



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

19 March—6 April 1962

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS: THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 7

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NOTE

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

E/3606/Rev.1 E/CN.6/403/Rev.1



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the sixteenth session of the Commission,
held at United Nations Headquarters from 19 March to 6 April 1962 inclusive

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its sixteenth session at United Nations Headquarters. The session began on 19 March and ended on 6 April 1962.

Attendance

2. Attendance at the session was as follows:

Argentina: Mrs. Marcela Gatica de Vilchez, Mr. Enrique Ros;**
Australia: Mrs. Ada Norris, Mr. Peter J. Curtis;**
China: Mrs. Chu-sheng Yeh Cheng, Mr. Shung-chai Huang;**
Colombia: Mrs. Anacarsis Cardona de Salonia, Mrs. Clara Nieto de Ponce de León,*
Cuba: Mrs. Laura Meneses de Albizu Campos;*
Czechoslovakia: Mrs. Helena Leflerová, Mr. Jiří Jambor;**
Finland: Mrs. Helvi Sipilä, Mr. Klaus Törnudd;**
France: Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, Mr. Jean-Marcel Bouquin,* Mr. Bernard Aujay de la Dure;*
Ghana: Miss Emelia Aryee, Mrs. Gloria Nikoi,* Mr. J. A. Kuntoh,** Mr. K. M. Akude;**
Indonesia: Miss Endang Sulbi Satrodiredjo, Mr. Tan Bian Kit,* Mr. J. B. P. Maramis;**
Iran: Mrs. Zafardokhte Ardalan, Miss Mehry Ahy;*
Japan: Mrs. Setsu Tanino, Mr. Shozo Kadota,*
Mexico: Miss María Lavalle Urbina, Miss Julieta Domínguez;**
Netherlands: Miss J. C. H. H. de Vink, Miss J. Pelt;**
Philippines: Miss Helena Z. Benitez, Mrs. Etta C. Enriquez,*
Poland: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska, Mrs. Fryderyka Kalinowska,* Mrs. Maria Regent-Lechowicz;**

Spain: Miss Aurora Huber Robert, Mr. José Luis Pérez Ruiz;**

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

United Arab Republic: Mrs. Aziza Hussein, Mr. Hassan A. El-Minyawi;**

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

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

OBSERVERS

Dominican Republic: Miss Carmen Natalia Martínez Bonilla;

Peru: Miss Rosario Ortiz de Zevallos;

Romania: Mrs. Aurelia Haseguna;

Sierra Leone: Mr. Gershon B. O. Collier, Mr. H. E. Maurice-Jones.*

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation: Mrs. Elizabeth M. Johnstone, Mr. Henri Reymond, Mr. John Lloyd;

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Miss Nicole Friderich, Mr. Arthur Gagliotti;

World Health Organization: Dr. Rodolphe L. Coigny, Mrs. Sylvia Meagher.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION¹

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

* Alternate.

** Adviser.

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

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CATEGORY A

- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions:* Miss Marcelle Dehareng, Mrs. Clara Allen, Mrs. Carolyn Davies, Mrs. Bessie Hillman, Miss Yvette Charpentier, Miss Mary Hanscom;
- World Federation of Trade Unions:* Mr. Philip M. Connelly;
- World Federation of United Nations Associations:* Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf.

CATEGORY B

- All Pakistan Women's Association:* Begum Hamdani;
- Associated Country Women of the World:* Mrs. Geerda Van Beekhoff, Mrs. John Bell, Mrs. Robert L. Craig;
- Catholic International Union for Social Services:* Mrs. R. Giroux, Mrs. G. Vergara;
- Commission of the Churches on International Affairs:* Miss Madeleine Barot, Mrs. Eva Sidhom, Mrs. Esther Hymer;
- Friends World Committee for Consultation:* Mrs. Thelma W. Babbitt, Mrs. Eleanor R. Loft;
- International Alliance of Women:* Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Halsey, Mrs. Frances A. Doyle, Miss Anne Guthrie, Miss Anna Lagemann, Miss Ruth Woodsmall;
- International Conference of Catholic Charities:* Mr. Luis Longarzo;
- International Council of Women:* Mrs. Mary Craig Schuller, Mrs. William Barclay Parsons, Mrs. Latifeh Ershen Yurshater;
- International Federation of Business and Professional Women:* Miss Ruth Tomlinson, Mrs. Virginia E. Beirnes, Miss Winifred Wilson, Miss Sofia Corradi;
- International Federation of Women in the Legal Careers:* Mrs. Harriet F. Pilpel;
- International Federation of University Women:* Mrs. Michael J. Sabia, Miss Elmina Lucke, Miss Irene Hindmarsh;
- International Federation of Women Lawyers:* Mrs. Rose Korn Hirschmann, Miss Mildred E. Bixby, Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, Miss Margery C. Leonard, Miss Wanda D. Wiener;
- International League for the Rights of Man:* Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf, Mrs. Claudia Lavenstein;
- International Union of Family Organizations:* Mrs. Elizabeth S. Collins;
- Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations:* Miss Anna Lagemann;
- Pan-Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association:* Mrs. Henry G. Fowler, Mrs. Razimah Zakaria;
- World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls:* Mrs. Ernest P. Tibbitts, Mrs. Peter J. Cass;
- World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations:* Miss Lillian O'Connor, Miss Catherine Schaefer, Mrs. Albert Spillman, Miss Alba Zizzamia;

World Young Women's Christian Association: Mrs. Constance M. Anderson, Mrs. James Forsyth, Miss Lettie Stuart;

Young Christian Workers: Miss Caroline Pezzullo;

REGISTER

- International Council of Social Democratic Women:* Mrs. Jean Chapman;
- International Humanist and Ethical Union:* Mrs. Walter M. Weis;
- St. Joan's International Alliance:* Miss Frances McGillicuddy;
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts:* Mrs. Edward F. Johnson, Miss Isabel Crowe, Mrs. Charles Ridder;
- World Federation for Mental Health:* Mrs. Myer Cohen.

3. Mr. John P. Humphrey, Director of the Division of Human Rights, Mr. Egon Schwelb, Deputy-Director of the Division of Human Rights, and Mrs. Sophie Grinberg-Vinaver, Chief of the Section on the Status of Women, represented the Secretary-General at various meetings. Miss Aline Fenwick acted as Secretary to the Commission.

Election of officers

4. The Commission at its 361st meeting, on 19 March 1962, took a vote by secret ballot for the election of Chairman. Mrs. Zofia Dembinska (Poland) was elected Chairman of the Commission by 18 votes in favour, none against, one abstention and one blank. The following officers were elected unanimously: *First Vice-Chairman:* Miss Maria Lavalle Urbina (Mexico); *Second Vice-Chairman:* Miss Helena Z. Benitez (Philippines); *Rapporteur:* Miss Joan Vickers (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

Committees

5. In order to expedite its work, the Commission at its 371st meeting established two *ad hoc* committees: a *Committee on Resolutions* (the Committee was composed of the representatives of Argentina, Indonesia, Finland (Chairman), the USSR and the United States of America) and a *Committee on Communications* (the Committee was composed of the representatives of Australia (Chairman), Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Iran and the Netherlands).

Meetings, resolutions and documentation

6. The Commission held twenty-five plenary meetings. The views expressed at those meetings are summarized in the records of the 361st to 385th meetings.

7. 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.

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

9. In the course of its sixteenth 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

10. The Commission considered its agenda at its 361st meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/386 and Corr.1) which had been drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the fifteenth session of the Commission.

11. The following changes in the provisional agenda were suggested by the Chairman:

(1) Item 11, report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women at the fourteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, to be considered with sub-item (c) of item 3, report on discrimination in the matter of political rights prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission, since the participation of the representative of the Commission in the work of the Sub-Commission was concerned primarily with the matter of political rights. Item 11 thus became sub-item (c) of item 3 and sub-item (c) of item 3 became sub-item (b).

(2) Item 9 concerning the periodic reports on human rights, to be examined after item 3 in order that the observations of the Commission on these reports might be transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights prior to the latter's discussion of these reports; thus item 9 became item 4.

(3) Sub-item (a) of item 4, progress report on the advisory services programme, to be considered with item 10, namely United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries, since these subjects were closely connected.

(4) Sub-item (b) of item 4, namely, the report of the 1961 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law, held in Bucharest, Romania, to be considered as sub-item (a) of item 8 so that the two documents dealing with private law might be discussed under the same item. Sub-item (a) of item 8 concerning inheritance laws as they affect women became sub-item (b). The Commission unanimously accepted these proposals.

12. At the suggestion of the representative of the United States of America, the Commission decided to

add a new sub-item entitled "Note on the pamphlet on *Equal Pay for Equal Work*" to be considered under item 5, which deals with equal pay for equal work.

13. The text of the agenda in its final form (E/CN.6/386/Rev.1) 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) Report on discrimination in the matter of political rights, prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;
 - (c) Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women at the fourteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;
 - (d) Report on the status of women in Trust Territories.
4. Periodic reports on human rights: Summaries of periodic reports for the period 1957-1959 on action taken by Governments and by specialized agencies to ensure respect for the rights enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
5. Equal pay for equal work:
 - (a) Progress report on the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work;
 - (b) Note on the pamphlet on *Equal Pay for Equal Work*.
6. Economic rights and opportunities for women:
 - (a) Report on vocational guidance and training of girls and women;
 - (b) Report on the age of retirement and right to pension;
 - (c) Note on the inquiry of the International Children's Centre on crèches and day nurseries;
 - (d) Report on ILO activities of special interest from the standpoint of the employment of women.
7. Access of women to education: Report on the access of women to elementary education.
8. Status of women in private law:
 - (a) Report of the 1961 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law held in Bucharest, Romania, in June and July 1961;
 - (b) Report on inheritance laws as they affect the status of women.
9. Advisory services programme and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries:
 - (a) Progress report on the advisory services programme;
 - (b) Reports on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries.
10. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
11. Communications concerning the status of women.
12. Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level (supplementary report) — Review of the programme of work, establishment of priorities — Control and limitation of documentation.
13. Adoption of the report to the Economic and Social Council.

II. POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

14. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 361st to 366th meetings. It had before it the annual memorandum by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to political rights of women (A/4824 and Corr.1); the report on discrimination in the matter of political rights, prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (E/CN.4/Sub.2/213), as well as a note by the Secretary-General transmitting this report to the Commission (E/CN.6/390); and the report by the Secretary-General on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/387). The Commission also had before it a statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/125).

15. In the course of the general debate on this item, the Commission noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the field of political rights of women throughout the world; it was, in particular, pointed out that a majority of nations admitted to the United Nations in recent years have granted political rights to women in their constitutions. As one member noted, this was a useful and encouraging fact of interest to women in developing countries. It was mentioned by a member that in Paraguay women have been recently granted suffrage, marking, therefore, the achievement of the grant of voting rights for women throughout the nations of the Western Hemisphere. Several representatives, however, noted with regret that there are still countries in which women either have no political rights or their rights are limited. Emphasis was placed on the need for the Commission to continue its work in this field. It was pointed out that, when the exercise of the voting right is subject to certain qualifications such as the payment of taxes or literacy requirements, women are especially affected, as they are less likely to pay taxes than men and, furthermore, the rate of illiteracy among women is often higher than among men.

16. It was generally agreed that, although in many instances women were now playing a greater part in political life, for example, by voting in large numbers and by standing for election, there were still many obstacles which impeded their full participation in public life. An important means of overcoming such obstacles was civic education. In this connexion, the significance of the seminars organized by the United Nations on the participation of women in public life was stressed and it was noted that these seminars contributed to the preparation of women for the effective use of their political rights and for the assumption of public office. Several members expressed the hope that more seminars on international, regional, national and local levels would be organized, following the pattern of those organized by the United Nations. One representative noted that seminars were one of the best ways of promoting the interest of the non-governmental organizations in advancing the participation of women in public life. It was pointed out by some representatives that there was a need for the pamphlet on "Civic and Political Education

of Women", which was in the course of preparation, and that it was important to give to it the widest possible distribution. Other members emphasized also the importance of increasing the facilities for women to obtain higher education and training in those fields which are an important factor in the political life of a democracy, such as press, radio and other mass media of communication.

17. Turning to the consideration of the access of women to public functions, regret was expressed that there were still very few women holding important posts in government or representing their countries in the international field. Some members felt that their participation at all levels of public life, from the local to the national, and their presence at international meetings, would benefit not only individual countries but the world as a whole. Moreover, the influence of women at all these levels and their contribution to the shaping of national and international policies were important factors in achieving lasting peace. The Commission was particularly concerned that in many countries women do not have access to certain posts and that their opportunities for advancement are limited. In the course of the debate, it was pointed out that in many countries marital status prevented women from continuing in their posts. One representative mentioned that in her country a strong tradition of home life probably accounted for the relatively small number of women in public life. Stress was placed on the need to implement the principle of complete equality in the right of access to all public office for men and women while assuring for women absolute freedom of choice in the exercise of this right. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics noted the increased activity of women in the political scene during the last year, and their interventions against fascism, torture and war.

18. In reference to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, while some members expressed satisfaction at the number of States which have signed, ratified or acceded to this instrument, others considered that the number was disappointing and they hoped that more countries would become parties to the Convention in the near future. One representative referred to the absence of a territorial application clause as the obstacle to her country's adherence to the Convention. The representative of Ghana stated that she hoped to announce at the next session of the Commission that her country had become a party to the Convention.

19. There was agreement on the importance of the role that the non-governmental organizations are playing throughout the world in helping women to obtain political rights and to exercise them fully. Through such international activities they are making a useful contribution to the United Nations and to the peace of the world. A representative stressed the importance of the role that the youth organizations are able to perform in preparing girls through leadership training programmes, and by other means, for their eventual participation in public life. This view was shared by several represen-

tatives who also emphasized the need for adequate civic education for girls, in particular through programmes carried out by the youth organizations in conjunction with the schools.

20. In the discussion of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/387), it was felt by some representatives that there was reason for satisfaction in the progress achieved by women in the field of political rights in these territories. One representative pointed out that two territories covered by the report, the Cameroons under United Kingdom administration and Tanganyika, had become independent. Other representatives noted, however, that there were still territories in which the situation was not satisfactory and where women had not as yet obtained political rights. In this connexion some members felt that the status of women in these territories should be considered also by other organs of the United Nations. One member regretted that the reports on the status of women in Trust Territories and in Non-Self-Governing Territories were no longer issued annually as she felt that the consideration of this item every second year would appear to show a diminishing interest by the Commission in the women of territories still dependent.

21. During the general debate the Commission heard statements by the observer from Peru and by the representatives of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and the International Federation of Women Lawyers.

22. The representatives of Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Japan, Spain, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom and the United States of America submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.332 and Add.1) expressing the hope that the important role women have to play in public life will be universally acknowledged and that steps will be taken to achieve the advancement of women in the field of political rights. The representative of the United Kingdom in introducing the draft resolution stressed the need to continue working for this advancement, particularly in view of the fact that there were still several countries in which women had not been granted political rights.

23. The representatives of the Philippines and Poland submitted an amendment to the draft resolution consisting in the addition of a new operative paragraph 2. This amendment (E/CN.6/L.334) took into account oral suggestions by the representative of the United Kingdom; its sponsors agreed to insert the oral amendment by the representative of France to add the word "all" before "political rights" in operative paragraph 2. This was accepted by the co-sponsors of the draft resolution. The sponsors also agreed to an oral amendment proposed by the representative of Ghana consisting in the deletion of the words: "including those countries which have recently become independent or which have adopted new constitutions" at the end of operative paragraph 1.

24. At the 366th meeting, the Commission adopted unanimously the draft resolution as amended. The text of this resolution, which is contained in document E/CN.6/L.335, appears below:

1 (XVI). POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in the equal rights of men and women,

Recalling also the relevant articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1948,

Having considered the memorandum prepared by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women (A/4824 and Corr.1),

1. *Notes* with satisfaction the further progress, as outlined in documents A/4824 and Corr.1, E/CN.6/387, and in particular in E/CN.4/Sub.2/213, achieved during the period under review in granting or guaranteeing political rights to women;

2. *Expresses the hope* that women will be granted all political rights in the shortest possible time in those countries where they do not at present enjoy them;

3. *Expresses the hope* that the important role women have to play in the public life and the service of their country and the communities in which they live will be universally acknowledged and that to this end steps will be taken to achieve the advancement of women in the matter of political rights.

25. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.333) which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Considering that the granting of political rights to women presupposes active participation by them in the public and political life of their countries,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting the increased political activity of women in the struggle against fascism and racial discrimination and for peace and national independence,

"Regretting the fact that in a number of countries women are subjected to persecution and repression by the authorities because of their public activities,

"1. Condemns this practice, which is incompatible with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

"2. Recommends the Governments of States in which women taking part in political activities are subjected to persecution or repression to take appropriate measures to end such occurrences;

"3. Requests non-governmental women's organizations to bring to the notice of the public the facts concerning the persecution and repression by the authorities of women who take part in progressive activities and to come to their defence;

"4. Draws the attention of Governments, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to the need for greater efforts to ensure compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

In introducing her draft resolution, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, while noting the progress achieved by women in the acquisition and exercise of political rights, nevertheless regretted that in many countries women were still subjected to persecution and repression so far as the full enjoyment of political rights was concerned. She expressed the belief that this draft resolution, if adopted, would help to put an end to such discriminatory practices. Although she was supported in her views by several representatives, other representatives felt that the draft resolution exceeded the terms of reference of the Commission as the discrimination to which it referred was based not on sex but on political beliefs or activity of both men and women. It was pointed out that there were other organs of the United Nations in which the problems of discrimination in the field of political rights, in line with the terms of the draft resolution, were considered.

26. At the 366th meeting a vote was taken on draft resolution E/CN.6/L.333, which was rejected by 11 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions.

27. 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. This view was supported by the representatives of Czechoslovakia and Poland. The representative of Ghana wondered how effective the Commission's work could be when it did not include the People's Republic of China, which had the largest number of women in the world. The representative of China stated that she represented the only legal government of China; therefore, the statement of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was out of order. At the 365th meeting, the representative of the United States of America, on a point of order, stated that the representative of China had been incorrectly addressed by the Chairman of the Commission. She requested that the correct mode of address be used and that no distinction be made between members of the Commission. She was supported by the representatives of Australia and China. The representatives of Czechoslovakia, Cuba, Indonesia, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, opposing this view, alleged that the consideration of this question was beyond the competence of the Commission. After an exchange of views, the Commission accepted the proposal made by the representative of Ghana at its 366th meeting that the Chairman should address members of the Commission by name.

Discrimination in the matter of political rights; Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women at the fourteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

28. The Commission heard the oral report of Mrs. Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, the representative of France, who had represented the Commission at the fourteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Her

report referred for the most part to her participation in the Sub-Commission's discussions of the report on discrimination in the matter of political rights prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/213), which was now before the Commission for its consideration. Mrs. Lefauchaux mentioned specifically those paragraphs of the report which dealt with distinctions made on the ground of sex, and in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 which were concerned with the right of women to vote and their access to public services. She expressed appreciation for the work done by the Special Rapporteur, but regretted that the report did not refer to certain types of discrimination which still existed against participation by women in public life, and, in particular, to discriminations against married women. These views were shared by many members of the Commission. Mrs. Lefauchaux also commented on the report of the Sub-Commission submitted to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/830—E/CN.4/Sub.2/218) and indicated that this report did not incorporate the views she had expressed during the Sub-Commission's discussion on the study of discrimination in the matter of political rights. She referred in particular to some of the principles adopted by the Sub-Commission,² and suggested that the Commission on the Status of Women make its position on the subject known to the Commission on Human Rights.

29. The Commission accepted the proposal of the Chairman that a working group be formed to discuss and draft the suggestions to be transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights. The Chairman then nominated the representatives of France, Czechoslovakia and the United Arab Republic as members of the working group. In the course of the debate, several members commented on the documents (E/CN.4/Sub.2/213 and E/CN.4/830—E/CN.4/Sub.2/218).

30. The representative of France, as Chairman of this group, presented to the Commission at its 366th meeting a text prepared by the working group containing the suggested amendments to the principles contained in the Sub-Commission's report, for transmittal to the Commission on Human Rights at its eighteenth session. The findings of the working group were discussed by members of the Commission who agreed on a text based on the suggestions submitted by the working group and incorporating also certain changes put forward orally during the discussions by the representatives of Finland and of the United States of America.

31. At its 366th meeting, the Commission decided by 19 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, to transmit the following text (E/CN.6/L.336) to the Commission on Human Rights:

At its 366th meeting the Commission on the Status of Women adopted, by 19 votes to 1, with 1 abstention, the following suggestions for changes in the "General Principles on Freedom and Non-Discrimination in the matter of Political Rights" which had been adopted by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination

² (E/CN.4/830 — E/CN.4/Sub.2/218; resolution 1 (XIV), annex).

and Protection of Minorities at its fourteenth session (E/CN.4/830-E/CN.4/Sub.2/218; resolution 1 (XIV), annex):

1. In the preamble, after the first three paragraphs, insert a new paragraph as follows:

Whereas the Convention on Political Rights of Women proclaims equality of men and women with regard to the right to vote, to be elected and to hold all public offices,

2. In Principle II "*Political rights of nationals*", at the end of paragraph (a) add the following sentence: "Nor shall there be any distinction based on marital status".

3. In Principle IX "*Access to elective public office*",

in paragraph (b) replace the words "duties or personal interests" by "financial or professional interests".

4. In Principle X "*Access to non-elective public office*", in paragraph (b) replace the words "duties or personal interests" by "financial or professional interests".

5. In Principle XI "*Measures which shall not be considered discriminatory*":

(1) Reword paragraph (a) as follows:
" (a) Reasonable requirements, equal for all nationals, for the exercise..."

(2) Reword paragraph (b) as follows:
" (b) Reasonable qualifications, equal for all nationals, for appointment to public office."

III. PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

32. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 366th, 368th and 369th meetings. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on periodic reports on human rights (E/CN.6/388 and Corr.1), a summary by the Secretary-General of the periodic reports submitted by sixty-seven Governments covering the years 1957-1959 (E/CN.4/810 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2), the reports of specialized agencies in respect of the rights falling within their purview (E/CN.4/811 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1), a memorandum by the Secretary-General on periodic reports on human rights (E/CN.4/AC.17/L.1 and Corr.1) and the draft report³ of the Committee on Periodic Reports on Human Rights prepared in pursuance of resolution 3 (XVIII) of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/AC.17/L.3).

33. Several representatives stressed the importance of the reporting system in the field of human rights and expressed satisfaction with the summaries of the periodic reports prepared by the Secretary-General.

The representative of Indonesia protested against the use of the term "Netherlands New Guinea" and stated that she was not satisfied with document E/CN.4/811/Add.2/Corr.1. The representative of the Netherlands stated that she considered that the use of this term was correct. The representative of the United Arab Republic supported the position of the representative of Indonesia.

34. In the course of the general debate, some representatives pointed out that several Governments had reported significant progress in matters affecting the status of women, such as reforms in marriage, divorce and inheritance laws, the increasing participation of women in public life, the growth in the numbers of girls and women receiving education at all levels, as well as the many ratifications of ILO Conventions which are of interest to women. Other members felt that the progress reported was too slow and that the information

supplied by Governments was incomplete. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that she supported whole-heartedly the principles enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as those proclaimed in the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples, adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1960 (resolution 1514 (XV)). She stated that the regular reporting by Governments in the field of human rights should be discontinued after the adoption by the General Assembly of the draft International Covenants on Human Rights;⁴ in her opinion such reporting would become unnecessary when the Covenants became legally binding instruments. The representative of France stated that there was no incompatibility between periodic reporting by Governments on human rights and the adoption of the draft Covenants. In her view, the procedure of reporting had definite value since it provided information concerning the progress achieved by Governments in implementing the Universal Declaration. Moreover, even in the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 22 dealing with the status of women in family law, which was of particular interest to the Commission, would not become immediately applicable upon the signing of the Covenants. The representative of the United States of America suggested that the procedures concerning reporting might usefully be expanded to include information provided by non-governmental organizations.

35. The Chairman appointed the representatives of Finland, France and Mexico to a working group to

³ Subsequent to the Commission's consideration of item 4 of its agenda, the Committee on Periodic Reports on Human Rights (of the Commission on Human Rights) adopted its report (E/CN.4/831).

⁴ The draft Covenants have been under consideration in the General Assembly since its ninth session. Prior to the sixteenth session, the Third Committee had adopted the preamble and article 1 of each Covenant, all the substantive articles (articles 6 to 16) of the draft Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and articles 6 to 18 of the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. At the sixteenth session of the General Assembly, the Third Committee adopted articles 19 to 26, inclusive, of the draft Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thereby completing consideration of the substantive articles of the Covenant.

consider the summaries of the periodic reports and other related documentation and to report back to the Commission. It was suggested that the working group confine its recommendations to substantive matters of special concern to the Commission on the Status of Women. It was felt that it would be inappropriate for the Commission to make recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights concerning the procedures by which Governments reported to the Secretary-General on human rights. At the 368th meeting, the representative of France, as Chairman of the working group on periodic reports on human rights, presented a working paper (E/CN.6/L.340) containing a draft resolution inviting the Commission on Human Rights to take into account the comments of the Commission on the Status of Women which were limited to aspects of direct concern to the status of women. In introducing the report of the working group, the representative of France suggested that the Commission express its appreciation to the Commission on Human Rights for transmitting to it the summaries of the reports and stated that the working group was of the opinion that these useful reports should be forwarded regularly to the Commission. While noting that the reports reflected considerable progress in a number of fields, she expressed the concern of the working group that, with few exceptions, little information on the implementation of article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, dealing with the status of women in family law, had been furnished by Governments. She made a similar observation in regard to article 21 of the Declaration, particularly on the access of women to public service, article 23, which relates to the right to work, and article 26, dealing with the right to education. The working group was of the opinion that the lack of information indicated that there had been little progress in the period covered by the reports (1957-1959). The working paper met with the general support of the Commission.

36. The representative of the United Kingdom submitted an amendment (E/CN.6/L.342) to document E/CN.6/L.340 which suggested the replacement of operative paragraph 4 by the following text: "Considers, however, that the information supplied by Governments in these reports on matters affecting the status of women could be more comprehensive;". This amendment was accepted by all members of the working group and had also the support of other members of the Commission. The representative of China suggested, but did not formally propose an amendment to that effect, that the working paper might appropriately include references to article 22 of the Universal Declaration which deals with social security and to article 25 (2) which provides *inter alia* that "motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance". The representative of France replied that these subjects were not those in which women were victims of discrimination and that the recommendations of the Commission should highlight those matters which adversely affect women. She also pointed out that the opinions expressed in this Commission would be transmitted by her to the Commission on Human

Rights, when she presented the resolution of the Commission on the Status of Women.

37. The Commission also heard the observer for the International Council of Women.

38. At its 369th meeting the Commission unanimously adopted a resolution as contained in the working paper, as amended. This resolution, which is contained in document E/CN.6/L.346, reads as follows:

2 (XVI). PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered the summaries of periodic reports on human rights for the years 1957-1959 (E/CN.4/810 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2; E/CN.4/811 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr.1) transmitted to the Commission on the Status of Women by the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 3 (XVII),

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Commission on Human Rights for transmitting these reports, which have been noted with great interest;

2. *Emphasizes* the usefulness of these reports, which reflect action taken by Governments to implement the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which are of particular interest to the Commission on the Status of Women;

3. *Notes* the progress achieved in a number of human rights fields which are of concern to humanity as a whole;

4. *Considers*, however, that the information supplied by Governments in these reports on matters affecting the status of women could be more comprehensive;

5. *Notes with concern* that, while a few countries report significant progress in the implementation of article 16 of the Universal Declaration, the information concerning the status of women in family law is especially limited, and indicates little advance in this field;

6. *Notes* that the same observation applies to the information concerning article 21, particularly as regards the access of women to public service, and that concerning article 23 and article 26;

7. *Expresses the hope* that in future series of reports more information will be supplied by Governments on the application of the provision in article 2 of the Universal Declaration that everyone is entitled to all the rights set forth in the Declaration without distinction of sex;

8. *Expresses the hope* that the periodic reports on human rights will be forwarded regularly to the Commission on the Status of Women;

9. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to take into account the above comments, which are limited to aspects of the problem of direct concern to the status of women.

39. The Commission appointed the representative of France to present the resolution, as adopted, to the Commission on Human Rights and also to present the views expressed in the Commission on the Status of Women.

IV. EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

40. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 366th to 368th meetings. It had before it a progress report by the International Labour Office on equal pay for equal work (E/CN.6/392), a note by the Secretary-General concerning the sales and distribution of the pamphlet *Equal Pay for Equal Work* (E/CN.6/401) as well as a statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/122).

41. The Commission heard the representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), who reported on the action taken by the various member States of the ILO with regard to the ILO Convention (No. 100) and Recommendation (No. 90) concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value.⁵ She noted that the long-term trend in respect of equal pay was distinctly encouraging. Yet it was perhaps significant that recent developments had thrown into relief the practical difficulties of the application of the principle of equal pay and in so doing had drawn greater attention to the reasons therefor. It was time to analyse the practical problems in greater detail and to seek to overcome them. Even if there had been unprecedented progress as regards equal pay, there remained a tremendous amount of work to do before the principle became a reality in many countries and in many sectors of the economy. In this connexion it was significant that, given an atmosphere of acceptance of the principle of equal pay, the practical obstacles to its implementation were perhaps not quite so formidable as had been thought: persistence and good will, particularly in collective negotiations, and tripartite reviews of wage policies and practices in the different industries and occupations have gone a long way towards overcoming difficulties and prejudices and towards sorting out the real meaning of "equal pay for equal work". This focused attention on some of the wider problems of women's wages generally: why they remained relatively low compared with those of men, whether this was necessary and just, and what could be done to bring about an improvement of the level of women's wages. These were problems which should engage attention in the years ahead.

42. In the course of the general debate all representatives expressed their appreciation to the International Labour Office for the report. Several members of the Commission reported on new progress achieved in their countries since the publication of the document. It was noted that the ILO report gave evidence of considerable progress towards the achievement of equal pay for equal work. Many members of the Commission, while welcoming the fact that thirty-nine countries had already ratified the ILO Convention (No. 100), expressed the view that, in comparison with the number of States Members of the United Nations, this figure was far from satisfactory. Several representatives felt that the situation in many countries concerning the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work left much to be desired. A

large number of representatives were of the opinion that the Commission should urge the countries which had not yet done so to ratify the Convention. Some members of the Commission, however, while supporting the Convention, stated that, in accordance with the general policy of their Governments, there was no possibility of ratification by them of any Convention until all the conditions stipulated therein had been established in their country. Several members stressed that even if the principle of equal pay was embodied in national legislation of a country, this did not necessarily mean that the principle was always applied in practice. Some representatives felt that there was need for a study of remuneration in those countries which had not yet ratified the ILO Convention (No. 100) and expressed the hope that the ILO would undertake such a study.

43. During the general debate on the item, members of the Commission emphasized that the problem of equal pay for equal work was a premise of the real equality of women and one member stressed the close connexion of the implementation of the principle under discussion with the political equality of women and with their participation in the economic life of their countries. Discussing the obstacles in the way of the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work, as well as the measures which could be taken to further its implementation, it was noted that differentials in wages as between men and women workers might be caused by extraneous factors. Objective analyses of job content and job evaluation were useful means of implementing the equal pay principle and of arriving at a fair evaluation of women's wages. Many representatives referred to the importance of providing adequate vocational guidance and training opportunities, particularly in developing countries; these facilities were deemed essential to achieve adequate qualifications for women and this would provide a basis for advancement to senior positions and for obtaining equal pay and wider employment and promotion opportunities.

44. Many representatives pointed out that absenteeism affects the problem of remuneration and equal pay and that the establishment of facilities for adequate child care could greatly contribute to the solution of women workers' problems. One representative stated that pregnancy is often a reason for dismissing women. Another member of the Commission stated that employers do not hire women because of costs of maternity leave and that discriminations against women with respect to equal pay in some countries were attributable to the fact that the burden of maternity benefits was borne solely by employers and not charged to public funds or other collective arrangements. A number of members of the Commission considered that such discrimination was particularly unfortunate in view of the fact that child-bearing was a necessary function for the continuance of society. They also considered that economic difficulties in certain countries should not be solved at the expense of women. One representative wished to urge employers to improve work classifications and stressed that a special

⁵ See International Labour Office, *Official Bulletin*, vol. XXXIV, No. 1 (1951), pp. 9ff.

category of "typically feminine work" should not be included in collective contracts, which were important means of implementing the principle of equal pay. A member stated that in developing countries which have surplus manpower, women had to be content to accept lower wages.

45. Many representatives stressed the importance of the work of the non-governmental organizations in establishing the necessary favourable climate of public opinion. Several members of the Commission particularly emphasized the important role of trade unions in furthering the implementation of the principle of equal pay. It was also stressed that the active participation of women in trade unions was of vital importance in the struggle for equal pay. A member of the Commission and the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions pointed out the considerable influence of the European Economic Community in the implementation of that principle. Some members of the Commission pointed out the necessity to improve the application of article 119 of the Treaty of Rome in the Common Market countries. Another member of the Commission stressed that the progress that has been achieved was a result of efforts of the workers and of trade unions. At the same time she paid tribute to the role played by the ILO and by non-governmental organizations. A number of representatives stressed the importance of seminars, both on a national and an international basis, dealing with the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

46. Many representatives commented on the pamphlet entitled *Equal Pay for Equal Work*, prepared by the joint efforts of the ILO and the United Nations, which had been published by the United Nations (Sales No.: 60.IV.4). Some members were in favour of wider distribution of this pamphlet, because it could contribute to the information and education of women as regards equal pay. It was suggested that the pamphlet should be brought up to date in the future, incorporating new developments in the field.

47. During the discussion the representative of the ILO replied to questions put by various representatives; the Commission also heard statements by the observers for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

48. The representatives of Czechoslovakia and the United Arab Republic submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.337) requesting the Economic and Social Council to call upon:

" 1. The Governments to ratify Convention No. 100 of the International Labour Organisation relating to equal pay for equal work and by the adoption of the relevant legislative and practical measures in all economic fields to consistently apply and promote the principle of equal pay for equal work;

" 2. National and international women's organizations to advocate consistently in their activities the principle of equal working conditions for men and women and demand the legislative and practical application of the principle of equal pay for equal work;

" 3. The International Labour Organisation to continue to follow the introduction of the principle of equal pay for equal work on a world scale and to bear this principle always in mind in considering working and social questions on an international level;".

49. The representative of Ghana orally suggested the deletion of the first word, "the", before the word "Governments" in the first operative paragraph of that part of the resolution addressed to the Economic and Social Council since in her opinion the resolution should be addressed to all Governments. The following oral amendments to the draft resolution were submitted by the representative of the United States of America: (i) in the first operative paragraph delete the words "to ratify" and replace them by the following: "which have not yet ratified or otherwise implemented the principles of", in order that the resolution be addressed to all Governments which have not yet taken action on the principle of equal pay for equal work; (ii) in the same paragraph, after the phrase "relating to equal pay for equal work", insert the following words: "to do so, as appropriate under the Constitution of the ILO, and also to implement the provisions of Recommendation No. 90", because she wished the resolution to include references to the provisions of the ILO Recommendation and to the procedures of the ILO; and (iii) in the second operative paragraph after the words "international women's organizations" add the words "in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council", since these organizations were those in relationship with the United Nations. The representative of Mexico orally proposed to insert in the first operative paragraph after the word "Governments" the words "of Member States". The representative of France orally suggested reversing the order of the second and third operative paragraphs and rewording the paragraph addressed to non-governmental organizations as follows: "*Expresses the hope* that national and international women's organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may continue . . .", since she felt that it was inappropriate for the Commission to give specific directives to non-governmental organizations. The representative of Spain orally proposed the deletion of the word, "notably" before the words "in the economic field" from the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution of the Commission and the deletion of the same word in the second preambular paragraph of that part of the resolution addressed to the Council, since the resolution referred exclusively to the economic problems of women's work. She also proposed the insertion of the word "economic" before the words "working conditions" in the operative paragraph addressed to non-governmental organizations as she felt that this formulation was more precise. The co-sponsors accepted all the proposed amendments with the exception of the amendment of the United States of America concerning the insertion of the words "in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council" in the operative paragraph addressed to non-governmental organizations. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed the opinion that the paragraph should be maintained as drafted by the co-sponsors, since the incorporation of

the amendment tended to limit the scope of the resolution. She noted that there were important women's organizations actively concerned with economic matters affecting women, which did not have consultative status; she therefore urged the Commission to seek the co-operation of all women's organizations. The Commission adopted the United States amendment by 14 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

50. At its 368th meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/L.337 as a whole and as amended, by 14 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions. The text, which is contained in document E/CN.6/L.344, is reproduced below:

3 (XVI). EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered the progress report of the International Labour Office on equal pay for equal work (E/CN.6/392),

Being of the opinion that the legal and factual differences in wages and salaries for men and women, which still exist in many countries, constitute a serious obstacle to real equality of women in the economic field,

Believing that for the purpose of removing this discrimination against women effective measures should be taken on national and international levels,

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

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

51. The Commission had before it a joint draft resolution on equal pay for equal work (E/CN.6/L.338) sponsored by the representatives of Colombia, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The draft resolution noted the progress that had been made in the application of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value. It also noted with satisfaction that the International Labour Office would continue its previous practice of regular biennial reporting to the Commission concerning governmental efforts to eliminate wage discrimination against women.

52. At its 368th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

4 (XVI). EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with satisfaction the progress, recorded in the report of the International Labour Office (E/CN.6/392),

that has been made in the application of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value,

1. *Expresses the hope* that the next report from the International Labour Office will show further progress in the same direction;

2. *Expresses appreciation* to the International Labour Office for its interesting and informative report on equal pay for equal work;

3. *Notes with satisfaction* that the International Labour Office will continue the preparation of further biennial reports on the results of efforts undertaken by Member States to eliminate wage discrimination against women and to ensure the practical application of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

53. A joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.339) dealing with the pamphlet on *Equal Pay for Equal Work*, submitted by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Iran, Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, was before the Commission. The draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the widest possible distribution of the pamphlet and suggested that plans be made to keep the pamphlet up to date.

54. At its 368th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

5 (XVI). EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting that the pamphlet on *Equal Pay for Equal Work* prepared on recommendation of this Commission has been issued as United Nations publication, Sales No.: 60.IV.4 and that a number of copies have been sold,

Noting also the need for wider understanding of the principle of equal pay and of the problems involved in its implementation,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to facilitate the widest possible distribution of the pamphlet on *Equal Pay for Equal Work*, including promotion of sales and opportunity for non-governmental organizations to purchase the pamphlet in quantity at a reduced price;

2. *Suggests* that plans be made to revise this pamphlet from time to time to bring it up to date, in co-operation with the International Labour Organisation, and to keep an adequate supply on hand.

V. ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

55. The Commission discussed item 6 of its agenda at its 369th to 375th meetings. It had before it a report by the International Labour Office on vocational preparation of girls and women (E/CN.6/397); a report by

the ILO on the activities of the International Labour Organisation of special interest from the standpoint of employment of women (E/CN.6/393); a report by the International Labour Office on the age of retirement and

right to pension (E/CN.6/394); as well as the note by the Secretary-General transmitting extracts of the report on the seminar on crèches organized by the International Children's Centre in Paris in December 1960 and extracts of the report on crèches in four European countries (E/CN.6/385). It also had before it statements submitted by the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/122), the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/121), the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (E/CN.6/NGO/119), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/127), the World Movement of Mothers (E/CN.6/NGO/129) and St. Joan's International Alliance (E/CN.6/NGO/120).

56. The Commission decided to consider together sub-items (a) and (d) of item 6.

Vocational guidance and training of girls and women; ILO activities of special interest from the standpoint of the employment of women

57. The representative of the ILO, introducing the report on vocational preparation of girls and women, stressed the importance of education as the foundation for any form of vocational preparation. The ILO intended to deal with that subject in close co-operation with UNESCO. She pointed out that vocational preparation for working life included vocational guidance and all forms of vocational training, as well as preparation for self-employment. In the past, serious deficiencies in the vocational preparation of women had been responsible for their relatively slow advance in the economic and social fields. However, considerable progress had recently been made in many parts of the world, and there was a growing awareness of the importance of the subject. The ILO Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers had assigned first priority to the question, and an outline had been drawn up for a report on the subject. This outline was contained in document E/CN.6/397. The report in final form would be drafted after suggestions had been received from the ILO Panel of Consultants and would serve as a working document for the Panel's next meeting. The work on the report would probably be completed by the end of the year. The outline was preliminary only, but it was made available to the Commission in order to show what steps had been taken to carry out the request made by the Commission at its fourteenth session. She hoped that, in its final form, the report would contribute to the development of new occupational opportunities for women.

58. Turning to the report on ILO activities (E/CN.6/393), the representative of the ILO stated that the report on discrimination on the basis of marital status had been revised and would appear in the March and April issues of the *International Labour Review*. The problems of older women were dealt with in the Director-General's report,⁶ prepared for the forty-sixth session of the International Labour Conference, to be held in June 1962; a questionnaire on part-time employment was being

circulated with a view to compiling a report on the subject which should be completed by the end of 1962 or early in 1963; a report on motherhood protection would be ready by 1964 and, finally, a revised report dealing with the employment conditions of women working in agriculture and living in rural areas would be completed at about the same time; it could be made available to the Commission when it discusses the access of girls and women to education in rural areas. She pointed out that the ILO would be prepared to produce similar reports at appropriate intervals, if the Commission found this activity useful.

59. All members of the Commission expressed their deep appreciation to the ILO for its work in the field of vocational preparation for women and welcomed the comprehensive documents submitted.

60. During the general debate the opinion was expressed by all members of the Commission that the question of vocational guidance and training of girls and women was of cardinal importance; it was the key to economic advancement of women, closely linked with the question of equal pay for equal work, economic opportunities for women and working conditions of women. Some representatives stressed the importance of the changes taking place in technology. They emphasized that development of needs in different parts of the world had an increasing impact on working women. While, admittedly, each country had different needs, depending on its stage of advancement, the fact remained that women were entering the labour market in increasing numbers while their professional training was inferior to that of men. The Commission noted that women engaged in occupations requiring little or no prior training constituted a high percentage of the labour force as a whole; it was felt that vocational guidance and training of girls and women were basic requirements for the improvement of this situation. It was pointed out that increasing industrialization, particularly in developing countries, created a demand for skilled workers. One member of the Commission emphasized that newly independent countries require the mobilization of all working power in order to achieve rapid economic progress. The majority of representatives were of the opinion that vocational guidance and training for girls and women were inadequate in a large number of countries, even in those usually considered to be most advanced. Although the Commission heard a number of statements reporting significant advances, it was felt that there was still much to be done. It was also felt that generally the educational and vocational training opportunities provided for girls were considerably less than those of boys. Two members of the Commission pointed out that the number of women in the labour force has, in recent years, grown more rapidly than that of men. It was indicated that the increasing number of "white collar" workers in comparison with "blue collar" workers would inevitably affect the labour market — a fact serving to emphasize the need for training of girls and women for skilled jobs and trades.

61. In the course of the debate several representatives stated that vocational guidance was important not only for girls seeking their first job, but for older women as well. It was pointed out that there was a marked trend

⁶ International Labour Office, *Report of the Director-General, Part I: Older People — Work and Retirement* (Geneva, 1962).

among women to enter or re-enter gainful employment after having reared their children and that adequate guidance in the choice of jobs and the training of those re-entering the labour market was of vital importance. Several members stressed the importance of training "on-the-job" as a means to replace vocational training. It was emphasized, however, that freedom of choice of employment should be ensured. One member of the Commission reported on psychology services recently started by private organizations in primary schools of her country, but as yet no results were available. Some representatives stated that vocational guidance should be offered after primary school.

62. During the debate on factors which might be the cause of the existing lack of vocational guidance and training of girls and women, several members of the Commission pointed out that certain social factors tend to limit the training given to women; they listed among them the dependent status of women in some societies, the prejudice of parents, who give preference to the education of boys rather than girls, and the tendency of girls to seek quick returns by taking short-term unskilled or semi-skilled jobs until marriage. Some representatives expressed the view that the attitude of girls to vocational training was to be considered as an obstacle; often they had no desire for further education because they expected to marry early and to abandon their professional activity. Vestiges of old-fashioned attitudes of some parents such as preparing girls for so-called "feminine occupations," were also factors limiting the vocational training of women. One representative pointed out that such attitudes were particularly evident in developing countries.

63. During the discussion on measures which could be taken to improve the inadequate situation concerning vocational guidance and training of girls and women, it was generally felt that the problem had to be considered as the special responsibility of Governments. One representative pointed out that as long as Governments considered women as constituting subsidiary labour force and did not apply effective measures concerning the vocational guidance and training of girls and women, the present situation would not improve. The extensive promotion of vocational training for girls and women was considered to be necessary not only for the improvement of the status of women but also for the benefit of national economies. It was generally felt that carefully planned programmes by Governments and trade unions were needed in this field; one representative was of the opinion that it was essential to determine the future needs of the labour market to prevent girls and women from taking jobs which could only result in frustration. Some representatives stressed that agricultural work has become more and more skilled and that the vocational training of women living in rural areas should not be overlooked. The role of UNESCO was also emphasized as an organization which could contribute to the solution of the problem of women's training by making widely known the available opportunities for education and schooling. Some representatives were of the opinion that seminars should be organized to discuss the subject. One representative considered that parent-teacher associations were useful means of overcoming the traditional and psycho-

logical resistance of some parents to vocational training for their children. One representative suggested the inclusion in the agenda of the General Conference of the ILO of items dealing with the problems of young women entering the labour market, of women having family responsibilities and of the question of unemployment among women. She also stated that it would be useful for the Commission to request the ILO to report on the situation of women domestic servants and women agricultural workers and to ensure that appropriate legislation was enacted for their protection, which was not sufficient.

64. The Commission heard a statement of the representative of the ILO, in response to questions from various representatives. It also heard the observers for the following non-governmental organizations: the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of University Women, the World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls and the World Union of Catholic Women's organizations.

65. The representative of Poland submitted a draft resolution on vocational training of women (E/CN.6/L.341). She indicated that it was the Commission's task to speed up the action in the field of vocational guidance and training and to request the Council to recommend that States Members of the United Nations consider means to improve effectively the vocational and technical training of women and girls. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Recognizing that the vocational training of women and the raising of the level of their qualifications are necessary prerequisites for their practical equality with men in the economic field,

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

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting that the urgent need for qualified personnel in developing countries may be satisfied only by training both men and women,

"Considering that in many highly developed countries women perform mainly unskilled or less skilled work,

"1. Recommends to Member States of the United Nations:

"(a) To consider how to improve effectively the vocational and technical training of women and girls, and to achieve free educational facilities in that field,

"(b) To establish new centres for equal vocational and professional training of men and women,

"(c) To encourage on-the-job vocational training of women in industrial establishments;

"2. Requests the International Labour Organisation to include in the agenda of an early session of its General Conference the problem of vocational and technical training and preparation of women and girls;

“ 3. *Requests* non-governmental organizations to develop facilities for assisting, as appropriate, the vocational and technical training of women and girls.”

66. The representative of Poland made orally the following changes in her draft resolution: (1) addition of a new sub-paragraph (b) to operative paragraph 1 reading as follows: “To ensure to men and women equal access to the existing vocational and professional schools and facilities”; sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) thereby becoming (c) and (d) respectively; and (2) substitution of the words: “*Expresses the hope* that the” for the word “*Requests*” at the beginning of operative paragraph 3 and of the word “will” for the word “to” in the same paragraph.

67. The representative of the United Kingdom submitted an amendment (E/CN.6/L.345) to the draft resolution of Poland (E/CN.6/L.341). Her amendment, while conforming to the substance of that draft resolution, omitted the paragraphs submitting the draft resolution to the Economic and Social Council for action. She indicated that it was preferable for the Commission to adopt an internal resolution in the matter and that it should address the Council only after consideration of the relevant studies and reports to be carried out by the ILO. The majority of the members of the Commission supported the proposal of the representative of the United Kingdom.

68. The representative of the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.347) in which she emphasized the importance of completion of the study to be carried out by the ILO. The draft resolution read as follows:

“*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

“*Noting* the plan for a study of vocational preparation of girls and women submitted by the ILO for the information of this Commission with a view to its completion for consideration by the ILO Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers,

“*Noting* that this plan takes account of basic problems in this field, including special attention to provisions for vocational counselling and training for older women to equip them for effective earning after their family responsibilities have lessened,

“*Expresses the hope* that the ILO will submit its study, when completed, to the Commission on the Status of Women together with information on any consideration of or conclusions reached in the matter by the ILO Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers and other ILO bodies.”

69. After an exchange of opinions, the three documents were referred to the *ad hoc* Committee on Resolutions which proposed to the Commission a text, which was contained in document E/CN.6/L.348 and read as follows:

“*The Commission on the Status of Women,*

“*Recalling* its resolution 6 (XIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 771 E (XXX) of 25 July 1960 and desiring to take additional measures,

“*Recognizing* that the vocational training of women and the raising of the level of their qualifications are

necessary prerequisites for their practical equality with men in the economic field,

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

“*The Economic and Social Council,*

“*Recalling* its resolution 771 E (XXX) of 25 July 1960 and desiring to take additional measures.]

“*Noting* that the urgent need for qualified personnel in developing countries may be satisfied only by training both men and women,

“*Considering* that women in many countries perform mainly unskilled or less skilled work,

“1. *Expresses the hope* that the competent authorities will:

“[1. *Recommends* that States Members of the United Nations:]

““(a) Consider how to improve effectively the vocational and technical training of women and girls, and achieve free educational facilities in that field;

““(b) Ensure to men and women equal access to existing vocational and professional schools and other facilities;

““(c) Establish new centres, where necessary, for equal vocational and professional training of men and women;

““(d) Encourage on-the-job vocational training of women in industrial and other establishments;

“2. *Further recommends* that the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, report to the Commission, if possible at its eighteenth session, on the progress made by States Members of the United Nations in implementing the recommendations made in operative paragraph 1;

“3. *Expresses the hope* that the ILO Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers will examine the problem of vocational and technical training at its next session, and also that the International Labour Organisation would find it possible to include thereafter in the agenda of an early session of its General Conference the problem of vocational and technical training and preparation of women and girls;

“4. *Expresses the hope* that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will develop facilities for assisting, as appropriate, the vocational and technical training of women and girls.”

No agreement was reached in the Committee on Resolutions on the retention of the words in brackets; it was decided that the question would be put to the Commission in plenary.

70. The representatives of Poland and the United States withdrew their draft resolutions (E/CN.6/L.341 and E/CN.6/L.347 respectively) and the representative of the United Kingdom withdrew her amendment (E/CN.6/L.345) to the draft resolution of Poland. The representative of Australia proposed an oral amendment to the draft resolution contained in the working paper (E/CN.6/L.348) prepared by the Committee on Resolutions, consisting of the insertion of the words “guidance and coun-

selling as well as the vocational" after the word "vocational" in sub-paragraph (a) of operative paragraph 1. The representative of China proposed that the oral amendment of Australia should apply also to sub-paragraph (c) of operative paragraph 1 as well as to operative paragraphs 3 and 4 wherever the word "vocational" appears in them. The representative of France proposed two oral amendments, the first consisting in changing the sequence of the words "men and women" in the third preambular paragraph, and the second to insert the words "and of the specialized agencies" after the words "United Nations" in the operative paragraph 1 which appeared in brackets in the text. The Commission decided to incorporate these amendments in the working paper.

71. The Commission then took a vote on the paragraphs of the draft resolution contained in the working paper which appeared in square brackets. These paragraphs were rejected by 12 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions. The draft resolution as a whole and as amended was adopted unanimously. The text of the resolution, which is contained in document E/CN.6/L.350 and which was adopted by the Commission at its 373rd meeting, reads as follows:

6 (XVI). VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND TRAINING OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolution 6 (XIV) and Economic and Social Council resolution 771 E (XXX) of 25 July 1960 and desiring to take additional measures,

Recognizing that the vocational training of women and the raising of the level of their qualifications are necessary prerequisites for their practical equality with men in the economic field,

Noting that the urgent need for qualified personnel in developing countries may be satisfied only by training both women and men,

Considering that women in many countries perform mainly unskilled or less skilled work,

1. *Expresses the hope* that the competent authorities will:

(a) Consider how to improve effectively the vocational guidance and counselling as well as the vocational and technical training of women and girls, and achieve free educational facilities in that field;

(b) Ensure to men and women equal access to existing vocational and professional schools and other facilities;

(c) Establish new centres, where necessary, for equal vocational guidance and counselling as well as vocational and professional training of men and women;

(d) Encourage on-the-job vocational training of women in industrial and other establishments;

2. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the International Labour Office, report to the Commission, if possible at its eighteenth session, on the progress made by States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies in implementing the recommendations made in operative paragraph 1;

3. *Expresses the hope* that the ILO Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers will examine the problem of vocational guidance and counselling as well as the vocational and technical training at its next session, and also that the International Labour Organisation would find it possible to include thereafter in the agenda of an early session of its General Conference the problem of vocational guidance and counselling as well as the vocational and technical training of women and girls;

4. *Expresses also the hope* that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will develop facilities for assisting, as appropriate, the vocational guidance and counselling as well as the vocational and technical training of women and girls.

Age of retirement and right to pension

72. The Commission considered sub-item (b) of item 6 of its agenda at its 371st and 372nd meetings. The representative of the ILO, introducing the report of the ILO on the age of retirement and right to pension (E/CN.6/394), recalled the history of the question and the Commission's request to the Economic and Social Council to invite the ILO to make a complete study on the subject. She expressed the view that the present report was a complete one and was intended to give a factual picture of the present position in various countries. The question was a complicated one, not only as far as policies and practices were concerned, but also because the views varied widely. Nevertheless, the facts and the main considerations had been set out in the report. The ILO had refrained from drawing conclusions, believing that this was the Commission's task. She wished to mention as a significant point that the ILO Committee of Social Security Experts, having reached the conclusion that the ILO pre-war conventions on social security needed to be completely redrafted, would initiate the process of revision in the autumn of 1962. Members of the Commission extended their thanks to the ILO for the valuable document submitted. Many representatives felt, however, that this interesting and comprehensive report required a very thorough consideration and that its discussion needed much more time than the Commission had at its disposal at the current session. Some members of the Commission requested the representative of the ILO to provide a supplementary report on developments concerning the subject under discussion in the various countries, including the views of the largest trade unions of the world centres, having consultative status with the ILO and with the Economic and Social Council. They suggested that the supplementary report should appear as an addendum to the present report. The representatives of the ILO accepted this request.

73. The Commission accepted the suggestion of the representative of Mexico to defer the consideration of this agenda item to the seventeenth session.

Crèches and day nurseries

74. The Commission considered sub-item (c) of item 6 of its agenda at its 372nd to 375th meetings.

75. Many members of the Commission expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General for having transmitted to the Commission the material made available by the International Children's Centre and commented on the value of the information before them. One member stressed the importance of giving wide distribution to this information, particularly among those authorities which are interested in the technical aspects of the organization of crèches and day nurseries. One representative, however, noted that the information provided by the International Children's Centre did not fully satisfy the request formulated by the Commission at its fifteenth session; another representative felt that the report of the seminar on crèches held by the Centre failed to emphasize that the existence of an adequate number of crèches to meet the needs, is necessary to enable many women to exercise their right to work.

76. During the general debate on the sub-item, some representatives felt that the question under discussion was outside the competence of the Commission which, they contended, was solely interested in problems arising from the existing discriminations against women. Other representatives noted that the question of crèches and day nurseries was of primary importance to the Commission since the existence of such services made it possible for women, particularly young mothers, to undertake work outside the home. A third group of representatives, although of the opinion that the Commission had competence to deal with questions connected with assistance to working mothers, considered that the Commission should limit itself to a discussion of this sub-item in general terms, leaving to other international bodies or authorities competent in the field of social services the discussion of the technical aspects involved in the establishment of crèches and day nurseries.

77. Different views were expressed as to the best means of helping mothers of young children to carry out their responsibilities to their family when, because of financial reasons, they had to work outside their homes. Some members were of the opinion that the mother of young children should be helped in such a way as to allow her to stay with them, as they felt that young children received the best care from their mother. They considered that, if provision was made by Governments for increasing the salary of the husband, or for establishing adequate family allowances, the wife would be able to remain at home with her children, at least while they were young. Other representatives opposed this view and noted that the continuous attendance of the mother on her child was not essential to his wellbeing. One member objected to the view that, by taking paid employment, the mother might cause her child to become a delinquent. Several representatives felt that working mothers were helping the future of their children, not only by improving the family's financial situation by adding to the family income, but also by contributing to the intellectual development of the family; by sharing with its members the new ideas she acquired at her job. There was agreement, however, that all women, including mothers of young children, should have not only the right to work, but also the freedom to decide whether to take up paid employment or not. Some members noted that a high percentage

of working mothers preferred to make their own arrangements for the care of their children.

78. There was, in general, agreement on the necessity for improving the quality of institutions such as crèches and day nurseries if they were to meet fully the needs for which they were established. For that purpose, the Commission noted the advisability of improving conditions of those crèches and day nurseries which were already in existence and ensuring for those which might be created in the future the best facilities. As to the need for the establishment of more crèches and day nurseries, opinions were divided among the members of the Commission. Some members considered that it would not be desirable to increase the number of the institutions in their countries, as they felt that this would encourage mothers to leave their children and to go to work. On the other hand, several representatives felt that the increase in the number of crèches and day nurseries was closely related to the right of mothers to work and served to guarantee to them freedom to take paid employment or to abstain from doing so. Some representatives also pointed out the need for an increasing number of crèches as this was connected with the rise in the number of working mothers which was a consequence of the accelerated growth of industrialization and urbanization.

79. In discussing the means of financing crèches and day nurseries, some representatives felt that they should be supported by public funds or by systems of compulsory insurance, as they believed that employers, if requested to establish them, would be reluctant to employ mothers of young children. Other members stressed the importance of seeking the help of private capital or funds supplied by non-governmental organizations, which were already, in many cases, contributing to the establishment and support of these institutions. Some representatives noted that in many countries the trade unions should insist on the inclusion in collective agreements of the obligation by the employers to establish crèches and day nurseries at the factories or other enterprises where many women are employed. There was general agreement that the establishment of crèches and day nurseries was a matter affected by the different economic, social and cultural structures of different countries.

80. In the course of the general debate, the Commission heard a statement by the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) who gave a summary of the activities carried out by her organization, in collaboration with other specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Bureau of Social Affairs. She pointed out that the interest of WHO in the subject was directed primarily to the health aspects of day-care centres for children. The representative of UNICEF also made a brief statement.

81. The Commission heard a joint statement by the representatives of the World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

82. The representative of Czechoslovakia submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.349) in which she requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in co-operation with WHO and the ILO, a preliminary report on the most important approaches and facilities assisting employed

mothers in child care, and an outline of the main problems with which the Commission should deal in future sessions. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Czechoslovakia stated that the Commission should include in the programme of work of its future sessions the discussion of an item dealing with crèches and day nurseries as she felt that the subject was of considerable importance to women workers.

83. The representative of the United States of America submitted two oral amendments consisting in: (1) the substitution of the words "providing services, such as crèches and day nurseries to assist employed women in the care of young children" for the words "building crèches and day nurseries particularly for children of employed women" in the third preambular paragraph; and (2) the addition of a second operative paragraph to read as follows: "*Expresses the hope* that the Social Commission in its consideration of family and child welfare will take account of the needs of working mothers, and inform the Commission on the Status of Women of its studies and recommendations in this field". The representative of Czechoslovakia accepted these amendments. The representative of France proposed an oral amendment consisting in the insertion of the words: "as the case may be, the International Children's Centre" after the abbreviation "ILO" in the operative paragraph. This amendment was also accepted by the sponsor of the draft resolution. The representative of Argentina submitted an oral amendment consisting in the insertion of the words: "and all assistance which may be given to working mothers" after the word "children" in the operative paragraph. This amendment was also accepted by the representative of Czechoslovakia. The representative of Finland submitted three oral amendments to the operative paragraph as follows: (1) to substitute for the words "to prepare", the words: "to transmit to the Commission"; (2) to delete the words: "of the Commission, in co-operation with WHO and the ILO, a preliminary report containing", and to replace them by the word "such"; and (3) to add at the end of the paragraph the words: "as would be available to WHO, the ILO and, as the case may be, the International Children's Centre". The representative of Czechoslovakia accepted these oral amendments. The representative of the Philippines submitted three other oral amendments: (1) to insert as a new third preambular paragraph the following: "*Considering* that different countries have developed various approaches to this problem, consistent with their differing social and cultural backgrounds and their various stages of economic development"; (2) to delete the third preambular paragraph and to substitute as a fourth preambular paragraph the following: "*Considering* that it will be necessary to deal in the future also with the problem of providing home-aid services, visiting nurses, crèches, day nurseries and other services particularly for children of employed women, and other means which may improve the social status of employed women"; (3) in operative paragraph 1 to delete the words: "including crèches and day nurseries" and to insert in their place the words: "namely home-aid services, visiting nurses, crèches and day nurseries for children". The representative of Australia proposed an oral sub-amendment to the second oral amendment of the representative of the

Philippines consisting in the insertion of the words "family allowances" after the words "day nurseries" appearing in the proposed fourth preambular paragraph. The representative of the Philippines accepted this oral sub-amendment. The representative of Czechoslovakia accepted the oral amendments proposed by the representative of the Philippines as sub-amended by the representative of Australia.

84. A revised text of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.349/Rev.1) incorporating the oral amendments accepted by its sponsor was considered by the Commission at its 375th meeting. The representative of the United Kingdom proposed two oral amendments to the revised draft resolution, as follows: (1) to replace the words "employed women" by the words "women workers" wherever they appeared in the fourth preambular paragraph; and (2) to delete the words "and also to provide an outline of the main problems with which, in this respect, the Commission should deal at its future sessions," from operative paragraph 1. The representative of Czechoslovakia accepted the first oral amendment of the representative of the United Kingdom. The Commission then adopted, by 13 votes to 5, with 1 abstention, the second oral amendment of the representative of the United Kingdom.

85. At its 375th meeting, the Commission adopted unanimously the amended draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.349/Rev.1) as a whole. The text of the resolution, which is contained in document E/CN.6/L.354, is reproduced below:

7 (XVI). CRÈCHES AND DAY NURSERIES

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General concerning the seminar on crèches, which was organized by the International Children's Centre in 1960 (E/CN.6/385),

Appraising positively this action of the International Children's Centre,

Considering that different countries have developed various approaches to this problem, consistent with their differing social and cultural backgrounds and their various stages of economic development,

Considering that it will be necessary to deal in the future also with the problem of providing home-aid services, visiting nurses, crèches, day nurseries, family allowances and other services, particularly for children of women workers, and other means which may improve the social status of women workers,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Commission, if possible at its eighteenth session, such information on the most important approaches and facilities in assisting employed mothers in child care, namely home-aid services, visiting nurses, crèches, day nurseries for children and all assistance which may be given to working mothers, as would be available to the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation and, as the case may be, the International Children's Centre;

2. *Expresses the hope* that the Social Commission in its consideration of family and child welfare will take account of the needs of working mothers, and inform the Commission on the Status of Women of its studies and recommendations in this field.

VI. ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

86. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 372nd and 374th to 376th meetings. The Commission had before it the report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the access of girls to elementary education (E/CN.6/396 and Corr.1 and 2). The Committee had also before it statements submitted by the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/121), the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (E/CN.6/NGO/123), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/126) and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and the World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls, jointly (E/CN.6/NGO/128).

87. The representative of Indonesia protested against the use of the term "Netherlands New Guinea" and stated that she was not satisfied with document E/CN.6/396/Corr.2. The representative of the Netherlands stated that she considered that the use of this term was correct. The representative of the United Arab Republic supported the position of the representative of Indonesia.

88. The representative of UNESCO introduced the report on the access of girls to elementary education (E/CN.6/396 and Corr. 1 and 2) and indicated that this study was based on eighty-two replies to a questionnaire addressed by the Director-General to member States and associate members of UNESCO. This was the highest number of replies yet received for a study of this kind and indicated an increasing awareness of the importance of the problem of education for girls and women. It also made it possible to obtain a fairly accurate, if not quite complete, picture of the situation obtaining in elementary education as far as girls were concerned. No constitutional or legal provision restricting the access of girls to elementary education was mentioned in any of the replies, but while the situation as to girls' enrolment was satisfactory in two-thirds of the countries, there was still reason for concern in others. In rapidly developing countries, in particular, a combination of economic, social and cultural factors still hampered the development of elementary education for girls, though the general trend was encouraging. A serious problem affecting the school life of girls who did enter elementary school was that of school desertion or "drop out", which resulted in considerable waste of resources and energy. The main reasons for this phenomenon were the demands made on girls for work at home or in the fields, the need for them to obtain gainful employment, the social traditions, and in some countries early marriages. Measures had been taken by a number of Governments to improve educational opportunities for girls at the elementary level and to eliminate social and cultural prejudices against girls' education. The increase in the number of girls enrolled in elementary schools over the past twenty-five years was considerable and in some cases spectacular, though it did not mean in every instance an increase in the percentage of girls as compared to that of boys in schools. Replies from Governments indicated that the problem

was considered very important since elementary education was the necessary basis for cultural, economic and social development.

89. In the opinion of some representatives, the main reasons for insufficient attendance of primary schools by girls in many countries reside not in traditions, customs and prejudices allegedly keeping the girls at home, but in the insufficiency of the number of school buildings, teachers, teaching materials, textbooks, to wit, in the lack of financial means in many countries. The same representatives pointed out that inasmuch as there was a close relationship between education and the economic development of each country, the development of education must be the task of governments.

90. Many members of the Commission expressed their appreciation for the document prepared by UNESCO and noted their satisfaction that as it appeared from a perusal of the legislative and constitutional provisions of the eighty-two countries and territories reviewed, there were no discriminatory measures against the access of girls and women to elementary education in those countries. Many members also expressed their satisfaction at the progress achieved, in fact, during the past years, while others noted that there was still much to be done before the achievement of equality in the percentage of girls and boys attending elementary schools and those continuing their education to higher levels. Statistics shown in the UNESCO document were, they noted, very discouraging in this respect. There was agreement as to the importance of promoting the access of girls and women to elementary education, as it was felt that education was the basis for the implementation of all the other rights which the Commission was seeking to obtain for women. Most representatives noted that young women, after obtaining elementary education, are better prepared to enjoy and to exercise their other rights and to participate fully in the political, social, cultural and economic life of their countries. Several representatives stressed the importance of the need to increase the number of adult women having access to education. Only when adult women, too, had the benefits of education, was it possible for them to appreciate the value of education and to recognize the advantages of sending their daughters to school.

91. Some members noted the important role which the non-governmental organizations are able to play in collaborating with Governments in encouraging girls and women to obtain elementary education, and, by doing so, to eradicate illiteracy which still exists in many parts of the world. In this connexion, one representative pointed out the helpful assistance which the non-governmental organizations can provide by promoting the implementation by Governments of the principle of equal access for boys and girls to elementary education. This principle was an extension of the constitutional principle of free and compulsory education for all. A few representatives regretted that some women's non-governmental organizations were prevented from participating in the work of the Commission on the Status

of Women, as they had not been accorded consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

92. Representatives stressed the importance of promoting equal elementary education for boys and girls, not only by establishing the same curricula for pupils of both sexes, but also by giving identical training to the teachers who are to conduct classes in separate schools. One representative pointed out that curricula should be adapted to the needs of the pupils, irrespective of their sex. She referred to the special problems which children from rural areas might present, particularly in relation to their need for adequate training to equip them for their future.

93. Most representatives agreed that special attention should be given to solving the problems which access to elementary education presents in rural areas throughout the world. Difficulties in giving adequate attention to the educational needs of the population in these areas might arise from several causes, for instance: lack of school buildings and facilities, shortage of teachers, absenteeism, dispersion of the rural communities, great distance from the homes of pupils to the schools. Some other representatives and also an observer noted that, in their countries, good results were being obtained in educating the rural population by using radio schools and commented on their advantages. One member noted that this means of education was still in the experimental stage and should not, as yet, be considered as the solution to the problem of eradicating illiteracy among the populations of rural areas.

94. The representative of UNESCO referred to the results of a meeting recently convened by her organization in Bangkok at which experts from sixteen Asian countries discussed the question of the access of women to education in rural areas. The experts recommended, among other measures, that the status of rural teachers should be raised, to give them specific training so that they might meet the needs of pupils in rural areas. Suggestions were also made that plans be formulated to improve educational facilities for rural schools, and to establish a proper system of effective inspection. The results of the meeting would be used in the preparation of the report on this subject which UNESCO would present at the seventeenth session of the Commission.

95. During the course of the debate, the Commission heard statements by the observer from Peru and observers from the International Federation of University Women, the World Young Women's Christian Association and the International Council of Social Democratic Women.

96. The representative of Cuba submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.351) dealing with the need to expand elementary education which should be universal, compulsory and free for both sexes. In introducing her draft resolution, the representative of Cuba noted that it would help primarily the eradication of illiteracy throughout the world, and stressed the importance of obtaining the collaboration of the non-governmental organizations in furthering the educational plans of the different governments and in interesting the population

in the raising of the educational standards. After an exchange of views, the sponsor of the draft resolution orally revised her text by incorporating observations made by several representatives in the course of the debate. These changes consisted in: (1) the substitution of the words "cultural, social and economic life of their country" for the words "labour forces necessary for their countries to carry out their programmes of economic and social development" in the second preambular paragraph of the Council's resolution; (2) the deletion of the words "held in 1961" in the fourth preambular paragraph as well as in sub-paragraph (e) of operative paragraph 1; (3) the insertion of the words "where necessary" after the words "to take into account" in sub-paragraph (a) of operative paragraph 1; (4) the substitution of the words "to increase the attendance of" for the words "to increase aid to" in sub-paragraph (c) of operative paragraph 1; (5) the substitution of the words "women who have not received elementary education" for the words "adult female population" at the end of sub-paragraph (d) of operative paragraph 1; and (6) the deletion of the word "national" before the word "women's" and insertion of the word "non-governmental" before the word "organizations" and deletion of the word "to" and addition of the words "in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council", and the deletion of the word "local" and the substitution of the words "making full use of local" for the words "mobilizing internal" in operative paragraph 3. The representative of France proposed two oral amendments to the revised draft resolution. They were as follows: (1) the addition of the words "and of the specialized agencies" at the end of operative paragraph 1; and (2) the addition of a new sub-paragraph (f) to operative paragraph 1 reading as follows: "to implement fully the provisions of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education". The representative of the United States of America proposed an oral amendment, namely, to add the words "taking advantage of new techniques where these can be helpful" at the end of sub-paragraph (b) of operative paragraph 1. The representative of Spain proposed another oral amendment consisting in the addition of the words "and to those adult women who have not received elementary education" at the end of operative paragraph 2. All these amendments were accepted by the sponsor of the draft resolution.

97. At its 376th meeting the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.351) as amended. The text of the resolution as amended and as adopted (E/CN.6/L.356) reads as follows:

8 (XVI). ACCESS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN TO ELEMENTARY 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 III.]

VII. STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

98. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 377th and 378th meetings. It had before it the report of the 1961 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law held in Bucharest, Romania (ST/TAO/HR/11); the report by the Secretary-General on inheritance laws as they affect the status of women (E/CN.6/391 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1); it also had before it statements submitted by the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/121) and the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/125).

99. The Commission decided to consider sub-item (a) of item 8, namely, the report of the 1961 Bucharest Seminar, together with sub-item (b), the report of the Secretary-General on inheritance laws. It was felt that certain chapters of the report of the Bucharest Seminar, in particular those on inheritance rights and social factors, would provide a useful background for a discussion of the legal situations referred to in the report on inheritance laws.

100. The representative of Mexico opened the general debate with an analysis of those historical, philosophical and religious factors which account for variations in the laws governing testamentary and intestate succession in the principal legal systems of the world. She noted that the twentieth century had witnessed great economic and social changes and that recent legislative developments reflected the practical way in which Governments were recognizing these changes. She pointed out that inheritance laws were an indication of the attitude of society towards the respective roles and measures of responsibility of members of a family. She observed that changes were difficult to achieve, since they were connected with marital and family relationships. She expressed her deep appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General on inheritance laws which was based on information received from Governments; this report tended to support her contention that some countries were not taking account of the emancipation of women, which had accelerated in this century, but retained those laws and customs which made unfair distinctions between men and women in regard to inheritance rights, the capacity to make a will, to accept or refuse an inheritance, to be an executor or administrator of an estate. At the suggestion of the representatives of Australia and the United States of America, it was agreed that the statement made by the representative of Mexico should be recorded in full in the summary records of the 378th meeting of the Commission.

101. In the ensuing debate, many members expressed their satisfaction with the analytical legal study on inheritance laws which had been prepared by the Secretary-General. One representative suggested that the analysis of laws set forth in the report might be more comprehensive if supplemented by a similar analysis of the social and economic factors by which such legislation was influenced. Several representatives, whose Governments had not replied to the questionnaire on inheritance laws (E/CN.6/368) circulated by the Secretary-General, made statements concerning the law governing succession in

their respective countries. They expressed the hope that a further addendum would be prepared on the basis of replies received. One member considered that the information on discrimination against women in inheritance law contained in the report might be usefully summarized in tabular form by way of an annex and that an analysis of judicial practice might be added.

102. Most representatives commented favourably on the report of the 1961 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law, held in Bucharest, Romania (ST/TAO/HR/11), and expressed support for all the conclusions adopted by the participants at the Seminar. Several representatives placed emphasis on the conclusions adopted with regard to inheritance law (see paragraph 90 of the report). These representatives affirmed the principle of equality between men and women and stressed the need for protection of the rights of the surviving spouse by providing for a "legal reserve" or, where such reserve would be inappropriate, by other means. They felt that the right to shelter and, in some cases, to maintenance, must be assured. Several members pointed out that the Seminar had also discussed, *inter alia*, dissolution of marriage, annulment, judicial separation, and parental rights and duties. It was hoped that recommendations on some of these matters would be useful to women leaders, women's non-governmental organizations, and other persons and agencies actively pressing for improvement in the status of women in family law in their own countries. In this connexion, the question of the right of the mother to the guardianship of children was mentioned.

103. In expressing their appreciation to the Government of Romania and to the United Nations, which had jointly organized the Seminar, several representatives stressed that the clearly defined subject of the Seminar made possible useful discussions in depth. These representatives, who in some instances were also participants in the Seminar, felt that its success was also attributable to the fact that it was organized on a regional basis. They considered that, despite differences in social systems of the European countries, there was a similarity in the nature of the problems facing European women. It was also pointed out that national seminars were an effective means of "follow-up" to the regional seminars.

104. A few representatives drew attention to that part of the Seminar report (see paragraphs 91-101) which examined the social factors affecting the status of women in family law. They underlined one of the conclusions, namely, that the status of women in the family cannot be considered independently of her status in society. Accordingly, they stressed the need for Governments and other competent authorities, in co-operation with individual women and women's non-governmental organizations, to combat prejudice against women in fact as well as in law.

105. The representatives of Argentina, Colombia, Finland and Mexico submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.352 and Corr.1) on inheritance laws as they affect the status of women. The resolution requested

the Economic and Social Council to recommend to Governments of the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies *inter alia* to take all possible measures to ensure equality of inheritance rights of men and women by providing that men and women should be entitled to inherit on equal terms, and by providing also that men and women should have equal capacity to make a will and the same rights as to administration. The co-sponsors of the draft resolution announced that the representative of the Philippines had been accepted as a co-sponsor (see E/CN.6/L.352/Add.1). The representative of Mexico, in presenting the draft resolution, urged the members of the Commission to support it, since in her view it was calling for equality between men and women and in no way sought special advantages for women.

106. Most members expressed support for the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.352 and Add.1 and Corr.1). It was felt that the sponsors had arrived at a delicate and complex balance of all factors connected with this difficult subject. Although in many countries the position of women with regard to inheritance law was for the most part satisfactory, there remained areas of the law where improvements should be made. In certain instances, there were undoubted discriminations against women although there was an encouraging trend in recent legislation to rectify these situations.

107. A few representatives, while expressing support for the principle of equality of inheritance rights affirmed in the draft resolution, pointed out that under religious or customary law prevailing in their countries, certain distinctions were made in the amount and nature of the share received by men and women heirs as well as in the testamentary capacity of men and women. These representatives noted that such distinctions could be attributed to the different roles of men and women in the family and society, prescribed by the traditions of their countries: in some systems women were subject to guardianship by male relatives throughout their lives; in some systems, women had a restricted power to dispose of their property by will; in some systems, women had no authority to administer or dispose of property wholly owned by them. Under all these systems, family relationships and responsibilities were not considered in relation to husband and wife and the immediate family, but the rights of parents and more remote relatives were relevant on a succession to property. One member pointed out that some customary law, which appeared to make insufficient provision for the passing of property on the death of the owner, afforded other protection to the survivors, principally through the responsibility for support of members of a family placed on members of an "extended family" or group.

108. During the discussion, the Commission heard statements by the observer from Peru, as well as the observers from the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and the International Federation of Women Lawyers.

109. At its 378th meeting, by 18 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, the Commission adopted the draft resolution

(E/CN.6/L.352 and Add.1 and Corr.1). The text of the resolution reads as follows:

9 (XVI). INHERITANCE LAWS
AS THEY AFFECT THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered the report by the Secretary-General on inheritance laws as they affect the status of women (E/CN.6/391 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1),

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

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

110. The representative of the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.353) dealing with the monograph entitled *Legal Status of Married Women* (ST/SOA/35 — Sales No.: 1957.IV.8). In introducing the resolution, she noted that there had been a large public demand for the publication and that, in spite of the reprints of the pamphlet, the supplies were now exhausted. She pointed out that a series of seminars dealing with the status of women in family law were at present being organized, and therefore the pamphlet was an essential part of the background material available to participants. Moreover, the papers prepared in connexion with these seminars provided a new source of material on the status of women in private law. She therefore urged the Commission to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it request the Secretary-General "to prepare and to arrange for an early publication of a new edition of the monograph on the *Legal Status of Married Women*, on the basis of information contained in the documentation of the seminars on the 'Status of Women in Family Law' and in other authoritative sources". One member expressed the hope that information on inheritance laws as they affect the status of women contained in documents E/CN.6/391 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 would be included in the revised pamphlet.

111. There was general support for the draft resolution by all members of the Commission. The representative of the Secretary-General made a statement on the financial implications of the draft resolution, which was summarized in document E/CN.6/L.353/Add.1, which was also before the Commission (see annex II to the present report).

112. At its 378th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.353). The text of the resolution reads as follows:

10 (XVI). LEGAL STATUS OF MARRIED WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women

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

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

VIII. ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME AND UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

113. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at its 378th to 382nd meetings. It had before it the progress report of the Secretary-General on the advisory services programme (E/CN.6/398 and Add.1 - E/CN.4/825 and Add.1) and the reports by the Secretary-General on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries (E/3493 and Corr.1 and 2, E/CN.6/395 and Corr.1 - E/3566 and Corr.1); it also had before it statements submitted by the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/122), the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/121), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/125), the Pan-Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association (E/CN.6/NGO/124), the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and the World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls, jointly (E/CN.6/NGO/128), and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (E/CN.6/NGO/118).

114. At the suggestion of the Chairman, the Commission decided to consider sub-item (b) of item 9, dealing with United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries, before considering sub-item (a) which related to the advisory services programme.

United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries

115. Various representatives expressed satisfaction with the documents on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries, prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 771 H (XXX). These documents, which would be before the Council at its forthcoming thirty-fourth session, were based on replies from twenty-two Governments, the International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization and UNICEF; information concerning the United Nations programmes prepared by its Secretariat was also included. One representative noted with regret that few Governments had transmitted information to the Secretary-General. It was agreed that these reports not only presented much useful information concerning the programmes undertaken by international agencies, Governments and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, but they also set forth valuable suggestions concerning the need for and possibilities of further assistance to advance the status of women.

116. The general consensus of opinion in the Commission was that, at the present time, there were sufficient facilities and programmes available to provide the assistance needed to further advance the status of women. Various members drew attention to the programmes of the United Nations which not only included projects falling within the purview of technical assistance, but also conventions, adopted under the auspices of the United

Nations, such as the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave-Trade, and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery, and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (with Final Protocol). All members agreed that greater emphasis must be placed, within the existing facilities, on the needs of women and that it was now timely to implement the recommendations of the Commission by programmes of assistance; moreover within these existing facilities, special projects relating to the status of women, in addition to the advisory services programme, should be established. It was emphasized that all countries must develop the talents of their women, who had a unique contribution to make in the economic and social development of their countries. One representative underlined the effects of the assistance programmes in promoting social and political stability. This was essential if women were fully to participate in all spheres of their country's life. Another representative drew the attention of the Commission to the reply submitted by the Government of Pakistan (see E/CN.6/395-E/3566, paras. 43-45) in which it was stated that its membership in the Commission on the Status of Women had contributed greatly to the awareness of the need of advancement of women in educational, political and social fields. She stated that the appointment of a United Nations expert to survey the needs of women, who had been sent upon the request of the Government of Pakistan, as well as the work of the Commission, had in measure contributed to the recent Pakistani legislation (the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance) which had made reforms in the laws, customs and usage governing succession, marriage and divorce.

117. Great emphasis was placed upon the benefits derived from the services rendered by the specialized agencies. Members of the Commission, whose country had received such aid, cited examples of the improvements which had resulted. Some of these representatives also pointed out that their Governments had not only received assistance, but had also contributed to these programmes of international co-operation by sending experts to other countries. It was felt by them that the exchange of mutual benefits, received and given, contributed to international co-operation and peace. One representative stated that her Government, in its programmes of assistance to developing countries, negotiated on a bilateral basis. It was felt that the particular services rendered by the specialized agencies and UNICEF had properly been limited to their particular spheres of competence. Many members underlined the need for co-ordination of the activities of the specialized agencies and UNICEF to avoid duplication. It was also noted that Governments had responsibility to assist international agencies in these endeavours, to ensure that the resources of the agencies did not overlap. Several representatives also stated that their Governments were not fully aware of the facilities being offered under the various programmes of inter-

national assistance. They expressed the hope that in the future their Governments would avail themselves more fully of the benefits derived from international programmes of technical co-operation.

118. Although the documentation presently before the Commission had stressed the needs of developing countries, several representatives from industrialized countries stated that the developing countries could benefit not only from the services rendered by such industrialized countries, but also from their past mistakes. Some of them pointed out that in all countries there was still need for governmental agencies and international organs to develop programmes to improve the status of women. These representatives also pointed out that, in their countries, serious social dislocation had resulted from rapid industrialization. They expressed the hope that sound planning would overcome the problems raised by rapid industrialization, and the consequent urbanization, of formerly agricultural countries. In this connexion, one representative noted that industrialization had caused women to enter factories and offices, while, at the same time, a large number of women were still, by necessity or by choice, performing domestic service. She felt that the ILO, and other agencies and persons concerned, might evaluate and place a monetary assessment on this type of work, in order that these women would be aware of their economic contribution; moreover, there was need for training programmes in domestic services, since these services were no longer "natural" for women. Several other representatives felt that international agencies should not emphasize domestic work, since this should not be encouraged as it was not beneficial to women. They pointed out that domestic work was also in the process of being mechanized and that women were spending less time on household chores and more time in professional and other pursuits.

119. The Commission heard the representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. These representatives referred to the information furnished by their respective agencies which was contained in documents E/3493 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/CN.6/395 and Corr.1 - E/3566 and Corr.1. They also informed the Commission of those programmes which their respective agencies were at present undertaking, which were designed to take account of the needs of women in developing countries.

120. During the debate the observer from Peru made a statement. The Commission also heard the observers from the following non-governmental organizations: Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women's Lawyers, Pan-Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association, St. Joan's International Alliance and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

121. The representatives of Mexico, the Philippines and the United Kingdom submitted a joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.355 and Corr.1) on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing coun-

tries. The draft resolution requested the Economic and Social Council to make recommendations to Governments, to the specialized agencies and UNICEF, to the Secretary-General as well as to non-governmental organizations in consultative status. It referred to the services available under the regular programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, the advisory services programme in the field of human rights and the advisory social welfare services, and recommended that Governments make full use of them. The resolution also called upon the Secretary-General to continue to use the available resources of the United Nations, which would advance the status of women, by holding seminars, by providing experts and by offering human rights fellowships and scholarships. It also called upon women's voluntary organizations to co-operate with the Secretary-General by undertaking projects such as the organization of seminars on the regional, national and local levels. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the representatives of Australia, China and the Netherlands as co-sponsors (see E/CN.6/L.355 and Add.1 and Add.2).

122. The representative of the United Kingdom announced that the co-sponsors of the draft resolution had accepted the oral amendment, proposed by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, to insert in operative paragraph 4 which was directed to non-governmental organizations, after the words "national or local seminars," the words "including if possible in the future an international seminar." She pointed out that the co-sponsors were willing to accept this amendment because in their opinion an international seminar might reasonably be organized by non-governmental bodies. She emphasized the opinion of the co-sponsors that it was not feasible for the United Nations to organize such a meeting at the present time. The representative of the United Kingdom informed the Commission that the co-sponsors had also accepted an oral amendment, proposed by the representative of Ghana, to insert in the preambular paragraph beginning with the words "*Considering* that it is now appropriate . . ." after the word "that" the words "under the United Nations Development Decade". She pointed out that the various programmes of assistance to advance the status of women should be co-ordinated with and brought into the over-all plan of the United Nations Development Decade which was at present being initiated.

123. There was general support by all of the members of the Commission for the joint draft resolution. Some members, however, expressed their reservations concerning the reference to General Assembly resolution 1679 (XVI) which had authorized an increase of human rights fellowships. It was the opinion of these representatives that only individual persons would derive benefit from such fellowships and that projects of such limited scope should not be sponsored by the United Nations. They stated however that, with this reservation, they would support the draft resolution.

124. At its 383rd meeting the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.355 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2) as amended. The resolution is reproduced below:

11 (XVI). UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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 V.]

Advisory services programme

125. During the general debate on the advisory services programme, various members of the Commission expressed appreciation and support for the plans which the Secretary-General was at present developing. Various members recalled General Assembly resolution 1679 (XVI) on human rights fellowships, which had authorized additional funds for this part of the programme, without prejudice to the seminars. Many members supported the strengthening of the programme of advisory services and pointed out that the training and information obtained by the recipients of such fellowships would be transmitted to other persons and groups. Other members felt that this part of the programme was too restrictive and would benefit only few persons.

126. A few members drew attention to that part of the progress report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/398-E/CN.4/825, para. 12) in which he proposed the establishment of "regional institutes" devoted to the study in depth of specific human rights problems, such as freedom of information or the status of women. While some representatives expressed the view that this suggestion needed careful consideration, one representative thought that these studies might feasibly be carried out under the administration of institutions of higher education.

127. Members of the Commission welcomed the various statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, which had described those activities of such organizations which reinforced the efforts of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and UNICEF. It was noted that women's voluntary organizations were holding regional, national and local seminars, were providing fellowships and scholarships and were engaging in other related activities. These efforts were considered indispensable to the work of the United Nations.

128. In discussing the organization of regional seminars under the advisory services programme, several members felt that these regional meetings made possible a useful exchange of views and experiences. Other members, while expressing support for regional seminars, pointed out that smaller groups at the national or local levels were often in a position to obtain better results. Most members felt that the new series of seminars dealing with the specific subject of the status of women in family law resulted in useful recommendations to Governments and non-governmental organizations. Several representatives stated that although the first cycle of seminars dealing with the participation of women in public life had been essential, the recommendations and conclusions of the participants of these seminars in some

instances could not be used by Governments or non-governmental organizations, since they often were not sufficiently precise. Most members of the Commission felt that Governments should take all steps to designate women participants to attend seminars and other meetings dealing with the status of women. They emphasized that women participants, in most cases, maintained close contacts with women's non-governmental organizations; therefore they could transmit the results of these meetings to these organizations. Thus, the voluntary organization could help to create a climate of opinion in which the recommendations of the meetings could be implemented. The representative of Australia, whose Government would be the host in a forthcoming seminar on the role of the police in the protection of human rights, stated that she would inform her Government of the desirability of a woman participant to attend the seminar.

129. A joint draft resolution on the advisory services programme (E/CN.6/L.358) was submitted by the representatives of the United Arab Republic and the United States of America. The representatives of the United States announced that the sponsors had accepted the representatives of Colombia and Indonesia as co-sponsors (see E/CN.6/L.358/Add.1 and Rev.1). The draft resolution requested the Secretary-General to continue his plans for annual seminars on the status of women and to give favourable consideration to requests from Member States for seminars at the national and regional levels under the advisory services programme.

130. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the United States stated that the organization of national seminars was a necessary follow-up of the regional seminars. She pointed out that discussions by smaller groups were often more productive since they lead, in some instances, to revision of national legislation and practice. She emphasized that all countries, whether developing or developed, have need of self-examination of their position in regard to matters affecting the status of women. The co-sponsors of the draft resolution accepted the amendment proposed by the representative of France to add the word "regional" before the words "annual seminars" in the operative paragraph of the resolution addressed to the Economic and Social Council. The representative of France, when proposing this oral amendment, pointed out that the seminars held under the advisory services programme were organized on a regional basis; therefore, the use of the words "regional annual seminars" was in conformity with United Nations usage.

131. During the debate on the draft resolution, a few representatives stated that it was now timely for the United Nations to organize an international seminar. They pointed out that one cycle of regional seminars, namely that dealing with the participation of women in public life, had already been completed; moreover, a second series concerning the status of women in family law had already begun. They felt that the recommendations and conclusions of these seminars, in addition to other topics, could be usefully examined in an international seminar. They expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would seriously consider this proposal when drawing up projects under the advisory services

programme. Others noted that the recommendations and the conclusions of the regional seminars were in fact reviewed by an international body, namely, the Commission on the Status of Women. They felt that an international seminar would merely duplicate the work of the Commission. They stressed the desirability of national seminars, or the alternative, smaller regional seminars, as a forum for fruitful discussion and a source of meaningful recommendations to Governments, as well as to non-governmental organizations. The representative of Indonesia pointed out, but did not formally propose an amendment to the effect, that seminars could usefully include topics relating to education, co-operatives and community development. It was noted however that matters relating to education and co-operatives came within the scope of activity of the specialized agencies, and that the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat had organized several seminars, workshops and study tours dealing with community development.

132. Thereafter, the representative of the United States submitted the following oral amendments on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, deleting the operative paragraph and inserting the following two paragraphs:

“*Noting* the resolution adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fourteenth session, requesting the Secretary-General to develop plans and, as appropriate, to provide experts to assist Governments of Member States, at their request, in the organization of seminars at the national and local level, with the purpose of advancing the status of women,

“*Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his plans for annual regional seminars on the status of women and to give favourable consideration also to requests for assistance in the organization of seminars among small groups of Member States, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.”

She also announced that the co-sponsors had accepted the following oral amendment proposed by the representative of Ghana, to be inserted before the two final paragraphs:

“*Realizing* that national seminars can also help to co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies for the advancement of the status of women,”

She stated that this amendment was acceptable to the co-sponsors because in their opinion it was useful to emphasize the need for co-operation with the specialized agencies. All the amendments were incorporated into a revised text of the draft resolution which is contained in document E/CN.6/L.358/Rev.1.

133. At its 384th meeting the Commission had before it draft resolution E/CN.6/L.358/Rev.1. The Commission unanimously adopted the resolution which reads as follows:

12 (XVI). ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the wide interest in the status of women under family law expressed in the first regional seminar on this

topic held in Bucharest in June 1961 and the plans for a similar seminar for Member States in the region of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, to be held in Tokyo in May 1962,

Noting also that the recommendations developed by seminars in this field, as well as those held on the participation of women in public life, find their greatest usefulness as they can be taken into account within particular countries,

Believing that the new opportunities for fellowships in the field of human rights made available by the General Assembly at its sixteenth session will also be useful to Member Governments interested in advancing the status of women,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the high quality of leadership made available for the conduct of seminars relating to the status of women;

2. *Expresses the hope* that a due proportion of fellowships awarded each year under the advisory services programme will be devoted to studies of how best to assure full equality for women in law and practice;

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

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

134. At the 379th meeting, the representative of Colombia informed the Commission that her Government had invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to organize in her country in 1963 a seminar on the status of women in family law. Thereafter, at the 382nd meeting, the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations personally extended the invitation, on behalf of his Government, to hold the 1963 seminar on the status of women in family law in Sierra Leone. Various members of the Commission expressed appreciation to the Governments of Colombia and of Sierra Leone for these invitations. They were of the opinion that this indicated a deep interest on the part of Governments in the improvement of the status of women and in the work of the Commission, in particular in the field of family law. They noted that these invitations also reflected a genuine need for services rendered under the United Nations advisory services programme in human rights. Some representatives expressed the hope that the Economic and Social Council would recommend a special appropriation in the budget to permit the holding of two regional seminars on the status of women in family law in 1963, namely one for the Western Hemisphere and one for Africa. One representative suggested that funds which had been appropriated in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1679 (XVI) for human rights fellowships might be used for the holding of an additional seminar on the status of women in family law if these funds were not fully used. Another representative noted that it might now be appropriate to consider expanding the programme of advisory services to meet this new increased demand for such services.

135. Many representatives emphasized their view that the holding of the 1963 seminar on the status of women in family law in Bogotá, Colombia, for

the Western Hemisphere would be in accordance with the geographical pattern set in the previous cycle of seminars dealing with the participation of women in public life. They expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would accept the invitation of the Government of Colombia for 1963. The representative of Ghana noted that before the current session of the Commission ended she might be in the position of extending the invitation of her Government to hold the seventeenth or eighteenth session of the Commission in Accra, Ghana. If this eventuality ensued, then African women and African women's organizations would participate in the work of the Commission. Therefore, she concluded

that the Western Hemisphere as well as Africa would receive the benefits derived from meetings dealing with the status of women. The suggestion of the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone that the Secretary-General was able to determine the place of the 1963 seminar on family law, was supported by many members; many representatives reiterated that the 1963 seminar should be held in the Western Hemisphere. Thereupon, members of the Commission expressed the hope that the Secretary-General would take into account the views expressed by the members of the Commission in deciding the place where the 1963 seminar on the status of women in family law was going to be held.

IX. REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

136. The Commission considered item 10 of its agenda at its 382nd meeting and had before it the report submitted by the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/400) which was introduced by Miss Maria Lavalle Urbina, the representative of Mexico, at the request of the President of the Inter-American Commission of Women who was unable to attend the meeting.

137. Several members of the Commission and the observer from Peru expressed their appreciation of the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women. The representative of Cuba regretted that the document did not contain information on the progress achieved

by her country in the advancement of the status of women. The representative of Mexico stated that she would transmit the comments of the representative of Cuba to the President of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

138. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics felt that the Commission should receive similar information from other regional women's organizations as well as from some non-governmental organizations without consultative status.

139. The Commission took note of the report and expressed its thanks to the Inter-American Commission and to the representative of Mexico.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

140. The Commission considered item 11 of its agenda at its 383rd meeting. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), 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.15) and in a confidential list (SW/Communications List, No. 9).

141. The non-confidential list was reviewed by the *ad hoc* Committee on Communications, whose report (E/CN.6/L.361) was unanimously approved by the Commission at its 383rd meeting.

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

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

143. The Commission considered item 12 of its agenda at its 383rd and 384th 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 (Supplementary Report) (E/CN.6/372/Add.1); Review of the programme of work, establishment of priorities and control and limitation of documentation (E/CN.6/399); and a working paper on

the review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities (E/CN.6/L.360) suggesting a list of priorities on the basis of decisions reached at the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Commission.

144. The debate centred on the working paper dealing with the programme of work and establishment of priorities (E/CN.6/L.360). In the course of the discussion frequent reference was also made to the suggestions of the Secretary-General contained in document E/CN.6/399 and to the assistance afforded to the Commission in its deliberations by the comprehensive material contained in the Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level (E/CN.6/372 and Corr.1 and Add.1).

145. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed the inclusion of the following items in the programme of future work of the Commission:

- (1) The question of the unemployment of women;
- (2) A survey of the legislative action at the national level in the spirit of the various resolutions adopted by the Commission.

146. Various representatives expressed support for both suggestions of the representative of the USSR. With reference to her proposal concerning a study of problems of unemployment as they affect the status of women, some members queried, however, whether such a study came within the terms of reference of the Commission. They were of opinion that the question of unemployment was one which led to problems affecting both men and women, and that its effects were no greater for women than for men. They suggested that the present programme of the Commission, which sought to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of economic rights, would eventually achieve the desirable standard of economic life which was also the object of measures designed to eliminate unemployment. On the other hand, several members considered that discrimination was as likely to occur against women in connexion with problems of unemployment as in the field of professional training which was already included in the programme of work of the Commission.

147. The representative of the ILO, in reply to questions addressed to him on this point, indicated that the matter was one which might be dealt with by the Panel of Consultants on the Problems of Women Workers at its meeting in 1964 or later, and that their findings would be available to the Commission eventually. In the light of this information, the representative of the USSR did not press her request for inclusion of an item on unemployment as it affects the status of women in the programme of work.

148. In requesting a study on the action at the national level in the spirit of the various resolutions adopted by the Commission, the representative of the USSR thought it would be helpful to know what conditions were created for women by Governments and how they compared with the recommendations made by the Commission. She suggested that such a report would indicate the results achieved and the manner in which the numerous resolutions adopted by the Commission were given effect.

149. She was supported in her proposal by a number of representatives. Other representatives, while appreciating the value of such a document, were doubtful of its scope. One member felt that it was difficult to measure the full value of the Commission's work, as its actions influenced not only Governments, but non-governmental organizations and individuals. She emphasized that while some resolutions of the Commission might be implemented by legislation, others depended on the action of groups and individuals, particularly in situations where discrimination existed against women in fact, and not in law, and so could only be changed if public opinion were agreeable.

150. The representative of the Secretary-General stated that while complete and detailed information on the implementation of resolutions of the Commission by Member States was not available to the Secretariat, it would be possible to prepare a report based on information contained in other United Nations documents and in the biannual *Newsletter on the Status of Women*. She considered that it would be possible to furnish a report containing information on measures taken in some countries in the spirit of the resolutions. Her interpretation of the proposal was welcomed by the Commission, and it was decided that such a report should be included in the programme of work of the seventeenth session of the Commission.

151. The representative of Poland suggested that consideration might be given to the preparation of a survey on a specific subject dealt with by the Commission, such as political rights for women, which would give a comprehensive account of measures taken to implement resolutions of the Commission on such a subject, and that surveys of such a nature be prepared in succession for later sessions of the Commission. She indicated that she was offering this as a suggestion only, as she thought it would be useful for members to consider her idea for later sessions.

152. The representative of the United States proposed the inclusion in the programme of future work of the Commission of an item coming within the range of the study of the status of women in private law, dealing with the equal rights of the mother to the guardianship of her minor children. She considered that a study on this subject would greatly help to improve the position of women in family life. Other representatives supported this proposal, while expressing various views regarding the sources of information for such a study. A suggestion was made that a questionnaire be circulated to Governments to elicit the necessary material on which a study might be based. Other members considered that adequate background material was available to the Secretariat, particularly in the documentation for the seminars on the status of women in family law. Members agreed on the preparation of a preliminary report on parental rights and duties, including guardianship of children, to be prepared for the eighteenth session of the Commission based on material available to the Secretariat, and in particular on seminar documentation which, by the eighteenth session, would comprise material from three regions of the world.

153. The representative of Argentina expressed the

view that it would be useful to have a report by the ILO dealing in general with the status of women in economic life and, in particular, with professional activities of women. However, in view of the fact that a report by the ILO containing a plan for studies of occupational areas would be prepared for the seventeenth session, she did not press her suggestion.

154. The Commission accepted the suggestions of the Secretary-General contained in the working paper (E/CN.6/399) that one report on legislation and practice in family law and property rights of women be prepared every two years, and that the memorandum on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by Governments of States Parties to this Convention be also prepared every two years.

155. The Commission had before it a draft resolution submitted by the representative of the United States (E/CN.6/L.357), requesting the Secretary-General to include in his annual survey of the work of the Commission a list of United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women, with relevant information on these.

156. During the debate the sponsor orally revised the operative paragraph to read:

“Requests the Secretary-General to prepare an annual memorandum listing United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women, with information on how they may be purchased, and in the case of publications prepared and published on the recommendation of this Commission, an account of sales and distribution to date and the supply on hand.”

157. At its 384th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution as revised. The resolution reads as follows:

13 (XVI). PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the continued interest in United Nations publications relating to the status of women, including sales pamphlets prepared in the Office of Public Information as well as those prepared and published on recommendations of this Commission,

Believing that information on these publications will be useful on a regular basis, both to members of the Commission and to non-governmental organizations in consultative status,

Considering that in the case of publications prepared and published on its recommendation, the Commission has a continuing responsibility to review the substance from time to time with a view to their withdrawal or revision to keep them up to date,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare an annual memorandum listing United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women, with information on how they may be purchased, and in the case of publications prepared and published on the recommendation of this Commission, an account of sales and distribution to date and the supply on hand.

158. At its 384th meeting, the Commission unanimously approved its programme of work and establishment of priorities (E/CN.6/L.360), subject to the changes described in paragraphs 148 to 157 above.

159. 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 on the franchise and eligibility of women (Economic and Social Council resolution 120 A (VI)); (ii) Report on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/3228, para. 150; E/CN.6/378, paras. 5 and 6; E/3464, paras. 205 and 216); (iii) Report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by the States Parties (Economic and Social Council resolution 504 E (XVI); E/3228, para. 25);
- (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 1962 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law;
- (c) Access of women to education. Progress report by UNESCO on its activities of special interest to women (Economic and Social Council resolution 821 VB (XXXII));
- (d) Economic rights of women. Progress report of the ILO with information on activities of the ILO having a bearing on the employment of women (Economic and Social Council resolution 821 IVB (XXXII));
- (e) Status of women in private law. Supplementary reports on legislation and practice in family law and property rights of women (Economic and Social Council resolution 547 F (XVIII));
- (f) 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. 206);
- (g) 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);
- (h) Publications. Annual memorandum listing United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women (resolution 13 (XVI));
- (i) 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

- (a) Political rights of women. Report by the Secretary-General containing the draft of a revised pamphlet on “Civic and Political Education of Women” (resolution 1 (XV));
- (b) *Access of women to education*. Report by UNESCO on the education of women in rural areas (Commission resolution 10 (XIV) and annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 801 (XXX));
- (c) 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 ILO containing a plan for studies of other occupational areas (resolution 8 (XV)); (iii) Reports by the ILO and the Secretary-General on part-time work for women (resolution 6 (XV)); (iv) Supplementary report by the International Labour Office on the age of retirement and right to pension (resolution 7 (XIV) and E/3606, par. 72);

- (d) Status of women in private law. Report by the Secretary-General on dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation (resolution 14 (XV));
- (e) Effects of resolutions of the Commission on national legislation. Report by the Secretary-General, based on information available (E/3606, para. 150).

III. *Projects of lower priority for future sessions of the Commission*

- (a) Political rights of women. Report by the Secretary-General on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/3228, para. 150; E/3464, para. 215) for the eighteenth session;
- (b) Access of women to education. Report by UNESCO on the access of girls and women to secondary education, for the eighteenth session;
- (c) Economic rights and opportunities for women. (i) Vocational guidance and training of girls and women: Report by the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the ILO, on progress made by Governments in promoting vocational guidance and training for girls and women (resolution 6 (XVI)); (ii) Crèches and day nurseries: Report by the Secretary-General transmitting information available to WHO, the ILO and the International Children's Centre (resolution 7 (XVI));

- (d) 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 ratifications of the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value (E/3360, para. 137, and Commission resolutions 3 (XVI) and 4 (XVI));

- (e) Periodic reports on human rights. E/3464, para. 218;

- (f) Status of women in private law. Report by the Secretary-General on parental rights and duties, including guardianship, based on information available to the Secretary-General in the documentation prepared for the seminars on the status of women in family law (E/3606, para. 152).

IV. *Publications*

Revised edition of *Legal Status of Married Women* (Sales No.: 1957.IV.8). Resolution 10 (XVI);

Revised edition of *Nationality of Married Women* (Sales No.: 1955.IV.1). Economic and Social Council resolution 722 C (XXVIII).

XII. PLACE OF MEETING OF THE NEXT SESSION

160. At its 383rd meeting the Commission considered a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.359) submitted by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia and Mexico, in which the Commission recommended to the Economic and Social Council that, if there was no invitation of any State Member for the seventeenth session of the Commission, this would take place in Geneva. The representative of Ghana stated that her Government was considering the presentation of a formal invitation for the seventeenth or eighteenth session of the Commission to take place in her country. She stated that the draft resolution provided for the possibility of the seventeenth session meeting outside Geneva, in the event of the receipt of an invitation

from a Member State. She was supported by her co-sponsors.

161. The Commission then adopted unanimously the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.359). The text of the resolution reads as follows:

14 (XVI). PLACE OF MEETING OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that if there is no invitation of any State Member for the seventeenth session of the Commission, this will take place in Geneva in 1963.

XIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

162. At its 385th meeting the Commission on the Status of Women adopted unanimously the report of its sixteenth 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 (sixteenth session).⁷

⁷ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (E/3606).*

II

Equal pay for equal work⁸

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its sixteenth session,

⁸ See paragraphs 48-50 above.

Sharing its opinion that the legal and factual inequality between men and women in questions concerning wages and salaries, still existing in many countries, constitutes a serious obstacle to the achievement of real equality of men and women in the economic field, and that effective measures on national and international levels should be taken to remove this discrimination against women,

Emphasizing in this connexion particularly the responsibilities of Governments for the removal of discrimination against women in the question of wages and salaries and for the consistent application of the principle of equal pay for equal work,

1. *Calls upon:*

(a) Governments of Member States which have not yet ratified or otherwise implemented the principles of Convention No. 100 of the International Labour Organisation concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value to do so, as appropriate under the Constitution of the ILO, and also to implement the provisions of ILO Recommendation No. 90 and, by the adoption of the relevant legislative and practical measures in all economic fields, to apply and promote consistently the principle of equal pay for equal work;

(b) The International Labour Organisation to continue to follow the introduction of the principle of equal pay for equal work on a world scale and to bear this principle always in mind in considering working and social questions on an international level;

2. *Expresses the hope* that national and international women's organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may continue to advocate consistently in their activities the principle of equal economic working conditions for men and women and demand the legislative and practical application of the principle of equal pay for equal work;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in co-operation with the International Labour Office, a report to the eighteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on both the progress achieved in the field of equal pay for equal work, and obstacles existing so far in this field.

III

Access of girls and women to elementary education⁹

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the access of girls to elementary education (E/CN.6/396 and Corr.1 and 2), and considering that almost half the children of school age in the world do not receive school education and that the number of girls who attend school is even less than that of boys,

Bearing in mind that education will help women to take their proper place in the cultural, social and economic life of their country,

⁹ See paragraphs 96 and 97 above.

Recalling its resolutions 652 C (XXIV) of 24 July 1957 and 821 V-B (XXXII) of 19 July 1961 and General Assembly resolutions 1677 (XVI) of 18 December 1961 and 1717 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, in which first importance is attached to the problem of education and the elimination of illiteracy,

Noting with satisfaction the results of the regional conferences on the development of education,

1. *Recommends* States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies:

(a) To take into account where necessary in their plans the need to expand elementary education, which must be universal, compulsory and free for children of both sexes;

(b) To ensure that both sexes have equal rights and facilities for receiving elementary education, taking advantage of new techniques where these can be helpful;

(c) To take the necessary steps to increase the attendance of girls in elementary schools;

(d) To take steps to develop education for the adult women who have not received elementary education;

(e) To consider the conclusions and recommendations of the regional conferences on the development of education with a view to their gradual implementation;

(f) To implement fully the provisions of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education;

2. *Expresses the hope* that UNESCO will give first importance, in its work on educational development, to the extension of elementary education to all girls, and to those adult women who have not received elementary education;

3. *Recommends* that women's non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council offer Governments their collaboration in the development of education, bringing the population into this work and making full use of local resources.

IV

Status of women in private law

A

INHERITANCE LAWS

AS THEY AFFECT THE STATUS OF WOMEN¹⁰

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the principle of equality of rights for men and women is solemnly proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 504 D (XVI) of 23 July 1953 concerning the application of this principle to the status of women in private law,

Noting that, in the legal systems of many countries, inheritance rights of women, in intestate as well as in testamentary succession, are not equal to those of men,

Noting that, in some systems, the law deprives women of all inheritance rights, while in other systems a woman's

¹⁰ See paragraphs 105-109 above.

share is a fraction of the share of a male heir in the same degree of relationship,

Noting also that, in some systems, the male heir is always preferred to the female in the order of succession, and that in some countries the inheritance rights and the capacity of women to make a will, to accept or refuse an inheritance or to be administrators or executors of estates, are affected either by marriage or by the operation of the matrimonial regime in a manner incompatible with the principle of equality of the spouses,

Noting further that, in some legal systems, the widow's interest in the estate is either smaller than that of the widower, or is affected by special restrictions,

Recommends that Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies take all possible measures to ensure equality of inheritance rights of men and women by providing that men and women, in the same degree of relationship to the deceased, shall be entitled to equal shares in the estate and shall have equal rank in the order of succession, and by providing further that the inheritance rights and the capacity of women to make a will, to accept or refuse an inheritance and to be administrators or executors of estates, shall not be affected either by marriage or by the matrimonial regime, except to the extent to which such regime also affects the capacity of the husband, and that the widow's interest in the estate shall be equal to that of the widower.

B

LEGAL STATUS OF MARRIED WOMEN ¹¹

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in its resolution 587 D (XX) of 3 August 1955, it requested the Secretary-General, *inter alia*, to prepare and arrange for the publication at an early date of material on the legal status of married women,

Noting that, in accordance with this resolution, the Secretary-General prepared and published a monograph entitled *Legal Status of Married Women* (ST/SOA/35 - Sales No.: 1957.IV.8),

Noting further that this valuable publication had a wide distribution and was reprinted several times because of the large public demand and also because of its use in the United Nations Seminars on the "Status of Women in Family Law",

Noting also that, since the issuance of this publication, a considerable amount of new material on the subject has been collected by the Secretary-General, in particular in background papers and in working papers prepared for these seminars,

Believing that this information should be made available to the public and also that the material in the publication could readily be brought up to date,

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and to arrange for an early publication of a new edition of the monograph on the *Legal Status of Married Women*, on

the basis of information contained in the documentation of the seminars on the "Status of Women in Family Law" and in other authoritative sources.

V

United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries ¹²

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the reports by the Secretary-General on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries (E/3493 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/3566 and Corr.1-E/CN.6/395 and Corr.1) prepared in accordance with its resolution 771 H (XXX), of 25 July 1960, and the views expressed in the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixteenth session,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1509 (XV) of 12 December 1960 in which the Commission on the Status of Women and the Council were invited to pursue their efforts in advancing the status of women in developing countries and to take appropriate measures that would lead to special assistance by the United Nations and the specialized agencies in this regard,

Noting with satisfaction General Assembly resolution 1679 (XVI) of 18 December 1961 in which the Assembly decided to increase the resources of the advisory services programme in human rights in order to permit the provision of a number of human rights fellowships each year, in addition to the seminars,

Considering that under the United Nations Development Decade it is now appropriate to develop and co-ordinate the various programmes of the United Nations, of the specialized agencies and of the United Nations Children's Fund designed to advance the status of women in developing countries,

Believing that, in order to achieve this goal, the co-operation of the Governments, the specialized agencies and the United Nations Children's Fund, and of non-governmental organizations in consultative status is indispensable,

1. *Recommends* to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies that they make full use, for the purpose of promoting and advancing the status of women in developing countries, of the services presently available under the regular programme and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, as well as of the advisory services programme in human rights and the advisory social welfare services, by requesting the advisory services of experts, by promoting the attendance at seminars and other meetings, and by taking advantage of the availability of fellowships and scholarships;

2. *Invites* the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, in co-operation

¹¹ See paragraphs 110-112 above.

¹² See paragraphs 121-124 above.

with the United Nations, to strengthen and to expand their programmes designed to meet the needs of women in developing countries, and to seek new methods to achieve this purpose;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To direct his attention, when planning the various United Nations programmes¹³ of assistance, to the needs of women in developing countries and to include, in these programmes, projects especially directed to meet such needs;

(b) To continue to utilize the available resources of the United Nations to advance the condition of women in the developing countries, by holding seminars dealing with the status of women, by providing experts on women's rights at the request of Governments and by offering human rights fellowships and scholarships to persons concerned with the status of women, and to make available to Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, all information concerning the facilities available for the advancement of women;

4. *Urges* non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status to co-operate with the Secretary-General, by stimulating public opinion with regard to the programmes of the United Nations which contribute to the advancement of women and by supplementing the efforts of the United Nations on the international and national levels through the holding of regional, national or local seminars, including if possible in the future an international seminar, the provision of fellowships, scholarships and expert advice, and other related activities.

VI

Advisory services programme¹³

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the continuing interest among Member States in regional seminars relating to the status of women, and the valuable materials developed in connexion with those already organized in this field,

Believing that topics relating to the status of women can be usefully examined also in seminars conducted among smaller groups of countries and at the national level,

Realizing that national seminars can also help to co-ordinate the activities of the specialized agencies for the advancement of the status of women,

Noting resolution 3 (XIV) adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fourteenth session, requesting the Secretary-General to develop plans and, as appropriate, to provide experts to assist Governments of Member States, at their request, in the organization of seminars at the national and local level, with the purpose of advancing the status of women,

Requests the Secretary-General to continue his plans for annual regional seminars on the status of women and to give favourable consideration also to requests for assistance in the organization of seminars among small groups of Member States, under the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights.

¹³ See paragraphs 129-133 above.

ANNEXES

Annex I

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

1. DOCUMENTS ISSUED IN THE GENERAL SERIES

- A/4824 and Corr.1. Constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to political rights of women: memorandum by the Secretary-General.
- E/3493 and Corr.1 and 2 and E/3566 and Corr.1 — E/CN.6/395 and Corr.1. United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries: reports by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/372/Add.1. Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved on the international level: supplementary report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/385. Crèches and day nurseries: note by the Secretary-General, transmitting extracts of the report on the seminar on crèches organized by the International Children's Centre in Paris in December 1960 and extracts of the report on crèches in four European countries.
- E/CN.6/386 and Corr.1. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Commission.
- E/CN.6/386/Rev.1. Agenda as adopted by the Commission.
- E/CN.6/387. Information concerning the status of women in Trust Territories: report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/388 and Corr.1. Note by the Secretary-General on periodic reports on human rights.
- E/CN.6/390. Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the study of discrimination in the matter of political rights, prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
- E/CN.6/391 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1. Inheritance laws as they affect the status of women: report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/392. Equal pay for equal work: progress report by the International Labour Office.
- E/CN.6/393. International Labour Organisation activities of special interest from the standpoint of employment of women: report by the International Labour Office.
- E/CN.6/394. Age of retirement and right to pension: report by the International Labour Office.
- E/CN.6/396 and Corr.1 and 2. Access of girls to elementary education: report by UNESCO.
- E/CN.6/397. Vocational preparation of girls and women: report by the International Labour Office.
- E/CN.6/398 and Add.1 — E/CN.4/825 and Add. 1. Advisory services in the field of human rights: progress report by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/399. Review of the programme of work, establishment of priorities and control and limitation of documentation: note by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/400. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
- E/CN.6/401. Equal pay for equal work: note by the Secretary-General on the sales and distribution of the pamphlet *Equal Pay for Equal Work*.
- E/CN.6/CR.15. Non-confidential list of communications.

- E/CN.4/Sub.2/213. Report on discrimination in the matter of political rights, prepared by the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
- E/CN.4/830-E/CN.4/Sub.2/218. Report of the fourteenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to the Commission on Human Rights.
- E/CN.4/810 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2. Periodic reports on human rights: summary by the Secretary-General of the periodic reports submitted by 67 Governments, covering the years 1957-1959.
- E/CN.4/811 and Add.1 and 2 and Add.2/Corr. 1. Periodic reports on human rights : reports of the specialized agencies in respect of the rights falling within their purview.
- E/CN.4/831. Report of the Committee on Periodic Reports on Human Rights (of the Commission on Human Rights).
- ST/TAO/HR/11. *1961 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law*.

2. DOCUMENTS ISSUED IN THE NGO SERIES

- E/CN.6/NGO/118. Advisory services programme: Statement submitted by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.
- E/CN.6/NGO/119. Economic rights and opportunities for women: Statement submitted by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.
- E/CN.6/NGO/120. Economic rights and opportunities for women: Statement submitted by the St. Joan's International Alliance.
- E/CN.6/NGO/121. Economic rights and opportunities for women; access of women to education; status of women in private law; and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries: Statement submitted by the International Council of Women.
- E/CN.6/NGO/122. Equal pay for equal work; economic rights and opportunities for women; and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries: Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women.
- E/CN.6/NGO/123. Access of women to education: Statement submitted by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.
- E/CN.6/NGO/124. United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries: Statement submitted by the Pan-Pacific Southeast Asia Women's Association.
- E/CN.6/NGO/125. Political rights of women; advisory services programme; and status of women in private law: Statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women.
- E/CN.6/NGO/126. Access of women to education: Statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women.
- E/CN.6/NGO/127. Equal pay for equal work; and economic rights and opportunities for women: Statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/128. Access of women to education; and United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries: Statement submitted by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and the World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls, jointly.

E/CN.6/NGO/129. Crèches and day nurseries: Statement submitted by the World Movement of Mothers.

3. DOCUMENTS ISSUED IN THE LIMITED SERIES

E/CN.6/L.331. Organization of work: Note by the Chairman.

E/CN.6/L.332 and Add.1. Political rights of women — Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Japan, Spain, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.333. Political rights of women — Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.334. Political rights of women — Philippines and Poland: amendment to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.332.

E/CN.6/L.335. Political rights of women: Resolution adopted by the Commission at its 366th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.336. Political rights of women: Suggestions adopted by the Commission for changes in the "General Principles on Freedom and Non-Discrimination in the matter of Political Rights" which had been adopted by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its fourteenth session (E/CN.4/830-E/CN.4/Sub.2/218; resolution 1 (XIV), annex).

E/CN.6/L.337. Equal pay for equal work — Czechoslovakia and United Arab Republic: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.338. Equal pay for equal work — Colombia, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.339. Equal pay for equal work — Argentina, Australia, Iran, Japan, Mexico, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.340. Periodic reports on human rights: Working paper containing a draft resolution prepared by the working group on periodic reports on human rights.

E/CN.6/L.341. Vocational training of women — Poland: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.342. Periodic reports on human rights — United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendment to the working paper (E/CN.6/L.340).

E/CN.6/L.343 and Add.1-4. Draft report to the Economic and Social Council on the sixteenth session of the Commission.

E/CN.6/L.344. Equal pay for equal work: Resolution adopted by the Commission at its 368th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.345. Vocational training of women — United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: amendments to draft resolution E/CN.6/L.341.

E/CN.6/L.346. Periodic reports on human rights: Resolution adopted by the Commission at its 369th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.347. Vocational training for girls and women — United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.348. Vocational training of women: Working paper prepared by the Committee on Resolutions.

E/CN.6/L.349. Crèches and day nurseries — Czechoslovakia: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.349/Rev.1. Crèches and day nurseries — by Czechoslovakia: revised draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.350. Vocational guidance and training of girls and women: Resolution adopted by the Commission at its 373rd meeting.

E/CN.6/L.351. Access of women to primary education — Cuba: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.352 and Add.1 and Corr.1. Inheritance laws as they affect the status of women — Argentina, Colombia, Finland, Mexico and the Philippines: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.353. Status of women in private law — United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.353/Add.1. Status of women in private law: Statement of financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/L.353.

E/CN.6/L.354. Crèches and day nurseries: Resolution adopted by the Commission at its 375th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.355 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2. United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries — Australia, China, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.356. Access of girls and women to elementary education: Resolution adopted by the Commission at its 376th meeting.

E/CN.6/L.357. Programme of work — United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.358 and Add.1. Advisory services programme — Indonesia, United Arab Republic and United States of America: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.358/Rev.1. Advisory services programme — Colombia, Indonesia, United Arab Republic and United States of America: revised draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.359. Place of meeting of the seventeenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women — Argentina, Australia, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia and Mexico: draft resolution.

E/CN.6/L.360. Review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities: Working paper by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/L.361. Communications concerning the status of women: Report of the Committee on Communications.

Annex II

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

1. In draft resolution 10 (XVI) (see chapter VII of this report), the Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Council request the Secretary-General to prepare and to arrange for an early publication of a new edition of the monograph

on the *Legal Status of Married Women*, on the basis of information contained in the documentation of the seminars on the status of women in family law and in other authoritative sources.

2. On the assumption that the revised publication will be issued in the same format as the existing one (i.e., 6" x 9"), it is estimated that the incorporation of the new material will bring its length up to 150 printed pages. The total costs of printing a booklet of this length in the three languages and in the required number of copies are estimated at \$3,800 (English: 3,900 copies — \$1,500; French: 1,750 copies — \$1,200; Spanish: 1,225 copies — \$1,100).

3. The work on revision and incorporation of the new material will be undertaken by the existing staff of the Division of Human Rights.

4. Should the proposal be adopted, the financial implications will be reflected in the Revised Estimates for 1963 resulting from action of the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions, which will be submitted to the General Assembly later in the year.



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