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UNITED NATIONS

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION

(30 APRIL - 14 MAY 1951)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTEENTH SESSION

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



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifth session of the Commission, held at Lake Success, New York, from 30 April to 14 May 1951

I. Organization of the fifth session of the Commission

1. The fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women opened on Monday, 30 April 1951 at Lake Success, New York. The Commission held nineteen plenary meetings and terminated its work on 14 May 1951.

2. The following representatives of Member States on the Commission attended:

Australia: Mrs. Jean Daly, Representative.

China: Miss Cecilia Sieu-Ling Zung, Representative.

Cuba: Mrs. Elena Mederos de González, Representative.

Dominican Republic: Miss Minerva Bernardino, Representative.

France: Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, Representative.

Greece: Mrs. Lina P. Tsaldaris, Representative.

Haiti: Mrs. Fortuna André Guéry, Representative.

India: Mrs. Hannah Sen, Representative.

Lebanon: Mrs. Angela Jurdak Khoury, Representative.

Mexico: Miss Maria Lavallo Urbina, Alternate.¹

Netherlands: Miss E. Ribbius Peletier, Representative.

Poland: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska, Representative.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mrs. Elizavieta Popova, Representative.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Miss Mary Sutherland, Representative.

United States of America: Mrs. Olive Remington Goldman, Representative.

3. At its 82nd meeting, the representative of the USSR, speaking on a point of order, proposed that the Commission ask "the Kuomintang representative" to leave and invite a representative of the Central People's Government of the Republic of China to take her place. The Chairman referred to resolution 396 (V) of the

General Assembly recommending that the representation of Member States should, when a question arose, be considered by the General Assembly or by the Interim Committee. By a vote of 8 for, 3 against and 1 abstention, the Commission decided not to consider the motion.

4. The Commission at its 82nd meeting elected the following officers:

Chairman: Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux (France).

First Vice-Chairman: Miss Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic).

Second Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Hannah Sen (India).

Rapporteur: Mrs. Angela Jurdak Khoury (Lebanon).

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

International Labour Organisation: Mr. Thacher Winslow, Mrs. Lee Stanley.

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

World Health Organization: Dr. Mabel Ingalls, Miss Lucille Petry.

6. The Inter-American Commission of Women, an inter-governmental organization, was represented in an advisory and informative capacity by Mrs. Angela Acuna de Chacón, 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

World Federation of Trade Unions: Miss Elinor Kahn.

World Federation of United Nations Associations: Mrs. C. Beresford Fox, Mrs. Iva G. Sprague.

CATEGORY B

All-India Women's Conference: Mrs. Susheela Dayal.

Catholic International Union for Social Service: Miss G. V. Aieta, Mrs. A. V. Vergara.

Commission of Churches on International Affairs: Mrs. E. J. Nolde.

¹ Mrs. Amalia C. de Castillo Ledón, Representative of Mexico, was prevented by illness from attending the session.

International Alliance of Women: Miss A. Guthrie, Mrs. C. B. Mahon.

International Association of Penal Law and International Bureau for the Unification of Penal Law: Mrs. Sabin Manuila.

International Council of Women: Mrs. Rose Parsons, Mrs. Frances Freeman.

International Federation of Business and Professional Women: Mrs. Esther W. Hymer.

International Federation of Friends of Young Women: Mrs. M. Schwarzenbach, Miss A. E. Lagemann.

International Federation of University Women: Miss Frances McGillicuddy, Mrs. A. Evans, Judge Dorothy Kenyon.

International League for the Rights of Men: Mr. Max Beer.

International Union for Child Welfare: Miss M. A. Dingman.

International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues: Miss Catherine Schaefer, Miss A. I. Zizzamia.

Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations: Miss Josephine Schain.

Women's International Democratic Federation: Miss Betty Millard.²

World's Women's Christian Temperance Union: Miss E. A. Smart, Mrs. Stuart.

World's Young Women's Christian Association: Miss E. Palmer, Miss F. Perry.

REGISTER

International Council of Nurses: Miss R. Sleeper, Miss Effie Taylor.

In accordance with rule 75 of the rules of procedure of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission granted hearings at various meetings of the session to the following non-governmental organizations:

Category A consultative status:

World Federation of Trade Unions (Miss Elinor Kahn).

Category B consultative status:

All-India Women's Conference (Mrs. Susheela Dayal); International Alliance of Women (Miss A. Guthrie, Mrs. C. B. Mahon); International Council of Women (Mrs. Rose Parsons, Mrs. Frances Freeman); International Federation of Business and Professional Women (Mrs. Esther W. Hymer); International Federation of Friends of Young Women (Mrs. M. Schwarzenbach); International Federation of University Women (Miss Frances McGillicuddy, Mrs. A. Evans); International Union for Child Welfare (Miss M. A. Dingman); International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues (Miss Catherine Schaefer, Miss A. I. Zizzamia); Liaison Committee of Women's

International Organizations (Miss Josephine Schain); Women's International Democratic Federation (Miss Betty Millard).

Register:

International Council of Nurses (Miss R. Sleeper).

8. During the session, the Commission was informed that Mrs. Laura Diaz, the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation, had been delayed. Representatives of the USSR and Poland requested the Chairman to inform them of the reasons for this delay. The Chairman referred the matter to the Secretariat. At the 96th meeting, the Secretariat informed the Commission that the Secretary-General had been advised by the proper authorities of the United States Government that the authorization for the issuance of a visa to Mrs. Laura Diaz had been granted. The representatives of the USSR and Poland expressed their dissatisfaction with the delay which had prevented Mrs. Diaz from attending the meetings of the Commission. The Chairman expressed her personal regret at the absence of the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation.

9. Mrs. Angela Acuna de Chacón and Miss Irma Morales, observers representing Costa Rica, attended various meetings of the session.

10. At the opening meeting of the session, Mr. Leon Steinig represented the Secretary-General; thereafter Mrs. Mary Tenison-Woods acted in that capacity. Mrs. Sophie Grinberg-Vinaver acted as Secretary to the Commission.

11. The expressions of the views of the members of the Commission are embodied in the summary records of the plenary meetings (E/CN.6/SR.82 to E/CN.6/SR.100).

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

Committee on Resolutions:

The representatives of India (*Chairman*), the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

Committee on Communications:

The representatives of the United Kingdom (*Chairman*), Australia, Cuba, Greece and Poland.

II. Agenda

13. In considering the agenda of its fifth session, the Commission had before it a provisional agenda (E/CN.6/164 and Add.1) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman.

14. At its 82nd meeting, the Commission considered a proposal originating with the Women's International Democratic Federation, sponsored by the representative of Poland and supported by the representative of the USSR, to add to its agenda an item dealing with participation of women in the defence of peace. By a vote of 2 in favour and 12 against, the Commission

² Miss Millard attended the 100th meeting of the Commission.

rejected this proposal on the ground that it went beyond the Commission's terms of reference.

15. At its 83rd meeting, the Commission decided to discuss the report prepared by the Secretary-General concerning the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/159) in connexion with items 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda, the status of women in public and private law respectively, instead of in connexion with the item on political rights as listed on the provisional agenda.

16. The Commission further decided, on the proposal of the representative of the United States, to add the following items to the agenda: as item 4, "Nationality of married women"; as item 10, "Problem of Greek mothers whose children have not been repatriated"; as item 15, "Programme of future work"; and "Women's participation in the technical assistance projects", the last item to be considered in connexion with item 10 of the provisional agenda, "Participation of women in the work of the United Nations".

17. The items "Nationality of married women" and "Problem of Greek mothers whose children have not been repatriated", with which the Commission dealt at its fourth session, were added to the agenda for the Commission's information on the status of these questions and for possible further action.

18. The agenda of the Commission in its final form (E/CN.6/164/Rev.1) was adopted without objections at the 83rd meeting. It reads as follows:

- (1) Election of officers.
- (2) Adoption of the agenda.
- (3) Political rights of women:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General relating to political rights of women;
 - (b) Consideration of a draft convention on political rights of women;
 - (c) Study of information on programmes of political education for women;
 - (d) Information concerning the status of women in Trust Territories.
- (4) Nationality of married women.
- (5) Status of women in public law:
 - (a) Public services and functions;
 - (b) Civil liberties;
 - (c) Fiscal laws;
 - (d) Status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories.
- (6) Status of women in private law:
 - (a) Family law;
 - (b) Property rights;
 - (c) Status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

- (7) Educational opportunities for women.
- (8) Equal pay for equal work for men and women workers.
- (9) Status of nurses (item proposed by the World Health Organization).
- (10) Problem of Greek mothers whose children have not been repatriated.
- (11) Report of the Secretary-General on the plight of survivors of Nazi concentration camps.
- (12) Participation of women in the work of the United Nations including the technical assistance projects.
- (13) Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
- (14) Communications concerning the status of women.
- (15) Programme of future work.
- (16) Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council.

III. Political rights of women

19. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 90th, 96th, 97th and 98th meetings, under five different headings, as follows:

- (1) Report of the Secretary-General relating to political rights of women;
- (2) Consideration of a draft convention on political rights of women;
- (3) Study of information on programmes of political education for women;
- (4) Advisory services for the improvement of the status of women;
- (5) Information concerning the status of women in Trust Territories.

(1) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL RELATING TO POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

20. In considering item 3 (a) the Commission had before it the annual report on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the franchise of women and their eligibility to public office and functions (A/1342), prepared by the Secretary-General for presentation to the General Assembly and circulation to Member Governments in accordance with resolution 120 A (VI) of the Economic and Social Council.

21. The Commission was informed and expressed appreciation of the fact that since its fourth session further progress had been made in the field of political rights for women. The women of Lebanon had been granted municipal voting rights; the women of Greece had participated in large numbers in the recent municipal elections; and the new Constitution of Haiti recognizes the principle of full political rights for women, and provides for the exercise of such rights by women within three years after the next general municipal elections.

(2) DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE POLITICAL RIGHTS
OF WOMEN

22. In considering item 3 (b) the Commission had before it a draft convention on the political rights of women (E/CN.6/160) prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to the request made by the Commission at its fourth session. Two trends of opinion were disclosed during the general debate on this subject. Several members felt that a convention on political rights for women under the auspices of the United Nations would constitute the most effective method for the promotion of these rights in countries which still do not extend full political rights to women. They felt that, notwithstanding the views expressed in the Social Committee during the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council (E/AC.7/SR.132), the Commission should maintain its previous decision on the need for a convention. To achieve satisfactory results, it was necessary that all means be taken to promote equality of political rights and that a convention be adopted without prejudice to the campaign of information and education, which should be continued.

23. The representatives of Poland and the USSR felt that the granting of political rights to women and the creation of conditions enabling women to exercise these rights were very closely linked to the general legal status of citizens of the country concerned; the adoption of the draft convention could do little to further the Commission's aims, as demonstrated by the present situation with respect to the Bogotá Convention.

24. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that in her view a convention would not achieve more speedy progress than the procedure followed in the past few years by annual reports from the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and she would therefore abstain from voting on the proposal for a convention.

25. The Commission had before it three draft resolutions, one proposed jointly by the representatives of Lebanon, Mexico and the United States (E/CN.6/L.26), one proposed by the representative of the USSR (E/CN.6/L.30) and one proposed by the representative of the Dominican Republic (E/CN.6/L.31).

26. The Commission, at its 84th meeting, by a vote of 11 for, none against, and 3 abstentions, expressed itself in favour of the principle of a convention on the political rights of women.

27. The majority of the members felt that the Commission should not adopt a separate resolution on item 3 (a) of the agenda, but that the resolution on the convention should contain, in its introductory part, general statements on the necessity for the convention based on the present situation in the field of political rights of women, as demonstrated in the annual report (A/1342).

28. The Commission, at its 97th meeting, considered a draft resolution on the convention on the political rights of women (E/CN.6/L.47) submitted by the Committee on Resolutions. The Chairman of the Committee explained that the Committee decided to

take as a basis for the introductory part of the resolution the draft proposed by the representative of the Dominican Republic.

29. Some members felt that the text of the convention should follow that of the Bogotá Convention of 1948, which has been signed by fourteen countries and ratified by seven. They felt that the text of the draft convention should be couched in simple terms so as to ensure the largest number of signatures and ratifications and that the text proposed by the Committee on Resolutions was too wide for this purpose.

30. Other members stated that the wording of the Bogotá Convention, which covers only the right of women to vote and to be elected to national office, does not take into account other aspects of political rights; they were of the opinion that it was the duty of the Commission on the Status of Women to show the way by adopting a more comprehensive text which would give women a wider right to participate in the government of their countries.

31. An amendment submitted earlier by the representative of the United States to the articles of the proposed convention was withdrawn at the end of the debate.

32. At its 97th meeting, the Commission, by a vote of 12 in favour,³ none against, and 3 abstentions, adopted the following resolution:

"A

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Having noted the debates of the Economic and Social Council in regard to the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women for a convention on political rights,

"Considering that the Commission on the Status of Women has worked for five years on a detailed investigation of the position of women in various fields, and that sufficient information has already been presented clearly to reveal the discrimination against women in the political field,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting the progress achieved in granting women political rights since the signing of the United Nations Charter,

"Considering that in a number of countries these rights have not yet been granted to women and that, in some cases, measures for the implementation of such rights are still lacking, notwithstanding resolution 56 (I) of the General Assembly recommending that all Member States adopt measures necessary to fulfil the purposes and aims of the Charter by granting to women the same political rights as to men,

"Considering that the time is appropriate for an international convention under the auspices of the

³ The representative of the United States reserved the position of her Government on article 3 of the convention.

United Nations, designed to eliminate all discrimination against women in the field of political rights,

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

"DRAFT CONVENTION

"The Contracting Parties,

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

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

"Having resolved to conclude a convention for this purpose,

"Hereby agree as hereinafter provided :

"Article 1. Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on the same conditions as men.

"Article 2. Women shall be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, established by national law, on the same conditions as men.

"Article 3. Women shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions established by national law, on the same conditions as men."

(3) POLITICAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN

33. Item 3 (c) was studied by the Commission at its 86th and 91st meetings. In considering this item the Commission had before it the draft pamphlet on political education for women (E/CN.6/168) prepared by the Secretary-General. This document was prepared in pursuance of a request by the Commission at its fourth session, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council at its eleventh session (resolution 304 c (XI)), and is intended as a guide to organizations working for the political education of women in countries where women have recently acquired the right to vote or are beginning to participate in public affairs.

34. During the discussion the draft pamphlet was commended by various members of the Commission, while others raised the question whether, as it stood, the document fulfilled the purpose envisaged by the Commission. Various suggestions were made in this connexion. Some members expressed the belief that the crux of the problem was the eradication of illiteracy, and felt that such a guide or handbook should be in a simpler form than that of the draft pamphlet of the Secretary-General and should perhaps also contain pictorial and graphic illustrations.

35. The opinion expressed by the representative of the United States that such a pamphlet should include a chapter on the United Nations was supported by many members.

36. Several members concurred with the representative from the United Kingdom, who suggested that the annex to the document should be expanded to include examples of techniques which had been successfully used by organizations with experience in the field of political education for women.

37. It was finally decided by the majority of the members of the Commission that the pamphlet should be amended in the light of the various suggestions made by the Commission.

38. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization informed the Commission that the conference on public education under the joint sponsorship of UNESCO and the International Bureau of Education which is to convene at Geneva in 1952 will be devoted to the education of women, and that UNESCO is planning to collect and compile suggestions on techniques which might be useful in the field of political education for women. The majority of the members of the Commission expressed satisfaction at UNESCO's contemplated work in this field.

39. The Commission had before it a draft resolution on political education of women submitted by the representative of Cuba (E/CN.6/L.36) which was referred by the Commission to the Committee on Resolutions.

40. The Committee on Resolutions added a paragraph to the text of the draft resolution requesting the Secretary-General to circulate the pamphlet, when amended, to the members of the Commission for their comments, and then to prepare it in final form for distribution and dissemination.

41. At its 91st meeting, the Commission adopted, by 12 votes in favour, none against, and 2 abstentions, the following resolution (E/CN.6/L.42) presented by its Committee on Resolutions:

"B

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Having studied the draft pamphlet on the political education of women prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/168), and

"Having noted the observations and suggestions made by various members of the Commission with respect to the scope and text of the draft,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Considering the importance of preparing women for participation in public life and having regard to the fact that the publication and wide distribution of a pamphlet on education in civic and public affairs would be of great and practical use to this end ;

"(a) *Invites* the Secretary-General to amend the draft prepared by him (E/CN.6/168), taking into account such observations and suggestions made by the members of the Commission at its fifth session as he may deem appropriate,

"(b) *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate to members of the Commission the text as redrafted by him and, having received their comments, prepare a final text for distribution and dissemination on a wide basis;

"(c) *Suggests* to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that it take this pamphlet into account in the preparation of further publications to serve as educational and cultural instruments to prepare women for the proper exercise of their political rights."

(4) ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN

42. The Commission considered this question at its 85th and 91st meetings, in connexion with the discussion of item 3 of its agenda.

43. It was emphasized during the discussion that activities designed to improve the status of women should be included in the United Nations advisory services and training programmes, so that governments interested in this subject might take advantage of experience gained in other countries in the planning of their own campaigns to eliminate discrimination against women.

44. A draft resolution on advisory services for the improvement of the status of women was presented jointly by the representatives of Lebanon, Mexico and the United States (E/CN.6/L.27). Some members felt that certain countries might take exception to the action contemplated under the draft resolution and suggested that its wording be amended; the draft resolution was therefore referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

45. At its 91st meeting, the Commission adopted, by a vote of 12 in favour and 2 abstentions,⁴ the following resolution:

"C

"The Commission on the Status of Women

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Believing that the governments interested in improving the status of women may wish to take advantage of experience gained elsewhere in the expansion of opportunities for women to share more fully in the responsibilities of national life and in the elimination of remaining discriminations against them,

"Noting

"(a) That the advisory services rendered by the United Nations to governments on request may include assistance in the field of human rights, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and

⁴ USSR and Poland.

"(b) That the Secretary-General in paragraph 56 of his memorandum (E/1900) has suggested that advisory services in this field might be made available to assist in improving the status of women,

"Draws the attention of governments to the provisions for the advisory services programme, so that they may avail themselves of these services for the improvement of the status of women."

(5) STATUS OF WOMEN IN TRUST TERRITORIES

46. The Commission considered this item of its agenda at its 85th, 90th and 96th meetings. The Commission had before it a report on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/163) prepared by the Secretary-General, containing excerpts from the annual reports of the Administering Authorities.

47. During the discussion, members of the Commission agreed that the status of women in Trust Territories generally was lower than that of men. The representative of the United Kingdom stated, however, that in many instances, the position of women in these territories compared favourably with that of women in neighbouring independent countries. The representative of France informed the Commission that men and women in Trust Territories under French administration enjoyed the same political rights.

48. The representative of the Dominican Republic suggested that, in order to promote the development of the status of women in Trust Territories, women should be appointed members of visiting missions to such territories. She introduced a draft resolution to this effect (E/CN.6/L.41) which was considered by the Commission at its 90th meeting. An amendment thereto was submitted by the representative of the USSR (E/CN.6/L.43).

49. After several oral amendments had been suggested, the draft resolution and the USSR amendment were referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

50. At its 96th meeting, the Commission rejected, by 2 votes in favour, 11 against, and 2 abstentions, the amendment re-submitted by the representative of the USSR.

51. By a vote of 12 in favour, none against, and 3 abstentions, the Commission adopted the following resolution (E/CN.6/L.51):

"D

"The Commission on the Status of Women

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Considering that under Chapter XIII of the United Nations Charter the Trusteeship Council is empowered to despatch visiting missions to Trust Territories,

"Considering that it would be desirable, in order to promote the development of the status of women in the Trust Territories, that women should share in the responsibilities of the missions,

"Invites the Member States to nominate and the Trusteeship Council to appoint women to serve as members of visiting missions."

IV. Nationality of married women

52. This item was discussed by the Commission at its 85th, 89th, and 93rd meetings.

53. Some members of the Commission paid tribute to the report *Nationality of Married Women* published by the United Nations.⁵

54. The Commission recalled that at its fourth session it had recommended that an international convention on the nationality of married women be drafted as soon as possible, embodying the principles outlined by the Commission. The Economic and Social Council, at its eleventh session, by resolution 304 D (XI), endorsed this recommendation and proposed to the International Law Commission that it undertake the drafting of such a convention; the International Law Commission had expressed its agreement, stating that it would undertake the task as soon as possible, in connexion with its work on nationality including statelessness.

55. The Commission learned that the drafting of the convention on nationality of married women was not on the provisional agenda of the 1951 session of the International Law Commission.

56. Some members of the Commission felt that in view of the hardships which conflicting nationality laws create for married women, an early solution of this problem is desirable and that, if the International Law Commission cannot complete the drafting of the convention in 1951, an *ad hoc* committee should be appointed or other measures taken to ensure the drafting of the convention.

57. Other members felt, however, that the International Law Commission was the most appropriate organ for this task and that it should be asked to complete the drafting of the convention in 1952.

58. A draft resolution presented by the representatives of Cuba and the Dominican Republic (E/CN.6/L.32) was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

59. The Commission heard a statement by the observer of the International Federation of University Women, stressing the urgency of the solution of the problem.

60. At its 93rd meeting, the Commission adopted, by a vote of 11 for and 4 abstentions, the following resolution submitted by the Committee on Resolutions:⁶

⁵ Document E/CN.6/126/Rev.1 — E/CN.6/129/Rev.1, United Nations Publication, Sales No. 1950.IV.12.

⁶ The vote was taken paragraph by paragraph; the representative of Greece abstained on the first paragraph of the preamble of the draft resolution for the Council and did not participate in the vote on the whole, because she could not support the principles adopted by the Commission at its fourth session.

"E

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Having resolved at its fourth session that a convention on the nationality of married women should be drafted promptly to embody the principles recommended by it at that session,

"Noting that the International Law Commission has not included in the provisional agenda of its forthcoming session the drafting of such a convention,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having proposed, at its eleventh session, to the International Law Commission to undertake as soon as possible the drafting of a convention on the nationality of married women, embodying the principles recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fourth session,

"Noting that at its 1950 session the International Law Commission deemed it appropriate to undertake the drafting of such a convention,

"Proposes that the International Law Commission undertake to complete the drafting of this convention in 1952."

V. Status of women in public law

61. In considering this item of its agenda the Commission had before it the following documentation prepared by the Secretary-General:

Reports on women in public services and functions, including civil service, jury, military and labour service in independent countries and Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/158 and E/CN.6/159);

Reports on civil liberties for women (E/CN.6/157 and E/CN.6/159);

Reports on fiscal laws as they affect women (E/CN.6/156 and E/CN.6/159).

These documents are based on replies from Member Governments to sections C, E and F of part I ("Public Law") of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women (E/CN.6/W.1) which had been circulated to them by the Secretary-General in 1947.

62. Discussion centred mainly on the subject of women in public services and functions. It was pointed out by some representatives that certain information relating to the situation in their respective countries was outdated as new laws had been passed or new constitutions adopted since the governments submitted their replies to the questionnaire.

63. It was further pointed out that the legislation in many countries discriminated particularly against married women with respect to their employment in civil service, either barring married women from such employment or permitting their employment on a temporary basis only. The Commission felt that governments should be urged to take steps in order to eliminate such discrimination.

64. Some members expressed the opinion that the situation as set out in the reports prepared by the Secretary-General showed definite progress in the status of women in public services as compared to the situation in the period before the Second World War.

65. The Commission agreed that the documents prepared by the Secretary-General were of exceptional interest. During the discussion, the following suggestions were made:

(a) Governments might be requested to bring up to date information previously transmitted to the Secretary-General in reply to sections C and E of part I of the questionnaire, so that supplementary reports could be prepared by him;

(b) The information contained in the documentation, having been brought up to date, might be summarized and published in pamphlet or book form, which would be of special use to non-governmental organizations.

66. The Commission, at its 88th meeting, decided to request the Committee on Resolutions to prepare a draft resolution on this item.

67. At its 95th meeting, the Commission adopted, by 12 votes in favour, none against, and 3 abstentions⁷ the following resolution presented by the Committee on Resolutions:

“F

“The Commission on the Status of Women,

“Having considered the detailed comparative reports on the status of women in public law in the fields of public services and functions, civil liberties and fiscal law (E/CN.6/156, 157, 158 and 159),

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

“The Economic and Social Council

“Expresses its thanks to all Member States which sent replies to sections C, E, and F of part I of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women;

“Invites Member States to forward to the Secretary-General such additional information as they may have, with respect to women in public services and functions, and civil liberties for women;

“Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the sixth session of the Commission a supplementary report on these subjects, based on the additional information supplied by Member Governments;

“Expresses the hope that the obstacles still existing in some countries with regard to the access and appointment of women to public services and functions will be eliminated as soon as possible;

⁷ The representative of the Netherlands abstained from voting on the ground that in her country married women under 45 years of age are barred from civil service and teaching positions.

“Noting that some countries discriminate against married women with respect to employment in the public services,

“Expresses the hope that the Member States concerned will take steps to remove all discrimination in connexion with the employment of married women in public services.”

VI. Status of women in private law

68. The Commission considered this item of its agenda at its 98th and 99th meetings. It had before it preliminary reports of the Secretary-General on family law (E/CN.6/165) and on property rights (E/CN.6/166) as well as a report on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/159). The reports on family law and on property rights are based on replies from non-governmental organizations to lists of simplified questions (E/CN.6/W.1/Add.5) and on replies from governments to parts II and III of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women which were received by the Secretary-General before 1 March 1951.

69. Several members of the Commission expressed their interest in the material contained in these reports, which show that definite discrimination against women exists in the field of private law.

70. The Commission felt that the further studies authorized at its fourth session and based on replies of Member Governments to parts III and II of the questionnaire (due by 31 December 1951 and 30 June 1952 respectively) were necessary in order to supply the Commission with a complete picture. It was suggested by the representative of the Netherlands that non-governmental organizations be consulted, to ascertain their opinion as to what changes in existing legislation would be desirable in order to eliminate discrimination in this field.

71. The Commission heard statements by observers of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, of the All India Women's Conference, of the International Alliance of Women, of the International Council of Women, of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues and of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations.

72. The representative of the Dominican Republic asked to which organizations in Latin America did the Secretary-General send questionnaires or lists of questions as a matter of course; the Secretary of the Commission explained that such communications were sent to non-governmental organizations that had consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and could also be sent to inter-governmental organizations such as the Inter-American Commission of Women.

73. At its 99th meeting, the Commission adopted, by 14 votes for, none against, and one abstention, the following resolution proposed jointly by the representatives of Lebanon and the Netherlands (E/CN.6/L.56):

“G

“The Commission on the Status of Women,

“Having examined the preliminary reports on family

law and on property rights (E/CN.6/165 and E/CN.6/166) prepared by the Secretary-General,

"Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) To prepare and circulate to non-governmental organizations a list of questions concerning family law and property rights, requesting their advice as to the changes which in their opinion are desirable in the various legal systems in order to eliminate discrimination against women, and to circulate to members of the Commission the replies received at least two months before the sixth session;

"(b) To prepare for the sixth session of the Commission a report on various legal systems, based on replies of governments to part III ('Family Law') of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women, supplementing this information from other sources necessary to ensure a complete picture;

"(c) To prepare for the sixth session of the Commission a comparative analysis of the information supplied or obtained with respect to the matters covered under sections 1 ('Personal Relations of Spouses') and 2 ('Relations between Parents and Children') of chapter III of the preliminary report of the Secretary-General on the status of women in family law (E/CN.6/165)."

VII. Educational opportunities for women

74. At its 92nd, 93rd and 96th meetings, the Commission considered this item of its agenda. The Commission had before it a report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (E/CN.6/170), which outlined the current activities and future plans of UNESCO with regard to the education of women and contained in its annex statistical data presented by UNESCO to the previous session of the Commission (E/CN.6/146 and E/CN.6/155).

75. The representative of UNESCO informed the Commission of the programme of work prepared for the General Conference of UNESCO in relation to this subject. She referred specifically to plans to convene a conference on public education, the main subject of which would be educational opportunities for women, and to hold a seminar on the advancement of human rights through education; to the development of fundamental education and adult education in agricultural and less-developed countries; and to the proposed sociological studies of obstacles to the full exercise of educational rights by women. This work will be carried out in close collaboration with the Commission on the Status of Women. The documentation already prepared by UNESCO for the Commission on the Status of Women will form part of a large survey which will be submitted to the General Conference of UNESCO.

76. Statements were also made by the representative of the International Labour Organisation, who explained why the report on the vocational training of women was not before the Commission and outlined its contents, and by the observer of the International Federation of University Women.

77. In the course of the discussion, several members of the Commission expressed their appreciation of the work of UNESCO in this field, and stressed the duty of the Commission to co-operate in the promotion of educational opportunities for women and in the combat against illiteracy as means of raising the status of women all over the world.

78. The representative of Haiti stated that the problem of illiteracy was not yet solved in her country; she recommended the use of the official language (as opposed to the vernacular) as being more durable and offering wider opportunities.

79. Two draft resolutions, one proposed by the representative of Haiti (E/CN.6/L.46) and the other by the representative of the United Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.48) were referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

80. At the 96th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions reported that the draft resolution of the United Kingdom had been accepted as the working paper. The draft resolution presented by the representative of Haiti had not been considered because, in the opinion of the members of the Committee, it was not within the terms of reference of the Commission. Several members of the Commission were of the opinion that this was a technical problem which fell within the competence of UNESCO. The draft resolution was subsequently withdrawn by the representative of Haiti.

81. The Commission adopted, by 12 votes for, none against, and 3 abstentions, the following resolution presented by the Committee on Resolutions:

"H

"The Commission on the Status of Women

"Expresses its appreciation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for its continued assistance in the study of educational opportunities for women and girls throughout the world;

"Notes that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

"(a) In its long-term programme on behalf of free and compulsory education for all will include a special study of educational opportunities for women,

"(b) In its programme of fundamental education is making use of techniques designed to overcome the obstacles and prejudices which retard women's education;

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

VIII. Equal pay for equal work for men and women workers

82. In considering this item at its 94th, 95th and 96th meetings, the Commission had before it a report prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/169) which summarized the proceedings of and the action taken by the International Labour Conference at its 33rd session.

83. The Commission at its 94th meeting heard the representative of the International Labour Organisation who described the action taken and outlined the further action to be taken by ILO on this question.

84. The members of the Commission felt that women were still being discriminated against in respect of equal pay for equal work, even in some countries in which the principle was established by law.

85. In the course of the discussion, the representatives of Poland and the USSR expressed the opinion that ILO had failed to deal effectively with the problem and that the referring of the question by the Economic and Social Council to ILO had resulted in non-implementation of the principle of equal pay.

86. Other members believed that ILO had done much essential work towards the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

87. The representative of the World Federation of Trade Unions made a statement in which she pointed out that the principle of equal pay for equal work had not yet been implemented in spite of resolution 121 (VI) adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 1948.

88. Statements were also made by the representatives of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, both emphasizing the need for stronger action in this field.

89. The Commission had before it two draft resolutions, one proposed jointly by the representatives of Cuba, Dominican Republic, India, Mexico and the United States (E/CN.6/L.49), and the other sponsored by the representatives of Poland and the USSR (E/CN.6/L.50); both were referred to the Committee on Resolutions, together with the statements made by the representatives of the above-mentioned non-governmental organizations.

90. The Commission at its 96th meeting considered a resolution submitted by the Committee on Resolutions (E/CN.6/L.53) and the resolution sponsored by the representatives of Poland and the USSR (E/CN.6/L.50).

91. Several members stated that, while they agreed with the references to the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and resolution 121 (VI) of the Economic and Social Council, contained in the preamble of both draft resolutions, they supported the operative part of the draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Resolutions.

92. A roll-call vote was taken paragraph by paragraph on the resolution sponsored by the representatives of Poland and the USSR. The Commission rejected the resolution as a whole by 11 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions. The representatives of the USSR and Poland voted in favour, the representatives of Australia, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States voted against, and the representatives of Haiti and India abstained.

93. The Commission adopted the following resolution by 12 votes for, none against, and 3 abstentions:⁸

"I

"The Commission on the Status of Women

"Regrets that women workers in a majority of countries still suffer discrimination in regard to equal pay for equal work;

"Notes the valuable work that the International Labour Organisation has done towards the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work, and its plan to take final action at its 1951 Conference on proposals to this end, and

"Expresses the hope that all elements in the delegations of Member States to the International Labour Conference will co-operate so as to give effect to the principle of equal pay for equal work,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling

"(a) That the principle of equal rights for men and women is embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"(b) That the principle of equal pay for equal work is laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"(c) That the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 121 (VI) of 10 March 1948 reaffirming 'the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value for men and women workers',

"(d) That resolution 121 (VI) of 10 March 1948 was transmitted to the International Labour Organisation with the request that ILO proceed as rapidly as possible with the further consideration of this subject and report on the action taken,

"Noting the action of ILO to give effect to the principle of equal pay for equal work,

"Noting that States members of ILO have undertaken to act promptly on decisions of the International Labour Conference,

⁸ The representative of the United Kingdom abstained from voting because her Government, while accepting the justice of the claim for equal pay for equal work, had been unable on account of the financial and economic circumstances of the past few years, to implement the principle in respect of its own employees.

"Urges Member States which are not members of ILO also to take such measures as may be required to give effect to the principle of equal pay for equal work."

IX. Status of nurses

94. This item was considered by the Commission at its 88th and 89th meetings. The Commission had before it the report of the first session of the World Health Organization's Expert Committee on Nursing (World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 24), circulated under document E/CN.6/162.

95. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of the World Health Organization who emphasized the importance of raising the status of the nursing profession as a means of improving the status of women all over the world; the World Health Organization was now working on the solution of the problems relating to the recruitment and training of nurses.

96. The majority of the members of the Commission expressed their appreciation of the efforts of the World Health Organization in this respect, and suggested that the report would serve as a valuable guide for governments in the preparation of training programmes for nurses.

97. The Commission also heard statements by the observers of the International Council of Nurses and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

98. The Commission had before it a draft resolution presented by the representative of Greece (E/CN.6/L.29). Certain changes in this draft resolution having been suggested during the discussion, the draft resolution was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

99. At its 89th meeting, the Commission adopted, by a vote of 11 for, none against, and 3 abstentions, the following resolution submitted by the Committee on Resolutions (E/CN.6/L.39):

"J

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Having considered the report of the first session of the Expert Committee on Nursing of the World Health Organization communicated to the Commission by the Secretary-General in conformity with article III of the Agreement between the United Nations and the World Health Organization;

"Expressing its thanks to the said Organization and to the Expert Committee for transmitting the said report, which deals with all the aspects of the training and status of nurses, and hoping that the widest possible publicity will be given to the report,

"Realizing that, according to the said report, the shortage of qualified nursing staff is hampering the application and progress of all programmes relating to health and hygiene, and

"Believing that any measures which will improve the status of nurses will improve the status of women generally,

"In order to achieve, in countries where the services are well organized, the ratio necessary to meet the needs of hospitals and services for public health and,

"In order to create in other countries an awareness of the urgent need for professional and auxiliary training, so as to remedy the existing extreme inadequacy of such services in those countries,

"Requests the Secretary-General

"To draw the attention of Member States to the importance of ensuring:

"(a) Wider recognition for the professional status of nurses, and

"(b) Legal protection for this status, and

"To recommend to non-governmental organizations to give their co-operation to governments and professional associations of nurses for these purposes."

X. Problem of Greek mothers whose children have not been repatriated

100. This item was discussed by the Commission at its 98th and 99th meetings. The representative of the Secretary-General made a statement on the steps which the Secretary-General had taken in the implementation of the resolution adopted by the Commission at its fourth session.⁹

101. The representative of Greece made a statement about the unsuccessful requests of parents for the return of their children, only a small number having been returned, all from Yugoslavia. The majority of members expressed sympathy for the parents whose children had not been repatriated and also the hope that early steps could be taken for the speedy and unequivocal implementation of the General Assembly resolutions.

102. The representatives of the USSR and Poland supported the return of the children to their parents on the conditions set out in resolutions 193 C (III) and 288 B (IV) adopted by the General Assembly at its third and fourth sessions.

103. The representative of Greece informed the Commission that her Government had complied with the terms of all the resolutions relating to the repatriation of Greek children.

104. Statements were made by the observers of the International Union for Child Welfare, the International Council of Women and the International Federation of Friends of Young Women.

105. At its 99th meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution, presented by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Lebanon and the United States (E/CN.6/L.54) by 13 votes in favour, none against, and 2 abstentions:

⁹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifth Year, Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 6, page 9.*

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Having regard to its resolution of 18 May 1950,

"Taking into account General Assembly resolution 382 C (V) of 1 December 1950 and more particularly the contents of its first paragraph that 'not a single Greek child has yet been returned to his native land and, except for Yugoslavia, no country harbouring Greek children has taken definite action to comply with the resolutions unanimously adopted in two successive years by the General Assembly',

"Having heard the statement presented by the representative of the Secretary-General that, with the sole exception of Yugoslavia, none of the countries harbouring Greek children has yet complied with the aforementioned General Assembly resolution,

"Expresses its grave concern for the continuance of this situation and its deep sympathy for the Greek mothers who were deprived of their children more than three years ago;

"Affirms its confidence that the Secretary-General and the Standing Committee established by the aforementioned resolution of 1 December 1950 will submit to the General Assembly the urgent necessity of finding more effective ways for the early return of the Greek children."

XI. Report of the Secretary-General on the plight of survivors of Nazi concentration camps

106. At its 91st meeting, the Commission considered this item of its agenda. The Commission had before it the progress report on the plight of survivors of concentration camps (E/1915), prepared by the Secretary-General for the twelfth session of the Economic and Social Council, and resolution 353 (XII) adopted by the Council. This report contains a survey of the action taken and the investigation initiated by the Secretary-General.

107. The representative of the Secretary-General summarized the action taken on this matter, calling attention to the fact that the Economic and Social Council at its eleventh session, by resolution 305 (XI), had endorsed the resolution of the Commission and had widened its scope to include male survivors as well as women survivors. Several members of the Commission paid tribute to the actions initiated by the United Nations in its efforts to find a solution to this difficult problem. Some noted with regret that nothing more positive has been accomplished for these victims.

108. Two members of the Commission (USSR and Poland) expressed the opinion that these survivors should be taken care of by the governments of the countries in which they are residing, and that the question of compensation should be solved when the peace treaty with Germany is drafted.

109. The Commission took note and the majority of the members expressed appreciation of the initiative taken by the Economic and Social Council in this field, in which the Commission will maintain a continuing interest.

XII. Participation of women in the work of the United Nations

110. The Commission considered this item at its 90th and 91st meetings. The Commission had before it a report prepared by the Secretary-General showing the nature and proportion of positions occupied by women in the United Nations Secretariat, and the conditions of employment of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/167).

111. In the course of the discussion it was observed that the Commission had dealt extensively with the question at previous sessions, and that account has been generally taken of recommendations made by the Commission. The representative of China noted that, except for certain benefits in connexion with home leave, discrimination in allowances to women members of the Secretariat, as compared with allowances to men, had been eliminated as a result of new Staff Rules, adopted since the fourth session of the Commission; she expressed the hope that this last discrepancy would be soon eliminated.

112. It was felt, however, that the number of women in policy-making positions in the Secretariat was still too low. Several members also expressed the desire to be informed of the situation in this respect in the secretariats of specialized agencies.

113. The Commission decided to consider the question of participation of women in technical assistance programmes of the United Nations in connexion with the item on technical assistance to be included in the programme of future work of the Commission.

114. The Commission heard statements by observers of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations and of the International Council of Women.

115. The Commission had before it a resolution proposed jointly by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Mexico and the United States (E/CN.6/L.28) which was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

116. At its 93rd meeting the Commission adopted unanimously the following resolution, submitted by that Committee (E/CN.6/L.44):

"The Commission on the Status of Women

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

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

"Noting the report of the Secretary-General on efforts to assure qualified women equal opportunities for appointment and promotion in the Secretariat of the United Nations,

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

and bring up to date for the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women his report on the nature and proportion of positions occupied by women in the Secretariat of the United Nations (E/CN.6/167, part A);

"Requests the Secretary-General to invite the specialized agencies to co-operate with him by supplying information as to the number and proportion of women employed in their secretariats, together with any other information available on qualifications required for professional positions; and to present this information to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session."

XIII. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women

117. At its 90th meeting, the Commission heard the representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women give an account of the achievements of that organization during the current year. The Commission had before it the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/171).

118. The Commission took note of this report and the majority of the members expressed their appreciation of the part played by the Inter-American Commission of Women in raising the status of women, particularly in Latin-American countries.

XIV. Communications concerning the status of women

119. In accordance with resolution 76 (V) as amended by resolution 304 (XI) of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission had before it two lists of communications prepared by the Secretary-General, a non-confidential list (E/CN.6/CR.4) and a confidential list (S W Communications No. 1).

120. Both lists were considered by the Committee on Communications.

121. The report of the Committee on Communications (E/CN.6/L.35) was unanimously adopted by the Commission at a closed meeting.

XV. Programme of future work

122. This item was considered by the Commission at its 98th and 99th meetings. At the outset, the representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to resolution 362 B (XII) adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 13 March 1951 at Santiago, paragraph 2 of which requests the commissions of the Council:

"(a) To review during 1951 their 1952 programmes, using the criteria set forth in Council resolution 324 (XI); and

"(b) To indicate, when new projects are recommended, which current projects might be deferred, modified, or eliminated to ensure that the economic and social work of the United Nations will be carried on most effectively".

123. The following programme of work was indicated, based on the decisions taken by the Commission at its current session:

I. Political rights of women

- (a) Consideration of the memorandum prepared annually by the Secretary-General on the advancement of political rights of women (Economic and Social Council resolution 120 A (VI));
- (b) Consideration of the report on the action taken on the draft convention on political rights of women adopted by the Commission at its current session;
- (c) Consideration of the progress report on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

II. Nationality of married women

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

III. Status of women in public law

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

IV. Status of women in private law

- (a) Study of the report of the Secretary-General on various legal systems based on replies of governments to part III (Family Law) of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women;
- (b) Study of a comparative analysis of the available information on relations of spouses and relations between parents and children;
- (c) Study of the replies from non-governmental organizations to questions as to the desirable changes in various legal systems in order to eliminate discrimination against women.

V. Educational opportunities for women

Study of the progress report prepared by UNESCO in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
Study of the report of ILO on vocational training of women.

VI. Equal pay for equal work for men and women workers

Consideration of the report on the action taken by the International Labour Conference at its 34th session to be held in June 1951.

VII. Participation of women in the work of the United Nations

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

VIII. Technical assistance programme in relation to the status of women

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

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

Consideration of the report of the Secretary-General.

X. *Newsletter*

Circulation of semi-annual newsletters to members of the Commission and to non-governmental organizations.

XVI. **Consideration of the place and date of the next session**

124. At the 98th and 99th meetings of the Commission, several members indicated their desire to hold its next session away from Headquarters. It was pointed out in this connexion that the third session of the Commission held in Beirut, Lebanon, had greatly contributed to the political advancement of women in the Middle East. Several suggestions were made. The representative of the Dominican Republic stated that it

was preferable to leave the decision as to the recommendation of the place of meeting to the Chairman of the Commission in consultation with the Secretary-General. It was so agreed.

125. As to the date of the next session, it was pointed out that sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Commission on Human Rights should not be concurrent, as it was considered highly desirable for the Commission on the Status of Women to be represented at the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. The wish was also expressed that members of the Commission be informed at the earliest possible time of the dates of the next session and that no change of such dates be made subsequently.

XVII. **Adoption of the report of the Commission to the Economic and Social Council**

126. At its 100th meeting, the Commission adopted the report of its fifth session to the Economic and Social Council by a vote of 13 in favour and 2 against.

ANNEX

DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A

The Economic and Social Council

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

B

CONVENTION ON POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the progress achieved in granting women political rights since the signing of the United Nations Charter,

Considering that in a number of countries these rights have not yet been granted to women and that, in some cases, measures for the implementation of such rights are still lacking, notwithstanding resolution 56 (I) of the General Assembly recommending that all Member States adopt measures necessary to fulfil the purposes and aims of the Charter by granting to women the same political rights as to men.

Considering that the time is appropriate for an international convention under the auspices of the United Nations, designed to eliminate all discrimination against women in the field of political rights,

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

Draft convention

The Contracting Parties,

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

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

Having resolved to conclude a convention for this purpose,

Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

Article 1. Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on the same conditions as men.

Article 2. Women shall be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, established by national law, on the same conditions as men.

Article 3. Women shall be entitled to hold public office and to exercise all public functions established by national law, on the same conditions as men.

POLITICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the importance of preparing women for participation in public life and having regard to the fact that the publication and wide distribution of a pamphlet on education in civic and public affairs would be of great and practical use to this end,

(a) *Invites* the Secretary-General to amend the draft prepared by him (E/CN.6/168), taking into account such observations and suggestions made by the members of the Commission at its fifth session as he may deem appropriate,

(b) *Requests* the Secretary-General to circulate to members of the Commission the text as redrafted by him and, having received their comments, prepare a final text for distribution and dissemination on a wide basis,

(c) *Suggests* to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that it take this pamphlet into account in the preparation of further publications to serve as educational and cultural instruments to prepare women for the proper exercise of their political rights.

D

ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Believing that the governments interested in improving the status of women may wish to take advantage of experience gained elsewhere in the expansion of opportunities for women to share more fully in the responsibilities of national life and in the elimination of remaining discriminations against them,

Noting

(a) That the advisory services rendered by the United Nations to governments on request may include assistance in the field of human rights, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, and

(b) That the Secretary-General in paragraph 56 of his memorandum (E/1900) has suggested that advisory services in this field might be made available to assist in improving the status of women,

Draws the attention of governments to the provisions for the advisory services programme, so that they may avail themselves of these services for the improvement of the status of women.

E

STATUS OF WOMEN IN TRUST TERRITORIES

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that under Chapter XIII of the United Nations Charter the Trusteeship Council is empowered to despatch visiting missions to Trust Territories,

Considering that it would be desirable, in order to promote the development of the status of women in the Trust Territories, that women should share in the responsibilities of the missions,

Invites the Member States to nominate and the Trusteeship Council to appoint women to serve as members of visiting missions.

F

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

The Economic and Social Council,

Having proposed, at its eleventh session, to the International Law Commission to undertake as soon as possible the drafting of a convention on the nationality of married women, embodying the principles recommended by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fourth session,

Noting that at its 1950 session the International Law Commission deemed it appropriate to undertake the drafting of such a convention,

Proposes that the International Law Commission undertake to complete the drafting of this convention in 1952.

G

STATUS OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC LAW

The Economic and Social Council

Expresses its thanks to all Member States which sent replies to sections C, E, and F of part I of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women;

Invites Member States to forward to the Secretary-General such additional information as they may have, with respect to women in public services and functions, and civil liberties for women;

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare for the sixth session of the Commission a supplementary report on these subjects, based on the additional information supplied by Member Governments;

Expresses the hope that the obstacles still existing in some countries with regard to the access and appointment of women to public services and functions will be eliminated as soon as possible;

Noting that some countries discriminate against married women with respect to employment in the public services,

Expresses the hope that the Member States concerned will take steps to remove all discrimination in connexion with the employment of married women in public services.

H

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling

(a) That the principle of equal rights for men and women is embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

(b) That the principle of equal pay for equal work is laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

(c) That the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 121 (VI) of 10 March 1948 reaffirming "the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value for men and women workers",

(d) That resolution 121 (VI) of 10 March 1948 was transmitted to the International Labour Organisation with the request that ILO proceed as rapidly as possible with the further consideration of this subject and report on the action taken,

Noting the action of ILO to give effect to the principle of equal pay for equal work,

Noting that States members of ILO have undertaken to act promptly on decisions of the International Labour Conference,

Urges Member States which are not members of ILO also to take such measures as may be required to give effect to the principle of equal pay for equal work.

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PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

The Economic and Social Council,

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

Noting the report of the Secretary-General on efforts to assure qualified women equal opportunities

for appointment and promotion in the Secretariat of the United Nations,

Urges that the Secretary-General continue to appoint women to senior positions in the Secretariat of the United Nations as envisaged in Article 8 of the Charter, and bring up to date for the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women his report on the nature and proportion of positions occupied by women in the Secretariat of the United Nations (E/CN.6/167, part A);

Requests the Secretary-General to invite the specialized agencies to co-operate with him by supplying information as to the number and proportion of women employed in their secretariats, together with any other information available on qualifications required for professional positions, and to present this information to the Commission on the Status of Women at its next session.