at Bangkok in 1962, was communicated to the Commission as a complement to this information. It could be stated that, as a rule, girls and women in rural areas were doubly at a disadvantage regarding education because of their sex and their environment and suffered in fact more than men from the difficulties inherent in these areas, scattered communities and a generally low level of living. Measures taken to remedy the situation, such as transportation for rural pupils or the increased use of audio-visual aids, radio and television, were not equal to the difficulties.

54. In introducing the report of the International Labour Office on employment and conditions of work of women in agriculture, the representative of the ILO indicated that it contained background information which might be of interest to members of the Commission in their consideration of the question of access of girls and women to education in rural areas. The report summarized the position of women in the agricultural labour force, and supplied information concerning the education and training provided for women in rural areas, the conditions under which women worked in agriculture, and the laws and regulations intended to lay down their conditions of work.

55. Members of the Commission expressed the hope that UNESCO and the ILO would continue to assist countries in extending and improving education and training facilities for girls and women in rural areas and that information on this question could be included in their reports.

56. Some representatives thought that the situation as regards access of women to education in rural areas was markedly less favourable than in urban areas and that this presented a particularly serious problem in view of the size of the rural population in many countries. However, it was felt that the question of providing general and vocational training for women in rural areas could not be isolated from the general state of development of each country, and that in many instances a complete reconstruction of the economic, social, cultural and educational structures of rural areas should be planned in order to enable country dwellers to share in a wider and richer way of life, and in some cases to prevent the migration of the rural population to the cities. The members of the Commission were also of the opinion that the question could not be separated from general educational development plans for the elimination of illiteracy, the establishment of free and compulsory primary education and free access to secondary and higher education. On the other hand, such training had to be adapted to the particular conditions and needs of the rural areas.

57. Several representatives referred to techniques which had proved successful in their countries in facilitating the access of women and girls to education

in rural areas, such as the training of specialists in rural education, the raising of the qualifications and salaries of rural teachers, and the provision of better transportation and better housing for such teachers and their pupils. The development of extension courses, travelling libraries and community colleges had also been useful. The development of cottage industries and of small industries as a means of giving strength to the incentive for education by creating new economic opportunities for women was also mentioned.

58. There was wide agreement that the lack of opportunities for education for women in rural areas resulted primarily from the failure of the Governments concerned to provide the necessary facilities. It was their responsibility to create a situation in which the necessary facilities would be available and to abolish all forms of discrimination in education. It was, however, pointed out that Governments were not always able to provide facilities which they recognized were necessary, and that, in such cases, they should be encouraged to make use, wherever possible, of the aid available from non-governmental organizations and from the technical assistance programmes of various international organizations.

Consideration of draft resolutions

59. A draft resolution on the access of women to education (E/CN.6/L.367) was submitted by the United Kingdom, subsequently joined by Peru as co-sponsor. In the draft resolution it was proposed that the Commission should express its satisfaction at the work being done by UNESCO in the field of education, and note with appreciation the reports which UNESCO had transmitted to the Commission.

60. The draft resolution was revised by the sponsors to take into account a suggestion put forward by the representative of the USSR; the revised text (E/CN.6/L.367/Rev.1) accordingly proposed the adoption of an additional operative paragraph whereby the Commission would express the hope that similar reports might be received on a continuing basis.

61. At the 395th meeting, on 18 March 1963, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution unanimously. The text of the resolution read as follows:

4 (XVII). Access of girls and women to education

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered the report submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its activities in 1961-1962 of special interest to women and on its proposed activities in the biennium 1963-1964 (E/CN.6/407),

Having noted also the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on access of girls and women to education in rural areas (E/CN.6/408),

Considering that education is fundamental to progress, both generally and in relation to the advancement of women and girls to their proper place in the political, economic and social life of the community,

1. Expresses its satisfaction at the work being done by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the field of education;

2. Notes with appreciation the reports transmitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to the Commission;

3. Expresses the hope that these reports may be received on a continuing basis.

62. Mexico, the Netherlands, the Philippines and the United Kingdom submitted a draft resolution on the development of education and vocational training for girls and women in rural areas (E/CN.6/L.369), which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Having considered the report submitted by UNESCO on the access of girls and women to education in rural areas (E/CN.6/408) and the report by the International Labour Office on employment and conditions of work of women in agriculture (E/CN.6/422),

"Recognizing the importance of women's education to the economic and social progress of their countries,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recognizing that the education of all women is of vital importance to economic and social well-being and progress,

"Considering the large proportion of girls and women in the rural populations,

"Noting the inadequacy of facilities for general education and agricultural and other vocational training of girls and women in rural areas,

"1. Recommends to Governments of Member States that they give due priority to programmes and activities directed towards basic education, vocational training and professional education for girls and women in rural areas;

"2. Draws attention to the resources and facilities available under the regular and expanded programmes of technical assistance of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Special Fund;

"3. Invites UNESCO and the ILO to continue their assistance to countries, at their request, in extending and improving education and training facilities for girls and women in rural areas;

"4. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status to co-operate actively in formulating and carrying out programmes for strengthening and improving the education and training of girls and women in these areas."

63. The representative of the USSR proposed three amendments (E/CN.6/L.371) to the draft resolution: the first, to insert in operative paragraph 1, after the words "programmes and activities directed towards", the words "the development of"; the second, to add at the end of that paragraph the phrase, "and include appropriate provisions to that end in their national development plans"; and the third, to add at the end of operative paragraph 3 the following: "and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its nineteenth session on their work in this field". The sponsors accepted these amendments.

64. The representative of France orally proposed that in the last preambular paragraph of the text recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council the words "in many countries" should be inserted between the words "the inadequacy" and "of facilities". The representative of Poland proposed that in operative paragraphs 1 and 3 the words "women in rural areas" should be replaced by "women of rural areas" and in operative paragraph 4 the words "women in these areas" should be replaced by "women of these areas". The sponsors accepted all these proposals with some drafting alterations, and Poland became a sponsor of the draft resolution.

65. The representative of China proposed that, in operative paragraph 1, the words "basic education" should be replaced by the words "general education". The representative of Australia proposed that the words "education at all levels" should be used in this operative paragraph. After some discussion, in which various representatives suggested alternative expressions of the phrase "directed towards basic education, vocational training and professional education", the representative of China proposed the wording "education of all types and at all levels, including vocational training". The representative of the ILO suggested that the form "education and vocational training of all types and at all levels" should be used. The sponsors accepted the proposal of the representative of China as worded by the representative of the ILO.

66. At its 395th meeting, on 18 March 1963, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution, as revised. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

5 (XVII). Access of girls and women to education in rural areas

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered the report submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the access of girls and women to education in rural areas (E/CN.6/408) and the report by the International Labour Office on employment and conditions of work of women in agriculture (E/CN.6/422),

Recognizing the importance of women's education to the economic and social progress of their countries,

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

For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution III.⁷

67. Colombia, the Netherlands, Sierra Leone and the United States submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.368) relating to programmes and methods found useful in work to overcome illiteracy among women. The operative part of the draft resolution read as follows:

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to obtain information from women's organizations in consultative status on programmes and methods they have found useful in work to overcome illiteracy, especially among women;

"2. Requests him also to obtain any information available on significant projects UNESCO has undertaken relating to illiteracy among women;

"3. Invites him to prepare a report on this subject if possible for the nineteenth session of the Commission."

68. The USSR submitted the following amendments (E/CN.6/L.370) to the draft resolution: (1) In operative paragraph 1, replace the words "to obtain information from women's organizations in consultative status" by the words "to ask Governments and women's international organizations to submit proposals and information"; (2) In operative paragraph 3, insert after the word "report" the words "and recommendations".

69. In the discussion of the draft resolution and the amendments thereto, it was suggested that it would be preferable to address the request for information to UNESCO rather than to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The representative of UNESCO indicated that the information referred to in the draft resolution could be included in an annex to the activities report which his organization would prepare for the nineteenth session of the Commission.

70. In the light of this discussion the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.368/Rev.1). The representative of the USSR withdrew her amendments.

71. At its 396th meeting, on 18 March 1963, the Commission unanimously adopted the revised draft resolution. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

6 (XVII). Programmes and methods found useful in work to overcome illiteracy among women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting that, where illiteracy exists, it is usually greater among women,

Noting that women's organizations in many areas have undertaken programmes to aid in overcoming illiteracy,

Noting also the efforts of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization through technical assistance and other projects,

Expresses the hope that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization will obtain information from non-governmental organizations in consultative status on programmes and methods they have found useful in work to overcome illiteracy among women and will include this information in an annex to its activities report for the nineteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, along with any information available on significant projects assisted by UNESCO itself for this purpose.

IV. ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

72. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 396th to 402nd and 406th meetings. It had before it the following documents: a report by the International Labour Office on ILO activities of special interest from the standpoint of women's employment and conditions of work (E/CN.6/409); a report by the Secretary-General on the access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields (E/CN.6/411); a report by the International Labour Office on the programme of studies on the access of women to training and employment in the principal occupational areas (E/CN.6/412); and two reports by the International Labour Office on age of retirement and right to pension (E/CN.6/394 and Corr.1, E/CN.6/410).

73. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (E/CN.6/NGO/138), the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (E/CN.6/NGO/141), the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/137), the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/139), the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (E/CN.6/NGO/133), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/136) and St. Joan's International Alliance (E/CN.6/NGO/142). During the debate oral statements were made by the observers for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Alliance of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of University Women and the World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls.

Activities of the ILO which have a bearing on the employment of women

74. In introducing the report submitted by the International Labour Office on activities of the International Labour Organisation of special interest from the standpoint of women's employment and conditions of work (E/CN.6/409), the ILO representative pointed out that, while this work continued along its usual lines, an effort was being made to anticipate and to meet new problems created by technological change and by economic and social development and integration. As these efforts were of equal concern to women and men, the International Labour Office would, in its future activity reports, try to reflect this wider concern and to give a more general view of the work being done, and the priorities and emphasis accorded to various phases of that work. Many relatively new activities were being undertaken which undoubtedly would prove of interest to the Commission, including the workers' education programme, the rural development programme, the employment creation programme, and the establishment of international or regional centres for information and research into vocational training principles and methods, and in particular of the Institute of Labour Studies and the proposed Turin international centre for advanced training of managerial personnel and skilled workers. The International Labour Conference proposed to review the problems of women workers in a changing world at

its 1964 and 1965 sessions, with a view to the possible adoption subsequently of a recommendation on certain aspects of the employment of women with family responsibilities and of resolutions on other subjects relating to the economic status, health and welfare of women workers of today and tomorrow.

75. The main shift in emphasis in the work of the ILO during the year under review had been towards greater concern with the problems of women workers in developing countries, a reflection of the Commission's own preoccupation with this question which had culminated in the adoption of a resolution on the subject by the General Assembly. However, much remained to be done before this shift of emphasis could be considered as providing an adequate response to the urgent and important question of the economic and social advancement of women workers in the developing countries.

76. Members of the Commission expressed their appreciation to the International Labour Office for the comprehensive report which it had submitted, and their satisfaction with the expansion of ILO activities affecting the employment of women. It was pointed out that employment opportunities for women were increasing generally, not only in industrially developed countries but also in the developing countries, and that the most urgent need was to assist and encourage women to participate in the economic development of their countries. However, it was recalled that unemployment among women was a serious problem in some areas, and it was suggested that this problem merited further study. Representatives agreed that the Commission and the ILO should increase their efforts to promote equal access by women to opportunities for training and employment for work at all levels and in all occupational fields.

77. The decision of the ILO to include an item entitled "Women workers in a changing world" in the agenda of the 1964 and 1965 sessions of the International Labour Conference was welcomed by members of the Commission. The view was expressed that examination of this question would stimulate interest in the problems of women workers and would focus attention upon the need to improve the status of women generally. Some representatives felt that the documentation and decisions of the International Labour Conference on this agenda item would be of direct interest to the Commission, and it was suggested that the ILO might be requested to make these materials available. One representative expressed the hope that the Conference would exercise extreme caution in order to avoid the inadvertent adoption of any resolution which, although intended to improve the status of women, might in practice have an opposite effect and create new obstacles for them.

78. Several representatives expressed the hope that more women would be included in future delegations to ILO conferences, in accordance with the ILO Constitution. The inclusion of women in delegations was particularly important, it was felt, when questions relating to the status of women were to be examined. The hope was also expressed that the ILO, at all conferences held under its auspices, would give further consideration to the special problems of women workers and to methods of promoting full and responsible participation by women in the economic development of their countries.

79. Several representatives welcomed the decision of the Governing Body of the ILO to place the question of the employment and conditions of work of African

women on the agenda of the ILO Second African Regional Conference. The view was expressed that the recommendations of that Conference, as implemented, would help to increase economic opportunities for African women.

80. Some representatives emphasized the importance of assisting older women who were entering the labour market for the first time and who might not have received previous vocational training or re-entering it after a long period at home following marriage and motherhood. It was suggested that consideration had to be given to the training of older women immediately before entering or re-entering employment, and to the development and maintenance of skills during the period in which they were caring for their families. It was pointed out that this problem was becoming increasingly important as the number of earlier marriages grew; and that in many industries it might be advantageous if the married women could be permitted to attend refresher courses so that they would be prepared to return to work after their children had been raised.

81. Various representatives indicated that employment opportunities had been created for women in their own countries through such measures as the revision of out-of-date laws, the establishment of preparatory and refresher courses for women workers, the establishment of day nurseries for the children of working mothers and, in a more general way, through the nationalization of certain industries.

82. It was however pointed out that in spite of the efforts made on the national and international level, the problem of the employment and working conditions of women was still far from being solved. The situation of women in the industrial labour force was still not satisfactory, and women were still often subjected to discrimination in respect of employment, particular occupations, and promotion to higher posts. They were often employed only for unskilled work. In some countries their employment opportunities were restricted not only by employers but by trade unions. They were sometimes debarred, by law or practice, from certain professions or public posts, and some employers refrained from engaging them in order to avoid having to comply with regulations protecting maternity.

83. With regard to future activities of the ILO relating to economic rights and opportunities for women, it was suggested that special attention should be paid to the problems of Asian women, and that further information should be obtained on the work of the ILO Panel of Consultants on Indigenous and Tribal Populations. The hope was expressed that the International Labour Office might present to the Commission, in the near future, the reports which had been requested on the organization of centres for children of working mothers (in co-operation with the World Health Organization), and on part-time employment of women.

Consideration of draft resolutions

84. A draft resolution on activities of the ILO which have a bearing on the employment of women was submitted by Australia and the United States (E/CN.6/L.373). This draft resolution read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Calling attention to the increase in employment opportunities for women in both the industrially developed and the developing countries and the need for assisting and encouraging women to participate in the economic development of their countries;

"Noting with satisfaction the expansion of activities of the International Labour Organisation affecting the employment problems of women, including a number of special studies planned and in progress on particular aspects of women's economic status;

"Expressing appreciation to the ILO for the inclusion in the agenda of the 1964 session of the International Labour Conference of the item 'Women workers in a changing world';

"Sharing with the International Labour Organisation a continuing interest in promoting equal access by women to opportunities for training and employment for work at all levels and in all occupational fields;

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting with satisfaction the programme of the International Labour Organisation to expand employment opportunities for women,

"Considering that additional measures are necessary to increase the access of women to vocational training and guidance,

"1. Requests the International Labour Organisation to make available to members of the Commission on the Status of Women, at its twentieth session in 1966, copies of the ILO documents and background papers prepared for the 1964 session of the International Labour Conference on the agenda item 'Women workers in a changing world', together with a report of Conference findings and recommendations on this item;

"2. Expresses the hope that the ILO, at its general and regional conferences, and at meetings of its industrial and analogous committees, will regularly give consideration to special problems of women workers and methods of promoting full and responsible economic participation by women;

"3. Expresses confidence that Member States, in accordance with the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, will give consideration to including women in delegations to conferences of that organisation, more particularly when economic problems and opportunities of women are under consideration;

"4. Considers that it would be useful to have a series of regional seminars which could give special attention to economic

opportunities for women, including vocational preparation and measures for assisting women in the developing countries;

"5. Invites the Secretary-General, to give consideration to the development of such seminars in co-operation with the ILO, under the advisory services programme or through other resources, and to report to the Commission, if possible, at its eighteenth session in 1964."

Subsequently, believing that plans for seminars could be considered more appropriately in connexion with the item on advisory services, the sponsors deleted operative paragraphs 4 and 5 of their proposal, relating to the organization of seminars.

85. Amendments to the draft resolution were submitted by France (E/CN.6/L.374). By the first amendment, the following two paragraphs would be inserted as the first two preambular paragraphs in the Commission's resolution:

"Having considered the annual report submitted by the International Labour Office on activities of the International Labour Organisation of special interest from the standpoint of women's employment and conditions of work (E/CN.6/409),

"Expressing its warm appreciation to the International Labour Office for its interesting report and the hope that it will continue to submit such reports annually in view of the many items of particular concern to women included in the programme of the International Labour Organisation for the next few years,".

By the second amendment, the following new paragraph would be inserted after the third preambular paragraph:

"Expressing the firm hope that the conclusions reached by the International Labour Conference on the question of women workers in a changing world will reflect the principles of equality of opportunity and treatment laid down in the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation and in the Declaration concerning the Aims and Purposes of the International Labour Organisation adopted at Philadelphia in 1944, the text of which is annexed to the Constitution,".

86. In addition, amendments were proposed orally by the representative of the USSR. The first amendment would add, in the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, a third preambular paragraph reading as follows:

"Considering that unemployment among women in certain regions of the world is more widespread than among men and has serious effects on the economic situation of the family,".

The second USSR amendment would add a new operative paragraph reading as follows:

"Expresses the hope that the ILO will give special attention to the question of combating unemployment among women and will include it in its programme of work."

The representative of Poland suggested, as an alternative to these amendments, that the following words should be added to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution: "including vocational training and questions of unemployment among women".

87. An amendment was also proposed orally by the representative of China, to insert as operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution the following text:

"Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the International Labour Organisation the views and decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women relating to the economic rights and opportunities for women workers, together with the records of decisions thereon, for the reference of the 1964 session of the International Labour Conference during its consideration of the agenda item 'Women workers in a changing world'".

88. The sponsors accepted the first French amendment (E/CN.6/L.374), providing for the insertion of two additional preambular paragraphs in the Commission's draft resolution. They also accepted the Chinese oral amendment to the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, and also at the suggestion of the representative of China replaced, in operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the words "1964 session" by the words "1964 and 1965 sessions".

89. The second French amendment was adopted by 20 votes to none, with 1 abstention. The first USSR oral amendment was rejected by 10 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions. The second USSR oral amendment was rejected by 12 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions. The oral amendment proposed by the representative of Poland was rejected by 11 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions.

90. At its 398th meeting, on 19 March 1963, the Commission adopted unanimously the draft resolution as a whole, as amended. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

7 (XVII). Employment opportunities and conditions of work

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered the annual report submitted by the International Labour Office on activities of the International Labour Organisation of special interest from the standpoint of women's employment and conditions of work (E/CN.6/409),

Expressing its warm appreciation to the International Labour Office for its interesting report and the hope that it will continue to submit such reports annually in view of the many items of particular concern to women included in the programme of the International Labour Organisation for the next few years,

Calling attention to the increase in employment opportunities for women in both the industrially developed and the developing countries and the need for assisting and encouraging women to participate in the economic development of their countries,

Noting with satisfaction the expansion of activities of the International Labour Organisation affecting the employment problems of women, including a number of special studies planned and in progress on particular aspects of women's economic status,

Expressing appreciation to the International Labour Organisation for the inclusion in the agenda of the 1964 session of the International Labour Conference of the item "Women workers in a changing world",

Expressing the firm hope that the conclusions reached by the International Labour Conference on the question of women workers in a changing world will reflect the principles of equality of opportunity and treatment laid down in the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation and in the Declaration concerning the Aims and Purposes of the International Labour Organisation adopted at Philadelphia in 1944, the text of which is annexed to the Constitution,

Sharing with the International Labour Organisation a continuing interest in promoting equal access by women to opportunities for training and employment for work at all levels and in all occupational fields,

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

For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution IV A.7

Access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields

91. The report of the Secretary-General on the access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields (E/CN.6/411) was one of a series of studies on this subject which had been undertaken in the Commission since 1957, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 652 E (XXIV). At its fifteenth session the Commission had felt that a new approach to the study was needed and, in resolution 8 (XV), recommended that greater emphasis be placed on methods found useful by Governments and non-governmental organizations to promote the access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields. The Commission also expressed the hope that the International Labour Office would find it possible to suggest a plan for studies of other occupational areas including those where large numbers of women are employed. The report was based on information received by 10 January 1963 from twenty-nine Governments and six non-governmental organizations. As requested by the Commission, it emphasized methods used to promote the access of women to training and to employment by Governments, by non-governmental organizations and by professional groups. It also included some suggestions by Governments and non-governmental organizations

of methods which they thought would prove useful for promoting the access of women to training and to employment in these fields.

92. The representative of the ILO introduced the report by the International Labour Office (E/CN.6/412) outlining a programme of studies on the access of women to training and employment in the principal occupational areas, which had been prepared in accordance with the request of the Commission in resolution 8 (XV). Recalling that the Commission had asked the ILO to suggest a plan for studies of further occupational areas below the professional and technical level, she stated that serious consideration had been given to this question during the past two years. The main problem had been to devise and encourage practical methods of enlarging the employment outlook for women in all occupations - whether by advancement and promotion in those where they were employed in large numbers or by progressive penetration into those in which they had been employed in small numbers or not at all. The important thing in both sectors was to find out why the situation was as reported. In some cases an industry-by-industry, occupation-by-occupation approach could be helpful and practical in defining certain specific problems and finding the means of solving them. In most cases, however, the problems were more general in character and derived from broad economic and social factors and had therefore to be overcome on a much wider front, by a many-faceted educational and promotional approach aimed primarily at dispelling the myths about women's occupational capacity and establishing the facts. The ILO did not feel that a continuation of the present series of occupational outlook studies, based on questionnaires, would serve a truly useful purpose. Such studies tended to be superficial and static, and did not reveal the main evolutionary factors shaping the outlook for women in the various occupational categories; at the same time they placed undue stress on short-term and sometimes archaic factors influencing the occupational status of women. The ILO had an extensive programme of studies relating to women's occupational outlook and employment and its activities in this field appeared to meet the desires of the Commission that the situation should be kept under review and the various sectors examined in greater detail wherever necessary. The ILO would be glad to provide the Commission with the studies prepared on these questions, with any conclusions which might be reached at meetings where these studies were examined, and with its proposals for work in this field. In preparing its work programme, it would be happy to take into account any suggestions which the Commission might make with respect to general problems or particular occupational areas requiring study.

93. Members of the Commission expressed their appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General and of the International Labour Office. Several representatives described conditions governing the access of women to training and employment in their respective countries.

94. It was felt that, while the report of the Secretary-General contained interesting information, it was necessarily incomplete since only twenty-nine Governments and six non-governmental organizations had replied to the request for information; it would therefore be unwise to draw conclusions from it. Since the ILO had access to much wider and more specialized information, it was considered preferable to defer for the present further work by the Secretary-General on studies relating to the access of women to training and employment.

95. Several representatives welcomed ILO's greatly expanded programme of studies on problems relating to the employment of women, and endorsed the views of the ILO with regard to the contents and presentation of such studies. It was suggested that the best way to attain an understanding of the problems involved was to consider them region by region, and that there was a need for general studies as well as studies in specific fields of employment.

96. Some representatives pointed out that the report of the International Labour Office indicated that the percentage of women in technical professions was still low, both in highly developed and in developing countries. It was suggested that the Commission should consider the possibility of assisting developing countries to train women as technicians. In this connexion it was emphasized that where the demand for labour was great, women had no difficulty in finding jobs, but where there was general under-development complicated by overpopulation, their opportunities were restricted, especially in societies where men were traditionally the sole providers.

97. Reference was made to General Assembly resolution 1824 (XVII), on the role of the United Nations in training national technical personnel for the accelerated industrialization of the developing countries. In this connexion it was suggested that the Commission should pay increasing attention to the problem of including women in any programme for training national technical personnel in the developing countries.

Consideration of draft resolutions

98. Sierra Leone and the USSR submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.375) which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling resolutions 8 (XV) and 6 (XVI) of the Commission on the Status of Women, Economic and Social Council resolution 771 E (XXX) and General Assembly resolution 1824 (XVII),

"Believing that in order to speed up the process of industrialization - industrialization being the aim of many Member States of the United Nations at the present time - it is essential to have enough national specialists at all levels, and hence to have a well-developed professional and technical training system,

"Considering that women are an essential component of national technical personnel and that they should be given equal opportunities to obtain vocational training and employment,

"1. Urges Governments, when determining their requirements with regard to specialists of different degrees of skill and preparing plans

for training them in their own countries, to take into account the need to give women a place on an equal footing with men in the vocational training system and the employment system;

"2. Recommends the United Nations bodies responsible for the technical assistance programme and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, when preparing their programmes of operations, to give greater attention to the training of national specialists, seeking to ensure that men and women have equal access to such training;

"3. Recommends the Secretary-General to arrange two or three seminars in the next few years under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights on the subject of the access of women to professional and technical training.

"4. Requests the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation, to report to the Commission annually on the situation with regard to the training of women in the professional and technical fields;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General, in conjunction with the ILO, to prepare further recommendations concerning the access and admission of more women to training and employment in the professional and technical fields."

99. Amendments to the draft resolution were submitted by the United Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.377), reading as follows:

"(1) Amend the third preambular paragraph to read as follows:

'Considering that women are essential to the economic life of the country and that they should be given equal opportunities to obtain vocational training and employment,'.

"(2) Amend operative paragraph 1 to read as follows:

'1. Suggests that Governments of Member States, non-governmental organizations and business institutions, when determining etc.'.

"(3) In operative paragraph 2, for 'Recommends' substitute 'Expresses confidence that', and for 'to give greater' substitute 'will give due'.

"(4) Delete operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 and substitute the following:

'3. Requests the ILO and UNESCO to provide to the Commission in connexion with their periodic activity reports any relevant information concerning the access and admission of women to training and employment in the professional and technical fields, and proposals for future action.'

100. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendments proposed by the representative of the United Kingdom. In view of the statement by several representatives that the term "national specialists" would convey no precise meaning in their countries, they substituted "personnel for the country" in its stead. Since the new operative paragraph accepted by them mentioned UNESCO, they inserted the word "education" before the words "vocational training and employment" in the amended third preambular paragraph and before the words "training and employment" in operative paragraph 3, and revised the ending of operative paragraph 1 to read: "in the educational system, the vocational training system and the employment system."

101. At its 400th meeting, on 20 March 1963, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as revised, by 19 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The resolution reads as follows:

8 (XVII). Access of women to training and employment in the professional and technical fields

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

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

/For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution IV B.7

Age of retirement and right to pension

102. The representative of the ILO, in introducing the reports on age of retirement and right to pension (E/CN.6/394 and Corr.1, E/CN.6/410) pointed out that the question of the age of retirement and right to pension had a lengthy history. The Economic and Social Council, at the request of the Commission on the Status of Women, had invited the ILO to make a complete report on the subject, in the belief that further information might be helpful in reaching a decision. The ILO had carried out the studies asked of it, their purpose being to give a factual picture of the present position as regards the pensionable age, the qualifying conditions and the nature and extent of benefits for men and women workers alike and to suggest implications of a lower pensionable age for women than for men in factual terms of pension rights, the adequacy of the pensions and the effective age of retirement. The question was a very complicated one; policies and practices, and also views and opinions, varied widely, making it difficult to formulate general conclusions of universal validity. The facts and the main considerations had been set out in the reports before the Commission. It was for the Commission itself to draw the conclusions from them.

103. Many representatives expressed appreciation for the reports prepared by the International Labour Office. Some supplemented the data furnished in the reports by giving information relating to their own countries. Some expressed regret that the reports did not give the dates when the national laws referred to had come into force.

104. Members of the Commission agreed that the question of age of retirement and right to pension varied considerably according to the type of insurance or social security arrangements and the economic positions prevailing in many countries. Health and fitness for work of older persons varied greatly among individuals and according to the nature of the work performed. Some representatives commented on the biological and psychological aspects of aging, on the effects of aging on the occupational activities of women as compared with men, and on the obstacles to the employment of older persons, particularly older women. Some stressed the importance of providing for voluntary, as distinguished from compulsory, retirement and the question of the adequacy of benefits which was an important part of any retirement system, and the necessity of keeping such benefits in line with changes in prices and wages. One representative pointed out that home-workers and domestic servants should be covered by social security schemes. Another representative expressed the view that part-time gainful employment should also be taken into consideration in such schemes.

105. The debate centred in particular on the question of the age of retirement. Several representatives were of the opinion that it was useless to try to determine a specific and compulsory age of retirement, applicable either to men only, or to women only, or to both men and women. They believed that, in considering retirement, an individual takes into account such factors as the desire to continue to work, ability to keep a position or to find other work, condition of health, and other sources of income.

106. Some members were of the opinion that women should enjoy a lower age of retirement than men, mainly because of the various and difficult family responsibilities with which they were faced throughout their lives. However, many representatives felt that women should have the right to retire under the same conditions as men. Some thought that a lower age of retirement for women would prevent them from having equal access to employment with men, since employers generally considered the duration of the employment of the future employee, and this would therefore lead to discrimination against women in their access to employment. A lower age of retirement was also mentioned as an obstacle to equality between men and women in vocational training.

Consideration of draft resolutions

107. France and the United Kingdom submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.376) which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Reaffirming that the arrangements in regard to pensionable age and retirement age should not be such as to place women workers at any disadvantage as compared with men workers,

"Noting that the reports (E/CN.6/394 and Corr.1, E/CN.6/410) prepared by the International Labour Office on 'Age of retirement and right to pension' reveal that, despite wide differences from country to country in the economic, social and demographic conditions which affect arrangements for pension, there is a trend towards equal provisions in retirement for men and women,

"Recognizing that the reports accordingly also reveal a wide variation in pension provisions generally and particularly in the pension ages for men and women,

"Further recognizing that the reports reveal a divergence of views among Governments and women's organizations in various countries about the relationship between the pension ages for men and women,

"Recommends that, with due regard to national, social and economic policies and conditions, the provisions concerning the pensionable age and right to pension under social security and insurance schemes affording economic protection to retirement pensioners should be sufficiently flexible to meet varied and changing circumstances, individual needs and reasonable individual preferences as regards effective retirement."

108. The following amendments (E/CN.6/L.378) to the draft resolution were submitted by the USSR:

"(1) In the first preambular paragraph, replace the word 'Reaffirming' by the word 'Considering'. Delete the word 'not' and replace the words 'any disadvantage' by 'an advantage'.

"(2) In the second preambular paragraph, delete the words 'that despite' and the words 'there is a trend towards equal provisions in retirement for men and women'.

"(3) At the end of the operative paragraph, add the following: 'and should provide for an earlier pensionable age for women than for men'."

109. Colombia and Spain submitted the following amendment (E/CN.6/L.379) to the draft resolution submitted by France and the United Kingdom: "At the end of the operative paragraph, add the following: 'all men and women workers being afforded equal conditions'."

110. The representative of Indonesia proposed an oral amendment to the draft resolution which would replace the words "sufficiently flexible" by the words "equal for men and women in their flexibility", in the operative paragraph.

111. The representative of the Netherlands proposed an oral amendment which would add at the end of the operative paragraph the words "bearing in mind the trend towards equal economic conditions for the work of men and women".

112. The representative of the United Kingdom submitted an oral amendment to the amendment submitted by Colombia and Spain (E/CN.6/L.379) which would rephrase it as follows: "in such a manner as to involve no discrimination".

113. At its 402nd meeting, the Commission decided to refer the draft resolution and all the amendments to a drafting committee consisting of the five members of the Committee on Resolutions and the sponsors of amendments

(France, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR).

114. The drafting committee met on 22 March 1963. Its report is contained in document E/CN.6/L.386. It agreed to transmit to the Commission for its consideration: (a) the draft resolution submitted by France and the United Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.376); (b) the USSR amendments (E/CN.6/L.378), and (c) an amendment adopted by the drafting committee by 4 votes to none, with 5 abstentions. This amendment consisted of adding at the end of the operative paragraph of the draft resolution the following phrase: "bearing in mind the encouraging trend towards equal pension provisions for men and women".

115. The representative of the Netherlands proposed an oral amendment to replace the text adopted by the drafting committee by the following: "bearing in mind the encouraging trend toward equal economic conditions for the work of men and women".

116. The representative of France submitted orally a sub-amendment to the oral amendment of the Netherlands to add after the word "women" the following phrase: "including equal provisions in the matter of age of retirement and the right to pension".

117. The Commission agreed to vote first on the Netherlands amendment, which was adopted unanimously. It then adopted the French oral sub-amendment by 10 votes to 5, with 6 abstentions. The amendments submitted by Colombia and Spain (E/CN.6/L.379) and by the USSR (E/CN.6/L.378) were withdrawn. The Commission then adopted the operative paragraph of the draft resolution, as amended, by 14 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

118. At its 406th meeting, on 25 March 1963, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as a whole, as amended, by 15 votes to none, with 6 abstentions. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

9 (XVII). Age of retirement and right to pension

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming that the arrangements in regard to pensionable age and retirement age should not be such as to place women workers at any disadvantage as compared with men workers,

Noting that the reports (E/CN.6/394 and Corr.1, E/CN.6/410) prepared by the International Labour Office on "Age of retirement and right to pension" reveal that, despite wide differences from country to country in the economic, social and demographic conditions which affect arrangements for pension, there is a trend towards equal provisions in retirement for men and women,

Recognizing that the reports accordingly also reveal a wide variation in pension provisions generally and particularly in the pension ages for men and women,

Further recognizing that the reports reveal a divergence of views among Governments and women's organizations in various countries about the relationship between the pension ages for men and women,

Recommends that, with due regard to national, social and economic policies and conditions, the provisions concerning the pensionable age and right to pension under social security and insurance schemes affording economic protection to retirement pensioners should be sufficiently flexible to meet varied and changing circumstances, individual needs and reasonable individual preferences as regards effective retirement, bearing in mind the encouraging trend towards equal economic conditions for the work of men and women, including equal provisions in the matter of the age of retirement and the right to pension.

V. ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

119. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 403rd to 406th meetings. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.6/416) and a note by the Secretary-General on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries (E/CN.6/417); it also had before it the report of the 1962 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law, held at Tokyo in May 1962 (ST/TAO/HR/14).

120. During the general debate statements were made by the observers for the Dominican Republic and Guinea.

121. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/131), the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/139) and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (E/CN.6/NGO/133). During the debate statements were made by the observers for the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of University Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers and the International Council of Social Democratic Women.

122. An oral statement was made following the adoption by the Commission of its resolution 10 (XVII) (see para. 137 below), on behalf of the following non-governmental organizations: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, Catholic International Union for Social Service, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women Lawyers, The International League for the Rights of Man, Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Young Women's Christian Association, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. In this statement gratification was expressed at the Commission's unanimous adoption of resolution 10 (XVII).

123. In the report on the programme of advisory services, the Secretary-General informed the Commission that the General Assembly, by resolution 1782 (XVII), had decided that the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights should be further expanded with a view to increasing the resources for fellowships so as to permit the award of at least double the number of fellowships available in 1962, and that the Secretary-General should give appropriate publicity to the increased opportunities available to Governments through the programme of advisory services in the form of seminars, fellowships and the services of experts.

124. The Secretary-General further informed the Commission that three regional seminars were being organized in 1963: a seminar on the role of the police in

the protection of human rights, from 29 April to 11 May, at Canberra, Australia; a seminar on the rights of the child, from 6 to 19 August, at Warsaw, Poland; and a seminar on the status of women in family law, from 10 to 23 September, at Bogotá, Colombia. He also stated that three regional seminars were being planned for 1964, one on freedom of information, one on human rights in developing countries, and a third on the status of women in family law.

125. The Secretary-General stated that as of December 1962, forty-four applications for fellowships had been received and nineteen had been awarded. It was hoped that under General Assembly resolution 1782 (XVII) thirty or more fellowships would be granted in 1963.

126. Upon the request of the Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General discussed various suggestions and proposals which were intended to increase the effectiveness of the programme of advisory services. First, he discussed the possibilities of establishing regional institutes on human rights and of organizing training courses on human rights. It was suggested that a training course might be organized in 1964 and another in 1965 as initial experiments. Should these experiments prove successful, consideration might then be given to the establishment of regional institutes. The Secretary-General also discussed the possibilities of providing the services of lecturers on human rights, of organizing regional seminars on economic and social rights, and of requesting seminars to draw up principles, conclusions and recommendations.

127. In the note on the advancement of women in developing countries (E/CN.6/417), the Secretary-General informed the Commission of General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII), by which the Secretary-General was requested to study, in co-operation with the Member States, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and appropriate non-governmental organizations, the possibility of providing and developing new resources aimed especially at the initiation and implementation of a unified long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women, and, within the scope of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights and the advisory social welfare services programme, to study especially the possibility of expanding the assistance which can be rendered, through seminars, fellowships and the services of experts, for the advancement of women in developing countries. The General Assembly also invited the Commission on the Status of Women to co-operate with the Secretary-General in developing a long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women.

128. In discussing the programme of advisory services, all representatives on the Commission expressed appreciation of the work of the Secretary-General in organizing the regional seminars and of the hospitality of the Governments which had acted as hosts. It was pointed out that the influence of the seminars extended beyond the particular regions in which they were held; they provided an example of the value of international co-operation in seeking solutions to common problems and afforded an opportunity for all countries to learn from one another. It was generally felt that the seminars should not be asked to draw up principles, conclusions or recommendations in a formal manner. Free exchanges of views in the seminars were more valuable to the Commission than any formal resolutions that might be adopted.

129. Some representatives stressed the value of the attendance at the seminars of top-level officials because they might be able to exercise an influence upon the

policies of their Governments. Other representatives stated that the background papers of the regional seminars were extremely valuable and should be widely circulated, as they examined problems which were common to many countries in different regions.

130. Various suggestions as to future seminars were made. Many representatives felt that seminars should be held more frequently, particularly in developing countries, as they were an effective means of improving the status of women throughout the world. Another suggestion was that seminars should deal with a wider diversity of subject matter. Up to now, the seminars had discussed the participation of women in public life and the status of women in family law. After the completion of the present series on the status of women in family law, future seminars should include such subjects as educational rights and opportunities, economic rights and opportunities, professional training and vocational guidance, participation of women in economic and social life, etc.

131. It was also suggested that professors from universities might be invited to address seminars and that holders of fellowships in the field of human rights might usefully participate in them.

132. Several representatives were in favour of establishing regional institutes on human rights. Others felt that the organization of training courses would be an important step towards the establishment of regional institutes. One representative suggested that a team of visiting lecturers on human rights distributed and rotating among a group of countries within a region would reach more people, including housewives, and could be financed more easily than either a regional training course or fellowships abroad. Some representatives pointed out that, in demographic surveys, housewives should be included in the category of economically active population.

133. Some representatives doubted whether fellowships were really useful in assisting women in developing countries. Others regretted that not many women had been awarded fellowships. It was suggested that more fellowships might be granted on shorter terms so that persons in relatively high positions could study related services in other countries.

134. Comments were also made on particular seminars. Thus, the representative of Japan stated that, after the Tokyo seminar, two national seminars on the status of women were held in Japan. The representative of Colombia informed the Commission that wide public interest had been aroused by the seminar which was to take place at Bogotá in September 1963 and she hoped that it also would be followed by national seminars. The representative of Australia expressed the hope that at the forthcoming seminar on the role of the police in the protection of human rights, which would take place at Canberra, some of the participants would be women. The representative of Finland noted the general agreement between the findings of the Bucharest seminar and of the Tokyo seminar.

Consideration of draft resolutions

135. A draft resolution on the advancement of women in developing countries (E/CN.6/L.387) was submitted by Australia and the United States. In introducing the draft resolution, the sponsors stated that the Commission should study the

question of establishing a unified long-term programme for the advancement of women. Operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of this draft resolution read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

...

"1. Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) To supply the Commission, if possible at its eighteenth session, with a summary statement of resources available to Member States for the advancement of women, if possible with illustrations, together with an explanation of how the desired assistance may be requested, to be based on information regularly available on all programmes in the United Nations system, and in the case of non-governmental organizations in consultative status, on information furnished by them;

"(b) To comment on any significant gaps in such resources with regard to geographic areas or to substantive needs;

"2. Invites the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of facilitating projects initiated by non-governmental organizations in consultative status to aid in the advancement of women in developing countries, through appropriate co-operation from the United Nations or the specialized agencies under technical assistance, advisory services and other programmes;"

With respect to paragraph 2 above, it was explained that the United Nations should assist non-governmental organizations in any projects which were designed to advance the status of women in developing countries; and that it was not intended that the United Nations should finance any projects undertaken by non-governmental organizations.

136. By this draft resolution the Commission would also recommend that the Economic and Social Council adopt a draft resolution on the advancement of women in developing countries, the operative part of which read as follows:

"1. Considers that a first step in establishing a unified, long-term programme for the advancement of women will be the review and evaluation of present resources already initiated by the Commission on the Status of Women;

"2. Invites Member States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status to inform the Secretary-General of any projects they would be prepared to undertake, or any new resources they may be able to contribute to the United Nations programmes for the advancement of women in developing countries;

"3. Calls the attention of Member States to the value of appointing national commissions on the status of women, composed of leading men and women with experience in government service, education, employment, community development and other aspects of public life, to develop plans and make recommendations for improving the position of women in their respective countries."

With respect to paragraph 2 above, the representative of the Secretary-General stated that under General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII), the Secretary-General had consulted the Governments of Member States and intended to consult the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations on the following matters: (a) the possible scope and content of long-term programmes with particular emphasis on the developing countries; (b) the relationship of the long-term programme to existing programmes; (c) the areas in which United Nations assistance would be most useful; (d) the type of assistance which would be most beneficial; and (e) the possibility of providing new resources for the long-term advancement of women. After this explanation, the representatives of Australia and the United States withdrew paragraph 2 of the draft resolution.

137. At its 405th meeting, on 25 March 1963, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution. The text is as follows:

10 (XVII). United Nations assistance for the advancement
of women in developing countries

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting that the General Assembly, in its resolution 1777 (XVII), suggested the possibility of a unified, long-term programme for the advancement of women in developing countries and expressed its belief that advanced countries and appropriate non-governmental organizations may provide new resources for this purpose,

Considering that the advancement of women in any area depends primarily on the active participation of local men and women, working together to develop plans and give them practical effect,

Considering further that Member States should have the benefit of comprehensive information on the resources of the United Nations for this purpose, including information on assistance available from the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the Special Fund, the United Nations programmes of advisory services in human rights and social welfare, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status,

1. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To supply the Commission, if possible at its eighteenth session, with a summary statement of resources available to Member States for the advancement of women, if possible with illustrations, together with an explanation of how the desired assistance may be requested, to be based on information regularly available on all programmes in the United Nations system, and in the case of non-governmental organizations in consultative status, on information furnished by them;

(b) To comment on any significant gaps in such resources with regard to geographic areas or to substantive needs;

2. Invites the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of facilitating projects initiated by non-governmental organizations in consultative status to

aid in the advancement of women in developing countries, through appropriate co-operation from the United Nations or the specialized agencies under technical assistance, advisory services and other programmes;

3. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution V.

138. A draft resolution on advisory services in the field of human rights was submitted by Indonesia, Japan, Peru, the Philippines and the United States (E/CN.6/L.388), the operative part of which read as follows:

"1. Suggests that the Secretary-General consider a further cycle of regional seminars on the advancement of women in developing countries, with special attention to their opportunities for education at all levels, vocational guidance and training and employment, with a view to full participation by women in economic and social life,

"2. Expresses the hope that in planning expanded activities under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, the Secretary-General will consider apportioning more seminars to the status of women, on such topics as the effective exercise of political rights, improvement in educational opportunities, professional, technical and vocational training, and other efforts to give effect to the principle of equality in all matters affecting women."

139. It was understood that this resolution, if adopted, would be carried out within the existing budget of the advisory services programme.

140. The representative of the Philippines, with the concurrence of the other sponsors of the draft resolution, revised paragraph 2 by inserting the words "workshops, training courses, lecture tours and fellowships" after the word "seminars". The representative of the United Kingdom suggested that the word "expanded" before "activities" and the word "more" before "seminars" in paragraph 2 should be deleted. This was accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution. The representative of France suggested that the phrase "in all matters affecting women" at the end of paragraph 2 should be replaced by "of all citizens in all fields". This was also accepted by the sponsors. The representative of UNESCO suggested that the phrase "in collaboration with the appropriate specialized agencies" should be inserted after "Secretary-General" in paragraph 1; and that the words "on such topics" in paragraph 2 should be replaced by "which will include the study of such topics". The UNESCO suggestions were also accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution. The representative of Ghana suggested that the word "and" between "lecture tours" and "fellowships" should be replaced by "and/or"; this was put to the vote and rejected by 10 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

141. At its 406th meeting, on 25 March 1963, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as revised, by 16 votes to none, with 4 abstentions. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

11 (XVII). Advisory services in the field of human rights

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Appreciating the continued success of the regional seminars relating to the status of women under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, and the plans for further seminars on family law in 1963 and 1964,

Welcoming the expansion of the programme,

Believing that seminars, workshops, training courses, lecture tours and fellowships have proved effective methods of extending technical assistance, and that all such methods should be considered in developing advisory services,

1. Suggests that the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the appropriate specialized agencies, consider a further cycle of regional seminars on the advancement of women in developing countries, with special attention to their opportunities for education at all levels, vocational guidance and training and employment, with a view to full participation by women in economic and social life,

2. Expresses the hope that in planning activities under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, the Secretary-General will consider apportioning seminars, workshops, training courses, lecture tours and fellowships to the status of women, which will include the study of such topics as the effective exercise of political rights, improvement in educational opportunities, professional, technical and vocational training, and other efforts to give effect to the principle of equality of all citizens in all fields.

142. France and Poland submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.389) concerning the desirability of appointing women to act in various capacities on the regional economic commissions of the United Nations. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of France stated that many of the subjects dealt with by the regional economic commissions were of vital concern to women but that very few women had participated in the work of those commissions. After a brief exchange of views, the Commission, at its 406th meeting, on 25 March 1963, unanimously adopted the draft resolution. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

12 (XVII). Participation of women in the work of regional economic commissions

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII),

Noting Economic and Social Council resolutions 37 (IV), 106 (VI) and 671 (XXV),

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

For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution VI.]

VI. STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

143. Item 7 of the Commission's agenda was: "Status of women in private law: (a) Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages; (b) Legal conditions and effects of the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation." The Commission decided, at its 404th meeting, to postpone to its eighteenth session the consideration of sub-item (b).

144. The Commission considered sub-item (a) at its 407th and 408th meetings. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General concerning the draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages (E/CN.6/414). Written statements were submitted by the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/132), the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/139) and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (E/CN.6/NGO/133).

145. The memorandum by the Secretary-General recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 1763 B (XVII) of 7 November 1962, had requested the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission to consider the draft Recommendation in the light of the discussions in the General Assembly on the draft Convention relating to the same subject. The General Assembly also asked the Council "to report back in time for consideration of the draft Recommendation by the Assembly at its eighteenth session". The Council had transmitted this resolution to the Commission on 19 December 1962.

146. The General Assembly, on 7 November 1962, had adopted the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, and, in resolution 1763 A (XVII), had opened it for signature on 10 December 1962. The representative of the Secretary-General informed the Commission that since that date the Convention had been signed by twelve Member States but had not yet received any ratifications or accessions.

147. The General Assembly itself had not discussed the text of the draft Recommendation which the Economic and Social Council had forwarded to it in 1961 by resolution 821 III B (XXXII). The text of the draft Recommendation before the Commission therefore was that which the Commission had prepared at its fifteenth session. It read as follows:

"Draft recommendation on consent to marriage, minimum age for marriage and registration of marriages

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recognizing that men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family, that they are entitled to equal rights as to marriage and that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, in accordance with the provisions of article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 843 (IX) of 17 December 1954,

"Recalling further article 2 of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery of 1956, which makes certain provisions concerning the age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages,

"Recalling also that, under Article 62, paragraph 2, of the Charter, the Council may make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and that under Article 64 of the Charter, it may make arrangements with the Members of the United Nations to obtain reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations and to recommendations on matters falling within its competence made by the General Assembly,

"I. Recommends that where not already provided by existing legislative or other measures, each State take the necessary steps, in accordance with its constitutional processes, to adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the following principles:

"(1) No marriage shall be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person, orally, publicly and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage and of such witnesses as may be prescribed by law;

"(2) No marriage of any person under the age of fifteen shall be legally entered into except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age, for serious causes, in the interest of the intending spouses;

"(3) All marriages shall be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority;

"II. Recommends that each Member State bring the Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages contained in this resolution before the authorities competent to enact legislation or to take other action, at the earliest practicable moment and, if possible, not later than eighteen months after its adoption;

"III. Recommends that Member States inform the Secretary-General, as soon as possible after the action has been taken, of the measures taken under the present Recommendation to bring it before the competent authority or authorities, with particulars of the authority or authorities regarded as competent and of the action taken by them;

"IV. Recommends further that Member States report to the Secretary-General at the end of three years and thereafter at intervals of five years the position of the law and practice in their countries in regard to the matters dealt with in this Recommendation, showing the extent to which effect has been given or is proposed to be given to the provisions of the Recommendation and such modifications of these provisions as it has been found or may be found necessary to make in adapting or applying it;

"V. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the Commission on the Status of Women a document containing the reports received from Governments;

"VI. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women to examine the reports received from Member States pursuant to the present Recommendation and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council with such recommendations as it may deem fit to make;

"VII. Recommends that the General Assembly adopt the following draft resolution:

" The General Assembly,

" Recalling that, under Article 60 of the Charter, the responsibility for the discharge of the functions of the United Nations relating to international economic and social co-operation is vested in the General Assembly, and, under the authority of the General Assembly, in the Economic and Social Council,

" Noting that the Economic and Social Council has made, in resolution 821 III B (XXXII) of 19 July 1961, recommendations to the Members of the United Nations concerning the consent to marriage, the minimum age for marriage and the registration of marriages,

" Endorses the recommendations and the arrangements made by the Council in resolution 821 III B (XXXII)."

148. When the Economic and Social Council considered the draft Recommendation at its thirty-second session in 1961, two amendments were submitted, the first by the representatives on the Council of Denmark and the United Kingdom, the second by the representatives of New Zealand and Spain. In resolution 821 III B (XXXII) of 19 July 1961, the Council transmitted to the General Assembly the draft Recommendation prepared by the Commission, together with these amendments and the records of the relevant discussions at the thirty-second session of the Council (E/AC.7/SR.435, 436, 439 and 440).

149. The amendment submitted by Denmark and the United Kingdom^{3/} read as follows:

- "(1) In paragraph I, insert the word 'Member' before the word 'State';
- "(2) In paragraph III, delete the words 'and of the action taken by them';
- "(3) Delete paragraph VII."

^{3/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 16, document E/3535, para. 2.

150. The amendment submitted by New Zealand and Spain^{4/} would provide for the addition, after sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph I, of the following text:

"Notwithstanding anything in paragraph 1 above, it shall not be necessary for one of the parties to be present when the authority is satisfied that the three following conditions are met - namely, that the party:

"(a) Is absent from the country where the marriage is to be solemnized; and

"(b) Is unable because of exceptional circumstances to be present; and

"(c) Has, before such witnesses and in such manner as may be prescribed by law, expressed and has not withdrawn consent."

151. In the general debate, the need for a Recommendation embodying essentially the same basic principles as those which had been incorporated in the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages was questioned. It was suggested that, if any recommendation were to be prepared, it should elaborate upon those principles and present detailed indications as to how Governments could give practical effect to them. In particular it was suggested that the draft Recommendation should be further developed by incorporating in it recommended procedures for implementing the principles set out in the Convention, based upon methods found useful in various countries in safeguarding the entrance of women into marriage. It was further suggested that the Secretary-General should be requested by the Commission to prepare the draft of such a Recommendation, taking into consideration information furnished by Governments in response to the questionnaire on consent to marriage, age of marriage, and registration of marriages, as well as comments made during the discussion in the Commission and information from other reliable sources. The draft Recommendation would be presented to the Commission by the Secretary-General for consideration at its eighteenth session. The Economic and Social Council meanwhile would be requested to convey to the General Assembly the intention of the Commission to prepare such a draft Recommendation, together with an expression of the Commission's appreciation for the adoption of the Convention.

152. As an alternative, it was suggested that the Secretary-General might submit to the Commission at its eighteenth session a report, which could later be issued as a pamphlet, on methods found useful in various countries in safeguarding the entry of women into marriage.

^{4/} This amendment was originally proposed to article 1 of the draft Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages and was extended orally to the draft Recommendation by the sponsors at the 440th meeting of the Social Committee of the Council (E/AC.7/SR.440). It may be noted that in the General Assembly this amendment to the draft Convention was revised and, in its revised form, was adopted as paragraph 2 of article 1 of the Convention.

153. While some representatives expressed an interest in developing a more detailed recommendation, others felt that immediate revision of the draft Recommendation was essential. It was recalled that the Commission itself had prepared the draft Recommendation in 1961, and that the text now before it had been adopted unanimously at that time. All that remained was for the Commission to review that text in the light of the discussions which had taken place in the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Assembly had specifically requested that the revised draft be made available for consideration at its eighteenth session in 1963.

154. With regard to the suggestions which had been put forward for elaborating the principles of the Convention in the draft Recommendation, it was pointed out that, on the other hand, it would be preferable to eliminate all controversial details from the draft Recommendation that did not appear in the Convention. Several representatives felt that it was not the task of the Commission to reopen the substantive discussion of the principles involved, which had already won wide acceptance, but rather to find a way to incorporate those principles in the draft Recommendation. They suggested that the wisest course would be to revise the draft Recommendation only to the extent necessary to make its substantive provisions identical with those of the Convention. A Recommendation along these lines, when adopted by the General Assembly, would undoubtedly exert great moral influence upon all States, whereas the Convention could only bind those States which ratified or acceded to it.

155. The representative of the United Kingdom maintained the amendments to the draft Recommendation which had been submitted to the thirty-second session of the Economic and Social Council by Denmark and the United Kingdom (see para. 149 above).

156. The representative of Spain announced the withdrawal of the amendment which her country, together with New Zealand, had sponsored during the discussion in the Economic and Social Council (see para. 150 above). In its stead she submitted to the Commission an amendment drafted in the same terms as those of paragraph 2 of article 1 of the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, as follows:

"Notwithstanding anything in paragraph (1) above, it shall not be necessary for one of the parties to be present when the competent authority is satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and that the party has, before a competent authority and in such manner as may be prescribed by law, expressed and not withdrawn consent."

157. The question of proxy marriages, raised by this amendment, was discussed at length. Some representatives defended marriage by proxy, even under circumstances that could not be considered as exceptional. Others, however, felt that the idea of marriage by proxy could not be accepted in many countries, and that the inclusion of such a controversial proposal would only make agreement upon the text of a Recommendation more difficult. Various representatives explained the part played by proxy marriages in the social and religious systems of their countries.

158. The representative of China proposed that sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph I of the draft Recommendation should be revised and presented in terms similar to those of article 2 of the Convention, as follows:

"Member States shall take legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage. No marriage shall be legally entered into by any person under this age, except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age, for serious reasons, in the interest of the intending spouses."

159. Several representatives expressed agreement with the suggestion that the Recommendation should not specify an age of consent to marriage. Some of those who did not object to specification of an age of consent felt that the age mentioned in the draft Recommendation, fifteen, was too high, while others considered it to be too low.

160. The representative of Poland proposed that paragraph V of the draft Recommendation should be amended by the addition of the words: "concerning methods of implementing the three basic principles of the Recommendation."

161. At the 408th meeting of the Commission, the first United Kingdom amendment was adopted by 16 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

162. The amendment submitted by the representative of Spain was voted on in parts. The words "that the circumstances are exceptional and" were adopted by 11 votes to 2, with 8 abstentions. The text as a whole was adopted by 9 votes to 5, with 7 abstentions.

163. The amendment submitted by the representative of China was adopted by 8 votes to 5, with 5 abstentions.

164. Paragraph I of the draft Recommendation, as amended, was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

165. The second United Kingdom amendment was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. Paragraph III, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

166. The amendment submitted by the representative of Poland was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 4 abstentions. Paragraph V, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

167. The third United Kingdom amendment was adopted by 20 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

168. The representative of the United Kingdom submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.391) proposing that the Commission should take note of General Assembly resolution 1763 B (XVII), and request the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the recommendation, prepared by the Commission, on consent to marriage, minimum age for marriage and registration of marriages.

169. At the 408th meeting, on 26 March 1963, the draft resolution incorporating the text of the draft Recommendation, as amended, was adopted unanimously. The resolution adopted by the Commission reads as follows:

13 (XVII). Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum age
for Marriage and Registration of Marriages

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 1763 B (XVII),

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

/For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft
resolution VII./

VII. NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

170. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 409th meeting. It had before it a supplementary report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/254/Add.8) on recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women in twenty-five countries. The report also included tables showing the countries which were parties to the Convention, and those which had made the notification relating to its territorial application in accordance with article 7. A third table was included showing the effect of marriage on the nationality of married women.

171. Members of the Commission expressed satisfaction at the number of countries which had ratified the Convention and hoped that this would continue to increase. Two representatives stated that the legislation affecting the nationality of married women in their countries was already in agreement with the principles of the Convention. The representative of the Netherlands noted that the necessary steps were being taken by her Government to expedite ratification of the Convention. The representative of the United Kingdom informed the Commission that the Convention was now in effect in all territories under United Kingdom administration.

172. Several representatives expressed appreciation of the supplementary report of the Secretary-General and the information it contained. One suggested that future reports need not contain the texts of pertinent laws relating to the nationality of married women, since these were available from other sources. It was, however, pointed out that it was useful for the Commission to see the legislation enacted in countries which were not parties to the Convention, and it was thought that the reports should continue to be issued when information was available.

173. It was noted that a new edition of the sales publication Nationality of Married Women was contemplated in 1963.

VIII. REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION ON
THE STATUS OF WOMEN ON THE FIFTEENTH (1963) SESSION
OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION
AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

174. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at the 404th meeting. It heard the oral report by Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, who had represented the Commission on the Status of Women at the fifteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, held at United Nations Headquarters from 14 January to 1 February 1963. Mrs. Lefauchaux recalled that two items on the Sub-Commission's agenda were of particular interest to the Commission: the final report by Mr. Ingles (Philippines), Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, on discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country (E/CN.4/Sub.2/220); and the preliminary report by Mr. Saario (Finland), Special Rapporteur of Sub-Commission, concerning the study of discrimination against persons born out of wedlock (E/CN.4/Sub.2/223).

175. Mrs. Lefauchaux stated that members of the Sub-Commission had taken full account of the views which she had put forward on behalf of the Commission on the Status of Women.

176. Mrs. Lefauchaux reported that, during the examination of the final report submitted by Mr. Ingles, she had pointed out that marriage often entails restrictions for the wife in respect of leaving a country; this applies, for example, to cases where the wife cannot obtain a passport without her husband's consent. On her recommendation the Sub-Commission had agreed to make specific reference to marital status in the enumeration of inadmissible grounds for discrimination set out in the draft principles which it prepared on the basis of recommendations by Mr. Ingles on freedom and non-discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. In connexion with that study Mrs. Lefauchaux had also recommended that the formalities whereby a minor could be included in the passport of a parent should be the same in the case of the mother as in the case of the father.

177. With respect to the preliminary study of discrimination against children born out of wedlock, Mrs. Lefauchaux reported that she had urged in the Sub-Commission that the rights of both parents regarding guardianship should be equal, since any discrimination against one parent might have adverse effects upon the children. On her recommendation, the Sub-Commission had agreed to suggest to Mr. Saario that he include in the outline which he proposed to use for the collection of information for the study, a question relating to the effects on guardianship and custody of recognition of the child born out of wedlock by (1) the father and (2) the mother.

IX. REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

178. The Commission considered item 10 of its agenda at its 409th meeting. It had before it the report submitted by the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/419) which was introduced by Miss Gabriela Peláez Echeverri, President of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

179. Various members of the Commission expressed appreciation for the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women and for the report it had submitted. Several representatives referred, in particular, to the valuable exchange of information and experience on the status of women that takes place through this organization. Pointing out the special intergovernmental character of the Inter-American Commission of Women, they stressed the identity of its objectives with those of the Commission on the Status of Women, and expressed the hope that the close co-operation between the two bodies would continue. It was suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women might benefit from receiving, in future, similar information from other women's organizations, especially in Africa.

180. The Commission took note of the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

181. The Commission considered item 11 of its agenda at its 409th meeting. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by resolution 304 I (XI), the Secretary-General had prepared two lists summarizing communications received: a non-confidential list (E/CN.6/CR.16) of communications dealing with the principles relating to the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, social and educational fields; and a confidential list of other communications concerning the status of women (SW/Communications List, No.10)

182. The Committee on Communications, appointed by the Commission at its 389th meeting (see para. 6 above), met on 26 March 1963 to review the non-confidential list and recommend which of the communications it contained should be made available, in the original, to members of the Commission at their request. The Committee recommended that the originals of all the communications should be made available. The Commission unanimously approved the report of the Committee (E/CN.6/L.392).

183. The Commission received and took note of the confidential list of communications at a closed meeting on 27 March 1963.

XI. SURVEY OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION - REVIEW OF
THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES -
CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

184. The Commission considered item 12 of its agenda at its 410th meeting. It had before it the following documents prepared by the Secretary-General: a supplementary report on the survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372/Add.2); a memorandum on United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women (E/CN.6/420); a note on the review of the programme of work, establishment of priorities and control and limitation of documentation (E/CN.6/421); and a further note containing a draft programme of work based on decisions taken prior to and during the seventeenth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/L.393).

185. Several members of the Commission expressed the view that the memorandum on sales publications relating to the status of women, which had been prepared in accordance with the Commission's resolution 13 (XVI), was a useful addition to its documentation and hoped that it would be continued on an annual basis. Some observed that the sales figures for such publications were disappointingly low. It was pointed out that these publications were not always available at local United Nations sales agents, and it was hoped that this situation might be investigated, with a view to increasing the number of publications sold. It was also suggested that greater publicity should be given to the list of publications relating to the status of women which was contained in the annex to the Secretary-General's memorandum.

186. With respect to the Commission's programme of work and the establishment of priorities, the representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 909 (XXXIV), in which the Council had requested its subsidiary organs to bear in mind, in considering requests for new studies or reports, the continuing necessity that these be concentrated on areas of the work in which the needs and opportunities for international action are greatest. She also pointed out that the draft programme of work was a heavy one, both for the Commission and for the Secretariat, and it would be difficult to meet all the requests with the available staff resources. One representative expressed the view that it was desirable for the Commission to include in future agendas the question of the struggle against racial discrimination regarding women. She also thought that the Commission should bear in mind the resolutions of all international women's organizations concerning women's problems.

187. Several representatives commented on the order in which they wished the various questions to be discussed at the eighteenth session of the Commission, in 1964. It was agreed that questions relating to political rights of women should continue to be considered as the first substantive item on the agenda. It was also thought that the item on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries should receive high priority. A number of representatives pointed out that, since the item on legal conditions and effects of the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation had had to be postponed,

this question should be given high priority at the eighteenth session. Some also emphasized the importance of studying parental rights and duties, including guardianship, and thought that this question should be considered in 1964.

188. Several members emphasized the importance of considering, without delay, a report on the effect of resolutions of the Commission on national legislation. The view was expressed that this project should be interpreted to include not only the resolutions of the Commission, but also resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly which had been adopted as a result of recommendations of the Commission. It should also ultimately cover the work of the specialized agencies in this field. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that the first report on this question, based on available information, would deal with resolutions and recommendations relating to political rights of women and the status of women in private law.

189. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of education and of economic rights and opportunities for women and thought that these questions should receive careful examination at the next session. It was suggested that the Commission should consider the question of unemployment among women, and the ILO was requested to deal with this problem in the reports on activities of the ILO which have a bearing on the employment of women. The representative of the ILO stated that whatever information was readily available on unemployment among women would be appended to the next report on ILO activities of special interest to women.

190. It was suggested that, since there were a number of projects in the programme of work for 1964 relating to economic rights and opportunities for women, the question of crèches and day nurseries should be postponed until 1965.

191. Some representatives commented on the need to enlarge the scope of the items considered in the Commission so as to focus attention on broader issues which affected women. It was noted that, in future, the Commission might consider making arrangements for an exchange of information and representation with regional inter-governmental organizations in addition to the Inter-American Commission of Women.

192. The programme of work, as adopted by the Commission, is set out below.

A. CONTINUING PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

(for consideration at the eighteenth session of the Commission)

<u>Project</u>		<u>Authority</u>
1. <u>Political rights of women</u>		
(a) Progress achieved in the field of political rights	Memorandum by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments	Economic and Social Council resolution 120 A (VI)

Project

Authority

- | | | |
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| (b) Status of women
in Trust Territories | Report by the
Secretary-General | Commission, third
session (E/1316,
para. 18) |
| 2. <u>Advisory services in
the field of human
rights</u> | (i) Report by the
Secretary-General

(ii) Report of the
1963 seminar on the
status of women | General Assembly
resolution 926 (X)

Commission, thirteenth
session,
resolution I B (XIII) |
| 3. <u>Access of women
to education</u>

Access of girls and
women to secondary
education | Report by UNESCO | Commission, eighth
session (E/2571,
para. 71) |
| 4. <u>Economic rights and
opportunities</u>

ILO activities which have
a bearing on the employment
of women, including
information concerning the
access of women to training
and employment in the
principal professional and
technical fields | Report by the
International
Labour Office | Commission, seventeenth
session,
resolution 8 (XVII) and
E/3749, para. 189 |
| 5. <u>Equal pay for equal work</u> | Report by the
International
Labour Office | Economic and Social
Council
resolutions 504 G (XVI)
and 884 B (XXXIV);
Commission, sixteenth
session,
resolution 4 (XVI) |
| 6. <u>Periodic reports on human
rights</u> | (i) Summaries by
the Secretary-
General of reports
by Governments for
years 1960-1962

(ii) Reports by the
specialized agencies
on rights coming
within their purview | Economic and Social
Council
resolution 888 B (XXXIV) |

<u>Project</u>		<u>Authority</u>
7. <u>Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level</u>	Supplementary report by the Secretary-General	Commission, fourteenth session (E/3360, para. 144) and fifteenth session (E/3464, para. 203).
8. <u>United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women</u>	Memorandum by the Secretary-General listing publications	Commission, sixteenth session resolution 13 (XVI)

B. AD HOC PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

1. <u>United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries</u>	Report by the Secretary-General	Commission, seventeenth session, resolution 10 (XVII)
2. <u>Status of women in private law</u>		
(a) Legal effects and conditions of dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation	Report by the Secretary-General	Commission, fifteenth session, resolution 14 (XV)
(b) Parental rights and duties, including guardianship	Report by the Secretary-General	Commission, sixteenth session, (E/3606/Rev.1, para. 152)
(c) Legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and property rights	Supplementary report by the Secretary-General	Economic and Social Council resolution 587 D I (XX)
3. <u>Economic rights and opportunities for women</u>		
(a) Part-time work for women	Report by the International Labour Office	Commission, fifteenth session, resolution 6 (XV)
(b) Vocational guidance and training of girls and women	Report by the International Labour Office	Commission, sixteenth session, resolution 6 (XVI)

Project

Authority

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 4. <u>Effect on national legislation of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission</u> | Report by the Secretary-General | Commission, sixteenth session (E/3606/Rev.1 paras. 148-151) and seventeenth session (E/3749, para. 188) |
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C. OTHER PROJECTS

(for consideration at later sessions of the Commission)

1. Political rights of women

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (a) Summary of information concerning the implementation of the principles of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women | Report by the Secretary-General | Commission, seventeenth session, resolution 1 (XVII) |
| (b) Implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by the States Parties thereto | Supplementary report by the Secretary-General | Economic and Social resolution 504 E (XVI); Commission, thirteenth session (E/3228, para. 25) and seventeenth session, resolution 1 (XVII) |
| (c) Status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories | Report by the Secretary-General | Commission, third session, (E/1316, para. 18) |

2. Access of women to education

- | | | |
|---|------------------|--|
| (a) Activities of UNESCO of special interest to women | Report by UNESCO | Economic and Social Council resolution 154 F (VII); seventeenth session, resolutions 4 (XVII), 5 (XVII) and 6 (XVII) |
| (b) Access of girls and women to higher education | Report by UNESCO | Commission, eighth session (E/2571, para. 71) |

<u>Project</u>		<u>Authority</u>
3. <u>Economic rights and opportunities</u>		
(a) ILO activities which have a bearing on the employment of women	Report by the International Labour Office	Economic and Social Council resolution 821 IV B (XXXII); Commission, seventeenth session, resolution 5 (XVII)
(b) Crèches and day nurseries	Report by the Secretary-General transmitting information available to WHO, ILO and the International Children's Centre	Commission, sixteenth session, resolution 7 (XVI)
4. <u>Nationality of married women</u>	Supplementary report by the Secretary-General	Economic and Social Council resolution 547 D (XVIII); Commission, tenth session (E/2850, para. 125)
D. PUBLICATIONS		
1. <u>Newsletter on the Status of Women</u>	Issued biannually (February and September)	Commission, fourth session (E/1712, para. 93)
2. <u>Pamphlet on Civic and Political Education of Women</u>	To be issued in 1964	Commission, fifteenth session, resolution 1 (XV), and seventeenth session, resolution 3 (XVII)
3. <u>Revised edition of Nationality of Married Women</u> (Sales No.: 1955.IV.I)	To be issued in 1963	Economic and Social Council resolution 722 C (XXVIII)
4. <u>Revised edition of Legal Status of Married Women</u> (Sales No.: 1957.IV.8)	To be issued in 1964	Economic and Social Council resolution 884 D II (XXXIV)

XII. PLACE OF MEETING OF THE NEXT SESSION

193. At its 410th meeting, held on 27 March 1963, the Commission considered a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.394) submitted by Argentina, Australia, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Sierra Leone, Spain, the USSR, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States, in which the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that, if there was no invitation from any State Member for the eighteenth session of the Commission, this would take place at Geneva in 1964. The representative of France orally proposed, as an amendment to the draft resolution, that the Commission should express the hope that the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Commission on Human Rights would not be held at the same time. Both the amendment and the draft resolution were adopted unanimously.

194. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

14 (XVII). EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women

1. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that if there is no invitation of any State Member for the eighteenth session of the Commission this will take place at Geneva in 1964,
2. Expresses the hope that the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights will not meet concurrently.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

195. At its 411th meeting, held on 29 March 1963, the Commission on the Status of Women unanimously adopted the report of its seventeenth session to the Economic and Social Council.

XIV. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

I

Political rights of women^{5/}

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women (A/5153) and the report on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by the States Parties thereto (E/CN.6/360/Add.2), and noting that the great majority of States have formally granted women the same political rights as men,

Considering that the exercise of these rights is essential if the principle of equality between men and women proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations is to be respected,

Stressing the importance of the activities of women in the field of political and social affairs, on an equal footing with men,

Noting that more comprehensive information on the progress made by women in that field might be of the greatest interest for the Commission on the Status of Women and other United Nations bodies concerned with social progress and the exercise of human rights,

Believing that more comprehensive information on this question might be of great interest for Governments themselves,

Noting that the Convention on the Political Rights of Women provides the appropriate framework for the collection and presentation of information, but that only States parties to the Convention have been requested by the Council, in resolution 504 E (XVI), to submit reports on measures taken by them to implement its provisions,

1. Decides that information from all Member States should be included in the reports prepared by the Secretary-General for the Commission on the Status of Women regarding the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (E/CN.6/360 and addenda);

2. Invites the Government of each Member State to supply the Secretary-General every two years with information it considers appropriate with regard to implementation of the principles stated in the Convention, including particularly whether any women have been elected to the national Parliament and have been appointed to high governmental, judicial or diplomatic posts, such as Minister or Head of Department, Ambassador, or member of delegation to sessions of the United Nations General Assembly or of corresponding organs of the specialized agencies;

^{5/} See paragraphs 24-25 above.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to present the information received, on a summary basis, in his regular reports on implementation of the Convention, with any necessary changes in title and form to reflect its enlarged content;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to include in the report tables showing
(a) Member States where women have been elected to the national Parliament and
(b) Member States where women have been appointed to high governmental, judicial or diplomatic posts, such as Minister or Head of Department, Ambassador, or member of delegation to sessions of the United Nations General Assembly or of corresponding organs of the specialized agencies.

II

Draft pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women"^{6/}

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women in resolution 3 (XVII) for the preparation of a pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women";

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare such a pamphlet and arrange for its wide distribution in English, French and Spanish in 1964;

2. Invites Member States to take steps to translate the pamphlet into the language or languages of the country.

III

Access of girls and women to education in rural areas^{7/}

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that the education of all women is of vital importance to economic and social well-being and progress,

Considering the large proportion of girls and women in the rural populations,

Noting the inadequacy of facilities for general education and agricultural and other vocational training of girls and women in rural areas in many countries,

1. Recommends to Governments of Member States that they give due priority to programmes and activities directed towards the development of education and vocational training of all types and at all levels for girls and women of rural areas, and that they include appropriate provisions to that end in their national development plans;

^{6/} See paragraphs 34-42 above.

^{7/} See paragraphs 62-66 above.

2. Draws attention to the resources and facilities available under the regular and expanded programmes of technical assistance of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Special Fund;

3. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organisation to continue their assistance to countries, at their request, in extending and improving education and training facilities for girls and women of rural areas, and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its nineteenth session on their work in this field;

4. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status to co-operate actively in formulating and carrying out programmes for strengthening and improving the education and training of girls and women of these areas.

IV

Economic rights and opportunities for women

A

Employment opportunities and conditions of work^{8/}

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with satisfaction the programme of the International Labour Organisation to expand employment opportunities for women,

Considering that additional measures are necessary to increase the access of women to vocational training and guidance,

1. Requests the International Labour Organization to make available to members of the Commission on the Status of Women, at its twentieth session in 1966, copies of the documents and background papers which it has prepared for the 1964 and 1965 sessions of the International Labour Conference on the agenda item "Women workers in a changing world", together with a report of Conference findings and recommendations on this item,

2. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the International Labour Organisation the views and decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women relating to economic rights and opportunities for women, together with the records of decisions thereon, for the reference of the 1964 session of the International Labour Conference during its consideration of the agenda item "Women workers in a changing world",

3. Expresses the hope that the International Labour Organisation, at its general and regional conferences, and at meetings of its industrial and analogous committees, will regularly give consideration to special problems of women workers and methods of promoting full and responsible economic participation by women,

^{8/} See paragraphs 84-90 above.

4. Expresses confidence that Member States, in accordance with the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation, will give consideration to including women in delegations to conferences of that organisation, more particularly when economic problems and opportunities of women are under consideration.

B

Access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields 9/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling resolutions 8 (XV) and 6 (XVI) of the Commission on the Status of Women, Economic and Social Council resolution 771 E (XXX) and General Assembly resolution 1824 (XVII),

Believing that in order to speed up the process of industrialization - industrialization being the aim of many States Members of the United Nations at the present time - it is essential to have enough personnel for the country at all levels, and hence to have a well-developed professional and technical training system,

Considering that women are essential to the economic life of the country and that they should be given equal opportunities to obtain education, vocational training and employment,

1. Suggests that Governments of Member States, non-governmental organizations and business institutions, when determining their requirements with regard to specialists of different degrees of skill and preparing plans for training them in their own countries, take into account the need to give women a place on an equal footing with men in the educational system, the vocational training system and the employment system;

2. Expresses confidence that the United Nations bodies responsible for the technical assistance programme and the specialized agencies of the United Nations, when preparing their programmes of operations, will give due attention to the training of personnel for the country, seeking to ensure that men and women have equal access to such training;

3. Requests the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to provide to the Commission, in connexion with their periodic activity reports, any relevant information concerning the access and admission of women to education, training and employment in the professional and technical fields, and proposals for future action.

9/ See paragraphs 98-101 above.

United Nations assistance for the advancement of
women in developing countries 10/

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 1777 (XVII) for a report on the possibility of establishing a unified long-term programme for the advancement of women, and that the Commission on the Status of Women expects to review available resources at its next session,

Considering the importance of joint participation by men and women in planning for the advancement of women, particularly in developing countries, and in giving effect to programmes implementing the United Nations Development Decade,

1. Considers that a first step in establishing a unified, long-term programme for the advancement of women will be the review and evaluation of present resources already initiated by the Commission on the Status of Women;

2. Calls the attention of Member States to the value of appointing national commissions on the status of women, composed of leading men and women with experience in government service, education, employment, community development and other aspects of public life, to develop plans and make recommendations for improving the position of women in their respective countries.

Participation of women in the work of regional
economic commissions 11/

The Economic and Social Council,

Draws the attention of States members of the regional economic commissions of the United Nations, in the light of the need for the contribution which women can make to economic and social progress in the developing countries, to the desirability of appointing women to serve as delegates, advisers or experts on the various committees of regional economic commissions, thereby enabling women to take part in the preparation of development studies and plans, particularly those involving the adaptation of legislation to the needs of expanding economies.

10/ See paragraphs 135-137 above.

11/ See paragraph 142 above.

VII

Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for
Marriage and Registration of Marriages 12/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages:

"The General Assembly,

"Recognizing that men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family, that they are entitled to equal rights as to marriage and that marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses, in accordance with the provisions of article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 843 (IX) of 17 December 1954,

"Recalling further article 2 of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery of 1956, which makes certain provisions concerning the age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages,

"Recalling also that, under Article 62, paragraph 2, of the Charter, the Council may make recommendations for the purpose of promoting respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and that under Article 64 of the Charter, it may make arrangements with the Members of the United Nations to obtain reports on the steps taken to give effect to its own recommendations and to recommendations on matters falling within its competence made by the General Assembly,

"I. Recommends that where not already provided by existing legislative or other measures, each Member State take the necessary steps, in accordance with its constitutional processes, to adopt such legislative or other measures as may be necessary to give effect to the following principles:

"(1) (a) No marriage shall be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person, orally, publicly and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage and of such witnesses as may be prescribed by law;

(b) Notwithstanding anything in sub-paragraph (a) above, it shall not be necessary for one of the parties to be present when the competent authority is satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional and that the party has, before a competent authority and in such manner as may be prescribed by law, expressed and not withdrawn consent;

12/ See paragraphs 147-169 above.

"(2) Member States shall take legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage. No marriage shall be legally entered into by any person under this age, except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age, for serious reasons, in the interest of the intending spouses;

"(3) All marriages shall be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority;

"II. Recommends that each Member State bring the Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages contained in this resolution before the authorities competent to enact legislation or to take other action, at the earliest practicable moment and, if possible, not later than eighteen months after its adoption;

"III. Recommends that Member States inform the Secretary-General, as soon as possible after the action has been taken, of the measures taken under the present Recommendation to bring it before the competent authority or authorities, with particulars of the authority or authorities regarded as competent;

"IV. Recommends further that Member States report to the Secretary-General at the end of three years and thereafter at intervals of five years the position of the law and practice in their countries in regard to the matters dealt with in this Recommendation, showing the extent to which effect has been given or is proposed to be given to the provisions of the Recommendation and such modifications of these provisions as it has found or may be found necessary to make in adapting or applying it;

"V. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the Commission on the Status of Women a document containing the reports received from Governments concerning methods of implementing the three basic principles of the Recommendation;

"VI. Invites the Commission on the Status of Women to examine the reports received from Member States pursuant to the present Recommendation and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council with such recommendations as it may deem fit to make."

VIII

Report of the Commission^{13/}

The Economic and Social Council,

Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (seventeenth session). ^{14/}

^{13/} See paragraph 195.

^{14/} E/3749.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

List of documents which were considered by the Commission on the
Status of Women at its seventeenth session

Documents issued in the general series

A/5153. Constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women: memorandum by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/254/Add.8. Nationality of married women: supplementary report by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/360/Add.2. Implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by the States Parties thereto: supplementary report by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/372/Add.2. Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level: supplementary report by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/394 and Corr.1. Age of retirement and right to pension: report by the International Labour Office.

E/CN.6/404 and Add.1. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission.

E/CN.6/404/Rev.1. Agenda as adopted by the Commission.

E/CN.6/405 and Add.1 and 2. Pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women": memorandum by the Secretary-General containing the draft of a revised pamphlet.

E/CN.6/405/Add.3. Pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women": statement of financial implications submitted by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/406. Information concerning the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/407. UNESCO activities in 1961-1962 of special interest to women, and main activities proposed for 1963-1964: report by UNESCO.

E/CN.6/408. Access of girls and women to education in rural areas: report by UNESCO.

E/CN.6/409. International Labour Organisation activities of special interest from the standpoint of women's employment and conditions of work: report by the International Labour Office.

E/CN.6/410. Age of retirement and right to pension: supplementary report by the International Labour Office.

E/CN.6/411. Access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields: report by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/412. Programme of studies on the access of women to training and employment in the principal occupational areas: report by the International Labour Office.

E/CN.6/414. Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages: memorandum by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/415 and Corr.1. Dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation: report by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/416-E/CN.4/834. Advisory services in the field of human rights: report by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/417. Advancement of women in developing countries: note by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/419. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

E/CN.6/420. United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women: memorandum by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/421. Review of programme of work, establishment of priorities and control and limitation of documentation: note by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/422. Employment and conditions of work of women in agriculture: report by the International Labour Office.

E/CN.6/CR.16. Non-confidential list of communications.

ST/TAO/HR/14. 1962 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law (Tokyo, 8 to 21 May 1962).

Documents issued in the limited series

E/CN.6/L.362. Organization of work: note by the Chairman.

E/CN.6/L.363. Political rights of women - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.364. Political rights of women - Indonesia, Philippines, United Arab Republic and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.365. Political rights of women - Poland: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.365/Rev.1. Political rights of women - Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Poland, United Arab Republic and United States of America: revised draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.366. Political rights of women - Czechoslovakia: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.367. Access of women to education - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.367/Rev.1. Access of women to education - Peru and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.368. Access of women to education - Colombia, Netherlands, Sierra Leone and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.368/Rev.1. Access of women to education - Colombia, Netherlands, Sierra Leone and United States of America: revised draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.369. Access of women to education - Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.370. Access of women to education - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: amendments to document E/CN.6/L.368.

E/CN.6/L.371. Access of women to education - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: amendments to document E/CN.6/L.369.

E/CN.6/L.372. Political rights of women - United States of America: amendments to document E/CN.6/L.366.

E/CN.6/L.373. Economic rights and opportunities for women - Australia and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.374. Economic rights and opportunities for women - France: amendments to document E/CN.6/L.373.

E/CN.6/L.375. Economic rights and opportunities for women - Sierra Leone and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.376. Economic rights and opportunities for women - France and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.377. Economic rights and opportunities for women - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendments to document E/CN.6/L.375.

E/CN.6/L.378. Economic rights and opportunities for women - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: amendments to document E/CN.6/L.376.

E/CN.6/L.379. Economic rights and opportunities for women - Colombia and Spain: amendment to document E/CN.6/L.376.

E/CN.6/L.380. Access of women to education: resolution adopted by the Commission at its 395th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.381. Access of women to education: resolution adopted by the Commission at its 396th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.382. Political rights of women: resolution adopted by the Commission at its 398th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.383. Economic rights and opportunities for women: resolution adopted by the Commission at its 398th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.384. Economic rights and opportunities for women: resolution adopted by the Commission at its 400th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.385 and Add.1-8. Draft report to the Economic and Social Council on the seventeenth session of the Commission.

E/CN.6/L.386. Economic rights and opportunities for women: age of retirement and right to pension: report of the committee established at the 402nd meeting.

E/CN.6/L.387. Advancement of women in developing countries - Australia and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.388. Advisory services in the field of human rights - Indonesia, Japan, Peru, Philippines and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.389. Advisory services in the field of human rights and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries - France and Poland: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.390. Political rights of women: pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women": report of the Working Group.

E/CN.6/L.391. Draft Recommendation on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.392. Communications concerning the status of women: report of the Committee on Communications.

E/CN.6/L.393. Review of programme of work and establishment of priorities: note by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/L.394. Place of meeting of the eighteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women - Argentina, Australia, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Finland, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sierra Leone, Spain, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution.

Documents issued in the NGO series

E/CN.6/NGO/130. Status of women in private law: statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/131. Advisory services in the field of human rights and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries: statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/132. Status of women in private law: statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/133. Access of women to education; economic rights and opportunities for women; advisory services in the field of human rights and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries; status of women in private law: statement submitted by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/134. Political rights of women: statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/135. Access of women to education: statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/136. Economic rights and opportunities for women: statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/137. Economic rights and opportunities for women: statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/138. Economic rights and opportunities for women: statement submitted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

E/CN.6/NGO/139. Status of women in private law; economic rights and opportunities for women; advisory services in the field of human rights and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries: statement submitted by the International Council of Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/140. Political rights of women: statement submitted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

E/CN.6/NGO/141. Economic rights and opportunities for women: statement submitted by the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions.

E/CN.6/NGO/142. Economic rights and opportunities for women: statement submitted by St. Joan's International Alliance.

ANNEX II

Financial implications of decisions taken by the Commission on the Status of Women at its seventeenth session

1. In resolution 3 (XVII) (see chapter II of this report), the Commission has requested the Secretary-General to redraft the pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education of Women" in the light of the recommendations of the Working Group set up by the Commission to review the text and to indicate general guiding lines for its revision, and to circulate the revised draft for comments to members of the Commission and to the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status attending its seventeenth session, and to take the comments received before the end of 1963 into account in preparing the final text.
2. The Commission has also recommended that the Economic and Social Council should request the Secretary-General to prepare such a pamphlet and arrange for its wide distribution in English, French and Spanish in 1964; and invite Member States to take steps to translate the pamphlet into the language or languages of the country (see chapter XIV, draft resolution II).
3. The Secretary-General proposes to carry out, within existing resources, the work of revising the pamphlet in the light of the comments of members of the Commission, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations received.
4. The discussions in the Commission at its fifteenth and seventeenth sessions seem to indicate that a somewhat wider distribution than is normally made for similar studies and reports is intended. The Secretary-General would therefore arrange for a somewhat larger than normal press-run of the pamphlet in the three languages. Assuming that the final text is approximately the same length as the draft submitted to the Commission at its seventeenth session in document E/CN.6/405 and Add.1 and 2, the total cost for printing is estimated at \$3,000 (English: 6,000 copies - \$1,200; French - 2,000 copies - \$900; and Spanish: 2,000 copies - \$900).
5. The Secretary-General intends to include this amount in his initial estimates for 1964 and arrange for printed copies to be ready for distribution in 1964.
6. In order to provide for a wide distribution of the revised version of the pamphlet, the Secretary-General would utilize the network of United Nations Information Centres now in existence to publicize the pamphlet and would also seek the co-operation of non-governmental organizations associated with the Economic and Social Council.

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