

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/SR.645
23 September 1976

Original: ENGLISH

UN/SA COLLECTION

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-sixth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 645th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 22 September 1976, at 2.35 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. GONZALEZ de CUADROS (Colombia)

CONTENTS

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
- (b) The programme for the Decade and related questions including technical co-operation activities
- (c) Review and appraisal of progress made under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade and in the implementation of the World Plan of Action
- (d) Preparatory work for the 1980 conference.

This record is subject to correction.

Participants wishing to make corrections should submit them in writing to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva, within one week of receiving the record in their working language.

Corrections to the records of the meetings of the Commission at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

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; E/CN.6/NGO/261)
- (b) THE PROGRAMME FOR DECADE AND RELATED QUESTIONS INCLUDING TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION
ACTIVITIES (E/CN.6/594 and Corr.1, 594/Add.1, 595, 596, 597, 603 and 604;
E/CN.6/NGO/260 and 265)
- (c) REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS MADE UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE AND IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD
PLAN OF ACTION (E/CN.6/598 and Add.1 and 2, 599; E/CN.6/NGO/266 and 267)
- (d) PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE 1980 CONFERENCE (E/CN.6/600; E/CN.6/NGO/258)

1. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that the words "and primarily in support of complete and general disarmament, international co-operation and peace" should be added at the end of section C.1.(a) of the programme (document E/CN.6/594) in order to ensure that the collection and publication of information concerning women's participation in public life would be more specific and purpose-oriented. She also suggested that section C.3.(b), should be amended to read "Study on the effects of apartheid on the condition of women and their role in the struggle against apartheid" in order to reflect the fact that women were fully aware of the efforts to be made in putting an end to the practice of apartheid.

2. Referring to section C.3.(a), she recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 3318 (XXIX), had proclaimed the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict. In addition, however, measures must be taken at the international level to prevent situations of international and non-international armed conflict from arising, and to strengthen the role of women in international co-operation and the maintenance of peace, in response to the demand of world public opinion.

3. The CHAIRMAN said that the suggestions made by the representative of the Soviet Union would be taken into account by the Working Group.

4. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt), referring to measures to be taken at the national level with a view to the implementation of the programme, said that the programme might specifically request Governments to devote the Decade for Women to intensified efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and to ensure equality between the sexes; to ratify the conventions already adopted with regard to the status of women; to review their national legislation in order to ensure equality between men and women; to establish national machinery for the implementation of the objectives of the World Plan of Action; to carry out national programmes emphasizing equality between the sexes; to give the programme for the Decade the widest possible publicity; to promote the organization of conferences and seminars on equal rights; to adopt an integrated

approach to the implementation of the goals of the World Plan of Action; and to provide the Commission with full information on their achievements, programmes and the measures they had adopted to implement the World Plan of Action.

5. The Commission could request the Secretary-General to approve the use of the symbol of the International Women's Year, perhaps with minor changes, as a means of publicizing the Decade, and the Secretariat might be requested to prepare and publish pamphlets and radio scripts describing and explaining the objectives of the programme for the Decade. In addition, States might be authorized to use the symbol of the International Women's Year in connexion with posters and other means of informing public opinion of the goals of the Decade.

6. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt), referring to the question of the policies which Governments might be requested to adopt in connexion with the Decade for Women, said that the programme should provide that all national machinery concerned with the implementation of the World Plan of Action should be responsive to the needs of women at the grass-roots level in rural and urban areas. In addition, it should specify that training programmes and courses for women should be based on an inter-disciplinary team approach, as suggested by the representative of UNESCO, in order to avoid any duplication of work.

7. Mrs. SIPIIA (Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, since 1975, the secretariat had been trying to promote the idea of an annual celebration of International Women's Day. Such a celebration had been held on 8 March 1975, and the Commission might therefore wish to request the General Assembly to urge States to continue to celebrate International Women's Day on that date every year. In addition, the Commission might decide to organize art exhibitions and events to publicize the role of women in sports, as well as competitions for the preparation of materials along the lines of UNICEF's greeting cards.

8. The Commission could also request the Secretariat to give wider publicity to international events and meetings to be organized by the United Nations during the Decade, such as the forthcoming Conferences on Water and Desertification and the International Year of the Child. Moreover, noting that the representative of the United Kingdom had suggested that the bulletin for the International Women's Year should continue to be published, she said that the Commission might agree to accept the offer made by Development Forum, a monthly publication of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, to publish a supplement on women in development. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs co-operated closely with Development Forum, which had printed articles on the problems of women in nearly every one of its issues during the International Women's Year.

9. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said she fully agreed with the Assistant Secretary-General that efforts should be made to give the widest possible publicity to the Decade for Women and that International Women's Day should continue to be celebrated on 8 March every year.

10. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that she shared the view of the Assistant Secretary-General and the representative of the Soviet Union that International Women's Day should continue to be celebrated on 8 March every year. The General Assembly might be requested to include that celebration in the programme for the Decade for Women.

11. Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that her delegation supported all the Assistant Secretary-General's suggestions concerning means of publicizing the Decade for Women. In particular, it felt that the Secretariat should make more concerted efforts to inform non-governmental organizations and women's organizations of conferences and meetings to be held under the auspices of the United Nations so that they would have time to request Governments to allow them to be members of delegations. She was, for example, certain that many women in her country would have liked to take part as experts in the Habitat Conference held at Vancouver in 1976, but they had not learned of its organization in time.

12. Mrs. SIPILA (Assistant Secretary-General, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that certain commercial firms were willing to assist the United Nations in publicizing the Decade for Women and to contribute part of the proceeds of the sale of their products to the Voluntary Fund. She suggested that a market survey could be carried out to determine the best ways and means of publicizing the Decade through the use of the symbol of the International Women's Year. In any case, it was now time to start thinking about publicity activities for the Decade so that licensing and marketing arrangements could be made with commercial firms.

13. Mrs. MAKAL (Guinea) was of the opinion that the symbol of the International Women's Year should be retained as a means of publicizing the Decade for Women.

The meeting rose at 3.25 p.m.