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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Seventh session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 25 March 1953, at 12.20 p.m.

CONTENTS

Political rights of women (E/CN.6/209, 210, 211, 212, 212/Add.1,
A/2154, A/2154/Add.1 and 2, E/CN.6/L.97/Rev.1, L.99, L.100/Rev.1,
L.102, L.103) (continued)

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Miss BERNARDINO	Dominican Republic
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Begum ANWAR AHMED	Pakistan

PRESENT: (continued)

Members:

Daw OHN	Burma
Mrs. NOVIKOVA	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Mrs. GALLO-MULLER	Chile
Miss TSENG	China
Miss MAÑAS	Cuba
Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX	France
Mrs. GUERY	Haiti
Mrs. TABET	Lebanon
Miss PELETIER	Netherlands
Miss YOUNG	New Zealand
Mrs. WASILKOWSKA	Poland
Mrs. POPOVA	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mrs. WARDE	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mrs. HAHN	United States of America
Mrs. SANCHEZ de URDANETA	Venezuela

Also present:

Miss FUJITA	Japan
Mrs. de CASTILLO	Ecuador
Mrs. de CALVO	Inter-American Commission of Women

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mrs. FAIRCHILD	International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Mrs. MYRDAL	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

Mr. WAGNER	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
Miss KAHN	World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
Mrs. BERESFORD-FOX	World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

Category B and Register:

Mrs. ROBERTS	Associated Country Women of the World
Mrs. MAHON	International Alliance of Women
Mrs. LAGEMANN	International Federation of Friends of Young Women

Category B and Register: (continued)

Miss ROBB	International Federation of University Women
Miss LA LONDE) Miss SMITH)	International Federation of Women Lawyers
Mrs. WOLLE-EGENOLF) Mrs. WISNER)	International League for the Rights of Man
Mrs. EVANS	Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations
Mrs. MCGIVERN	Pax Romana
Mrs. MALIN) Mrs. WALSER)	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
Miss ZIZZAMIA	World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
Miss FORSYTH	World's Young Women's Christian Association
<u>Secretariat:</u> Mrs. TENISON-WOODS	Chief of the Status of Women Section
Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER	Secretary of the Commission

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN (E/CN.6/209, 210, 211, 212, 212/Add.1, A/2154, A/2154/Add.1 and 2, E/CN.6/L.97/Rev.1, L.99, L.100/Rev.1, L.102, L.103)
(continued)

The CHAIRMAN announced that two Member States, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, had granted their representatives the necessary powers to sign the Convention on the Political Rights of Women. She reminded members that the Convention would be opened for signature on 31 March and expressed the hope that a large number of States Members of the United Nations, and in particular those which were represented on the Commission on the Status of Women, would sign that important international instrument.

She called on the Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions to submit the drafts which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Commission.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France), Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, referred to the draft resolution submitted to the Commission by the delegations of Cuba and the Dominican Republic (E/CN.6/L.99). The only change made in the text by the Committee had been the addition of question 23 to those in the Trusteeship Council's questionnaire which particularly concerned the Commission. The symbol of the proposed new text was E/CN.6/L.102.

The draft resolution E/CN.6/L.102 was adopted by 16 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) explained that the French delegation had abstained because in its view it was a mistake to adopt a special text concerning the women of the Trust Territories and thus to place them, so to speak, in a class apart.

Speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, she submitted the revised text of the draft resolution sponsored by the delegations of the Netherlands, the United States of America and Venezuela (E/CN.6/97/Rev.1). By a majority vote the Committee proposed the deletion of the phrase in paragraph 2 of the operative part: "and in particular, its organization under major agenda topics". It also proposed that the words "a further report along this line", in paragraph 6 of the operative part, should be replaced by "a further and more complete report".

The draft resolution submitted by the Netherlands, the United States of America and Venezuela (E/CN.6/L.97/Rev.1), as amended by the Committee on Resolutions, was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 3 abstentions.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France), Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, drew attention to the draft resolution submitted by Cuba and the Dominican Republic (E/CN.6/L.100/Rev.1) and to the United Kingdom amendment thereto (E/CN.6/L.103).

At the meeting of the Committee on Resolutions the sponsors of the draft resolution had agreed to replace the preamble of their text by that of the text proposed by the United Kingdom, subject to a few drafting changes; the preamble of the draft resolution now submitted to the Committee therefore read: "Considering that in some areas of the world, including certain Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, women do not enjoy full political rights and that progress in this field can be achieved more readily if the education of women receives greater emphasis".

The sponsors of the draft resolution had also agreed to replace paragraph 2 of the draft resolution by the third paragraph of the United Kingdom text (E/CN.6/L.103).

On the other hand, they had not agreed to replace paragraph 1 of the operative part of their text by the United Kingdom text and the United Kingdom representative had announced that she would alter her own amendment and propose a new text for paragraph 1 of the operative part which she hoped would satisfy the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mrs. WARDE (United Kingdom) thanked the sponsors of the draft resolution for accepting the first and third paragraphs of her amendment. The original text of the draft had drawn a distinction between Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories on the one hand, and other territories on the other, which her delegation could not accept; it was an important question of principle and that was why she had submitted her amendment.

She would have preferred the second paragraph of her amendment to remain as it stood; in a spirit of compromise, however, she suggested the following wording in the hope that it would meet with the approval of the sponsors of the draft resolution:

"Invites the General Assembly or the Trusteeship Council, as appropriate, in collaboration with the governments of all States which administer territories, including Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, where women do not enjoy full political rights, to take all necessary measures leading to the development of political rights of women in such territories, in particular by means of education."

Miss MAÑAS (Cuba) said that she could agree to that text because, firstly, it re-established the invitation to the General Assembly and the Trusteeship Council to take the necessary measures in collaboration with governments, and, secondly, it explicitly referred to the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. She was therefore prepared to accept it.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of the Dominican Republic, said she too was prepared to agree to the new text proposed by the United Kingdom representative, for the reasons given by the Cuban representative.

She put to the vote the draft resolution submitted by Cuba and the Dominican Republic, as amended. She pointed out that the preamble and the second paragraph of the operative part were taken from document E/CN.6/L.103, subject to the drafting changes in the preamble mentioned by the French representative, and that the text just read out by the United Kingdom representative now formed the first paragraph of the operative part.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Miss YOUNG (New Zealand) said that she had voted for the resolution on the understanding that the word "territories" in the first paragraph of the operative part referred to metropolitan territories as much as to Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.