

would also require the formulation of a programme to encourage contributions from Governments and private individuals. In that connexion, it was envisaged that women in rural areas in countries such as the Philippines would be willing to contribute even in a modest way to the Fund when they had seen what it was doing to improve their status. Lastly, with regard to the composition and policies of the board to be entrusted with the management of the fund, it was felt that they must reflect the interests and concerns of Governments.

45. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) stated that the Fund had been established in order to supplement existing resources for the implementation of the International Women's Year programme. By the end of 1974 the contributions received to the Fund had been extremely limited and totally insufficient to finance any meaningful project. The bulk of the contributions had been received in the first part of 1975.

46. Those contributions had, however, been primarily earmarked for activities pertaining to the World Conference of the International Women's Year. That fact had been clearly reflected in the allocation of resources. The financing of new projects had been deferred, pending the policy decisions to be adopted and any programme recommenda-

tions to be made by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session in the light of the recommendations of the World Conference. The availability of about \$1 million currently in the fund could be explained by the cautious attitude of the Secretariat, which had wished to ensure that resources were allocated according to the directives of the policy-making bodies.

47. The proposed decision referring to the extension of the Voluntary Fund to cover the period of the proposed United Nations decade for women would now enable the Secretariat to make long-term plans in the light of correlated decisions taken by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session. That new development undoubtedly called for new arrangements regarding the administration and operation of the fund. She would welcome, therefore, the suggestions contained in the proposed decision to that effect. With that purpose in view, the Secretary-General would give careful consideration to all the suggestions made at the present meeting and in the proposed decision and submit to the Economic and Social Council at its forthcoming session specific proposals for the management of the fund and the criteria to be applied for future disbursements.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

2180th meeting

Friday, 5 December 1975, at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2180

AGENDA ITEMS 75 AND 76

International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (*continued*)

Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and co-operation between States (*continued*) (A/10003, chap. III, sect. F; E/5725 and Add.1, A/10042, A/10045, A/10049 and Corr.1, A/10056, A/10057, A/10066, A/10070, A/10071, A/10073, A/10075, A/10076, A/10088, A/10089, A/10099, A/10107, A/10111, A/10138, A/10140, A/10160, A/10210, A/10263, A/10264, A/10340, A/C.3/643, A/C.3/644, A/C.3/647, A/C.3/648, A/C.3/L.2193, A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2195-2198, A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2200, A/C.3/L.2206)

1. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) recalled that at the end of its 2179th meeting the Committee had raised the question of the status of the Voluntary Fund which had been set up

for International Women's Year. It would be useful to have details on that subject before taking a vote on draft decision A/C.3/L.2197 concerning the Fund.

2. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), said that until the end of 1974 the Fund had been extremely small. At the beginning of the International Women's Year it had comprised only \$184,000, of which \$23,000 had not been received at that time. Only Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Iran, Iraq, the Philippines, Switzerland and the United States of America had sent in their contributions. Those figures explained why the programme planned for the Year had not been very extensive. In fact, most of the contributions had arrived early in 1975, and in the first quarter of the year the fund had passed the \$1.5 million mark as a result of the contributions received from Australia, Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands and Sweden (\$750,000) and from Princess Asha (\$500,000). In the second quarter contributions had been received from Canada, China, Ethiopia, Gabon, Jamaica, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Senegal and the United Kingdom, and in the third quarter Austria had forwarded its contribution. Altogether only 25 Governments had made contributions, but some had contributed more than once—for example, Iran and Sweden. In all, the

contributions from Governments had amounted to \$1,985,667, of which \$40,000 remained to be paid. Individuals and private bodies had sent in \$4,178; the use of the slogan of the International Women's Year for commercial purposes had already yielded \$5,378, and further large amounts were expected from that source. The report which the Secretariat was to submit to the Economic and Social Council would give details concerning the Fund's expenditure, but she could provide answers to any questions that might be put to her now on the subject. Information had been requested regarding the Encounter organized in Mexico City for journalists from developing countries; the cost of the Encounter had been \$151,200, all of which had been covered by contributions made specially for that purpose by Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

3. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should vote on the draft resolution and the draft decision before it and should first consider draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193.

4. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines), supported by Mr. OULD SIDI AHMED VELL (Mauritania) and Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), requested that draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193 should be adopted by acclamation.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

5. Mrs. DE BAUTISTA (Colombia) said that, as a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2195 and A/C.3/L.2198, her delegation would support, as it had done at the World Conference of the International Women's Year in Mexico City, any measures aimed at promoting the role of women in the development of society. With regard to the seventh preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, and also the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, she recalled that her delegation had not approved of the references to zionism which appeared in the eighth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 24 and 26 of the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace (see E/3725, chap. I). Consequently, it wished to make it clear that its support for draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2195 and A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1 would not mean that it approved of the references to zionism contained in the Declaration of Mexico.

6. Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands), after a discussion in which Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia), Mrs. SELLAMI MESLEM (Algeria), Mr. BELOUSOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) participated, proposed that, in order to simplify the proceedings, the draft resolutions before the Committee should be considered one by one, in numerical order, along with the relevant amendments, delegations that wished to do so being allowed to explain their votes before the voting, and that the Committee should then proceed to vote, in the same order, on the draft resolutions and the amendments relating to them.

It was so decided.

7. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) pointed out that in the English text of the sixth preambular paragraph of draft resolution

A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1 the words "*inter alia*", which had appeared in the original version, should be inserted after the word "confirms".

8. Miss ILIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that, in order to bring the text of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 in line with that of the draft resolution on the World Plan of Action which the Second Committee had adopted by consensus¹ (A/C.2/L.1461/Rev.1), operative paragraph 11 should be amended, so that the words "constitute an integral part of the procedure" would be replaced by "undertaken as an input to the process".

9. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that, as a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, she considered the new wording an improvement.

10. Miss GUERRA (Madagascar) said that her delegation accepted the compromise which had been reached in its consultations with the Egyptian delegation concerning draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195. Operative paragraph 10 would read:

"Invites the Secretary-General therefore to appoint, with due consideration to the principle of equitable geographic distribution, a group of five to ten experts to draw up, in consultation with representatives of regional centres and/or institutes for research and training which have similar objectives and goals, the terms of reference and structural organizations of the Institute, with special consideration given to the needs of women of developing countries, and to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session on the basis of the recommendations of the group of experts".

She would leave it to the sponsors of the draft resolution to finalize the wording of operative paragraph 10, but that was broadly the form her delegation wanted.

11. Her delegation would not insist that its proposal should be put to the vote. However, it wanted the proposal to appear in the report.

12. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, thanked the representative of Madagascar for her co-operation and said that she agreed with the wording of operative paragraph 10 which she had read out.

13. Mr. LÜTEM (Secretary of the Committee) reminded members that in operative paragraph 20 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 the words "of all States" had been added after the words "a world conference".

14. He recalled that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196 had accepted the suggestions that in the second preambular paragraph the words "*inter alia*" should be added after the words "the United Nations which"; that in the fourth preambular paragraph the words "foreign occupation" should be added after the word "colonialism"; that in the seventh preambular paragraph the words "in many countries" should be added after the words "con-

¹ Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3490 (XXX).

tinuing discrimination"; that in operative paragraph 3 the words "foreign occupation" should be added after the word "colonialism"; and that in the same paragraph the phrase "on the basis of full respect for the Charter of the United Nations as well as the United Nations resolutions" should be added after the words "international tension".

15. Mrs. HEANEY (Ireland), referring to the Egyptian oral amendment (2177th meeting) for the insertion of the words "in many countries" after the words "continuing discrimination" in the seventh preambular paragraph, pointed out that the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was based on the idea that discrimination against women existed throughout the world. Furthermore, bearing in mind what was said in document E/5725/Add.1, paragraph 43, she would like the sponsors to state whether there was any country in the world where women were represented in the decision-making process in proportion to their numbers.

16. Miss DUBRA (Uruguay) asked the sponsors of the draft resolution to explain the statement in the eighth preambular paragraph that women "should play the role equal with men in all spheres of life". She personally did not think that that was possible.

17. Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) asked the sponsors to explain the meaning of the term "labour relations" in the seventh preambular paragraph. Did it mean "employment opportunities"?

18. Mr. BELOUSOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), replying to the question put by the representative of India, said that he would like the term "labour relations" in the seventh preambular paragraph to be retained. It had a very broad meaning and could apply both to employment opportunities and to equality of remuneration and of working conditions—in other words, to all the fields with which the International Labour Organisation was concerned and in which it had drawn up many instruments.

19. In reply to the comment of the representative of Uruguay, who was worried about a certain lack of clarity in the wording of the eighth preambular paragraph, he said that he would have no objection to the insertion, after the words "spheres of life", of the words "of society", although that seemed to him to be implied, since there followed a list of the spheres of life in question.

20. Mr. LÜTEM (Secretary of the Committee) said that the Jamaican delegation had suggested a slight change in draft decision A/C.3/L.2197, whereby the words "a report" in point (a) would be replaced by the words "an accounting report". It had also suggested that the words "for the continuation of the fund" should be deleted.

21. Mrs. TAKLA (Egypt) asked, with regard to the suggested insertion of the word "accounting" before the word "report", whether the report in question would be submitted to the Fifth Committee or to the Third Committee. She would also like to know whether the operational criteria for the Fund would be similar to those for other similar funds or whether they would be new ones.

22. Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica) explained that the amendment suggested by her delegation involved not only the insertion

of the word "accounting" before the word "report" but also the deletion of the words "the existing state of". In reply to the representative of Egypt, she said the sponsors of the draft decision thought that the report should be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session. In the light of the accounting report, the Council would then make appropriate recommendations for the thirty-first session of the General Assembly, at which time it could include in its recommendations an indication of whether the report should be submitted to the Third Committee or to the Fifth Committee.

23. It was difficult for the sponsors of the draft decision to give an opinion at that time concerning the operational criteria for the fund. Generally speaking, the functioning of United Nations voluntary funds varied according to their objectives. The Secretariat would probably be better able to clarify that point.

24. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said that his delegation would be ready to support the draft decision but would first like to have some clarification from the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs concerning the criteria.

25. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, whatever happened, the General Assembly always had the final authority to decide on the criteria it wished to adopt for the operation of a fund of that kind. Some of the existing voluntary funds functioned without any criteria having been established at the outset, since the allocation of their resources was quite clearly determined by the purposes for which they had been set up; however, in the case of a fairly large fund covering a wider and less clearly defined field than some trust funds, it would certainly be preferable for operational criteria to be established at the outset. The fund in question might become a very large one, but its objectives were not as clearly defined as, for example, those of the Emergency Fund of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Thus, the uses to which the fund's resources might be put should first be determined, since the possibilities in the field in question were very numerous. One possibility would be information projects about the proposed United Nations decade for women: Contributions might also be made to the implementation of projects proposed by Governments or by non-governmental organizations in connexion with the Decade, or to studies and research entrusted to specialized institutions. It would therefore be desirable, from the point of view both of the Secretariat and of donors, to establish some criteria for the utilization of the fund's resources.

26. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) said he thought that, in the present circumstances, the text of the draft decision should not be changed and the Secretary-General should be left free to submit the report in question to the Economic and Social Council, taking into consideration the criteria applied by the United Nations to the operation of voluntary funds. Nevertheless, he proposed that the text should be made clearer through the insertion of the words "taking into account the relevant practice of the United Nations in this regard" after the words "requests the Secretary-General".

27. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that, while she appreciated the spirit in which the representative of Egypt was submitting his amendment, she did not think that at the present stage the Fund in question should be treated like any other fund already established by the United Nations. There was no need to be tied by any precedent with regard to the fund's operational criteria. Nevertheless, when the question of defining the criteria came to be dealt with, the way in which existing funds operated would of course be taken into account. The amendment proposed by the representative of Egypt therefore seemed unnecessary, especially since the risk of limiting the scope of the fund should be avoided at the present stage, and she hoped that the Egyptian delegation would not insist upon its amendment.

28. Mrs. DE BARISH (Costa Rica) observed that the sponsors of draft decision A/C.3/L.2197, of which Costa Rica was one, had not had time to consult each other. For her part, she agreed with the representative of the Philippines that it would be better to retain the text as it stood.

29. Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) noted that in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198 Governments were urged to support more vigorously official and private efforts to extend to women facilities now being offered only to men by financial and lending institutions. The Byelorussian SSR could not support that appeal because of the nature of its social system, which provided for the equality of all citizens and thus precluded the practices referred to in operative paragraph 1. The provision would also be meaningless for a number of other countries. His delegation wondered whether it was right in believing that the sponsors had been thinking mainly of the low-income countries mentioned in the first preambular paragraph. Since resolution 10 of the Mexico City Conference (see E/5725, chap. III), which was mentioned in the last preambular paragraph, used the words "in many countries of the world", it might be well to change the beginning of operative paragraph 1 and say: "Urges the Governments of some low-income countries". In fact, the representative of Nigeria had already made that correction orally at the preceding meeting.

30. Finally, he asked whether operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution would entail any additional expenditure for the United Nations.

31. Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198 had decided to replace the words "the low-income countries" in the first preambular paragraph by "some low-income countries".

32. The Secretariat would be able to say whether operative paragraph 3 had any financial implications.

33. She announced that Honduras and Mali had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

34. Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Secretary-General of the International Women's Year and of the World Conference of the International Women's Year) said that, if it was intended that the workshops and seminars mentioned in operative paragraph 3 should form part of existing programmes, they could be financed from funds already allocated under the

regular technical co-operation programmes and the United Nations Development Programme. They might also be financed from the voluntary fund but that would of course depend on the criteria adopted for the fund. Operative paragraph 3 should not, therefore, have any additional financial implications for the regular budget of the United Nations.

35. Mr. MAKSIMOV (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) thanked the Deputy to the Secretary-General of the International Women's Year for the information she had given and noted that operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution would involve no additional financial implications.

36. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) suggested that the words "in many cases" should be added after the words "now being offered" at the end of operative paragraph 1.

37. The CHAIRMAN stated that Lesotho had become a sponsor of draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.2200.

38. Mrs. TAKLA (Egypt) said that, in connexion with draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, it was women who had discovered agriculture and thereby changed the face of the earth at a remote time in history. The role played by women since then in rural areas, especially in the developing countries, could not be over-emphasized. Yet, as a result of historical and socio-economic factors, that part of the population had been grossly neglected. It was therefore very important to draw attention to the need for specific action to improve the situation of women in rural areas, since it would soon become clear that such action was highly beneficial to society as a whole.

39. In the preamble of the draft resolution the sponsors emphasized the importance of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (*ibid.*, chap. II, sect. A) for women in rural areas and mentioned some of the major obstacles, such as illiteracy, lack of education and training and an inadequate distribution of human and economic resources, to the integration of women in the development process. In operative paragraphs 3 and 4 they urged international organizations and Governments to accord special attention to programmes and projects aimed at the full integration of rural women and to develop training programmes for those women; and in operative paragraphs 2 and 5 they requested the Secretary-General to prepare guidelines for non-formal education programmes for women and to submit a report to the Assembly on the implementation of the resolution. Within the context of the new international economic order and international co-operation, the peoples and Governments of the world had a responsibility to promote development and thereby improve the living conditions of rural women.

40. In conclusion, she said that in the sixth preambular paragraph the words "the primary responsibility" should be replaced with the words "one of the primary responsibilities" and said she hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted unanimously.

41. Mrs. JAYAWEEERA (Sri Lanka) said that her delegation supported the draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1,

just as it had supported resolution 21 at Mexico City, because it hoped to contribute thereby to the solution of a crucial problem. As everyone was aware, rural women were the most disadvantaged group of the population, since urban women had derived at least some benefit from the process of modernization. The draft resolution focused attention on three major areas: promoting agriculture and agro-based industries, organizing non-formal education programmes to equip women for participating in the development process and enlisting the assistance of international and regional organizations in research and training programmes and projects. The implementation of that draft resolution would help to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural women, and her delegation hoped that it would receive the unanimous support of the Committee.

42. Mrs. MARICO (Mali) said that she had studied draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1 with special interest because her delegation had dealt with the subject at length during the general debate. She proposed some changes in the wording of certain passages in that resolution. In the view of her delegation, the fifth preambular paragraph did not reflect the real situation existing in the developing countries, since the inadequate distribution of human and economic resources was rather the result of an international economic system whose unequal terms of trade had been rightly denounced by the developing countries. Her delegation therefore suggested that in the fifth preambular paragraph the words "inadequate distribution of human and economic resources have caused severe unemployment and underemployment problems for women and hindered" should be replaced with the words "severe unemployment and underemployment problems for women hinder". Furthermore, she proposed that, in the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "Noting the lack of data" should be replaced with the words "Noting that data should be made available".

43. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1 would have to hold consultations on the amendment proposed by the representative of Mali to the fifth preambular paragraph.

44. Mrs. TAKLA (Egypt) said she also hoped that consultations among the sponsors could be held before putting the draft resolution to the vote.

45. Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) suggested that in the fifth preambular paragraph the words "inadequate distribution" should be replaced with the words "inequitable distribution".

46. Mr. LÜTEM (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that when the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon had presented resolution A/C.3/L.2200 orally, she had indicated that a second paragraph reading: "Recalling also draft resolution A/C.2/L.1473/Rev.1 adopted by the Second Committee"² should be added to the preamble.

47. Mr. CHORFI (Morocco) said that the Committee could not refer to a document which had not yet been adopted by the General Assembly.

48. Mrs. BURNLEY (United Republic of Cameroon) said that draft resolution A/C.2/L.1473/Rev.1 had been adopted by consensus by the Second Committee and was consistent with the prevailing sentiment in the General Assembly; however, if there were objections to the proposed change, she was prepared to withdraw her proposal.

49. Mrs. MARICO (Mali) proposed that operative paragraph 1 (b) should be deleted because the recommendation contained in that provision would raise difficulties in terms of time and money for some countries.

50. Mrs. TAKLA (Egypt) said that she fully supported draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200 but wondered whether it was appropriate to retain the word "Preliminary" in the second preambular paragraph.

51. Mrs. BURNLEY (United Republic of Cameroon) said, in reply to the observation of the representative of Mali, that the draft resolution was aimed at helping countries which needed assistance in order to integrate women into development and that the idea expressed in operative paragraph 1 (b) had appeared in resolution 27 of the World Conference of the International Women's Year. With regard to the observation of the representative of Egypt, she said that when the report of the Conference was no longer a preliminary one, the text of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200 could be amended accordingly.

52. Mr. FERNANDEZ ESCALANTE (Argentina) said, with reference to the observation of the representative of Morocco, that once the resolution of the Second Committee was adopted by the General Assembly, the text of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200 would mention the correct number of that resolution.

53. Mr. DE FARIA (Portugal) said that he shared the doubts expressed by the representative of Morocco with regard to the wording of the proposed new paragraph because the Third Committee could not prejudge the decision of the General Assembly. The same problem existed, with respect to draft decision A/C.3/L.2197.

54. Mrs. SELLAMI MESLEM (Algeria) said that she agreed with the substance of the suggestion made by the representative of Mali but felt that the reply of the representative of the United Republic of Cameroon was relevant. If operative paragraph 1 (b) was retained, the words "which request it" could be added after the word "Governments".

55. Miss SHAHKAR (Iran), referring to the problem raised by the representative of Morocco, proposed that the new preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200 should read as follows: "Recalling also its resolution . . . (XXX), adopted on the recommendation of the Second Committee."

56. Mr. CHORFI (Morocco) endorsed the proposal of the representative of Iran. He also supported the suggestion of the representative of Algeria with respect to operative paragraph 1 (b). He observed that the recommendation contained in that paragraph might complicate development plans, since all development plans were of concern to women.

² Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3505 (XXX).

57. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico), speaking on a point of order, said that her delegation could not accept Mali's amendment to the fifth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, of which it was a sponsor, before consulting its co-sponsors.

58. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had no more time for holding consultations.

59. Miss BOCETA (Spain), speaking on a point of order, moved the closure of debate in accordance with rule 117 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and called for a vote on the draft resolutions before the Committee.

60. Mr. RAE (Canada) and Mr. TRAVERT (France) seconded the motion.

61. The CHAIRMAN replying to a question put by Miss DUBRA (Uruguay), said that the debate on the draft resolutions relating to agenda items 75 and 76 was closed. At the suggestion of the representative of Panama, he announced that if there was no objection, he would limit the time allotted to each delegation to explain its vote to three minutes.

It was so decided.

62. Mr. BENUZZI (Italy) said that the nine States members of the European Economic Community, although they attached considerable importance to the questions dealt with in agenda items 75 and 76, would nevertheless have to abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, which took note of the report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year and outlined a programme of activities in the context of the proposed United Nations decade for women. At the World Conference, the countries of the European Community had clearly stated their reservations with regard to the mention of zionism among the forces that must be opposed for the emancipation of women. In their joint and individual statements in the Third Committee and the General Assembly, they had also rejected the thesis that zionism was a form of racism, and they maintained the reservations they had expressed individually at the World Conference. However, their abstention signified only a categorical refusal to associate themselves with any initiative aimed at linking zionsim with racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*, which the nine States whole-heartedly condemned. It did not mean that they were dissociating themselves from the decade but simply meant that they intended to ensure that the activities in which they would take part were not turned aside from their purposes.

63. The CHAIRMAN urged delegations to comply with the time-limit imposed for explanations of vote.

64. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) said that she fully subscribed to the explanation of vote expressed, on behalf of the nine States, by the representative of Italy. Her delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 in order to protest against the inclusion in that document of political considerations which were completely out of place. However, Belgium had already begun to implement the World Plan of Action, as well as those elements of the Declaration of Mexico and the resolutions of the Con-

ference which related to the status of women, and it would maintain that policy throughout the Decade, the proclamation of which it fully endorsed.

65. Her delegation was one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200 on measures for the integration of women in development; it had welcomed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193 and would vote for draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198 and draft decision A/C.3/L.2197. With respect to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, concerning women in rural areas, her delegation formally requested that the second and sixth preambular paragraphs should be put to the vote separately. It would abstain on those two paragraphs because of its reservations with regard to the Declaration of Mexico and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States; however, it would then be able to vote for the draft as a whole, to which it attached great importance, since a solution of the problem was absolutely essential to the future of mankind.

66. Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that his delegation would vote against draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1, the usefulness of which was inversely proportional to the exorbitant expenditures it would involve and which was designed to exploit the question of the equality of men and women for political and propaganda purposes. His delegation would abstain on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195.

67. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking on a point of order, expressed surprise at hearing the Belgian and United Kingdom delegations repeat the arguments put forward by the Italian delegation on behalf of the States members of the European Community. He emphasized that the Committee had no time to waste and must take a decision on the many draft resolutions before it.

68. Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that at the World Conference of the International Women's Year his delegation had been shocked to note the efforts made by one delegation in particular—a delegation which, incidentally, had consisted entirely of men—to inject into the resolutions, and ultimately into the Declaration of Mexico, the concept of eliminating zionism, which was highly debatable and entirely novel in the debates of the United Nations.

69. Mr. ELHOFARI (Libyan Arab Republic) recalled that the introduction of the concept of zionism had been debated and approved at the World Conference of the International Women's Year. Furthermore, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 3379 (XXX) on that subject. His delegation was prepared to take up the point again with those who had reopened the discussion, but it wished to point out that the Committee was currently concerned with explanations of vote on matters relating to the International Women's Year and the integration of women in development.

70. Mr. BROAD (United Kingdom) said that the choice of the International Women's Year as a means of introducing an ideological novelty fraught with serious consequences showed a certain disdain for the theme and objectives of the Conference. His delegation, together with some 20 others, had therefore been unable to support the Declara-

tion of Mexico and certain resolutions. Nevertheless, it would continue to support the Decade for Women and to co-operate with those delegations which took the view that questions relating to women's rights should be settled by consensus.

71. His delegation would abstain on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196, which brought in some questionable political assertions that were out of place and, in its view, unacceptable. The United Kingdom, which at Mexico City had made an offer of £600,000 for projects of concern to women, would not comment on draft decision A/C.3/L.2197. It would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, the subject of which—women in rural areas—should be given high priority. That vote was entirely without prejudice to the position his delegation had already stated with regard to the new international economic order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the various documents adopted at the Mexico City Conference. Lastly, his delegation would vote for draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2198 and A/C.3/L.2200.

72. Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands) said that his Government had been obliged to reconsider its position with regard to the Declaration of Mexico. After the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 3379 (XXX), which equated zionism with racism, the Declaration had taken on new and unacceptable dimensions which his Government could not agree to. The blanket endorsement of all action proposals which was contained in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 promoted divisiveness, contrary to the purpose stated in Article 1, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, according to which the United Nations was "To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends". His delegation also rejected the final paragraph of the operative part of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196 and was unable to accept draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1; it had already had occasion to express its misgivings or opposition with regard to many of the criteria laid down in the latter draft resolution.

73. In conclusion, he wished to make it clear that his Government supported the objectives of the International Women's Year and would co-operate in the attainment of them. In so doing, his Government would carefully examine all the activities envisaged, with a view to ensuring that they were not diverted from their legitimate purposes through the introduction of elements which had nothing to do with the struggle of women for emancipation, integration and equality of opportunity with men.

74. Mr. VON KYAW (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his delegation's position on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 had already been stated by the Italian representative, speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Economic Community.

75. His delegation would vote against draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1 because its wording was of a political nature and was designed to exploit the feminist issue for other purposes.

76. His delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196, since in particular it could not

accept either the fourth preambular paragraph or operative paragraph 3.

77. With regard to the other drafts, his delegation would be able to vote in favour of them. However, he recalled the reservations his delegation had made concerning the second and sixth preambular paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1 and said that it would abstain in a separate vote on those paragraphs.

78. With regard to the references to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, as well as to the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, contained in the sixth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, as well as the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, he recalled that his delegation had voted against the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and had expressed reservations concerning the conclusions of the sixth special session of the General Assembly. Although his Government's position in the matter remained unchanged, it nevertheless had a favourable attitude on the substance of the decisions taken at the seventh special session of the General Assembly.

79. Mrs. BEAGLE (New Zealand) said that her delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, in view of her country's support for the goals of the International Women's Year as set out in the Plan of Action and its commitment to translating those goals into action in New Zealand as speedily and effectively as possible. It had been her delegation's earnest desire that that draft resolution might be adopted by consensus. It regretted that that possibility had been compromised by the inclusion in the text of references to some irrelevant political issues mentioned in the Declaration of Mexico and some resolutions of the World Conference. In particular, New Zealand opposed the reference to zionism in the Declaration of Mexico and in resolution 32 of the World Conference, and it would therefore abstain in the vote on operative paragraphs 1 and 2 of the draft resolution.

80. Her delegation would also abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1, since it saw little in it which was relevant to the subject under discussion and did not believe that the introduction of political issues on which Member States were sharply divided would in any way advance the cause of women anywhere in the world.

81. Her delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196, believing that it contained proposals that would be of great assistance to countries in formulating their own domestic legislation. With regard to the term "racial discrimination" in operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, New Zealand wished to place on record once again its opposition to the General Assembly's characterization of zionism as a racist doctrine; it continued to regard as valid the definition of racial discrimination contained in article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106A (XX), annex).

82. Mrs. SALGADO DOS SANTOS (Brazil) said that her delegation would vote in favour of all the draft resolutions

before the Committee and wished to state her Government's particular interest in draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2195 and A/C.3/L.2196 aimed at carrying forward the work of the World Conference of the International Women's Year. Her Government believed that the integration and full participation of both sexes in the development process implied not only equality of rights and opportunities but also a fair sharing of duties and responsibilities. Her Government's position was based on the very nature of the national development project it had undertaken, aimed at the construction of a society which was completely open socially, racially and politically and in which opportunities were equal for all. That society would also be one capable of modifying its own institutions to conform to the country's social and economic realities, while observing full respect for the human values and cultural identity of the Brazilian people.

83. Mr. KEITA (Niger) said that his delegation was prepared to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200, with the hope that the Committee would take into account the amendment, proposed by the Algerian delegation. He shared the concern expressed by the Malian delegation in that connexion.

84. Mr. LUGO (Nicaragua) said that his delegation would vote against draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.2195 because they referred to documents which equated zionism with racism. His delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2196, A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.2200 and would vote in favour of draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2197 and A/C.3/L.2198.

85. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) said that he wished to explain how his delegation would vote on the draft resolutions of which it was not a sponsor.

86. His delegation was prepared to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, regarding it as the minimum acceptable in the existing circumstances, although it would have preferred a more precise wording for some paragraphs of that document. In particular, it believed that operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution should have supported the Declaration of Mexico more firmly and that operative paragraph 11 should have stated the role of the Economic and Social Council in the review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action. With regard to operative paragraph 20, it was his understanding that the wording finally adopted would be: "Decides to convene at the mid-term of the Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in 1980, a world conference of all States to review . . .", the rest of the text remaining unchanged. His delegation was prepared to vote in favour of that paragraph, with the understanding that it would in no way prejudice the political organizations or national liberation movements which had been recognized by United Nations resolutions and to which the United Nations had granted the right to participate as observers or otherwise in United Nations conferences.

87. His delegation would also vote in favour of draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2196, A/C.3/L.2197, A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.2200. With regard to the last-mentioned draft resolution, however, his delegation supported the Malian delegation's proposal to delete operative paragraph 1 (b).

88. Mr. FUENTES (Bolivia) said that his delegation would have preferred to vote without reservation in favour of draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1 and A/C.3/L.2195. Unfortunately, it would be unable to do so, since those two documents referred to the Declaration of Mexico, with which his delegation disagreed on several points. First of all, his delegation regretted the failure of that Declaration to condemn international terrorism, or at least to make a humanitarian appeal concerning it, since it constituted a danger to peace and tranquillity, a field in which women played a fundamental role. His delegation wished to emphasize in that connexion that it considered terrorism reprehensible in itself, irrespective of what its political goals were or where it was carried on. Secondly, his delegation did not accept the equating of zionism with racism, colonialism, and *apartheid*, since zionism was a religious ideal aimed at the return of Jews to the land of their ancestors, from which they had been expelled for so many centuries. His delegation would therefore be unable to accept as a legal definition a characterization which was nothing but a political expedient unworthy of inclusion in a document that was the official point of departure of a historic feminist movement.

89. Lastly, his delegation considered it unnecessary to recall its position concerning the situation in Chile. It had been sufficiently explicit, during the consideration of the relevant item, in stating its categorical opposition to all forms of interference in the internal affairs of any State.

90. Mrs. MARICO (Mali) said that she wished first of all to thank the Nigerian delegation and the other sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198 for having accepted her delegation's suggestion concerning the first preambular paragraph and thus enabled Mali to become a sponsor.

91. Her delegation had no difficulty in accepting draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, although it regretted that the sponsors had not accepted the amendments suggested by the Malagasy delegation with a view to making the document better balanced and more consistent with the objectives aimed at, particularly with respect to operative paragraph 10.

92. In connexion with draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, her delegation wished to ask the sponsors to what extent they had accepted the suggestions it had made.

93. Her delegation regretted the fact that the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200 had been unable to accept its suggestion to delete operative paragraph 1 (b). However, her delegation might be able to accept that document if the Algerian delegation's proposed amendment was accepted.

94. Mr. KIELLAND (Norway) said that his country attached the greatest importance to the decisions of the Mexico City Conference and considered it necessary to strengthen the role of women both nationally and at the global level. Consequently, Norway would actively promote the implementation of most of the decisions of that Conference concerning the status of women.

95. It was with regret, therefore, that his delegation would have to abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/

L.2195, which referred to all the resolutions adopted by the Mexico City Conference, including the paragraphs in the Declaration equating zionism with *apartheid*, racial discrimination and colonialism. For the same reason, Norway had been compelled to abstain at Mexico City in

the vote on that Declaration. The same reservation applied to all other draft resolutions before the Committee that contained implicit references to the elimination of zionism.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.

2181st meeting

Friday, 5 December 1975, at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2181

AGENDA ITEMS 75 AND 76

International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (concluded)

Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and co-operation between States (concluded) (A/10003, chap. III, sect. F; E/5725 and Add.1, A/10042, A/10045, A/10049 and Corr.1, A/10056, A/10057, A/10066, A/10070, A/10071, A/10073, A/10075, A/10076, A/10088, A/10089, A/10099, A/10107, A/10111, A/10138, A/10140, A/10160, A/10210, A/10263, A/10264, A/10340, A/C.3/643, A/C.3/644, A/C.3/647, A/C.3/648, A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2195-2198, A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2200, A/C.3/L.2206)

1. Mr. WILSON (Liberia) said that his country attached great importance to the resolutions adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year but regretted that the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace (see E/5725, chap. I) had political elements having no bearing on the improvement of the status of women. For that reason his delegation would vote against operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1 if a separate vote was taken on it. Liberia categorically rejected all futile attempts to equate zionism with racism.

2. Mr. CIELECKI (Poland) said that the two types of draft resolution submitted under items 75 and 76—those dealing with the practical working of United Nations machinery and those aimed at drawing up a long-term strategy—were of value to the work of the Committee. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1 belonged to the second category since it stressed the role women should play in strengthening international peace and security. In order to eliminate the existing discrimination against half of the world's population and ensure that women genuinely participated in solving existing and future social and political problems, that approach should be given practical expression, as operative paragraph 6 sought to do by providing for an exchange of experience among all countries of the world.

His delegation would therefore vote in favour of that draft resolution.

3. Miss WEEKES (Barbados) said that her delegation would support some of the draft resolutions before the Committee, but that did not mean that it acquiesced in the references to zionism contained in the Declaration of Mexico and other resolutions adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

4. Barbados had made its position quite clear by voting against the draft resolution determining zionism to be a form of racism and racial discrimination subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3379 (XXX). Her delegation would therefore abstain if separate votes were taken on those paragraphs of draft resolutions A/C.3/L.2195 and L.2199/Rev.1 which referred to the Declaration of Mexico and other related resolutions. It would likewise be unable to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1.

5. Mr. CAMPBELL (Australia) said that his delegation would vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, which could serve as a basis for national and international programmes of action.

6. His delegation regretted that, in the seventh preambular paragraph and in operative paragraphs 1 and 2, resolutions and documents adopted at the Mexico City Conference which had been and continued to be unacceptable to his delegation were referred to and endorsed. The introduction into the text in that way of extraneous political considerations could undermine the objectives of the draft resolution. If a separate vote was taken on operative paragraphs 1 and 2, his delegation would vote against the first and abstain on the second.

7. It would also vote against draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1 which contained too much that was totally irrelevant to the International Women's Year.

8. Finally, it would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196 because it could not accept the wider definition of "racism and racial discrimination" that had regrettably been adopted some weeks earlier.

9. Mr. NAJAR (Israel) said that his delegation would vote against draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1 for two rea-