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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Twenty-sixth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 657th MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Thursday, 30 September 1976, at 2.45 p.m.

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs. GUEYE	(Senegal)
<u>later:</u>	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.685, L.692, L.693/Rev.1) (continued)

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

Paragraph 1 (b) (continued)

2. Mrs. MAKA (Guinea) said that her delegation, which had voted for General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX), supported the retention of the paragraph in its present form.

3. Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark) proposed that, in order to avoid further controversy, the words "under the terms of General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX)" should be deleted and the phrase "in accordance with the general principles of the programme for the Decade" added at the end of the paragraph.

4. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) pointed out that the paragraph had been taken word for word from section III.C. 1 (b) of document E/CN.6/594. As that document represented the original version of the programme for the Decade as drawn up by the Economic and Social Council, whose decisions the Commission could not reverse, she could see no problem in retaining the text as it now stood.

5. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) recalled that the Declaration of Abidjan, which contained terms virtually identical to those in the paragraph in question, had been unanimously approved by the Council at its last session. He therefore proposed that the reference to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX) should be replaced by a reference to the Declaration of Abidjan.

6. Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark) said that his delegation was still of the opinion that the most acceptable solution would be simply to refer to the general principles of the programme for the Decade.

7. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) proposed that discussion of the sub-paragraph should be suspended to allow further time for consultations.

8. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported that proposal, as the matter was an important one; in any event efforts should be made to accommodate delegations having difficulty in such cases.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that, if there was no objection, she would take it that the Commission approved the proposal made by the representative of France.

10. It was so decided.

11. Mrs. Gonzalez de Cuadros (Venezuela) took the Chair.

Paragraph 2 (b) (continued)

12. Mr. SALEEM (Pakistan) proposed that the beginning of the sub-paragraph should be amended to read: "Establishment in consultation with Governments and in co-operation, as appropriate, with non-governmental organizations ...", in line with the beginning of paragraph 2 (c).

13. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) and Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) supported that amendment.

14. The amendment was adopted.

15. Paragraph 2 (b) was adopted as amended.

Paragraph 2 (c) (continued)

16. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that her delegation and those of other Latin American countries had given careful consideration to the phrase "including the establishment of a new international economic order", which they would have liked to amend. However, in order to avoid the lengthy discussion that would certainly be initiated by any amendment that might be suggested, she proposed that the phrase should simply be deleted.

17. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that his delegation would have preferred the phrase in question to read "including the implementation of the new international economic order". However, in order to expedite the Commission's work, it would accept the Mexican proposal.

18. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the institution of the new international economic order was not only a question to which Mexico obviously attached particular importance but also an essential element in international life. To delete the phrase under discussion would be to deprive women of information on a vital matter, and she therefore urged that it should be redrafted.

19. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that the new international economic order was indeed important to her own and other countries. Her delegation had intended to propose that the phrase in question should be amended to read "including the implementation of the new international economic order" and be accompanied by references to the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order, which constituted respectively the legal, political, and executive bases for such implementation. However, for the reason she had already mentioned and in view of the Chairman's appeals for brevity, she would ask only that her delegation's position be noted in the Commission's report, and maintained her proposal for the deletion of the words at issue.

20. Paragraph 2 (c) was adopted as amended.

Paragraph 2 (d)

21. Paragraph 2 (d) was adopted.

Paragraph 3 (a)

22. Paragraph 3 (a) was adopted.

Paragraph 3 (b)

23. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) proposed that, in order to avoid confusion, the words in parentheses should be deleted and the words "set forth in General Assembly resolution 3318 (XXIX)" added at the end of the sentence.

24. It was so agreed.

25. Paragraph 3 (b) was adopted as amended.

Paragraph 3 (c)

26. Mrs. HOERZ (German Democratic Republic) proposed the addition to the end of the paragraph of the words: ", inviting the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit to the Commission at its next session a report on the effects of apartheid on the status of women in South Africa, in accordance with resolution 3 of the United Nations World Conference of the International Women's Year."

27. Ms. LAMINA (Madagascar) said that her delegation's wholehearted support of the proposed amendment was in line with her Government's consistent opposition to discrimination and domination.

28. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) expressed wholehearted support for the amendment. In view of the oppression and discrimination that prevailed in South Africa, the Commission should be informed of the way women were treated in such circumstances.

29. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal) said that the Commission had a duty, when trying to improve the situation of women in general, to study the most disadvantaged among them who were exposed to flagrant violations of human rights in South Africa. She strongly supported the proposed amendment.

30. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) fully supported the idea behind the proposed amendment. He proposed that, in keeping with the general style of the working paper, the text proposed by the representative of the German Democratic Republic should be further amended so that the paragraph would consist of two sentences, the first reading as in the working paper, and the second beginning: "Submission by the Secretary-General to the Commission at its next session of a report on the effects ...".

31. Mrs. HOERZ (German Democratic Republic) accepted the Iranian proposal.

32. Mrs. SAIYO (Indonesia) warmly supported the amended version of the paragraph.

33. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) pointed out that Conference resolution 3 called for reports on apartheid to be submitted to both the Commission and the Special Committee against Apartheid. She proposed that both bodies should therefore be mentioned in the amended version of the paragraph.

34. Mr. MICHEEL (German Democratic Republic) accepted the proposal by the Assistant Director.
35. Mrs. MARQUEZ de PEREYRA (Venezuela) wholeheartedly supported the amended version of the paragraph.
36. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) supported the amended version of the paragraph; her delegation would like to see reports on apartheid wherever and in whatever form it occurred.
37. Mr. TILLFORS (Sweden) supported the amended version of the paragraph for the reasons given by the representative of Senegal.
38. Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark) expressed full support of the amended version of the paragraph. His delegation associated itself with the remarks made by the representative of Egypt, and believed that the proposed study could be an important supplement to those undertaken by the Commission on Human Rights.
39. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) supported the amended version of the paragraph, which had the merit of placing the study of a burning issue in a precise framework.
40. Miss TYABJI (India) said that her delegation was completely in favour of the amended version of the paragraph.
41. The CHAIRMAN said that, in view of the wide measure of support already expressed, she assumed that the Commission wished to adopt the amended version of paragraph 3 (c) by consensus.
42. It was so decided.

National Action 1976-1980

43. The section entitled "National Action 1976-1980" was adopted.

Section II.B. (continued)

44. Mrs. MARQUEZ de PEREYRA (Venezuela) recalled that her delegation and that of the Byelorussian SSR had been requested to redraft the introduction to section II.B. After consultation, the two delegations had agreed that the first two sentences of the existing introduction should be retained, and that the remainder should be replaced by the following text: "Priority should be given to the elaboration of programmes which will tend towards the implementation of a new international economic order in order to help eliminate situations in which any human being may be exploited or left out of society and to emphasize that inadequate conditions of the population, including the female population, are also closely linked to the inadequate internal structure of countries. Programmes for the integration of women in the process of development must be periodically revised in the light of the socio-economic evaluation of the countries."

45. Ms. SANDLUND (Sweden) said her delegation found that text acceptable, and withdrew its own amendment.
46. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that her delegation supported the joint text.
47. Mrs. FERRER GOMEZ (Cuba) said that her delegation endorsed the joint text.
48. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said he agreed with the joint text but considered it preferable to say "towards the implementation of the new international economic order".
49. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) supported the amendment proposed by the Iranian delegation.
50. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that her delegation supported the joint text, which recognized the need for action at the international as well as the national level on an issue of concern for the whole world. She endorsed the Iranian representative's amendment.
51. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation would have preferred "working towards an improved economic order" or "working towards an equitable world economic system", and recalled that it too had submitted amendments to the introduction to section II.B. in document E/CN.6/L.685.
52. Mr. CALLWAY (United Kingdom) felt that the joint text should be amended along the lines proposed by the United States delegation.
53. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal) said that her delegation supported the joint text. It was standard practice in the United Nations to refer to "the new international economic order", and she saw no reason to depart from that practice.
54. Mrs. MARQUEZ de PEREYRA (Venezuela) said that her delegation was unable to accept the United States representative's proposal.
55. The CHAIRMAN noted that most delegations seemed to prefer the joint text as amended by the Iranian representative. She therefore invited the United States and the United Kingdom delegations to hold consultations with the Byelorussian and Venezuelan delegations with a view to elaborating a generally acceptable text.

Section III.

Paragraphs 1 (a) - (f)

56. Paragraphs 1 (a) - (f) were adopted.

Paragraphs 2 and 3

57. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) felt that it might be appropriate to insert some of the suggestions made by the Assistant Secretary-General concerning the dissemination of information.

58. Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that the Assistant Secretary-General had asked her to convene a small informal working group, representing all geographical regions and the specialized agencies, to prepare suggestions regarding specific public relations efforts to promote the Decade for Women. The informal working group had met, and so far could suggest that: an International Women's Day should be observed in all Member States; the symbol used throughout the International Women's Year should be officially adopted as the symbol for the Decade; special events pertaining to and involving women's achievements should be planned and a special area or activity should be highlighted each year of the Decade; a series of international seminars should be held throughout the Decade in each of the five regions of the world; communications from the United Nations concerning the programme for the Decade should be given the widest possible distribution and the Decade should receive wide publicity at the national level; work should go ahead on a 1980 conference; and all efforts aimed at changing the attitudes of both men and women should be encouraged at every opportunity by the United Nations in its publications, as well as in its planning for the 1980 conference and in other meetings and seminars. The informal working group had not yet concluded its work, but it expected to be able to submit a document the following day.

59. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) reminded the Commission that some of the points listed in paragraph 3 on page 21 of document E/CN.6/594 were to be included in section III of document E/CN.6/L.682. The Commission's report should certainly take into account some of the ideas presented by the representative of the United Kingdom.

60. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Secretariat should redraft paragraphs 2 and 3 of section III and submit the new text to the Commission.

61. It was so decided.

Paragraph 4

62. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) said it was not clear to her delegation what kind of international and regional agencies would be in a position to include or eliminate the subjects referred to in paragraphs 4 (a) to (g).

63. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the Secretariat had had in mind such organizations as UNESCO or the United Nations Office of Public Information. Perhaps the word "Include" in paragraph 4 (a) should be replaced by the words "Encouraged to include".

64. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) said that paragraph 4 (d) was unacceptable to her delegation in its present form, since its wording did not appear in the World Plan of Action. She therefore proposed the following text: "Study the use of the mass communications media as a vehicle to enhance the status of women and encourage the use of the media in accelerating the acceptance of women's new and expanding role in society".

65. Miss TYABJI (India) suggested that paragraph 4 (b) might be expanded to include the idea contained in paragraph 4 (e).

66. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said it would be very helpful to many countries, including her own, if the Commission could adopt her delegation's proposal that the United Nations should prepare documentary material on the status of women in the form of yearbooks which would be kept up to date and circulated to countries upon request.

67. Referring to paragraph 4 (e), she said it would be impossible to develop guidelines for treatment of women by the media in her country, where the media enjoyed complete freedom.

68. Ms. SANDLUND (Sweden) said she shared the view of the Mexican representative. She also supported the new text for paragraph 4 (d) proposed by the representative of Canada.

69. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) agreed with the Mexican representative that it would be impossible to lay down guidelines for independent States.

70. Miss TYABJI (India), thought that paragraph 4 should be included under the heading "National Action 1976-1980".

71. Ms. LORANGER (Canada) said that the Mexican representative's objection to the word "guidelines" in paragraph 4 (e) was probably due to a difference in translation. The word "guidelines" in English was not as strong as "directives", and guidelines would not be binding on the media.

72. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation supported the Canadian amendment to paragraph 4 (d).

73. The Canadian amendment was adopted.

74. Paragraph 4, as a whole, as amended, was adopted.

75. Ms. HAHN (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) drew attention to the brochure Food for All which had been distributed the previous day, and informed the Commission that FAO's commemorative medal for the International Women's Year had been awarded to Mrs. Hussein of Egypt, a distinguished poet who had herself composed the message of 21 words in Arabic, addressed to the women of the world, on the obverse of the medal. She added that all profits from the sale of the medal would be devoted to projects for the benefit of women.

76. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) expressed her gratitude for the award of the FAO medal, which was a most attractive symbol of the International Women's Year.

National Action 1976-1980

77. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) proposed that the Commission should adopt the final paragraph on "National Action 1976-1980".

78. It was so decided.

Section II.B. (continued)

79. Mrs. GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) proposed that the text of the introduction to section II.B. submitted by the Venezuelan and Byelorussian delegations should be put to the vote.

80. It was so decided.

81. The joint text was adopted by 18 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Section IV

Paragraphs 1 and 2

82. Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted.

National action 1976-1980

Paragraphs 1 and 2

83. Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted.

Paragraph 3

84. Miss TYABJI (India) proposed that stronger wording should be used, urging all United Nations agencies and States Members to give particular attention to the achievement by 1980 of the minimum objectives set forth in article 46 of the World Plan of Action.

85. It was so decided.

86. Paragraph 3 was adopted as amended.

Section II.C. (continued)

Paragraph 1 (b) (continued)

87. Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark) recalled that, in a spirit of compromise, his delegation had proposed that the reference to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX) should be replaced by the words "in accordance with the general principles of the United Nations programme for the Decade for Women".

88. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) said that her delegation could support the Danish proposal.

89. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said it was impossible to speak of the principles of the United Nations programme for the Decade for Women, as that programme had not yet been adopted by the General Assembly. Nor did she think it possible for the Commission, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, to ignore General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX).

90. Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) suggested that the Danish representative might accept the words "in accordance with the general principles of the World Plan of Action".
91. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that mention of the World Plan of Action should not necessarily exclude a reference to the General Assembly resolution. She requested the Secretariat for background information on the matter.
92. Mrs. BRUCE (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX) was entitled "Women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression, occupation and all forms of foreign domination". It reaffirmed the principles of the Declaration of Mexico, requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session on the implementation of the resolution, and was, in effect, a mandate to prepare a comprehensive report; however, the Commission was, of course, free to choose its own course of action.
93. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thanked the Assistant Director for her explanation and said she was confident that the General Assembly would take suitable steps to pursue the matter.
94. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) said that her delegation found it difficult to agree to the deletion of the reference to the General Assembly resolution. However, as a compromise, she suggested that the reference should either be placed in square brackets at the end of the paragraph or made in a foot-note.
95. Mrs. GUEYE (Senegal) moved the closure of the debate, as the majority of delegations seemed to be in favour of retaining the reference to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX).
96. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to vote on the proposal by Senegal for the closure of the debate.
97. The proposal was adopted by 23 votes to none, with 1 abstention.
98. Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark) withdrew his amendment.
99. The CHAIRMAN invited the Commission to vote on the original text of paragraph 1 (b).
100. Paragraph 1 (b) was adopted by 16 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions.
101. Mr. LEHMANN (Denmark) explained that his delegation had voted against paragraph 1 (b) because it referred to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX), which contained elements of a political nature that hampered efforts to bring about equality between men and women.

102. Mr. TILLFORS (Sweden), explained that his delegation had abstained from the vote on paragraph 1 (b) because it had abstained from the vote on General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX), which did not refer to the issue of equality between men and women and amounted to political propaganda.

103. Mr. SIDELIS (Greece) said that his delegation had abstained from the vote on paragraph 1 (b). Its abstention in no way reflected its position with regard to the substance of the paragraph but merely his delegation's objection to the reference in paragraph 1 (b) to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX), on which it had also abstained.

104. Mr. CALLWAY (United Kingdom) explained that his delegation had also voted against paragraph 1 (b) because it referred specifically to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX).

105. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that, although her delegation did not object to the substance of paragraph 1 (b), it had voted against that text because it referred to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX), which dealt with political issues to which her Government objected.

106. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) explained that her delegation had also voted against paragraph 1 (b) because it contained a reference to General Assembly resolution 3519 (XXX), against which her delegation had voted.

107. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) said that her delegation had voted against paragraph 1 (b) for the same reasons as the delegation of Denmark.

Section I, paragraph 1 (continued)

108. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) proposed that paragraph 1 as a whole should be amended to read: "The policies, principles and mandates for the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace are set forth in a number of international documents, especially the World Plan of Action, which stresses the importance of national action supported by action at the regional and global levels involving all organizations in the United Nations system. The World Plan of Action and the regional plans provide detailed guidelines for such action".

109. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said that the United States amendment would seriously hamper the implementation of the programme for the Decade because it did not refer to the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions which contained specific mandates.

110. Miss ST. CLAIRE (Secretary of the Commission) said that the delegations of Belgium, Denmark, France and the United States had proposed that the following footnote to paragraph 1 should be included in the programme: "The inclusion of this paragraph should not be interpreted as indicating a change in the position taken by delegations when the documents and resolutions referred to in the paragraph were adopted".

111. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that she could understand why certain delegations, which had difficulties with paragraph 1, had proposed that a footnote to that paragraph should be included in the programme for the Decade.

112. Her delegation could not, however, support the amendment proposed by the United States because it did not refer to the decisions adopted at the World Conference by the General Assembly, and because it gave the impression that those decisions were of no importance to the Commission. Moreover, that amendment should have been submitted in writing 24 hours before it was to be taken up by the Commission. Her delegation was therefore of the opinion that it could not be considered at the present time.

113. Miss BOKOR-SZEGO (Hungary), pointed out that, according to rule 51 of the rules of procedure, the Commission did not have to discuss the amendment proposed by the United States of America because the representative of the Soviet Union had requested that it should not be considered at the present meeting.

114. Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said that the United States delegation must decide whether it intended to sponsor the oral amendment it had proposed or the footnote to paragraph 1 which had been read out by the Secretary. She urged the United States delegation to withdraw its amendment and to support only the proposed footnote, which amounted to a reservation to paragraph 1.

115. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that, as the documents referred to in paragraph 1 had been adopted by the United Nations, he could not understand why certain delegations were so firmly opposed to any reference to them. The delegations which had not been in favour of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions referred to had made their positions clear in the votes on those resolutions. It was therefore unnecessary for them to reiterate their positions in the Commission. He suggested either that the Commission's report on the current session should contain a paragraph in which the reservations of delegations opposed to paragraph 1 would be reflected, or that the proposed footnote to paragraph 1 should be included in the programme for the Decade.

116. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that, in proposing its amendment to paragraph 1, her delegation had merely been exercising its right to propose oral amendments to the programme, as other delegations had done. It would nevertheless agree to withdraw its amendment in favour of the adoption of the proposed footnote, which should be included in the programme and not merely mentioned in the summary record of the meeting.

117. The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Commission agreed to adopt paragraph 1, with the inclusion of the footnote proposed by the delegations of Belgium, Denmark, France and the United States.

118. It was so agreed.

119. The CHAIRMAN said she thought that the Commission could now adopt the programme for the Decade (E/CN.6/L.682) as a whole, as amended.

120. The programme for the Decade (E/CN.6/L.682), as a whole, as amended, was adopted by consensus.

121. Mr. CALLWAY (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the members of the European Economic Community represented in the Commission, welcomed the fact that it had been possible to adopt the programme for the Decade for Women by consensus. His delegation and the delegations of Belgium, Denmark and France fully supported the objectives of the Decade and, in particular, the emphasis placed in the programme on the link between the promotion of equal rights and opportunities for men and women and the process of economic development. The programme nevertheless contained references to resolutions and other international documents which those delegations had not been able to support at the time of their adoption. Moreover, parts of the programme reflected ideas which had been expressed in those resolutions and documents and which did not necessarily further the cause of women's rights.

122. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) and Mrs. TALLAWY (Egypt) said they were gratified that the programme for the Decade had been adopted by consensus.

123. Mr. ESHASSI (Iran) said his delegation was also glad that the programme for the Decade had been adopted by consensus, and proposed that the Commission should request the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed sixtieth session, to transmit the programme for the Decade to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session. He explained that if the programme for the Decade was not communicated to the Economic and Social Council at its resumed sixtieth session, it could not be submitted to the General Assembly until the thirty-second session, in 1977.

124. Miss GONZALEZ MARTINEZ (Mexico) welcomed the Commission's adoption of the programme for the Decade by consensus and supported the proposal made by the representative of Iran.

125. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the adoption of the programme for the Decade by consensus was a source of great satisfaction to her delegation, which also fully supported the proposal made by the representative of Iran. The sooner the General Assembly adopted the programme for the Decade, the sooner it would be implemented.

126. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation had supported those parts of the programme which dealt with the problems of women and had been impressed by the similarity of delegations' views on women's issues and by their concerted efforts to ensure the equal participation of women, as decision-makers, in the economic, social and political life of their countries.

127. The programme for the Decade nevertheless contained some references to United Nations documents which her country had consistently opposed. Her delegation believed that the Commission's purpose was to promote the status of women throughout the world and that it should fairly reflect the concerns of all delegations and try to reach conclusions on which they could all agree. It would therefore submit in writing its reservations on certain parts of the programme for the Decade and hoped that they would be reflected in the Commission's report.

128. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) said that her delegation would also submit in writing its reservations to certain parts of the programme for the Decade.

129. The CHAIRMAN said that, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Commission wished to adopt the Iranian representative's proposal.

130. The proposal was adopted.

131. Mrs. Bruce (Assistant Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) reminded the Commission that the General Assembly had requested it to complete its work on the draft convention in 1976 and that the Economic and Social Council had requested it to consider the preparatory work for the 1980 Conference at the current session.

132. As the Commission had not yet completed its work on those two matters and as its report had to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council in April 1977, it could request the Council either to approve the extension of the current session by one week or to approve a resumption of the session for two weeks during December at Geneva. Both possibilities had financial implications. Thus, if the Commission requested the extension of the current session by one week, the cost would be \$84,400 with summary records or \$47,500 without summary records and \$1,900 for the services of the Secretariat. If the Commission decided to request a resumption of the current session for two weeks in December, the cost would be \$168,800 with summary records or \$95,000 without summary records and \$8,100 for the travel expenses and subsistence allowances of the Secretariat staff.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.