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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fourth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Tuesday, 16 May 1950, at 3 p. m.

CONTENTS:

- Educational opportunities for women (E/CN.6/L.17) (continued)
- Communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/L.16)
- Technical assistance programme in relation to the status of women (Report by the Secretary-General) (E/CN.6/145, E/CN.6/L.18)

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX	France
<u>Members:</u>	Miss McCORKINDALE	Australia
	Miss ZUNG	China
	Miss MORALES	Costa Rica
	Miss PEDERSEN	Denmark
	Mrs. TSALDARIS	Greece
	Mrs. SEN	India
	Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY	Lebanon

Members: (continued)

Mrs. CASTILLO LEDON	Mexico
Mrs. PEKTAS	Turkey
Miss SUTHERLAND	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mrs. GOLDMAN	United States of America
Mrs. URDANETA	Venezuela

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Miss FAIRCHILD	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Miss CHATON	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

Miss SENDER	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
Miss BERG	World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)
Mrs. GORDON SPRAGUE	

Category B:

Miss TOMLINSON	International Federation of Business and Professional Women
Miss ROBB	International Federation of University Women
Miss GARTLAN	International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues
Miss SCHAEFER	
Miss ARNOLD	World's Young Women's Christian Association

Also present:

Mrs. MENDOZA de BARRET	Inter-American Commission for Women
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Secretariat:

Mrs. MYRDAL	Top-Ranking Director of the Social Affairs Division
Mr. LIN MOUSHENG	Division of Human Rights
Mrs. MENON	Secretary of the Commission

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN (E/CN.6/L.17)

1. At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mrs. MENON (Secretariat) read the draft resolution proposed by the Resolutions Committee dealing with educational opportunities for women (E/CN.6/L.17).

2. Miss FAIRCHILD (International Labour Organisation) expressed great interest in paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. She thought that the subject could be advantageously included in the ILO programme, although for the time being she was unable to say exactly how it would be dealt with. She suggested the following drafting change to that paragraph:

"Requests the Secretary-General to invite the ILO to collaborate in the study and promotion of measures for the development of vocational guidance and vocational and technical education among women."

3. The CHAIRMAN observed that at the previous day's meeting certain representatives had made suggestions regarding the training of women in rural areas, scholarships, the education of women in the under-developed areas and other interesting points which might be included in a separate resolution. In the meantime, members could give the question further consideration and perhaps submit concrete ideas at the meeting to be held the following day.

4. Miss CHATON (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) regretted that the question of scholarships, which had already been discussed, was not being pursued, although of course the Commission had the right to change its mind if it so desired.

5. The CHAIRMAN explained that the draft resolution covered only the basic points; the views which had been expressed by various representatives on other items could be included in the report, and the brevity of the resolution could thus be compensated by the preparation of a report which would go into greater detail.

/6. She put

6. She put to the vote the draft resolution proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

The draft resolution was unanimously adopted.

7. At the request of the CHAIRMAN, Mrs. MENON (Secretariat) read the report of the Committee on Communications (E/CN.6/L.16).

The report was unanimously adopted.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME IN RELATION TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN (REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL) (E/CN.6/145, E/CN.6/L.18)

8. Miss FAIRCHILD (International Labour Organisation) emphasized the interest of the specialized agencies in the technical assistance programme. She was glad to note that the comments of the ILO on the matter of enforcement of labour legislation, including labour inspection, had been included in the annex. It was impossible as yet to say exactly what kind of programme would be prepared and for the time being only general definitions could be made. The question could, however, be considered in greater detail when invitations and suggestions had been received from the various Governments which might be able to derive benefit from technical assistance programmes.

9. Referring to a previous statement of the United Kingdom representative, she pointed out that there was no intention on the part of the ILO to limit such assistance to industrialized areas. There were also problems of a different nature; in the Far East and in Latin America, for example, the needs were accentuated in the field of agriculture and handicrafts and those points certainly would not be overlooked.

10. With regard to agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organization would participate by assisting in technical methods, while the International Labour Organisation would co-operate in the question of workers' conditions.

11. The assistance of experts and the use of experience already gained by various countries in solving different problems represented in fact the very core of effective technical assistance.

12. Vocational guidance, employment services and migration services where required were major points in the ILO plan for the development of manpower in the

/various countries;

various countries; improved inspection services, adequate controls and social security were also included in the ILO programme.

13. It was hoped that countries could collaborate not only by contributions of "hard" currency where possible, but also by the loan of the services of experts transportation facilities or other hospitality which they might be in a position to provide.

14. With regard to women's interests, the Commission should regard the scheme as a continuing programme; it was hoped that the guidance of the Commission on the Status of Women and the co-operation of the various Governments in different ways would combine to make the programme really effective.

15. Miss ARNOLD (World's Young Women's Association) said that Mrs. Myrdal's statement, in conjunction with the report by the Secretary-General on the technical assistance programme in relation to the status of women (E/CN.6/145), showed of what concern the programme of technical assistance was to women.

16. Referring to the role of non-governmental organizations, she stated that her organization had attempted to inform its local and national branches of their responsibilities in connexion with technical assistance. Women in countries which were able to provide funds or supply experts had a general responsibility, and women in countries which were beneficiaries under the programme had the responsibility of seeing that technical assistance plans were applied in a rational manner. They must bear in mind the importance of taking the necessary measures to protect the integrity of the family in the case of the rapid industrialization of a country, or of sudden change in its cultural background. During rapid industrialization there was a danger that the education of women might be neglected, in particular that of girls who married very young, and care must be taken to ensure that they were given an education which would enable them to assume their proper place in the community. There was also the problem of providing suitable lodgings for young girls and single women separated from their families,

17. The task of the non-governmental organizations was to assist national and local organizations to grasp the full importance for women of technical assistance projects, and to inform women of the possibilities and consequences of the application of a given project. She hoped that the Secretariat and the

/specialized agencies

specialized agencies would gradually supply documentation on the subject which would facilitate that task. She also hoped that the experience of organizations which had pioneered in the field of technical assistance could be placed at the disposal of the missions of experts.

18. Mrs. URDANETA (Venezuela) read the text of the Mexican draft resolution on technical assistance in relation to the status of women (E/CN.6/L.20), which had been submitted to the Committee on Resolutions.

19. Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) said that document E/CN.6/145, supplemented by the statements by Mrs. Myrdal and the representative of the International Labour Organisation, gave a clear picture of what had already been decided on the subject. Discussion in the Commission at its previous session had appeared to indicate a desire for special technical assistance for women, but no concrete suggestions were made. She thought that all would agree with the soundness of the guiding principles in the Economic and Social Council's resolutions of 14 and 15 August 1949 (E/1546), which emphasized that the primary objective was economic development and increased productivity of material and human resources.

20. The Mexican draft resolution, which was in very general terms, might serve as a remainder of the Commission's interest in the subject. It would be difficult to draft a more precise resolution because of lack of knowledge of projects likely to be carried out. She thought, however, that a resolution was not necessary at that juncture, if the Commission noted in its report its interest in the subject from the point of view of the benefits which the programme would bring to women.

21. She indicated that excerpts quoted in the Annex to document E/CN.6/145 were of considerable interest. They indicated that the specialized agencies had anticipated the type of problem which might arise, such as that of the transfer of young women from over-populated industrial areas to areas in which new industries had been established, or the question of the role of women in agricultural communities.

22. In conclusion, she had been impressed by the scope of the intended assistance, and by the large number of points at which it might affect women's lives. The technical assistance programme, by raising economic standards and developing the level of production, would provide a real basis for improving the social position of women in under-developed countries.

23. Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) said that she had been reassured by the study of document E/CN.6/145 and by the excellent work done by the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization. The draft resolution submitted by the Mexican representative might be of value in proving the Commission's continuing interest in the subject.

24. The Commission might point out some of the problems certain to arise during the application of the technical assistance programme. New means of communication and increased production would bring about changes in family living standards and a new type of family life. The participation of women and young people as workers might give rise to social conflicts. As the representative of the ILO had pointed out, workers must be protected from exploitation by the proper administration of intelligent legal provisions.

25. Mrs. CASTILLO LEDON (Mexico) said she had been much interested in the statements by the representatives of the ILO and the World's Young Women's Christian Association and by Mrs. Myrdal.

26. There were many aspects of the work and well-being of women which would require to be safeguarded during the application of the technical assistance programme. She had therefore submitted a draft resolution on the subject. Its terminology was intentionally general, so as to cover the interests of women working both in factories and in agriculture, and other aspects of women's work and family life which might require protection.

27. Mrs. JURDAK KHOURY (Lebanon) agreed with the Mexican representative that the draft resolution must be phrased in general terms. After the Technical Assistance Conference had been held, it would be possible to be more specific.

28. Many Governments, among them her own, were interested in the Technical Assistance Conference and were already preparing detailed programmes of action. The technical assistance programme for her country would be primarily concerned with hydraulic engineering, the improvement of livestock and seed, and agricultural development.

29. She proposed that the Mexican draft resolution should be referred to the Committee on Resolutions so that it might be considered by the Commission later.

/30. Miss SENDER

30. Miss SENDER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions) said that it was the desire of economically advanced countries to give all possible assistance to under-developed countries in order to enable them to speed up the process of industrialization, and to save them from the mistakes which they themselves had made during their industrialization.

31. She drew the Commission's attention to her suggestion, made at the beginning of the discussion on technical assistance, that field missions should include a representative of labour. The International Labour Organisation also represented the workers' interests, but from a theoretical and legislative point of view. It would therefore be useful to have someone with experience in those fields who could give advice and assistance on questions of training, methods of work, the organization of trade unions and training of union officers, and, in general, on the whole theoretical relationship between labour and management.

32. Miss CHATON (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) stated that UNESCO had prepared its technical assistance programme which had been forwarded to Governments for their consideration. The role of UNESCO in the matter was to provide technical assistance, upon request, in fields within its competence.

33. Broadly speaking, UNESCO's requirements for specialists and experts in its programme of technical assistance would call for skilled personnel, both male and female. The employment of qualified women experts might, in certain instances, be limited due to climatic conditions in certain parts of the world to which missions would be sent upon specific requests by Governments.

34. The Secretariat was drawing up a central roster of experts and specialists which would give full details of the skilled personnel available from Member Governments to undertake assignments under UNESCO's technical assistance programme. It was essential that all potential sources should be approached in order to establish an effective nucleus of personnel. The Commission for the Status of Women, in its relations with women's institutes, girls' colleges and other establishments, might be able to offer contributions to that central roster.

35. Fundamental and adult education would play an important part in UNESCO's technical assistance programme, as it aimed at the improvement by education of the standard of living of the people through campaigns to promote literacy and education in health and agriculture, to encourage small industries and handicrafts and to develop co-operatives.

36. UNESCO was currently studying the possibilities of an overall scheme for fellowship administration in conjunction with the other organizations participating in the technical assistance programme. In view of the importance that Governments might attach to the increase of women teachers in their educational campaigns, it was anticipated that women candidates would often be appointed by such Governments to attend study groups or to participate in the training facilities provided by UNESCO.

37. Mrs. MYRDAL (Secretariat) felt that the Commission would be interested to know that the Social Commission had recently adopted two resolutions which had a direct bearing on the current debate. In one of them the question was more particularly raised of providing safeguards against the possible disruption of social values through economic development. In that resolution the Secretary-General was requested, among other things, to report on the work carried out for social development and community welfare in under-developed countries, particularly in rural areas, by indigenous voluntary organizations, noting in particular the basic principles and methods found effective in the conduct of that work, and to examine and ascertain the ways in which those organizations were seeking to relate social welfare to economic changes currently taking place in their countries.

38. With reference to the point raised by the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, it would be noted that the second resolution adopted by the Social Commission requested the Secretary-General to take steps to assure that economic exploratory missions where possible should include qualified experts to study social conditions, including basic cultural factors, to advise on the social effects of the proposed economic development projects and on measures to prevent the development of social problem that would interfere with economic development, and to make recommendations as to projects to assist countries in dealing with social problems affecting their productive capacities.

39. While the resolution made no specific reference to representatives of labour^{or} of women, it was likely that the expert appointed to study social conditions would take those aspects into consideration. It was, of course, open to the Commission to stress its particular interest in that respect.

/40. The CHAIRMAN

40. The CHAIRMAN proposed, in the light of the discussions which had taken place at the meeting, to defer a decision on the resolutions submitted by the representatives of Mexico and Australia on the question of technical assistance.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.