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Twenty-sixth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 654th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Wednesday, 29 September 1976, at 9.35 a.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):

(b) THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE AND RELATED QUESTIONS INCLUDING TECHNICAL  
CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES (E/CN.6/594 and Corr.1, 594/Add.1; E/CN.6/L.682,  
L.691 to 694)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to continue its consideration of section A of chapter II ("Specific areas for action to attain the threefold objectives of the Decade") of the working paper prepared by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/L.682).
2. Ms. LAMINA (Madagascar) reminded the Commission that she had suggested replacing the words "sex discrimination" in the title of section A by the words "discrimination against women".
3. The amendment was adopted.
4. Mrs. FOUCART-FLOOR (Belgium) asked whether it should not be specified in paragraph 2 (c) which body would review the existing instruments, by analogy with subparagraph (a) where it was stipulated that a biennial review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other instruments would be carried out by the Commission on the Status of Women.
5. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that subparagraph (c) was based on paragraph 199 of the World Plan of Action for achieving the targets of the International Year for Women, which stated: "Studies should be undertaken by the appropriate organizations of the effectiveness of the implementation of existing instruments and periodic reviews made to determine their adequacy in the light of changing conditions in the modern world, and of experience gained since their adoption". The wording of subparagraph (c) should perhaps be brought into line with that paragraph. In paragraph 199, "appropriate organizations" meant all organizations having normative functions: the United Nations, the ILO, UNESCO, etc.
6. The Commission had not yet taken a decision on paragraph 1 of section A; it had been suggested that the Hungarian and other delegations which had made proposals with regard to the paragraph should consult with a view to submitting a new text. She suggested the following wording for the paragraph: "(a) Adoption of the Convention by the General Assembly, if possible not later than 1978. (b) Entry into force of the Convention and application of its implementation measures if possible by 1980".
7. Ms. LORANGER (Canada), referring to Mrs. Bruce's proposed text, said that it would be virtually impossible to obtain in such a short time the number of ratifications required to enable the Convention to enter into force. It would be better simply to say that the Convention should come into force "as soon as possible", as the Hungarian representative had suggested at the previous meeting.
8. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) said that as there had been a delay in the distribution of the document under consideration, her delegation had been unable to consult its Government. She would therefore be unable to express an opinion on specific points, although in principle she accepted the document as a whole.
9. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) also thought that it would be better to say "as soon as possible", without specifying a date.

10. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that in that case paragraph 1 might perhaps read: "Adoption of the Convention by the General Assembly and entry into force of the Convention and application of its implementation measures as soon as possible".
11. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, she would take it that that wording for paragraph 1 had been approved by consensus.
12. It was so decided.

13. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said that she had taken up an amendment suggested by the observer for the League of Arab States which consisted of a new subsection entitled "Regional Action" to be inserted between paragraph 3 and the subsection entitled "National Action 1976-1980".

Paragraph 2

Subparagraph (a)

14. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that it would be useful if, from 1980, the Commission were to review progress in the implementation of the Convention, mentioning which States had ratified it and so forth. Subparagraph (a) might then read: "Biennial review by the Commission on the Status of Women of the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Convention with the same title, and other international instruments with related provisions (Economic and Social Council resolution ... )".
15. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) pointed out that the inclusion of a reference to the Convention would prejudge the clauses dealing with its application, on which the Commission had not yet expressed an opinion.
16. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that in order to overcome that difficulty, the words "if adopted" or "after its adoption" could be inserted after the reference to the Convention.
17. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) suggested the insertion of the words "when adopted".
18. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said the suggestions made by the French and Egyptian representatives were acceptable.
19. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) pointed out that if the USSR amendment were adopted, it would be necessary to delete the references to the Economic and Social Council resolution and to the Commission on the Status of Women. In other words, subparagraph (a) would read as follows: "Biennial review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, of the Convention on the same subject, when adopted, and of other instruments with related provisions". It was true that Economic and Social Committee resolution 1677 (LII) provided that the biennial review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women would be carried out by the Commission on the Status of Women, but no decision had yet been made with regard to the Convention.

20. Miss TYABJI (India) suggested that the existing text of subparagraph (a) should be maintained with the addition of a separate sentence incorporating the Soviet amendment, worded as follows: "The review should include the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, when adopted".
21. Mrs. SALYO (Indonesia) said that the question who would review the implementation of the Convention had not been decided: according to the original text of article 21 it was to be done by the Commission on the Status of Women, whereas according to the alternative text the "Committee on the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women" was to be responsible.
22. It would therefore be better to keep subparagraph (a) as it stood and take up the point raised by the USSR representative later.
23. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the difficulty be overcome by altering her amendment to read as follows: "Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, once it has been adopted, will also be reviewed biennially".
24. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) supported the Soviet amendment. She suggested the following compromise text: "Biennial review of the Convention by the Commission on the Status of Women, once the Convention has been adopted and the Commission has received a mandate to carry out this review".
25. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) said that she, too, thought it would be preferable if the USSR amendment formed a separate paragraph.
26. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) supported the Soviet amendment. One way of solving the problem might be to add the words "by the competent bodies" or "by the appropriate bodies" to the Soviet amendment.
27. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) noted that article 21 of the draft convention referred to a report every four years; that was at variance with the biennial review which was now being proposed.
28. Mrs. CADIEUX (Canada) said she too was afraid that the adoption of the paragraph under examination might prejudice the decision concerning the final clauses of the draft convention.
29. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) proposed the following subparagraph: "Review of the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women once it has been adopted and in accordance with whatever procedure it may prescribe."
30. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) and Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said they supported the French representative's proposal.
31. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission wished to adopt the draft subparagraph proposed by the French representative.
32. The draft subparagraph proposed by the French representative was adopted.

Subparagraph (b)

33. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that approval of a particular paragraph or subparagraph by the French delegation did not imply a change of attitude towards any resolution or text mentioned in that paragraph or subparagraph.

34. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) made a statement similar to that of the French delegation on behalf of the Belgian delegation.

35. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission wished to adopt subparagraph (b).

36. Subparagraph (b) was adopted

Subparagraph (c)

37. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) asked what bodies would carry out the review provided for in subparagraph (c).

38. Mrs. CADIEUX (Canada) said she wished to know which were the instruments referred to in subparagraph (c).

39. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) thought that the term "existing instruments" referred to international instruments such as UNESCO or ILO conventions, and that the review would be carried out by the organization or body which had drawn up the instrument.

40. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) said she would like the specialized agencies to be mentioned in the subparagraph, so as to make it clearer.

41. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) thought that a reference to the specialized agencies would correspond to the facts.

42. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) pointed out that not all conventions necessarily emanated from a specialized agency. In order to make that subparagraph more general in scope, she proposed that, after the words "existing instruments", the following should be added: "by the relevant international organizations, including the specialized agencies".

43. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) supported the Egyptian proposal.

44. The CHAIRMAN read out subparagraph (c) as modified by the Egyptian delegation.

45. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said she supported the Egyptian amendment.

46. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission wished to adopt subparagraph (c) as amended by the Egyptian representative.

47. Subparagraph (c) as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 3

48. Miss TYABJI (India) said that four working meetings had already been devoted to the programme under consideration, and agreement had been reached on its broad outlines. She wondered whether the Commission could not adopt it paragraph by paragraph.

49. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) said that the way in which the Commission was now proceeding made for greater precision.

Subparagraph (a)

50. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) proposed that the words "rights and responsibilities of parents with regard to their children" should be inserted at the end of subparagraph (a).

51. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) pointed out that the idea was to some degree already expressed in subparagraph (b).

52. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) said that subparagraph (b) dealt with application, whereas subparagraph (a) addressed itself to the legal standpoint.

53. Mrs. SALYO (Indonesia) said she had no objection to the Hungarian proposal.

54. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission wished to adopt subparagraph (a), as amended by the Hungarian representative.

55. Subparagraph (a), as amended, was adopted.

Subparagraph (b)

56. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) proposed that after the words "to reform school curricula to", the second part of subparagraph (b) should be worded as follows: "eliminate the traditional stereotyping of men and women and renew on the best possible lines the image usually given to boys and girls of their respective roles and the sharing of tasks in the family and in society".

57. Mrs. CADIEUX (Canada) thought that the French representative's amendment, though rather lengthy, was sound. She wished to know who was supposed to make the studies referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b). If the recommendation referred to in the third part of subparagraph (b) was an ILO recommendation, it should be so stated.

58. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), said that the topics referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) had been inserted in the Commission's programme under previous mandates. They were comparative studies which had to be submitted to the Commission.

59. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) said that in her proposed amendments she had stressed the need to regionalize or even to nationalize those studies. She hoped that the idea would be reflected in the text under consideration.

60. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said, with regard to the studies referred to in subparagraph (a), that regional seminars had been planned in the budget for 1976 and 1977, and that a number of national studies had been carried out with the assistance of a non-governmental organization and were about to be issued under the auspices of the United Nations. It had been thought that the inclusion of so much explanatory matter would have overloaded the text. With regard to subparagraph (b) the resolution referred to made it clear that what was involved was the carrying out of national studies on the sharing of family responsibilities.
61. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) wondered how the family obligations and responsibilities of men and women could be determined by legislation. The subject should be presented in broader terms.
62. Mrs. DEVAUD (France), at the invitation of the Chairman, read out once again her amendment to subparagraph (b).
63. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission wished to adopt the amendment proposed by France.
64. The French amendment was adopted.
65. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) inquired whether there was an ILO convention corresponding to the paragraph under consideration.
66. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the most recent ILO report made it clear that that organisation was dealing with the topic.
67. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) suggested that the Secretariat might amend the wording of the paragraph under consideration so that it would specify who was carrying out the studies referred to.
68. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that it could be stated in subparagraphs (a) and (b) that the reference was to studies which would be submitted to the Commission, in accordance with specific resolutions. Perhaps it could also be mentioned that the studies had to be submitted to the Commission at its next session.
69. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed that the third part of subparagraph (b) should become subparagraph (c).
70. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission agreed to that amendment.
71. It was so decided.
72. Paragraph 3, as amended, was adopted.

New paragraph 4 proposed by the Egyptian delegation

73. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) proposed that after paragraph 3, a new paragraph 4 should be inserted. It would read as follows:

74. "United Nations regional commissions as well as the competent regional intergovernmental commissions

(a) Should take all appropriate measures to disseminate information on all the United Nations instruments dealing with the status of women and to assist and encourage the Governments in their respective regions to ratify and implement these instruments;

(b) Promote studies in and between countries to assess the effects of existing legislation and determine further legislative needs; and technical seminars to discuss these matters at national and intercountry levels."

75. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) observed that paragraph 4 of section A of chapter III of document E/CN.6/594, concerning "public information activities to increase knowledge and awareness of the norms established, and to make urban and rural populations aware of their rights under these instruments", had been omitted from document E/CN.6/L.682. She therefore suggested that it should be inserted, with a slightly different wording, in the new paragraph 4 proposed by the Egyptian representative. The paragraph would be entitled "Activities to increase knowledge and awareness of international standards". It would have two subparagraphs; the first would consist of the text proposed by the Egyptian representative, and the second of the following text, which partly reproduced the wording of paragraph 4 of document E/CN.6/594:

76. "Public information activities to make urban and rural populations aware of their rights under international instruments (e.g. pamphlets, publications, audio-visual programmes, seminars, meetings, non-governmental organization activities, etc.)".

77. In her view, the Egyptian proposal should be expanded by mentioning the action to be taken in that field at the international level, in addition to regional public information activities.

78. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said he supported the Egyptian proposal, as amended by Mrs. Bruce. He proposed that the words "and regional centres" should be inserted in the introductory sentence of the Egyptian proposal, after the words "regional commissions".

79. Mrs. HAHN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) supported the Iranian subamendment and also proposed that the words "and other international organizations" should be inserted after "regional centres".



80. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said she accepted the title and subparagraph (2) proposed by Mrs. Bruce. She also supported the subamendments by the representatives of Iran and the FAO but proposed to insert the word "concerned" after the words "other international organizations". The introductory sentence would therefore read as follows: "United Nations regional commissions, regional centres and other international organizations concerned, as well as the competent regional intergovernmental commissions".

81. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) proposed that the word "workshops" should replace the word "seminars" in subparagraph (b) of the Egyptian proposal, since, in her country, the word "seminar" was associated with the idea of analytical discussion, whereas the word "workshop" also included the programme of action following the analytical process. She thought that the word "workshop" would be better since it encompassed both ideas.

82. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said she was not sure that the word "workshop" also covered the idea of a seminar, which seemed to her to be a different thing. Accordingly, she proposed, in order to meet the wishes of the representative of Pakistan, to add the word "workshops" to "seminars".

83. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) pointed out that the word "seminar" sometimes had a technical meaning. She therefore proposed the expression "technical seminars, workshops and similar meetings".

84. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) accepted that proposal.

85. The title and subparagraph (1), as amended, of the new paragraph 4 were adopted by consensus.

86. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) considered that the importance of audio-visual information media should be stressed, in subparagraph (2), since those information media played an important role in the developing countries, where a large proportion of the population was illiterate.

87. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) endorsed the representative of Pakistan's comments. She proposed the insertion of the word "appropriate" before the words "public information activities", since she felt that it was important to adapt information systems to the populations for whom they were intended.

88. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said she accepted the Belgian proposal. In order to meet the wishes of the representative of Pakistan, she proposed that audio-visual programmes should be mentioned first.

89. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) proposed that subparagraph (2) should be amended to read: "Appropriate information activities to make men and women in urban and rural areas aware of the rights they possess under international instruments and the responsibilities which devolve upon them and members of the society in which they live." The remainder of the text would be unchanged.

90. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) suggested the following text, which would take account of the suggestion by the Mexican representative:

91. "Appropriate information activities designed to ensure that men and women in urban and rural areas are made aware of their rights and responsibilities under international instruments".

92. Subparagraph (2) of the new paragraph 4, as amended, was adopted by consensus.

National Action 1976-1980 (E/CN.6/L.682, page 8)

Paragraph (a)

93. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to consider the section headed "National Action 1976-1980" paragraph by paragraph, beginning with paragraph (a), to which an amendment (E/CN.6/L.691) had been proposed by Sweden. The amendment proposed the replacement of paragraph (a) by the following:

94. "(a) The principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sex should be secured through constitutional and legislative or other appropriate measures."

95. Mrs. STABILE de MACHINANDIARENA (Observer for Argentina) pointed out that the reference to national action did not appear in document E/CN.6/594. If the Commission decided to include that point in document E/CN.6/L.682, it should confine itself to referring to national action to ratify international instruments or to bring national laws into conformity with such instruments. In her opinion, therefore, only paragraphs (b) and (c) were relevant.

96. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) supported the observer for Argentina. Paragraphs (a) and (d) had no connexion with the preparation of international standards and should be either deleted or placed elsewhere.

97. Mrs. MØLLER (Denmark) said that the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sex should be included among the basic priorities for national action. But she thought that it should be left to each country to decide in what manner the principle should be guaranteed, whether by constitutional, legislative or other appropriate measures. She therefore supported the Swedish amendment (E/CN.6/L.691).

98. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) also supported the Swedish amendment.

99. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) said that she too supported the amendment by Sweden, like the representative of Denmark, she thought that each country should be left free to decide the appropriate measures to guarantee the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sex. Obviously, amendments to the constitution would be the best way, but that was often a long process. Her country had for that reason adopted legislative measures to guarantee non-discrimination on grounds of sex.

100. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she accepted the Swedish amendment but proposed the replacement of the words "discrimination on grounds of sex" by the words "discrimination against women", as in the Declaration and the draft Convention. She also proposed the replacement of the words "or other appropriate measures" by the words "and other appropriate measures".

101. Mr. TILFORS (Sweden) said that he could not accept the subamendments proposed by the Soviet Union representative. He wished to maintain the original text of his amendment.

102. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said she maintained her subamendments, since she found the Swedish proposal unacceptable as it stood.

103. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) pointed out that the French version of the Swedish amendment did not correspond to the English text, where reference was made to "the principle of non-discrimination".

104. Miss St. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Commission) said that the French version would be brought into line with the original English text.

105. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said she proposed the following wording, which might reconcile the points of view of the Swedish and Soviet Union representatives.

106. "The principle of the elimination of discrimination on grounds of sex should be secured through constitutional and legislative measures and other appropriate measures".

107. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) accepted the text proposed by the Egyptian representative.

108. Mr. TILFORS (Sweden) said that he also accepted the Egyptian proposal, but he would suggest, as a compromise, the wording "and/or other appropriate measures".

109. The amendment by Sweden to paragraph (a) (E/CN.6/L.691), as amended, was adopted by consensus.

Paragraph (b)

110. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission approved paragraph (b).

111. It was so decided.

Paragraph (c)

112. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) suggested that the word "relevant" should be inserted before the words "international conventions", to make it clear that the reference was to conventions relating to non-discrimination against women.

113. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) said that although she agreed with the Canadian representative that that clarification was necessary, she would prefer to add the words "concerning the status of women" after "international conventions".

114. Ms. LORANGER (Canada), supported by Mr. TILLFORS (Sweden), Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) and Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), considered that the wording proposed by the Hungarian representative was too restrictive. She maintained her proposal.

115. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) suggested the wording: "to relevant international conventions, including those listed in the annex to the World Plan of Action".

116. Mrs. JANJIC (International Labour Organisation) said that it would be better not to be over-precise, because some conventions which did not deal specifically with the status of women nevertheless included provisions prohibiting discrimination against women workers. The wording suggested by Mrs. Bruce did not take into account conventions which might be adopted in the future. The word "relevant", on the other hand, would be applicable to every case, and she therefore supported the Canadian proposal.

117. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) said she had no objection to the use of the word "relevant" but she thought it would be better to add, after the words "international instruments", the words "concerned with the observance of the principle of equality between men and women". She would not, however, insist upon her amendment if it aroused any objection.

118. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) said she was unable to support the Hungarian amendment, because many relevant international instruments did not directly refer to that principle, as the representative of the ILO had pointed out.

119. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) withdrew her amendment.

120. The CHAIRMAN said if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission approved paragraph (c), as amended by the Canadian proposal, by consensus.

121. It was so decided.

#### Paragraph (d)

122. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ said she thought paragraph (d) was out of place in section II A.

123. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistance Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that it might perhaps be useful to refer, in each paragraph of the document under consideration, to the relevant paragraphs of the World Plan of Action; in that particular case the reference was to paragraph 40, which she read out.

124. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) proposed the addition, after the words "inform and advise", of the words "in particular, through non-governmental organizations".

125. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt), supported by Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico), said she found it difficult to accept the French amendment, since it laid too much stress on non-governmental organizations. Although those organizations had an important part to play, they must not be placed on the same level as governments.

126. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) agreed with the representative of Egypt. He also suggested, that the words "under national laws" should be deleted, since their effect was restrictive and excluded the women's rights and responsibilities recognized in international instruments. In the English version, the word "implementation" should replace "enforcement".

127. Miss AYABJI (India) supported the Iranian proposal. She suggested that, to meet the French delegation's wishes, the words "with the assistance of the non-governmental organizations" should be added.

128. Mrs. SALYO (Indonesia) said that she wondered what authority was to be responsible for the adoption of measures to inform and advise women of their rights and responsibilities. She was in favour of retaining the words "under national laws".

129. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said he assumed that the various organs of the State, governments and all the authorities concerned would be responsible for adopting the measures referred to in paragraph (d).

130. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal), supported by Ms. LORANGER (Canada) and Mrs. IIAKA (Guinea), said that, if the phrase "under national laws" was deleted, it would be necessary to amend the last part of the sentence in paragraph (d), beginning with the words "and to assist them". She would prefer to retain the original text.

131. Mrs. SALYO (Indonesia) said that she could not accept the proposition that non-governmental organizations should assist in the adoption of the measures in question. In her opinion, such organizations should confine themselves to disseminating information.

132. Mrs. DEVAUD (France), supported by Mrs. COENE (Belgium), pointed out that non-governmental organizations would not take action on the same footing as governments, but they should be given the opportunity to participate in providing women with information. They had proved their usefulness during the International Women's Year and they should therefore be given a role in the future. By educating women, non-governmental organizations would help them to ensure that the law was properly applied. Moreover, where government action was wanting, non-governmental organizations could usefully take the initiative.

133. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal) thought that in the paragraph under consideration the principle should be maintained that, with or without assistance from non-governmental organizations, governments must adopt the measures referred to.

134. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the principle emphasized by the representative of Senegal was very important. It should also be made quite clear that the activities of non-governmental organizations must of course comply with the law.

135. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt), referring to the amendment introducing the idea of assistance from non-governmental organizations, said that those organizations would not be contributing to the adoption of the measures themselves, since that was a government responsibility; they would simply be helping to disseminate information and to provide women with advice.

136. Mrs. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) proposed that, instead of the words "with the assistance of the non-governmental organizations", the following sentence should be added at the end of the paragraph: "The participation of non-governmental organizations in this action would be very desirable."

137. Mrs. FOUCAERT-FLOOR (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the Belgian and French delegations, proposed that the existing text of paragraph (d) should be replaced by the following wording: "Adoption of measures to inform women of their rights and responsibilities under national laws and to advise them thereon. Assistance from non-governmental organizations could contribute to effective action in that connexion."

138. Miss TYABJI (India), supported by Mrs. DAHLERUP (Denmark), said she preferred the wording of paragraph (d) as amended by the Indian and Iranian delegations.

139. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) pointed out that the original text of paragraph (d) was ambiguous, as it was difficult to understand whether the reference was to the adoption of measures "under national laws", or whether that part of the sentence related only to "rights and responsibilities".

140. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) moved that the discussion be closed and that the text of paragraph (d) as amended by the Indian and Iranian delegations be put to the vote.

141. The CHAIRMAN, in accordance with rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure, put to the vote the motion for the closure of the debate.

142. The motion for the closure of the debate was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

143. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the text of paragraph (d), as amended by the addition of the words "with the assistance of the non-governmental organizations" after the word "women", and by the deletion of the words "under national laws".

144. The text of paragraph (d), as amended, was adopted by 16 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.

145. Mrs. HIRLEMAN (France) said that her delegation had abstained because the French version of paragraph (d) as amended did not make sense.

146. Mrs. PEÑALVER DE LEPAGE (Venezuela) said that her delegation could not accept the word "assistance" in the amended text of paragraph (d).

147. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal) and Ms. LAMINA (Madagascar) said that their delegations had abstained for the same reason as the French delegation.

Title of chapter II, section A

148. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that, for the reasons which she already had given, she proposed that the title of chapter II, section A be amended by the addition of the words "and National", after the word "International".

149. The CHAIRMAN said that if there were no objections, she would take it that the Commission approved by consensus the change proposed by the Mexican delegation.

150. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.