

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL****CONSEIL
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINTH MEETING
OF THE
SUB-COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**Held at Gillet Hall, Hunter College, New York,
13 May 1946 at 3:30 PMMembers Present:

Mrs. Bodil Bogtrup - Chairman
Miss Minerva Bernardino
Miss Angela Jurdak
Miss F. Kalinowska
Mme. Marie-Helene Lefauchaux - unable to attend
Mrs. Hansa Mehta
Mrs. W. S. New
Mrs. Roosevelt - ex officio
Mr. Cassir

The chairman opened the meeting and asked the rapporteur to present her report on the first session of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women. Miss Jurdak read the report to the Sub-Commission (Document E/HR/ST/13).

Miss Bernardino moved that the report should be adopted by acclamation, subject to minor drafting amendments, since it was a good and clear report and embodied the views of all the members of the Sub-Commission after many hours of discussion both in private and in public. The report was then adopted by the Sub-Commission.

Miss Bernardino proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Rapporteur and secretaries of the Sub-Commission for their work and co-operation. This was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Bogtrup, the chairman, then said:

"Before closing the sessions of this Sub-Commission, I want to thank the members for the good work they have done and for the spirit of comradeship in which they have worked.

"I think that many of you, as I did on my way over here, wondered how it would be possible in so short a time to make plans about how to raise the status of women in the world together with a group of women you had never met before, women with such different experiences and backgrounds as we have, and I must say that I am deeply impressed and highly encouraged by the way in which this group has become a working team of mutual interest and fine understanding of how the interests and wishes of other people must get their part without losing your own

standpoint.

"In doing this work we have just agreed about the purpose, the programme and the methods of work, and thus made a broad outline of all the main fields where we find it necessary to raise the status of women so that it could be equal with men, and there in a short summary we have marked the practical work we wish taken up as a start as soon as possible.

"We have done our best and felt the great responsibility, and still I am sure there will be found gaps here and there when the women's organizations all over the world - as we wish they will - carefully go through it and the programme will be more complete when we get their suggestions.

"To our sisters here in the United States I will say that we believe in them, that they take a special interest in this, being so near the Headquarters and being among the most forward nations as they are. On the other hand I must stress that this is a United Nations report which scope is wider than the domestic problems of any country, and as it was said in the open letter to the women in the world from the women delegates and advisers at the first assembly of the United Nations in London.

"We recognize that women in various parts of the world are at different stages of participation in the life of their communities, that some of them are prevented by law from assuming full rights of citizenship, and that they therefore may see their immediate problems somewhat differently."

"I want also to thank the Secretariat and the Staff for their fine collaboration in spite of many practical difficulties.

"And now this report sails forward with our good wishes - I hope we will get the practical things we wish - the office, the survey, the stimulation of public opinion, stress political rights and education.

"And it is my sincere belief that it will stimulate the interest and faith in the United Nations among women all over the world if they, as soon as possible, get the feeling that this great organization is also interested in them.

"Coming out here one day with a United Nations car, one of the chauffeurs asked me how can so many ladies work well together when men always grumble, and I told him that it was because we all wanted the same thing, namely peace. I think that in raising the status of women we make a step forward towards this great goal."

Miss Kalinowska thought, and the members agreed, that the Sub-Commission should pay special homage to Mrs. Roosevelt, one of the greatest personalities of her country, who was a living example of what women could do.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 PM sine die.
