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## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-sixth Session

### SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 635th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Wednesday, 15 September 1976, at 3.10 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. GONZALEZ de CUADROS (Colombia)

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THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, 1976-1985  
(agenda item 4) (continued):

- (a) EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR  
(E/CN.6/593)
- (b) THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE AND RELATED QUESTIONS INCLUDING TECHNICAL  
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STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE AND IN THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION (E/CN.6/598, 599)
- (d) PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE 1980 CONFERENCE (E/CN.6/600; E/CN.6/NGO/258)

1. Mrs. AFKHAMI (Iran) said that, the commencement of the United Nations Decade for Women marked a turning point in the Commission's history. International Women's Year had brought home to women more sharply than ever before how powerless they were. It had touched the lives of too few women and had foundered on the chronic apathy of most Governments. The activities and strategies for the Year had lacked a rationale and had not been incorporated into an integrated and broad framework. It was the Commission's duty to ensure that future initiatives, in particular the 1980 Conference and the Decade for Women, did not suffer the same fate.

2. The full integration of women in the development process would require far-reaching changes, not only in social institutions, but also in the psychology of society. In the first place, social structures, institutions and values should be freed from innate discrimination against women. Secondly, the attitudes of individuals and whole communities should not limit women's participation and contribution. Thirdly, women must acquire a knowledge of political, administrative and economic realities and develop an ability to use that knowledge to their own ends. The goal of full integration of women in the development process placed a responsibility on Governments to eliminate obstacles to its achievement, on the women of each country to participate fully in its pursuit, and on the Commission to ensure that the proposed draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women outlined the measures that Governments must take to remove any existing obstacles.

3. Women were traditionally individualistic, but at the present stage in their history, if significant and lasting changes were to occur, that attitude had to be replaced by a collective approach encompassing as diverse a range of women as possible. Development should not benefit only small privileged groups of women, nor should only a few women participate in the planning that was necessary.

4. To emphasize the need for the full integration and participation of women in the development process was not to be committed to separate development for women, but, rather, to strive for women's recognition as an essential component in each development project. That should be borne in mind when the progress made under the International Development Strategy was reviewed and evaluated. Each project should be planned with a full understanding of the special factors and attitudes affecting women, and each should cover any special needs or problems which women might have.
5. Serious imbalances already existed and might well become more marked during the Decade. They included a steadily increasing number of women illiterates, an anticipated decline in the percentage of women in the work force, an increase in the number of women suffering from malnutrition, and an increasing proportion of dependents in most populations. All those constraints would work against the full integration of women in the development process and the achievement of the World Plan of Action's minimum targets for 1980. Two further important constraints were the persistence of community attitudes which limited women's interests and energies to narrow traditional fields, and the fear of change and the unknown generated by women's demands. The task was, on the one hand, to satisfy certain basic needs in order to bring women to the threshold of participation and, on the other, to bring down the barrier of fear and promote new attitudes that would help women to cross that threshold.
6. The purpose of institutions and programmes for women, such as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the establishment of which had been proposed by the head of the Iranian delegation to the Mexico Conference of 1975, should be to define and explain both the need for changes and the direction those changes should take. Precious time and resources should no longer be wasted on unco-ordinated, aimless ad hoc activities. Development plans and programmes should no longer be based on an inappropriate and harmful interpretation of women's aspirations and abilities. Women should take their place within and throughout society as a whole. The International Women's Year had failed to achieve that objective, which must now be attained by the Decade.
7. The mid-decade 1980 Conference was to be an event of crucial importance. National and regional planning for the Conference should begin at once; in her own country, preliminary preparatory meetings had already been held. All Governments should demonstrate the same commitment and concern.
8. Apart from agreeing on a common approach, the 1980 Conference would have to assess the success of the Second Development Decade and the extent to which the social aims of the International Development Strategy had been achieved with respect to women. In that connexion, she wished to make two separate proposals. First, the Secretary-General should be requested to prepare a report for the 1980 Conference outlining an approach for achieving the objective of the Decade. The report should deal with both national and international policies and stress the need for a full commitment on the part of each country. The approach should be devised to ensure that the economic, social, political and human constraints were minimized and an effective infrastructure for future development created.

9. The second proposal was that, in preparing for the Conference, the Commission should not merely draw up a detailed agenda but should also, in consultation with all relevant United Nations agencies, with the proposed International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and with existing and proposed regional centres and programmes, as well as with national bodies, research institutions and experts, endeavour to stimulate national and regional planning in preparation for the Conference.

10. As for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action which the Commission was requested to undertake under General Assembly resolution 3490 (XXX), she wondered whether, in view of the limited time and facilities available at the present session, the Commission might not set up a group to carry out such a review and appraisal and to report its findings and conclusions to the Commission at its next session. Should that idea be acceptable, the terms of reference of such a group might be drawn up at the present session.

11. Princess PREM PURACHATRA (Thailand) said that, in spite of the political disturbances in her country in 1974-1975, the Government of Thailand had acted in accordance with its endorsement of the Declaration of the International Women's Year by appointing a special committee to mark the Year with various activities.

12. Under the Thai Constitution, there was absolute equality between men and women, and new laws were being enacted by Parliament to eliminate any remaining inequalities in legislation. Women were to be found in every profession and calling, including the armed forces and police, agriculture, banking, business and industries, and participated actively in the "Village Scouts Movement" which promoted friendship and peace within the country, as well as in assisting refugees from neighbouring countries.

13. The Thai Government was associating non-governmental organizations with the National Development Plan, in which priority was being given to the task of limiting population growth. She added that a special bureau had been created to follow up the work of the International Women's Year. However, despite co-operation between the Throne, the Government and the people, represented by nearly 1,000 non-governmental organizations, difficulties were being encountered due to the lack of trained leaders, adequate publicity, and communication between the United Nations, the Government and the non-governmental organizations.

14. Mrs. SALYO (Indonesia) said that, in observing the International Women's Year, her Government had placed equal emphasis on activities in rural and urban areas. More than half of Indonesia's women lived in the rural areas, and the task of bridging the gap between conditions in those areas and those in the more developed centres was therefore most important. The main features of rural conditions were a relatively high rate of illiteracy among women, the absence of technological means of reducing women's heavy workload, and the high rate of migration of young women from villages to urban centres. The programme for the Decade should accommodate those problems as far as possible, in particular by including schemes for non-formal education commensurate with the magnitude of the

problem. It would also be useful to examine the adverse impact of development on women, such as the loss of traditional employment opportunities and the obvious hazards and hardships for untrained village women plunged into an urban setting.

15. Ms. FREDERICK (United States of America) suggested that an efficient way of dealing with agenda items 4(b), (c) and (d) would be for the Commission to break up into a number of very small, language-compatible groups which would meet for one or two afternoons and then report back to the plenary. Possible subjects for discussion might be: priorities for action in the second half of the Decade; current and potential use of the Voluntary Fund; a plan for the future use and support of the International Institute; priorities for the Inter-agency Programmes; a review of the work of regional commissions, conferences and seminars and of national workshops; the development of a system for measuring progress; an evaluation of the Commission's interaction with the United Nations system; and the preparation of a course of action for the 1980 Conference. That procedure would enable every delegation to express its views on each specific subject, would bring out a variety of new ideas, and would assist the Commission as a whole in drawing up a strategy for the Decade which was responsive to the needs of individual countries, particularly the developing countries.

16. Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that important advances in the field of women's rights had taken place in the United Kingdom during the International Women's Year; the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975 had been enacted, the Equal Pay Act of 1970 had come fully into force, and the Equal Opportunities Commission had been established. Other recent measures furthering equality for women included the Social Security Pensions Act of 1975 and the Employment Protection Act of 1975. The achievements of the International Women's Year should now be followed up by a sustained effort extending over the entire Decade. In her view, the principal task was to find and encourage women of potential to become experts in various fields; the non-governmental organizations could do a tremendous amount in that connexion.

17. The record as regards the representation of women on public bodies was disgraceful in all but a small handful of countries. That was no doubt due to the fact that women generally had to play a double or even triple role in life. In that connexion, she emphasized the importance of sharing household duties between the sexes. The monetary value of the homemaker was grossly underrated; a recent study had shown that a mother's work, in money terms, was of the order of £4,700 p.a. while that of a homemaker without children was of the order of £2,000 p.a. Governments and non-governmental organizations would do well to conduct research into the matter with a view to correcting the situation in the course of the United Nations Decade for Women.

18. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) said that, in accordance with the World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, her Government had organized an International Seminar on Women's Participation and Development: Building Leadership from the Grass-roots, which had been held at Islamabad in November 1975 and had received assistance from the United Nations. The Seminar had made specific recommendations concerning programmes for women's education and training, particularly in rural areas, and had called for the establishment of a national committee to co-ordinate women's activities in Pakistan and to plan a future strategy for the integration of women in the national development effort.

19. She noted that the constitution of her country now contained several provisions relating to the elimination of discrimination against women. Legislation alone did not, however, make women free and, accordingly, her country's national strategy provided for continuing education for women at all levels. One of the results of the International Women's Year in her country had been the enactment of legislation designed to eliminate the evil of the dowry as a social tradition. The law restricted the value of dowries and placed limitations on the amounts which could be spent on marriages.

20. In addition to the national co-ordinating committee established as a result of the International Women's Year, regional and provincial committees had been set up in her country to meet the need for communication at all levels concerning women's problems. In 1976, her country would celebrate a women's week in order to continue to draw attention to women's problems. Village women had suggested that "village fairs" should be held during the women's week to provide information on activities relating, for example, to family planning, education and the participation of women in the national development process. In that connexion, she noted that her country and other developing countries often required technical assistance to carry out development activities. To that end, the know-how of the non-governmental organizations could be very valuable, and her Government had established a permanent council within the Women's Rights Committee which was presided over by a member of a non-governmental organization.

21. Pakistan attached great importance to efforts being made to evaluate the work of women who were housewives, as had been stated by the representative of her country at the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

22. Ms. HOERZ (German Democratic Republic) said her country had welcomed and supported the goals and objectives of the International Women's Year, as was evident from the report on the activities it had undertaken in 1975 which it had submitted to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly (A/10263). The systematic advancement of women had, moreover, always been an integral part of her country's national policy. During the International Women's Year, working women had taken an active part in the development of the national economy and had contributed to efforts to improve the living conditions of all citizens. At the same time, all social forces in the country had agreed that women should be encouraged to participate in national development efforts, while fulfilling their tasks as wives and mothers. The International Women's Year had thus marked a new stage in co-operation to promote the equality of women and men throughout the world.

23. In October 1975, her country had been host to the World Congress of Women in Berlin, as a demonstration of its awareness that efforts to strengthen international peace and security could not be successful without the full participation of women. Accordingly, her country supported measures being taken by the United Nations to promote the aims of the International Women's Year and was in favour of strengthening détente and halting the arms race, which involved the use of resources that could be devoted to the strengthening of peace and the promotion of social progress. In that connexion, her country attached particular importance to the inclusion in the programme for the Decade for women of measures designed to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure their participation in development efforts.

24. Mrs. ROMANOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said that, since the International Women's Year, her country had supported the efforts being made by the United Nations to encourage the involvement of women in the social and economic development of their countries and to promote increasing awareness of the fact that the equality of men and women and the elimination of discrimination of all kinds were essential to efforts to maintain international peace and security.

25. During the International Women's Year, the Praesidium of her country had decided to establish a Commission for Women, which had prepared a programme of events to be held during the Year and had carried out many activities designed to improve the working conditions of women and to promote their participation in national and international life. Women had also taken part in conferences and meetings on science, technology and health, and new child-care centres and maternity homes had been built. In 1975, women had become more involved in the cultural life of the country, and the radio, television, press and film industry had stressed the important role of women in national life. In August 1975, representatives of national women's organizations from 27 countries had taken part in the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the victory over fascism held at Minsk. Representatives of her country had also attended the Congress of Young Women held in Moscow, the World Congress of Women in Berlin and the World Conference of the International Women's Year in Mexico. Lastly, she recalled that her delegation had wholeheartedly supported the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 3250 (XXX) proclaiming the United Nations Decade for Women, 1976-1985.

26. Ms. TAKAHASHI (International Labour Organisation), introducing document E/CN.6/603, which contained the ILO's report on its activities of special interest to women, said that the report did not refer to all ILO activities of interest to women workers but only to those which were specifically directed towards women workers. Among other ILO activities, such as standard-setting, research and studies which concerned both men and women, she referred in particular to the Tripartite World Employment Conference held in Geneva in June 1976. The Conference had recognized that, in many developing countries, women constituted the group at the bottom of the ladder in respect of employment, poverty, education, training and status, and had recommended that special emphasis should be placed on promoting the status, education, development and employment of women and on integrating them into the economic and civic life of their countries.

27. The Conference had also stressed that all national development plans and policies should include, as a priority objective, the promotion of employment and the satisfaction of the basic needs of each country's population. Basic needs included certain minimum requirements of the family for private consumption, adequate food, shelter, clothing, household equipment and furniture, as well as essential services provided by and for the community as a whole, such as safe drinking water, sanitation, public transport and health, educational and cultural facilities. The Conference had recognized that women played a very important role in satisfying such basic needs since they were the main providers of food and clothing and the first to suffer from poor sanitation and health conditions and the lack of educational facilities. The Conference had therefore recommended that the workload of women should be alleviated through improvements

in their working and living conditions and the provision of more resources for investment in favour of women in rural areas. Of particular significance for future United Nations activities concerning women was the fact that the Conference had requested that policies required to meet basic needs should be made part of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade, and that they should form the core of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade. Accordingly, it was to be hoped that Governments and the United Nations system would finally devote more attention to women's needs, not only for the benefit of women, but also for that of society as a whole.

28. Mrs. HEIKAL (League of Arab States) said that the Commission on the Status of Arab Women had been established as a result of the realization that the participation of women in the development of their countries was of crucial importance and that, despite many progressive constitutional and legal provisions giving women equal rights with men in many countries of the Arab world, there was still a gap between law and practice. It had therefore been decided to establish a women's organization which would focus attention on the special problems of women, co-ordinate the activities of Governments and non-governmental women's associations, and provide a useful link with the United Nations organs and specialized agencies concerned with women's affairs. The terms of reference of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women were, inter alia, to recommend measures which could help to solve women's problems and enable them to take part in the development of their countries. The recommendations adopted by the Commission at the current session would be submitted to the fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women to be held on 23 October 1976 at Baghdad.

29. Introducing document E/CN.6/597, which contained the report of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women and the Arab Plan of Action adopted at the fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women, she said that the purpose of the Arab Plan of Action was to define priorities and planning objectives which would ensure the full participation of women in national development efforts. Moreover, the Commission on the Status of Arab Women had decided to establish a Centre for Information and Research on Women's Affairs because it was aware that, in order to bring about changes in the status of women, it was necessary for information to be communicated in the right way, through the right channels, to the right persons and groups.

30. The Commission on the Status of Arab Women fully supported the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women and was in favour of the adoption of a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women and other international instruments relating to the status of women.

31. Miss TYABJI (India) said that the Indian Government had recently done much, particularly through the establishment of regional committees, to improve conditions for women throughout the country. The basic purpose of those committees had been to make women conscious of the rights they already possessed, and in that respect substantial progress had been made.



32. Referring to the programme for the Decade, she endorsed the views of the representatives of Pakistan and the ILO concerning the position of women in village life and the effects of poverty. In her opinion, an important shortcoming of the programme was its failure to deal with the problem of the vast numbers of people -- about one-third of the human race -- who had no earning opportunities whatever. Indeed, the main problem for the developing countries and the United Nations was to find some way of putting the energies of those unskilled masses to productive use; she was convinced that solutions could be found, for India had already achieved a small measure of success in tackling that problem.

33. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico), noting that her Government had not yet submitted a report on the activities it had undertaken in connexion with the International Women's Year, said it had recently enacted legislation in many sectors to give practical effect to the principle of equality between men and women. A special government body had been established to deal with questions relating to the status of women, and the new national development programme reflected all the recommendations made at the World Conference.

34. She was of the view that the Commission, after considering the four sub-items before it, should adopt recommendations for the Decade based on those adopted at that Conference; the 1980 review conference would provide an opportunity for assessing the progress made in their implementation. She agreed with the United States representative that, for the present, the Commission should establish small working groups to consider in detail the various aspects of the programme for the Decade on the basis of the valuable information contained in the documents submitted by the Secretariat.

35. Mrs. CADIEUX (Canada) said that, pending the submission of a written report by the Government on her country's activities following the 1975 Conference, she simply wished to draw attention to the difficulty of evaluating, at the present time, the impact of the many activities that had been initiated. It would seem that such activities had been successful, but it was still too early for an accurate evaluation of their results.

36. The most worthwhile activities were those which had given rise to continuing action, and that was why her delegation considered that even more important than a review of previous activities was the need to use those activities as a basis for planning the programme for the Decade. It was therefore prepared to consider the programme prepared by the Secretariat as soon as possible, and would accordingly go along with the suggestion made by the United States delegation or any other practical procedure.

37. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that, while supporting most of the observations made by the representative of Iran, she wished to take issue with the pessimistic conclusion that the International Women's Year had been founded on the apathy of Governments. Firstly, at the international level, the fact that the initiative for policy planning had been taken from the Commission by the General Assembly bore witness to the interest of Governments. Since the World Population Conference at Bucharest in 1974, the issue of women's rights, and hence the impact of the

Commission on Governments, had been internationally recognized. At the World Congress in Berlin in 1975, it had been observed that, of all the programmes sponsored by the United Nations, the International Women's Year had elicited the greatest response from the international community.

38. Secondly, at the national level, at least 80 Governments had stated that they had established national commissions on the status of women which had begun work on data collection and legal reforms. Egypt, too, had established such a commission which, on the basis of the World Plan of Action, had proposed policy measures that had been endorsed by the Prime Minister. Those national commissions had been described at the 1975 Conference as being governmental in character, but it was essential to bear in mind the important work being done by the non-governmental organizations.

39. It was apparent from those developments that much encouraging progress had already been made in implementing the 1975 recommendations.

40. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal), expressing the hope that, in future, delegations would receive documents well before the Commission's sessions, said it was now possible to evaluate favourably the achievements of the International Women's Year. Women had agreed to unite in a common struggle to achieve the objectives of the Year and to work for a world in which mankind would live in peace and harmony.

41. On the basis of the comprehensive information contained in the documents before it, the Commission should now work out a programme of action for the attainment of the noble objectives of the Decade. Moreover, the Commission should promote lasting peace by contributing to the abolition of colonialism, apartheid and repression throughout the world, and should emphasize those activities which would help women who were suffering from those evils.

42. Mrs. LAMINA (Madagascar) said that, although her Government had not yet been able to submit a report on developments in her country, it attached the greatest importance to specific recommendations at the international level and their implementation; that was particularly true of the recommendations made during the International Women's Year. She explained that, in September-October 1975, her Government had organized a seminar on the promotion of women's rights in Madagascar which had been attended by women from all over the country. A recommendation adopted by the seminar for the establishment of a separate governmental department dealing with the status of women had just been put into effect, and the department had embarked upon its task by launching a women's literacy campaign.

43. Ms. CHIMOMBE (International Planned Parenthood Federation) said that, in the Federation's view, a woman's ability to regulate her fertility was a basic human right and fundamental to the attainment of real equality between men and women. It welcomed the Commission's efforts to formulate a convention on the elimination of discrimination against women because legal equality was a basic condition for true equality. However, legal instruments and reforms had to be accompanied by specific steps to implement and enforce the law, as well as practical policies to ensure that women had the ability and opportunity to exercise their legal rights. IPPF supported both legal and practical efforts aimed at improving the position of women, and had adopted a dual approach of that kind in its work.

44. IPPF recognized that development could not take place piecemeal but had to encompass health, nutrition, education and employment. Women were especially in need of help in all those areas, but their needs were often given very low priority because of their exclusion from political decision-making machinery and lack of economic leverage.

45. The Federation's programme was designed to support efforts by women to identify their own problems and devise solutions to them, special attention being given to women's groups, whether formal or informal, which existed in almost all countries and often provided a sound basis for self-help projects.

46. As improvements in the status of women could not be achieved by changing isolated aspects of their lives, action programmes aimed at helping women to attain equality had to utilize all available sources of support. Public participation at the planning and decision-making levels was necessary for the maximum effectiveness of the programme for the Decade. The possible contribution by non-governmental organizations was increasingly recognized, as was the need for co-ordination and collaboration, both among non-governmental organizations and between non-governmental organizations and Governments. It was therefore intended that IPPF programme projects should be developed and implemented jointly by family planning associations together with other non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, the United Nations and its specialized agencies and regional commissions and, in some instances, with national Governments.

47. In conclusion, she pointed out that, while women were the most under-privileged members of the community, men in many countries were also excluded from full participation and in economic life. Efforts to improve the status of women would not meet with success unless they were broad enough to include all members of the community. The fact that development in general could no longer be carried out in such a way that the developing countries received an unfair return for their resources and production must include recognition of the important but inadequately rewarded contribution which women made to the world.

48. Ms. BROWN (Women's International Democratic Federation) expressed appreciation of the observations by representatives and the Assistant Secretary-General on the importance of non-governmental organizations. Many representatives had also referred to the 1975 World Congress for the International Women's Year held in Berlin, some of whose activities might be of interest to the Commission.

49. The principal feature of the Congress had been its truly global nature and its representation of women from many developing countries at the grass-roots level. In preparation for the Congress, nine commissions had been established and had prepared reports which reflected the pressing needs of millions of women throughout the world. The Congress had endorsed the World Plan of Action adopted at Mexico City and the draft convention. It had called for the continuation of work on the many problems confronting women and on the programmes prepared by the Commission. In view of the need to exert pressure in various countries of the world, it had established a standing committee for that purpose. It had also welcomed the idea of the 1980 review conference, and hoped to organize a parallel meeting of non-governmental organizations.

50. The Federation devoted most of its attention to the problems of women in the developing countries. It recognized disarmament as the main problem faced by the world, since disarmament would release vast resources for much-needed development. It was at present establishing regional centres for literacy and training in Somalia and Cuba, and was considering the establishment of national centres. It was also planning seminars, and was in the process of constructing a health centre for women and children at Hanoi. It would submit a detailed written report on its activities to the Secretariat and wished to assure the Commission that it would publicize the Commission's decisions and work on the draft convention.

51. She agreed with the representative of Egypt that there was every reason for optimism: the success of the International Women's Year had exceeded everyone's expectations. But the particular problems confronting women had existed for thousands of years and would not be solved in a decade. The Year had, however, focused attention on those problems, Governments had taken a new interest, and ordinary women had found a new unity which could guarantee success.

52. Ms. HENDSCH (United States of America) considered that, although the discussion was proving very useful, the Commission should as soon as possible consider the best means of preparing a well-planned programme for the Decade, if possible through the establishment of small working groups.

53. Mrs. SIPIIA (Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) noted the many General Assembly resolutions which indicated that Governments had taken action in areas new to the Commission, and said that there were two points in particular which she wished to bring to the Commission's attention.

54. Firstly, the United Nations had so far given little publicity to the Decade because it was waiting for a lead from the Commission. When the Commission agreed upon a programme for the Decade, its decisions could be given wide publicity.

55. Secondly, most Governments were continuing the action they had begun in 1975, but many were labouring under difficulties as a result of the closure of the bureaux which had been established in connexion with the Year and had been the key to its success. Non-governmental organizations did not have the resources or national co-ordinating ability to offset the loss of those bureaux. Consequently, if the Commission wanted a programme which would continue for the whole of the Decade, it should recommend national activities. Moreover, if working groups were established in accordance with the United States representative's proposal, they should consider, inter alia, the public information activities of the United Nations and Governments, and national machinery for giving practical effect to the Decade.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.