



**UNITED NATIONS**

# **REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**(SIXTH SESSION)**

**(24 MARCH - 5 APRIL 1952)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: FOURTEENTH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 6**

**NEW YORK**

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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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UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the sixth session of the Commission, held  
at Geneva, from 24 March to 5 April 1952

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ERRATA

*Page 1*

Paragraph 7, line 15: For "Fhave" read "Chave".

Paragraph 7, line 19: For "Grinsberg" read "Ginsberg".

*Page 2*

Left-hand column, line 3: For "Mrs. Jean Graven" read "Mr. Jean Graven".

*Page 3*

Paragraph 20, line 4: For "E/CN.6184" read "E/CN.6/184".

*Page 8*

Paragraph 63, line 2: Between the words "of the" and "World Federation of Trade Unions", insert: "International Confederation of Free Trade Unions,"

*Page 9*

Paragraph 70, line 4: For "Federation" read "Confederation".

*Page 10*

Paragraph 78, lines 14-15: Between the words "their homes," and "'Noting that", insert the following paragraph: "'Noting that part-time work may be of interest not only to women but to some categories of men,"

*Page 13*

Paragraph 101, table, fifth column (*Educational opportunities*): The first item should read as follows: "Findings from UNESCO-IBE Conference on Access of Women to Education".

Paragraph 101, table, fifth column, third section (*Projects of lower priority*): Add the following item: "Report on legislative provisions concerning educational opportunities for women".



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CHAPTER I

Organization of the sixth session of the Commission

1. The sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women opened on Monday, 24 March 1952, in the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The Commission held twenty-two plenary meetings and terminated its work on 5 April 1952.

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

*Brazil*: Dr. Bertha Lutz, representative

*Burma*: Mrs. Kyaw Nyein, representative

*Byelorussian SSR*: Mrs. Faina Novikova, representative

*Chile*: Mrs. Ana Figueroa, representative

*China*: Miss Pao Swen Tseng, representative

*Cuba*: Miss Uldarica Manas, alternate

*Dominican Republic*: Sra. Dra. Milady Félix de l'Official, representative

*France*: Madame Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, representative

*Iran*: Mrs. Safiyeh Firouz, representative

*Lebanon*: Mrs. Laure Tabet, representative

*Netherlands*: Miss Elizabeth Ribbius Peletier, representative

*New Zealand*: Mrs. Grace Hilda Ross, representative

*Pakistan*: Begum Fida Hassan, representative

*Poland*: Miss Fryderyka Kalinowska, representative

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

*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*:<sup>1</sup> Miss Mary Sutherland, representative

*United States of America*: Mrs. Olive Remington Goldman, representative.

3. The representative of Mexico, Mrs. Amalia C. de Castillo Ledon, was prevented by illness from attending the session.

4. At the 101st meeting, the representative of the USSR, speaking on a point of order, moved that "the Kuomintang representative" be excluded from membership of the Commission and that a representative of the Central People's Government of the Republic of China

<sup>1</sup> The representative of the United Kingdom was prevented from attending the first seven meetings. Mr. Beith, permanent representative of the United Kingdom to the European Office of the United Nations, was attending, as alternate.

be invited to take her place. The Chairman referred to resolution 396 (V) of the General Assembly recommending that the representation of Member States should, when a question arose, be considered by the General Assembly or by the Interim Committee. By a vote of 12 for, 3 against, the Commission decided not to consider the motion.

5. The Commission at its 101st meeting elected the following officers:

*Chairman*: Madame Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux (France)

*First Vice-Chairman*: Mrs. Ana Figueroa (Chile)

*Second Vice-Chairman*: Miss Fryderyka Kalinowska (Poland)

*Rapporteur*: Begum Fida Hassan (Pakistan).

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

*International Labour Organisation*: Miss Mildred Fairchild, Madame E. Brunn

*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*: Mrs. Alva Myrdal, Miss Parimal Das

*World Health Organization*: Dr. F. Daubenton, Miss Sylvia Orenstein.

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

CATEGORY A

*International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*: Mrs. Rose Etienne

*World Federation of Trade Unions*: Mrs. E. Chiossergi, Mrs. T. Noce

*World Federation of UN Associations*: Miss Putul Banerji, Miss J. G. Wilson

CATEGORY B

*All-India Women's Conference*: Mrs. Shudha Mazumdar

*Catholic International Union for Social Service*: Miss J. de Romer, Mrs. Yvonne Soudan

*International Abolitionist Federation*: Miss M. Fhave Collisson

*International Alliance of Women—Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities*: Mrs. M. I. Corbett Ashby, Miss Marie Grinsberg, Mrs. B. Key-Aberg, Mrs. Andrée Lehmann, Mrs. Hanna Rydh

*International Association of Penal Law and International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law:* Mrs. Jean Graven, Mrs. Max Habicht, Mrs. Romnicio

*International Conference of Catholic Charities (replacing Caritas Internationalis):* M. l'Abbé P. Bouvier, Mrs. M. A. Niquille, Miss G. Ostertag

*International Council of Women:* Mrs. Jeanne Eder-Schwyzer, Miss L. C. A. van Eeghen, Mrs. Renée Girod, Mrs. Jackson-Haight

*International Federation of Business and Professional Women:* Mrs. Esther W. Hymer, Miss Ruth Tomlinson

*International Federation of Friends of Young Women:* Mrs. Berthoud van Werveke, Mrs. Marie Fiechter

*International Federation of University Women:* Miss Renée J. Dubois, Mrs. Marie Fiechter, Mrs. Wible-Gaillard

*International League for the Rights of Man:* Mrs. Gertrude Baer

*International Union for Child Welfare:* Miss L. Frankenstein, Mrs. J. M. Small

*International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues:* Miss Colina Pineiro Pearson, Miss J. de Romer, Mrs. Helene Weber

*Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations:* Miss F. A. Barry (London), Miss L. C. A. van Eeghen, Mrs. Esther Hymer (New York)

*Pax Romana:* Miss Isabelle Archinard, Mr. Jean-Paul Buensod

*Women's International Democratic Federation:* Mrs. Juliette Dubois

*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom:* Mrs. Gertrude Baer

*World Assembly of Youth:* Mrs. K. Seiersen-Bhandari

*World Union for Progressive Judaism:* Lady Nathan of Churt, M. A., J.P., L.C.C., London

*World's Women's Christian Temperance Union:* Mrs. Chaix Constantin

*World's Young Women's Christian Association:* Mrs. Alice Arnold, Miss Helen Roberts, Miss Marion V. Royce

#### REGISTER

*Associated Country Women of the World:* Dr. Eveline Kleyn, Mrs. Charles Russell

*International Federation of Free Journalists:* Miss A. de Székula

*Open Door International:* Mrs. Gertrude Baer

*St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance:* Miss F. A. Barry, Miss P. C. Challoner, M.A., Miss Hills Young

*World Medical Association:* Mrs. Jean Maystre

8. Miss R. L. Dobson, observer representing Australia, and Madame Irene Hadjilazaro, observer representing Greece, attended all the meetings of the session.

9. Mrs. Mary Tenison-Woods represented the Secretary-General; Mrs. Sophie Grinberg-Vinaver acted as Secretary to the Commission.

10. The expression of the views of the members of the Commission are embodied in the summary records of the plenary meetings (E/CN.6/SR.101 to E/CN.6/SR.122).

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

*Committee on Resolutions:* The representatives of United Kingdom (Chairman), Chile, Lebanon, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

*Committee on Communications:* The representatives of Brazil (Chairman), Iran, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland.

## CHAPTER II

### Agenda

12. The Commission considered at its 101st and 102nd meetings its provisional agenda (E/CN.6/76 and Add.1) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman.

13. The Commission had before it two proposals, one by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the inclusion of a new item: "Consideration of measures to improve the work of the Commission on the Status of Women"; and one by the representative of the United States of America to substitute for item 8, "Equal pay for equal work for men and women workers", a new item "Economic opportunities for women" which would include as sub-items: (a) equal pay for equal work for men and women workers, (b) part-time work for women, (c) problems of older women workers, and (d) discrimination against women in the professions.

14. At its 102nd meeting, the Commission decided to retain the item "equal pay for equal work for men and women workers" and to include "Economic opportunities for women" as an additional item without any specific sub-items.

The proposal by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the addition of a new item was rejected by 10 votes for, 3 against and one abstention.

15. The agenda of the Commission in its final form (E/CN.6/176/Rev.1) was adopted without objections at the 102nd meeting. It reads as follows:

(1) Election of officers

(2) Adoption of the agenda

(3) Political rights of women

(a) Consideration of the memorandum prepared annually by the Secretary-General on the advancement of political rights of women

(b) Consideration of the report on the action taken on the draft convention on political rights of women adopted by the Commission at its fifth session

(c) Progress report on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories

(4) Nationality of married women

Consideration of the report on the action taken on the drafting of a Convention on the nationality of married women

(5) Status of women in public law

Consideration of supplementary reports on sections C and E of part I of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women, based on such additional information as may be supplied by governments

(6) Status of women in private law

(a) Study of the report of the Secretary-General on various legal systems based on replies of governments to part III (Family Law) of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women

(b) Study of the replies from non-governmental organizations to questions as to the desirable changes in various legal systems in order to eliminate discrimination against women

(7) Educational opportunities for women

(a) Study of the progress report prepared by UNESCO in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

(b) Study of the report of ILO on vocational training of women

(8) Equal pay for equal work for men and women workers

Report on the action taken by the International Labour Conference at its 34th session held in June 1951

(9) Economic opportunities for women

(10) Participation of women in the work of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the nature and proportion of positions occupied by women in the secretariats of the United Nations and its specialized agencies

(11) Technical assistance programme in relation to the status of women

Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the technical assistance programme of the United Nations in relation to the status of women

(12) Action taken upon decisions reached by the fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

(13) Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women

(14) Communications concerning the status of women

(15) Review of programme and establishment of priorities

(16) Adoption of the report to the Economic and Social Council.

CHAPTER III

Political rights of women

(a) CONSIDERATION OF THE MEMORANDUM PREPARED ANNUALLY BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN (AGENDA ITEM 3 (a))

16. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 102nd meeting. The Commission had before it the annual report on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the franchise of women and their eligibility to public office and functions (A/1911), prepared by the Secretary-General for circulation to Member Governments in accordance with resolution 120 A (VI) of the Economic and Social Council.

Some representatives commented on the favourable effects of these annual reports on the promotion of political rights for women in various countries of the world.

17. One member expressed the wish, which the Commission endorsed, to have included in future reports an additional table showing the dates on which women in the various countries had first been granted the right to vote.

18. Some members expressed the regret that, in its present form, the report of the Secretary-General contained only the list of countries where women had been formally granted, or had not been granted, political rights, but did not reflect the actual situation concerning implementation of political rights of women in various countries.

19. At its 102nd meeting, the Commission adopted, by 15 votes in favour and 1 against, the following resolution proposed by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women*

*"Invites the Secretary-General to prepare for the Commission's next session a report containing the basic data received from governments concerning the participation of women in the political and public life of the country (number of women in elective State bodies, local government bodies, etc.)."*

(b) DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN (AGENDA ITEM 3(b))

20. In considering item 3 (b) of its agenda, the Commission had before it the report on "Comments of governments on the text of the draft convention on the political rights of women" (E/CN.6184 and Add.1 and 2), prepared by the Secretary-General. These documents contained the comments and suggestions of twenty governments on the text of the draft convention on the political rights which the Commission on the Status of Women had adopted at its fifth session and which was circulated to governments in accordance with resolution 385 B (XIII) of the Economic and Social Council.

21. The Commission discussed the draft convention on the political rights of women at its 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th and 107th meetings.



Several members of the Commission expressed satisfaction at the fact that at its thirteenth session the Economic and Social Council had approved the principle of a convention on political rights of women and considered that the present task of the Commission consisted in the final drafting of a text to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its fourteenth session.

22. Certain members felt that the draft convention on political rights of women adopted by the Commission at its fifth session completely failed to fulfil its purpose and that therefore this draft required a complete revision.

23. The Commission noted that several governments commented favourably on the text of the draft convention which was circulated to them. The Commission agreed that a convention on the political rights of women was indispensable in order to promote full equality for women in the field of political rights, particularly in countries where women had not yet been granted the right to vote.

24. The majority of the Commission felt it particularly important that the text of the draft convention ensure to women equal access not only to elective offices but also to appointive positions in the public services of their countries.

25. The question was also raised of the necessity of covering in the text the right of women to vote not only in elections but also in referenda and other forms of popular consultation. The Commission felt that this right was guaranteed by article 3 of the draft convention, as well as by the express reference in the preamble to the "right to take part in the government of his country".

26. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the International Association of Penal Law, the International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, and the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

27. The Commission had before it the following draft proposals concerning the convention on political rights:

- (1) Draft resolution proposed by the representative of Brazil (E/CN.6/L.58), suggesting an alternative text for the articles of the convention.
- (2) Draft resolution proposed by the representative of Chile (E/CN.6/L.59) containing a draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council replacing articles 2 and 3 of the previous text of the convention by a single article.
- (3) Draft resolution proposed by the representative of the USSR (E/CN.6/L.60) containing amendments to the various provisions of the draft convention adopted by the Commission at its fifth session.
- (4) Draft resolution proposed by the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.61) containing a modified text of the convention.

The Commission also had before it a joint verbal proposal of the representatives of Iran and Lebanon to retain the text of the draft convention as adopted by the Commission at its previous session.

28. During the debate on these proposals several members expressed the opinion that the text of the convention should come as close as possible to that of the text adopted at the fifth session taking into account, however, the comments and suggestions of governments contained in documents E/CN.6/184, Add.1 and 2. Some delegates felt, however, that the Commission was not bound by the previous text but was free to formulate in a different way the principles embodied in the convention.

The former trend prevailed; the representatives of Brazil and the United States of America withdrew their proposals in favour of that made by the representatives of Iran and Lebanon. The Commission decided to refer all the remaining proposals to its Committee on Resolutions whose task it would be to draft a consolidated text to be submitted to the Commission in plenary.

29. At its 107th meeting the Commission had before it the draft resolution prepared by the Committee on Resolutions (E/CN.6/L.62). The representative of the USSR maintained the amendments contained in her original proposal (E/CN.6/L.60). The text prepared by the Committee on Resolutions was put to the vote paragraph by paragraph. The USSR amendments to the relevant paragraphs of the text were also put to the vote and were successively rejected by roll-call votes.

30. The Commission, by vote of 13<sup>2</sup> in favour, none against and 3 abstentions, adopted the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Noting the comments of governments on the text of the draft convention on political rights of women adopted by it at its fifth session and their suggestions as to the best manner of giving effect to the principles underlying it,*

*"Considering that in some countries political rights have not yet been granted to women and that, in some cases, measures for the implementation of such rights are still lacking,*

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

*"The Economic and Social Council,*

*"Considering that the time is appropriate for an international convention under the auspices of the United Nations designed to eliminate all discrimination against women in the field of political rights, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56 (I),*

*"Recommends that a convention on the political rights of women embodying the following preamble and substantive clauses be opened for signature and ratification by Member States and such other States as will be invited by the General Assembly, and that the Secretary-General be requested to draft the necessary final and formal clauses of that convention:*

*"DRAFT CONVENTION*

*"The Contracting Parties,*

*"Desiring to implement the principle of equality of rights for men and women, contained in the Charter of the United Nations,*

<sup>2</sup> The representative of the United States reserved the position of her Government on article 3 of the Convention.

*"Recognizing* that every person has the right to take part in the government of his country and has the right to equal access to public service in his country and desiring to equalize the status of men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of political rights, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*"Having resolved* to conclude a convention for this purpose,

*"Hereby agree* as hereinafter provided:

*"Article 1.* Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on equal terms with men.

*"Article 2.* Women shall be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, established by national law on equal terms with men.

*"Article 3.* Women shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions established by national law on equal terms with men."

(c) STATUS OF WOMEN IN TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES (AGENDA ITEM 3 (c))

31. The Commission discussed this item at its 117th, 119th and 121st meetings. It had before it a report on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/182), a report on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/183) and supplementary information concerning family law in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/159, Add.1 and 2), prepared by the Secretary-General.

32. Several members of the Commission commented on the reports and were particularly interested in the information contained in part II of the report on Trust Territories. Some members of the Commission felt that the general condition of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories was particularly unsatisfactory because women in these territories were deprived of political, economic and social rights. Others stated that in many Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories women had more rights than in some sovereign States.

33. The Commission heard at a closed meeting statements by representatives of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations, the International Alliance of Women and St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance in connexion with the question of female circumcision, which was widely practised over young girls in certain areas of the world, including certain Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Regional Director for Africa of the World Health Organization was also heard on this subject.

34. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted jointly by the representatives of Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Iran (E/CN.6/L.80/Rev.1). During the course of its discussion, verbal amendments to the text were made by the representatives of Brazil, France, Poland, United Kingdom and USSR. The amendments of Brazil, Poland, United Kingdom and France were incorporated in the final text. The amendment of USSR was rejected by 9 votes against, 3 for, and 4 abstentions.

35. At its 121st meeting, the Commission adopted by 15 votes for, none against, and one abstention, the following resolution:

*"Status of Women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories*

*"The Commission on the Status of Women*

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

*"The Economic and Social Council,*

*"Considering* that under Article 76 c of the Charter of the United Nations, one of the basic objectives of the trusteeship system is "to encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion";

*"Considering* that there are areas of the world where women are deprived of certain essential human rights, even of the right to their physical integrity, and that these areas include certain Trust Territories and certain Non-Self-Governing Territories;

*"Invites* the Trusteeship Council, under Article 87 of the Charter, and Member States of the United Nations which assume responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories, to take immediate action with a view to abolishing in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories all customs which violate the dignity and security of persons, as proclaimed in the Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

*"Requests* the Trusteeship Council to include the necessary questions in the questionnaires provided for in Article 88 of the Charter as well as to include the pertinent information received from Administering Authorities in its annual report to the General Assembly."

CHAPTER IV

**Nationality of married women**

36. In considering item 4 of its agenda, the Commission had before it a report by the Secretary-General on the action taken on the drafting of a convention on the nationality of married women (E/CN.6/181) and discussed this matter at its 104th meeting.

37. The Commission was informed by the Secretariat that the International Law Commission had put the item of "Nationality including Statelessness" on the agenda for its fourth session, and that it intended to deal with the convention on nationality of married women in connexion with this item.

The Commission heard the text of the relevant extracts of the report on "Nationality including statelessness" (A/CN.4/50) prepared by the special rapporteur for the forthcoming session of the International Law Commission. It noted that the provisions of the draft convention on nationality of married persons contained in this report followed closely the principles formulated by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fourth session.

38. Several members felt that the Commission should express its appreciation of the intention of the Inter-



national Law Commission to complete the draft of a convention at its next session, embodying these principles as transmitted to it by the Economic and Social Council. Some representatives felt that the Commission should only take note of the report on the action taken on the matter.

39. The majority of the Commission decided to express its satisfaction at the action taken by the different organs of the United Nations to implement its recommendations concerning the nationality of married women.

## CHAPTER V

### Status of women in public law

40. The Commission discussed this item on its agenda at its 108th and 111th meetings. It had before it supplementary reports on sections C and E of part I of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women prepared by the Secretary-General based on the additional information supplied to him by governments, Women in Public Services and Functions, (E/CN.6/157/Add.1) and Civil Liberties for Women (E/CN.6/158/Add.1 and 2).

41. Several members of the Commission felt that this documentation was of great interest to the Commission as well as to non-governmental organizations and that its usefulness would be increased if it were embodied in a pamphlet to be published and widely disseminated by the United Nations. Some members felt that the documents before the Commission did not give a full picture of the discrimination existing against women in various countries. Some other members pointed out that non-governmental organizations could supplement the information supplied by governments in their replies.

42. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted jointly by the representatives of the United States of America, the Netherlands and Brazil (E/CN.6/L.63/Rev.1).

43. During the discussion of this draft resolution two verbal amendments were made to it: the representative of Chile suggested that the task of the Secretariat be limited to information concerning women in public services and functions, and civil liberties for women; the representative of the Byelorussian SSR suggested that the words "on grounds of race, nationality or religion" be added in each of the three first paragraphs of the draft resolution after the word "discrimination". The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the Chilean amendment, which was incorporated in the draft resolution. The resolution as amended was put to the vote, as well as the amendment of the representative of the Byelorussian SSR, for which a roll-call vote was requested. This amendment was rejected by 10 votes against, 3 for, and 3 abstentions.

44. The Commission adopted the following resolution by 13 votes for, none against and 3 abstentions:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Noting that certain discriminations against women have become apparent in the studies of the Commis-*

*sion on the Status of Women based on the replies of governments to part I of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women, in regard to public law;*

*"Believes that there is need for a publication designed to help Member States and their citizens to become familiar with their comparative situation in regard to discrimination against women, so that they may lay the basis for constructive and practical action;*

*"Requests the Secretary-General to provide, in narrative form, a simplified non-technical summary of significant discriminations against women apparent in the replies of governments to part I, sections C and E, of the Questionnaire, together with information available from governments, non-governmental organizations and other sources regarding effective legislation and other methods for removing such discriminations;*

*"Requests the Secretary-General to present the preliminary draft of this summary to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session and to obtain the comments and suggestions of its members looking toward publication at an early date.*

## CHAPTER VI

### Status of women in private law

45. The Commission considered this item of its agenda at its 120th and 121st meetings. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the status of women in family law (E/CN.6/185 and Add.1 and 2) based on replies of governments to part III of the Questionnaire; a report on the Status of Women in Private Law (E/CN.6/186, and Add.1) based on replies of non-governmental organizations as to changes considered desirable in the various legal systems in order to eliminate discrimination against women, as well as a supplement to his report on Property Rights of Women (E/CN.6/166/Add.1).

46. The general feeling was that the number of replies received by the Secretary-General to the Questionnaire on family law, compiled in documents E/CN.6/185 and Add.1 and 2, was not sufficient to enable the Commission to undertake any thorough discussion of this important subject. In view of this fact, as well as of the lack of time, the Commission decided to its great regret to postpone the consideration of this item until its seventh session.

47. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representative of the Dominican Republic (E/CN.6/L.82) and a joint draft resolution submitted by the representatives of Brazil, Iran, Lebanon and Pakistan (E/CN.6/L.84). The Commission decided to postpone their consideration until its next session.

48. The majority of the Commission felt that the question of the status of women in private law should be given first priority at its next session. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare for that session a complete report on family law and a comparative analysis of the information available, as described in its resolution on the subject adopted at its

fifth session,<sup>3</sup> as well as similar documentation concerning property rights of women, to be based upon replies of governments due by 30 June 1952.

## CHAPTER VII

### Educational opportunities for women

49. The item was sub-divided into:

(a) Study on the progress report on educational opportunities for women prepared by UNESCO, and

(b) Study of the report by ILO on vocational guidance and vocational and educational training of women.

#### (a) EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

50. At its 108th, 109th, 110th and 111th meetings, the Commission considered this item of its agenda.

The Commission had before it a progress report (E/CN.6/191), which outlined the current activities and future plans of UNESCO with regard to the education of women and contained in its annex statistical data on enrollment and percentage of girls in schools on various levels compiled by UNESCO.

51. The representative of UNESCO informed the Commission of the programme of work of that organization which was divided into four main parts: general education at all levels; fundamental and adult education; education for citizenship at national and international levels; and technical and professional education. She also informed the Commission that the fifteenth International Conference on Public Education would be convened by July 1952 and that in preparation for it a working party had prepared recommendations to be considered at the session. These recommendations were communicated to the members of the Commission in an information paper prepared by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the working party.

52. Several members of the Commission expressed their appreciation of the programme of work developed by UNESCO, of the report submitted and of the spirit of co-operation which UNESCO had shown in its collaboration in the field of women's education.

53. Some members of the Commission felt that the question of access of women to education in a country depended upon the level of general culture of that country and was closely linked to the question of political, economic and social equality of women. They felt that the work accomplished by UNESCO was not sufficient and that its results were not entirely satisfactory from the standpoint of achieving equality for women in the field of education. Some others deplored the slow pace of progress achieved in the raising of educational standards among women.

54. Some members indicated that due account should be taken of geographical factors and different levels of economic development when education was considered on a world-wide basis. One member criticized the theory of geographical factor as being non-scientific.

55. Several representatives stressed the importance of education in citizenship and some expressed the wish

that UNESCO should organize a programme of political education for men along the lines of that outlined for women in Item 3 of the conclusions of the report prepared by UNESCO (E/CN.6/191).

56. The Commission heard statements from representatives of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of University Women, Pax Romana and the Young Women's Christian Association.

57. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representative of New Zealand (E/CN.6/L.65). A verbal amendment proposed by the representative of Chile to the penultimate paragraph of the draft resolution was accepted by its sponsor.

58. By 13 votes for, none against and 3 abstentions, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Expresses its appreciation to UNESCO, for its continued assistance in the study of educational opportunities for women and girls throughout the world,*

*"Notes that UNESCO,*

*"(1) In its campaign in favour of free and compulsory education and its prolongation will continue to include a special study of educational opportunities for girls,*

*"(2) In its programme of fundamental education, is giving increasing attention to the importance of the participation of women in the general programme of community development, and is developing and improving fundamental education methods by various means such as by consultation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies through joint working parties, which will consider the needs and problems of women in any programme of social and educational development,*

*"(3) In its various programmes, especially those of education and of the social sciences, is developing methods to promote a better application of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, in particular as regards non-discrimination against women, and is making a study of interrelation between economic, social and educational status of women on the one hand, and their exercise of political responsibilities on the other,*

*"Notes, however, that the report of UNESCO does not include any information concerning legal obstacles which might exist to free access of girls and women to education,*

*"Requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek the collaboration of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on these questions, and in particular, to report to the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the progress of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization programmes, insofar as they are related to the work of the Commission,*

*"Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the seventh session of the Commission a report on provisions concerning educational opportunities for girls*

<sup>3</sup> E/1997/Rev.1, para. 73.

and women in the legal systems of various countries, bringing up to date the report based on replies of governments to the Questionnaire (E/CN.6/78 and Add.1 and Corr.1), and supplementing this with information from other dependable sources."

(b) VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN

59. The Commission studied this point of its agenda at its 110th, 111th, 112th and 114th meetings. The Commission had before it a report on vocational guidance and technical education among women (E/CN.6/178 and E/CN.6/178/Corr.1), prepared by the International Labour Office.

60. The Commission heard the representative of the International Labour Office who gave a brief analysis of the report and indicated that, in the opinion of the ILO, the openings for employment available were dictated largely by economic conditions in the countries; she indicated that trends in women's employment showed an increase in the number of women in the labour force in certain countries and, generally, a diversification in the distribution of the woman labour force and a tendency for women to become an integral part of the labour force which was reflected in the increasing proportion of married and older women employed. With regard to women's opportunities for vocational and educational training, however, no adequate provision seemed to be made for women to enter skilled trades, even in economically developed countries. Finally, she stressed that women could not take advantage of opportunities for technical and vocational training, however abundant, unless they had, to the same extent as boys, received a good general education first as well as sound vocational guidance.

61. In the course of the general debate which followed, the report of the International Labour Office was favourably commented upon by several members of the Commission. Some others felt however that the contribution made by the International Labour Organisation in the field of vocational and technical education of women was not sufficient: it was not enough to request governments to promote vocational training for women, but large sums of money should be allocated to the establishment of schools for vocational training.

62. The question whether all careers, trades and professions should be opened to women gave rise to a considerable debate, during which two trends of opinion appeared. Some members of the Commission felt that the opening of all trades, careers and professions to women was inconsistent with protective legislation for women workers; others stated that equality did not necessarily imply identity of treatment and that it was the duty of the Commission to proclaim the principle of equality of access of women to all jobs, in order to give the lead to specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations working in this field. The latter opinion prevailed and the Commission decided by roll-call vote of 10 for, 5 against and 1 abstention, at its 114th meeting to include a statement of principle in its resolution.

63. The Commission heard statements from representatives of the World Federation of Trade Unions, St.

Joan's International Social and Political Alliance, the Catholic International Union for Social Services, and World Young Women's Christian Association.

64. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representative of Chile (E/CN.6/L.64), a joint draft resolution submitted by the representatives of the United States of America, the Netherlands and Brazil (E/CN.6/L.66/Rev.1), as well as amendments to the Chilean draft resolution, submitted by the representative of Poland (E/CN.6/L.68). The representative of Chile accepted the first and the third amendments contained in document E/CN.6/L.68. The second, the fourth, the fifth and the sixth Polish amendments were put to the vote and were rejected by the Commission.

65. The draft resolution of Chile (E/CN.6/L.64) incorporating two amendments of the representative of Poland and the joint draft resolution of the representatives of the United States of America, the Netherlands and Brazil (E/CN.6/L.66/Rev.1) were referred to the Committee on Resolutions. This Committee prepared and submitted to the Commission, in plenary meeting, a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.72).

66. At its 114th meeting, the Commission adopted by 10 votes for, none against and 6 abstentions, the following resolution (roll-call votes were requested on the second paragraph of the preamble and on the phrase "to guarantee women the right to work on an equal footing with men" made part of the draft resolution recommended to the Economic and Social Council):

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Having noted the valuable report prepared for its consideration by the ILO on the vocational guidance and vocational and technical education of women,*

*"Believing that all forms of employment, trades and careers should be open to women on an equal footing with men and that, in order to achieve this result, equal access to vocational and technical training opportunities at all levels should be given to boys and girls, men and women,*

*"Invites the non-governmental organizations to call the attention of girls and of their parents to the great value of adequate vocational and professional education and to the need to encourage girls to make use of the opportunities available,*

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

*"The Economic and Social Council,*

*"Recognizing the increasingly important and permanent place being taken by women in the economic and industrial life of many countries,*

*"Believing that there should be equal opportunity for men and women to participate in the economic life of their countries,*

*"Believing also that the principle of equality of opportunity for men and women with respect to vocational training is therefore of great immediate importance to the economic development of the various countries,*

*"Recognizing further the importance of improving the economic status of women while raising their political and social status in all countries,*

“*Agreeing* that equality of opportunity is possible only if there is, *inter alia*, equal access to education for boys and girls from primary school onwards.

“*Requests* the ILO to collect information as to the extent to which girls and women are excluded from apprenticeship to certain trades by trade unions, by employers or by legal restriction, and to lay this information before the Commission on the Status of Women at the earliest opportunity.

“*Recommends* to governments:

“(1) To guarantee women the right to work on an equal footing with men,

“(2) To guarantee girls and women access to all forms of training and apprenticeship,

“(3) To take all possible measures to ensure provision of adequate facilities and opportunities for vocational training and guidance for all workers without regard to sex,

“(4) To promote such opportunities for women,

“(5) To bear in mind the needs of women in making requests for technical assistance to the United Nations and the specialized agencies to develop vocational guidance and vocational and technical education.”

## CHAPTER VIII

### Equal pay for equal work

67. The Commission considered this item of its agenda at its 111th, 113th, 115th and 116th meetings. It had before it a report prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/179) describing the work and containing the decisions reached at the 34th International Labour Conference.

68. In the course of the debate several members of the Commission expressed their satisfaction concerning the adoption by the International Labour Conference in 1951 of a Convention and a Recommendation on equal remuneration for work of equal value for men and women workers. Some other members felt, however, that the Convention completely failed to protect the rights of women workers and that it contained loopholes permitting governments to avoid its implementation; it was pointed out in this connexion that the provisions of the convention did not extend to certain non-self-governing territories.

69. The representative of the International Labour Office replied to questions of some members of the Commission indicating the scope and the nature of the Convention and the obligations which governments would undertake which signed and ratified it. One member expressed the desire to have mentioned, in the Commission's report, her appreciation of the valuable work performed by experts on women's work who met in Geneva from 11 to 15 December 1951 under the auspices of the International Labour Office.

70. The Commission heard statements from representatives of the International Alliance of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, Open Door International, Pax Romana,

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the Women's International Democratic Federation.

71. The Commission had before it draft resolutions proposed by the representatives of the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.69), by the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (E/CN.6/L.70), by the representative of Brazil (E/CN.6/L.71) and by the representative of Poland (E/CN.6/L.76).

72. The Commission discussed first the draft resolution proposed by the representative of the United States, to which verbal amendments were made by the representatives of Chile and Brazil. Votes were taken on each paragraph of the draft and on the amendments. Before taking a final decision on this resolution, the Commission discussed the resolutions of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (E/CN.6/L.70) and of Poland (E/CN.6/L.76). The representative of Brazil withdrew her proposal because the main ideas contained in it had been incorporated in the text based on the USA proposal, accepted by the Commission.

73. The draft proposals of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (E/CN.6/L.70) and Poland (E/CN.6/L.76) were put to the vote paragraph by paragraph. The Commission adopted the first paragraph of the Polish draft resolution. The remaining paragraphs were rejected by the Commission. The first paragraph of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic proposal was rejected by a roll-call vote of 3 for, 10 against and 4 abstentions. A verbal amendment by the representative of Chile to paragraph 2 of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic draft resolution was adopted by a roll-call vote of 7 for, 3 against and 6 abstentions. The first paragraph of the Polish draft resolution and the second paragraph of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic draft resolution, as amended, were incorporated in the text, based on the United States proposal, as amended by the Commission.

74. At its 116th meeting the Commission adopted by 11 votes for, none against and 6 abstentions, the following resolution:

“*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

“*Recalling* that the Commission on the Status of Women has urged effective implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women workers, and has commented in each succeeding session on the progress being made by the ILO and by governments in this field;

“*Considering* that under present conditions a great number of women are obliged to work for their living, so as to support dependents entirely or in part and that many women were able to do work of value in all sorts of fields,

“*Regretting* that women workers in some countries still suffer discrimination in regard to equal pay for equal work;

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

“*The Economic and Social Council,*

“*Considering* that the principle of equal rights for men and women is solemnly proclaimed in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations,

"*Commending* the action taken by the 34th Conference of ILO in June 1951, in the adoption of a convention supplemented by a recommendation on equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value;

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

"*Recommends* that States members of the ILO introduce as soon as possible, by means of proper legislation or other measures, equal remuneration for equal work for men and women workers, in accordance with the ILO Convention and Recommendation;

"*Urges* adoption and implementation in all countries not members of ILO, of the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination on the basis of sex;

"*Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to include an article which would provide for the principle of equal remuneration for equal work for men and women workers in the Covenants on Human Rights."

## CHAPTER IX

### Economic opportunities for women

75. The Commission discussed this item of its agenda at its 116th, 117th, 118th and 119th meetings.

The Commission had before it three draft resolutions:

(1) E/CN.6/L.73/Rev.2, on part-time work for women, submitted by the representatives of the United States of America, Cuba, Brazil and the Netherlands;

(2) E/CN.6/L.74/Rev.1, on older women workers, submitted by the representatives of the United States of America and Cuba; and

(3) E/CN.6/L.75, on Women in Professions, submitted by the representative of the United States of America.

It also had before it Chilean amendments (E/CN.6/L.79) to the draft resolution on part-time work for women and verbal amendments by the USSR and the Lebanon to the same draft resolution.

#### (a) PART-TIME WORK FOR WOMEN

76. In the course of the debate on the draft resolution on part-time work of women, certain representatives maintained that part-time work was a hidden form of unemployment in a number of countries. Several other members of the Commission stressed the importance of part-time work particularly for married women whose household duties did not occupy all their time. Others felt, however, that a resolution on part-time work for women would furnish an argument for the opponents of full access of women to every type of employment, and that part-time work should be available to certain classes of men as well as to women. Some members wondered whether the problem of part-time work (as well as that of older women workers) constituted a

sufficiently important aspect of the large problem of "economic opportunity for women" to warrant special study by the Commission, stating that the Commission should instead make recommendations to governments to provide additional facilities for women workers.

77. The representative of the ILO recalled that the question of part-time work had been considered on several occasions by experts consulted by the ILO, in particular at a meeting held in December 1951, who had emphasized the complexity of the problem and had requested the ILO to study the question in all its aspects.

78. At its 119th meeting, the Commission adopted by 12 votes for, 1 against and 3 abstentions, the following resolution on part-time work for women, the text of which incorporated an amendment of the USSR, the amendment of Lebanon and the amendment of Chile:

"*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

"*Noting* that the participation of women in the economic life raises several urgent problems which the Commission has not yet studied,

"*Noting* that there are a great number of women among part-time workers,

"*Noting* the desire of many women with family responsibilities to undertake part-time work outside their homes,

"*Noting* that such part-time work enables these workers also to make a contribution to the economic life of their countries,

"*Noting* that such part-time employment must be distinguished from involuntary short-time work imposed on established full-time workers in periods of economic depression,

"*Believing* that the individual's right to work is inalienable,

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

"*The Economic and Social Council*

"*Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare for the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women a report containing information which can be obtained by him from non-governmental organizations as well as from other dependable sources, concerning workers, particularly women with responsibilities for family and children, as to the use of part-time job schedules by men and women workers and as to the areas where part-time work is of particular significance,

"*Invites* the International Labour Office to collaborate in the study by preparing a report on part-time employment to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women."

#### (b) OLDER WOMEN WORKERS

79. In the course of the debate on the draft resolution on older women workers (E/CN.6/L.74/Rev.1), several verbal amendments to it were proposed by the representatives of Brazil, Chile and the USSR. Some members stressed the difficult position of older women who no longer could compete with younger applicants for employment, and their need for special protection. One member stated that the same measures should be ex-



tended to men in the same age brackets. The representative of the International Labour Office stated that that Office would carry out a study requested by the Committee on Salaried Employees and Professional Workers in connexion with unemployment among older men and women; this subject however had not been assigned first priority.

80. The Commission heard representatives of the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance, the Women's International Democratic Federation and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

81. The draft resolution was put to the vote paragraph by paragraph, together with verbal amendments made to it by the representative of the USSR.

At its 119th meeting, the Commission adopted by 12 votes for, none against, and 3 abstentions the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Noting that in many countries the number of women in the adult population exceeds men, that in some areas women live longer than men and that, owing to the continuous progress of medicine and of public health, there is everywhere an increased expectation of life;*

*"Noting that various provisions have been made by private employers and by governments for the protection of older workers and of older people in general;*

*"Noting that employment opportunities for older workers are sometimes limited by the preference of employers for younger applicants, and that such preference is an especially serious problem for older women seeking employment;*

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

*"The Economic and Social Council*

*"Requests the Secretary-General to supply to the Commission on the Status of Women for its next session any information available on the number and employment status of women as compared with men in the age brackets over 40;*

*"Invites the International Labour Office to collaborate in this study and to furnish such information it may have on older workers; including data of maximum age limits for admission to employment, retirement ages, old age insurance and pensions as established by law or practice, as well as on plans and programmes of the International Labour Organisation concerning older workers.'"*

#### (c) WOMEN IN THE PROFESSIONS

82. In the course of the discussion on the draft resolution on women in the professions (E/CN.6/L.75), several members of the Commission pointed out that while access to liberal professions was generally open to women, they had greater difficulty than men in advancement or promotion in these professions. They felt that the Commission should therefore invite the Secretary-

General, with the collaboration of non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies, to supply all the information available concerning training and advancement of women in these professions. Other members of the Commission, however, felt that discrimination against women was less pronounced in liberal professions than in other forms of women's work. It was also indicated that the enumeration of the particular professions to be covered in the contemplated study was perhaps arbitrary, and certainly not all-inclusive.

83. Some members expressed the opinion that the Commission had already undertaken studies in a number of fields concerning economic opportunities for women, and that it would be advisable to postpone the study on "women in the professions" until a future session of the Commission. This trend of opinion prevailed, and by a vote of 9 for, 5 against and 2 abstentions, the Commission decided at its 118th meeting not to undertake for the time being the study of the situation of women in the professions.

## CHAPTER X

### Participation of women in the work of the United Nations

84. The Commission discussed this item of its agenda at its 119th and 121st meetings. The Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/180 and E/CN.6/180/Add. 1 and 2) containing information about the nature and proportion of positions occupied by women in the Secretariat of the United Nations and in the secretariats of the specialized agencies, together with information available on the qualifications required for professional positions.

85. In the course of the debate, several members indicated their regret that fewer women occupied policy-making positions in the Secretariat of the United Nations as compared with the previous year. Some members felt that since too few women occupied high posts in national administrations, the choice of candidates for high positions in the United Nations tended to be limited and that non-governmental organizations could do much to encourage recognition of qualified women by governments. The Commission felt that the Secretary-General should be asked to continue reporting on the numbers of women in the higher posts of the United Nations as well as to continue appointing women to senior posts in the Secretariat.

86. The Commission heard statements by representatives of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of University Women and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

87. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representative of Iran (E/CN.6/L.83). In the course of the discussion on the text, verbal amendments to it were made by the representatives of Chile, Brazil and the United Kingdom; these amendments were accepted by the sponsor of the resolution.



88. At its 121st meeting, the Commission adopted by 11 votes for, none against and 4 abstentions, the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women*

*"Expresses its appreciation of the work of the Secretary-General and of the co-operation of the specialized agencies in furnishing information on the situation of women in the various secretariats, in response to the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations;*

*"Notes with disappointment that very few women, even fewer than last year, occupy policy-making posts in the Secretariat of the United Nations and that few women occupy such posts in the specialized agencies;*

*"Urges that the Secretary-General continue to appoint women to senior positions in the Secretariat of the United Nations as envisaged in Article 8 of the Charter;*

*"Invites the Secretary-General to continue reports on the situation of women in the Secretariats of the United Nations and the specialized agencies on an annual basis, but suggests that the tables showing the number of women as compared with men be limited to Directors-General or Secretaries-General and the six top grades;*

*"Requests the Secretary-General to supplement this report by compiling information also on the number and proportion of women who have served as delegates and alternates for their countries in sessions of the General Assembly and in the permanent delegations to the United Nations, as well as on their participation in the principal organs and commissions of the United Nations, in the International Court of Justice and in conferences of the specialized agencies, since the San Francisco Conference."*

## CHAPTER XI

### **Technical assistance programme in relation to the status of women**

89. The Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on technical assistance in relation to the status of women (E/CN.6/189) together with a draft resolution on the same subject submitted by the representative of Iran (E/CN.6/L.81). Due to lack of time the Commission at its 120th meeting decided to postpone consideration of this item of its agenda until its seventh session.

## CHAPTER XII

### **Action taken upon decisions reached by the fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

90. The Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the action taken upon decisions reached by the fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/177). The Commission took note of the action taken in connexion with several other items of its agenda during that general discussion such as political rights of women, nationality of married women, etc.

91. The Commission had before it a joint draft resolution submitted by the representatives of Iran, Lebanon and the USA (E/CN.6/L.67) requesting the Secretary-General to undertake the translation into Arabic of the pamphlet on the Political Education of Women (ST/SOA/6). The Secretary-General informed the Commission that the cost of the translation would be 870 dollars to which should be added the cost of printing and publication.

In the course of the discussion the sponsors of the resolution decided to limit their request to the translation of part I of the pamphlet.

92. At its 121st meeting the Commission adopted by 13 votes for, none against and 3 abstentions, the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women*

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

*"The Economic and Social Council,*

*"Noting the request of certain governments and non-governmental organizations that the pamphlet on Political Education of Women (ST/SOA/6) be translated into Arabic;*

*"Believing that this publication may be especially useful in Arabic-speaking countries, where rapid progress is being made in regard to the status of women;*

*"Requests the Secretary-General to undertake the translation of part I of this publication into Arabic at an early date;*

*"Requests further that consideration be given to making this publication in Arabic available at as low a price as possible."*

## CHAPTER XIII

### **Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women**

93. The Commission had before it the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/190). At its 121st meeting the Commission decided to take note of this report and several members expressed their appreciation of the part played by the Inter-American Commission of Women in promoting women's rights.

## CHAPTER XIV

### **Communications concerning the status of women**

94. In accordance with resolution 76 (V) as amended by resolution 304 (XI) of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission had before it two lists of communications prepared by the Secretary-General, a non-confidential list (E/CN.6/CR.5) and a confidential list (SW Communications No. 2).

The originals of the communications in the non-confidential list were considered by the Committee on Communications.

95. The report of the Committee on Communications (E/CN.6/L.86) was adopted by the Commission at a closed meeting by 12 votes for and 3 abstentions.

## CHAPTER XV

### Programme of future work

96. The Commission discussed this item of its agenda at its 120th and 121st meetings. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the review of programmes and establishment of priorities (E/CN.6/188), calling the attention of the Commission to resolution 324 (XI) of the Economic and Social Council, establishing criteria for priorities as well as to the recommendations made by the Co-ordination Committee and approved by the Council concerning the procedures for the establishment of programmes of priorities.

The representative of the Secretary-General also drew the attention of the Commission to the resolution of 4 February 1952 of the General Assembly on control and limitation of documentation.

97. In the course of the discussion, the majority of the Commission expressed the opinion that the "Status of Women in Private Law" was the most important item of its next session and should receive high priority on its agenda. Other members felt that the question of "Political Rights" should retain top priority as long as the Convention on Political Rights had not been adopted and as long as women had not been granted political rights in all the countries of the world.

98. There was also considerable discussion as to whether the question of the "Status of Women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories" should be discussed at the next session under the heading of "Polit-

ical Rights" as heretofore or as a separate item of the agenda, or in connexion with each one of the other items considered. The last trend of opinion prevailed and the Commission decided that the question of the "Status of Women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories" would be considered in connexion with the information on the various subjects concerning women in sovereign States.

Some members indicated that the measures to be taken in order to obtain equality of rights for women in the field of political rights, economic opportunities and educational opportunities should be included among items having high priority.

99. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representative of the USSR suggesting several items to be included in the programme of future work of the Commission (E/CN.6/L.78). At the 120th meeting of the Commission, this proposal was put to the vote paragraph by paragraph, a roll-call vote was requested on each of them; it was rejected as a whole by 8 votes against, 3 for and 6 abstentions.

100. The representative of the United States submitted in a tabulated form a programme of priorities for the Commission on the Status of Women for 1952/1953. Several changes to this proposal were made verbally by the representatives of the USSR, Chile, Brazil and the United Kingdom.

101. The following programme of priorities was adopted by the Commission at its 121st meeting:

#### PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, 1952-1953

	<i>Public and private law</i>	<i>Political rights</i>	<i>Economic opportunities</i>	<i>Educational opportunities</i>	<i>Activities of United Nations organs affecting status of women</i>
<i>Ad hoc projects of high priority</i>	<i>Private law</i> Completion of reports and comparative analyses of replies on: 1. Family law 2. Property rights	<i>Convention on Political Rights for Women</i>  Completion and adoption by General Assembly	Research on: 1. Part-time work for women 2. Problems of older women workers	Findings from UNESCO-IBE  Conference on Access of Women to Education	
<i>Continuing projects</i>	Any additional material on public law received from governments, including information on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories	Progress reports: 1. Secretary - General's annual memorandum on franchise for women, including information on Trust and NSG Territories 2. Women in public office (new)	Progress reports: 1. Implementation of the principle of equal pay, including information on Trust and NSG Territories 2. Implementation of the Convention of Equal Pay 3. Vocational guidance and vocational and technical training	Report on comparative literacy, etc., including information on Trust and NSG Territories	1. Participation of women in the United Nations and specialized agencies 2. Technical assistance 3. Nationality of married women 4. Newsletter
<i>Projects of lower priority</i>	Publication on women in public services and functions and on civil liberties for women (sections C and E of part I of the Questionnaire)	Publication in Arabic of <i>Political Education for Women</i>			Exhibit of materials of Commission work for next session.

102. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representative of Chile (E/CN.6/L.85) containing a request to the Economic and Social Council to allocate a longer time to the future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. At its 121st meeting, the Commission adopted by 11 votes for, one against and 5 abstentions the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Considering that the agenda of the sixth session of the Commission and its programme of work for its seventh session show the considerable extension of the scope of activity of the Commission and its increased responsibilities,*

*"Considering that it has not been possible for the Commission to complete the study of all the items of its sixth session in the time allotted to it by the decision of the Economic and Social Council concern-*

*ing its calendar of conferences for 1952 (resolution of 21 September 1951),*

*"Requests the Economic and Social Council to take these facts into consideration in establishing its calendar of conferences for the future years and allocate a longer time to the future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women."*

## CHAPTER XVI

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

103. At its 122nd meeting the Commission adopted the report of its sixth session to the Economic and Social Council, by a vote of 11 for, none against and 3 abstentions.

## ANNEX

### Draft resolutions for the Economic and Social Council

#### A

*The Economic and Social Council*

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

#### B

#### CONVENTION ON POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering that the time is appropriate for an international convention under the auspices of the United Nations designed to eliminate all discrimination against women in the field of political rights, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56 (I),*

*Recommends that a convention on the political rights of women embodying the following preamble and substantive clauses be opened for signature and ratification by Member States and such other States as will be invited by the General Assembly, and that the Secretary-General be requested to draft the necessary final and formal clauses of that Convention:*

#### DRAFT CONVENTION

*The Contracting Parties,*

*Desiring to implement the principle of equality of rights for men and women, contained in the Charter of the United Nations,*

*Recognizing that every person has the right to take part in the government of his country and has the right to equal access to public service in his country, and desiring to equalize the status of men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of political rights, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*

*Having resolved to conclude a convention for this purpose,*

*Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:*

*Article 1. Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on equal terms with men.*

*Article 2. Women shall be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, established by national law, on equal terms with men.*

*Article 3. Women shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions, established by national law, on equal terms with men.*

#### C

#### STATUS OF WOMEN IN TRUST AND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering that under Article 76 c of the Charter of the United Nations, one of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System is "to encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion",*

*Considering that there are areas of the world where women are deprived of certain essential human rights, even of the right to their physical integrity, and that these areas include certain Trust Territories and certain Non-Self-Governing Territories,*

*Invites the Trusteeship Council under Article 87 of the Charter, and Member States of the United Nations which assume responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing Territories, to take immediate action with a view to abolishing in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories all customs which violate the dignity and security of persons, as proclaimed in the Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;*

*Requests the Trusteeship Council to include the necessary questions in the questionnaires provided for in Article 88 of the Charter as well as to include the pertinent information received from administering authorities in its annual report of the General Assembly.*

## D

### VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN

#### *The Economic and Social Council*

*Recognizing* the increasingly important and permanent place being taken by women in the economic and industrial life of many countries,

*Believing* that there should be equal opportunity for men and women to participate in the economic life of their countries,

*Believing* also that the principle of equality of opportunity for men and women with respect to vocational training is therefore of great immediate importance to the economic development of the various countries,

*Recognizing* further the importance of improving the economic status of women while raising their political and social status in all countries,

*Agreeing* that equality of opportunity is possible only if there is, *inter alia*, equal access to education for boys and girls from primary school onwards,

*Requests* the ILO to collect information as to the extent to which girls and women are excluded from apprenticeship to certain trades by trade unions, by employers or by legal restriction, and to lay this information before the Commission on the Status of Women at the earliest opportunity,

*Recommends* to governments:

- (1) To guarantee women the right to work on an equal footing with men,
- (2) To guarantee girls and women access to all forms of training and apprenticeship,
- (3) To take all possible measures to ensure provision of adequate facilities and opportunities for vocational training and guidance for all workers without regard to sex,
- (4) To promote such opportunities for women,
- (5) To bear in mind the needs of women in making requests for technical assistance to the United Nations and the specialized agencies to develop vocational guidance and vocational and technical education.

## E

### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

#### *The Economic and Social Council*

*Considering* that the principle of equal rights for men and women is solemnly proclaimed in the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations,

*Commending* the action taken by the 34th Conference of ILO in June 1951, in the adoption of a convention supplemented by a recommendation on equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value,

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

*Recommends* that States members of the ILO introduce as soon as possible, by means of proper legislation or other measures, equal remuneration for equal work

for men and women workers, in accordance with the ILO Convention and Recommendation;

*Urges* adoption and implementation in all countries not members of ILO, of the principle of equal pay for equal work without discrimination on the basis of sex;

*Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to include an article which would provide for the principle of equal remuneration for equal work for men and women workers in the Covenants on Human Rights.

## F

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN PART-TIME WORK FOR WOMEN

#### *The Economic and Social Council*

*Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare for the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women a report containing information which can be obtained by him from non-governmental organizations as well as from other dependable sources, concerning workers, particularly of women with responsibilities for family and children, as to the use of part-time job schedules by men and women workers and as to the areas where part-time work is of particular significance;

*Invites* the International Labour Office to collaborate in the study by preparing a report on part-time employment to be submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women.

## G

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN OLDER WOMEN WORKERS

#### *The Economic and Social Council*

*Requests* the Secretary-General to supply to the Commission on the Status of Women for its next session any information available on the number and employment status of women as compared with men in the age brackets over 40,

*Invites* the International Labour Office to collaborate in this study and to furnish information it may have on older workers, including data on maximum age limits for admission to employment, retirement ages, old age insurance and pensions as established by law or practice, as well as on plans and programmes of the International Labour Organisation concerning older workers.

## H

### TRANSLATION INTO ARABIC OF THE PAMPHLET ON POLITICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN

#### *The Economic and Social Council*

*Noting* the request of certain governments and non-governmental organizations that the pamphlet on Political Education of Women (SR/SOA/6) be translated into Arabic;

*Believing* that this publication may be especially useful in Arabic-speaking countries, where rapid progress is being made in regard to the status of women;

*Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake the translation of part I of this publication into Arabic at an early date;

*Requests* further that consideration be given to making this publication in Arabic available at as low a price as possible.