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**UNITED NATIONS**

# **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

## **REPORT OF THE NINTH SESSION**

**14 MARCH – 1 APRIL 1955**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS: TWENTIETH SESSION**

**SUPPLEMENT No. 2**

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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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June 1955



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the ninth session of the Commission,  
held at Headquarters, New York, from 14 March to 1 April 1955

CHAPTER I

Organization of the ninth session of the Commission

1. The ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women opened on Monday, 14 March 1955, in United Nations Headquarters. The Commission held twenty-eight plenary meetings and terminated its work on 1 April 1955.

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

*Argentina*: Miss Elsa Irma Chamorro Alamán, representative;  
*Australia*: Mrs. Jean Daly, representative;  
*Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic*: Mrs. Faina Novikova, representative;  
*China*: Miss Pao Swen Tseng, representative;  
*Cuba*: Miss Uldarica Mañas, representative; Miss A. M. Perera, alternate;  
*Dominican Republic*: Miss Minerva Bernardino, representative;  
*France*: Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, representative;  
*Haiti*: Mrs. Fortuna A. Guéry, representative;  
*Indonesia*: Miss Laili Roesad, representative;  
*Lebanon*: Mrs. Laure Tabet, representative;  
*Pakistan*: Begum Anwar Ahmed, representative;  
*Poland*: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska, representative; Mr. E. Kulaga, alternate;  
*Sweden*: Mrs. Agda Rössel, representative; Mr. C. Carbonnier, alternate;  
*Union of Soviet Socialist Republics*: Mrs. Vera A. Fomina, representative;  
*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*: Mrs. Lorne Sayers, representative; Mr. H. P. L. Attlee, alternate;  
*United States of America*: Mrs. Lorena Hahn, representative;  
*Venezuela*: Mrs. Isabel Sánchez de Urdaneta, representative; Mrs. C. L. Benítaz de Socorro, alternate;  
*Yugoslavia*: Mrs. Mitra Mitrovic, representative; Mr. A. Bozovic, alternate.

3. At the 176th meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics protested against the absence of any representative of the Chinese People's Republic, whose place she contended was illegally occupied by a person who had no right to represent China. This view was supported by the representatives of Poland and the

Byelorussian SSR. The representative of China stated that she represented the only legal government of China. This view was supported by the representative of the United States of America, who also said that any statement challenging the right of the legal representative of China to be seated on the Commission was out of order. The Acting Chairman ruled that the Commission was not competent to take any action in the matter; she stated that the views expressed would be included in the records of the session.

4. The Commission, at its 176th meeting, elected the following officers:

*Chairman*: Miss Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic);  
*First Vice-Chairman*: Begum Anwar Ahmed (Pakistan);  
*Second Vice-Chairman*: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska (Poland);  
*Rapporteur*: Mrs. Agda Rössel (Sweden).

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

*International Labour Organisation*: Mrs. Ana Figueroa;  
*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*: Miss Irma Salas, Mr. Solomon Arnaldo;  
*World Health Organization*: Dr. Rodolphe L. Coigny.

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

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

CATEGORY A

*International Confederation of Free Trade Unions*: Miss Toni Sender;  
*International Federation of Christian Trade Unions*: Mr. Gerard Thormann;  
*World Federation of Trade Unions*: Miss Elinor Kahn;  
*World Federation of United Nations Associations*: Mrs. Beresford Fox, Miss E. Eren.

CATEGORY B

*Agudas Israel World Organization*: Mrs. M. Munk;  
*All-Pakistan Women's Association*: Begum Hafisa Hamdani;

*Catholic International Union for Social Service*: Mrs. A. D. Vergara, Mrs. Carmen Giroux;  
*Commission of the Churches on International Affairs*: Mrs. Theodore Wedel;  
*International Alliance of Women*: Miss Anne Guthrie, Miss Henrietta C. Dodd, Mrs. Grant H. Brown; Miss Anna Lord Strauss;  
*International Catholic Child Bureau*: Mrs. Margaret M. Bedard;  
*International Conference of Catholic Charities*: Mr. Louis C. Longarzo;  
*International Council of Women*: Mrs. Eunice H. Carter, Mrs. Frances M. Freeman, Mrs. O. L. Register, Mrs. R. P. Parsons;  
*International Federation of Business and Professional Women*: Mrs. Esther W. Hymer, Mrs. Madeleine Meinander, Miss Una MacLean, Mrs. Alice Pollitz;  
*International Federation of Friends of Young Women*: Miss Ana Lagemann;  
*International Federation of Women Lawyers*: Miss A. Viola Smith, Miss A. La Londe, Mrs. Herminia Ruiz Ovelar;  
*International Federation of University Women*: Miss Janet Robb, Miss Frances McGillicuddy, Mrs. Frances Stillman;  
*International League for the Rights of Man*: Mrs. H. Wolle-Egenolf;  
*International Union of Child Welfare*: Mrs. Luise Kaufmann-Frankenstein;  
*Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations*: Mrs. Eleanor S. Roberts;  
*Nouvelles équipes internationales*: Miss M. Andras;  
*Pan-Pacific Women's Association*: Mrs. Barbara D. Evans, Mrs. Dana C. Backus;  
*Pax Romana*: Miss Marie R. Madden;  
*Society of Comparative Legislation*: Miss J. S. Jolly;  
*Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*: Mrs. Gladys D. Walser, Miss Gertrude Bussey;  
*World Assembly of Youth*: Miss Cherie Gaines;  
*World Jewish Congress*: Miss Thelma Richman, Mr. Gerhard Jacoby;  
*World's Women's Christian Temperance Union*: Miss Helen G. H. Estelle, Miss Elizabeth A. Smart;  
*World Young Women's Christian Association*: Mrs. Constance M. Anderson, Miss Margaret E. Forsyth;  
*World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations*: Miss Catherine Schaefer, Miss Alba Zizzamia;  
*World Union for Progressive Judaism*: Mrs. Eleanor Polstein;  
*Young Christian Workers*: Miss Caroline Pezzullo;

#### REGISTER

*Associated Country Women of the World*: Mrs. Eleanor S. Roberts;  
*International Council of Nurses*: Miss Frances C. Smith;  
*St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance*: Mrs. Wanda Grabinska.

8. Mrs. María Elvira de López, observer for Colombia, and Mrs. Otilia de Tijeira, observer for Panama, attended meetings of the session.

9. Mr. John P. Humphrey, Director of the Division of Human Rights, and Mrs. Mary Tenison-Woods, Chief of the Section on the Status of Women, 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.176 to E/CN.6/SR.203).

11. In order to expedite its work, the Commission, at its 177th meeting, established two *ad hoc* committees, as follows:

*Committee on Resolutions*: the representatives of France (Chairman), Argentina, Australia, Cuba, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Yugoslavia.

*Committee on Communications*: the representatives of Lebanon (Chairman), the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Haiti, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela.

## CHAPTER II

### Agenda

12. The Commission considered its agenda at the 176th meeting, and had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/256) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Commission's Chairman.

13. The representative of Sweden drew attention to the importance of the Commission being represented at all sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. She felt that it should also be represented at sessions of the Social Commission when matters of primary interest to the Commission on the Status of Women, such as maternal and child welfare problems, were being discussed. She therefore proposed the inclusion of a new item to this effect in the agenda.

14. The representative of Argentina proposed the addition to the agenda of an item entitled "Participation of women in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies".

15. The representative of the United States of America proposed the addition, under the item "Nationality of married women", of a sub-item dealing with recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women.

16. These proposals were adopted, as was a suggestion by the representative of Cuba that item 4 of the provisional agenda, "Nationality of married women", and item 6, "Equal pay for equal work", be reversed in order.

17. The agenda in its final form (E/CN.6/256/Rev.1), which was adopted unanimously, reads as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Political rights of women:
  - (a) Annual report by the Secretary-General on political rights of women;
  - (b) Reports on political rights of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.
4. Equal pay for equal work:
  - (a) Progress report on the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work;
  - (b) Report on methods which have been found useful in creating a favourable climate of public opinion on the need for equal pay for equal work.

5. Status of women in private law:
  - (a) Family law:
    - (i) Report on parental rights and duties;
    - (ii) Report on domicile and residence of married women;
    - (iii) Supplementary report on family law;
  - (b) Supplementary report on property rights;
  - (c) Reports on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.
6. Nationality of married women:
  - (a) Report on comments from Governments on the draft convention on the nationality of married women;
  - (b) Report on changes in legislation concerning the nationality of married women.
7. Economic opportunities for women:
  - (a) Report on employment of older women workers;
  - (b) Report on part-time employment of women including cottage industries, handicrafts and seasonal agriculture work;
  - (c) Reports on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.
8. Educational opportunities for women:
  - (a) Progress report on access of women to education;
  - (b) Report on access of women to apprenticeship;
  - (c) Reports on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.
9. Technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women; progress report of the Secretary-General.
10. Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to the seventh session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities.
11. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
12. Participation of women in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.
13. Representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Social Commission.
14. Communications concerning the status of women.
15. Action taken upon decisions reached by the Commission on the Status of Women at its eighth session and review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities: report and note by the Secretary-General.
16. Adoption of the report to the Economic and Social Council.

### CHAPTER III

#### Political rights of women

18. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 183rd and 184th meetings.

19. It had before it the following documentation prepared by the Secretary-General: a memorandum circulated

annually to the General Assembly containing information on the franchise of women and their eligibility to public office as well as on the number of countries which have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (A/2692), and a report containing information relating to the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/260, E/CN.6/260/Add.1 and Corr.1, and E/CN.6/260/Add.2.).

20. A further report (E/CN.6/255), containing information on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories, was deferred for consideration in connexion with a later agenda item—Educational opportunities for women.

21. At the outset of the general debate, the Chairman informed the Commission that, since the publication of the annual report on the franchise of women and their eligibility to public office (A/2692), political rights had been granted to women in Colombia and Honduras.

22. Satisfaction with these developments was expressed by several representatives. Other representatives pointed out that, although some progress had been made, there were still a number of States, including Members of the United Nations, where women had no political rights, or where such rights had been granted to them subject to certain limitations. There were also countries where political rights were granted to women by law, but were not yet fully implemented in practice.

23. There was general agreement that the Commission should continue to work towards the elimination of these discriminations, and several suggestions were made as to the methods which might be employed. Some representatives held the view that the Commission should seek the co-operation of non-governmental organizations in this task, both with regard to obtaining information on existing obstacles as well as on methods which have been or might be employed to overcome them.

24. In commenting on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, satisfaction was expressed that so many countries had already signed and ratified the Convention. The hope was expressed that a still greater number would soon do so, as it was felt that the Convention, if signed and ratified by as many Governments as possible, would exert great influence on governments of countries where women had either no political rights, or else only limited ones.

25. Several representatives expressed the opinion that women's political rights were being developed too slowly in the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly when compared with the political rights enjoyed by women in the metropolitan territories of the Administering Authorities, and that the Commission should pay special attention to this question at future sessions. Other representatives pointed out that, even if progress in some of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories had been slow, the implementation of those rights in other Territories had exceeded the rights enjoyed in many sovereign States.

26. Some representatives expressed the opinion that the struggle for women's political rights was closely linked with the maintenance of peace, without which such rights could not be fully enjoyed. In addition, they felt that the armaments race which was going on, particularly with respect to atomic, hydrogen and other weapons of mass

destruction, placed a heavy burden upon women, since funds which were expended for this purpose could be used for the construction of schools, hospitals and other institutions which would benefit women and children. A draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.154) dealing with that subject was presented by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

27. The debate on this draft resolution took place at the 179th meeting. Several representatives opposed it on the grounds that its subject matter fell outside the Commission's terms of reference and that special organs had been set up within the United Nations to deal with the questions of disarmament and the maintenance of peace.

28. Other representatives, in support of the draft resolution, referred to the principles and aims established by the Commission at its first session which, *inter alia*, stated that women must take an active part in the fight for international co-operation directed at the establishment of a democratic peace among the peoples of the world and for the prevention of aggression.

29. The representative of the United States of America moved, under rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, that the Commission was not competent to adopt the draft resolution.

30. This motion was adopted by 12 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

31. The Commission also had before it two other draft resolutions, sponsored respectively by Australia, Pakistan and Sweden (E/CN.6/L.155) and by the United Kingdom and the United States (E/CN.6/L.156/Rev.1).

32. At the 181st meeting, during the debate on draft resolution E/CN.6/L.155, several oral amendments were proposed.

33. The representative of France proposed the addition of the words "including access to public office" at the end of the first paragraph of the preamble. This amendment was accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

34. The representative of Poland proposed an amendment to the effect that the Secretary-General should be invited to obtain information from non-governmental organizations "whether or not in consultative status". At the request of several representatives, a statement was made by the Director of the General Legal Division of the Secretariat at the 181st meeting concerning the practical and legal problems posed by this amendment. In the light of this information the Polish amendment was withdrawn.

35. The representative of Yugoslavia proposed the insertion of the words "including Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories" after the word "countries" in the first operative paragraph.

36. This amendment was supported by several representatives on the grounds that more information concerning political rights of women in these Territories was needed by the Commission to enable it to make a full appraisal of women's political rights all over the world. Other representatives felt that it would be unjust to single out Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in view of the fact that in several of them women enjoyed full political rights which were still not enjoyed in many sovereign States.

37. The representative of Sweden suggested that the word "countries", although intended to include all regions of the world, should be replaced by the word "areas", which would more explicitly indicate that both sovereign States as well as Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories were included.

38. The Commission decided to refer the draft resolution with the amendments to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions, which recommended to the Commission a slightly amended text (E/CN.6/L.155/Rev.1).

39. Before voting on the revised draft resolution, the representatives of the USSR, Indonesia, Yugoslavia, the Byelorussian SSR and Poland stated that they would vote in favour of it on the understanding that the word "areas" was to be interpreted as including Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

40. At its 184th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Noting that non-governmental organizations play an important role in increasing the participation of women in public life and in establishing a climate of opinion favourable to the extension of political rights to women, including access to public office,*

*"Believing that the Commission's work will be facilitated if it is informed of the activities of non-governmental organizations in the field of political rights, particularly in areas where women do not yet vote or have only recently been granted political rights,*

*"1. Invites the Secretary-General to obtain from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council information on their methods, techniques and activities directed towards the extension to women and the exercise by them of political rights, particularly in areas where women do not yet vote or have only recently been granted political rights,*

*"2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the tenth session of the Commission a report based on the information received."*

41. Draft resolution E/CN.6/L.156/Rev.1, which was subsequently withdrawn in favour of an amended text making it a draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/L.156/Rev.2) was considered by the Commission at its 183rd meeting. It called upon the Secretary-General to include in his annual memorandum on political rights of women all the States which are Members of the United Nations and/or the specialized agencies, and/or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

42. Some representatives expressed disagreement with this text as it would exclude from the document information concerning States which did not fall within these categories. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed an oral amendment to replace the words "which are" in the first operative paragraph by the words "whether or not".

43. The Commission decided to refer the draft resolution with the amendment to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions.

44. This Committee recommended to the Commission an amended text (E/CN.6/L.156/Rev.3), which was considered by the Commission at its 184th meeting.

45. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed an oral amendment calling for the deletion of the second operative paragraph and the substitution of the words "which are" in the first operative paragraph by the words "whether or not".

46. This amendment was rejected by a roll-call vote of 12 to 5, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:* Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Indonesia, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia.

*Against:* Argentina, Australia, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

*Abstaining:* Haiti.

47. Subsequently, at its 184th meeting, the Commission, by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, adopted the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women*

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

*[For the text of the draft resolution, see annex 2, draft resolution B.]*

48. In the course of the general debate on this item of the agenda, the Commission heard a statement by the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, who outlined the work of that organization in connexion with the political and civic education of women. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and of the following non-governmental organizations: The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, The International Federation of Business and Professional Women, The International Federation of University Women, and The International Federation of Women Lawyers.

#### CHAPTER IV

##### Equal pay for equal work

49. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 180th, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 187th and 190th meetings. In this connexion, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on methods used in campaigns for equal pay for equal work (E/CN.6/263); the Commission also had before it a progress report prepared by the International Labour Office (E/CN.6/257) on the application of the International Labour Convention (No. 100) and Recommendation (No. 90) concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value.

50. The Commission heard the representative of the International Labour Organisation, (ILO) who reported on the action taken by various States members of the International Labour Organisation concerning the ratification of International Labour Convention No. 100, and

on national action to promote the application of the principle equal remuneration. She stated that the ILO would continue to furnish annual reports to the Commission on the action taken in the various countries to implement the principle of equal pay for equal work in compliance with the Economic and Social Council resolution on the matter. She also noted the importance of the question of equal remuneration with regard to its effect on the wage structure of national economies and with regard to the interrelationship of the varying interests of Governments, employers and male workers. She noted the value of the work of the non-governmental organizations which were endeavouring to establish a favourable climate of public opinion for the implementation of the principle of equal remuneration.

51. The representative of the ILO outlined the responsibilities of the Governments of States members of the International Labour Organisation to inform the ILO of action taken with respect to the implementation of the ILO Convention which they had ratified or of the obstacles hindering the ratification of such conventions or the implementation of the principles advocated therein. She also outlined the work of the ILO Committee on the application of Conventions and Recommendations under the ILO Constitution.

52. The representative of the ILO also stated that, although ILO Convention No. 100 did not constitute the ideal solution to the problem of equal remuneration, it represented the best possible compromise at the time of its adoption and the only international legal instrument on this matter. She noted that in some countries there might be ways to implement the principle of equal pay other than those recommended in the ILO Convention and Recommendation and emphasized that, without the establishment of adequate machinery for job evaluation, the principle of equal remuneration could not be effectively implemented; she stressed the necessity for properly constituted bodies to ensure the effective evaluation of job content. She also noted that some fields of work were not covered by trade union negotiations and that in such cases the principle of equal remuneration was not universally applied. The representative of the ILO further noted that, even where collective bargaining did cover all workers, the strength of the trade unions in connexion with equal remuneration was in direct proportion to women's influence in these unions, and that in general women rarely exercised more than secondary influence in determining trade union policy. She stated that the possibilities offered by the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies regarding women's working conditions had not been fully utilized by Governments.

53. In answer to a question put by a member of the Commission at the 188th meeting, the representative of the ILO explained that the term "work of equal value" as used by the ILO embodied the concept of work comparable in value, and she also stated that the term "equal remuneration" covered not only cash payment for work performed but all emoluments and peripheral benefits received by workers either in cash or in kind, directly or indirectly, on account of their work.

54. During the course of the debate, several members of the Commission reported on the action taken by their Governments in relation to the implementation of the principle of equal pay. One member emphasized that such

implementation not only improved the economic status of women but also enhanced woman's value in society. Several members likewise stressed the close connexion of the implementation of equal pay with political equality for women and with their participation in the economic life of their respective countries. Several members felt that Governments could set a valuable example to private industry by granting equal pay to government employees, and noted that wage agreements were established in their countries by negotiations between employers and workers or between their respective organizations. One member felt that, even if the principle of equal pay was embodied in government legislation, that did not necessarily mean that the principle was always applied in practice. Other members felt that state intervention was necessary in order to guarantee the principle of equal pay in all fields of employment. One member noted that it was relatively easier to adopt the principle of equal pay in a young country than to eradicate long-established practices and habits of wage-fixing in older economies. Another member of the Commission noted that schemes for wage-fixing might sometimes be subject to financial and economic circumstances beyond the direct control of Governments. Another member felt that countries ratifying the Convention were placed at a competitive disadvantage in international trade, and that the slow implementation of equal pay might force the countries which did abide by this principle to retrogress in order to equalize their position with regard to production costs. Other members felt that the question involved a discussion beyond the competence of the Commission, and noted that other economic factors were involved in production costs and in world trade.

55. Several members stressed the close relationship between equal pay and vocational training, employment opportunities and possibilities of promotion to higher positions of responsibility, and one member emphasized that the concept of equal pay should also include such benefits as retirement pensions, allowances and paid vacations. Another member emphasized that, although it had been argued that men should receive higher wages because of their family responsibilities, many working women had similar responsibilities and that the solution of the problem of equal pay was also of concern to male workers. In discussing the problems of women working in the so-called "female occupations", where only women were employed, several members stressed the importance of job analysis and of the evaluation of work of comparable value in the process of implementing equal pay.

56. During the course of the debate, it was noted that although ILO Convention No. 100 was the only international instrument embodying the concept of universal recognition of the principle of equal pay, this Convention had so far been ratified by only nine States. Several members stressed that the scope of the Convention did not specifically include Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

57. Several representatives felt that the methods of implementing equal pay set forth in the ILO Convention and Recommendation were not the only methods which could be utilized in putting this principle into practice. While some members felt that a recommendation to Governments to utilize the assistance available to them under the technical assistance programmes would be desirable

in connexion with equal pay, other members noted that it was up to the Governments concerned to establish their own priorities for requests under these programmes, and that such a recommendation would not be desirable. One member stressed the importance of the establishment of wage-fixing machinery as a prerequisite to action in relation to the implementation of equal pay; another member felt that a recommendation to Governments on this point would involve interference in the internal affairs of Governments.

58. The great majority of the Commission felt that the phrase "equal pay for equal work" embodied the concept of equal remuneration for work of equal value, or, as one representative stated, the rate for the job, and that in addition it had value as a rallying slogan in the long fight to achieve the realization of the principle in practical life. The importance of the work of the non-governmental organizations in establishing the necessary favourable climate of public opinion was emphasized. It was noted that the report of the Secretary-General on this subject contained valuable suggestions for further action. It was stressed that the active participation of women in trade unions was of vital importance in the struggle to achieve equal pay, and it was felt that continued information on methods found useful, as well as information on the present status of the application of the equal pay principle would be of value.

59. Several members stressed the necessity for continued recommendations to Governments of the question of equal pay and expressed the opinion that it would be unwise to shift the Commission's responsibility in this regard to other bodies.

60. During the course of the debate, the question arose as to the capacity in which representatives attended meetings of the functional commissions. One representative stated that she considered the status of the members of the Commission on the status of women to be that of experts, rather than just representatives of their Governments. Another representative pointed out that the procedure of selecting members of the functional commissions left their status unclear and that it was desirable that the issue be clarified by the appropriate organ of the United Nations.

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

62. The Commission had before it three draft resolutions proposed, respectively, by Sweden (E/CN.6/L.160), by Cuba, the United States of America and Venezuela (E/CN.6/L.161), and by France (E/CN.6/L.162). Subsequently, Pakistan proposed an amendment (E/CN.6/L.166) to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.162, and China proposed an amendment (E/CN.6/L.167) to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.161.

63. At its 187th meeting the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution proposed by Sweden (E/CN.6/L.160), which reads as follows:

*“The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*“Noting with appreciation the valuable information contained in the report prepared by the Secretary-General on methods which have been found useful in creating a favourable climate of public opinion on the need for equal pay for equal work,*

*“Commending the non-governmental organizations for their co-operation in supplying this information to the Secretary-General,*

*“Believing that the data contained in the above report should be annually brought up to date and supplemented by information concerning the results achieved in various countries,*

*“Invites the Secretary-General to obtain from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council further information on methods found useful in various countries for the promotion of equality of remuneration for men and women workers and also on the present status of the application of the principle of equal pay in various countries.”*

64. The Commission referred draft resolutions E/CN.6/L.161, E/CN.6/L.162, and the amendments E/CN.6/L.166 and E/CN.6/L.167 to the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Resolutions. The Committee recommended to the Commission a text (E/CN.6/L.168) incorporating the substance of draft resolutions E/CN.6/L.161 and E/CN.6/L.162. Consideration of the amendments E/CN.6/L.166 and E/CN.6/L.167 was deferred, at the request of the respective sponsors, for consideration at a later date.

65. At its 190th meeting the Commission considered draft resolution E/CN.6/L.168 recommended by the Committee. The Commission voted separately on the third paragraph of the preamble of the resolution addressed to the Economic and Social Council, on the last phrase of operative paragraph 2, and on operative paragraph 2 as a whole; the two paragraphs in question were adopted in their entirety. The Commission then adopted the following resolution by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

*“The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*“Recalling its previous resolutions, reaffirmed and approved on many occasions by the Economic and Social Council on the granting to women of equal pay for work equal to that performed by men,*

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

*[For the text of the draft resolution, see annex 2, draft resolution C.]*

## CHAPTER V

### Status of women in private law

66. The Commission discussed item 5 of its agenda at its 185th, 186th, 187th and 188th meetings. It had before it two studies on family law, revised and extended by the Secretary-General since the Commission's eighth session, one dealing with domicile and residence of married women (E/CN.6/229/Rev.1), and the other concerning parental rights and duties (E/CN.6/230/Rev.1 and Corr.1). It also had before it an addendum (E/CN.6/185/Add.14) to a

previous report compiling information on various aspects of family law supplied by Governments in response to Part II of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women, and an addendum (E/CN.6/208/Add.2) to a previous report on property rights of women. The Commission also considered information dealing with the status of women in private law contained in the reports on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/255, E/CN.6/260, E/CN.6/260/Add.1 and Corr.1, and E/CN.6/260/Add.2).

67. In the general debate, the legal position of women in the family was stressed as important both to the family as an institution and to the achievement of other rights for women. It was also stated that equality within the family should be assured, since it was a prerequisite to the achievement of equal employment and political rights. Some representatives made the observation that great differences existed among various legal systems which reflected diverse religious, as well as economic and social, backgrounds. It was noted that in some countries various discriminatory features of women's legal status were based on applicable customs rather than on statutory law and were therefore more difficult to eradicate. Another situation was observed in countries where in fact husband and wife shared family rights and responsibilities but where some obsolete laws remained in force which discriminated against wives and mothers. Repeal of such laws would be logical, would remove remaining injustices, and would moreover entail no appreciable change in contemporary family life.

68. Most members considered it to be the Commission's duty to make positive and specific recommendations on particular aspects of private law. Many took the position that support of substantive recommendations by members of the Commission ought not to depend on the state of the laws in their respective countries; some members stated their support of recommendations which were not in conformity with their domestic law, considering that the Commission's purpose was to provide stimulus and direction to legislative improvements.

69. The Commission's recommendations on so diverse and complex a subject as family law should, many members felt, be based on comprehensive study. It was recalled that the Commission had adopted at its eighth session two substantive recommendations dealing with matrimonial property regimes and with the right of married women to work outside the home, and had tabled for future consideration two draft resolutions on the domicile and residence of married women and on parental rights and duties. This method of work was favoured because it afforded the Commission time to consider these latter proposals for action together with revised and more extensive documentation by the Secretariat.

70. Statements were made by the representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the International Federation of University Women, the Catholic International Union for Social Service, the International Council of Women and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

71. Specific consideration was directed to three draft resolutions: one concerning documentation and publication of studies, and two containing substantive recommendations on family law.

72. General support was expressed for the draft resolution submitted by Australia (E/CN.6/L.158) containing a request to the Secretary-General for annual reports bringing up to date information on women's property rights and their status in family law, and for the preparation and early publication of a book on the legal status of married women. The information contained in the documentation prepared by the Secretary-General would, it was felt, be of interest to the public as well as of great assistance to the Commission. The Chairman requested that the questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women should be circulated in Spanish to the Governments of the eighteen American Republics prior to the publication of the book.

73. After receiving a statement on the financial implications of the publication (E/CN.6/L.158/Add.1) in English, French and Spanish, the Commission, at its 186th meeting, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women*

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

*[For the text of the draft resolution, see annex 2, draft resolution D I.]*

74. At its 188th meeting the Commission agreed to the request of some members that the book on the legal status of married women should be published also in Russian after being informed of the additional estimated cost. It was also agreed—since the additional estimated cost was comparatively slight—to request 1,580 copies of the Spanish edition rather than 580, the figure contained in the first financial estimate.

75. In connexion with a draft resolution submitted by France, Lebanon and Yugoslavia (E/CN.6/L.157/Rev.1), the Commission considered discrimination against the mother in the matter of parental rights. Several members noted a recent legislative trend toward co-guardianship by parents and, in case of dissolution of marriage, the assignment of custody and guardianship rights in accordance with the child's best interests. Particularly deplored were laws by which the father's relatives rather than the mother succeeded to parental rights over the child after the father's death. It was also considered discriminatory that the surviving mother, under some laws, could remarry only at the cost of losing custody and guardianship of the children of her former marriage. Referring to some less-developed regions in Africa, one of the sponsors of the draft resolution stated that many women declined to enter into regular marriages in order to safeguard their right to custody of their children, since under the applicable customs the mother and maternal relatives had practically no rights respecting children born of legal marriages.

76. At its 187th meeting, the Commission adopted the following resolution by 15 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

*"The Commission on the Status of Women*

*"Noting the discrimination against women apparent in the report on parental rights and duties prepared by the Secretary-General,*

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

*[For the text of the draft resolution, see annex 2, draft resolution D II.]*

77. A draft resolution was submitted by France and Sweden (E/CN.6/L.159) dealing with the domicile of married women. It was pointed out that a married woman's incapacity to have a legal domicile different from her husband's constitutes a particular hardship in countries where domicile determines the jurisdiction of courts in matrimonial matters. It was also observed that in many countries the law of the domicile determines matters of personal status generally.

78. At its 186th meeting, the following resolution was adopted by 11 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Noting the discrimination against women apparent in the report on domicile and residence of married women prepared by the Secretary-General,*

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

*[For the text of the draft resolution, see annex 2, draft resolution D III.]*

## CHAPTER VI

### Nationality of married women

79. The Commission discussed item 6 of its agenda at its 189th, 190th, 191st, 193rd, 195th and 196th meetings. It had before it a report by the Secretary-General containing comments received from Governments on the draft convention on the nationality of married women (E/CN.6/259 and Add.1 to 3) and the revised edition of the publication *Nationality of Married Women* (E/CN.6/254) containing an analysis of legislation affecting nationality of married women, constitutional and legislative text for seventy-nine countries, and a table indicating the effect of marriage on the nationality of the wife in the countries surveyed.

80. The discussion centred about a draft convention containing both substantive and formal articles set forth in a draft resolution submitted by Cuba (E/CN.6/L.153 and Corr.1), to which amendments were submitted by Australia (E/CN.6/L.163 and E/CN.6/L.173), the United Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.164), the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.165), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.6/L.169) and the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (E/CN.6/L.170).

81. During the debate it was recalled that, on the Commission's recommendation, two draft conventions on the subject had been successively circulated to Governments for comments: the first, entitled "Draft convention on the nationality of married persons", was drafted at the Commission's seventh session; and the second, entitled "Draft convention on the nationality of married women", was drafted at the Commission's eighth session in the light of Governments' comments on the previous text. The text of the Cuban draft resolution was described by its sponsor as a revised version of the preceding draft; it was observed that Governments' comments on that draft were more numerous and more favourable than those received on the earliest draft convention on the nationality of married persons.

82. Most members agreed that the Commission should propose the adoption of a draft convention, although one

member considered it preferable to transmit a draft to the International Law Commission for consideration as part of the entire subject of nationality and statelessness. It was the general consensus that the nationality of married women posed a problem of some urgency which could well be dealt with separately from the whole field of nationality and statelessness, and many members recalled that the Commission had been informed that the International Law Commission would not be able to concern itself with that subject in the near future.

83. In connexion with the substantive articles of the draft convention proposed by Cuba, the Commission considered amendments submitted by Australia (E/CN.6/L.163) and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.165). The Australian amendment contained a substitute text for article 3 designed to make that article clearly acceptable to countries where specially privileged naturalization procedures were available to alien wives of nationals, but where no alien was considered to have an absolute right to acquire nationality. The representative of Cuba subsequently accepted the Australian amendment because it had appeared from the debate that its wording was favoured by the majority of the Commission's members.

84. The United States amendment (E/CN.6/L.165) called for changing the convention's title to "Draft convention on nationality of married persons", inserting before the first article of the Cuban draft an article providing that the contracting States would agree to "make no distinction based on sex either in its legislation or in its practice in regard to nationality"; and further, in each of the three substantive articles, for the deletion of reference to "husband", or "wife", substituting "spouse". Some representatives noted that the first draft convention on nationality circulated to Governments on the recommendation of the Commission had the same title and provisions similar to the text sought by the United States amendment. It was recalled that many Governments had not found it acceptable; for although their laws provided for no automatic loss or automatic acquisition of nationality by women on marriage, nonetheless they did make a distinction based on sex in according alien wives of nationals certain privileges relating to naturalization. It would be, in the opinion of many members, undesirable to insist that such privileges be withdrawn. Certain representatives, however, thought that such distinctions were not privileges but rather discriminations based on the assumption that the wife's nationality rather than the husband's was to be changed in cases of intermarriage. While agreeing with the principle of strict equality implicit in the United States amendments, some members opposed their adoption on the ground that they would render the draft convention unacceptable to a great number of States. Those holding this view considered it preferable to adopt the most widely acceptable text which would eliminate the main injustice with which the Commission was concerned, namely the automatic loss or automatic acquisition of nationality by married women. Limiting the title and substance of the convention to the nationality of married women, rather than dealing with the nationality of married persons generally, was further considered by several members to be more clearly consistent with the competence and purposes of the Commission.

85. With respect to the formal articles of the draft convention, amendments were submitted by the United

Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.164), the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.165), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.6/L.169), the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (E/CN.6/L.170) and Australia (E/CN.6/L.173).

86. The United Kingdom amendment provided for the insertion of a new article concerned with the application of the convention to non-metropolitan citizenship; this article was, in the view of its sponsor, essential in the light of the constitutional status of certain territories to which the convention could apply only after their separate consent was obtained. Certain members disapproved of the inclusion of this article on the ground that it was prejudicial to the peoples of Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

87. Some discussion was directed to the form of the "reservations" article in connexion with amendments to article 7 of the Cuban draft, which provided for reservations "to any article of this convention other than article(s)...". It was considered by one representative that the nature and purpose of the draft convention permitted reservations only to the third substantive article dealing with nationality measures more favourable to women than to men. A contrary position was taken by those members who considered that any limit on the reservations power was inconsistent with the sovereign power of States and who therefore supported the amendment submitted by the USSR (E/CN.6/L.169) to delete the words "other than article(s)...", from article 7 of the Cuban draft. A third formula was contained in an amendment proposed by the United States (E/CN.6/L.165) whereby the convention would not come into force as between a State making a reservation and a State objecting to that reservation. The representative of the United Kingdom reserved the right of her Government to propose a formula permitting reservations subject to acceptance by other States at a later stage.

88. With respect to article 9 of the Cuban draft providing for submission of disputes concerning the convention to the International Court of Justice, certain members opposed mandatory jurisdiction of the Court and supported the USSR amendment (E/CN.6/L.169) to make the consent of both parties a prerequisite to the Court's jurisdiction.

89. The Byelorussian SSR and Australia submitted amendments to article 4 of the Cuban draft concerning States to which the convention would be open for signature. The Byelorussian amendment (E/CN.6/L.170), by which the convention would be open to any State, Member or non-member of the United Nations, was favoured by certain representatives as properly non-restrictive. An amendment submitted by Australia (E/CN.6/L.173) put forward an article modelled on the one included in the draft convention on the recognition and enforcement of international arbitral awards which included States invited by the General Assembly in addition to those States Members of the United Nations, or of the specialized agencies, or parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice. The representative of Cuba made the oral suggestion to include the same text as in article 4 of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women.

90. In view of the complicated legal problems involved and in order to ensure consistency with other United

Nations conventions, the Commission considered it preferable to leave the decision on all the formal articles to a higher body and to take a decision only on the substantive articles of the convention. It was accordingly agreed to transmit to the Council, as an annex to the Commission's resolution, the texts of articles 4 through 11 contained in the Cuban draft, together with the various amendments proposed.

91. During the debate, statements were made by the representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the World Federation of United Nations Associations and the International Council of Women.

92. The Commission first voted on the United States amendment (E/CN.6/L.165) to add a new article to precede article 1 of the Cuban draft. This amendment was rejected by 8 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions. The United States amendment (E/CN.6/L.165) to article 1 of the Cuban draft was then rejected by 11 votes to 2, with 1 abstention. Article 1 of the Cuban draft was then adopted by a roll-call vote of 13 to 1, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:* Argentina, Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

*Against:* United States of America.

*Abstaining:* China, France, Indonesia.

93. The United States amendment (E/CN.6/L.165) to article 2 of the Cuban draft was rejected by 11 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions. Article 2 of the Cuban draft was adopted by a roll-call vote of 13 to 1, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:* Argentina, Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

*Against:* United States of America.

*Abstaining:* China, France, Indonesia.

94. The United States amendment to article 3 of the Cuban draft was withdrawn; the text of article 3 as contained in the Australian amendment (E/CN.6/L.163) and accepted by Cuba was then adopted by a roll-call vote of 15 to 1, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:* Argentina, Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Indonesia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

*Against:* United States of America.

*Abstaining:* France, Sweden.

95. The Commission then voted on the preamble to the draft convention, voting separately on the first paragraph, which was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention; the remaining paragraphs of the preamble were adopted unanimously.

96. The first part of the Cuban draft resolution, dealing with the Commission's action and preceding the draft resolution recommended to the Economic and Social Council, was then adopted by 15 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions. The

draft resolution recommended to the Council was amended, on the verbal proposal of Yugoslavia, to conform with the decision of the Commission to defer action on all formal articles, and was adopted by 15 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions.

97. At the Commission's 196th meeting, the following resolution was adopted as a whole by a roll-call vote of 15 to 1, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:* Argentina, Australia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Lebanon, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

*Against:* United States of America.

*Abstaining:* France, Indonesia.

*"The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*"Recalling the recommendations, which it made at its seventh and eighth sessions to the Economic and Social Council that the Council should request the Secretary-General to circulate to the Governments of Member States, for their comments, the text of the draft convention on nationality of married persons and the text of the draft convention on the nationality of married women,*

*"Noting resolutions 504 B (XVI) and 547 C (XVIII), by which the Economic and Social Council accepted those recommendations and requested the Secretary-General to circulate those draft conventions to the Governments,*

*"Having considered and noted the comments of the Governments on the texts of the draft conventions on the nationality of married persons and on the nationality of married women, and their suggestions for amendments to be made therein to render the conventions acceptable to as many States as possible,*

*"Decides to submit the text of a draft convention on the nationality of married women to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly for their approval in order that the convention may be opened for signature and ratification or accession by interested States,*

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

*[For the text of the draft resolution, see annex 2, draft resolution E, entitled "Draft convention on the nationality of married women", and annex.]*

## CHAPTER VII

### Economic opportunities for women

98. The Commission discussed item 7 of its agenda at its 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th and 201st meetings. The Commission had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on older women workers (E/CN.6/251) and on part-time work for women (E/CN.6/236) and a selected bibliography on part-time work for women prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/245); the Commission also had before it reports prepared by the International Labour Office on older women workers (E/CN.6/262 and Corr.1),

on part-time employment (E/CN.6/238 and E/CN.6/265), and on development of opportunities for women in handicrafts and cottage industries (E/CN.6/267).

99. The Commission heard the representative of the International Labour Organisation, who noted that developments in the field of part-time employment had been limited during the preceding year. She stated that the ILO would continue its studies of this question and would present its conclusions on part-time employment to the Commission when it was in a position to do so. She also noted that the ILO had presented a separate report on the development of opportunities for women in handicrafts and cottage industries (E/CN.6/267), and would also continue its studies of this question. She noted the value for the economies of less-industrialized countries of developing cottage industries, but stressed at the same time the necessity for correlating the development of such industries to the over-all development and trends of national economies. She noted, moreover, that the development of these industries entailed careful planning and organization so as to avoid the possibilities of exploitation with regard to wages, working conditions and child labour if such industries became industrial home work. In this connexion she referred to the important role that co-operative societies can play in precluding the development of conditions susceptible of exploitation.

100. With regard to the problem of older women workers, the representative of the ILO felt that studies of this question were not as yet sufficiently advanced to permit the drawing up of final conclusions at the international level. She referred to the complex nature of the problems; the fact that comparable national statistics were scarce and inadequate; and noted that the problems of older women workers were closely connected to the problems of older workers in general, to those relating to the employment of women, and to those of unemployment and programmes of full employment in various countries.

101. The representative of the ILO also noted the demographic trend towards increased life-expectancy, and the tendency for women to outlive men, and referred to the effects of these trends on the labour market, on national economies, and on the distribution of woman-power in the different groups of economic activities. She noted that employers faced higher costs with regard to social security schemes and pension and retirement plans when older women workers were employed, which accounted to a certain extent for their reluctance to employ older women. She also pointed out that the vocational training opportunities offered to women were quantitatively and qualitatively inferior to those open to men, and noted that, although the reasons for the prejudice against the aptitudes and capacity of older workers had been disproved, it was difficult to eradicate the prejudice itself. On the other hand, since women had fewer opportunities for promotion to higher positions, it was more difficult to transfer them to better positions involving less strenuous effort as they grew older. All these factors influenced the problem of the employment of older women workers.

102. The representative of the ILO emphasized the need for basic solutions to the problems of older women workers and the importance of relating such solutions to the economic situation and level of economic development of the countries, to training opportunities for women in

the various countries, and to the development of social security schemes; she welcomed the views of the Commission on this subject as a means of orienting the future work of the ILO.

103. Members participating in the debate reported on action taken in their own countries in connexion with the problems presented by the subjects under discussion. One member felt that the situation of older women workers and the question of part-time employment of women represented small but important aspects of the problems involved in economic opportunities for women, and she believed that since the Commission's study of part-time work was nearing completion, it would be useful to explore employment opportunities in fields where there was a need in many countries for more women workers. That member proposed that a preliminary report should be prepared by the Secretary-General for the next session of the Commission on the possibility of a survey of publications available on the occupational outlook for women in the fields of health and social welfare, including types of work, training requirements and opportunities, conditions of work, levels of pay and related methods, together with an indication of the specialized agencies and other organizations whose co-operation should be enlisted, as well as suggestions as to appropriate methods and procedures. A proposal to this effect (E/CN.6/L.186) was presented for consideration in connexion with item 15 of the agenda.

104. Some members felt that the question of economic opportunities for women was closely linked to the present general economic and social condition of workers in all countries. The basic problem in connexion with economic opportunities for women was assurance to women of the equal right to work; and the solution of other problems related to discrimination against women in the economic field depended on the assurance of this right through state action. Those members expressed the view that the problems involved in part-time employment and cottage industries were secondary and derived from the lack of guarantee of the right to work, and they felt that the economic situation of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories was less favourable and required particular attention. Other members stated, however, that women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories enjoyed rights similar to those in effect in other areas of the world.

105. Several members felt that, although working mothers had a heavy burden, there was no inherent reason why they could not adequately fulfil their maternal role, and that working mothers deserved the support of the Commission in carrying out their dual tasks.

106. In remarks directed to the subject of part-time employment, the view was expressed that part-time work presented a solution to women who were not ready to return full time to the labour force, but it was noted that there was reluctance to widening the scope of part-time work on the part of employers and employees. It was suggested that studies could be conducted to find suitable fields for the future extension of part-time work. One member noted that part-time work might involve inadequate training, and she stressed the distinction between part-time work and short-term employment. With regard to cottage industries, several members stressed the importance of such industries to the economies of less-

industrialized countries and their value in creating earning opportunities and in alleviating problems caused by seasonal agricultural labour; they also pointed out that such industries required relatively low capital investments, and that their encouragement served to maintain traditional skill. The advantages to women by the provision of opportunities to earn additional income and the consequent improvement of their status were emphasized, and it was also pointed out that women were not aware of their own opportunities in this field and that lack of adequate training and traditional attitudes constituted obstacles to economic emancipation.

107. Another member noted that the growth of co-operative societies could serve to counteract the possible dangers of industrial home-work with regard to exploitation and child labour.

108. Members of the Commission, speaking on the subject of older women workers, noted the difficulties involved in counteracting established prejudices against the hiring of older workers and particularly of older women employees, and noted that age limitations tended to be invoked earlier for women than for men. The importance of initial vocational training for young workers, of vocational guidance, and of retraining for older women returning to the labour market was emphasized by several members. One member stressed the important role of employment services in promoting full knowledge and effective use of job opportunities and the possibilities of economic aid to women undergoing retraining. It was emphasized that the value of re-employment and of the contribution older workers could make to national economies should be given full publicity, and that every effort should be made to eradicate the remaining prejudices of employers.

109. Several members noted that the trend to ageing populations and the added longevity of women increased the importance of older workers to national economies. Several members also noted that, in a number of social security and pension plans, the compulsory retirement age was lower for women than for men, and that this practice aggravated the difficulties of older women workers, who also had to contend with discrimination in regard to employment. The consensus of opinion was that the compulsory retirement age should be the same for men and women workers, and that the International Labour Organisation should pay particular attention to this question. In this connexion, several members noted trends in their countries to increased flexibility in pension plans including the right to carry over pension plans from one employment to another, and felt that Governments should set an example to industry by adapting maximum age-limits for positions and pension regulations to the needs of older workers.

110. The Commission heard statements by the representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the Nouvelles équipes internationales, and the Young Christian Workers.

111. The Commission had before it a draft resolution proposed by the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic (E/CN.6/L.179) and two draft resolutions proposed by Pakistan (E/CN.6/L.172 and E/CN.6/L.182 and Corr.1).

112. At its 200th meeting the Commission considered draft resolutions E/CN.6/L.172 and E/CN.6/L.182 and Corr.1 and adopted both of the following resolutions unanimously.

“(a) *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 annex 2, draft resolution F I.]

“(b) *The Commission on the Status of Women,*

“Noting that in many countries women do not yet participate fully in the national economy,

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

[For the text of the draft resolution, see annex 2, draft resolution F II.]

113. At its 200th and 201st meetings, the Commission considered draft resolution E/CN.6/L.179. At the 200th meeting, the representatives of France and the United States of America proposed verbal amendments. The sponsor of the resolution accepted an amendment to the preamble of the draft resolution recommended to the Economic and Social Council; the other verbal amendments were withdrawn by their sponsors on the understanding that the import of their amendments was included in draft resolution E/CN.6/L.179.

114. At its 201st meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by 12 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

“*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 annex 2, draft resolution F III.]

## CHAPTER VIII

### Educational opportunities for women

115. The Commission took up item 8 of its agenda at its 190th, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th and 198th meetings. In this connexion it had before it: (a) a progress report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) dealing with opportunities for women for secondary education (E/CN.6/266); (b) a report presented by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on access of women to apprenticeship (E/CN.6/264) and (c) relevant portions of the report by the Secretary-General on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/260 and Add. 1 and 2, and E/CN.6/255). The Commission decided, on the suggestion of its Chairman, to take up as sub-item (a) the report by UNESCO and the report dealing with Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, leaving the report by the ILO for separate consideration as sub-item (b).

*Sub-item (a): Access of women to education*

116. The Commission began its consideration of the sub-item by hearing a statement by the representative of

UNESCO reviewing the contents of that agency's report which this year was devoted exclusively to access of women to secondary education and to a summary of UNESCO activities in 1954 of particular interest to women; she informed the Commission that, in accordance with UNESCO's plan of work, the report presented to the next session would deal with higher education for women, and a joint UNESCO-ILO report on vocational education would also be submitted.

117. Several members expressed appreciation of the report. Some criticism was made, however, particularly with respect to the statistical material presented, which some members considered inadequate in failing to give comparative figures on total school populations and on total population of school-age to which the percentage of girl students could be related, and also in not covering a sufficient number of countries to allow comparisons and generalization even on a regional basis. Certain members deplored the lack of comparative figures as between the European and indigenous school populations in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Commenting on these observations, the UNESCO representative reminded the Commission that available statistical data on education were generally incomplete and not readily comparable as between countries; she stated that more complete reports by UNESCO depended on action by member States in improving their statistical data and in transmitting annual reports to UNESCO. She stressed the high priority attached to education for women in UNESCO programmes of aid to member States.

118. In the course of the general discussion, some members emphasized the fight against illiteracy and the necessity for free and compulsory education. Possibilities opened to women for skilled work, job promotions and higher education were considered important incentives to girls to complete their secondary education. The advantage of co-education in ensuring substantially equal curricula for girls and boys was mentioned by some members, as was the need to avoid limiting women's education exclusively to such fields as were, by tradition, deemed peculiarly suitable for them.

119. Several members noted progress in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, while others considered the situation in those areas far from satisfactory. In discussing the language of instruction used in the schools in these areas, one member pointed out that, at the secondary level, it was necessary to teach in the language which had come to be the official language, the local vernacular usually being taken up as one of the modern language subjects; she considered that it might be preferable even at the primary level to teach in the language which was in official use rather than in the indigenous language. Others, however, felt that illiteracy could more easily be eradicated if children were taught in the language most familiar to them, and stressed that school instruction must always be given in the native tongue.

120. In the course of the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, the Catholic International Union for Social Service, the International Federation of University Women, and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

121. During the debate a draft resolution was submitted by Pakistan (E/CN.6/L.171) to which an amendment was submitted by Venezuela (E/CN.6/L.176). The Pakistan draft resolution was concerned with educational opportunities for women in areas of low economy and, *inter alia*, called for an Economic and Social Council request to UNESCO to give special attention to increasing such opportunities when making allocations for technical assistance. The Venezuelan amendment proposed an additional operative paragraph suggesting periodic reports by UNESCO on the percentages of girls and boys in the school population, opportunities for promotion of women teachers, desirable changes in school curricula, provisions made for vocational guidance, opportunity for training in social work and efforts to extend the period of school attendance for girls. Another draft resolution was submitted by Haiti (E/CN.6/L.174) by which the Council would suggest to that specialized agency the establishment of cultural centres in the under-developed countries "in preference to the method of selecting isolated units of population". The sponsor of this draft resolution explained that she considered that such centres would be more useful since they would be accessible to larger communities.

122. The Committee on Resolutions, to which these three drafts were referred, presented to the Commission a single consolidated text (E/CN.6/L.177) which was acceptable to the sponsors; an amendment to the consideration of this draft was submitted by Poland (E/CN.6/L.180) in which it was stressed that the Economic and Social Council had recommended that Governments take legislative and other measures to improve the position with regard to the education of women and that, side by side with the measures to be taken by Governments, greater use should be made of the resources available to UNESCO in this field.

123. The representative of Australia moved that the Commission's consideration of the text of the draft resolution should be deferred until the next session in view of the fact that the Commission had already adopted several resolutions requiring the action of the Economic and Social Council. She had particular misgivings about the criticism of UNESCO contained in the third consideration, to the effect that the results obtained by UNESCO were not proportionate to the resources employed and that methods should be improved or replaced; this conclusion, in her opinion, was debatable and would necessitate lengthy consideration by the Council and should be voted on by the Commission only after serious study. The representative of UNESCO stated that the programme of UNESCO was approved by the General Conference formed by the seventy-two member States and requested an explanation of the grounds for the criticism. The Chairman noted, after reading to the members the provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the Economic and Social Council, that she had often reminded the Commission of criticism levelled at the large number of resolutions contained in its report to the Council at previous sessions.

124. The motion of Australia was strongly opposed by several members, among them the sponsors of the original draft resolutions, who stated that the Commission had the duty to adopt a resolution on such an important subject and considered it inappropriate that the Commission's action should be paralysed because of the agenda of the

Economic and Social Council. One representative indicated her support of immediate consideration of the draft resolution after having been informed that no formal request had been directed by the Council to the Commission on the subject of its report; certain others recalled that the Council had given serious and favourable consideration to previous reports of the Commission. It was agreed, on the Chairman's suggestion, that action on the Australian motion would be deferred until after the discussion of the draft resolution and the amendments proposed to it. Subsequently, the representative of Australia withdrew her motion after the representative of Haiti orally proposed an amendment to her part of the text. The representative of Venezuela, who had originally proposed the last paragraph of the draft resolution, agreed to its deletion.

125. A revision of the draft resolution adopted by the Committee on Resolutions was submitted by Haiti (E/CN.6/L.177/Rev.1) and discussed by the Commission. The representative of UNESCO considered that the first two operative paragraphs of this version were at variance with technical assistance procedures as well as with the practices of UNESCO; assistance from UNESCO depended upon the requests of member States within its approved programme and budget. The representative of Sweden proposed an oral amendment to operative paragraph 2 of the revised draft which would invite Governments—rather than request UNESCO—to give due attention to providing increased educational opportunities for women in connexion with technical assistance programmes; she also suggested the deletion of the first operative paragraph. On the request of the Chairman, the representative of the Executive Office of the Technical Assistance Board (TAB) answered questions relative to the second operative paragraph of the draft resolution. He explained that assistance was included in the programme recommended by TAB and approved by the Technical Assistance Committee only if requested by Governments and after consideration of the relative priority assigned by Governments to their particular requests; he felt that operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution under discussion with the proposed Swedish amendment would be consistent with technical assistance procedures. The Swedish oral amendment to operative paragraph 2 was revised by its sponsor and accepted by the representatives of Haiti and Pakistan, who, however, refused to accept the deletion of operative paragraph 1. The Polish amendments to the preamble of the draft resolution were also accepted.

126. The draft resolution was then put to the vote. Separate votes, as requested by the representative of the United States, were taken on the last considerandum and on each operative paragraph.

127. The final considerandum was adopted by 13 votes to 3, with 1 abstention. The remaining paragraphs of the preamble were adopted by 16 votes to none, with 1 abstention. The first operative paragraph was adopted by 12 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions; the second operative paragraph was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 1 abstention; the third operative paragraph was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 1 abstention. At its 198th meeting, the Commission adopted, by 14 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, the following resolution:

*"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 annex 2, draft resolution G.]*

*Sub-item (b): Access of women to apprenticeship*

128. In the course of the general discussion on educational opportunities, some members noted that access to apprenticeship, as one means of vocational training, was closely related to economic opportunities for women. One member stated that women who failed to acquire technical training when available were themselves restricting their employment opportunities. Inadequate provision for vocational training of women was cited as one of several economic discriminations to which women were subject in some countries.

129. The representative of the International Labour Organisation stated that the report (E/CN.6/264) presented to the Commission by her organization dealt with the whole question of the position of women and girls in regard to apprenticeship, since the Governing Body had not thought it advisable to confine the study to restrictions preventing women from becoming apprentices in certain trades. The report was not exhaustive nor could any definitive conclusions be drawn from its findings since the scientific appraisal of the relative position of men and women respecting apprenticeship was not separable from a study of other training facilities. The tendency in many countries to combine apprenticeship with other vocational training schemes had led the ILO and UNESCO to plan a joint study for presentation to the Commission at its tenth session, and accordingly a more thorough consideration of the question could be undertaken next year.

130. She noted that, although no definitive conclusions could be drawn, there were certain factors which tended to keep women in a secondary role in economic life. Though, in general, legislation did not establish discrimination as to the access of women to apprenticeship, the opportunities for vocational training for women were restricted in practice by administrative regulations and other factors. Moreover, the opportunities for apprenticeship for women were qualitatively and quantitatively inferior to those offered to men. On the other hand, the structure of the labour market and the conditions of the economy in the countries strongly influenced the position of women in regard to apprenticeship.

131. Statements on the subject were made by the representatives of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the World Young Women's Christian Association.

## CHAPTER IX

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

132. The Commission discussed item 9 of its agenda at its 200th meeting; it had before it a progress report by the Secretary-General on technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women (E/CN.6/189/Add.3).

133. During the debate, several members reported on the contributions made by their Governments to assist the

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

138. The Commission had before it the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/269), and at its 195th meeting heard a statement by a representative of that Commission. The Commission took note of the report and expressed its appreciation of the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

## CHAPTER XII

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

139. The Commission discussed item 12 of its agenda at its 195th and 196th meetings.

140. At its 195th meeting, the Commission heard a statement by the Secretary-General. Before introducing the Secretary-General, the Chairman drew attention to the fact that, while the participation by women in the work of the ninth session of the General Assembly had been outstanding, paradoxically no woman had been appointed to a position of responsibility in the course of the reorganization of the Secretariat.

141. The Secretary-General noted that the question of the participation of women in the work of the United Nations was of great concern to him. He reiterated the assurance which he had given at the eighth session of the Commission that under his administration there was and would be no discrimination on the ground of sex, and he stated that this was a matter both of principle as embodied in the Charter and of sound administrative practice. He also noted that, although recent appointments to policy-making positions in the Secretariat appeared to be numerous, in reality the total number of posts had been reduced and that the recent appointments were in the main reassignments of staff made under the reorganization of the Secretariat.

142. The Secretary-General stated that the few cases of recent recruitment to senior positions involved specialized qualifications and that the principle of geographic distribution had also to be taken into consideration. He further stated that the Secretariat recruited new staff most heavily from national administrations, and he thought that the success of the Commission in ensuring that women would be given increased responsibilities in their national administrations would be reflected in the appointment of more women to senior posts in the Secretariat as a natural sequence of events.

143. During the discussion on this agenda item, members of the Commission participating in the debate expressed their appreciation for the assurances given by the Secretary-General, and hoped that, in accordance with the principle embodied in Article 8 of the Charter, more women would be appointed to responsible positions in the Secretariat.

144. One member noted that non-promotion of women had had effects both by reducing the incentive of women to attain higher educational qualifications and by discouraging young women from striving to improve the quality of their work.

technical assistance programmes and on the use made of the assistance provided under these programmes. The possibilities of using aid available to Governments under these programmes for promoting and safeguarding the rights of women were emphasized in relation to women's role in the home, the community and in the life of their country. It was also noted that technical assistance programmes sponsored by Governments and by non-governmental organizations presented additional possibilities for work in this field, and in this connexion it was pointed out that the non-governmental organizations could make a valuable contribution by creating an improved public opinion on the possibilities of assistance under General Assembly resolution 729 (VIII).

134. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for acceding to the first request received for technical assistance under General Assembly resolution 729 (VIII). The representative of Pakistan noted that her country had been the first to avail itself of such assistance, and reported on the results already apparent as a result of the preliminary survey conducted in 1954 with a view to the establishment of procedures for increased and effective participation in the social and political life of her country. She stated that it was hoped to hold a seminar in her country later in 1955 in furtherance of this aim. She urged members of the Commission to approach their Governments, and other Governments where opportunity offered, to make full use of the assistance made possible by General Assembly resolution 729 (VIII) promoting and safeguarding the rights of women. Another representative suggested that descriptive material should be made available on projects through which women could benefit, including projects concerning home economics, nutrition, health, education, vocational training and community development, as well as on revision of laws affecting women or other matters relating to their status. It was further pointed out that studies prepared for the Commission and for other United Nations bodies had direct bearing on women's needs, and that such documentation could profitably be used in technical assistance projects. A proposal incorporating these two latter suggestions (E/CN.6/L.187) was submitted in connexion with item 15 of the agenda.

135. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue to present annual progress reports on technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women.

## CHAPTER X

**Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to the seventh session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities**

136. At the Commission's 200th meeting, the Chairman, who had been the Commission's representative to the seventh session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, introduced her report (E/CN.6/270) on her attendance at that session.

137. The Commission took note of the report, and expressed appreciation for the able manner in which the Chairman had represented the Commission.

145. Other members felt that, although the United Nations must of necessity recruit very largely from national administrations for senior posts, it was also important for the United Nations to set an example to national administrations by promoting women and appointing women to senior positions in the Secretariat. Several members noted the importance of public opinion and of the work of non-governmental organizations in drawing the attention of their respective memberships to the expanding opportunities for women to participate in international service and to the need for women to present themselves for such positions.

146. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of the International Federation of University Women.

147. The Commission had before it a draft resolution proposed by Argentina (E/CN.6/L.178).

148. At the 196th meeting, the representatives of Australia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Venezuela proposed verbal amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.178 which were all accepted by the sponsor of the draft resolution.

149. The Commission then unanimously adopted the following resolution:

*“The Commission on the Status of Women,*

*“Recalling that Article 8 of the Charter provided that ‘The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs’,*

*“Recognizing the significant role that women are playing in the world today, and the rapidly increasing numbers of women qualified for international service,*

*“Confident that the Secretary-General will take into consideration the larger and ever-increasing number of women available for the service of the United Nations in senior or policy-making positions in its Secretariat,*

*“Suggests that in seeking recommendations from Governments attention be called to the principle of the United Nations as to the eligibility of both men and women for such positions.”*

### CHAPTER XIII

#### **Representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Social Commission**

150. The Commission considered item 13 of its agenda at its 200th and 201st meetings. The Commission had before it a draft resolution presented by Sweden (E/CN.6/L.181/Rev.1) and the financial estimates prepared by the Secretary-General relating to this draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.181/Add.1).

151. The sponsor of the draft resolution referred to the past arrangements of representation at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 48 (IV), when the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants on human rights were being drafted, and expressed the opinion that there were still several items of interest to the Commission on the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights and also on the agenda of the Social Commission. Such representation would be of value both to the Commission and to the United Nations as a whole, since it would facilitate the exchange of information between the various commissions and also serve to prevent duplication of work. This view was supported by several representatives. Other representatives expressed doubt that the benefits to be derived from such representation would justify the expenditures as set out in the financial estimates. They also felt that the Economic and Social Council could be relied upon to co-ordinate the activities of its functional commissions and that sufficient information concerning the various commissions' activities might be derived from an exchange of documentation.

152. The representative of Sweden, when introducing her draft resolution, referred to the unexpectedly high costs revealed in the estimates. These obviously reflected the highest possible expenditure for budget purposes. As, however, it had been the practice to appoint as representative a member of the Commission residing at or near the place of meeting, she requested that the actual cost of such representation be supplied for the information of the members. At its 201st meeting the Commission heard a statement by a representative of the Executive Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which showed that the actual total cost of representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at five sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Discrimination and Protection of Minorities extending over three years had amounted to \$600.

153. At its 201st meeting, the Commission voted paragraph by paragraph on draft resolution E/CN.6/L.181/Rev.1. The first operative paragraph was adopted by 11 votes to none, with 6 abstentions. The second operative paragraph was adopted by 11 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions. The draft resolution as a whole was adopted by 11 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions. It reads as follows:

*“The Commission on the Status of Women*

*“Requests that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution<sup>1</sup>:*

*“The Economic and Social Council*

*“1. Requests the Social Commission to invite the Commission on the Status of Women to send a representative to participate without vote in its deliberations when questions of direct concern to the Commission on the Status of Women are on the agenda;*

*“2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to invite the Commission on the Status of Women to send a representative to participate without vote in its deliberations, when questions of direct concern to the Commission on the Status of Women are on the agenda’.”*

<sup>1</sup> This draft resolution was subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 845th meeting, on 6 April 1955, as resolution 566 (XIX).

## CHAPTER XIV

### Communications concerning the status of women

154. In accordance with resolution 76 (V) of the Economic and Social Council as amended by resolution 304 (XI), the communications concerning the status of women had been summarized by the Secretary-General and included, according to their content, in a non-confidential list (E/CN.6/CR.8) and in a confidential list (SW/Communications List No. 5). The Commission also had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/258).

155. The non-confidential list was reviewed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Communications, and the report of the Committee (E/CN.6/L.183) was unanimously approved by the Commission at its 199th meeting.

156. The confidential list was distributed to the members of the Commission and was taken note of by them in a closed meeting.

## CHAPTER XV

### Action taken upon decisions reached at the eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, review of programme of work and establishment of priorities

157. The Commission discussed item 15 of its agenda at its 201st and 202nd meetings. It had before it a report by the Secretary-General on the action taken upon decisions reached by the Commission on the Status of Women at its eighth session (E/CN.6/261). It also had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General on the review of programme of work and establishment of priorities (E/CN.6/268) and a working paper on the same subject (E/CN.6/L.185) prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with resolutions 324 (XI), 402 B (XIII) and 451 A (XIV) of the Economic and Social Council. Two proposals were submitted by the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.186 and E/CN.6/L.187) in regard to the programme of work.

158. The Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on action taken upon decisions reached at the eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

159. The Commission reviewed its programme of work in the light of the above-mentioned resolutions of the Council.

160. The representative of Poland, supported by some members, made a formal proposal to add to the programme an item entitled "Protection of the mother and child", with a view to its inclusion in the agenda for the tenth session.

161. In this connexion the Commission heard a statement by the representative of the Secretary-General, who called the attention of the Commission to resolution 547 M (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council and the debates which preceded its adoption, as well as a statement by the Director of the Bureau of Social Affairs on the agenda of the forthcoming session of the Social Commission. During the debate on the proposal of Poland, some members felt that the problem was of particular concern

to the Commission on the Status of Women and that, inasmuch as the Social Commission was going to study the question at its forthcoming session, it would be appropriate for the Commission on the Status of Women to discuss it at its tenth session, as by that time the results of the study by the Social Commission would be known. Several members felt, however, that the matter was the primary concern of the Social Commission and that, in view of resolution 547 M (XVIII) of the Economic and Social Council, it would be premature and inappropriate to include it in the agenda of the tenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

162. Some members also felt that representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at sessions of the Social Commission would ensure that the point of view of this body on this important question would be brought to the attention of the members of the Social Commission.

163. The proposal of Poland was rejected by 8 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions.

164. The proposal of the United States of America concerning economic opportunities for women (E/CN.6/L.186), as verbally amended by its sponsor, was unanimously adopted, as was also its proposal concerning technical assistance (E/CN.6/L.187).

165. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the item on economic opportunities for women should be moved from the category of *ad hoc* projects of high priority to that of continuing projects of high priority in view of its importance, and that for the same reason, the item on access of women to education should be placed higher on the list of continuing projects of high priority. In connexion with the first proposal, the representative of the International Labour Organisation stated that the International Labour Office would prepare for the next session of the Commission reports on the implementation of the Convention on Equal Pay, on part-time work for women, on older women workers, on cottage industries and handicrafts and a joint report with UNESCO on vocational and technical training.

166. The proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the access of women to education was accepted without vote. Her proposal concerning economic opportunities for women was rejected by 7 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.

167. The programme of future work as adopted unanimously by the Commission reads as follows:

#### I. Continuing projects of high priority

(1) Political rights of women: (a) Memorandum on the franchise of women for the tenth session of the General Assembly; (b) Requests to non-governmental organizations for information, techniques and activities directed towards the extension to women and the exercise by them of political rights and preparation of a report based on this information; (c) Report on the status of women in Trust Territories; (d) Report on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(2) Nationality of married women: collection of information on recent changes in legislation concerning nationality of married women.

- (3) Progress report on access of women to education.
- (4) Equal pay for equal work: progress report on implementation by Governments of the principle of equal pay for equal work, including signatures and ratification of the ILO Convention on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value.
- (5) Private law: annual reports on legislation and practices in family law and property rights of women.
- (6) Progress report on technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women.
- (7) Bi-annual Newsletter on the status of women.

## II. Ad hoc projects of high priority

- (1) Political rights of women: preparation and publication of a pamphlet on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women.
- (2) Private law: preparation and publication of a book on the legal status of married women.
- (3) Economic opportunities for women: (a) Preliminary memorandum on the desirability of undertaking a survey of publications already available on the occupational outlook for women in the fields of health, of social welfare, as well as in the professions recently opened to women, such as engineering and architecture, together with an indication of appropriate methods and procedures for such a survey and of the specialized and other agencies whose co-operation should be invited; (b) ILO report on part-time work for women; (c) ILO report on older women workers; (d) ILO report on cottage industries and handicrafts; (e) joint UNESCO and ILO report on vocational and technical training.
- (4) Equal pay for equal work: requests to non-governmental organizations for information on methods for implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work and on the present status of its application in various countries, and preparation of a report based on this information.

- (5) Technical assistance programmes in relation to the status of women: (a) Summary of selected technical assistance projects which have directly or indirectly resulted in the improvement of the status of women; (b) Selected list of materials directed to the improvement of the status of women for the use of technical assistance experts.

## CHAPTER XVI

### Consideration of the place of meeting of the next session

168. The Commission considered the place of meeting of its next session at its 201st meeting.

169. The attention of the Commission was drawn to General Assembly resolution 790 (VIII) requesting organs of the United Nations to adhere to the pattern of conferences established for 1954 to 1957.

170. It was noted that at its two previous sessions, the Commission had recommended that it should meet in Geneva, and it was hoped that this could be arranged for 1956.

171. The Commission had before it a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.184) proposed by Australia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Yugoslavia. This draft resolution was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 2 abstentions, and reads as follows:

*"The Commission on the Status of Women*

*Recommends to the Economic and Social Council to decide that the Commission on the Status of Women meet in 1956 in Geneva."*

## CHAPTER XVII

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

172. At its 203rd meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the report of its ninth session to the Economic and Social Council.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX I

#### Summary of financial implications of resolutions concerning the status of women in private law and the representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Social Commission

1. In the course of its ninth session, the Commission took note of statements of financial implications made by the Secretary-General in respect of those proposals the implementation of which would entail additional budgetary provision. A summary of these statements relating to the proposals as adopted by the Commission is given below:

#### *Status of women in private law* (See paragraph 73 above)

2. In order to permit the proposed printing in 1956 of the publication on the legal status of married women, a supplementary estimate will have to be submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth session for approval. The estimated cost of printing is about \$1,750 for the English, French and Spanish editions, taking into account normal free distribution as well as sales; this cost is expected to be partially offset by sales income. The cost of the publication in Russian is \$700 and the cost of 1,000 additional copies in Spanish is \$80.

*Representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Social Commission*

(See paragraph 153 above) <sup>2</sup>

3. The provision which might be required for travel and subsistence for each representative is estimated as follows:

- (a) Session of the Social Commission: \$1,175;
- (b) Session of the Commission on Human Rights: \$1,500.

Note has been taken, however, that representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at the Commission on Human Rights and at the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities over five sessions during the past three years has cost approximately \$600. This was due to the Commission's practice of appointing a representative already at or near the place of meeting.

ANNEX 2

**Draft resolutions for the Economic and Social Council** <sup>3</sup>

A

*The Economic and Social Council*

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

B

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting the report of the Secretary-General on political rights of women (A/2692), which this year appears as a complete document,*

*Believing that this annual report is of great value as a source of information on the constitutional provisions and laws in effect and also on the historical development of woman suffrage,*

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in this report all the States which are Members of the United Nations and/or the specialized agencies and/or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice;

2. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include in an annex to this report pertinent information available to him on States non-members of the aforementioned organizations or not parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice;

3. *Requests* also that in presenting information on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women in Table IX, the Secretary-General include information on reservations and objections to reservations to this Convention.

<sup>2</sup> The draft resolution to which the estimates relate was adopted by the Economic and Social Council, at its 845th meeting on 6 April 1955, as resolution 566 (IX).

<sup>3</sup> The draft resolution recommended by the Commission which provides for representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Social Commission was adopted by the Economic and Social Council as resolution 566 (IX).

C

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* article 23, paragraph 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which, referring to all men and women workers, states that "Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work",

*Observing* that adoption by Governments of the principle of equal pay requires practical implementation to give this principle full meaning and effect,

*Noting* that methods appropriate for implementing the equal pay principle are described in the ILO Convention and Recommendation on Equal Remuneration for Work of Equal Value,

1. *Urges* Governments of all States, whether or not they are Members of the United Nations, to take legislative or other measures for the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women;

2. *Recommends* that Governments, in making plans for technical assistance, include in such plans projects for utilization of technical advisory services designed to develop appropriate methods, where such methods do not now exist, for giving practical effect to the principle of equal pay, and that high priority be given to such projects;

3. *Encourages* the non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts to create an informed public opinion in favour of the principle of equal pay.

D

STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

I. *Legal status of married women*

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the reports on the status of women in family law and property rights prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of information supplied by Governments as well as on other authoritative sources,

*Believing* that these reports should be annually brought up to date for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women,

*Believing also* that the valuable information collected by the Secretary-General should be made available to the public in the form of a printed publication containing a comparative analysis of the various aspects of the problem of the legal status of married women,

*Requests* the Secretary-General to bring up to date in annual reports for submission to the Commission information on legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and to property rights, and to prepare and arrange for the publication at an early date of a book on the legal status of married women.

II. *Parental rights and duties*

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* that in the legal system of some countries parental authority belongs exclusively to the father; that, in many others, it is exercised primarily by the father, whose decision prevails in case of disagreement of the parents; that in some countries, upon the death or removal from

authority of the father, parental authority does not pass to the mother as a matter of right or is withdrawn from her in the event of her remarriage; that in some countries on the dissolution of the marriage the father receives the custody of the children as a matter of right regardless of the apportionment of blame between the spouses,

*Noting* that in some countries this situation prompts women to refuse the regularization of their union in order to safeguard their claims and those of their families to children born of the union,

*Believing* that the sharing by the parents of rights and duties with respect to their children is of benefit not only to the status of women but also to the children and to the family as an institution,

*Believing also* that such limitation of the authority of the mother is incompatible with the principle of equality of the spouses during marriage and at its dissolution as well as with the right of both parents to choose the kind of education to be given to their children, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Recommends* that Member States take all necessary measures to ensure equality as between parents in the exercise of rights and duties with respect to their children.

### III. Domicile of married women

#### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* that in the legal systems of many countries the domicile of the wife follows that of her husband; that in these countries the wife, upon marriage, loses her original domicile and acquires the domicile of her husband which she retains until the dissolution of the marriage, even if residing separately,

*Believing* that such legal systems are incompatible with the principle of equality of spouses during marriage proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and *noting* that their application results in particular hardships for married women in countries where domicile determines the jurisdiction of courts in matrimonial matters and where the law of the place of domicile governs the personal status of the individual,

*Recommends* that Governments take all necessary measures to ensure the right of a married woman to an independent domicile.

#### E

#### DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

#### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the recommendation made by the Commission on the Status of Women at its ninth session that a convention on the nationality of married women be opened for signature and ratification or accession by States,

*Considering* that the time is appropriate to conclude, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international convention on the nationality of married women designed to eliminate conflicts in law arising out of provisions regarding the loss or acquisition of nationality by women as a result of marriage, of its dissolution or of the change of nationality by the husband during marriage,

*Recommends* to the General Assembly that an international convention on the nationality of married women, containing the following preamble and substantive articles, be adopted:

#### DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN<sup>4</sup>

#### *The Contracting States,*

*Recognizing* that conflicts in law and in practice with reference to nationality arise as a result of provisions concerning the loss or acquisition of nationality by women as a result of marriage, of its dissolution or of the change of nationality by the husband during marriage,

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

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

*Hereby agree* as hereinafter provided:

#### *Article 1*

The Contracting States agree that neither the celebration nor the dissolution of a marriage between one of its nationals and an alien, nor the change of nationality by the husband during marriage, shall automatically affect the nationality of the wife.

#### *Article 2*

The Contracting States agree that neither the voluntary acquisition of the nationality of another State nor the renunciation of its nationality by one of its nationals shall prevent the retention of its nationality by the wife of such national.

#### *Article 3*

1. The Contracting States agree that the alien wife of one of its nationals may, at her request, acquire the nationality of her husband through specially privileged naturalization procedures, subject however to such limitations as may be imposed in the interests of national security and public policy.

2. The Contracting States agree that this convention shall not be construed as affecting any legislation or judicial practice by which the alien wife of one of its nationals may, at her request, acquire her husband's nationality as a matter of right.

#### Annex. FINAL ARTICLES CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY CUBA (E/CN.6/L.153 AND CORR.1), AND AMENDMENTS THERETO

#### *Article 4*

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by any State Member of the United Nations and by any State not a member of the United Nations which is or may in the future be a member of one or more of the specialized agencies of the United Nations or which is or becomes a party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

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

#### *Article 5*

1. This Convention shall be open for accession to all States referred to in paragraph 1 of article 4.

<sup>4</sup> The Commission on the Status of Women adopted the preamble and articles 1 to 3 of the draft convention (paras. 92 to 95) and decided to refer articles 4 to 11, together with the amendments thereto, to the Economic and Social Council (para. 90).

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

#### Article 6

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

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

#### Article 7

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

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

#### Article 8

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

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

#### Article 9

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

#### Article 10

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall notify all Members of the United Nations and the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article 4 of this Convention of the following:

(a) Signature and instruments of ratification received in accordance with article 4;

(b) Instruments of accession received in accordance with article 5;

(c) The date upon which this Convention enters into force in accordance with article 6;

(d) Communications and notifications received in accordance with article 7;

(e) Notifications of denunciation received in accordance with article 8;

(f) Abrogation in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 8.

#### Article 11

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

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy to all Members of the United Nations and to the non-member States contemplated in paragraph 1 of article 4.

*United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendment to the draft resolution submitted by Cuba (E/CN.6/L.153 and Corr.1)*

After article 6 insert new article:

"The present Convention shall apply in relation to the national status which is possessed by reason of connexion with the metropolitan territory of a Contracting State or with any territory which

is treated as one with the metropolitan territory for the purpose of nationality. Any Contracting State may at the time of its ratification or accession or thereafter declare by notification addressed to the Secretary-General that the Convention shall apply in relation to any other national status which is possessed by reason of connexion with any other territory, named in the declaration, for the international relations of which that State is responsible."

This is in substitution for the article presented at the eighth session (E/CN.6/L.119) and reproduced in E/2571.

*United States of America: amendment to the draft resolution submitted by Cuba (E/CN.6/L.153 and Corr.1)*

Article 7: delete and replace by:

"In the event that any State submits a reservation to any of the articles of this Convention at the time of signature, ratification or accession, the Secretary-General shall communicate the text of the reservation to all States which are or may become parties to this Convention. Any State which objects to the reservation may, within a period of ninety days from the date of the said communication (or upon the date of its becoming a party to the Convention), notify the Secretary-General that it does not accept it. In such case, the Convention shall not enter into force as between such State and the State making the reservation."

*Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: amendments to the draft resolution submitted by Cuba (E/CN.6/L.153 and Corr.1)*

1. In article 7, paragraph 1, of the draft convention delete the words: "other than article(s)..."

2. In article 9, replace the words "at the request of any one" by the words "with the consent".

*Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic: amendments to the draft resolution submitted by Cuba (E/CN.6/L.153 and Corr.1)*

1. Amend as follows article 4, paragraph 1, of the draft convention on the nationality of married women (E/CN.6/L.153):

#### "Article 4

"1. This Convention shall be open for signature by any State Member of the United Nations and also by any other State."

2. Amend accordingly, as follows, the last paragraph of the draft resolution, which relates to the parties to the convention:

"*Recommends* to the General Assembly that an international convention on the nationality of married women, containing the following preamble and articles, be opened for signature and ratification or accession by States Members of the United Nations and by non-member States."

*Australia: amendments to the draft resolution submitted by Cuba (E/CN.6/L.153 and Corr.1)*

Amend article 4, paragraph 1, of the draft convention on the nationality of married women as follows:

#### "Article 4

"1. This Convention shall be open for signature and ratification on behalf of any Member of the United Nations and also on behalf of any other State which is or hereafter becomes a member of any specialized agency of the United Nations, or which is or hereafter becomes a Party to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, or any other State to which an invitation has been addressed by the General Assembly of the United Nations."

2. Amend accordingly the last paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution which concerns parties to the Convention as follows:

"*Recommends* to the General Assembly that an international convention on the nationality of married women containing the following preamble and articles be opened for signature and ratification or accession by States Members of the United Nations

and by non-member States which are or may in the future become members of one or more of the specialized agencies, or which are or may become Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, or any other State to which an invitation may be addressed by the General Assembly."

## F

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

#### I. *Opportunities for women in handicraft and cottage industries*

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Noting* the economic dependence of women upon handicraft and cottage industries in countries with a seasonal agricultural economy,

*Noting* with appreciation the valuable information contained in the report prepared by the International Labour Organisation (E/CN.6/267) on the development of opportunities for women in handicraft and cottage industries,

1. *Recommends* that Governments of Member States make extensive use of this report when plans for development of handicraft and cottage industries are contemplated or when such projects are included in their plans for technical assistance;

2. *Requests* the International Labour Organisation to continue its studies in this field and to keep the Commission on the Status of Women informed of the progress achieved;

3. *Transmits* this resolution to the Trusteeship Council and the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories for their appropriate consideration.

#### II. *Vocational training and guidance for women*

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Realizing* that economic independence for women is necessary to better their status,

*Recognizing* generally that the traditions and local customs are often a barrier to achieving these aims,

*Believing* that the participation of women in economic life is often hampered by:

(a) The lack of vocational guidance and training facilities for women including apprenticeship,

(b) The lack of employment service and employment counselling facilities to help women meet the labour market demands in accordance with their capacities and aptitudes,

1. *Invites* Governments to avail themselves of the services provided by the programmes of technical assistance intended to assist countries in these fields,

2. *Hopes* the Governments will include in their request for technical assistance, projects aimed at the establishment of services to help women secure increased opportunities in the labour market;

3. *Urges* non-governmental organizations to work for the eradication of all possible obstacles in the way of the economic emancipation of women.

#### III. *Economic rights of women*

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Considering* that the principle of equal rights for men

and women has not yet received universal recognition and that equal rights with men have not yet been granted to women in many countries,

*Recognizing* the importance of granting women equal rights with men in all branches of economic life,

*Recommends* that all States Members and non-members of the United Nations should:

1. Adopt legislative and other measures which will help to remove economic discrimination against women, including measures to provide women with suitable economic opportunities by granting them equal rights with men to employment, pay, education, rest and material security in case of old age, illness or loss of capacity to work; and also by granting them other economic and social rights;

2. Encourage such action as will secure for women, in the economic field, equal rights with men in all countries, including the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

## G

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Having noted* with satisfaction the progress report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the access of women to education, as well as its efforts to spread fundamental education and general culture,

*Recalling* resolution 547 K (XVIII) concerning the access of women to education, in which the Economic and Social Council recommended that Governments should take legislative and other measures to improve the position of women in the field of education,

*Noting* with concern the low percentage of women receiving secondary education particularly in areas of low economy,

*Considering* that side by side with the measures to be taken by Governments, wider use should be made of the resources available to UNESCO in this field,

*Considering* that the results in the field of fundamental education could be more commensurate to the resources employed, if in some instances other methods could also be utilized,

1. *Suggests* to UNESCO to consider the possibility of establishing in the under-developed countries cultural and educational centres which would be accessible to larger communities and would enable a greater number of women to take advantage of such facilities;

2. *Invites* Governments, when making their requests for technical assistance to under-developed areas, under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance or under the regular programme of UNESCO, to give due attention to providing increased opportunities of education for women;

3. *Requests* UNESCO to continue its studies concerning educational opportunities for women, particularly in areas of low economy, and to report, as appropriate, concerning steps taken under the request contained in paragraph 2 above.