

**ECONOMIC
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ET SOCIAL**

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF MEETINGS

FOURTEENTH MEETING

Held on Wednesday, 15 May 1946

Chairman: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Chairman explained that two memoranda had been prepared as a basis for the discussion of the recommendations which the Commission on Human Rights might want to make in transmitting to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women to the Commission on Human Rights. The Chairman then read the memoranda.

MEMORANDUM I - DRAFT RESOLUTION (Submitted by Professor Rene Cassin)

The Commission on Human Rights, in possession of the Report and Conclusions of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women, established by the Economic and Social Council.

1. Decides to transmit these documents in toto to the Council
2. Recommends to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the order of priority suggested by the Sub-commission itself:
 - (a) To initiate without delay a complete and detailed study of legislation concerning the status of women and its practical application, taking into account all important alterations that have arisen since the first general inquiries made by the League of Nations.
 - (b) To furnish the Secretariat (Department of Social Affairs, Division of Human Rights) for its service of the status of women with all necessary means of qualified personnel and material, to enable it to organize the studies referred to

in Paragraph (a), to collect and distribute in agreement with the Department of Public Information and other services and branches of the United Nations, the documentation concerning the question of women, and to fulfill all the duties incumbent to the United Nations in this field.

- (c) To draw the attention of the governments of all Member States to the principles stated in the report of the Sub-commission, and to point out especially to them the suggestions concerning development of education of women and their political rights wherever they are not yet in a position to assume their full responsibility.
- (d) To consult with the governments of Member States on problems concerning women which may appear to them to be the first items for discussion, either by a general women's conference or by different conferences, each with a definite purpose, inside the field of one of the specialized agencies, such as the ILO, UNESCO, etc...

3. To follow the suggestion on the constitution of the plenary Sub-commission made in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 4 Section III of the report concerning the composition of this Sub-commission, and for all other questions, to establish a similar procedure to the one recommended for the Commission on Human Rights.

MEMORANDUM II - (Prepared by Chairman)

SUGGESTIONS ON REPORT OF SUB-COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN
FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

"The Commission transmits to the Council for its information the Report of the Sub-commission on the Status of Women appended hereto. It commends the conscientious care and thoroughness with which the Report has been prepared.

The Council's resolution of 16 February 1946 (E/27) on the establishment of the Sub-commission, provided in Paragraphs 2, 3, of section b:

2. The sub-commission shall submit proposals, recommendations, and reports to the Commission on Human Rights regarding the Status of Women.
3. The sub-commission may submit proposals to the Council, through the Commission on Human Rights, regarding its terms of reference."

Taking these provisions into account, the Commission recommends:

1. That having due regard for the importance of Section I on Policy, it be referred for further study by this Commission, when fully constituted.
2. That the Council, in constituting the full sub-commission, accept Paragraphs 1, 2, and 4, Section III, on Composition, but that in other respects it establish a procedure similar to that recommended for the Commission on Human Rights.
3. That Items 2 to 5 inclusive, of the headings stresses at the end of the report (Page 9) be treated, in accordance with Paragraph 2 of Section of the Council's Resolution of 16 February as terms of reference of the Sub-commission.
4. That those parts of Section II, on Programme not included in Paragraph 3, be referred to the full sub-commission for further study.
5. That the memorandum set forth in Appendix I be referred to the Council Committee on Arrangements for Consultation with Non-government Organizations.

M. Cassin pointed out that the first part of Memorandum II was more explicit and precise and that the paragraphs dealing with definitive composition of the Sub-Commission were identical in both

memoranda, and that the difference between Memorandum I and the second part of Memorandum II was mainly one of presentation. Memorandum I gave greater stress to the problems which were ready for action now and stated in greater detail ways in which the task of the Sub-Commission might be accomplished.

Mr. Noogy agreed with M. Cassin that Part 1 of Memorandum II dealing with the terms of reference for the Sub-commission (E/27) should be accepted by the Commission on Human Rights. He suggested, however, that in addition to Paragraph 4, Section b of E/27 concerning recommendations for the definitive composition of the Sub-Commission should be added. Mr. Noogy felt that point 3, part 2 of Memorandum II contained a contradiction to point 1, part 2 of Memorandum II.

The Chairman proposed that it might be possible to combine the specific reference to Memorandum II with the suggestions concerning principles and methods of work of Memorandum I. Mr. Brkish and Mr. Noogy agreed with the Chairman.

Dr. Hsia preferred Memorandum II as it gave greater freedom of action to the Economic and Social Council. He felt that the Commission on Human Rights could not make detailed recommendations without having had more time to study the report of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women. He agreed, however, that it might be advisable to include some parts of Memorandum I.

Mr. Borisov stated that the Sub-Commission had given a clear account of its principles and its programme. He felt however, that Paragraph 1, a (E/HR/18) (Page 3) was superfluous and pointed out that in the U.S.S.R. political rights were not only granted to women but were observed. He suggested that the Commission should study each section of the Sub-Commission report separately before it came to any conclusions. In general he preferred Memorandum I.

The Chairman pointed out that this report was intended for

fifty-one Nations and that the laws concerning women and the actual status of women varies in countries. She reminded Members that the report of the Sub-Commission would be transmitted in full but that the Commission had to decide now on its own recommendations to the Economic and Social Council in submitting the report.

The Commission then agreed to adopt part 1 of Memorandum II.

The Chairman suggested that as to part 2, concerning the actual recommendations of the Commission it might be wise to take as point 1 of part 2 the paragraph concerning the definitive composition of the Sub-commission on which both memoranda agreed and to take as point 2, point 1 of Memorandum II and then to add point a, b, c, and d of Memorandum I. Mr. Cassin suggested that it might be better to re-arrange the paragraphs according to the sections of the report of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women and to add to each paragraph the reference to that part of the report to which it referred. The recommendations by the Commission on Human Rights concerning the report of the Sub-commission on the Status of Women would then read as follows:

DRAFT

The Commission transmits to the Council for its information the report of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women appended hereto. It commends the conscientious care and thoroughness with which the report has been prepared.

The Council's resolution of 16 February 1946 on the establishment of the Sub-commission (E/27) provided in Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of Section (b):

"2. The Sub-commission shall submit proposals, recommendations, and reports to the Commission on Human Rights regarding the status of women.

"3 The Sub-commission may submit proposals to the Council, through the Commission on Human Rights, regarding its terms of reference.

"4. The Sub-commission shall make recommendations on the definitive composition of the Sub-commission to the Second Session of the Council through the Commission on Human Rights."

Taking these provisions into account, the Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council:

1. To follow the suggestions concerning the composition of the full Sub-Commission made in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 4 of Section III of the Report (E/HR/18), and for all other questions, to establish a similar procedure to the one recommended for the Commission on Human Rights.
2. That, having due regard for the importance of Section I on Policy (E/HR/18), it be referred for study to the full Commission on Human Rights.
3. To draw the attention of the governments of all Member States to the principles stated in the report of the Sub-Commission, and to point out especially to them the suggestions concerning development of education of women and their political rights wherever they are not yet in a position to assume their full responsibility.
4. To initiate without delay a complete and detailed study of legislation concerning the status of women and its practical application, taking into account all important alterations that have arisen since the first general inquiries made by the League of Nations. (E/HR/18, Section II)
5. To furnish the Secretariat (Department of Social Affairs, Division of Human Rights) with all necessary means of qualified personnel and material, to enable it to organize the studies referred to in Paragraph (4), to collect and distribute in agreement with the Department of Public Information and other services and branches of the United Nations, the documentation

concerning the question of women, and to fulfill all the duties incumbent on the United Nations in this field.

(E/HR/18, Section II)

6. To consult with the governments of Member States on problems concerning women which may appear to them to be the first items for discussion, either by a general women's conference or by different conferences, each with a definite purpose, inside the field of one of the specialized agencies, such as the ILO, UNESCO, etc. (E/HR/18, Section II)

The Commission decided not to add point 5 of Memorandum I but to mention co-operation with non-governmental organizations in its report.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:35 P.M.
