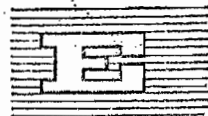


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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Resumed Twenty-sixth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 668TH MEETING

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,  
on Friday, 10 December 1976, at 10.10 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. GONZALES de CUADROS (Colombia)

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INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN (agenda item 3) (continued):

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (E/CN.6/592) (continued)

1. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) said her delegation wished to place on record the fact that, prior to the adoption of the Declaration in 1967, the Government of Pakistan had prepared its own 19-point declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women. As that declaration had already been submitted to the Secretary-General, who had expressed approval of it, she requested that it should be distributed at the current session.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that the Commission would be pleased to accede to that request.

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

(a) EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (E/CN.6/L.697) (continued)

3. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran), introducing the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/L.697, said that the text was self-explanatory. There were two minor errors: the references to the "thirty-first session" of the General Assembly in the first preambular paragraph and in paragraph 2 should read "thirty-second session".

4. Ms. HENDSCH (United States of America) said that her delegation was pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution, which represented a necessary step in the preparation of documentation for the 1980 conference and a useful means of publicizing the World Plan of Action and its recommendations.

5. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan), Miss TYABJI (India) and Princess PURACHATRA (Thailand) said that their delegations strongly supported the draft resolution.

6. The draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.697) was adopted as amended.

(b) THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE AND RELATED QUESTIONS INCLUDING TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES (E/CN.6/L.684) (continued)

7. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America), introducing the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/L.684, said that it had originated in discussions with developing countries on the best means of accelerating the integration of women in development and that its purpose was to promote the integration of women in development planning, management and evaluation. Women had consistently been excluded from those activities and had received little training in the skills necessary for participation in planning. Accordingly, the draft resolution, and in particular paragraph 2, set out the elements which should be incorporated in training programmes. The sponsors also suggested that the United Nations system should provide training of that kind for women - for example through the proposed international training and research institute for the advancement of women. The draft resolution also reflected the concerns of women in the developing countries, and was intended to help them in regions such as Africa where, all too often, women's skills had not been developed.

8. The following change should be made in paragraph 1: the words "Requests that the Secretary-General direct the United Nations Development Programme" should be replaced by "Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of the ...". In paragraph 5, the words "Recommends that the Secretary-General direct" should be replaced by "Invites". In addition the final operative paragraph of the draft resolution should be deleted because it was somewhat premature.

9. Mrs. VENEZI-COSMETATOS (Greece) said that her delegation strongly supported the draft resolution. Women were left out of the planning process not only in the developing countries but in other countries as well.

10. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) said that her delegation also supported the draft resolution wholeheartedly. Her Government and non-governmental organizations in her country had submitted a document on the subject to the United Nations as early as 1951, and her delegation was therefore particularly pleased that the Commission was now endorsing the training of women in the preparation and implementation of project proposals.

11. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) said that her delegation endorsed the substance of the draft resolution, which elaborated upon a recommendation made in the Declaration. It would, however, be grateful if the sponsors could clarify the meaning of the words "utilized" and "systems governing funding allocations" in the second preambular paragraph, as well as the reference to "courses" in paragraph 5 (1). It would certainly be useful to have courses of the kind referred to, but she doubted whether they already existed, as the text seemed to imply.

12. Miss TYABJI (India) said that her delegation strongly supported the draft resolution, but agreed with the Egyptian representative's observations. In addition, paragraph 2 seemed unnecessarily detailed and should perhaps be reworded in order to avoid the implication that existing management courses might be excluded from the training proposed.

13. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America), referring to the Egyptian representative's observations, said that the words "funding allocations" were explained in paragraphs 2 (e) and (f) of the draft resolution. In paragraph 5, the sponsors had in mind courses already in existence from which women were too frequently excluded; the reports requested from the international agencies should make clear how many women were participating in such courses.

14. With respect to the observations of the representative of India, she suggested that, in paragraph 2, the words "Requests that such training incorporates" be replaced by the words "Suggests that such training might incorporate".

15. Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) requested information concerning the periodicity of the reports referred to in paragraph 5. Was she correct in assuming that reports should be submitted, first, prior to the Commission's 1978 session, and second, in preparation for the 1980 conference?

16. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that a minor editorial change should be made in paragraph 5: the numbers (1)-(5), indicating the topics on which information was to be sought, should be replaced by the letters (a)-(e).
17. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that her delegation strongly supported the draft resolution and had no reservations about the detailed nature of paragraph 2. It proposed that the following paragraph 6 should be added to the end of the draft resolution:  

"6. Expresses the desire that the international agencies should themselves set an example to States parties by allocating to qualified women an equitable number of responsible posts in all structures entrusted with the implementation of plans of action."
19. Miss TYABJI (India) considered that insufficient emphasis was laid on training in management. She therefore suggested that, in paragraph 5 (a), the words "such courses" should be replaced by the words "such management and project training courses; their content;".
20. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) supported the Indian representative's amendment and added that, in the second preambular paragraph, it would be preferable to replace the words "been utilized" by "participated".
21. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) supported the Egyptian representative's proposal.
22. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) observed that the wording of the Russian text of the draft resolution was very unsatisfactory and should be improved.
23. Mrs. HERRAN (Colombia) said that the draft resolution was generally acceptable to her delegation. She would nevertheless welcome clarification of the words "in-kind contributions" in paragraph 2 (f), and suggested that the wording of the Spanish text of paragraph 2 (h) might be improved. In addition, it should perhaps be made clear that the institute referred to in paragraph 4 had not yet been set up.
24. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that in-kind contributions were non-monetary contributions; they could consist of equipment, office supplies and even food that could be used in the training programme.
25. The international training and research institute for the advancement of women had not yet been established but great interest had been expressed in it and her delegation hoped that it would be set up before long.
26. Mr. NASIER (Indonesia) said he supported the Indian representative's comments on paragraph 2. Observing that women would have to work alongside men in project planning and operation, he suggested that some reference to team-work should be included in the paragraph.
27. Ms. FREDGAID (Sweden) noting that the areas of training listed in paragraph 2 did not correspond to the concept of basic training contained in paragraph 1, asked at what level training was to be given.
28. She proposed that the word "planned" should be inserted before the word "International" in paragraph 4.

29. Begum FARIDI (Pakistan) endorsed the Swedish representative's comments. Training would have to be made available at many levels; it would also have to be provided by an expert body in the United Nations system itself. She could not agree that no training was available for women development planners; in Pakistan, training programmes had been organized since 1952 for qualified women.

30. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) suggested that, in order to ensure that a restrictive interpretation was not placed on paragraph 2, the words "among other things" should be inserted after the word "incorporates".

31. Miss TYABJI (India) supported the Egyptian representative's suggestion. She felt, however, that the Egyptian amendment should be expanded to read "among other things, some or all of the following".

32. Referring to the Swedish representative's comments, she suggested that the words "at all levels" should be inserted after "such training" in paragraph 3.

33. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) suggested that the Indian representative's amendment to paragraph 3 might meet the important point raised by the Swedish representative.

34. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America), referring to the amendments proposed to paragraph 2, said that her delegation preferred the Egyptian representative's formulation; the paragraph called for training of a very specific nature, namely, in the whole area of development planning and project drafting.

35. Mrs. JANJIC (International Labour Organisation) referring to the Indian representative's comments on paragraph 1, agreed that the text should be more flexible if it was to cover the type of training currently provided by the ILO. She therefore proposed that the text should be amended to read: "Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the executive heads of the specialized agencies, possibly in co-ordination with the appropriate international training and research institutes, with regional commissions and national Governments, to organize training programmes for women and women's organizations in the preparation of project proposals and in the management and evaluation of these projects". The inclusion of the word "possibly" would enable the specialized agencies to organize programmes independently of training institutions, but also in collaboration with them or with regional commissions or national governments. The word "basic" had been omitted because she felt that the text was concerned mainly with training programmes designed to help women and women's organizations to prepare technical assistance projects. Finally, as the training should cover the three stages of the preparation, management and evaluation of technical assistance projects, that idea had been included at the end of her text.

36. Mrs. HUTAR (United States of America) said that her delegation could accept the amendment to paragraph 1 proposed by the ILO representative. She hoped, however, that the words "governmental and non-governmental" would be retained in the text.

37. Mrs. JANJIC (International Labour Organisation) said that there would be no difficulty in retaining those words.

38. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) suggested that the word "possibly" should be replaced by the words "wherever possible".
39. Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) recalled that earlier in the meeting she had raised a question about the frequency of the reports called for in paragraph 5. The draft resolution would be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and would be approved in April or May 1977. The Secretary-General would then have to engage in correspondence with international agencies concerning the reports, and the courses would have to be organized. It would, therefore, be difficult to have more than a progress report for the Commission at its twenty-seventh session in January 1978. For that reason she suggested that the last sentence of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution should be deleted and replaced by a new paragraph 6 which would read: "Requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-seventh session in 1978 on the steps taken to implement this resolution, and a further report on action taken for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission and for the World Conference in 1980".
40. Mrs. DAHLERUP (Denmark), referring to the French proposal for a new final paragraph, suggested that the word "qualified" before the word "women" should be deleted. Had the text referred to the allocation of posts to men, no one would have dreamed of using the word "qualified". In any case, it must be assumed that all persons entering the United Nations were qualified.
41. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) agreed that the word "qualified" could be deleted.
42. Mrs. HUSSEIN (Egypt) suggested that the words "formulation and" should be inserted before the words "the implementation".
43. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) accepted that amendment.
44. Mrs. HERRAN (Colombia) asked whether the plans of action mentioned at the end of the French proposal referred to the World Plan of Action drawn up at Mexico City.
45. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) explained that her text covered not only the World Plan of Action but all national, regional or international plans of action in the formulation and implementation of which women must play a part at a high level.
46. Mrs. JANJIC (International Labour Organisation) suggested that the words "plans of action" should be replaced by less restrictive words such as, for example, "technical assistance projects".
47. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that the words suggested by the ILO representative were more restrictive than those in her own proposal. She explained that the words "plans of action" were not used in the United Nations sense but in a much broader sense, covering all plans of action, whether national, regional or international.
48. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) felt that the new paragraph proposed by the French representative was not very relevant to the subject of the draft resolution and hoped that her delegation would reconsider it.

49. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that her delegation had given considerable thought to the proposed new paragraph. It considered that women were not participating sufficiently in the planning process at the international level and that it was difficult to request Member States to make an effort when the international organizations themselves did not set an example. Her delegation's proposal therefore provided an opportunity of stressing the duty of the international organizations, particularly at the highest level of responsibility.
50. Miss TYABJI (India) said that everyone agreed with the idea underlying the French proposal; however, the draft resolution under consideration was concerned with training programmes for women rather than with providing jobs for women at the United Nations level. That idea had already been expressed elsewhere and she hoped that the French delegation would reconsider its proposal.
51. Mrs. JANJIC (International Labour Organisation) said that she supported the French proposal. If few women were involved in technical assistance work and if there were few technical assistance projects for women, it was mainly because not enough women occupied responsible posts in the international organizations. However, because the draft resolution dealt essentially with training programmes for women, a compromise solution might be to change the end of the paragraph to read "by allocating women an equitable number of responsible posts in all structures entrusted with the task of promoting and participating in these training programmes".
52. Ms. HENDSCH (United States of America) said that her delegation supported the French amendment, and believed that it focused on one of the very real problems which needed to be resolved in order to bring about the full integration of women in all areas of the United Nations system. It felt that if the words "promoting and participating in these training programmes" were replaced by the words "formulating and implementing these action plans" the French proposal would relate more closely to the fundamental idea of the draft resolution.
53. Mrs. COENE (Belgium) said that her delegation supported the paragraph proposed by the French delegation and amended by the United States delegation.
54. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that the amendments proposed by the United States and ILO representatives were equally acceptable to her delegation.
55. The CHAIRMAN invited the delegations of France and the United States and the ILO representative to hold consultations and submit a revised text to the Commission for consideration.
56. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that the parties concerned had agreed that the original text of her delegation's proposal would be retained up to "entrusted with", which would then be followed by the words "the implementation of this resolution".



57. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) said that his delegation was prepared to accept the amended version of the paragraph.

58. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Commission should suspend its consideration of the draft resolution for the time being to enable the Secretariat to prepare a revised text in all working languages incorporating the various amendments which had been proposed in the course of the Commission's discussions.

59. It was so decided.

(c) REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS MADE UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE AND IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION (E/CN.6/598 and Add.1-2, 599; E/CN.6/L.695 and L.696; E/CN.6/NGO.266 and Add.1, NGO.267 and Add.1)

60. Mr. EHSASSI (Iran) introduced the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.6/L.695 which, in the view of its sponsors, was one of the most important documents before the Commission.

61. Mrs. NIKOLAEVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that her delegation had some misgivings about discussing arrangements for the 1980 world review conference out of context. A specific agenda item had been allocated to the conference and her delegation thought it would be preferable to discuss all arrangements under that item.

62. Mrs. HIRLEMANN (France) said that her delegation would appreciate information on the financial implications of the establishment of the ad hoc committee referred to in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution.

63. Mrs. COCKCROFT (United Kingdom) said that her delegation supported the request by the French delegation and shared the misgivings expressed by the Soviet delegation with regard to the discussion of the 1980 world conference out of context.

64. Ms. FRIEDGARD endorsed the views expressed by the Soviet delegation.

65. Mrs. BRUCE (Deputy Director, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that, in a sense, the draft resolution could be divided into two parts. The first part consisted of the first six paragraphs and the second part of the last two paragraphs, which dealt specifically with the world conference. As the representative of Iran had indicated, the draft resolution was a very important document, particularly from the point of view of the world conference which was to be convened to review and evaluate the progress made in implementing the objectives of the International Women's Year as recommended by the Mexico Conference and, where necessary, to readjust existing programmes in the light of new data and research. General Assembly resolution 3490 (XXX), which was referred to in the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, set forth a rather complicated procedure for the review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action as an input for the review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Commission had a very distinct role to play; it had to report its findings on major trends with regard to the status of women to the Economic and Social Council through the Committee on Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal, and the first part of the draft resolution was, in a sense, complying with that request and leading up to the preparatory work for the world conference. She agreed that the discussion of paragraphs 7 and 8 independently of the general preparatory work for the conference might give rise to certain practical difficulties. Some preliminary information concerning the financial implications could, however, be made available to the Commission at that juncture.



66. Miss ST. CLAIR (Secretary of the Commission) said that the preliminary financial implications had been based on the assumption that the conference would be held in New York, in 1977, and would last for 5 days, two meetings being held each day. Documents would be issued in English, French and Spanish, and it had been estimated that there would be 20 pages of pre-session documentation, 10 pages of in-session documentation and 20 pages of post-session documentation. It had been assumed that no summary records would be prepared, but that sound recording would be provided. Travel expenses of representatives would be paid at the economy rate, but there would be no per diem. It had been estimated that the travel expenses of representatives would amount to \$22,470. With regard to the cost of temporary assistance, interpretation would amount to \$5,180, translation \$1,560, revision \$600, typing \$500, reproduction and distribution \$1,660, and miscellaneous \$600. Total expenditure had been estimated at \$32,660.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.