



UNITED NATIONS

**COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH SESSION**

13 — 30 March 1961

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-SECOND SESSION
SUPPLEMENT No. 7**

GENEVA

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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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UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS
THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 7

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifteenth session of the Commission,
held in Geneva from 13 to 30 March 1961 inclusive

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifteenth session at the European Office of the United Nations, Geneva. The session began on 13 March and ended on 30 March 1961.

Attendance

2. Attendance at the session was as follows:

Argentina: Mrs. Blanca Stábile, Mr. Julio César Carasales; **
Australia: Mrs. Ada Norris, Mr. Peter Henderson; **
China: Mrs. Chu-sheng Yeh Cheng;
Colombia: Mrs. Anacarsis Cardona de Salonia, Mrs. María Elvira Tanco de López; *
Cuba: Miss Alba Griñán;
Czechoslovakia: Mrs. Helena Lešlerová, Mr. Přibyslav Pavlík, * Mr. Ilya Hulinský; **
Finland: Mrs. Helvi Sipilä, Mr. Niilo Pusa; **
France: Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefaucheux;
Greece: Mrs. Alexandra Mantzoulinos;
Israel: Mrs. Tamar Eshel;
Japan: Mrs. Setsu Tanino, Mr. Kusuo Kitamura, * Mr. Kazutoshi Hasemawa; **
Mexico: Miss María Lavalle Urbina;
Netherlands: Miss J. C. H. H. de Vink, Miss A. Lunsingh Meijer; *
Philippines: Miss Helena Z. Benitez, Mrs. Etta C. Enriquez; *
Poland: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska, Miss Maria Regent-Lechowicz; **
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mrs. Ekaterina Korshunova, Mrs. Raya Smirnova; **
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Miss Joan Vickers, Mr. D. M. Edwards, * Mr. E. E. Key; **

* Alternate.
** Adviser.

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

OBSERVERS

Austria: Mrs. Karoline Redlich-Neudörfer, Mr. Erich M. Schmid, Mr. Harald Vavrik;
Dominican Republic: Mrs. Honorina Tirado de Saviñón;
Iran: Mrs. Mehranguise Dowlatshahi;
Iraq: Mrs. Bedia H. Afnan;
Peru: Mr. Raúl María Pereira;
United Arab Republic: Mr. O. H. Mahmoud, Mr. H. Muraywid;
Uruguay: Mr. Victor Pomés.

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation: Mrs. Elizabeth M. Johnstone;
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Miss Nicole Friderich;
World Health Organization: Miss Elizabeth Hill.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CATEGORY A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions: Miss Marcelle Dehareng, Miss Raymonde Schweizer, Miss Edith Ruefli, Miss Maria Alt, Miss Rosmarie Etter, Mr. Albert Heyer;
International Federation of Christian Trade Unions: Miss Jeanne-Marie Nagels, Miss Alice Nysen, Mr. Georges Eggerman;
World Federation of Trade Unions: Mrs. Inès Pisoni Cerlesi, Mr. Giuseppe Boglietti;
World Federation of United Nations Associations: Mrs. Tilly Kretschmer-Dorninger.

CATEGORY B

All-Pakistan Women's Association: Begum Rani Mirza-Khan;
Associated Country Women of the World: Miss Marie Zwahlen;

Catholic International Union for Social Service: Miss Marie-Madeleine Brazzola;
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs: Mr. Elfan Rees, Miss Madeleine Barot;
Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations: M. Gustav Warburg;
Friends' World Committee for Consultation: Mrs. Katharine Wood, Mrs. Blanche Shaffer;
International Alliance of Women — Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities: Mrs. Marcelle Prince-Koire, Mrs. Pearl Grobet;
International Association for Social Progress: Mr. Moise Berenstein;
International Association of Penal Law: Mrs. Hélène Romneciano;
International Catholic Child Bureau: Miss Odile Roulet;
International Conference of Catholic Charities: Mr. Antoine Pugin, M. l'Abbé Paul Bouvier;
International Council of Women: Miss L. C. A. van Eeghen, Mrs. Antoinette Rochedieu;
International Federation of Business and Professional Women: Miss Ruth Tomlinson, Miss Elisabeth Feller, Mrs. Jeanne Shelby Mosier, Miss Saïra Arias, Miss Andrée Travelletti;
International Federation of Social Workers: Mrs. Jeanne-Marie Small;
International Federation of University Women: Mrs. Eva Hemmer Pihl, Mrs. Marie Fiechter, Miss Françoise Ehni, Miss Beryl Wardrop;
International Federation of Women Lawyers: Lady Gladys M. Chatterjee, O.B.E., Miss Marjorie C. Leonard;
International League for the Rights of Man: Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf, Mr. Hans Riesser;
International Union for Child Welfare: Miss Audrey E. Moser;
Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations: Miss J. M. Bowie, Miss L. C. A. van Eeghen, Mrs. A. Wible;
Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association: Mrs. Henry G. Fowler, Mrs. Harold Grant, Mrs. Harold Ross, Mrs. Scow Peck Leng;
Pax Romana: Miss Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo, Mr. Tadeusz Szmitkowski;
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: Mrs. Gertrude Baer;
Women's International Zionist Organization: Mrs. Jean Brunschvig, Mrs. Berty Halff;
World Federation of Catholic Women and Girls: Miss Léone Herren;
World Jewish Congress: Lady Reading;
World Movement of Mothers: Mrs. Gertrude Jornot;
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations: Miss Celina Pineiro-Pearson, Dr. Marie-Thérèse Graber-Duvernay, Miss Agnès de Kalbermatten;
World Young Women's Christian Association: Miss Alice Arnold, Miss Dorothea Woods, Mrs. Helen de Mestral, Mrs. Katherine S. Strong;
World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union: Mrs. N. Chaix-Constantin, Mrs. Yvonne Leuba;
Young Christian Workers: Miss Maria Meersman.

REGISTER

International Council of Social Democratic Women: Miss Mary Sutherland;
Medical Women's International Association: Dr. Vera J. Peterson.
Open Door International: Mrs. Gertrude Baer;
St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance: Miss Marie-Isabelle Archinard;
Soroptimist International Association: Mrs. Lucienne Della Santa;
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts: Mrs. Perle Bugnion-Secretan;
World Federation for Mental Health: Dr. Anne Audeoud-Naville;
World O.R.T. Union: Mrs. Vera Wodak;
World Brotherhood: Miss Marina Cerne.

3. Mrs. Sophie Grinberg-Vinaver, Chief of the Section on the Status of Women, represented the Secretary-General. Mrs. Pilar Santander-Downing acted as Secretary to the Commission.

Election of officers

4. The Commission at its 336th meeting, on 13 March 1961, took a vote by secret ballot for the election of the Chairman. Mrs. Tamar Eshel (Israel) was elected Chairman of the Commission by 14 votes in favour, none against and 4 abstentions.

5. The following officers were elected unanimously: Miss María Lavalle Urbina (Mexico), First Vice-Chairman; Mrs. Helena Leflerová (Czechoslovakia), Second Vice-Chairman; Miss J. C. H. H. de Vink (Netherlands), Rapporteur.

Committees

6. In order to expedite its work, the Commission at its 337th meeting established two *ad hoc* committees: a *Committee on Resolutions* (the Committee was composed of the representatives of Argentina, France (Chairman), Greece, USSR and the United States of America) and a *Committee on Communications* (the Committee was composed of the representatives of Colombia, Finland, Japan, Poland (Chairman), and the United Kingdom).

Meetings, resolutions and documentation

7. The Commission held twenty-five plenary meetings. The views expressed at those meetings are summarized in the records of the 336th to 360th meetings.

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

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

10. In the course of its fifteenth session, the Commission took note of statements of financial implications

made by the Secretary-General in respect of proposals the implementation of which might involve additional budgetary provisions. A summary of these statements relating to the proposals as adopted by the Commission is given in annex II to this report.

Agenda

11. The Commission considered its agenda at its 336th and 337th meetings. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/369) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission.

12. The Commission adopted unanimously the proposal made by the representative of France that item 7, dealing with the status of women in private law, should become item 5 in view of the importance which the members of the Commission attached to the discussion of the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages.

13. At its 336th meeting, on 13 March 1961, the Commission adopted its agenda as amended (E/CN.6/369/Rev.1).

14. During its 337th meeting the representative of Argentina proposed the addition of a new item dealing with the increased membership of the Commission. Acting under rule 10 of its rules of procedure, the Commission decided unanimously to add this new item to its agenda.

15. The text of the agenda in its final form (E/CN.6/369/Rev.2) is reproduced below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Political rights of women:
 - (a) Annual memorandum on political rights of women;
 - (b) Supplementary report on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women;
 - (c) Report on the status of women in Trust Territories;
 - (d) Report on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Advisory services programme:
 - (a) Progress report on the advisory services programme;
 - (b) Report of the seminar on the participation of women in public life, held at Addis Ababa in December 1960.
5. Status of women in private law:
 - (a) Report containing comments of Governments on the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages;
 - (b) Supplementary report on the consent to marriage, age of marriage, and registration of marriages.
6. Economic rights and opportunities for women:
 - (a) Report on the application of ILO Convention No. 111 concerning discrimination in respect of employment and occupation;
 - (b) Report on the occupational outlook for women;
 - (c) Report on tax legislation applicable to women.
7. Access of women to education:
 - (a) Report on UNESCO activities of special interest to women;
 - (b) Report on access of women to the teaching profession.
8. Nationality of married women: Report containing information on recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women, and signatures and rectifications of the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women.
9. Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women at the last sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
10. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
11. Communications: Note by the Secretary-General.
12. Increased membership of the Commission on the Status of Women.
13. Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level — Programme appraisals — Review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities — Control and limitation of documentation.
14. Adoption of the report to the Economic and Social Council.

II. POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

16. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 337th to 342nd meetings. It had before it the annual memorandum by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women (A/4407), a memorandum by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (E/CN.6/360/Add.1), and reports by the Secretary-General on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/370) and in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/371), as well as chapters I and II of the report by the Secretary-General on the survey of work of the Commission and the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372); it also had before it statements submitted by the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/

105) and by the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/114).

17. In the course of the general debate on this item the Commission reviewed the progress achieved towards the recognition of political rights for women. Several members expressed satisfaction with the fact that the overwhelming majority of the nations newly admitted to the United Nations have granted full political rights to women. The representative of France stated that in all the countries formerly administered by France complete equality of political rights for men and women had been achieved in those territories before independence. Two members commented favourably on the recent advances made in Switzerland, where in three cantons (Vaud, Neuchâtel and Geneva) women may

vote in cantonal elections and are eligible for cantonal offices and for the Federal Council of States. One representative also noted the increasing participation of women in the General Assembly and in other organs of the United Nations.

18. It was generally felt, however, that much more needed to be done before complete equality of political rights was achieved. Various members noted with regret that in ten countries women still had no voting rights and were not eligible for election, and that in six countries the political rights of women were subject to limitations not imposed on men. Moreover, several members deplored the fact that so few States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies had signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women during the past year. In this regard, one representative stated that the Convention should once more be placed before all non-signatory countries.

19. One representative, citing General Assembly resolution 1378 (XIV) of 20 November 1959 on general and complete disarmament, said that women ought to equip themselves to play an increasing part in and exert greater influence on the formation of foreign policy in their countries, so that they could assume positions of leadership in the struggle for world peace. Referring to the proceedings of several recent meetings of women's organizations, the same representative said that women all over the world were expressing interest and participating actively in the solution of international problems and that the Commission should be informed and make use of the ideas put forward at these meetings. Another representative stated that the proper role of the Commission was to "help women to help themselves" and that a practical way of achieving this purpose was to hold seminars providing a forum for an exchange of opinions and experience on the problems of women.

20. Some representatives commented favourably on the recent declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1960 (resolution 1514 (XV)). They expressed the view that all women should actively support this declaration and work to realize its ends. In this connexion, one representative stated that the fact that a territory had not yet attained independent status did not automatically imply a limitation on the participation of women in political life. Two representatives, commenting on this remark, stated that in the great majority of the territories administered by their respective Governments, full and active participation in political affairs was granted to both men and women. They added that, as the documentation prepared by the Secretary-General indicated, even in some independent States political rights of women were limited or denied completely.

21. Various members commented favourably on the documentation prepared by the Secretary-General on this item and particularly the memorandum on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women. One repre-

sentative suggested, however, that it would be desirable to supplement the material contained in this document by information from Governments and from non-governmental organizations concerning the percentage of women actually participating in elections, the number of women elected or appointed to national and local offices and the participation of women in political parties. The same representative noted that the reports of the Secretary-General on the status of women in Trust Territories and in Non-Self-Governing Territories were based exclusively on the information transmitted by the administering authorities and that, although they contained interesting and useful data, they ought to be supplemented by particulars concerning the role of women in various organizations, including those which were working towards self-determination. Some representatives supported this point of view. Several other members expressed satisfaction with the excellent work performed by non-governmental organizations in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories as indicated in the reports under consideration — by making women aware of their civic and political responsibilities. The representative of the United Kingdom informed the Commission that in Trust Territories under British administration, such as Tanganyika, the legislative council already contained women members.

22. In the course of the debate the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed regret at the absence of a representative of the People's Republic of China, whose place she contended was illegally occupied by a person who had no right to represent China. She hoped that the People's Republic of China would soon be represented in the United Nations and on the Commission. This view was supported by the representatives of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Cuba. The representative of China stated that she represented the only legal government of China and pointed out that the Commission on the Status of Women was not competent to take any action in the matter. She said that her Government had been one of the founders of the United Nations, whereas the Government of the so-called People's Republic of China had come to power against the free will of the people of the Chinese mainland. This view was supported by the representative of the United States of America.

23. The representative of France, who had represented the Commission on the Status of Women at the thirteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, stated that the study on discrimination in the matter of political rights prepared for the Sub-Commission by the Special Rapporteur was of particular interest to the Commission. She suggested that the Secretariat should make the report on the study, to be prepared for the Sub-Commission's fourteenth session, available to the Commission at its next session. This suggestion was accepted by the Commission.

24. During the debate, the Commission heard statements by the observer for Iraq and by the observer for the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

25. Several members commented on the report of the seminar on the participation of women in public life (ST/TAO/HR/9), held at Addis Ababa in December 1960. The Commission agreed that the participants in the seminar had strongly emphasized the need for information that would assist women in achieving a better understanding of their civic and political rights and responsibilities. In this connexion, one representative pointed out the value of the United Nations pamphlets entitled "Convention on the Political Rights of Women—History and Commentary" (ST/SAO/27) and "Political Education of Women" (ST/SAO/6). She thought that the latter publication should be brought up to date and made available to Governments, as well as to non-governmental organizations and to individuals working for an increased participation by women in civic and political affairs.

26. The representatives of France, Philippines and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.297) requesting the Secretary-General to arrange for the revision and publication of the pamphlet, "Political Education of Women" (ST/SAO/6), published in 1951. The representative of the Philippines, in introducing the draft resolution, stated that the original pamphlet had been of unquestioned value in implementing the work of the Commission in the field of political rights. She suggested that the experience gathered, since its publication, by the three United Nations seminars on the participation of women in public life could usefully be reflected in the revised edition. She said that the co-sponsors of the draft resolution wished to delete the words "if possible" in operative paragraph 1 and to add the words "United Nations" before the word "seminars" in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

27. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted the following amendments (E/CN.6/L.301) to the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/L.297: insertion of the words "with a view to reflecting, in the pamphlet, the actual role which women play in the contemporary world" after the words "can readily be brought up to date"; and the replacement of the words "to arrange . . . if possible in co-operation with non-governmental organizations and the discussion leaders . . ."

28. During the debate on the draft resolution, various members expressed the hope that the revised draft pamphlet would be made available to the Commission in the shortest possible time and that the

simplicity and brevity of language of the original pamphlet would be maintained. The representative of the Secretary-General, replying to questions, stated that the revised draft pamphlet might be made available to the Commission at its seventeenth session.

29. The representative of Australia suggested that the second amendment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics should be replaced by the words: "if possible to take into account the work of the non-governmental organizations". The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics accepted the suggestion and withdrew her second amendment. The Commission then adopted the first amendment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

30. At its 342nd meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.297) as amended. The text of the resolution, which is contained in document E/CN.6/L.305, is reproduced below:

1 (XV). POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting that participants in each of the three United Nations seminars on the participation of women in public life have urged the need for intensified civic and political education so that women may maximize the exercise of their civic and political rights,

Noting also that the United Nations publication on *Political Education of Women* (ST/SAO/6) issued in October 1951 is now out of print and that the information in this pamphlet would be extremely helpful in preparing women for civic and political responsibilities and also that the material in the pamphlet can readily be brought up to date, with a view to reflecting the actual role which women play in the contemporary world,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange for a revised draft of this pamphlet, to be entitled "Civic and Political Education of Women", taking into account, if possible, the work of the non-governmental organizations and in consultation with the discussion leaders of each of the three seminars held thus far, for consideration at a future session of the Commission;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General also to develop a plan for the publication and distribution of the revised pamphlet at minimum cost, including the possibility of sale at a reduced price to governments and organizations purchasing in quantity.

III. ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

31. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 338th to 340th meetings. It had before it a progress report by the Secretary-General on advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.6/373 — E/CN.4/807), the report of the 1960 seminar on the participation of women in public life (ST/TAO/HR.9) and the report by the Secretary-General on the survey of the work of

the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372, chapter X). It also had before it a statement submitted by the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/105).

32. In his progress report the Secretary-General informed the Commission of three regional seminars held or scheduled in 1961: (a) the seminar on "the

protection of human rights in the administration of criminal justice", held at Wellington (New Zealand) from 6 to 20 February 1961; (b) a seminar on "the status of women in family law" to be held at Bucharest (Romania) from 19 June to 3 July 1961, which is the fourth seminar concerned with the status of women and the first dealing with the specific subject of the status of women in family law; and (c) a seminar on "*amparo*, *habeas corpus* and similar remedies of judicial protection against the violation of human rights" to take place at Mexico City (Mexico) from 15 to 28 August 1961. The Secretary-General also indicated that in 1962 a seminar on some aspects of freedom of information would be held in India; a seminar on the status of women in family law would be held at Singapore; and a seminar on judicial and other remedies against the abuse of administrative authority, with special emphasis on the question of control of public administration by parliamentary institutions, would take place in Sweden. The Secretary-General's report adds that he continues to keep in mind the organization of an international seminar in the future.

33. In the course of the debate, members of the Commission expressed their deep appreciation of the advisory services programme. All the members of the Commission stressed the usefulness of this programme as demonstrated by the success of past regional seminars. It was felt that the seminars on the participation of women in public life held at Bangkok (Thailand) in 1957, at Bogotá (Colombia) in 1959, and at Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in 1960 had made a great contribution towards the promotion of the political rights of women. The members of the Commission noted with particular satisfaction the outstanding success of the Addis Ababa seminar which had been attended by a large number of African women and paid a tribute to the work of the organizers of the seminar. However, one member said that the agenda of this seminar should have taken account of the special position of the African women who are going through a crucial stage and in particular of their difficulties in the countries of Africa which are not independent.

34. The representative of the International Labour Organisation said that it was largely as a result of the Addis Ababa seminar that her agency had become more fully aware of what had to be done to help women in Africa.

35. One representative pointed out the great need for technical assistance in various fields, in particular in agriculture.

36. Most of the members of the Commission felt that regional seminars constituted one of the best means for achieving the Commission's purposes. In this respect most of the members emphasized the usefulness and necessity of regional seminars which bring together women who have similar problems to solve. They welcomed the plans for the Bucharest and Singapore seminars (scheduled respectively for June-July 1961 and February 1962), both of which will discuss the status of women in family law. One member suggested that a third regional seminar on the same subject

should be held in the Americas and a fourth, also on the same subject, in Africa, since the problems of family law are of great significance for the status of women. One member of the Commission, while not denying the great value of regional seminars, considered that an international seminar should also be organized.

37. Most of the members of the Commission expressed the view that particular attention should be given to the follow-up of the seminars. The general feeling was that the success of a seminar should be measured not only in terms of the discussions and attendance but also in terms of its impact in the area in which it was held. All members agreed that a very valuable follow-up of the regional United Nations seminars was the holding of seminars at the national and local levels. In this respect it was noted with great satisfaction that a national seminar on the participation of women in public life was held in Buenos Aires in November 1960 with the assistance of the Government of Argentina, and that its organizers had been inspired by the regional seminar of Bogotá (Colombia) on the same subject, organized by the United Nations. It was also noted with satisfaction that a seminar dealing with women's role in a developing society was planned by the Government of Israel for April 1961, designed primarily for African and Asian women, and that the project had met with an unexpectedly widespread response, due largely to the success of the Addis Ababa seminar.

38. One member stressed the importance of other aspects of the advisory services programme which could help further the Commission's aims. She said that non-governmental organizations ought to be provided with technical assistance and with funds to send observers to seminars and to send fellows to observe the work of other women's organizations, using to that effect governmental and inter-governmental resources as well as funds available in international organizations.

39. During the debate, several members referred to the wish, clearly and firmly expressed by the African women who had participated in the Addis Ababa seminar, for the abolition of the practice of the ritual operations based on customs which were performed on girls and women in their countries. They considered that the unanimity of these views bore witness to the urgency and importance of this question, and that some step should be taken by the Commission to help African women put an end to these practices. They noted with regret the absence of a representative of WHO at this seminar and it was felt that this specialized agency, which has been asked before by the United Nations to undertake a study of these practices, should be invited to take cognizance of the seminar's report (ST/TAO/HR.9).

40. The representative of WHO referred to resolution WHA 12.53, adopted by the Twelfth World Health Assembly in May 1959, in which the Assembly had declared that ritual operations (now referred to as "operations based on customs") were based on social and cultural factors which were outside the competence of WHO. She also referred to Economic and Social

Council resolution 771 D (XXX) and indicated that WHO was ready, in keeping with this resolution, to assist any Government at its request by providing services within its sphere of competence, but that so far no such request had been received.

41. The Commission heard a statement by the observer for Iraq. It also heard the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: All-Pakistan Women's Association, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association and St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance.

42. The representatives of France and the United Kingdom submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.298) by which the Commission would request the Economic and Social Council to draw the attention of WHO to the report of the seminar on the participation of women in public life held at Addis Ababa (ST/TAO/HR.9), and particularly to paragraphs 60, 61 and 62, and to request WHO to inform the Council of the action it intended to take to meet the wishes clearly expressed by African women regarding measures to combat the customary practices to which too many women are still being subjected. In the course of the debate the representative of Colombia became a co-sponsor of this draft resolution.

43. The representative of the Netherlands submitted an oral amendment to operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution for action by the Council: she proposed that the words "what action it intends to take" should be replaced by the words "whether it deems possible", and the words "regarding measures to combat" by the words "by undertaking a study of". The co-sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendment.

44. Many members of the Commission expressed support for the draft resolution as amended. They were of the opinion that the Commission should help the African women who had unanimously and very clearly expressed their desire for the abolition of the practices in question.

45. Other members thought, however, that this question should be considered only when the Commission's members included representatives of African countries, because the question was of direct concern to them. They referred to the views they had expressed at the Commission's fourteenth session and also recalled that at the thirtieth session of the Economic and Social Council a representative of an African country had asked the Council to take no action in this matter. They noted with satisfaction that the report of the Addis Ababa seminar indicated that African women would take action themselves in the near future, and thought that this was probably the best solution.

46. The representative of the United States of America proposed that the words "medical aspects involved in the" should be added before the words "the customary practices" in the sentence amended by the representative of the Netherlands. The co-sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the United States amendment.

47. At its 340th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as amended, by 13 votes to none, with 5 abstentions. The text of the resolution is reproduced below:

2 (XV). ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME
IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

*The Commission on the Status of Women,
Recalling its resolution 5 (XIV),*

Having studied the report of the seminar on the participation of women in public life held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 1960 (ST/TAO/HR.9),

Having noted with appreciation the quality of the work accomplished,

Desiring to support the efforts being made by African women in the hope of improving their living conditions,

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

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

IV. STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

48. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 341st to 347th meetings. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing the comments of Governments on the draft Convention and draft Recommendation on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages (E/CN.6/376 and Add.1-3), a supplementary report by the Secretary-General on the consent to marriage, age of marriage and registration of marriages (E/CN.6/356/Add.2), and chapter VIII of the survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372); it also had before it statements submitted by the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/109 and E/CN.6/NGO/110), the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/105), the

International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/114), the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations (E/CN.6/NGO/107 and E/CN.6/NGO/108), the Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association (E/CN.6/NGO/115) and St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance (E/CN.6/NGO/103 and E/CN.6/NGO/104).

49. The general debate took account of the discussions at the thirtieth session of the Economic and Social Council concerning draft resolution III A and B¹ containing a draft Convention and a draft Recommendation on the minimum age of marriage, consent

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 7, chap. XV.*

to marriage and registration of marriages, which had been transmitted to the Council by a decision taken by the Commission at its fourteenth session. The Council has decided not to consider the texts of the instruments and requested the Secretary-General (resolution 771 C (XXX)) to transmit the documents to Governments inviting them to submit observations on (a) the question whether a draft Convention or a draft Recommendation, or both, should be prepared, and (b) the provisions of the drafts drawn up by the Commission.

50. Many members noted that it appeared from the observations of Governments on the instruments adopted by the Commission at its fourteenth session that the minimum age of marriage of fifteen years, prescribed in these instruments, conflicted with the provisions of their municipal law. It was noted that some of the statements submitted by non-governmental organizations also doubted the advisability of fixing a specific minimum age of marriage in an international instrument, such as a convention. Some representatives stated that, although in the law of their countries provision was made for a minimum age of fifteen or above, they wished to take into account the position of other countries. Because of the inherent difficulty in fixing a suitable age of marriage which would be accepted by a large majority of Governments, these members suggested that the Commission should adopt a convention incorporating a general principle stating that the States parties undertake to include within their legislation provisions specifying a minimum age of marriage. Some representatives stated that the principle of full and free consent of both parties to the marriage was the most important and far-reaching of all and that an article embodying this principle would be of the greatest benefit to women, particularly in the developing countries.

51. Several representatives expressed concern with the form of articles 1 and 2 of the draft Convention and of paragraph I, sub-paragraphs 1 and 2, of the draft Recommendation as adopted by the Commission at its previous session, inasmuch as they might have the effect to invalidating marriages if the provisions of the instruments were not observed. In this connexion, some representatives stated that it was the responsibility of national legislatures to determine the effects of non-compliance with the law. Another representative stated that in most countries the effect of non-compliance with similar statutory provisions was to render the marriage voidable rather than void.

52. Some representatives advocated the adoption of a convention which would contain a precise indication of the minimum age of marriage. Referring to documents E/CN.6/376 and Add.1-3, and E/CN.6/356 and Add.1-2, they pointed out that in an overwhelming majority of countries a minimum age of marriage was already provided for, though unfortunately it was not everywhere high enough. Only in comparatively few countries was no minimum age of marriage specified. In their opinion the adoption of the convention would be the best means of eliminating child marriages and creating favourable conditions for extending education to women. Another representative stated in support

of this view that she was convinced that the present trend, as indicated by recent legislation, was to raise the minimum age of marriage, because Governments were attempting to restrain the rise in the birth rate which placed additional pressure on existing limited food supplies. Another reason for supporting the specific age of fifteen or sixteen years was that it enabled girls to remain at school for longer than at present.

53. One member stated that under the federal structure of her country all matters relating to marriage came within the exclusive jurisdiction of the States and that she would therefore abstain in the vote on the convention. Another representative stated that in her opinion a convention was an inappropriate method of dealing with this question because of the variation in cultural, social and ethnological factors affecting marriage, which was reflected in the diversity of existing legislation and practice. Both of these representatives stated, however, that they would support a resolution containing a draft recommendation. It was also noted by one member that the draft instruments did not contain a territorial application clause but that this should not prevent her from supporting the instruments since such a provision could be incorporated during the discussions either in the Economic and Social Council or in the General Assembly.

54. Several representatives pointed out that the participants in the Addis Ababa seminar had pressed for legislation abolishing such practices as child marriages, child betrothals and marriages without the full and free consent of the bride. In particular, one of the conclusions adopted unanimously by the seminar stressed the need to take action in order to establish a minimum age of marriage, the requirement of free consent to marriage and compulsory registration of marriages.

55. In the course of the debate, the Commission heard the observers for Iraq and Iran, and the representative of the ILO. Statements were also made by the representatives of the All-Pakistan Women's Association, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance.

56. The representatives of Argentina, France, Greece, Israel and Mexico submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.299) containing in part A a draft Convention, with a preamble and substantive articles, on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages, and in part B of the same resolution a draft Recommendation on the same subject. Article 1 of the draft Convention provided for legislative action by States parties with the object of introducing a minimum age of marriage under which no marriage could be legally entered into except by special dispensation granted by the competent authority. Under article 2, no marriage could be legally entered into without the full and free consent of both parties expressed by them personally in the presence of the competent authorities and witnesses, as provided by

law. Article 3 provided for the compulsory registration of marriages. The representative of the United Kingdom suggested that part of the resolution containing the draft Convention be separated from part B. If her suggestion was accepted she would be pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution dealing with the draft Convention. The representative of the USSR objected to the separation of the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation into two different documents because, in her opinion, the Recommendation was an important complement to and broadened the scope of the Convention. The representative of Greece in an oral amendment requested her co-sponsors to add the following paragraph to the preamble of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.299): "*Having considered* the statements submitted to the fifteenth session of the Commission by non-governmental organizations in consultative status", together with a footnote referring to the following statements submitted: E/CN.6/NGO/103, E/CN.6/NGO/105, E/CN.6/NGO/107, E/CN.6/NGO/110 and E/CN.6/NGO/115. The co-sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the suggestion of the representative of the United Kingdom and also agreed to incorporate the amendment of the representative of Greece in the preamble of both the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation. The co-sponsors also accepted the representative of the United Kingdom as a co-sponsor.

57. Thereafter a revised draft resolution sponsored by Argentina, France, Greece, Israel, Mexico and the United Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.299/Rev.1) containing a draft Convention on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages and a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.303), sponsored by the representatives of Argentina, France, Greece, Israel and Mexico, containing a draft Recommendation, was submitted to the Commission. The substantive provisions of this draft Recommendation stated that no marriage of any person under the age of fifteen would be valid except by special dispensation, that no marriage without the full and free consent of both parties would be valid and that all marriages should be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority.

58. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted amendments (E/CN.6/L.302) to the text of the draft Convention and draft Recommendation as adopted by the Commission at its fourteenth session and contained in resolution III A and B (XIV).^{*} The first amendment proposed that article 1 of the draft Convention and paragraph I, sub-paragraph 1, of the draft Recommendation be amended in the following respects: replace the words "No marriage of any person under the age of fifteen shall be valid" by the words "No marriage with any person under the age of fifteen shall be permitted". Under the second amendment relating to article 2 of the draft Convention and to paragraph I, sub-paragraph 2, of the draft Recommendation the words "No marriage shall be valid" were to be replaced by the words "No marriage shall be permitted" (the rest of

the provision remaining unchanged). The representative of the USSR also stated that the Commission should follow the procedure of the previous session and include both the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation in one document for transmittal to the Economic and Social Council. She added that the purpose of her amendments was to place the responsibility for invalidating a marriage under the minimum age of fifteen on the competent authorities in each country.

59. The representative of the United States of America submitted an amendment (E/CN.6/L.304) to the draft Recommendation contained in document E/CN.6/L.303. She proposed that paragraph I, sub-paragraphs 1 and 2, be deleted and replaced by the following new sub-paragraphs 1 and 2: "1. Marriage shall be entered into only with the full and free consent of both parties, such consent to be expressed by them in person, orally, publicly and in the presence of the authority competent to solemnize the marriage." "2. To insure that the parties are competent to consent freely to the marriage, Member Governments should establish a minimum age for the marriage of girls of not less than 14 years, to apply in all cases except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age for serious causes." In support of her amendment, she stated that the principle of consent was of primary importance and that the article of the draft Recommendation dealing with consent should be placed first. Recalling the practice of the ILO, she said that the purpose of the recommendation was to set a standard that could more readily be achieved in the developing countries and, therefore, she stated her preference for a minimum age of fourteen years.

60. The representative of the United Kingdom submitted amendments (E/CN.6/L.306) to the draft resolution containing the draft Recommendation (E/CN.6/L.303). One purpose of her proposals was to simplify the procedure whereby Governments reported to the Secretary-General on the steps taken to implement the recommendation. She thought that the procedure suggested by the sponsors of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.303) in paragraphs II to VI was too closely modelled on that of the ILO and might create constitutional difficulties for her Government. She also felt that it was preferable to leave it to Governments to determine the effects of non-compliance with the principles.

61. At the suggestion of the Chairman, the Commission decided to consider first the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.299/Rev.1) containing the draft Convention together with the USSR amendments contained in document E/CN.6/L.302, and then the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.303) containing the draft Recommendation together with the relevant amendments (E/CN.6/L.302, E/CN.6/L.304 and E/CN.6/L.306).

62. During the discussion on the draft Convention as contained in document E/CN.6/L.299/Rev.1, the representative of France — speaking as one of the co-sponsors — expressed agreement with the idea of the amendments contained in document E/CN.6/L.304 relating to the draft Recommendation—viz., that the first article of the instrument should deal with the question

^{*} See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 7*, chap. XV.

of consent and that the order of articles 1 and 2 should accordingly be reversed. The other co-sponsors agreed to this change and made the consequential change in the title of the proposed instrument. The USSR representative expressed misgivings concerning the inclusion in article 2 of the draft Convention of the sentence "States who are party to this Convention shall take legislative action to specify a minimum age of marriage", because she felt that this wording would enable Governments which ratified the convention to comply with it by simply promulgating legislation concerning the minimum age of marriage but not dealing with the other two articles of the draft Convention. Several of the co-sponsors supported the retention of the article as drafted and pointed out that the language of the draft was in conformity with traditional legal usage.

63. After the Chairman had explained that the text of the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation adopted by the Commission at its fourteenth session was not before the Commission as a formal document and that the only texts under consideration were the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation included in draft resolutions E/CN.6/L.299/Rev.1 and E/CN.6/L.303, the USSR representative transferred her amendments (E/CN.6/L.302) to the text of the draft Convention as adopted by the Commission at its fourteenth session to the text contained in document E/CN.6/L.299/Rev.1. She requested, in addition, that her amendments (E/CN.6/L.302) should be treated as amendments to the draft Recommendation contained in document E/CN.6/L.303. Thereafter the same representative submitted the following oral amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.299/Rev.1: deletion of the word "legally" in articles 1 and 2 of the amended draft resolution and substitution of the words "under the age of fifteen" for the words "under this age" in the second sentence of article 2. In support of her first amendment, she stated that the retention of the word "legally" would invalidate recognized *de facto* marriages. Referring to her second amendment, she said that the Commission should not retreat from the position taken at its previous session since the inclusion of a specific minimum age of marriage was necessary for the effectiveness of the instrument. She stated also that there was no substantive difference between the substantive provisions of these texts and those adopted at the fourteenth session, except for the reference to a specific minimum age of marriage.

64. At the request of the USSR representative, the Commission agreed to vote first on her amendment relating to age. The Commission rejected this amendment by 12 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions. The Commission then voted on the deletion of the word "legally" and rejected this amendment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics by 12 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.

65. At the request of the USSR representative, the Commission agreed to take a separate vote on article 2 of the draft Convention contained in document E/CN.6/L.299/Rev.1. Article 2 was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

66. At its 344th meeting, the Commission adopted the amended draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.299/Rev.1), as

a whole, by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The text of the resolution is reproduced below.

3 (XV). CONSENT TO MARRIAGE, MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

Draft Convention

The Commission on the Status of Women, Having studied the debate in the Committee of the Economic and Social Council, at the 14th session of the Council,

Having studied also the comments of Governments on the draft Convention on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriage, which were submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with resolution 771 (XXX) of the Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the statements submitted at the fifteenth session of the Commission by non-governmental organizations in consultative status,^a

Having also taken into consideration the unanimity of the views expressed by the participants at the Addis Ababa Seminar,

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

[For text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution III A.]

67. Various representatives explained their votes on the draft resolution. The representative of the United States stated that she abstained in the voting on the draft resolution because in her country rules concerning marriage were not subject to federal legislation and were within the exclusive jurisdiction of the States. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that she had voted in favour of the draft resolution because she wanted to express her support for the principle of a convention. However, she expressed her regret that the Commission had not adopted a provision specifying a minimum age of marriage, since in her opinion such a provision would have been more effective. The representative of Cuba stated that she had abstained in the vote on the first amendment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning age inasmuch as, in her country, the minimum age of marriage was fourteen for women and sixteen for men, with the proviso that persons under twenty were required to obtain the consent of parents before contracting marriage; she had found it necessary to abstain also on the second USSR amendment (deletion of the word "legally") because the language of the resolution paralleled that of the Cuban Civil Code. The representative of Japan, in explaining her vote, stated that she had abstained in all the votes on the draft Convention because her Government considered that a recommendation was the appropriate instrument.

68. The Commission proceeded to consider the draft Recommendation contained in document E/CN.6/L.303 together with the amendments thereto (E/CN.6/L.302, E/CN.6/L.304 and E/CN.6/L.306). The representative of

^a E/CN.6/NGO/103, E/CN.6/NGO/105, E/CN.6/NGO/107, E/CN.6/NGO/110 and E/CN.6/NGO/115.

the United Kingdom orally amended paragraph I of her amendments (E/CN.6/L.306) in the following respects: (a) she reversed the order of sub-paragraphs 1 and 2 of paragraph I of the draft Recommendation and changed the title of the Recommendation accordingly; (b) she substituted the words "legally entered into" for the word "permitted" in the first line of sub-paragraph 1 and in the first line of sub-paragraph 2 of her amended text; and (c) she added the words "and of such witnesses as may be prescribed by law" at the end of sub-paragraph 1. The representative of the United States of America expressed her support of the United Kingdom text (E/CN.6/L.306) as orally amended on condition that the United Kingdom agreed to the addition of paragraph VII of the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/L.303 requesting the endorsement of the recommendation by the General Assembly. The United Kingdom representative agreed to incorporate paragraph VII. Thereupon the representative of the United States of America withdrew her amendments (E/CN.6/L.304). The USSR representative withdrew her amendments (E/CN.6/L.302) on condition that the Russian text of paragraph I, sub-paragraphs 1 and 2, was edited in conformity with her wishes concerning the translation of the words "legally entered into".

69. The sponsors of the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/L.303 accepted the United Kingdom amendments to paragraph I (E/CN.6/L.306). However, all the sponsors of the draft resolution agreed that the procedure for reporting on the implementation of the Recommendation as contained in their draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.303, paragraphs II-VI) should be maintained. The representative of the United Kingdom noted with satisfaction that the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.303) recalled article 2 of the Supplementary Convention of 1956 on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery;⁴ she stated, however, that the suggested procedure might require supplementary enabling legislation and that the time limits proposed for the submission of the Recommendation to Governments as well as the time limits for reporting on the measures taken to give effect to the Recommendation were not sufficiently flexible. Several of the sponsors emphasized the effect of the words "if possible" in paragraph II of the draft resolution, which in their opinion did not prescribe but merely indicated a suitable interval for governmental action.

70. Thereafter, the representatives of Argentina, France, Greece, Israel, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States of America submitted a joint revised text (E/CN.6/L.303/Rev.1) incorporating the following amendments: in paragraph II the words "within whose competence the matter lies for the enactment of legislation or other action" were replaced by "competent to enact legislation or to take

other action" and in paragraph IV the words "at intervals of three years" were replaced by the words "at the end of three years and thereafter at intervals of five years".

71. The revised draft resolution was then put to the vote. At the request of the representative of Finland, the Commission took a separate vote on paragraph I, sub-paragraph 2, of the draft recommendation (E/CN.6/L.303/Rev.1); sub-paragraph 2 was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention. At its 347th meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution unanimously. The text of the resolution is reproduced below:

4 (XV). CONSENT TO MARRIAGE, MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

Draft Recommendation

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having studied the debates in the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council, at the thirtieth session of the Council,

Having studied also the comments of Governments on the draft Recommendation on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages, which were submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with resolution 771 (XXX) of the Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the statements submitted at the fifteenth session of the Commission by non-governmental organizations in consultative status,⁵

Having also taken into consideration the unanimity of the views expressed by the participants at the Addis Ababa seminar,

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

[For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution III B.]

72. Two members explained their votes. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that she preferred a minimum age of sixteen years. However, because she wished to co-operate with the Commission in this unquestionably worthwhile endeavour she had voted in favour of the draft Recommendation. The representative of Finland stated that she had abstained in the vote on paragraph I, sub-paragraph 2, because in her opinion it was unwise to prescribe a minimum age. However, since she wished to support the principle of a recommendation on this subject she had voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole.

73. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics added that the draft Convention on the consent to marriage, minimum age of marriage and registration of marriages should be accompanied by formal clauses and that the resolutions containing the draft Convention and the draft Recommendation should be transmitted simultaneously to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for adoption.

⁴ E/CN.6/NGO/103, E/CN.6/NGO/105, E/CN.6/NGO/107, E/CN.6/NGO/110 and E/CN.6/NGO/115.

⁵ United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery, held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 August to 4 September 1956, *Final Act and Supplementary Convention* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 57.XIV.2).

V. ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

74. The Commission discussed item 6 of its agenda at its 345th to 353rd meetings. It had before it: a report by the International Labour Office on the application of Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation⁶ (E/CN.6/379); reports by the Secretary-General on the occupational outlook for women, namely, the supplementary report on the access of women to training and employment in architecture, engineering and the legal profession (E/CN.6/343/Add.5), the report on draughtsmen (E/CN.6/374) and the report on science and engineering technicians not elsewhere classified and laboratory assistants (E/CN.6/374/Add.1); a report prepared by Mr. Olivier Oldman, Lecturer on International Tax Law, Harvard University, acting as a consultant to the United Nations Secretariat, with Mr. Ralph Temple, Teaching Fellow in Law, Harvard University (E/CN.6/344 and Add.1-2), on tax legislation applicable to women; a report by the Secretary-General on the survey of the work of the Commission and on the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372, chapters IV, VI and VII). It also had before it statements submitted by the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (E/CN.6/NGO/106), the World Federation of Trade Unions (E/CN.6/NGO/117), the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (E/CN.6/NGO/116), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/114), and the Open Door International (E/CN.6/NGO/112).

Application of ILO Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation; occupational outlook for women

75. The Commission decided to consider sub-items (a) and (b) of item 6 together because of their very close connexion.

76. The representative of the ILO, introducing the report on discrimination in employment and occupation, said that thirty-four countries had ratified the ILO Convention (No. 100) concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value⁷ and that practical progress in the implementation of its principles had been made in a number of countries. Turning to the question of discrimination in employment, she stressed the difficulty of defining the meaning of constituted discrimination in practice. There were clear differences of opinion and, in addition, discrimination meant very different things in different national contexts, and measures which might be regarded as discriminatory in certain national contexts were not so regarded in others and had different practical economic and social effects. As regards the ILO Convention (No. 111) concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, she stated that sixteen

countries had now ratified the Convention and that there were good prospects that the number would rise to thirty in the near future. The Governing Body of the ILO shared the Commission's view as to the importance attaching to the standards laid down in this instrument and in the supplementary Recommendation; it had taken special steps to draw the attention of Governments to the desirability of speedy ratification of the Convention and had further action under consideration. The report on the application of the Convention was of a fairly general character this year because, in view of the recent date of its entry into force, reports from ratifying Governments, which constituted a primary source of information, were not yet available. The main body of the report dealt with discrimination in employment against women in general. The addendum included a preliminary survey of discrimination on the basis of marital status submitted to the Commission for information; the preliminary survey would be revised, completed and finalized at a later stage and in this process it would be possible to take comments made by members of the Commission into account.

77. During the general debate members of the Commission expressed their deep appreciation of the report prepared by the International Labour Office. They praised its clarity and conciseness, as well as the valuable information contained in it. Many representatives also expressed appreciation of the documentation prepared by the Secretary-General relating to the occupational outlook for women, particularly in view of the difficulties encountered in its preparation.

78. Several members of the Commission noted the keen interest in the subject expressed by non-governmental organizations, as evidenced not only by the number of written statements submitted, but also by the numerous speakers on this item.

79. Members of the Commission noted with satisfaction that progress had been made in the removal of discrimination in employment and occupation against women and that the general trend in the world was towards a fuller participation of women in the economic life of their countries.

80. The majority of the members of the Commission noted with satisfaction that legislative provisions in various countries already provided for equality of rights in employment and occupation for men and women. However, they showed great concern with the extent to which discrimination was practised in fact either openly or in a concealed form. They felt that married women with family responsibilities in particular were victims of discrimination. The consensus of opinion was that, in view of this situation, much remained to be done and that it was important and urgent to press the fight against discrimination in employment and occupation and for the expansion of employment opportunities for women.

81. In the course of the debate, members of the Commission spoke at length on the various factors affecting the status of women in the economic field, on

⁶ See International Labour Office, *Official Bulletin*, vol. XLI, No. 2 (1958), p. 72.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. XXXIV, No. 1 (1951), p. 9.

the obstacles to the achievement of equality of rights between women and men, and on the ways to overcome them.

82. It was generally agreed that employment opportunities for women depended primarily on the economic situation of the country and on the state of the labour market. The members recognized that economic recession, when it occurred, affected first the employment of women. It was felt that the employment of women was, more than the employment of men, linked to the general economic conditions because the majority of women were employed in non-skilled occupations.

83. Many members pointed out also that the problem was a general one, which existed in industrialized countries, as well as in developing countries. They expressed their concern at the fact that industrialization did not necessarily mean an increase of opportunities for women. In this context one member referred to automation and mechanization, which were a greater threat for women workers than for men.

84. The majority of the members expressed the view that the main reason for such a situation lay in the difference in the level of technical and occupational training of men and women. A number of suggestions were made concerning ways to overcome this major obstacle. It appeared clearly that special attention should be given to vocational guidance in schools which would enable girls to know what opportunities in employment and professions were available to them as well as to vocational and technical training which would give women the appropriate skills.

85. Many members were of the opinion that another serious obstacle to the enjoyment of equal rights in the fields under review was social and cultural attitudes, and sometimes religious beliefs, according to which women with family responsibilities should devote themselves primarily to their family and to their home.

86. It was suggested that in order to remove these prejudices and attitudes, a campaign of general education of public opinion should be undertaken. One member, however, warned of the danger of removing these factors artificially, regardless of the various factors involved.

87. Some members pointed out that another important cause of discrimination could be found in the approach of girls and women, in general, towards employment and professional work. They emphasized that many women still do not consider their careers or their occupations as essential and that young girls often plan to stop working when they get married; as a result of this attitude, women show a marked preference for less highly qualified vocations, which do not require a long and difficult training.

88. One member stressed the danger of this attitude which, if it persisted, would jeopardize the entire fight of women for equality of rights with men, and stressed that women should be taught to consider their occupations as a serious undertaking, involving great responsibility.

89. Several members also referred to the preference shown by women for certain categories of work or cer-

tain professions, such as nursing and teaching; they thought that women should choose their occupations according to their natural aptitudes and qualifications; but they were concerned that a division in the type of the work between men and women might be exploited by employers and lead to more discrimination against women.

90. Some members were of the opinion that absenteeism was also an important cause of discrimination. They believed that employers showed reluctance to employ women because of the alleged higher rate of absenteeism among women than among men. However, they felt that absenteeism was a false argument and noted that in professions involving a degree of responsibility the proportion of absentees among women was not higher than among men. In this context one member expressed the view that this argument took into account only the part of the life of a working woman when she may have heavy family responsibilities and not the whole, particularly the later, period of her working life.

91. Several members indicated that employers were often reluctant to employ married women because in many countries some or all social welfare benefits, including maternity benefits, were the employer's liability. Such an additional liability might very well be an important cause of discrimination against the employment of married women. It was felt that there was a need for information on this particular aspect of the problem and that the ILO should be asked to examine to what extent discrimination against women was attributable to the fact that these benefits were, in some countries, borne in part or completely by employers.

92. Several members of the Commission showed special interest in the problem of part-time work for women, as a means of helping women who cannot find or take up full-time employment for various reasons. This particular problem is dealt with in paragraphs 117 to 120 of this report.

93. Some members felt that under prevailing conditions the employment of women still required some measure of protective legislation; one member even thought that new kinds of protective rules might have to be enacted in the future to deal with the new physical dangers to which women workers may be exposed in new technical fields of occupations; she gave the example of atomic protective regulations or legislation.

94. But the majority of members considered that further protection of women workers would lead to more discrimination. In this context one member indicated that she was sceptical about the sincerity of protective measures which prohibited the employment of women in certain arduous jobs and which could well be or have been designed to prevent women from working outside the home.

95. All the members of the Commission referred to the situation in respect of employment and occupation in their countries and to the steps taken either in law or in fact to combat discrimination and ensure the fullest possible employment. They were eager to exchange information so that they could benefit by the efforts made in other countries to solve these important problems.

96. All members felt that it was of very great importance that the Commission should have a broader basis of information on which it could base its future action. In their opinion, the report of the ILO, although providing very valuable documentation, was only a preliminary document. They unanimously expressed the hope that the ILO would continue its studies of discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation and give further consideration to ways of eliminating all forms of such discrimination.

97. Several members of the Commission were of the opinion that more information, particularly on methods to promote the access of women to training and employment, was needed on the question of the occupational outlook for women. They indicated that the use of the International Classification of Occupations of the ILO had not served the particular purpose to which it had been put in connexion with the occupational outlook studies and had increased the difficulty of compiling and evaluating the data. A new approach was needed in order to collect additional information which would meet the aims pursued when the occupational outlook studies were initiated. (This problem is also dealt with in paragraph 139 below.)

98. Some representatives felt, however, that the study of the professions and occupations reviewed in the reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/343 and Add.1-5; E/CN.6/374 and Add.1) was completed and that new fields of employment, mainly those where large numbers of women are employed, should be studied.

99. The representative of the United States of America stated that one of the primary purposes of the study was to find out what Governments and non-governmental organizations were doing to assist and encourage women to prepare themselves for professional and other higher-level occupations. Although the Secretary-General's questionnaire had been amended in 1959 to include a question to Governments on this point, the response had been incomplete and unsatisfactory. The experience of the non-governmental organizations should also be obtained.

100. Several members were of the opinion that the time had not come to undertake the study of other occupations and that it would be preferable to review the results of the survey contained in the aforementioned documents and to supplement them by additional information obtained from Governments and non-governmental organizations concerning activities which tend to encourage and assist the access of women to professional and technical occupations.

101. Several members proposed that an appeal should be made to the countries which had not yet done so to ratify Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation.

102. A few members suggested that national laws should include a formal prohibition of discrimination against women in the fields of employment and occupation.

103. One member expressed the hope that all the work done by the ILO for the Commission would be brought to the notice of the Special Rapporteur of the

Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, who was preparing an important study on discrimination in respect of political rights and who would therefore deal with discrimination in public life.

104. The Commission heard statements by the observers for Iran and Iraq. It also heard the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, the International Council of Social Democratic Women, and the Open Door International. In response to questions from various representatives, the Commission also heard the representative of the ILO.

105. The representatives of Greece, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.307) relating to the application of ILO Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, which read as follows:

The Commission on the Status of Women

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Accepting the principle that women workers should be accorded conditions of work no less favourable than those of men workers,

"1. Congratulates the International Labour Office on its report on the application of Convention No. 111, concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation (E/CN.6/379);

"2. Stresses the importance of action to change the social attitudes which play an important part in discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation;

"3. Invites the International Labour Organisation to continue and complete these studies with particular emphasis on the position in the developing countries, and to report further to the Commission on the Status of Women in due course."

106. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.308) inviting States to become parties to the same convention.

107. After an exchange of opinions, the two draft resolutions were referred to the *ad hoc* Committee on Resolutions, which proposed to the Commission a combined text, contained in document E/CN.6/L.314. This draft resolution read as follows:

The Commission on the Status of Women

Congratulates the International Labour Office on its report on the application of Convention No. 111, concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation (E/CN.6/379);

Notes that in many countries discrimination against women in employment and occupation is not yet eliminated;

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 728 D (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 inviting Governments to ratify Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, or to take other appropriate action with regard to the said convention,

"Expressing the hope that resolution 728 D (XXVIII) will contribute to the elimination of discrimination against women in employment and occupation,

"Recognizing the need for the earliest possible elimination of discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation,

"Stressing the importance of action to change the social attitudes which play an important part in discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation,

"Invites the International Labour Organisation to continue its studies of discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation and to give further consideration to ways of eliminating all the aspects of such discrimination."

108. The representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.315) concerning the application of Convention No. 111, with special emphasis on the elimination of the restrictions affecting the right of married women to work. After an exchange of views on this draft resolution, its sponsor submitted a revised document (E/CN.6/L.315/Rev.1), embodying the substance of document E/CN.6/L.315, but in the form of three amendments to the draft resolution proposed by the Committee on Resolutions (E/CN.6/L.314). These amendments read as follows:

1. Insert after the second preambular paragraph the following:

"Noting that in some countries the practice still persists whereby employers unilaterally break off employment relations with women as soon as they marry and that this practice is contrary to the right of women to work and their right to marry and to found a family."

2. Insert after the first paragraph of the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council the following:

"Recalling also its resolution 771 B (XXX) on the access of married women to public services and functions."

3. Insert before the operative paragraph of the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council the following paragraph:

"Recommends that all Governments take the necessary measures to eliminate restrictions on the right of women, including married women and women contracting marriage, to work in all branches of industry and trade."

109. In the course of the debate the representative of Argentina submitted an amendment (E/CN.6/L.317) to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.314. This amendment added the following paragraph at the end of the operative part of the draft resolution:

"Further invites the International Labour Organisation to consider in this connexion to what extent discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation in the different countries is attributable to the fact that the cost of all or some social welfare benefits, particularly maternity benefits, is defrayed solely by employers and not out of public funds or other collective funds established by existing social security schemes or social services."

110. The representative of France proposed orally the deletion of the paragraph beginning with *"Expressing the hope that..."* (E/CN.6/L.314). Her proposal was accepted.

111. The representative of Greece, in an oral sub-amendment to the third Czechoslovak amendment, proposed that before the word "Governments" the word "all" should be omitted and that the words "of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies" should be added after the word "Governments".

112. The representative of Argentina proposed orally that the final words of her amendment (E/CN.6/L.317), from "funds established" to "social services", be replaced by the words "arrangements, in particular, the existing systems of social security and social services".

113. The representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic asked for a separate vote on the Greek sub-amendment.

114. Separate votes were taken on the Czechoslovak amendments (E/CN.6/L.315/Rev.1). At the 351st meeting of the Commission, the first Czechoslovak amendment was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 8 abstentions; the second Czechoslovak amendment was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The Greek sub-amendment to the third Czechoslovak amendment was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 8 abstentions. Thereafter, the third Czechoslovak amendment, as sub-amended, was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 6 abstentions. The Argentine amendment (E/CN.6/L.317), as revised by its sponsor, was adopted unanimously.

115. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Resolutions (E/CN.6/L.314), as amended, by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

5 (XV). DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting that in many countries discrimination against women in employment and occupation is not yet eliminated,

Noting also that in some countries the practice still persists whereby employers unilaterally break off employment relations with women as soon as they marry and that this practice is contrary to the right of women to work and their right to marry and to found a family,

1. *Congratulates* the International Labour Office on its report on the application of Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation (E/CN.6/379);

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

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

116. The representatives of Greece, the Netherlands, the Philippines and the United Kingdom submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.312) under which the Commission would request the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Labour Office, to bring up to date for a future session of the Commission their previous studies on part-time work for women on the basis of information to be obtained from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In the course of the debate, the representatives of Australia and China were added as co-sponsors of the joint draft resolution (then circulated as document E/CN.6/L.312/Rev.1).

117. During the discussion of this joint draft resolution, most of the members of the Commission agreed that the question of part-time work for women was very important, in particular for married women, because of the large number of women who were either unable to find full-time employment or were for various reasons not in a position to take up full-time employment outside the home; consequently they felt that the Commission should assist these women by trying to increase their opportunities for part-time employment. One member, referring to the special situation of married women with young children, said that so long as the appropriate social measures, such as the establishment of a large network of day nurseries, were not taken to help them while they worked outside the home, mothers of young children would continue to be attracted to part-time employment.

118. Two members doubted whether the encouragement of part-time work for women was consonant with the aims of the Commission and said that the Commission, in approving such a resolution, would in effect be taking the dangerous course of expressing support for the preferential treatment of women.

119. One member said that the question of part-time work for women was irrelevant to the problems of the Commission and that the professional life of workers should be governed by rules applicable to all, regardless of sex.

120. One of the sponsors of the joint draft resolution explained, however, that it was not intended to favour part-time work for women or to consider it as a substitute for full-time employment, but that its purpose

was to give women the opportunity of working on a part-time basis.

121. Several members pointed out that the draft resolution under consideration merely asked the International Labour Office and the Secretary-General to bring up to date their earlier studies on part-time work for women and that it did not recommend any action in the matter.

122. In this context, two members were of the opinion that the Commission should give clear guidance to the ILO in order that its study would provide a basis for practical recommendations to be made by the Commission in the future.

123. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted an amendment (E/CN.6/L.316) inserting before the two preambular paragraphs a new paragraph reading:

" Bearing in mind that part-time work by women may, in some instances, be the consequence of their not being able to find full-time employment, while in other instances, and more particularly in the case of women with children, such part-time work may be one of the means of affording women an opportunity to take part in productive work for the community."

124. The representative of Greece, in a sub-amendment, proposed that the new pre-ambular paragraph should read:

" Bearing in mind that part-time work by women may, in some instances, be the consequence of their not being able to find full-time employment, while in other instances they cannot undertake such employment, particularly in the case of women with children, and that part-time work may be one of the means of giving women an opportunity for employment and occupation."

125. The representative of France also proposed an oral sub-amendment to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics amendment, to add in the first line, after the word " women ", the phrase: " as well as by other categories of workers, . . . "

126. The USSR representative accepted these two sub-amendments.

127. The representative of the United Kingdom proposed orally that, at the end of the operative paragraph of the joint draft resolution under consideration, the following words should be added: " and expresses the hope that the ILO will find it possible to prepare a report on this subject "; this proposal was accepted by the sponsors of the joint draft resolution.

128. The USSR representative said that she would support the joint draft resolution if the International Labour Office were asked to provide in its study the following information: first, figures indicating the proportion of women part-time workers to the total number of part-time workers; secondly, comparative figures giving the percentage of women working part-time in relation to the total female labour force and comparable

figures for men; finally, particulars of the rights not accorded to part-time workers in general — men, young people and women (in order to ascertain what discrimination was practised in conditions of employment for that category of workers).

129. The representative of the ILO replied that the remarks of the USSR representative would be borne in mind, within the limits of the information which would be actually available.

130. At its 351st meeting, the Commission adopted the USSR amendment (E/CN.6/L.316), as amended by the representatives of France and Greece, by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

131. At the same meeting the joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.312/Rev.1) as amended was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

6 (XV) PART-TIME WORK FOR WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Bearing in mind that part-time work for women, as well as for other categories of workers, may be in some instances the consequence of their not being able to find full-time employment, while in other instances they cannot undertake such employment as in particular in the case of women with children, and that part-time work may be one of the means of giving women an opportunity for employment and occupation,

Recalling its resolution 6 (XI) on part-time work for women,

Considering that the Commission would benefit from information on the developments in this field since 1957, in order to decide on future action to be taken,

Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Labour Office, to bring up to date for a future session of the Commission their previous studies on part-time work for women on the basis of information to be obtained from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and expresses the hope that the International Labour Office will find it possible to prepare a report on the subject.

132. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.309) concerning the expansion of the opportunities for the employment of women; it requested the Economic and Social Council to recommend "Governments to pay special attention to the problem of unemployment among women and to take all possible steps to create for women who desire to work the possibilities of obtaining employment in accordance with their qualifications"; it also requested the Council to invite the International Labour Organisation "to record and analyse statistics of employment and unemployment among women and to study the problems systematically, and

to report to the Commission at a future session on ways and means of promoting employment opportunities for women and dealing with unemployment among women within the framework of employment objectives, policies and programmes for all workers".

133. Later in the debate the representatives of the United States of America and the USSR submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.313) emphasizing constructive means of expanding employment opportunities for women. The representative of the USSR stated that this draft resolution was mostly based on the text previously submitted by her in document E/CN.6/L.309. She therefore did not wish that proposal to be put to the vote. The text of the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/L.313, read as follows:

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recognizing the urgent need for expanding the opportunities for women's employment in accordance with their qualifications,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting that in many countries women have only limited opportunities to obtain paid work, particularly in accordance with their qualifications,

"Having in mind the steps being taken in many countries to promote national economic development,

"Recognizing that some countries are endeavouring to expand opportunities and eliminate discriminations against women in this regard,

"Noting the activities of the International Labour Organisation which have a bearing on the employment of women,

"Recalling its resolutions 652 E (XXIV) and 771 E (XXX),

"1. *Recommends* that Member States pay special attention to the problems of employment of women, and take all possible steps to create for women who desire to work opportunities to obtain employment in accordance with their qualifications and abilities;

"2. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation to supplement its regular reports to the Commission on equal pay and related matters with information on other International Labour Organisation activities which have a bearing on the employment of women, including *inter alia* and as appropriate, available statistics and information on the work of its industrial committees, the panel of consultants on the problems of women workers, and similar efforts."

134. During the discussion, the sponsors of this joint draft resolution amended it orally by including, before the preambular paragraph, two new preambular paragraphs reading:

"Noting the reports by the Secretary-General on the occupational outlook for women (E/CN.6/343 and Add. 1-5; E/CN.6/374 and Add.1),

"Recalling its resolution 7 (XIII) on the occupational outlook for women."

135. The representative of the United Kingdom, in an oral amendment, proposed that the word "create" should be replaced by the word "promote" in operative paragraph 1 of the joint draft resolution. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted this oral amendment.

136. At its 350th meeting, the Commission adopted the joint draft resolution, as amended, by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

7 (XV). EXPANSION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the reports by the Secretary-General on the occupational outlook for women (E/CN.6/343 and Add. 1-5 and E/CN.6/374 and Add.1),

Recalling its resolution 7 (XIII) on the occupational outlook for women,

Recognizing the urgent need for expanding the opportunities for women's employment in accordance with their qualifications,

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

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

137. The representatives of Argentina, the United Kingdom and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.319) which read as follows:

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 652 E (XXIV) of 24 July 1957, requesting the Secretary-General to undertake a global study of the access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields,

Recalling also its resolution 7 (XIII) on the occupational outlook for women,

Appreciating the reports prepared by the Secretary-General on selected occupations in these fields which the Commission has had before it at its thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions,

Believing that continuance of the study is important to advancing the economic status of women,

1. Decides to re-examine the approach to this study with a view to placing greater emphasis on methods found useful by Governments and non-governmental organizations to promote the access of women to training and employment in the fields under study;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to obtain additional information on this aspect in respect to the occupations already surveyed, and to prepare a report thereon for consideration by the Commission at its sixteenth session.

138. The co-sponsors modified operative paragraph 2 of this draft resolution so that the Secretary-General should be requested to obtain additional information on this aspect in respect to the occupations already surveyed, and to prepare a report thereon for consideration by the Commission, if possible, at its seventeenth session.

139. During the discussion on this draft, the USSR representative noted that the time had come for the Commission to switch from the study of the access of women to highly paid intellectual professions (engineering, architecture and law) and to concentrate on the opportunities and working conditions in areas of mass employment of women. In this connexion she proposed the following amendments:

(1) In the fourth preambular paragraph, insert the words "of this kind" after the word "study", and add at the end of the phrase: "and also new studies of the participation and conditions of work of women in industry, business, domestic service, agriculture and other fields where large numbers of women are employed"; and (2) in the second operative paragraph, insert the words "and also a plan for new studies of areas of mass employment of women" after the words "a report thereon".

140. During the debate on her first amendment, the representative of the USSR withdrew the first part of that amendment which, she said, was of a drafting character. With regard to the second part, several members stated that, while the idea reflected in it was useful, a specific enumeration of the occupations contained therein was superfluous. In this connexion, it was pointed out that the scope of the studies should not be unduly broadened inasmuch as the International Labour Office was keeping conditions of work of women in general under continuing review. In agreement with the representative of the USSR, the following phrase was added at the end of the fourth preambular paragraph: "as well as new studies of the participation and conditions of work in fields in which large numbers of women are employed". One of the sponsors of the draft resolution stated that the idea underlying the proposal was to help women to enter the more advanced professional and technical occupations.

141. The representative of Israel proposed to replace the second USSR amendment by a new operative paragraph as follows: "Expresses the hope that the ILO will find it possible to suggest a plan for further studies of areas of mass employment of women for consideration by the Commission, if possible, at its seventeenth session". It was pointed out by the representative of the ILO that her office was studying the occupations in which women were engaged in large numbers. The representative of the Philippines made the following oral sub-amendment to the Israel proposal: replace the words "areas of mass employment of women" by

"other occupational areas, including those where large numbers of women are employed". The co-sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the proposal of the representative of Israel as amended by the Philippines. The representative of the USSR stated that she would accept this wording in the interest of reaching agreement.

142. The USSR representative was thereafter, at her request, accepted as a co-sponsor of the draft resolution, as orally amended.

143. At its 353rd meeting, the Commission adopted unanimously the following resolution:

8 (XV). OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 652 E (XXIV) of 24 July 1957, in which the Council decided to undertake a global study of the access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields,

Recalling also its resolution 7 (XIII) on the occupational outlook for women,

Noting with appreciation the reports prepared by the Secretary-General on selected occupations in these fields which the Commission had had before it at its thirteenth and fifteenth sessions (E/CN.6/343 and Add. 1-5 and E/CN.6/374 and Add. 1),

Believing that continuance of the study is important to the advancement of the economic status of women, as well as new studies of the participation and conditions of work in fields in which large numbers of women are employed,

1. *Decides* to re-examine the approach to this study with a view to placing greater emphasis on methods found useful by Governments and non-governmental organizations to promote the access of women to training and employment in the fields under study;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to obtain additional information on this aspect in respect to the occupations already surveyed, and to prepare in consultation with the International Labour Office and UNESCO, a report thereon for consideration by the Commission, if possible, at its seventeenth session;

3. *Expresses the hope* that the International Labour Office will find it possible to suggest a plan for studies of other occupational areas, including those where large numbers of women are employed, for consideration by the Commission, if possible, at its seventeenth session.

Tax legislation applicable to women

144. The general debate centered on the examination of the effect of tax assessments on the aggregate incomes of the husband and working wife. In the opinion of some members, compulsory aggregate taxation was a denial of the principle that a woman was an individual distinct from her husband and as such entitled to the separate use of and control over money earned by her. These representatives stated that the treatment of a married couple as a unit for tax purposes often resulted in a

greater tax burden on the married women than if the tax were computed separately on each of their incomes, since in most cases it could be presumed that a wife earned less than her husband. On the other hand, some representatives felt that the system of taxation based on the aggregated incomes was not discrimination against married women *per se*, because the tax was applied to the couple jointly and, hence, married men were treated in the same way as married women. There was some discussion of the "splitting device", adopted by a few countries as a means of reducing the tax burden of the married woman who was gainfully employed.

145. Some members pointed out that insufficient attention was given to the problem of deductions for expenses incurred for child care by reason of the mother's employment outside the home. Some members referred to the documentation prepared for the eleventh session of the Commission (E/CN.6/297) based upon information from non-governmental organizations, which indicated that the aggregation of incomes deterred women from continuing their careers after marriage and that this resulted in material economic loss for their families as well as for their countries. Some members stated also that tax considerations might seriously influence marriages and divorces, and that equitable tax legislation was necessary to avoid disastrous social consequences.

146. A different view was held by representatives who stated that the separate taxation of married women, splitting, or the option to elect either joint or separate taxation raised a host of legal and administrative problems, one of which was the difficulty of detecting tax avoidance. They emphasized and agreed with the conclusions reached in the report (E/CN.6/344 and Add.1-2) prepared by the consultant to the United Nations Secretariat that a country's tax legislation represented a delicate balance of social, financial and administrative factors. Therefore a thorough examination of these factors was necessary before the Commission made specific recommendations on this matter. One representative stated that one of the objectives of her Government was to reduce taxation in general and in particular to reduce the taxation of individuals since it was felt that industry should bear the greater share of the tax burden.

147. The representatives of Israel, Mexico and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.311) requesting the Economic and Social Council to draw the attention of Member States to the need to re-examine their laws applicable to the taxation of married persons, with a view to providing for equal treatment of men and women in the matter of taxation of income. The draft resolution also requested the Council to invite Member States to consider the desirability of giving effect to this principle by providing that married couples may have the option to elect to be taxed either jointly or separately on their individual incomes with the possibility of splitting their combined income into equal parts for tax purposes, and by providing further that child care expenses incurred by reason of employment shall be deductible.

148. During the debate on the draft resolution, one

member stated that, although in agreement with the general purpose of the draft resolution and although appreciating the complexity of the subject-matter, she felt that the scope of the resolution was too broad. Several representatives stated that the Commission should concern itself solely with the taxation of the earned income of married women, since the taxation of income derived from sources other than gainful employment was often based on considerations which the Commission was not in a position to evaluate. Another representative referred to the provision in operative paragraph 2 requesting consideration of deductions for child care expenses incurred by reason of employment outside the home. She pointed out that such a provision would find little favour in her country since it would be considered an unnecessary measure of special protection in a highly competitive labour market.

149. The USSR representative suggested that the Commission should appeal to Governments to consider the possibility of eliminating discrimination against women in tax legislation and the possibility of reducing the tax burden. She informed the Commission that in May 1960 a new law had been promulgated in her country aimed at the gradual reduction of taxation of workers. She stated that, in her country, the proceeds of taxation were largely applied to social purposes.

150. During the debate, the Commission heard the observer for the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

151. Taking into account the suggestions made by various members of the Commission, the sponsors submitted a revised text (E/CN.6/L.311/Rev.1) which incorporated the following changes: adding the word "earned" before the word "income" in the second preambular paragraph; inserting the words "in practice" after the word "discriminates" in the second preambular paragraph; deleting the words "provide for equal treatment of men and women in respect to taxation of income by permitting" and replacing this phrase by the word "permit" in the fourth preambular paragraph; deleting the fifth preambular paragraph ("Noting also that laws in some countries permit married persons to take into account expenses incurred for child care during employment outside the home in the computation of deductions for tax purposes"), substituting for the words "interferes with the right" the words "tends to discourage", replacing the words "to undertake" by the words "from undertaking", and replacing the words "in some cases deters" by the words "to deter" in the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution addressed to the Economic and Social Council; adding the word "earned" before the word "incomes" in operative paragraphs 1 and 2 and deleting the following words: "with the possibility of splitting their combined income into equal parts for tax purposes, and by providing further that child care expenses incurred by reason of employment shall be deductible" in operative paragraph 2.

152. During the discussion of the revised text (E/CN.6/L.311/Rev.1) the representative of Australia stated that Governments should be invited to consider

not only the desirability of giving married persons an option to elect to be taxed jointly or separately but that a further alternative, that of taxation on an individual basis, should also be made the subject of recommendation. Accordingly, she proposed that the following words be added after the word "providing" in operative paragraph 2: "either for taxation on an individual basis or". She further proposed that the words "that married couples may have..." should be replaced by "giving married couples..." These amendments were accepted by the sponsors.

153. At its 352nd meeting, the Commission adopted, by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.311/Rev.1) as amended. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

9 (XV). TAX LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting that the subject of tax legislation applicable to women has been before the Commission at its eleventh, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, based on documents E/CN.6/344 and Add. 1 and 2, prepared by an expert on international tax law, and on an earlier report, E/CN.6/297, prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of information available from non-governmental organizations,

Considering that taxation of the wife's earned income jointly with that of the husband discriminates in practice against married women by causing a disproportionate reduction in the value of her earnings, thereby discouraging married women from working in paid employment, and depriving their families of their financial assistance and their countries of their economic contribution,

Recalling that various non-governmental organizations pointed out in the report before the Commission at its eleventh session (E/CN.6/297) that the system of compulsory joint taxation of incomes has also discouraged some women from entering into a formal marriage, thus impairing the legal status of the family and jeopardizing the legitimacy of children,

Noting with satisfaction that the laws of some countries permit married couples either to pay separate taxes on their individual incomes or to split their joint income into two equal parts for tax purposes,

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

[For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XIV, draft resolution IV C.]

154. Several members explained their votes. The representative of Argentina stated that she had voted in favour of the draft resolution but wished to stress that, theoretically, the tax burden affected not merely working married women but the family as an economic unit. The representative of the Netherlands stated that she had abstained because her Government had adopted the aggregate system of taxation which did not discriminate against married women, since the tax legislation

treated married men and women in the same way. Moreover, any proposal for changes in the tax laws should be studied in the context of the entire tax system of a country. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that she had abstained on similar grounds and added that the Royal Commission on taxation had recommended that the combined incomes of husband and wife should be treated as a unit for tax purposes. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated she had voted in favour of the resolution although there were no discriminatory provisions against either men or women in her country. She called upon

all countries to reduce their taxation on personal incomes and simultaneously to reduce that portion of their national budget which was allocated to armaments. The representative of Finland, in explaining her support for the resolution, stressed her agreement with the oral amendment of the representative of Australia which, by proposing another alternative for governmental consideration, had in her opinion increased the flexibility of operative paragraph 2. She also referred with approval to the form of the operative paragraphs which did not request or recommend specific action on the part of Governments.

VI. ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

155. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 352nd, 354th, 355th and 356th meetings. It had before it a report by UNESCO on activities in 1959-1960 of special interest to women and main activities proposed for 1961-1962 (E/CN.6/380), a note by the Secretary-General on discrimination in education (E/CN.6/377), a report by UNESCO on the access of women to the teaching profession (E/CN.6/375), as well as chapter III of the survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372); it also had before it statements submitted by the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/105), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/114), the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations (E/CN.4/NGO/93 — E/CN.6/NGO/102) and the Open Door International (E/CN.6/NGO/113).

156. In introducing the report on the access of women to the teaching profession (E/CN.6/375), the representative of UNESCO stated that the information contained in the report was based primarily upon information contained in replies from Governments of Member States to a questionnaire sent by the agency. These replies had been supplemented, where necessary, by reference to other official documents available to the UNESCO secretariat. At the date of the drafting of the report (1 December 1960) replies had been received from forty-eight Member States and from twenty-four territories under United Kingdom administration. She said that replies received after that date would be incorporated in addenda to the report. One of the general conclusions which emerged from the report was that women played an important part in the teaching profession. Nevertheless, some discrimination against women was still evident, particularly in "posts of responsibility" — namely, senior administrative and teaching posts. Moreover, in certain cases there were obstacles to the employment of married women and to the re-employment of women after marriage. The replies to the questionnaire concerning some countries, both industrialized and developing, also indicated that a shortage of women teachers existed and that one way in which women could contribute to national development as a whole was greater participation in the teaching profession. In underlining the limitations of the report,

she said that a proper evaluation of the material presented ought to take into account the complex economic, social and cultural factors existing in various countries which affected the access of women to the teaching profession.

157. She commented also on the report of UNESCO activities in 1959-1960 of special interest to women and main activities proposed for 1961-1962 (E/CN.6/380). The work of the agency was directed towards equal treatment of men and women as regards access to all levels of education, and it was not an objective of UNESCO to "create a female education problem artificially". For this purpose UNESCO conducted surveys, particularly on the educational problems of the developing countries, arranged international exchanges of persons, sponsored international conferences and provided technical assistance to States and individuals and in some instances to non-governmental organizations. She also outlined briefly the future plans. In this connexion emphasis was placed on the benefits derived from the close co-operation between UNESCO and the Commission on the Status of Women.

158. Many members of the Commission expressed their appreciation for both the documents prepared by UNESCO for this session. They noted that precise and detailed information such as that contained in the reports was necessary to enable the Commission to formulate international standards. However, the representative of Greece expressed regret at the failure of UNESCO to incorporate the information which she had communicated in writing to the UNESCO representative during the Commission's thirteenth session.

159. With reference to the adoption, at the eleventh session of the General Conference of UNESCO, of the Convention and the Recommendation against discrimination in education, attention was drawn to the resolution, adopted by the Commission at its previous session (9 (XIV)),^a expressing the hope that UNESCO would take into account the following amendments to the drafts of those two instruments: the provisions concerning discrimination in both instruments to be

^a See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 7*, chap. VII, para. 125.

made applicable to the "access to the teaching profession"; and in the educational establishments or institutions where the sexes are separated, provision to be made for the "same curricula". Most members of the Commission expressed disappointment and dissatisfaction particularly with the failure of the General Conference to incorporate the second of these amendments in the Convention and the Recommendation. In the opinion of these members, the phrase "or equivalent courses of studies" in article 2, sub-paragraph (a), of the Convention and the corresponding article in the Recommendation, as adopted, might afford an opportunity for an unfavourable distinction in the curricula available to girls and women. The attention of the Commission was again drawn to one of the conclusions adopted at the Addis Ababa seminar, where the participants had stated that identical curricula should be made available to both sexes and that there should be no discrimination in the educational opportunities afforded to boys and girls. The representatives of France and Poland stated that it was the duty of the Commission, in co-operation with the non-governmental organizations, to see to it that the provisions of article 2, sub-paragraph (a), of the Convention and the corresponding article of the Recommendation, were interpreted and applied in a way which guaranteed the same curricula for boys and girls.

160. The Commission discussed possible means of facilitating the access of women to the teaching profession. Although recognizing the important part played by women in the profession, several representatives noted that in some countries a shortage of women teachers existed. They suggested that an effective programme of international exchanges of teachers be encouraged. Several members said that adequate salaries would make the profession more attractive to young girls and women entering the profession. Furthermore, they said that, as compared with other professions requiring a comparable training period, and despite the contribution made by teachers in moulding the younger generation, society gave insufficient recognition to the teaching profession.

161. In the light of the conclusions of the UNESCO report that the number of women occupying senior posts is considerably lower than that of men, several members pointed to the need for advanced professional training which would make women eligible for promotion. Many members drew attention to the obstacles in some countries to the employment of married women. Provision for maternity leave, for example, enabled women to continue their careers while raising a family. There was general agreement that a teaching career could effectively be combined with family responsibilities. Moreover, a woman teacher who was a wife and mother often made a unique contribution to the education of her students.

162. Several representatives said that with greater educational opportunities women could participate more in public life. Although in many countries literacy was not a requirement for voting, yet an uneducated woman was not in a position to make a significant

contribution to her community. One representative said that a teaching career often led to a political one; in her own country, for example, many of the members of the legislature, and some of the candidates for election, were teachers.

163. During the debate the Commission heard statements by the representative of UNESCO as well as by the observers for Iraq and Iran. The Commission also heard observers for the following non-governmental organizations: the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the All-Pakistan Women's Association, the International Association of Penal Law, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of University Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations, the Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association and the International Council of Social Democratic Women.

164. The representatives of Argentina and Poland submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.320) dealing with the access of women to the teaching profession. The draft resolution requested the Economic and Social Council to call upon States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to ensure, in law and in fact, a complete professional training for women teachers and the elimination of discrimination against married women in the teaching profession. In addition it invited UNESCO and the other specialized agencies concerned to lend their assistance to this end. The sponsors of the draft resolution announced that, at her request, the representative of the Philippines had been accepted as a co-sponsor. During the debate the members of the Commission expressed general agreement concerning the purposes of the draft resolution. It was noted that there was obstacles to the free and full access of women to the teaching profession and that the removal of these obstacles was an essential condition for the advancement of education, particularly in the developing countries.

165. The representative of the United States proposed the following oral amendments, all of which were agreed to by the sponsors: addition of the following phrase at the end of the first preambular paragraph: "based upon information supplied by Member States and other official sources,"; replacement of the word "tendency" by the word "need" in the second preambular paragraph of that part of the resolution addressed to the Economic and Social Council; and insertion of the words "educational authorities in" before the words "Member States of the United Nations..." in operative paragraph 1. She explained that her third amendment was designed to take account of the situation in her country, where educational matters were largely the responsibility of the individual States. The representative of Poland suggested the following oral amendment, which was agreed to by the other sponsor: addition of the words "in the fight against illiteracy and" before the words "the advancement of education..." in the third preambular paragraph of the resolution

addressed to the Council. The representative of the Philippines, in an oral amendment, proposed the inclusion of the words "equal pay and equal in-service training and promotional opportunities" before the words "equal access to posts..." in operative paragraph 1. The sponsors accepted this amendment. The representative of the United Kingdom suggested the following oral amendments, which were also accepted by the sponsors: deletion of the words "establishment of" before the words "crèches" in the phrase beginning with "the social protection of women teachers...", and the inclusion of the following words: "to increase the opportunity for exchange of teachers between Member States" at the end of operative paragraph 1.

166. At its 356th meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as amended, by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

10 (XV). ACCESS OF WOMEN
TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with appreciation the report by UNESCO on the access of women to the teaching profession (E/CN.6/375), based upon information supplied by Member States and other official sources,

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

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

167. The representative of Cuba submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.323) dealing with discrimination in education, particularly with the problem of illiteracy. The draft resolution requested the Economic and Social Council to recommend Governments to increase systematically their budgetary appropriations for education, to introduce, wherever it does not exist, the principle of free and compulsory education, and at the same time to build the necessary schools. The draft resolution also requested UNESCO to pursue and develop its plans for assistance in overcoming illiteracy in countries undergoing development, to encourage all initiatives or action by States to increase opportunities for education and for obtaining textbooks in the native languages, and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its seventeenth session on what has been achieved and is planned in the campaign against illiteracy, which is especially common among women.

168. In introducing her draft resolution the sponsor stressed the significance of the problem of illiteracy among women, particularly in the developing countries. She stated further that this problem was properly within the scope of item 7 of the agenda as adopted by the Commission at the present session.

169. The representative of Greece stated that, although in full agreement with the purposes and principles of the draft resolution, she thought that a resolution on illiteracy was not within the scope of the agenda of this session of the Commission. She added that, inasmuch as the Commission at its next session would

have before it a report by UNESCO on the problems of the access of girls to primary education and, a year later, a report on the education of women in rural areas, a full examination of this problem would then be appropriate. Accordingly, she suggested that the Commission should postpone consideration of this draft. A contrary view was expressed by several representatives who supported the draft resolution and felt that the urgency of the problem of illiteracy required immediate attention, particularly in the light of the conclusions adopted by the participants in the seminar at Addis Ababa, as well as of General Assembly resolution 1509 (XV) on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries.

170. The representative of the United States suggested the following oral amendments, which were accepted by the sponsor: in the first preambular paragraph of the draft Council resolution, beginning with "Noting", insert the words "and the recommendation" after the word "Convention"; insert the word "Member" before the word "Governments" in operative paragraph 2; and in the same paragraph add the words "and the competent educational authorities" after the word "Governments"; delete the paragraph reading: "Suggests to Governments that they should accede to the Convention against discrimination in education adopted by the UNESCO General Conference" and substitute: "Urges Governments of Member States to apply the provisions of the UNESCO Convention and Recommendation against discrimination in education by providing full opportunities for young persons of both sexes to take the same courses of study". In support of these amendments, she said, first, the resolution ought to take cognizance of both instruments (the Convention and the Recommendation); secondly, the resolution should be brought within the terms of reference of the Commission and therefore specific reference should be made to the problem of illiteracy as it affected women; thirdly, the resolution should be addressed not only to Member States but also to the governmental authorities competent to deal with this problem. In addition, she proposed that the word "requests" should be replaced by the word "invites" and that the words "among women" should be added after the words "in overcoming illiteracy", in the operative paragraph directed to UNESCO.

171. There was some discussion as to which session of the Commission a report prepared by UNESCO on this subject could be submitted to. In response to questions, the representative of UNESCO said that a report was being prepared for the sixteenth session on the access of girls to primary education and that a report on the education of women in rural areas would be submitted by UNESCO at the seventeenth session. After an exchange of views it was decided that a separate report on illiteracy was neither necessary nor feasible, but that UNESCO would inform the Commission on what had been achieved and what was being planned in the campaign against illiteracy among women as part of its next progress report on activities of special interest to women. The representative of UNESCO drew attention to the phrase "to encourage all initia-

tives or action by States" and pointed out that this directive was beyond UNESCO's authority and suggested that the words "assist all initiatives..." be substituted. These amendments were accepted by the sponsor.

172. The representative of France, referring to the phrase in operative paragraph 3 "in the native languages" qualifying the word "textbooks", said that in some regions a large number of languages or even dialects were spoken. Moreover, it was necessary to take account of the national needs and the interest of the population in deciding the measure of official recognition to be given to "native languages". She suggested that the words "where this meets the interests of the population" be included before the words "in the native languages". The representative of Cuba agreed to this amendment. Thereafter, the representative of Cuba proposed that the following paragraphs be added to the preamble of the draft Council resolution:

"Recalling its resolution 652 C (XXIV) and UNESCO resolution 11 C/8.63,

"Recognizing that in many countries the rate of illiteracy among women is high, and particularly those which have recently become independent or have not yet achieved independence,

"Believing that the eradication of illiteracy among women would constitute an important step towards their increased participation in public life,

"Noting UNESCO's regional education projects in Africa, Asia and the Arab countries and the major project on the extension and improvement of primary education in Latin America."

173. Subsequently the representative of Cuba submitted a revised text (E/CN.6/L.323/Rev.1) incorporating these amendments. During the discussion of this document the representative of the United Kingdom proposed that the word "systematically" before the word "increase" be deleted and that the words "where

possible" be added after the word "increase" in operative paragraph 2. She also proposed the deletion of the phrase "and particularly those which have recently become independent or have not yet achieved independence" in the third preambular paragraph. With regard to her first amendment, she stated that specific directions concerning the fiscal policy of Governments should not be included in a United Nations resolution. In support of her second amendment she said that the problem of illiteracy was not a problem confined solely to dependent territories or to newly independent countries, as was proved not only by the publications of UNESCO but also by statements of observers for non-members of the Commission. The representative of Cuba accepted these amendments.

174. The representative of the Philippines pointed out that the use of the word "textbooks" restricted the scope of the resolution and suggested that the phrase "all necessary educational materials" should be substituted. This amendment was accepted by the sponsor.

175. At its 356th meeting the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.323/Rev.1), as amended, by 16 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The text of the resolution which is contained in document E/CN.6/L.329 is as follows:

11 (XV). DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION

The Commission on the Status of Women

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

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

176. The representative of China stated that she felt that the subject of the draft resolution could not be considered a part of the agenda as adopted; for this reason she had abstained, although she was in agreement with the purpose of the resolution. She stated further that a thorough debate on this problem was necessary before specific proposals were formulated.

VII. NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

177. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at the 356th meeting. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/254/Add.7) on recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women, as well as chapter IX of the report by the Secretary-General on the survey of the work of the Commission and the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372). The memorandum contained excerpts from nationality and citizenship laws not previously available to the Secretary-General and a table of countries which, by 1 February 1961, had signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women.

178. Several members of the Commission mentioned that in their countries the legislation affecting the nationality of married women was already in agreement with the principles of the Convention on the Nationality

of Married Women. The representative of Australia informed the Commission that her Government had deposited the instrument of accession of the Convention on 14 March 1961. The representative of Argentina stated that the necessary steps were being taken by her Government in order to expedite the ratification of the Convention. The representative of the United Kingdom informed the Commission that the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women had now been ratified by all territories under United Kingdom administration with the exception of Brunei.

179. The Commission took note with appreciation of the documentation presented by the Secretary-General.

180. The Commission heard a statement by the observer for the International Federation of Women Lawyers.

VIII. REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AT THE LAST SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

181. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at the 356th meeting. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the Second United Nations Conference of non-governmental organizations interested in the eradication of prejudice and discrimination (E/CN.6/381); it also had before it a statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/114).

182. The Commission heard the oral report of Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, who had represented the Commission at the thirteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Human Rights. She reported that she had participated in the Sub-Commission's discussions on discrimination in political rights, which was the subject of an important study, in order to ensure that the study took the Commission's views into account. She had also conveyed the Commission's views on the Convention against Discrimination in

Education adopted by UNESCO. She also reported on her participation in that part of the debate dealing with the right of individuals to leave their own countries and said she had drawn the Sub-Commission's attention to the fact that in many instances a married woman could not leave her country without the husband's written permission. She said that in the Commission on Human Rights she had been able to explain the position taken by the Commission on the Status of Women on several items on the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights. Lastly, she expressed the hope that the periodic reports on human rights would be considered by the Commission on the Status of Women and noticed the great contribution that the non-governmental organizations could make to these questions.

183. In taking note of the report of Mrs. Lefauchaux, the Commission expressed its deep appreciation of her services.

IX. REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

184. The Commission considered item 10 of its agenda at its 356th meeting and had before it the report submitted by the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/382) which was introduced by Miss María Lavalle Urbina, the representative of Mexico.

185. The members of the Commission expressed their appreciation of the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women. Some representatives thought that the Commission on the Status of Women would benefit from information from other regional women's organizations, and referred to the desirability of the establishment of similar groups in Africa and in Asia.

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

X. COMMUNICATIONS

187. The Commission considered item 11 of its agenda at its 356th meeting. In accordance with resolution 76 (V) of the Economic and Social Council, as amended by resolution 304 I (XI), communications concerning the status of women had been summarized by the Secretary-General in a non-confidential list (E/CN.6/CR/13 and E/CN.6/CR/14/Corr.1) and in a confidential list (SW/Communications List, No. 8).

188. The non-confidential list was reviewed by the *ad hoc* Committee on Communications, whose report (E/CN.6/L.327) was unanimously approved by the Commission at its 356th meeting.

189. At a closed meeting, the Commission received and took note of the confidential list of communications.

XI. INCREASED MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

190. The Commission considered item 12 of its agenda during its 357th meeting. The representatives of Australia, Argentina, France, Greece, Israel, Mexico and the Philippines submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.325) requesting the Economic and Social Council to increase the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women to twenty-one.

191. During the debate on this draft resolution many representatives said that, in view of the increasing number of States Members of the United Nations, an increase in the membership of its organs, and particularly of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, was desirable. Examples were offered of other organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies which had increased their membership during the past year as a consequence of the great number of States which had achieved independence. It was also noted that the increase of membership of other organs of the United Nations was under consideration. It was felt that the participation of new Member States in the Commission would not only improve the status of women in more regions but would also benefit the work of the Commission by ensuring the collaboration of new members with new problems and ideas. Several members said that Member States in the process of development ought to be given the opportunity to participate in the work of the Commission, as this would accelerate the advancement of the status of women in the countries in question. Several representatives felt, however, that the participation of new Member States in the Commission would be desirable only if an equitable geographical representation of the different regions were ensured.

192. The representative of the United Kingdom, supporting the draft resolution, said that no reference to a specific number of members should appear in the resolution, as the Economic and Social Council should be left free to determine the number of members of its functional commissions. She proposed that the words "to twenty-one" in operative paragraph 1 should be deleted. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the proposal. The representative of the Philippines said that it would not be desirable to have too large a body and that, for practical working purposes, the Economic and Social Council, in increasing the Commission's membership, should bear in mind the advisability of keeping the number close to that indicated in the original text of the draft resolution.

193. The representative of Poland suggested the addition of a reference to the resolution adopted unanimously at the previous session in which the hope had been expressed that African Member States of the United Nations would seek membership on the Commission on the Status of Women; several members supported her view. The sponsors of the draft resolution agreed to add a new preambular paragraph reading: "*Recalling its resolution 1 (XIV)*". The same representative also proposed that another operative paragraph be added stressing the necessity of ensuring participa-

tion of Member States from regions not represented on the Commission, particularly from Africa. Several members of the Commission stated that it was for each Member State of the United Nations to apply for membership on the Commission; therefore it would be wrong to express a preference for one particular group of countries in the resolution. The fact that at its thirtieth session the Council had not acted on the Commission's draft resolution II A of 1960^{*} was mentioned in this connexion. The representative of Australia suggested the addition to the Council resolution of a preambular paragraph reading: "*Bearing in mind the desirability of ensuring equitable geographical representation on the Commission*". The addition of this preambular paragraph was accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution. The representative of the USSR proposed that the Council resolution should mention that the new seats on the Commission should be occupied by representatives of newly independent countries belonging to a region of the world not yet represented on the Commission. The view was supported by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and Cuba. The USSR representative also stressed the advisability of a reference to the representation of the different social systems of the world, and proposed a formal amendment to this effect. Several members of the Commission referred to the composition of the different organs of the United Nations, which was based on their political configuration rather than on their social systems.

194. The representative of Israel suggested that the additional paragraph proposed by Australia should be inserted in the preamble to the Commission's resolution and in the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution addressed to the Economic and Social Council; she also suggested that the words "a wider" should be replaced by the words "an equitable geographical", before the word "representation", in view of the importance attached by several members of the Commission to the concept of equitable representation. The representative of Australia and the sponsors of the draft resolution accepted these suggestions.

195. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics did not press her amendments to the vote and proposed an oral amendment consisting in the addition of a new sentence in the first preambular paragraph of the Council resolution after the word "world"; this sentence reads as follows: "as well as those who have not as yet participated in the work of the Commission". She based her proposal on her belief that the increase in the membership of the Commission should result in the representation of new Member States belonging to regions not represented in the Commission at present. Several members felt, however, that it was not for the Commission to determine which new members should be added. One member noted that it would be inappropriate to exclude Member States

^{*} See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 7*, chap. XV, draft resolution II A.

which had been represented on the Commission in previous years. The amendment of the USSR representative was not accepted by the sponsors and was voted on separately. At its 357th meeting, the Commission rejected the amendment by 13 votes to 4, with 1 abstention.

196. The representative of the Secretary-General made a statement on the financial implications of the draft resolution, if adopted by the Commission and the Economic and Social Council.

197. The representative of the United Kingdom pointed out the need to increase the staff of the Secretariat serving the Commission if the desired increase in membership should be decided upon by the Economic and Social Council.

198. The representative of the Philippines noted that it would be desirable, in the interest of the Commission's future work, that experts from different

regions, particularly those not represented on the Commission, should attend the sessions as observers.

199. At its 357th meeting the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.325) as amended. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

12 (XV). INCREASED MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

*The Commission on the Status of Women,
Recalling its resolution 1 (XIV),*

Bearing in mind the desirability of ensuring equitable geographical representation on the Commission,

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

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

XII. SURVEY OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND OF THE RESULTS ACHIEVED ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL — PROGRAMME APPRAISALS — REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES — CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

200. The Commission considered item 13 of its agenda at its 358th and 359th meetings. It had before it the following documents, prepared by the Secretary-General: Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372 and Corr.1); programme appraisals in the economic, social and human rights fields (E/3347/Rev.1); review of programme of work, establishment of priorities and control and limitation of documentation (E/CN.6/378 and Add.1); and a working paper on the review of programme of work and establishment of priorities (E/CN.6/L.326), suggesting a list of priorities on the basis of decisions reached at the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission. It also had before it statements submitted by the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/105) and by the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/114).

201. The Commission first discussed the "Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level" (E/CN.6/372 and Corr.1), prepared by the Secretary-General. All members of the Commission expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General for this most useful document which, in a clear and concise form, presented a complete picture of the history of the Commission and with a catalogue of its studies and its achievements. Some members thought that this report should be published in printed form and widely distributed; it should, they said, be made available at a nominal price to governmental services, to non-governmental organizations and to individuals working to promote the status of women. One representative suggested that it might well be prefaced by an introduction outlining the structure of the Commission, its terms of reference and its methods of work, if it were decided to issue it in printed form. Another member expressed regret that the operative

parts of the resolutions referred to in the document by their symbols had not been quoted, inasmuch as the reports in which these resolutions were contained were not readily available to all readers. Another representative stated that this excellent document was in the nature of a working handbook for members of the Commission and for other persons conversant with the subject rather than a more popular type of paper which could be used by the public at large.

202. The representative of the USSR felt that it would be useful to include information on the effect of the decisions of the Commission on the legislation and practice of the various countries.

203. The observer for the International Federation of Business and Professional Women made an oral statement expressing appreciation of the report prepared by the Secretary-General. It was generally agreed that the Secretary-General should be asked to bring the "Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level" (E/CN.6/372 and Corr.1) up to date annually, by means of addenda, with a view to issuing a consolidated revision of the document at an appropriate time.

204. The Commission then considered the documents dealing with its programme of work and establishment of priorities. The discussion dealt more particularly with the working paper prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/L.326).

205. The representative of the United Kingdom proposed that the reports by the Secretary-General on the status of women in Trust Territories and in Non-Self-Governing Territories should be spaced biennially and be staggered, so that the Commission would have one of these reports one year and the other one the following year. She felt that with the rapidly diminishing

number of dependent territories the amount of information in these reports was reduced and did not justify the time spent on their preparation every year.

206. The same representative proposed that the supplementary reports by the Secretary-General on the nationality of married women be prepared every two years.

207. The representative of the USSR proposed the inclusion of the following items in the programme of future work of the Commission:

1. The study of social rights of women, including the protection of mother and child;
2. The question of the employment of women, including problems of unemployment;
3. Assistance of the United Nations for the advancement of women in developing countries;
4. Investigation of the effects on the national level of the various resolutions adopted by the Commission.

208. With regard to her proposal concerning the United Nations assistance to women in developing countries, the representative of the USSR was informed that in compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 771 H (XXX), the Secretary-General had undertaken the preparation of a report which will be submitted to the Council and to the Commission at the earliest possible time. It was thereafter agreed that this report would be included in the programme of work of the Commission for its sixteenth session.

209. During the debate, the representative of the USSR stated that she did not insist on the inclusion of the question of unemployment among women, which was already covered by resolution 7 (XV) on economic rights of women, adopted by the Commission at its present session. She did not press for an immediate decision on her proposal concerning the investigation of the effects on the national level of the various decisions of the Commission but urged members to keep this in mind when addressing recommendations to Governments on specific items, through the Economic and Social Council.

210. With respect to her first proposal she referred to resolution 4 (XII) of the Commission (approved by Economic and Social Council resolution 680 C (XXVI)) in which the Council expressed the wish that the results of the inquiry by the International Children's Centre in Paris on crèches and day nurseries should be transmitted to the Commission at one of its future sessions. She proposed that the International Children's Centre be invited to submit the results of its inquiry to the Secretariat for inclusion as a document for the sixteenth session of the Commission.

211. The representative of the USSR also referred to other aspects of the social rights of women, such as the protection of mother and child, the medical care of women and the protection of women workers. This last aspect, she thought, might well be covered by the International Labour Office in a report on its activities of special interest to women.

212. The same representative formally proposed that the programme of work of the Commission should include, as a continuing project of high priority, the study of the social rights of women, with the sub-items enumerated in the preceding paragraph. In the course of the debate on this proposal, several members stated that these questions were already covered by other studies on the programme, particularly in the economic field. Some members felt that the inclusion of the proposed item would make the Commission deviate from its terms of reference and also overlap with the work of the Social Commission. Some other members, supporting the USSR proposal, stressed that it referred to a most important aspect of the status of women which had never been thoroughly studied by the Commission.

213. The USSR proposal was put to the vote. At its 359th meeting, the Commission rejected the proposal by 13 votes to 4, with 1 abstention.

214. The Commission then decided to include the study of the inquiry by the International Children's Centre as sub-item (iii) under (c) Economic rights and opportunities for women, among its *ad hoc* projects of high priority. It also decided to accept the proposal of the United Kingdom that the supplementary reports on the nationality of married women should be considered every two years.

215. The representative of the USSR opposed the proposal of the representative of the United Kingdom concerning the reports on the status of women in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. She felt that, in the light of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) containing the "Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples", the Commission should not show a diminishing interest in the peoples of the still dependent territories by spacing its consideration of this item.

216. The proposal of the representative of the United Kingdom was put to the vote. At its 359th meeting the Commission adopted the proposal by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions.

217. The representative of Poland suggested that the Commission might at a future session concern itself with the improvement of the work of women in the home and perhaps undertake a study of home economics, but did not make a formal proposal to this effect.

218. At its 345th meeting the Commission had been informed that the Commission on Human Rights at its seventeenth session had adopted a resolution (3 (XVII)),¹⁰ deciding to communicate to the Commission on the Status of Women, for its consideration, the summaries of periodic reports on action taken to ensure respect for the rights enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (E/CN.4/810 and Corr.1 and Add.1, E/CN.4/811 and Add.1-2). Some members, while expressing their satisfaction with this decision, felt that the heavy agenda of the current session of the

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8*, chap. IV, para. 73.

Commission would not enable it to give proper consideration to the triennial reports at this time. At its 347th meeting the Commission decided to take note with appreciation of the decision of the Commission on Human Rights and to include the item concerning the triennial reports on human rights in the provisional agenda of its sixteenth session.

219. The Commission had before it a draft resolution, submitted by the representatives of the Philippines and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.328), requesting the Secretary-General to inform Governments of Member States where women do not yet enjoy political rights, of the importance attached by the Commission on the Status of Women to their participation in the discussion of plans for revision and republication of the pamphlet on *Political Education of Women*, and expressing the hope that any such Governments not then members of the Commission would find it possible to be represented by observers at the session at which the draft revision was scheduled for consideration.

220. Amendments to the operative paragraph of this draft resolution were proposed during the debate. The sponsors accepted these amendments and revised the operative paragraph to read:

"Expresses the hope that Governments of Member States where women do not yet enjoy political rights will find it possible to be represented by observers at the session of the Commission on the Status of Women at which the draft revision of the pamphlet on Political Education of Women will be scheduled for consideration."

221. At its 358th meeting the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution as revised. The resolution reads as follow:

13 (XV). PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Appreciating the co-operation at its sessions of observers from some Member States not represented on the Commission, especially on matters on which the Commission benefited by specialized knowledge relating to conditions in those countries,

Noting that the Commission will consider a draft revision of the pamphlet on *Political Education of Women*, possibly at its seventeenth session, and that this should be particularly useful in countries where women have not yet been granted the right to vote or to be elected to public office,

Believing that the Commission would benefit greatly by the participation of observers from such countries, during the discussions of the revised draft pamphlet,

Expresses the hope that Governments of Member States where women do not yet enjoy political rights will find it possible to be represented by observers at the session of the Commission on the Status of Women at which the draft revision of the pamphlet on *Political Education of Women* will be scheduled for consideration.

222. The Commission also had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representatives of France, Greece and the United Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.330). The operative paragraphs of this draft resolution read as follows:

"Decides to undertake a study on the conditions and effects of the dissolution of marriage and of judicial separation;

"Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies a questionnaire on the dissolution of marriage and on judicial separation and, in the light of this information, to prepare a report, if possible for the Commission's seventeenth session."

223. In introducing the draft resolution, the sponsors explained that the Commission was not, of course, expected to take any position on the principle of divorce and that the study which they proposed would be limited solely to the legislative provisions concerning the conditions and the effects of the dissolution of marriage, based on information obtained from Governments concerning the provisions of municipal law. One of the sponsors added that the question of divorce should not be considered exclusively with regard to Christian marriages.

224. The representative of Greece suggested that the words "the annulment of marriage" be added in each of the two operative paragraphs of the resolution after the words "dissolution of marriage"; her co-sponsors accepted this proposal.

225. During the debate the representatives of Argentina, Colombia and the Philippines stated that it would perhaps be inopportune for the Commission to adopt a resolution dealing with divorce at the same session at which it had adopted a draft convention concerning marriage. These representatives also felt strongly that if the Commission decided to undertake a study of the dissolution of marriage, including divorce, its intention should be clearly understood as stated by the sponsors.

226. In deference to the views of these representatives the sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the suggestion of the representative of Colombia that the word "legal" should be added before the words "conditions and effects" in operative paragraph 1. The representatives of Colombia and the Philippines stated that they were satisfied with this amendment, which would enable them to support the draft resolution.

227. At the 358th meeting the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.330), as amended, was adopted by 17 votes to none, with 1 abstention. The text of the resolution is reproduced below:

14 (XV). PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting that article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides for equal rights for men and women, not only to contract marriage and during marriage, but also at its dissolution,

Considering the work accomplished during the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions regarding the conditions for contracting marriage,

Recalling its previous work on family law,

1. *Decides* to undertake a study on the legal conditions and effects of the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and of judicial separation;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies a questionnaire on the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and on judicial separation and, in the light of this information, to prepare a report, if possible for the Commission's seventeenth session.

228. At its 359th meeting, the Commission unanimously approved its programme of work and establishment of priorities (E/CN.6/L.326), subject to the changes described in paragraphs 203 to 227 above.

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

I. *Continuing projects of high priority*

- (a) Political rights of women: (i) Annual memorandum by the Secretary-General on the franchise and eligibility of women (Economic and Social Council resolution 120 A (VI)); (ii) Report by the Secretary-General on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/3228, para. 150; E/CN.6/378, paras. 5 and 6);
- (b) Advisory services in the field of human rights: (i) Progress report by the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 926 (X)); (ii) Report of the 1961 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law;
- (c) Equal pay for equal work: Progress report by the International Labour Office 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 (E/3360, paras. 137 and 148), as well as information on other activities of the International Labour Organisation having a bearing on the employment of women (resolution 7 (XV));
- (d) Status of women in private law: Supplementary reports by the Secretary-General on legislation and practice in family law and property rights of women (Economic and Social Council resolution 547 F (XVIII));
- (e) Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level: Supplementary report by the Secretary-General (E/3464, para. 203);
- (f) Biannual *Newsletter on the Status of Women* (E/1712, para. 93; E/1997, para. 123; and E/3360, para. 24).

II. *Ad hoc projects of high priority (for the sixteenth session of the Commission)*

- (a) Political rights of women: Report on discrimination in the matter of political rights, to be prepared for the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protec-

tion of Minorities, by the Special Rapporteur (E/3464, para. 23);

- (b) Access of women to education: Report by UNESCO on the access of women to primary education (E/3360, paras. 140 and 145);
- (c) Economic rights and opportunities for women: (i) Report by the International Labour Office on vocational guidance and training of girls and women [Economic and Social Council resolution 771 E (XXX)]; (ii) Report by the International Labour Office on the age of retirement and rights to pension [Economic and Social Council resolution 771 F (XXX)]; (iii) Report by the Secretary-General on the inquiry of the International Children's Centre on crèches and day nurseries [Economic and Social Council resolution 680 C (XXVI); E/3464, para. 214];
- (d) United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in under-developed countries: Report by the Secretary-General to the Economic and Social Council (Economic and Social Council resolution 771 H (XXX) and General Assembly resolution 1509 (XV));
- (e) Status of women in private law: Report by the Secretary-General on inheritance laws as they affect the status of women (resolution 10 (XIV));
- (f) Periodic reports on human rights: E/3464, para. 218).

III. *Projects of lower priority (for later sessions of the Commission)*

- (a) Access of women to education: (i) Report by UNESCO on the education of women in rural areas [resolution 10 (XIV) and annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 801 (XXX)], for the seventeenth session; (ii) Progress report by UNESCO on its activities of special interest to women, including information on its programmes designed to eradicate illiteracy (resolution 11 (XV)) for the seventeenth session;
- (b) Economic rights and opportunities for women: (i) Report by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Labour Office and UNESCO, on the occupational outlook for women in the principal professional and technical fields (Economic and Social Council resolution 652 E (XXIV) and Commission resolution 8 (XV)); (ii) Report by the International Labour Office containing a plan for studies of other occupational areas (resolution 8 (XV)); (iii) Reports by the International Labour Office and by the Secretary-General on part-time work for women (resolution 6 (XV));
- (c) Political rights of women: (i) Report by the Secretary-General containing the draft of a revised pamphlet on *Civic and Political Education of Women* (resolution 1 (XV)); (ii) Report by the Secretary-General on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/3228, para. 150; E/3464, para. 215) for the seventeenth session;
- (d) Status of women in private law: Report by the Secretary-General on the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation (resolution 14 (XV));
- (e) Nationality of married women: Supplementary report by the Secretary-General containing information on recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women (E/2850, para. 182; E/3464, para. 214) for the seventeenth session.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

230. At its 360th meeting the Commission on the Status of Women unanimously adopted the report on its fifteenth session to the Economic and Social Council.

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

I

Report of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (fifteenth session).¹¹

II

Advisory services programme in the field of human rights¹²

The Economic and Social Council

1. *Draws* the attention of the World Health Organization to the Report of the 1960 Seminar on the Participation of Women in Public Life (ST/TAO/HR.9) and particularly to paragraphs 60, 61 and 62;

2. *Requests* the World Health Organization to inform the Council whether it deems possible to meet the wishes clearly expressed by African women by undertaking a study of the medical aspects involved in the customary practices to which too many women are still being subjected.

III

Status of women in private law

A

CONSENT TO MARRIAGE, MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE
AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

*Draft Convention*¹³

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the time is appropriate to conclude under the auspices of the United Nations an international Convention on the consent to marriage, the minimum age of marriage and the registration of marriages,

Recommends to the General Assembly that an international Convention on the consent to marriage, the minimum age of marriage and the registration of marriages, containing the following preamble and substantive articles, be adopted:

¹¹ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/3464).

¹² See paragraphs 42-47.

¹³ See paragraphs 57-66.

CONSENT TO MARRIAGE, MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE
AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

Draft Convention

The Contracting States,

Desiring in conformity with the United Nations Charter to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language and religion,

Recognizing that, as stated in article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

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

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

Recalling that the General Assembly of the United Nations declared by resolution 843 (IX) of 17 December 1954 that certain customs, ancient laws and practices relating to marriage and the family were inconsistent with the principles set forth in the United Nations Charter and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and urged all States, including States which have or assume responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, to take all appropriate measures with a view to abolishing such customs, ancient laws and practices by ensuring, *inter alia*, complete freedom in the choice of a spouse, eliminating completely child marriages and the betrothal of young girls before the age of puberty, establishing appropriate penalties where necessary and establishing a civil or other register in which all marriages will be recorded,

Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

Article 1

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

Article 2

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

Article 3

All marriages shall be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority.

B

CONSENT TO MARRIAGE, MINIMUM AGE OF MARRIAGE
AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

*Recommendation*¹⁴

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing that men and women of full age have

¹⁴ See paragraphs 57-61 and 68-71.

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

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

Recalling further article 2 of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery, of 1956,¹⁵ which makes certain provisions concerning the age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages,

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

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

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

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

3. All marriages shall be registered in an appropriate official register by the competent authority.

II. *Recommends* that each Member State bring the Recommendation on the consent to marriage, the minimum age of marriage and registration of marriages contained in this resolution before the authorities competent to enact legislation or to take other action, at the earliest practicable moment and, if possible, not later than eighteen months after its adoption;

III. *Recommends* that Member States inform the Secretary-General, as soon as possible after the action has been taken, of the measures taken under the present Recommendation to bring it before the compe-

tent authority or authorities, with particulars of the authority or authorities regarded as competent and of the action taken by them;

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

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

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

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

"The General Assembly,

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

"Noting that the Economic and Social Council has made, in resolution . . . , Recommendations to the Members of the United Nations concerning the consent to marriage, the minimum age of marriage and the registration of marriages,

"Endorses the Recommendations and the arrangements made by the Council in resolution . . ."

IV

Economic rights and opportunities for women

A

DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION¹⁶

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 728 D (XXVIII) of 30 July 1959 inviting Governments to ratify Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation,¹⁷ or to take other appropriate action with regard to the said Convention,

Recalling also its resolution 771 B (XXX) of 25 July 1960 on the access of married women to public services and functions,

Recognizing the need for the earliest possible elimina-

¹⁵ United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on a Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery, held at Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 August to 4 September 1956, *Final Act and Supplementary Convention* (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 57.XIV.2).

¹⁶ See paragraphs 105-115.

¹⁷ See International Labour Office, *Official Bulletin*, vol. XLI, No. 2 (1958), p. 72.

tion of discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation,

Stressing the importance of action to change the social attitudes which play an important part in discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation,

1. *Recommends* that Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies take the necessary measures to eliminate restrictions on the right of women, including married women and women contracting marriage, to work in all branches of employment and occupation;

2. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation to continue its studies of discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation and to give further consideration to ways of eliminating all the aspects of such discrimination;

3. *Further invites* the International Labour Organisation to consider in this connexion to what extent discrimination against women in respect of employment and occupation in the different countries is attributable to the fact that the cost of all or some social welfare benefits, particularly maternity benefits, is defrayed solely by employers and not out of public funds or other collective arrangements, in particular the existing systems of social security and social services.

B

EXPANSION OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN ¹⁸

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that in many countries women have only limited opportunities to obtain paid work, particularly in accordance with their qualifications,

Having in mind the steps being taken in many countries to promote national economic development,

Recognizing that some countries are endeavouring to expand opportunities and eliminate discriminations against women in this regard,

Noting the activities of the International Labour Organisation which have a bearing on the employment of women,

Recalling its resolutions 652 E (XXIV) and 771 E (XXX),

1. *Recommends* that Member States pay special attention to the problems of employment of women, and take all possible steps to promote for women who desire to work opportunities to obtain employment in accordance with their qualifications and abilities;

2. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation to supplement its regular reports to the Commission on equal pay and related matters with information on other International Labour Organisation activities which have a bearing on the employment of women, including *inter alia* and as appropriate, available statistics and information on the work of its industrial committees, the panel of consultants on the problems of women workers, and similar efforts.

¹⁸ See paragraphs 132-136.

C

TAX LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO WOMEN ¹⁹

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the views expressed in the Commission on the Status of Women on discrimination against married women in tax legislation, based on the study and discussion of document E/CN.6/344 and Add.1 and 2 at the Commission's thirteenth and fifteenth sessions, and document E/CN.6/297 at the Commission's eleventh session,

Considering that the system of joint taxation of husband and wife now practised in many countries results in the taxation of married persons at a higher rate than single persons, and thereby tends to discourage married women from undertaking paid employment and to deter women from entering into a legal marriage;

Affirming the basic principles that the remuneration of the work of women should be no less than that of men, and that the tax legislation should not interfere with the right to marry and found a family,

1. *Calls* the attention of Member States to the need to re-examine their laws applicable to the taxation of married persons, with a view to providing for equal treatment of men and women in respect to taxation of earned income in practice as well as in law;

2. *Invites* Member States to consider the desirability of giving effect to this principle by providing, either for taxation on an individual basis or by giving married couples the option to elect either to be taxed jointly or separately on their individual earned incomes.

V

Access of women to education

A

ACCESS OF WOMEN TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION ²⁰

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 722 E (XXVIII),

Considering the important part now played by women in the teaching profession, and the need of many countries to call upon an increasing number of women in recruiting teaching staff,

Considering that the participation of women in educational work is an essential condition for the fight against illiteracy and the advancement of education in the developing countries,

Observing that there are still obstacles to the full access of women, on equal terms with men, to the teaching profession, admission to which is particularly sought by women,

1. *Calls upon* the educational authorities in Member States of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to ensure, in law and in fact:

¹⁹ See paragraphs 147-153.

²⁰ See paragraphs 164-166.

(a) A complete professional training for women teachers, with a view to making fully qualified women teachers available at an early date;

(b) Equal pay and equal in-service training and promotional opportunities;

(c) Equal access to posts of responsibility and authority, where qualifications are equal;

(d) The elimination of discrimination against married women in the exercise of the teaching profession by abolishing obstacles to their employment or re-employment and by promoting the access of women to the teaching profession in countries where they are still a minority;

(e) The social protection of women teachers who are mothers (maternity leave, family allowances, crèches, etc.);

(f) For teachers of both sexes an economic and social status consonant with the importance of their profession; and to increase the opportunities for the exchange of teachers between Member States;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the other specialized agencies concerned, to lend their assistance to the Member States to this end.

B

DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION ²¹

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with appreciation the Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its eleventh session,

Recalling its resolution 652 C (XXIV) and UNESCO resolution 11 C/8.63,

Recognizing that in many countries the rate of illiteracy among women is high,

Believing that the eradication of illiteracy among women would constitute an important step towards their increased participation in public life,

Noting UNESCO's regional education projects in Africa, Asia and the Arab countries and the major project on the extension and improvement of primary education in Latin America,

1. *Urges* Governments of Member States to apply the provisions of the UNESCO Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education by providing full opportunities for young persons of both sexes to take the same courses of study;

²¹ See paragraphs 167-175.

2. *Recommends* to Governments of Member States and the competent educational authorities to give special attention to problems of illiteracy among women by adopting the necessary measures:

(a) To increase, when possible, their budgetary appropriations for education;

(b) To introduce, wherever it does not exist, the principle of free and compulsory primary education, and at the same time to build the necessary schools;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:

(a) To pursue steadily and to develop its plans for assistance in the fight against illiteracy among women in developing countries;

(b) To assist all initiatives or action by States aimed at increasing the opportunities for women to obtain education and all necessary educational materials, and, where this meets the interest of the population, in the native languages;

(c) To inform the Commission on the Status of Women of what has been achieved and is being planned in the campaign against illiteracy among women.

VI

Increased membership of the Commission on the Status of Women ²²

The Economic and Social Council,

Having regard to numerous resolutions ²³ in which the General Assembly recognized that, in view of the increase in the membership of the United Nations since its establishment, an increase in the membership of its organs is desirable in order to achieve an equitable geographical representation and to enable the largest number of Member States from the different regions of the world to participate in the organization and work of these organs and, in particular, to co-operate on the functional commissions of the Council;

Recalling that there has been a considerable increase in the membership of the United Nations since the date at which the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women was fixed at eighteen, in 1951; ²⁴

1. *Decides* that the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women shall be increased;

2. *Decides further* to elect the additional new members of the Commission on the Status of Women at its resumed thirty-second session.

²² See paragraphs 190-199.

²³ Resolutions 207 (III), 208 (III), 1299 (XIII), 1300 (XIII) and 1404 (XIV).

²⁴ Resolution 414 B V (XIII).

ANNEXES

Annex I

List of documents prepared for the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifteenth session

- A/4407. Constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to political rights of women: memorandum by the Secretary-General.
- E/3347/Rev.1. Programme appraisals in the economic, social and human rights fields.
- E/CN.6/254/Add.7. Nationality of married women: memorandum by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/343/Add.5. Occupational outlook for women — Access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields; report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/344 and Add.1-2. Tax legislation applicable to women: report prepared by Mr. Oliver Oldman, Lecturer on International Tax Law at Harvard University, acting as consultant to the United Nations Secretariat.
- E/CN.6/356/Add.2. Consent to marriage, age of marriage, and registration of marriages: report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/360/Add.1. Implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by the States Parties thereto: memorandum by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/369. Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Commission.
- E/CN.6/369/Rev.1-2. Agenda as adopted by the Commission.
- E/CN.6/370. Information concerning the status of women in Trust Territories: report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/371. Information concerning the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/372 and Corr.1. Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level: report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/373 — E/CN.4/807. Advisory services in the field of human rights: report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/374 and Add.1. Occupational outlook for women — Access of women to training and employment in certain principal professional and technical fields: report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/375. Access of women to the teaching profession: report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- E/CN.6/376 and Add.1-3. Observations of Governments on the draft Convention and draft Recommendation on the minimum age of marriage, consent to marriage and registration of marriages: memorandum by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/377. Discrimination in education: note by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/378 and Add.1. Review of the programme of work, establishment of priorities, control and limitation of documentation: note by the Secretary-General.
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E/CN.6/NGO/114. Political rights of women; advisory services programme; economic rights and opportunities for women; access of women to education; status of women in private law; report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women at the last session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; and the survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level: statement by the International Federation of University Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/115. Status of women in private law: statement by the Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association.
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E/CN.6/NGO/117. Economic rights and opportunities for women: statement by the World Federation of Trade Unions.
ST/TAO/HR/9. *1960 Seminar on Participation of Women in Public Life.*

Annex II

Financial implications of decisions taken by the Commission on the Status of Women during its fifteenth session

1. In draft resolution 12 (XV) (see chapter XI of this report), the Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the membership of the Commission on the Status of Women be increased, with election of additional new members to take place at the resumed thirty-second session of the Council.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1075 (XI), the United Nations would pay the cost of round-trip travel between the capital city of a Member State and the place of meeting, or the actual cost of travel undertaken should that be the lesser amount. On this basis, the travel cost in respect of each additional representative of a Member State to be elected to the Commission is estimated at \$1,200. If the draft resolution is adopted by the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General will make provision for the resulting costs in his revised 1962 budget estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixteenth session.

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