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GENERAL

E/CN.6/SR.655
30 September 1976

Original: ENGLISH

OCT 18 1976

UN/SA COMMISSION
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-sixth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 655th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 29 September 1976, at 2.40 p.m.

Chairman:

Mrs. GONZALEZ de CUADROS

(Colombia)

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GE.76-89372

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.691-694) (continued)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to continue its consideration of section II.B.
of document E/CN.6/L.682.

Introductory paragraphs

2. Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that her delegation wished to state for the
record that the references or resolutions mentioned in document E/CN.6/L.682 in no way
implied any change in the position taken by her delegation at the time the documents
and resolutions in question had originally been adopted, especially in the case of
those resolutions which her Government had been compelled to vote against.

3. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) said that, in her opinion, the words "as women gain more
confidence in themselves" at the end of the first introductory paragraph were not quite
satisfactory; she would prefer some such wording as "as women become more aware of
their role ...".

4. Mrs. ROMANOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) said she agreed with the
French representative that the expression "as women gain more confidence in themselves"
should be replaced by some more satisfactory wording.

5. Ms. PENALVER de LEPAGE (Venezuela) proposed that the third sentence of the first
introductory paragraph should be replaced by the following: "Priority should be given
to the preparation of programmes which really contribute to preventing any human being
from being placed in a marginal position or exploited, and it should be made clear
that the inequality in populations, including women, is closely connected with the
underdevelopment which exists not only as a result of inadequate internal structures
but also because of an economically unjust world system".

6. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) felt that the Venezuelan proposal was actually a new
text rather than an amendment.

7. The CHAIRMAN said that the Venezuelan proposal would be subsequently submitted
in writing so that it could be studied by delegations.

8. Ms. SANDLUND (Sweden) pointed out that the first introductory paragraph was
almost an exact quotation from the Plan of Action for Asia and the Far East which had
been adopted in Bangkok in May 1974, and that the idea it contained was also to be
found in article 1 (2) of the ILO Declaration on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment
for Women Workers. However, she had no objection to the proposal made by the
representatives of France and the Byelorussian SSR to replace the words "as women
gain more confidence".

9. Mrs. ROMANOVICH (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) proposed that the words following "phased out" in the third sentence of the first introductory paragraph should be replaced by "taking into account the economic and social progress of countries".
10. Miss GASTON (United States of America) proposed that the last sentence of the first introductory paragraph should be replaced by the following: "Programmes for the training of women should become an integral part of programmes and planning of projects to ensure women's de facto role as equal partners in development".
11. Miss TYABJI (India) proposed that the last sentence in that paragraph should be amended to state that separate programmes for the integration of women in development should be periodically reviewed.
12. Ms. SANDLUND (Sweden) said that she still preferred the original text of the paragraph, although she too did not like the phrase "as women gain more confidence in themselves".
13. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she fully supported the amendments proposed by the delegations of Venezuela, India and the Byelorussian SSR.
14. Mrs. DAHLERUP (Denmark) pointed out that the Byelorussian and Venezuelan proposals duplicated one another to some extent.
15. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the delegations concerned should attempt to produce a satisfactory joint text.
16. It was so decided.

Paragraph 1.(a)

17. Paragraph 1.(a) was adopted.

Paragraph 1.(b)

18. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) proposed the insertion of the words "and the existing intergovernmental regional commissions" after the words "the United Nations regional economic commissions".
19. It was so agreed.
20. Paragraph 1.(b) was adopted as amended.
21. Miss GASTON (United States of America) pointed out that her delegation had proposed a new text to follow paragraph 1 (b) (ii) which would be distributed later as document E/CN.6/L.693/Rev.1.

22. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) suggested that the substance of the United States amendment might be more properly incorporated in section II.C.(d)(vi) concerning training in the preparation of project proposals for financial assistance to carry out a specific development project.

23. Miss GASTON (United States of America) said that her delegation would consider that possibility and inform the Commission accordingly.

Paragraph 1.(c)

24. Miss TYABJI (India) suggested that the Institute should comprise a section responsible for providing women with training in entrepreneurial and management skills.

25. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) proposed that the words "provided that the necessary funds for the Institute are available" contained in Council resolution 1998 (LX) should be inserted after the words "in 1977". She asked what the precise legal status of the Institute would be.

26. Mrs. FERRER GOMEZ (Cuba) supported the French representative's proposal.

27. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) thought that the text should be maintained unchanged, as the words "in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX)" ought to cover the point made by the French representative.

28. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) pointed out that the establishment of the Institute was quite a different matter from its operation.

29. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) explained that the question of the establishment of the Institute would be taken up at the General Assembly's current session.

30. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that the text made it perfectly clear that unless the Institute had sufficient financial resources it would not be able to start operations. However, the Institute should be established as soon as possible and if, for financial reasons, it was not in a position to begin its activities immediately, such an eventuality would be covered by the use of the word "establishment" rather than "operation". He therefore appealed to the French delegation not to press its amendment.

31. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that Council resolution 1998 (LX) specified that the Institute would be established not later than 1977, providing the necessary financial provisions were made. The existing reference to that resolution was therefore sufficient.

32. Mr. MICHEEL (German Democratic Republic) agreed.

33. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said she would not press her amendment, although she continued to have misgivings about the wording used.

34. Paragraph 1.(c) was adopted.

Paragraph 1.(d)

35. Mrs. FERRER GOMEZ (Cuba) proposed that the wording of paragraph 3 (a) and (d) of Council resolution 1998 (LX) should be used in place of the text given in document E/CN.6/L.682.

36. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) proposed the following text for paragraph 1(d): "The regional centres and regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations should establish close working relationships and co-ordinate their activities with those of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women".

37. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that the objectives identified by the Group of Experts in paragraph 30(a) - (g) of document E/CN.6/594 should be added to the end of the sub-paragraph.

38. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) proposed the following text which, she thought, might be generally acceptable: "The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women should work in close co-operation with all relevant organizations within the United Nations system and should co-ordinate its activities with those of all regional centres, regional economic commissions and other regional intergovernmental organizations".

39. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that he would not press his amendment if the Commission preferred the Canadian text.

40. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation agreed with the changes proposed by the Canadian delegation.

41. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said she was willing to withdraw her suggestion in favour of the Canadian amendment. However, she drew attention to the danger of singling out certain principles set forth in the Council resolution and omitting others; all the principles stated by the Council should have been listed. The sub-paragraph should, in any case, contain some reference to the Council resolution.

42. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) proposed that the words "In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (IX)," should be added at the beginning of the sub-paragraph proposed by the Canadian delegation.

43. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) accepted that addition.

44. The Canadian text of paragraph 1(d) was adopted as amended.

Paragraph 1(e)

45. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that, following consultations with other delegations, he wished to amend the text of the first sub-paragraph of the additional paragraph (e) proposed by his delegation in document E/CN.6/L.694. The amended sub-paragraph would read: "The activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women should not be restricted to research but should be a part of a general methodological and research process so that the International Institute will be of major assistance in programming aimed at the integration of women in development". The rest of the paragraph would remain unchanged.

46. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), noting that part of the Iranian amendment, which the Commission had received only at the end of the previous meeting, was now apparently being replaced by a verbal amendment, said that it was extremely difficult for the Commission to work effectively in such circumstances. The Iranian representative obviously wished the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which was to be set up in his country, to be the foremost institute of its kind in the world, and he was already elevating it to a status above that of other existing institutions and research centres, although the funds needed to set it up had not yet been collected. She reminded the Commission that Council resolution 1998 (IX) clearly stated that the Institute should develop its activities in stages and suggested that it would be better for the Iranian representative to withdraw his amendment, which was clearly inappropriate and untimely.

47. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that his delegation claimed no proprietary interest in the Institute, and pointed out that a decision had not yet been taken on its location. His country was no more interested in the Institute than any other country. The Soviet delegate was apparently concerned at his failure to submit his verbal amendment in writing, although it was his right to change the text of any amendment; he had done so because he believed that the Institute would be one of the most important elements of the Decade.

48. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that her delegation supported the additional amended paragraph proposed by Iran. She drew attention to the fact that resolution 26 of the World Conference of the International Women's Year had recommended the establishment of the Institute. Subsequently, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3250 (XXX) and Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (IX), it had been decided that the International Institute would be established not later than 1977.

49. Ms. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) said that her delegation was unable to support the additional paragraph proposed by Iran because it failed to see how an institute which had not yet been established could contribute to the preparation of the 1980 Conference. In addition, she requested the Secretariat to explain what legal status the International Institute would have within the United Nations system and to which body it would report.

50. Miss TYABJI (India), referring to the point raised by the representative of Hungary, said she thought that the representative of Iran was merely suggesting that the establishment of the International Institute would be one of the major achievements of the Decade for Women and that the Institute might be able to make a substantial contribution to the preparation of the 1980 Conference.

51. Mrs. SALYO (Indonesia) said that her delegation supported the amended paragraph proposed by Iran. Moreover, it was of the opinion that it was the Commission's task to decide what activities were to be carried out by the International Institute with a view to implementing the programme for the Decade.

52. Mr. MICHEEL (German Democratic Republic) said that his delegation was unable to support the paragraph proposed by Iran because the activities it implied went beyond those decided upon in Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX). The International Institute should concentrate on research activities, and its work should not duplicate that of other organizations of the United Nations system.

53. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal) said that her delegation supported the additional paragraph proposed by Iran.

54. Mrs. FERRER GOMEZ (Cuba) said that her delegation shared the view expressed by the representative of the German Democratic Republic concerning the activities of the International Institute. The references to the Institute contained in paragraph 1 (c) and (d) were sufficient, so that the paragraph proposed by the representative of Iran was unnecessary.

55. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) supported the amended paragraph proposed by Iran and said that the International Institute would be of greater use to countries such as her own if its research was action-oriented and designed to enable countries to carry out specific activities.

56. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), replying to the question raised by the representative of Hungary, drew attention to section II.C. of document E/CN.6/594. In accordance with the recommendations of the Group of Experts appointed by the Secretary-General to draw up the terms of reference and structural organization of the International Institute, the Institute would be governed by a council or a board reporting to the Economic and Social Council through the Commission on the Status of Women or other appropriate body. The council or board would have ten members appointed by the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical representation. Economic and Social Council resolution 1998 (LX) provided that the Institute would be an autonomous body under the auspices of the United Nations, funded through voluntary contributions.

57. Ms. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) said that, in the light of the explanations given by the Assistant Director, it was clear that the International Institute, which would report to the Economic and Social Council, could not have the primary responsibility for tasks such as the preparation of the 1980 Conference and the implementation of the programme for the Decade. It could, however, play a role in the performance of such tasks.

58. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) drew the attention of the representative of Hungary to subparagraph (b) of his delegations proposed additional paragraph (E/CN.6/L.694). It would be logical for the Institute to contribute to the preparation of the 1980 Conference if it was decided that one of its primary responsibilities was to promote the integration of women in development.

59. He did not think that his delegation's amendment went beyond the provisions of Council resolution 1998 (LX) relating to the Institute's activities. In that connexion, he noted that the Commission's recommendations concerning the Institute would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council, which could either adopt or reject them. The Commission's recommendations should, however, be far-sighted so that they would meet the expectations of women throughout the world.

60. The CHAIRMAN put to the vote additional paragraph 1 (d) proposed by Iran, as verbally amended.

61. The paragraph, as verbally amended, was adopted by 11 votes to 2, with 10 abstentions.

62. Ms. BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary) explained that her delegation had voted against the paragraph proposed by Iran because it made the terms of reference of the International Institute much too broad.

63. Mrs. FERRER GOMEZ (Cuba) explained that her delegation had voted against the paragraph proposed by Iran for the same reason.

64. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation had abstained from the vote on the paragraph proposed by Iran because it had not had the full text in writing and had therefore been unable to study it in detail.

Paragraph 2 (a).

65. Paragraph 2 (a) was adopted.

Paragraph 2 (b).

66. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) suggested that the Commission should adopt paragraph 2 (b) without discussion because all of the studies referred to had specific mandates from the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the World Plan of Action and the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

67. It was so decided.

68. Paragraph 2 (b), as a whole, was adopted.

Paragraph 3 (a) (i).

69. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) proposed the addition of the words "international co-operation and peace" between "health, nutrition and social well-being" and "family and community life".

70. The proposal was adopted.

71. Paragraph 3 (a) (i), as amended, was adopted.

Paragraph 3 (a) (ii).

72. Paragraph 3 (a) (ii) was adopted.

Paragraph 3 (a) (iii).

73. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico), referring to the first area identified for joint inter-agency action, said that her delegation preferred the wording contained in the Spanish text of paragraph 5 (a) of document E/CN.6/594/Add.1

74. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) suggested that, as the first area identified for concentrated joint inter-agency action, namely, "National development planning and monitoring systems", was not absolutely essential to the understanding of the joint inter-agency programme, it might be deleted.

75. Miss TYABJI (India) proposed that, in the fifth area identified for joint inter-agency action, the words "family planning" should be added between the words "maternal and child health" and the words "nutrition and health and social services".

76. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said that the introductory part of the text might have given rise to confusion because it implied that the specialized agencies would have the primary responsibility for taking action in the areas identified. She therefore suggested that the introduction should be amended to read: "Areas identified for concentrated joint inter-agency action in assisting countries for the period 1976-1980 are:".

77. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) supported that suggestion. She felt that the representative of Mexico had probably objected to the use of the words "monitoring systems" because they implied that the specialized agencies might be able to interfere in the planning activities to be carried out by countries. She therefore suggested that the words "monitoring systems" should be replaced by less objectionable wording.

78. Mrs. HIRLEMAN (France) suggested the replacement of the words "systemes de contrôle" in the French text by "systemes d'observation".

79. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) proposed that the term "monitoring systems" should be replaced by the word "evaluation".

80. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) supported that proposal. She also agreed with the amendment to the last line of the paragraph proposed by the representative of India.

81. Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) proposed that, in order to make it perfectly clear what was intended, the term "monitoring systems" should be replaced by the words "evaluation of progress". She supported the amendments proposed by the representatives of Egypt and India.

82. Ms. ESFANDIARI (Iran), Mrs. CARLSSON (Sweden) and Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) supported the amendments proposed by the representatives of Egypt, the United Kingdom and India.

83. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said her delegation could accept the replacement of the words "monitoring systems" by either "evaluation systems" or "evaluation of progress". As the list of areas for action reflected decisions taken by other bodies, she was not sure that the Commission was competent to add new areas but would agree to the proposal to include mention of family planning in the last line if it was felt that that would contribute to the advancement of women.

84. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) pointed out that the words "inter-agency action" should in fact read "inter-organizational action". She proposed that the introduction should be amended to read: "Areas identified by organizations of the United Nations system for concentrated joint inter-organizational action in assisting countries for the period 1976-1980 are:"; that the word "monitoring" should be replaced by the word "evaluation"; and that the phrase "family planning" should be inserted after "child health".

85. It was so decided.

86. Paragraph 3 (a) (iii) was adopted as amended.

Paragraphs 3 (a) (iv) - (vi)

87. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that her delegation and those of other Latin American countries would like the words "least developed" in the second line of paragraph 3 (a) (iv) replaced by the word "developing".

88. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) pointed out that the text referred to action which should be taken as a matter of priority. In view of that fact and of her Government's constant concern to aid the least developed countries, her delegation was unable to accept any change in the original wording.

89. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said she appreciated the argument of the Belgian delegation, but explained that her amendment had been motivated by the belief that all developing countries were urgently in need of assistance. The difficulty could be solved if the text was amended to read "... particularly in the developing, least developed and ...".

90. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) felt that the Mexican delegation's concern that all developing countries should benefit from the proposed action was met by the original text, which she interpreted to mean that priority should be given to all country-level activities.

91. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) suggested that the intention of the text could be made even clearer if the phrase "in the developing countries" was inserted after the word "activities".

92. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) pointed out that the content of paragraphs 3 (a) (iv) to (vi) was taken from paragraphs 6 and 7 of the report of the inter-agency meeting (E/CN.6/594/Add.1) and submitted that the difficulties which had arisen with regard to wording could be resolved if that fact was made clear in the text. Accordingly, she proposed that the text of paragraphs 3 (a) (iv) to (vi) should become sub-paragraphs of a new paragraph 3 (a) (iv), which would begin with the words "Organizations of the United Nations system decided that: "and continue unchanged, other than for the replacement of the words "and monitoring" by the words "of programmes", in line with the Commission's decision concerning paragraph 3(a) (iii).

93. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that, in the light of the Assistant Director's comments, she withdrew her amendment, but reserved her delegation's support of that part of the working paper under discussion.

94. Mrs. HOERZ (German Democratic Republic), referring to paragraph 3 (a) (v), said her delegation felt it would be a good idea if the Commission evolved a code of conduct for reporting by the mass media on questions relating to the status of women.

95. Paragraphs 3 (a) (iv) to (vi) were adopted as amended.

Paragraphs 3 (b) (i) and (ii)

96. Paragraphs 3 (b) (i) and (ii) were adopted.

Paragraph 3 (b) (iii)

97. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico), speaking on behalf of her own and other Latin American delegations, proposed that the phrase ", when they so request," should be inserted after the word "Governments" in the first of the sub-paragraphs.

98. Ms. HAHN (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) proposed that the first line of the paragraph should be amended to read: "Regional commissions in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system should in particular:"

99. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), replying to a question from the representative of Egypt, said that the phrase "regional commissions" referred only to the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

100. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) proposed that the beginning of the first line of the paragraph should be amended to read: "United Nations regional commissions and the intergovernmental regional commissions ...". She feared that the amendment proposed by the FAO representative might have the effect of delaying assistance by obliging regional commissions to collaborate with organizations in the United Nations system even when they were in a position to act without doing so. Perhaps a less rigid formula could be found.

101. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that, as the regional commissions usually worked in collaboration with the relevant specialized agencies, there did not seem any need for the proposal of the FAO representative.

102. Miss TYABJI (India) said that she saw no difficulty in incorporating the FAO representative's proposal. Accordingly, she proposed that the introduction to the paragraph should be redrafted to read: "Regional commissions, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system and the intergovernmental regional commissions, should in particular:"

103. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal) asked what was meant by the phrase "available know-how" in the fourth sub-paragraph.

104. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that the fourth sub-paragraph was based closely on paragraph 210 of the World Plan of Action for the implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year. The phrase to which the representative

of Senegal had referred had been used because the aim in drawing up the section of the World Plan of Action dealing with intra-regional co-operation among the developing countries had been to include in it as many potential forms of co-operation as possible.

105. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) pointed out that paragraph 210 of the World Plan of Action referred to using not the "available know-how", but "the existing talent available".

106. Miss TYABJI (India) agreed that the term "know-how" was infelicitous, but stressed that the concept to which it referred was a very important one for the developing countries and should, therefore, be mentioned in some form or other.

107. Mrs. HIRLEMAN (France) proposed that the phrase "making use of available know-how" should be replaced by the phrase "making the best possible use of their respective knowledge in the spheres of science and technology".

108. Paragraph 3 (a) (iii) was adopted as amended.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.