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# COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

## REPORT ON THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

1-20 March 1965

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OFFICIAL RECORDS : THIRTY-NINTH SESSION  
SUPPLEMENT No. 7

UNITED NATIONS  
New York, 1965

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## NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
OFFICIAL RECORDS  
THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 7

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the eighteenth session of the  
Commission, held at Teheran, Iran, from 1 to 20 March 1965

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its eighteenth session in Teheran, Iran, from 1 to 20 March 1965.
2. The session was opened by Miss María Lavalle Urbina (Mexico), Chairman of the Commission at its seventeenth session.
3. Her Imperial Majesty the Shahbanoo of Iran addressed the Commission at its opening meeting. The text of the speech by Her Imperial Majesty is reproduced in annex I to this report.

Attendance

4. Attendance at the session was as follows:

MEMBERS<sup>1/</sup>

Austria: Mrs. Ella M. Lingens;

China: Miss Yah-chuan Wang, Mr. Lei-shien Mo;\*\*

Dominican Republic: H. E. Miss Carmen Natalia Martínez Bonilla;

Finland: Mrs. Helvi L. Sipilä, Mr. Klaus Törnudd;\*

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\* Alternate.

\*\* Adviser.

<sup>1/</sup> Colombia was also a member of the Commission, but its representative, Mrs. Anacarsis Cardona de Salonia, did not attend the session.

France: Miss Jeanne Chaton;

Ghana: Mrs. Annie R. Jiagge;

Guinea: Mrs. Fatou Aribot;

Hungary: Mrs. Hanna Bokor;

Iran: H.I.H. Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, Mrs. Mehri Ahy,\*  
Mrs. Mehrangiz Dolatshahi,\* Mrs. Effat Nahvi,\* Mrs. Zafardochte Ardalan;\*\*

Mexico: Miss María Iavalle Urbina;

Nepal: Mrs. Kamal Rana;

Peru: Mrs. Eva María Robertson de Otayza;

Philippines: Miss Helena Z. Benitez, Mrs. Angelina C. Almanzor,\*  
Mrs. Etta Enriquez;\*

Poland: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska;

Sierra Leone: Mrs. Iati Hyde-Forster;

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mrs. Z.V. Mironova, Mrs. B.A. Grigorian,\*  
Mrs. T.V. Andreeva,\* Mr. U.A. Selivanov,\*\* Mr. Martirossov;\*\*

United Arab Republic: Mrs. Aziza Hussein;

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Mrs. Margaret McKay,  
Mr. J.C. Harrison;\*\*

United States of America: Mrs. Gladys Avery Tillett; Mrs. Rachel C. Nason,\*\*  
Mrs. Alice A. Morrison,\*\* Mr. Victor Wolf, Jr.\*\*

#### OBSERVERS

Canada: Mr. Jacques Montpetit;

Japan: Mrs. Nobuko Takahashi, Mrs. Hisami Kurokochi.

#### UNICEF AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): Dr. Otto Lehner;

International Labour Organisation (ILO): Mrs. Elizabeth M. Johnstone;

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):  
Miss Nicole M. Friderich;

World Health Organization (WHO): Dr. Leon Lapeyssonnie.

\* Alternate.

\*\* Adviser.



INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION<sup>2/</sup>

Inter-American Commission of Women: H.E. Miss Carmen Natalia Martínez Bonilla.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Category A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions: Mrs. Petronella Tegelaar;

World Federation of Trade Unions: Mr. K.B. Panikkar.

Category B

All Pakistan Women's Association: Begum Asma Tayyeb Husain;

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs: Mrs. Margaret Bender;

International Alliance of Women: Mrs. Laurel Casinader;

International Council of Jewish Women: Mrs. Shamsi Hekmat;

International Council of Women: Mrs. Theanolte Bahnisch, Mrs. Hava Cohen,  
Mrs. Olive Remington Goldman;

International Federation of Business and Professional Women: Mrs. Esther W. Hymer,  
Dr. Kechkinneh Kazimi;

International Federation of University Women: Miss Dorothy C. Stratton;

International Federation of Women in Legal Careers: Mrs. Marlise Ernst Henrion;

International Federation of Women Lawyers: Mrs. Mehranguiz Manoutchehrian,  
Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf, Mrs. Homa Afzal;

International League for the Rights of Man: Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf;

International Social Service: Mrs. Rosalind W. Harris;

Pan-Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association: Miss Elmina Lucke;

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: Mrs. Fouad Najjar;

World Assembly of Youth: Miss Margaret Snyder;

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<sup>2/</sup> In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 48 (IV), part B, paragraph 7.

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations: Dr. Marya Tchiloyans;

World Young Women's Christian Association: Mrs. Alice Arnold.

#### Register

International Council of Social Democratic Women: Mrs. Mary Saran,  
Mrs. Mina Ben-Zvi;

Medical Women's International Association: Dr. Iran Alam, Dr. Robabeh Kianouri;

St. Joan's International Alliance: Mrs. Magdeleine Le Roy-Boy,  
Mrs. Margarethe von Müller;

Zonta International: Mrs. Wallia Moore.

5. Mr. John P. Humphrey, Director of the Division of Human Rights, and Mrs. Margaret K. Bruce, Chief of the Section on the Status of Women, represented the Secretary-General. Mrs. Pilar Santander-Downing acted as Secretary to the Commission.

#### Election of officers

6. At its 412th meeting, on 1 March 1965, the Commission unanimously elected the following officers: Chairman: H.I.H. Princess Ashraf Pahlavi (Iran); First Vice-Chairman: Miss Helena Z. Benitez (Philippines); Second Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Helvi L. Sipilä (Finland); Rapporteur: Mrs. Annie R. Jiagge (Ghana).

#### Meetings, resolutions and documentation

7. The Commission held twenty-seven plenary meetings. The views expressed at those meetings are summarized in the records of the 412th to 438th meetings (E/CN.6/SR.412-438).

8. The resolutions and decisions of the Commission appear in the present report under the relevant headings. The draft resolutions submitted to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration are set out in chapter XVIII of the report.

9. The documents before the Commission at its eighteenth session are listed in annex II to the present report.

10. In the course of its eighteenth session, the Commission took note of statements by the Secretary-General on the financial implications of proposals the implementation of which would involve additional budgetary provisions. A summary of these statements, relating to the proposals as adopted by the Commission, is given in annex III to the present report.

## Agenda

11. The Commission considered its agenda at the 413th and 424th meetings. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/431) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the seventeenth session of the Commission.

12. The representative of the USSR proposed that the order of items 7 and 10 should be reversed, in view of the importance she attached to item 10, dealing with economic rights and opportunities for women. This view was shared by some members of the Commission. The representative of the USSR also suggested that item 14, dealing with the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women, should be omitted.

13. At its 413th meeting, the Commission unanimously adopted the items listed in the provisional agenda up to and including item 6. It decided to postpone consideration of the order in which the remaining items of the provisional agenda should be discussed, until consideration of item 6 was completed. It further decided to postpone consideration of sub-item (b) of item 7 until its nineteenth session (see paragraph 178 below).

14. At its 424th meeting, the Chairman suggested that item 10, dealing with economic rights and opportunities for women, and item 11, on equal pay for equal work, should be considered immediately after item 7. She also suggested that the remaining items should be considered in the order set forth in the provisional agenda. These suggestions were accepted by the Commission, and the agenda, as amended, was unanimously adopted.

15. The agenda as adopted (E/CN.6/431/Rev.1) is reproduced below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Political rights of women:
  - (a) Progress achieved in the field of political rights;
  - (b) Implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women;
  - (c) Status of women in Trust Territories;
  - (d) Status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories.
4. Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women.
5. United Nations assistance for the advancement of women.
6. Advisory services in the field of human rights.
7. Status of women in private law:
  - (a) Legal conditions and effects of the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation;

- (b) Legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and property rights.
8. Economic rights and opportunities for women:
    - (a) Activities of the ILO which have a bearing on the employment of women;
    - (b) Part-time work for women;
    - (c) Vocational guidance and training of girls and women.
  9. Equal pay for equal work.
  10. Effect of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission on national legislation.
  11. Access of women to education:
    - (a) Activities of UNESCO of special interest to women;
    - (b) Access of girls and women to secondary education.
  12. Periodic reports on human rights.
  13. Report by the representatives of the Commission on the Status of Women at the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and at the Commission on Human Rights.
  14. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
  15. Communications concerning the status of women.
  16. Survey of the work of the Commission. Review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities. Control and limitation of documentation.
  17. Report to the Economic and Social Council on the eighteenth session of the Commission.

## II. POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

16. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 413th to 418th and at its 422nd and 424th meetings. It had before it the following documents: memoranda by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women (A/5456 and Add.1; A/5735); reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (E/CN.6/360/Add.3 and 4; E/CN.6/430 and Add.1); a report of the Secretary-General containing information on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/427); and a report of the Secretary-General containing information on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/434).

17. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/150), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/154) and the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (E/CN.6/NGO.157). During the general debate on the item, oral statements were made by the observers from the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International League for the Rights of Man, and St. Joan's International Alliance.

18. During the debate the Commission also heard a statement by the observer from Japan.

19. The memoranda by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women (A/5456 and Add.1; A/5735) which had been circulated to the General Assembly at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions respectively, showed that, as at 1 September 1964, women were entitled to vote in all elections and were eligible for election in 106 countries, that the right of women to vote or be eligible for election was subject to limitations not imposed on men in six countries, and that women had no voting rights and were not eligible for election in nine countries.

20. Members of the Commission expressed satisfaction with the continued progress that had been achieved in the field of political rights of women. Some, however, regretted that there were still some countries and territories in which women had not yet obtained full political rights and expressed the hope that these rights would soon be realized everywhere.

21. Several members emphasized that although political rights had been accorded to women in many countries, the problem of ensuring that they made effective use of these rights still remained. It was pointed out that the possession of political rights entailed more than the right to vote and to be elected, and that women should realize that the right to vote should not be viewed in isolation, but as part of their responsibility for the betterment of the community as a whole. Some representatives stressed the need to train women for leadership in community affairs, believing that seminars, workshops and training courses, organized at the national and community levels, could be very useful in that respect. Several

members felt that the pamphlet "Civic and Political Education of Women" (E/CN.6/405/Rev.1), 3/ prepared by the Secretary-General at the request of the Commission, had been and would be very valuable in such training, and they stressed its usefulness, particularly to Governments in their work with women's organizations. The need to teach women their responsibilities towards the community was emphasized by several representatives, who also pointed out that training for leadership should be combined with civic and political education of all the people at all levels. It was said that illiteracy continued to be a major obstacle to the proper exercise of political rights and that other obstacles were in some instances the attitude of women themselves and their lack of political consciousness.

22. Several representatives expressed satisfaction with the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by Member States which had been prepared in accordance with resolution 961 B (XXXVI) of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/430 and Add.1). Some expressed regret that information had not been supplied by more Member States and that, in some cases, the information given was incomplete; it was hoped that those States which had not already done so would supply information in future. It was noted that comparatively few women held high elective or appointive posts. Several representatives pointed out that the lack of the necessary training and qualifications, and sometimes the psychological background of the women themselves, were in part responsible for this fact. The demands of modern life were also considered to be one of the reasons that prevented women from occupying high and responsible posts in their Governments.

23. It was suggested that, in order to achieve full participation in political life, women should be encouraged to begin their participation in public affairs at a very low level, close to their home or to their place of work. It was said that social service programmes such as child welfare and family planning were often an essential first step in encouraging women to take a more active part in public life. In this regard the suggestion was made that social services should be developed progressively and that they should be given a place of priority in the programme of the United Nations Development Decade.

24. One representative suggested that the tables in the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/430) might be expanded to show, where countries had two legislative chambers, whether women were eligible for election to both, and that it would be useful to indicate the percentage of women elected and appointed to high posts. Another representative suggested that it would be interesting to have information about women's participation in the activities of political parties and trade unions, in women's organizations and in the various bodies where they worked in collaboration with men.

25. Satisfaction was expressed that there were now forty-four States Parties to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, although some members regretted that this number was not larger. Some pointed out that, although their Governments were not parties to the Convention, the principles of the Convention were being implemented in their countries and they cited examples of women who held high elective and appointive positions.

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3/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.IV.7.

26. It was noted that some progress had been made in improving the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories since the previous report of the Secretary-General on this subject (E/CN.6/406) had been issued in 1963, although some representatives commented that the rate of progress was not satisfactory. It was suggested that an appeal might be addressed to the competent organs of the United Nations to urge the immediate implementation of the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV)). One representative pointed out that great progress had been made in the Territories under her Government's administration, and that the Government was careful not to impose on indigenous peoples a system that they were not ready to accept or which was contrary to their traditions.

#### Consideration of draft resolutions

27. A draft resolution on the political rights of women was submitted by Finland, Guinea, Hungary and Iran (E/CN.6/L.399). It recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution stating that the Council:

"1. Invites all Member States to accede to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women and to apply fully the principles contained in that Convention,

"2. Appeals to all Member States to supply the Secretary-General in due time, in accordance with its resolution 961 B (XXXVI), with full information on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women."

28. The representative of the United Kingdom orally proposed amendments to the draft resolution. With regard to paragraph 1, she proposed, first, that the words "to intensify action to enable them" should be inserted between the words "invites all Member States" and "to accede to the Convention..."; and, secondly, that the words "in so far as is consistent with the different social systems and varying states of development" should be inserted immediately before the words "to apply fully the principles contained in that Convention". With regard to operative paragraph 2, she proposed that the word "either" should be inserted before the phrase "in accordance with its resolution 961 B (XXXVI)", and, immediately after that phrase, the words "or, where applicable, under Article 73 e of the Charter" should be added.

29. In introducing these amendments the representative of the United Kingdom stated that, although her Government had not ratified the Convention, it fully accepted the principles underlying it, and every effort had been made to implement its provisions in the United Kingdom and in the Territories for which the Government was responsible. In explanation of the amendment to operative paragraph 2, the United Kingdom representative emphasized that, under Article 73 e of the Charter, her Government had already submitted information on the Non-Self-Governing Territories for which it was responsible and had for a number of years voluntarily submitted information concerning political rights.

30. Several representatives, drawing attention to resolutions previously adopted by the Economic and Social Council calling on States to ratify or accede to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, expressed the view that the resolution incorporating all the amendments proposed by the United Kingdom would constitute a retrograde step. Opposition was expressed in particular to the second amendment to

operative paragraph 1, and to the amendment to operative paragraph 2. It was pointed out that Article 73 e of the Charter imposed an obligation on States to submit statistical and other information relating to the Territories for which they were responsible, and specific reference to that obligation in the present resolution was therefore unnecessary and out of place.

31. The first United Kingdom amendment to operative paragraph 1 was adopted by 7 votes to 4, with 6 abstentions. The second amendment to operative paragraph 1 was withdrawn. The United Kingdom amendment to operative paragraph 2 was rejected by 11 votes to 3, with 4 abstentions.

32. At its 422nd meeting, on 7 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution submitted by Finland, Guinea, Hungary and Iran (E/CN.6/L.399), as amended, by 18 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

33. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

# 1 (XVIII). POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

## The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having considered the situation as regards the political rights of women,

Congratulating the Secretary-General on his reports on progress achieved in the field of the political rights of women (A/5456 and Add.1; A/5735), on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (E/CN.6/360 and Add.3 and 4; E/CN.6/430 and Add.1), and on the status of women in Trust and in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/427; E/CN.6/434),

Recommends the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following draft resolution:

For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVIII, draft resolution I.7

34. A draft resolution dealing with the civic and political education of women was submitted by Mexico, the Philippines and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.397). In introducing the draft resolution, it was stated that the objective of the proposed new series of regional seminars was to work out a pattern for training women in leadership in community affairs, as a means of assisting women to make more effective use of their political rights. A series of model workshops or training courses at the national and local level could be developed subsequently by Governments in co-operation, as appropriate, with specialized agencies and women's non-governmental organizations. The draft resolution was revised three times during the discussion, and in its revised form, was sponsored by the Dominican Republic, Iran, Mexico, Nepal, the Philippines and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.397/Rev.1-3).

35. The first revised text (E/CN.6/L.397/Rev.1) recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution stating that the Council:



"1. Considers that, as a significant contribution to the last five years of the Development Decade, seminars or workshops should be organized on the civic and political education of women, designed to assist women to utilize their rights and responsibilities as citizens, with particular attention to equipping them for active community participation;

"2. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status to take appropriate responsibility, in co-operation with their national and local affiliates, in planning, organizing and conducting seminars or workshops at the national and community level, under their own auspices or as appropriate in co-operation with Governments, as well as at the regional level, and to explore all possible resources - international, national and local - which might assist them in this task;

"3. Invites interested specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation, to co-operate with Member States and with non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status in carrying forward these objectives;

"4. Recommends that the Secretary-General include in his annual budget estimates for the human rights advisory services programme, and in his supplementary estimates for 1966, additional funds:

"(a) To make possible the holding each year of one or more workshops or training courses on the civic and political education of the women, in the nature of a demonstration or pilot project, which can be adapted and used for follow-up projects at the national and local level to equip and prepare women for more effective service to their communities;

"(b) To provide United Nations sales publications, including particularly the new pamphlet 'Civic and Political Education of Women', free of cost for use in seminars or workshops organized with the assistance of interested specialized agencies and non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status;

"5. Urges Member States to take full advantage of the new opportunities offered by this increase in resources, and the benefits to be derived therefrom:

"(a) By offering to act as host for a seminar,

"(b) By nominating a larger number of women candidates for fellowships under the human rights advisory services programme,

"(c) By encouraging national and local workshops at which the objectives developed at regional seminars and similar meetings can be given practical effect."

36. The second revision of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.397/Rev.2) stated that the Council:

"1. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status to take appropriate responsibility, in co-operation with their national and local affiliates, in planning, organizing and conducting seminars or workshops at the national and community level, as well as the regional level, under their own auspices or as appropriate in co-operation with Governments, and to explore all possible resources - international, national and local - which might assist them in this task;

"2. Invites interested specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation, to co-operate with Member States and with non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status in carrying forward these objectives;

"3. Invites the attention of Member States to help facilitate the utilization by women of their political rights through participation in community affairs:

"(a) By offering to act as host for a regional seminar or workshop,

"(b) By encouraging national and local seminars to serve as follow-ups at the community level;

"4. Recommends that the Secretary-General examine the possibility of:

"(a) Giving top priority, within the limits of each annual budget, to the holding of a seminar or workshop on the civic and political education of women, in the nature of a demonstration or pilot project, which can be adapted and used for the follow-up projects at the national and local levels to equip women for more effective service to their communities;

"(b) Including in his annual budget estimates for the human rights advisory services programme and in his supplementary estimates for 1966 and subsequent years additional funds:

"(i) To hold a series of seminars or workshops on this subject;

"(ii) To provide United Nations sales publications, including particularly the new pamphlet 'Civic and Political Education of Women', free of cost for use in seminars or workshops organized with the assistance of interested specialized agencies and non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status."

37. The discussions in the Commission related primarily to the second revision of the draft resolution.

38. With respect to the financial implications of the draft resolution, the representative of the Secretary-General informed the Commission that each additional seminar would cost \$40,000, and a training course would cost \$50,000. The work of the Secretariat that would result from the organization of additional seminars and training courses would require the addition of at least one

professional officer and one general service post, which had been estimated as costing \$25,000 annually. Attention was drawn to resolution 1008 (XXXVII) of the Economic and Social Council, which required review by the Technical Assistance Committee, and endorsement by the Economic and Social Council, of any proposed expansion of the advisory services programme before the budgetary requirements could be included in the Secretary-General's revised estimates for 1966. With regard to the reprinting and free distribution of pamphlets, it was considered that if distribution were limited to the participants attending seminars, workshops or training courses, the additional cost would be inconsiderable and would not require special budgetary provision.

39. During the discussion of the draft resolution, the sponsors explained that the proposed seminars on civic and political education of women would be organized on the same basis as other United Nations seminars relating to the status of women held under the human rights advisory services programme. They were intended to be in addition to, and not a substitute for, the series of seminars on the advancement of women in developing countries suggested by the Commission at its 1963 session in resolution 11 (XVII). <sup>4/</sup> Governments would appoint the participants. Background papers would be prepared which might summarize experiences and techniques developed by Governments and non-governmental organizations in conducting training courses and workshops. Participants would also be asked to prepare working papers. During a two- to three-week period participants would discuss experiences and techniques that had been found useful in training women for leadership in community affairs, and would draw up suggested model plans for use in national training courses. The training courses at the national level would be arranged by non-governmental organizations or by Governments, or both. The cost would be borne by those assuming the responsibility for organizing them and not by the United Nations. The training courses would use plans developed at the seminars, adapting them to suit individual needs of the particular country or area. It was suggested that there would also be workshops at the local level. Since only seminars and not training courses under United Nations auspices were envisaged, the financial implications would be reduced accordingly.

40. Some representatives expressed reservations concerning the draft resolution in view of the financial implications involved. Others were of the view that the Commission should not over-emphasize the financial implications of recommendations benefiting women, but, having noted the cost involved, should leave it to the appropriate organs of the United Nations to decide how additional funds might be made available.

41. Some representatives, pointing out that Governments must offer to act as host to seminars organized under the human rights advisory services programme, and that as yet there was no host Government for a seminar on the status of women in 1965, questioned whether there would be a host Government for the type of seminar contemplated in the draft resolution. Attention was drawn to the terms of resolution 11 (XVII) relating to seminars, workshops and training courses, which the Commission had adopted in 1963, and it was said that the proposal now submitted to the Commission would have the effect of reversing the Commission's previous decision to concentrate on education in promoting the political rights of women.

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<sup>4/</sup> Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7, chap. V, para. 141.

42. Some representatives expressed the view that the draft resolution implied that community activities were the principal means of encouraging women to take part in the political and civic life of their countries and argued that, in fact, the purpose of community activities was mainly economic.

43. It was also said that community development in the sense generally accepted by the United Nations was considered to be non-political, and that therefore to stress the role of community development programmes in encouraging women to avail themselves of political rights seemed inappropriate. On the other side, it was argued that community development in many countries was based on what was known as "aided self-help", namely, help in which the Government took the initiative in introducing community development programmes into various localities, and in stimulating the local population to consider ways of working together to promote programmes for advancement. It was said that it was difficult to disassociate economic and social problems from political rights, since improvement in these fields often came only through the exercise of political rights.

44. A number of members of the Commission commented on operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution relating to the organization of seminars and workshops by non-governmental organizations. Some representatives expressed the view that non-governmental organizations, acting in co-operation with each other, could not take the initiative in planning seminars and workshops, since action by non-governmental organizations required the support of Governments. It was emphasized that the local affiliates of non-governmental organizations had neither the financial resources nor the facilities for research necessary for organizing the type of seminar and workshop envisaged. It was pointed out that the recommendation was likely to reverse the method of work of local affiliates of non-governmental organizations and might even affect existing good relations. The local affiliates of non-governmental organizations generally had their own programme of work and decided on the priorities according to the needs of the locality. Any such recommendation might be embarrassing to them and might be regarded by others as interference in domestic affairs by a foreign body. It was suggested that the local affiliates of non-governmental organizations might take the initiative in requesting Governments to organize the seminar and co-operate fully in the organization and running of the seminar and workshop. Others indicated that international non-governmental organizations would find it difficult to encourage national affiliates to organize seminars and workshops at the local or national level since, in many countries, this could only be achieved with the help and support of Governments.

45. The draft resolution was revised for the third time (E/CN.6/L.397/Rev.3) to take into account the comments summarized above.

46. Commenting on the draft resolution thus revised, the representative of Ghana pointed out that the term "community activities" had a specific meaning in some countries, and proposed: (a) that the words "public services" should be substituted for "community activities" in the second preambular paragraph of the introductory draft resolution, and in the first preambular paragraph of the resolution recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council; and (b) that the words "public affairs" should be substituted for the words "community affairs" in the third preambular paragraph of the resolution recommended for adoption by the Council. These proposals were accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

47. The draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.397/Rev.3) as orally amended was voted on in parts, at the request of the representative of the USSR.

48. The text of the draft resolution up to and including operative paragraph 3 was adopted unanimously.

49. Operative paragraph 4 was adopted by 11 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

50. At its 424th meeting, on 8 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as a whole as amended by 12 votes to none, with 4 abstentions. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

## 2 (XVIII). CIVIC AND POLITICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN

### The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling that a series of regional seminars on the participation of women in public life was held between 1957 and 1960 to promote a better understanding among women of their political and civic responsibilities;

Noting that discussion of these seminars called attention to the possibilities of promoting civic and political education of women through participation in public services and of enlisting the assistance of non-governmental women's organizations in training voluntary leaders to this end;

Believing that a new series of regional seminars should be organized with a view to developing a pattern for workshops or training courses on civic and political education of women to be carried on at the national and local levels in order to equip women for a more effective use of their civic and political rights;

Believing also that the new United Nations pamphlet entitled "Civic and Political Education of Women" (E/CN.6/405/Rev.1) 5/ would be a useful guide for this purpose;

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

/For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVIII, draft resolution II/

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5/ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.IV.7.

### III. DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

51. The General Assembly, in resolution 1921 (XVIII) of 5 December 1963, requested the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on the Status of Women to prepare a draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women, with a view to its consideration by the Assembly, if possible at its twentieth session (1965). The General Assembly also invited Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies and appropriate non-governmental organizations to send to the Secretary-General their comments and proposals relating to the principles that might be incorporated in the draft declaration, with a view to their being brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Economic and Social Council, at its resumed thirty-sixth session, transmitted this resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women.

52. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda, concerning the draft declaration, at its 415th, 416th, 417th, 435th and 436th meetings.

53. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1921 (XVIII), the Commission had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/426 and Add.1 and 2) containing the comments and proposals received from thirty Governments, four specialized agencies and fifteen non-governmental organizations.

54. Written statements were submitted by the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/150), the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (E/CN.6/NGO/152), the International Federation of Women Lawyers (E/CN.6/NGO/148/Rev.1), and the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/154). Oral statements were made by the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Social Democratic Women, the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

#### General debate

55. The substance of resolution 1921 (XVIII) of the General Assembly met with the full agreement of the Commission. A number of representatives stressed that discrimination against women, in all its forms, was an offence to the dignity of women as human beings, and was in disregard of the Charter of the United Nations, of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and of numerous other instruments. Some representatives also expressed the view that the complete elimination of discrimination against women everywhere was a basic prerequisite for universal social progress.

56. Most representatives agreed that the adoption by the United Nations of the proposed declaration would be very useful in speeding up the achievement of complete equality between men and women.

57. One representative, while in full agreement with the substance of resolution 1921 (XVIII), stated that there was an urgent need for tackling the problem of discrimination as a whole; and she expressed some doubts as to

the effectiveness of preparing several United Nations declarations on limited aspects of that problem. In that connexion, other representatives pointed out that discrimination on any ground had already been condemned in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and that problems of discrimination on grounds other than sex were outside the terms of reference of the Commission.

58. Another representative expressed the view, already stated by some Governments in the comments reproduced in the Secretary-General's memorandum (E/CN.6/426 and Add.1-2), that the preparation of a declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women, should not be allowed to obstruct or delay the practical work of the Commission. This view was taken into account by the Commission when it decided to set up a drafting committee to prepare the first draft of the declaration, thus allowing consideration of other items to be carried on by the Commission as a whole without interruption.

59. An exchange of views took place as regards the immediate and long-term objectives which a declaration should seek to achieve, its contents and the terms in which it should be couched. It appeared from the debate that these three problems were to a large extent interrelated.

60. Several representatives stressed that the adoption and dissemination of the proposed declaration would greatly strengthen the action of Governments, interested organizations and individual women everywhere aimed at bringing about improvements where these were needed. Several representatives stated in that connexion that the existence of various conventions of the United Nations and the specialized agencies on certain aspects of the status of women did not make the drafting of the proposed declaration in any way superfluous. On the contrary, the adoption of the declaration was necessary to focus the attention of the public on the need to increase the number of ratifications of and accessions to those instruments and to achieve their full implementation.

61. Some representatives also pointed out that existing treaty provisions were contained in separate instruments from which it was not easy to obtain a comprehensive picture of the rights of women in international law. It was desirable to embody the fundamental principles of those instruments in a single document in order to promote the education of women concerning the rights which they already enjoyed.

62. As was stressed by several representatives, the instruments in force and the recommendations already adopted did not cover all the fields where discrimination against women existed. For instance, with the exception of the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages and the draft Recommendation on the same subject, family law was not dealt with in existing instruments. It was emphasized that the proposed declaration should condemn all forms of discrimination against women in all the fields where such discrimination manifested itself.

63. The opinion was expressed by some representatives that, while condemning all forms of discrimination, the draft declaration should not proclaim as a desirable goal complete identity of treatment between men and women. In their view, it was important to take into account the different but equally important roles which men and women played in society. There were instances, for example

in family law, where complete identity of treatment would be discriminatory against women.

64. Several representatives expressed the view that the contents of the draft declaration should be such as to gain universal acceptance. In the opinion of some representatives, it should, therefore, avoid setting standards which certain States might be unable to accept in view of their social or political structure, or on religious grounds.

65. It was generally felt that the draft declaration should not enter into too much detail, which might detract from its appeal to a wide public.

66. Some representatives held the view that the draft declaration should be limited to a statement of general principles, stressing the rights of women as individuals without setting forth the obligations of States to implement these principles. In their view, legally binding provisions directed to States should be contained in international conventions, and not in declaratory texts. These representatives were also of the opinion that implementation of the principle of equality of status of men and women was the task not only of Governments but also - and sometimes essentially - of private organizations, groups and individual citizens.

67. While agreeing that detailed provisions on implementation would be out of place in the draft declaration, several other representatives considered it important that the need for measures of implementation be stressed therein. In the view of some of these representatives, States were primarily responsible for giving effect to the principle of equality of status of men and women; and the draft declaration should, therefore, clearly formulate the essential obligations of States.

68. Some representatives indicated their preference for a concise and simple text, which could have an immediate impact on ordinary women everywhere. In their view, great care should be taken to avoid technicalities and unduly involved language. Other representatives, who laid stress on the value of the proposed document as a proclamation of definite standards and as a well-formulated programme for future action, felt that mass appeal should not be achieved at the expense of the required precision of language.

#### Draft declaration submitted by Poland and debate thereon

69. A proposed draft declaration was submitted by Poland (E/CN.6/L.396). It reads as follows:

##### "Preamble

"Considering that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

"Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including any distinction as to sex,



"Recalling that the United Nations, seeking, among other basic objectives, to achieve international co-operation for the promotion of the principle of equality of rights of men and women, created the Commission on the Status of Women for the purpose of furthering recognition of women's rights,

"Taking into account the resolutions, declarations, conventions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies with a view to promoting equal rights for men and women,

"Noting that despite encouraging developments, brought about inter alia by international action, the legal status of women does not correspond to the increasing role played by them in the economic and social life of their countries,

"Noting further that in some countries women are still denied the exercise of political rights, that in a number of countries conditions have not yet been created for the implementation of the principle of equality of men and women, embodied in the constitutions of those countries, that remnants of colonialism and feudalism are still an obstacle towards full emancipation of women, and that in the Non-Self-Governing Territories colonial exploitation of women is particularly strong and women continue to be denied or greatly restricted in the exercise of economic, social and other fundamental human rights,

"Believing that the denial of equal rights to women endangers the welfare of women as individuals, the welfare of the family as an institution and the welfare of the community at large and is an obstacle towards the attainment of universal social progress,

"Conscious of the increasingly important role played by women in modern society and of the fact that the participation of women - on equal terms with men - in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries is necessary for the national development,

"Convinced that the elimination of discrimination against women is indispensable for the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity, for closing the gap now existing between men and women and between women living in countries with different levels of political, economic and social development and for peace and understanding between nations,

"Desiring to promote universal recognition, in law and in fact, of the principle of equality of sexes,

"The General Assembly

"Solemnly proclaims this Declaration:

"1.

"Discrimination based on sex, which includes any distinction, exclusion, limitation or preference designed to destroy or modify equality of opportunity and treatment as between men and women, is fundamentally unjust

and constitutes an offence to human dignity. It shall be condemned as a denial of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and as a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"2.

"No State, institution, group or individual shall make any distinction as to sex in matters of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the treatment of persons.

"3.

"All States shall take effective measures to rescind laws and regulations which are discriminatory against women, and to establish legal protection of the equality of women.

"All States shall also take all appropriate measures in the field of training, education and information with a view to advocating the equality of women and men in all fields, to eradicating prejudice, abolishing any customs and practices as well as all propaganda based on the idea of inferiority of women.

"4.

"All States shall make particular efforts to equalize the status of men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of political rights and shall ensure to women the right to vote and be eligible for all elections and the right of access to public service on equal terms with men.

"5.

"No discrimination against women shall be admitted in the field of personal rights. States shall ensure to women the right to equality before the law and to equal protection by the law, the same right to freedom and security of person as is enjoyed by men, especially by suppressing all forms of traffic in women, compulsion to and exploitation of prostitution, and making them punishable under law, and shall grant to women full legal capacity and the right to free choice of domicile and residence on equal terms with men.

"6.

"There shall be no distinction based on sex as regards nationality in legislation or in practice.

"Women shall have the same rights as men to acquire or change their nationality.

"Marriage shall have no automatic effects on the nationality of the wife, nor shall the change of nationality by the husband during marriage have such effects.

"The contracting of marriage by a woman shall by no means result in her becoming a stateless person.

"7.

"All States shall take effective measures to prevent discrimination against women in the fields of economic, social and cultural rights. To achieve effective equality between men and women in these fields States shall:

"1. Ensure to women equal rights with men to work, to free choice of employment, to equal assistance and treatment by the employment service, to equal pay for work of equal value and to professional and vocational advancement and promotion;

"2. Grant to women equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular ensure to them equal access to schools of all types and all levels, including vocational and technical education, equal standards of education and equal possibilities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

"3. Ensure to women equal rights with men to rest, material security in case of old age, illness, unemployment or loss of capacity to work.

"In view of the dual role performed by women with family responsibilities and in order to enable women to achieve full economic equality and full enjoyment of the right to work, child care and other social facilities should be gradually provided.

"Women shall enjoy special care and protection during pregnancy and after confinement and shall not be employed at work likely to harm their health and that of their future progeny.

"No discrimination against women shall be admitted on account of special assistance granted to motherhood, including paid maternity leave and the right to return to former employment, as well as on account of special protection extended to women under protective legislation.

"8.

"All States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in family matters and to implement the principle of legal equality of husband and wife.

"In particular women shall have the same rights as men to free choice of a spouse, to enter marriage with their free and full consent and equal rights during marriage and at its dissolution.

"Child marriages and the betrothal of young girls before the age of puberty shall be prohibited. States shall take legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage.

"No distinction shall be made between father and mother with regard to parental rights and duties and guardianship of children.

"9.

"Women shall have equal rights with men to acquire, administer, enjoy, dispose of and inherit property.

"All limitations of the property rights of women under statutory matrimonial régimes and all discrimination against women in the field of inheritance rights shall be eliminated.

"10.

"Bearing in mind the provisions of this Declaration and of the declarations, conventions and recommendations already adopted by international organizations, all States should work out, develop and implement a general State policy for the attainment of real equality between men and women in all fields of the political, economic, social and cultural life of their countries.

"11.

"All States Members of the United Nations are called upon to take the necessary measures for the realization of the principles set forth in this Declaration.

"12.

"Women's civic, social and political organizations and movements are called upon to launch a wide-spread educational campaign with a view to disseminating the principles contained in this Declaration, to educating the general public, as well as women themselves, into accepting the idea of the equality of sexes, and to encouraging women to avail themselves to the full of the rights granted to them in law, and to oppose all forms of discrimination against women, as well as all practices which lead to or perpetuate such discrimination. Women's organizations are also called upon to avail themselves, in their activities for the promotion of the rights of women, of the assistance and guidance of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the United Nations Children's Fund."

70. Introducing her proposal, the representative of Poland stated that she had attempted to prepare a comprehensive text, covering all the main forms of discrimination against women in various fields and containing the fundamental principles of all existing conventions, recommendations and resolutions on the subject. Purely technical details were, however, avoided. She had taken into account in several provisions the language used in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 1904 (XVIII) of 20 November 1963).

71. There was a brief debate on this proposed draft declaration, in which several representatives expressed their gratitude for the valuable preliminary work performed by the author of the proposal. Some representatives declared themselves in agreement with the substance of the proposal, which they found acceptable, subject to some rearrangement and shortening of certain provisions. Others thought that the proposal laid too much stress on the obligations of States, a formulation which, in their view, was not appropriate for a declaration.

72. As regards the language of the proposal, some representatives felt that it was too lengthy and elaborate to have the required direct and powerful impact on a large audience.

#### Establishment of a drafting committee

73. At the 415th meeting of the Commission, on 2 March 1965, it was decided, upon the suggestion of the representative of Mexico, to establish a drafting committee to consider all proposals and suggestions submitted and to prepare a single text for the consideration of the Commission.

74. It was also decided that the Drafting Committee would be composed of the representatives of those countries members of the Commission which had sponsored resolution 1921 (XVIII) in the General Assembly, namely: Austria, Colombia, Guinea, Iran, Mexico, the Philippines, and Poland, and of any other representatives who signified their willingness to participate in the work of the Committee. Consequently the Committee was composed of representatives of the following countries: Austria, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Ghana, Guinea, Iran, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America. The representative of Colombia was absent. The Chairman of the Committee was Miss Maria Lavalle Urbina (Mexico).

75. The Committee had before it, in addition to the draft submitted by Poland (E/CN.6/L.396), a text proposed by Ghana and submitted in the form of a working paper (E/CN.6/L.430, annex). The Committee considered the views expressed during the general debate, and the written statements on the subject by non-governmental organizations were also available to it. To facilitate the work of the Committee, the Chairman prepared two working papers based on the proposal submitted by Poland (E/CN.6/L.396) and including some suggestions for its modification.

76. The Committee held seven meetings, on 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 and 16 March 1965. It submitted its report (E/CN.6/L.430) at the 435th meeting of the Commission.

#### Draft declaration submitted by the Drafting Committee and debate thereon

77. The draft declaration submitted by the Drafting Committee in its report (E/CN.6/L.430) read as follows:

"Considering that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women,

"Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including any distinction as to sex,

"Taking into account the resolutions, declarations, conventions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies with a view to promoting equal rights for men and women,

"Concerned, however, that despite the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other conventions and recommendations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and despite the progress made in certain fields, there remains in fact, if not in law, considerable discrimination against women, in many parts of the world, which prevents their participation, on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries,

"Noting further that in some countries women are still denied the exercise of political rights, and that in a number of countries conditions have not yet been created for the implementation of the principle of equality of men and women, embodied in the legislation of those countries. 6/

"Considering that discrimination against women is incompatible with the dignity of women as human beings, the welfare of the family as an institution and the welfare of the community at large and is an obstacle to the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity,

"Convinced that the elimination of discrimination against the woman is indispensable for the full development of her potentialities and for the full attainment of her personality in her increasingly important role in modern society,

"Considering that it is necessary to ensure the universal recognition in law and in fact of the principle of equality of sexes,

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6/ The text of this article of the preamble suggested by the Chairman, which was based on the corresponding paragraph of the proposal by Poland (E/CN.6/L.396), read as follows:

"Noting further that in some countries women are still denied the exercise of political rights, that in a number of countries conditions have not yet been created for the implementation of the principle of equality of men and women embodied in the constitutions of those countries, that remnants of colonialism and feudalism are still an obstacle towards full emancipation of women,".

At the third meeting of the Committee, held on 7 March 1965, the representative of Poland orally proposed the deletion of the phrase "that in a number of countries conditions have not yet been created for the implementation of the principle of equality of men and women embodied in the constitutions of those countries", so that the text proposed by the representative of Poland for that paragraph read as follows:

"Noting further that in some countries women are still denied the exercise of political rights, and that remnants of colonialism and feudalism are still an obstacle towards full emancipation of women,".

This text, as proposed orally by the representative of Poland, was rejected by 5 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions.

The Committee adopted without a vote the text which is reproduced above.

"The General Assembly

"Solemnly proclaims this Declaration:

"Article 1

"Discrimination based on sex, designed to destroy or modify equal rights between men and women, is fundamentally unjust and constitutes an offence to human dignity. It shall therefore be condemned as a denial of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and as a violation of human rights and the fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"Article 2

"The principle of equality of rights for men and women shall be embodied in the Constitution of each Member State.

"Article 3

"All States shall take effective measures to abolish existing laws, regulations and practices which are discriminatory against women, and to establish adequate legal protection for equal rights of men and women.

"Article 4

"States, institutions, groups and individuals shall also take appropriate measures in the field of training, education and information, and civic and political action with a view to advocating the equality of women and men in all fields, to eradicating prejudice, abolishing customary practices and all other action based on the idea of the inferiority of women.

"Article 5

"There shall be no discrimination against women in the field of personal rights. The right to full and equal legal capacity, freedom and security of person, and equality before the law for men and women shall be ensured by law.

"In criminal law no distinction based on sex shall be permitted, in regard to either offences or penalties, and all forms of traffic in women, compulsion to and exploitation of prostitution shall be made punishable by law.] 7/

"Article 6

"Political rights

"All States shall take measures to ensure women the same political rights as men, as well as the exercise of those rights, and shall ensure women the right to vote and to be eligible for all elections and the right to hold public office and to exercise all public functions on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

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7/ The brackets indicate that the Committee did not reach agreement on this sentence. See paragraph 80 below.

## "Article 7

### "Rights in the matter of education

"All States shall adopt appropriate measures for ensuring women equal rights with men in the field of education, which shall fully guarantee them;

"(a) Equal conditions of access to and study in schools of all types including universities, vocational and technical schools, and advance courses at all levels;

"(b) Where education is not mixed, the right to the same choice of curricula, the same examinations and teaching staff with the same qualifications;

"(c) Equal possibilities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

"(d) Equal opportunities for access to out-of-school education of young people and adults, including measures taken to fight against illiteracy.

## "Article 8

### "Economic and social rights

"All States shall adopt appropriate measures for ensuring women equal rights with men in the field of economic and social rights.

"To achieve effective equality in this field;

"(a) Women shall be ensured the same rights as men to vocational training, work, free choice of employment, equal treatment and assistance by the employment services, equal pay for equal work, and professional and vocational advancement and promotion;

"(b) Women shall be ensured the same rights as men to rest and to material security in case of old age, illness, unemployment or loss of capacity to work;

"(c) Women shall be ensured that they will not be subject to discrimination on grounds of marital status with respect to hiring, tenure, promotion or other terms and conditions of employment.

"In view of the dual role performed by women with family responsibilities, and in order to enable such women to achieve full economic equality and the full enjoyment of the right to work, the necessary measures shall be taken:

"(a) To provide child care and other social facilities;

"(b) To provide women with special care and protection during pregnancy and after confinement, including paid maternity leave, the right to return to their former employment, and other assistance services required to conserve the health and well-being of women and their future progeny.



## "Article 9

### "Civil rights, and in particular family rights

"All States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in family matters and to apply the principle of equality of status of husband and wife before the law.

"Women shall have the same rights as men to free choice of a spouse, to enter into marriage with their free and full consent, and to equal rights during marriage and at its dissolution. √No discrimination shall be made between father and mother with regard to parental rights and duties and the guardianship of children.7

"Child marriage and the betrothal of young girls before the age of puberty shall be prohibited, and legislative action shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory.

"Women shall have the same rights as men to go to law.

"Women shall have the same rights as men to acquire, administer, enjoy, dispose of and inherit property.

"All States shall abolish all limitations on the property rights of women under statutory matrimonial régimes.

"Women shall have the right to elect domicile and residence on the same terms as men.

## "Article 10

### "Rights in regard to nationality

"There shall be no distinction based on sex as regards nationality either in legislation or in practice. Women shall have the same rights as men to acquire or change their nationality.

"Marriage shall have no automatic effects on the nationality of the wife, nor shall the change of nationality by the husband during marriage have such effects.

"The contracting of marriage by a woman shall in no circumstances result in her becoming a stateless person.

## "Article 11

"With a view to promoting equal rights for women in all fields, all States shall take appropriate measures to accept or to ratify and to implement fully the international instruments of the United Nations and the specialized agencies relating to the elimination of discrimination against women.

## "Article 12

"Women have the right to the enjoyment of rest and leisure, and to opportunity for civic, political, social and cultural activities. States and research institutions in industry and commerce should take the measures necessary to facilitate domestic tasks of family life, in order to help women have more time free for these activities."

78. The Commission considered this text at its 435th and 436th meetings.

79. Introducing the report of the Drafting Committee and the proposed declaration contained therein, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee stressed that it had given the most careful consideration to all the proposals and views submitted, within the very short time available to it. In spite of the excellent spirit of conciliation which had existed during its deliberations, certain divergencies of views remained. The principal one, which concerned the substance as well as the form of the draft declaration as a whole, was between the representatives who believed that the declaration should be addressed to States as the agencies primarily responsible for its implementation, and those who maintained that the proposed instrument should be restricted to a statement of the fundamental rights which should be enjoyed by women (see also paragraphs 66 and 67 above).

80. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee also drew attention to the fact that the Committee had not had enough time to reach an agreement on the statement of equality between sexes in criminal law contained in the second paragraph of article 5, and on the second paragraph, second sentence, of article 9, relating to parental rights and duties and the guardianship of children. She wished the Commission to discuss, in particular, these two matters and to adopt texts for these paragraphs.

81. A few general comments were made on the substance and wording of the draft declaration as prepared by the Committee.

82. Some representatives declared themselves in full agreement with the principles contained in the proposed declaration and ready to accept the draft, subject to minor modifications.

83. Other representatives reiterated their view that the proposed declaration, like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should enunciate principles, and not the obligations of States. They regretted that the Committee had frequently adopted the latter formulation, which was more appropriate to the drafting of a convention. One of these representatives added that questions of implementation could perhaps be referred to following a statement of individual rights in the various articles; but that it was wrong to address such appeals for implementation only to States, as numerous private organizations, groups and individual citizens had an important role to play in the matter. She drew attention in that connexion to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which referred to States only in a few articles and which mentioned also groups, institutions and individuals.

84. In reply, one representative maintained that it was only realistic to refer to States, which were internationally responsible for carrying the principles of the declaration into effect. She also drew a distinction between the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights and the separate declarations which the United Nations was currently preparing. Since one of the main reasons for adopting these new texts was the insufficient implementation of the basic instrument, it was all the more important now to make an appeal for implementation.

85. One representative, while recognizing that the Committee had submitted a comprehensive and interesting draft, expressed the opinion that some of its provisions did not have the universal and extra-temporal character which was required. For instance, the qualifying words "in modern society", contained in the seventh paragraph of the preamble, erroneously restricted the message of the declaration to the present time; and article 2, requiring that the principle of equality of rights between men and women be embodied in the Constitution of each Member State, would be inapplicable in countries which had no written constitutions. She also drew attention to some inconsistencies - reference being made sometimes to "Member States" and sometimes of "States" - and she felt that some provisions were lacking in clarity and precision. For instance, the meaning of the words "where education is not mixed" in article 7 (b) was rather obscure to her; and several terms used in article 8, in particular the reference to the right to "rest" were somewhat vague. She expressed the wish that the technical help of lawyers and experts in various fields be enlisted in redrafting such provisions.

86. A number of representatives, while admitting that the language of the proposed declaration could be improved in some instances, stressed that the Drafting Committee had accomplished a remarkable task in a very short time; and that the few formal defects which had been pointed out could probably be removed by the Commission itself, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, all bodies whose members were most qualified to draft the declaration.

87. The Commission, upon the suggestion of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, discussed in some detail the second paragraph of article 5, and the second paragraph of article 9, of the proposed declaration (see paragraph 80 above).

88. The second paragraph of article 5 of the text prepared by the Drafting Committee read:

"In criminal law no distinction based on sex shall be permitted, in regard to either offences or penalties, and all forms of traffic in women, compulsion to and exploitation of prostitution, shall be made punishable by law."

89. It was the first phrase, relating to criminal law, which had given rise to difficulties in the Drafting Committee. Some representatives restated their views, already expressed in the Committee, that it was necessary to condemn discrimination against women in criminal law. They pointed out that, under the laws of some countries, the same act - for instance adultery - was an offence if it was committed by a woman, but not if the accused was a man; and that special penalties, for instance corporal punishment, might be imposed upon women offenders in certain cases.

90. While in full agreement with those views, some other representatives stressed that, in many countries, the law provided for special protection of women, and also of male adolescents, in sexual matters; and they expressed the fear that the second paragraph of article 5, as formulated, might result in a weakening of such

protection. For this reason, the representative of Ghana, at the 435th meeting, orally proposed that the first phrase of the second paragraph of article 5 should be replaced by the following:

"In criminal law the principle of equality before the law shall apply to all offenders male and female in like manner. The rights of women in all sexual matters shall be safeguarded."

91. The proposal was opposed by some representatives, who felt that it was perhaps not advisable to enter into the matter of sexual offences. In their opinion, the main import of the second paragraph of article 5 lay in the compulsion to and exploitation of prostitution. The representative of Poland therefore suggested (435th meeting) that the first phrase of the second paragraph of article 5 should be deleted. The representative of Ghana stated that she was prepared to accept that suggestion. Some other representatives, however, raised objections, stressing that, for the reasons indicated in paragraph 89 above, discrimination against women in criminal law should be condemned in the declaration in an appropriate manner.

92. The representative of Mexico, in her own name as well as on behalf of several representatives, orally proposed (435th meeting) the following formulation:

"In criminal law, all provisions which discriminate against women shall be abolished."

93. The representative of Ghana saw no objection to that proposal, which met with the general approval of the Commission.

94. In the course of the debate on the second paragraph of article 5, the representative of Hungary proposed the adoption of an additional article, which would become article 13, concerning the whole problem of special protection for women (see paragraphs 102-105 below).

95. The second paragraph of article 9 of the draft submitted by the Committee read as follows:

"Women shall have the same rights as men to free choice of a spouse, to enter into marriages with their free and full consent, and to equal rights during marriage and at its dissolution. No discrimination shall be made between father and mother with regard to parental rights and duties and the guardianship of children."

96. It was the second sentence, relating to parental rights and duties, which had given rise to some difficulties in the Drafting Committee.

97. Some representatives expressed the fear that the statement relating to the equality of "duties" between the father and the mother might be interpreted in a manner which would be gravely detrimental to women. In the name of this so-called equality, divorced mothers with children might be refused support by their former husbands and practically forced to seek gainful employment outside the home. In those conditions, children would frequently suffer from insufficient maternal care (see also chapter VI, "Status of women in private law", paragraphs 200 and 201 below). It was stressed by those representatives that

the father must have primary responsibility for the support of his children. To meet these objections the representative of Austria suggested (435th meeting) that the draft declaration should contain a clause along the following lines:

"The work of the housewife should be evaluated as a contribution to the support of the family equivalent to that of the husband."

or, alternatively, that the second sentence of the second paragraph of article 9 should be replaced by the words: "Father and mother shall have equal rights and equivalent duties".

98. It was generally thought that the problem as outlined above was a serious one; and that some such formulation should be inserted in the draft declaration. Some other representatives, however, opposed the formulae suggested by Austria, especially the first one, on the ground that they would tend to discourage mothers from participating actively in the economic life of the community and thereby indirectly hamper the full development of their personalities. In the opinion of these representatives, the right of women to work - which was admittedly not denied in the formula suggested by Austria - was an essential factor of women's emancipation, especially in developing countries.

99. The representative of the United States of America, who supported the principles underlying the suggestion by Austria, orally proposed (435th meeting) a formulation of the second sentence of the second paragraph of article 9 so as to avoid any mention of parental duties, the text to read as follows:

"The mother shall have equal voice with the father in the care, upbringing, discipline, education and other aspects of the guardianship of children."

100. Upon the suggestion of the representative of the Dominican Republic, the representative of the United States of America orally revised her proposal (435th meeting) so that the words "equal voice" were replaced by the words "equal rights" and the proposal read:

"The mother and the father shall have equal rights as regards the care, upbringing, discipline, education and other aspects of the guardianship of their children."

101. No objection was expressed to this formulation.

102. Several representatives pointed out that, in view of their physical characteristics or of their basic functions in society, women were entitled to special protection in various fields. Disregarding this need would in fact constitute discrimination against women. The representative of Hungary therefore proposed orally (435th meeting) the addition of a new article which would read:

### "Article 13

"The provisions of this Declaration shall in no way affect adversely the various existing provisions in favour of women."

103. Upon the suggestion of the representative of the United States of America, which was accepted by the representative of Hungary, this proposal was orally

revised (435th meeting) so that the words "the various existing provisions" were replaced by the words "existing and future provisions" and the words "in favour" were replaced by the words "for the protection". As orally revised, the proposal by Hungary read:

"The provisions of the Declaration shall in no way affect adversely existing and future provisions for the protection of women."

104. The representative of Hungary stated that her proposal was comprehensive; it was intended, inter alia, to guarantee to women protection against sexual offenders (see paragraph 90 above) as well as to ensure the right of mothers to obtain support for their children (see paragraph 97 above).

105. It was pointed out that provisions relating to the protection of women at work were already contained in article 8 as adopted by the Drafting Committee; and some fears were expressed that such an emphasis on special protective measures might encourage indirect forms of discrimination against women, particularly in the field of employment. Most representatives, however, raised no objection to the proposal by Hungary.

106. There was an exchange of views as to the action which the Commission should take on the draft declaration at its eighteenth session.

107. Some representatives felt that the Commission should not fail to comply with the wishes of the General Assembly which, in resolution 1921 (XVIII), had expressed its expectation that the draft declaration could be considered at its twentieth session (1965). In view of the fact that many provisions of the proposed declaration followed closely the wording of existing instruments, and thanks to the excellent work performed by the Drafting Committee, the Commission was in a position to adopt the draft declaration at its present session. As had already been pointed out, some inconsistencies and imperfections of language could be remedied by the Economic and Social Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

108. Most representatives, however, thought that the time available was too short to allow for the careful consideration of the draft declaration that was required. It was said that the desire of some representatives to defer action on the draft declaration was understandable since it was a most important instrument for women. It was therefore imperative that the Commission on the Status of Women, which was the organ most directly concerned, should be satisfied that the draft presented was the best draft that could be prepared. It was emphasized that the Drafting Committee had not had sufficient time to prepare the best possible draft. It was suggested that the text proposed by the Drafting Committee should be accepted as a working paper and carefully studied by all representatives after the session. A proposal was made that members of the Commission should be asked to comment and make recommendations on the draft and forward them to the Secretary-General, who would then compile and circulate them to all members. After studying the various comments and recommendations, the members of the Commission would be in a better position to prepare a draft declaration that would be satisfactory to all. It was pointed out that the General Assembly, in resolution 1921 (XVIII), had intended to provide for a two-year period at least between the time of adoption of that resolution and the consideration of the draft declaration by the Third Committee. Moreover, resolution 1921 (XVIII) had merely requested the Commission to transmit the draft declaration "if possible" to the twentieth session of the Assembly.

109. One representative suggested that the Secretary-General be requested to incorporate into the draft declaration prepared by the Committee, if possible, the various proposals and suggestions submitted; that the text as consolidated by the Secretary-General be circulated to Governments for comments; and that the Commission at its next session undertake, on the basis of the consolidated draft and of the comments received, a second reading of the declaration. This suggested procedure was opposed by several representatives as being unduly cumbersome and likely to cause further delay.

110. At the 436th meeting, held on 17 March 1965, the representative of Finland orally submitted a proposal, later revised upon the suggestion of Ghana, under which the Commission would decide:

1. To adjourn further debate on item 4 till its next session;

2. To request the Secretary-General to circulate the draft declaration in its present form, as well as the relevant working papers submitted to the Drafting Committee and the records of the debate at the Commission, to the members of the Commission for their comments; and

3. To request the Secretary-General to circulate such comments to all the members of the Commission before the next session.

111. In accordance with rule 45 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Chairman allowed one representative to speak in favour of that proposal and another to speak against it, and she put the proposal to a vote. The proposal of the representative of Finland, as amended, was adopted by 11 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions.

#### IV. UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

112. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 418th to 422nd and 424th meetings. It had before it a preliminary report of the Secretary-General on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/435 and Add.1-5).

113. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/144), International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/150), International Federation of Business and Professional Women (E/CN.6/NGO/153), International Federation of Women Lawyers (E/CN.6/NGO/148/Rev.1), and the Pan-Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association (E/CN.6/NGO/145).

114. The Commission also heard statements during the debate by the representatives of the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization.

115. During the debate, oral statements were made by the observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Jewish Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of University Women, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, International Council of Social Democratic Women, St. Joan's International Alliance and Zonta International.

116. In the report of the Secretary-General, attention was drawn to the terms of General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII), and of resolution 10 (XVII) adopted by the Commission at its seventeenth session in 1963. 8/ The General Assembly inter alia had requested the Secretary-General to study, in co-operation with Member States, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and appropriate non-governmental organizations the possibility of providing and developing new resources aimed especially at the initiation and implementation of a unified, long-term United Nations programme for the advancement of women. The Commission, at its seventeenth session, had considered that a first step in the study should be a review and evaluation of existing resources for the advancement of women, and it had asked the Secretary-General inter alia to provide it with a summary statement of such resources, including those of non-governmental organizations.

117. In order to comply with the request of the General Assembly and of the Commission, the Secretary-General had addressed a number of questions to Governments, the specialized agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund and non-governmental organizations. The replies received had been reproduced or summarized in the documents before the Commission.

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8/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 137.



118. The Secretary-General indicated in the report that the term "advancement of women" had been given a broad interpretation and that information had been included that appeared to be of interest from the point of view of increasing women's participation in public life at all levels.

119. It was pointed out in the report that the primary aim of all programmes of technical co-operation within the United Nations system was to raise the economic and social levels of the population as a whole, and within that general framework many existing programmes already contributed in some measure to the advancement of women. The only existing programme expressly concerned with the status of women as an aspect of human rights was the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, which had developed along different lines from the technical assistance programmes. The need to encourage the participation of women in community development programmes had been recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 1162 (XII), by members of the Social Commission, 9/ and by the ad hoc Group of Experts on Community Development appointed in 1963 to advise the Secretary-General on certain broad issues arising in community development programmes. 10/ The Secretary-General, in drawing the attention of the Social Commission to the terms of General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII), had said that he was keeping that resolution in mind in evaluating requests for assistance under the advisory social welfare services programme. 11/ Attention was drawn in the Secretary-General's report to the expansion in recent years of technical assistance on a payment basis ("funds-in-trust"). In the section of the report describing how technical assistance could be requested attention was drawn to the fact that, with the possible exception of requests falling under the human rights advisory services programme, requests for technical assistance for the advancement of women would largely depend on the priority accorded such projects in the over-all country plan of national development.

120. In the general debate several representatives expressed the view that the support of the whole community was essential to the success of programmes for the advancement of women, and that projects for the benefit of women had been most successful when they formed part of a broad pattern of development for the community as a whole.

121. Interest was expressed by some members in the relationship between community development programmes and the advancement of women and it was thought that the Commission would benefit from more information on that subject.

122. It was suggested that the goal of a long-term programme for the advancement of women should not be to advance women as such, in isolation, but to help them to obtain equal status with men in their communities, taking part in all activities and sharing with men equal opportunities and responsibilities.

123. Many representatives emphasized the need and the importance of training women to participate fully in public life. It was considered that adult educational programmes should aim not only at the eradication of illiteracy, but also at enabling women to play a constructive part in the social and cultural life of their

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9/ Ibid., Supplement No. 12, para. 58.

10/ See United Nations publication, Sales No.: 64.IV.2, paras. 117-125.

11/ See E/CN.5/377, para. 97.

countries. It was said that unless adequate educational opportunities were offered to women, they might fail to obtain the full benefit of legislation enacted in their favour.

124. Several representatives stressed the importance of giving to women who were potential leaders, especially those in rural areas, social and civic education so that they could help other women in such matters as general education, health education, domestic economy and participation in economic and cultural life. A concerted effort by the United Nations, UNESCO and other specialized agencies in a long-term integrated programme was considered necessary to supply adequate international help.

125. Some representatives also emphasized the need for greater attention to working women with family responsibilities, especially in matters of health and child care. It was felt that assistance was needed in the form of crèches or kindergartens for the mothers of small children who went out to work.

126. Some representatives gave examples of projects which were being executed in their countries and had proved successful. These included examples of projects in the fields of general education, community development and public administration which had received assistance from the United Nations or the specialized agencies.

127. It was suggested that a special body which would be responsible for the development of policies and programmes for the advancement of women should be established as a department in each government. Such a body might take many different forms and include men as well as women. Whatever its form, it should be a continuing agency.

128. One representative, pointing out that women were anxious to serve on such bodies as village committees and housing committees, thought it was necessary to help them to do so by relieving them of the heavy burden of domestic tasks. This representative considered that Governments might request technical assistance for this purpose.

129. Special concern with the situation of those women in developing countries who had recently moved into urban areas was expressed by one representative, who stated that adequate educational facilities were necessary for the welfare of these women.

130. Some representatives expressed the hope that the United Nations would co-operate with non-governmental organizations in consultative status in spreading information concerning family planning. It was stated that such projects would contribute to economic and social progress, protect the health of women, ensure the welfare of children, contribute to the happiness of married life and make possible the greater participation of women in public life.

131. The important role of non-governmental organizations in consultative status, which was evident from the documents before the Commission, was welcomed by a number of representatives. It was stated that these organizations were specially important in the building of leadership from the "grass roots", and in demonstrating pilot projects which might then be taken up by governmental authorities, thus providing the organizations with the opportunity of further action for the advancement of women. The greater flexibility of non-governmental organizations was considered an encouragement to greater creativity in the planning and execution of projects.

132. A number of representatives suggested that the Secretary-General's report containing information relating to technical assistance and related programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and to programmes of non-governmental organizations in consultative status (E/CN.6/435/Add.5) could usefully be printed as a sales publication and given wide distribution. It was thought that publication of such a pamphlet would create greater awareness of the possibilities offered by the technical assistance programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and would lead to more requests being made by Governments for assistance for the advancement of women.

133. The view was expressed that no significant progress could be made with United Nations assistance for the advancement of women unless Governments themselves gave higher priority to the advancement of women in their programmes and projects for technical co-operation. However large the available resources might be, it was essential that those who allocated the funds should give full consideration to the interests of women. It was suggested that the Commission might recommend that Governments making use of technical assistance programmes should give priority to projects which would provide opportunities for women; and that they should include women in existing projects, since those responsible for economic development often forgot that progress would be faster if women participated from the beginning in the new opportunities offered.

#### Consideration of draft resolutions

134. A draft resolution was submitted by Iran (E/CN.6/L.398), in which the Economic and Social Council was requested to draw the attention of Member States to the advantage of establishing centres for the training of cadres of competent women for the advancement of developing countries; to consider, in preparing the various United Nations assistance programmes, the question of assistance, to countries applying for it, towards the training of appropriate cadres for assisting the advancement of women; and to recommend that the specialized agencies consider the possibility of also supplying assistance of this kind.

135. The representative of the Philippines referred to the fourth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, which read:

"Noting the importance of the training of competent women cadres for the advancement of developing countries, particularly as regards the education of adolescent girls and adult women, health education, domestic economy, home management and participation in economic and cultural life,".

She explained that in her country the word "cadre" had a military connotation, and proposed that the words "training of competent women cadres" should be replaced by "training a competent corps of women leaders or cadres".

136. The representative of France proposed, with regard to the same paragraph, that the second part should be amended to read: "particularly as regards schooling at various levels, vocational and handicraft training, the education of adolescent girls and adult women, including health education and home economics, and participation in economic and cultural life". The representative of Ghana suggested that the last phrase of the same paragraph, should be amended to read: "and participation in economic, cultural and political life".

137. All the suggested amendments were accepted by the sponsors. At the Commission's 420th meeting, on 6 March 1965, the text of the draft resolution as thus revised (E/CN.6/L.398/Rev.1) was adopted unanimously. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

3 (XVIII). ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRES FOR TRAINING COMPETENT  
CORPS OR CADRES OF WOMEN LEADERS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Considering General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII), Economic and Social Council resolution 961 F (XXXVI) and resolution 10 (XVII) of the Commission on the Status of Women, relating to a unified long-term programme for the advancement of women,

Considering also General Assembly resolution 1920 (XVIII), on participation of women in national, social and economic development,

Having considered the preliminary report by the Secretary-General on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/435 and Add.1-5),

Noting the importance of training a competent corps of women leaders or cadres for the advancement of developing countries, particularly as regards schooling at various levels, vocational and handicraft training, the education of adolescent girls and adult women, including health education and home economics, and participation in economic, cultural and political life,

Taking into account the complexity of the functions that these women cadres would assume and the various kinds of assistance which would have to be supplied for their training,

Requests the Economic and Social Council:

(a) To draw the attention of Member States to the advantage of establishing centres for the training of such cadres,

(b) To consider, in preparing the various United Nations assistance programmes, the question of assistance, to countries which apply for it, towards the training of appropriate cadres for assisting the advancement of women,

(c) To recommend the specialized agencies to consider the possibility of also supplying assistance of this kind.

/See chapter XVIII, draft resolution III./

138. A draft resolution on co-operation at the regional level between national commissions on the status of women was submitted by the Dominican Republic, Guinea, Hungary, Iran, Mexico and the United Arab Republic (E/CN.6/L.400), and later revised by the sponsors to read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Requests the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following draft resolution:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Considering its resolution 961 F (XXXVI) on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries,

"Considering the recommendation contained in the operative paragraph of that resolution, which calls the attention of States Members of the United Nations to the value of appointing national commissions on the status of women,

"Recommends that such national commissions on the status of women co-operate with each other at the regional level and organize regional meetings and seminars whose reports would be sent for information to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women".

139. In the ensuing discussion some representatives pointed out that, in some countries where national commissions on the status of women had not been appointed, a valuable contribution to the advancement of women was being made by existing national councils of women, or other similar bodies; they considered that it was as important to encourage such existing bodies to continue the work they were doing as to urge Governments to appoint the national commissions suggested by the Council in its resolution 961 F (XXXVI). Other representatives expressed the view that there were important differences between national commissions on the status of women, and national councils of women; in many countries the latter consisted entirely of women, while the national commissions often included men, as well as women, among their members. It was also pointed out that the national commissions were generally governmental organizations, while national councils might be associations of all the organizations in a country, including non-governmental organizations, which dealt with women's affairs.

140. In order to take account of these comments the sponsors proposed, after some discussion, to amend the operative paragraph to read as follows:

"Recommends that such national commissions on the status of women co-operate with each other, or with the already existing national bodies with similar interests, at the regional level and organize regional meetings and seminars whose reports would be sent for information to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women".

141. At its 421st meeting, on 7 March 1965, the Commission adopted unanimously the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.400) as revised and as amended. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

4 (XVIII). CO-OPERATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL BETWEEN NATIONAL COMMISSIONS ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN OR EXISTING NATIONAL BODIES WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

/For the text of the draft resolution, see Chapter XVIII, draft resolution IV.]

142. A draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.401) concerning publication of the report of the Secretary-General on resources available to Member States for the advancement of women (E/CN.6/435/Add.5) was submitted by France and the Philippines. In the draft resolution the Commission:

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the printing of document E/CN.6/435/Add.5 as a sales publication in order to effect a wider dissemination of this useful information;

"2. Invites all Member States of the United Nations, as well as all non-governmental organizations, to take advantage of this publication and to have it in mind in the formulation of plans and policies, with a view to effecting a more co-ordinated and integrated programme of United Nations assisted systems and government and non-governmental organization schemes for the advancement of women in their respective countries."

143. The draft resolution was orally revised by the sponsors to incorporate suggestions by the representative of Poland whereby the words "in developing countries" would be added at the end of the first preambular paragraph: and the word "all" before "Member States" in the third preambular paragraph and in operative paragraph 2 would be deleted.

144. An amendment by the representative of Finland, calling for the addition of the words "with the necessary revisions" after the document symbol in operative paragraph 1, was also accepted by the sponsors.

145. At the 421st meeting, the representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to the financial implications of the draft resolution and cited the estimated cost of printing document E/CN.6/435/Add.5 in English, French and Spanish.

146. Some representatives, opposing the draft resolution because of the financial implications, considered that the document, if printed as a pamphlet, could be expected to have only a limited circulation; and, moreover, Member States and non-governmental organizations had already received copies of the document in mimeographed form. Others were of the opinion that a considerable proportion of the cost of printing would be recovered by revenue from sales. It was also said that the publication would be of interest to universities and institutes of political science, as well as to Governments and non-governmental organizations.

147. At its 421st meeting, on 7 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.401), as amended, by 14 votes to 3, with 2 abstentions. The text reads as follows:

5 (XVIII). PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
ON RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO MEMBER STATES FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (E/CN.6/435/Add.5)

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling resolution 10 (XVII) of the Commission on the Status of Women, which provided among other things that the Secretary-General be requested to supply the Commission with a summary statement of resources available to Member States for the advancement of women in developing countries,

Noting with satisfaction the report prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/435/Add.5) in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution,

Considering that the valuable information contained in that report would be of vital importance as a guide to the work of Member States and non-governmental organizations in their programmes in promoting the advancement of women,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to arrange for the printing of document E/CN.6/435/Add.5, with the necessary revisions, as a sales publication, in order to effect a wider dissemination of this useful information,

2. Invites States Members of the United Nations as well as all non-governmental organizations to take advantage of this publication and to have it in mind in the formulation of plans and policies, with a view to effecting a more co-ordinated and integrated programme of United Nations assisted systems and government and non-governmental organization schemes for the advancement of women in their respective countries.

148. A draft resolution on the use of the resources available for the advancement of women through technical assistance and other programmes was submitted by the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.403). In introducing it, the representative of the United States explained that the first part of the draft resolution, which was directed to the Commission, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on women's participation in community development, since more information was needed on projects which had already been undertaken. The second part of the draft resolution, which was recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, was designed to stimulate the interest of Governments, the United Nations, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in using more women in technical assistance programmes. Operative paragraph 1 concerned action by Governments; paragraph 2 concerned action by the Secretary-General; paragraph 3 called the attention of Member States and other interested bodies to the possibility of technical assistance on a payment basis ("funds-in-trust" arrangements); and paragraph 4 invited the co-operation of non-governmental organizations. The representative of the United States of America emphasized that the various programmes of technical co-operation within the United Nations system were extremely important, but that women were not yet deriving the full benefit from such programmes.

149. At its 422nd meeting, on 7 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution of the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.403) by 13 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

6 (XVIII). USE OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF  
WOMEN THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER PROGRAMMES

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Commending the reports prepared by the Secretary-General as of great significance for the advancement of women,

Believing that greater use should be made of the resources available through technical assistance and other programmes,

Noting the great importance of community development in stimulating the advancement of women,

Recognizing the need for co-ordination, especially at the national level,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the next session of the Commission on the participation of women in community development and the possibility of increasing the scope and content of their contribution and also, as appropriate, articles which might be published in the United Nations Monthly Chronicle or other regular publications describing projects in which the capabilities and special talents of women have been used to advantage;

2. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

/For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVIII, draft resolution V./

150. A draft resolution on family planning was submitted by Austria, Finland, the United Arab Republic and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.402), which was twice revised during the discussion.

151. In the first revision (E/CN.6/L.402/Rev.1) the Commission inter alia:

"4. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status, each in accord with its own programmes, objectives and policies, to take advantage of the increasing knowledge in the field of family planning as a source of assistance to married women in fulfilling their parental responsibilities;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission, if possible at its nineteenth session, with a report on the effect of family planning on the status of women and the relation between family planning and the advancement of women."

152. At the 421st meeting of the Commission, the sponsors further orally amended the above text by replacing, in operative paragraph 4, the words: "to take



advantage" by the words "to study the possibility of taking advantage"; and by replacing in operative paragraph 5 the words "family planning" by the words "the population explosion".

153. Several representatives expressed some misgivings as to whether the subject of family planning was properly within the competence of the Commission on the Status of Women. Some were of the view that the draft resolution in its present wording implied that States should limit their population, and they pointed out that that was not consistent with the policy of all countries. Other representatives emphasized that the subject of family planning was a private matter between husbands and wives.

154. Some representatives expressed the view that the Commission should lay more stress on education, and should consider information on both the beneficial and the adverse effects on the status of women of having large families. It was also pointed out that religious views were an important factor in family planning. In this connexion it was said that religious bodies were becoming more and more concerned about the rapid increase in population, which, in many instances, created serious difficulties for a country.

155. The draft resolution was further revised (E/CN.6/L.402/Rev.2) to take into account the comments made. The sponsors emphasized that it covered only such aspects of the question of family planning as were of common concern by virtue of their relation to the status of women. It was said that family planning might affect the status of women in two ways: first, through the effect on the individual woman's plans for her life, education and career; and secondly, through lack of educational facilities and employment opportunities for women in over-populated countries.

156. The representative of Peru proposed that, in the fifth preambular paragraph of the revised draft resolution, the words "all relevant information concerning family planning" should be replaced by the words "all relevant educational information". This amendment was accepted.

157. At its 424th meeting, on 8 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.402/Rev.2) as amended, by 14 votes to none, with 4 abstentions. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

## 7 (XVIII). FAMILY PLANNING

### The Commission on the Status of Women,

Considering the series of reports by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/435 and Add.1-5), including the observations of various Member States, concerning the desirability of family planning as an essential part of a long-term programme for the advancement of women,

Considering also Economic and Social Council resolution 1048 (XXXVII), which urges the Secretary-General and the specialized agencies concerned to explore ways and means of strengthening and expanding their work in the field of population,

Considering that the responsibility for planning the family should be freely assumed by both spouses according to their available facilities for giving adequate care and nurture to their children and with regard to the preservation of the health of the mother,

Recognizing that lack of family planning may be detrimental to the welfare of the family and interfere with the mother's own advancement and with her contribution to the development of her community and the progress of her country,

Considering that married couples should have access to all relevant educational information concerning family planning,

1. Notes with satisfaction the initiative taken by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East in convening the Asian Population Conference in December 1963;

2. Expresses its appreciation of the resolution on population growth and economic and social development adopted by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East at its twentieth session, 12/ held at Teheran in March 1964, which invites the United Nations and the specialized agencies to expand the scope of the technical assistance they are prepared to give, upon the request of Governments, in the development of statistics, research, experimentation and action programmes related to population;

3. Notes with anticipation the World Population Conference scheduled to be held during August 1965 in Belgrade, and calls upon all public and private groups to take advantage of the opportunities for discussion and exchange of information afforded by this Conference;

4. Suggests that non-governmental organizations in consultative status, each in accord with its own programmes, objectives and policies, study the possibility of making available the increasing fund of knowledge in this field as a source of assistance to married couples in fulfilling their parental responsibilities;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Commission, if possible at its nineteenth session, with a report on the effect of the lack of family planning on the status of women in countries suffering from over-population and the relation between family planning and the advancement of women.

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12/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 2, p. 128.

## V. ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

158. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 424th to 426th meetings. It had before it two reports from the Secretary-General on the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.6/418, E/CN.6/436); it also had before it the report of the 1963 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law held at Bogotá, Colombia, in December 1963 (ST/TAO/HR/18), the report of the 1964 Seminar on Human Rights in Developing Countries held at Kabul, Afghanistan, in May 1964 (ST/TAO/HR/21), and the report of the 1964 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law held at Lomé, Togo, in August 1964 (ST/TAO/HR/22).

159. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/143), the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/150) and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (E/CN.6/NGO/148/Rev.1). During the debate, statements were made by the observers from the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International League for the Rights of Man, and the World Young Women's Christian Association.

160. In his latest report on the programme of advisory services (E/CN.6/436), the Secretary-General informed the Commission that, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1017 (XXXVII) of 30 July 1964, two seminars were being organized in 1965: a seminar on the problems of a multi-national society, in June 1965 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia; and a seminar on the participation of women in public life, in August 1965 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. In resolution 1017 (XXXVII) the Economic and Social Council recommended, as an exceptional measure, that the programme of fellowships should be adjusted within the allocations made for the programme, taking into account the need to hold the seminars in Yugoslavia and Mongolia in 1965. The provisional estimates for these seminars were \$150,000, leaving a balance of only \$30,000 for the fellowship programme in 1965. The Secretary-General stated that this year's exceptional situation, caused by the high costs of the 1965 seminars, would not affect the fellowship programme for 1966, to which would be allotted the same amount as for 1964, that is \$80,000.

161. The Commission was also informed of the programme of seminars planned for 1966: a seminar on human rights in developing countries to be held in Senegal for participants from African countries, members of the Economic Commission for Africa; a seminar on participation in local administration as a means of promoting human rights to be held in Hungary for participants from European countries; and a seminar on a subject relating to the status of women, the exact subject, host country and area of participation to be determined. The Secretary-General also informed the Commission that an invitation had been accepted from the Government of Poland to hold a seminar on the realization of the economic and social rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 1967, for participants from European countries.

162. In 1964 approximately 100 applications for fellowships were received, and, as at December 1964, forty-five fellowships had been awarded, bringing to 100 the

total number of fellowship awards to candidates from forty-four countries and territories. Since the programme was initiated, sixteen women had been awarded fellowships; in 1964 fellowship awards were made to six women on the basis of nominations made by five Governments; the Secretary-General further pointed out that Governments had not so far nominated women candidates in appreciable numbers.

163. In discussing the programme of advisory services it was pointed out that with the 1964 seminar on the status of women in family law held at Lomé, seminars on this subject had been held in all regions of the world. Members of the Commission agreed on the great value and the usefulness of these seminars. It was said that the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights helped to encourage Governments to take legislative, economic and social measures to improve the status of women, and induced women themselves to widen their outlook and to participate more actively in public life. One representative stated that the comprehensive documentation provided by the Secretary-General for the seminars on the status of women in family law was extremely valuable and that her country had used it in its efforts to revise outdated laws. It was also stated that many of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the 1963 seminar on the status of women in family law held at Bogotá (ST/TAO/HR/18) had been of great value to several Latin American countries; the report of that seminar together with the reports of other seminars on the same subject held in Bucharest (ST/TAO/HR/11), Tokyo (ST/TAO/HR/14) and Lomé (ST/TAO/HR/22) had been useful in providing an over-all picture of the status of women in family law throughout the world.

164. It was stated that information on discrimination against women in family law had been extended and brought into sharper focus by the seminars held in 1963 at Bogotá and in 1964 at Lomé. Those seminars had brought about a real understanding of what discriminatory treatment in the life of an individual means and had strengthened the determination to take constructive action to combat such treatment. It was felt that with each seminar it had become increasingly clear that, although a country's legislation might grant political rights to its women as well as to its men, such legislation could not be entirely effective, nor could women make their full contribution to the well-being of the community, unless there was equality in all aspects of the law. Each of these seminars had brought to light striking examples of outdated customs which deprived many countries of the energy, initiative and potentialities for progress of their women.

165. It was suggested that a serious limitation of the seminars was that they did not reach enough women. Regret was expressed at the fact that, although non-governmental organizations were trying to disseminate information on the work of the seminars, there were still millions of women unaware of their rights, as well as of the meaning of discrimination. It was felt, therefore, that the Commission should continue its efforts to bring wider understanding of its work and greater consciousness among women of their rights.

166. The representative of the Philippines conveyed to the representative of the Secretary-General her Government's desire to be host to a seminar in 1966 on a subject relating to the status of women. Many members of the Commission welcomed this invitation and hoped that the Secretary-General would deem it appropriate to accept it.

167. Several members of the Commission stressed the importance of awarding human rights fellowships to women. Some expressed concern at the fact that, owing to financial reasons, the number of fellowships for 1965 had had to be reduced, and that Governments had not yet nominated women candidates for fellowships in appreciable numbers. Some also expressed regret that of the one hundred fellowships thus far awarded only sixteen had been granted to women. It was suggested that the Secretary-General, when requesting nominations for fellowships from Governments, might draw their attention to the value of having a larger number of women candidates.

168. One representative stated that her Government was especially interested in the organization, on an experimental basis, of a regional training course on human rights and the establishment and development of social or other centres to provide women with training in human rights. She also hoped that the proposed 1965 training course in Japan, on the promotion of human rights in the administration of criminal justice, would materialize.

169. Some representatives also expressed the view that the assistance of experts was one of the best means of enabling women to participate fully in the life of their communities. The usefulness of having adequate information on available advisory services, particularly on the availability of experts in the field of human rights under the advisory services programme, was also stressed.

170. Some members noted with interest the suggestion, in the report on the Seminar on Human Rights in Developing Countries held at Kabul in 1964, for the establishment of a United Nations fund for the advancement of women which would follow the pattern of the United Nations Children's Fund (ST/TAO/HR/21, para. 126).

#### Consideration of draft resolution

171. A draft resolution on advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.6/L.412), was submitted by France and subsequently orally revised by the sponsor to read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Considering the excellent report by the Secretary-General on advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.6/436),

"Considering the value of the three reports, ST/TAO/HR/18 on the Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law (Bogotá, 3-16 December 1963), ST/TAO/HR/21 on the Seminar on Human Rights in Developing Countries (Kabul, 12-25 May 1964), and ST/TAO/HR/22 on the Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law (Lomé, 18-31 August 1964),

"Convinced that seminars help to encourage Governments to take legal, judicial and social measures to improve the status of women,

"Considering further that the programme of fellowships in the field of human rights can also help to improve the status of women,

"1. Welcomes the announcement of the two seminars planned for 1965, namely:

(a) The seminar on the multinational society, to be held in June 1965 at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, for participants selected on a world-wide basis;

(b) The seminar on participation of women in public life, to be held in August 1965 at Ulan Bator, Mongolia, for participants from countries and territories within the geographical scope of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East;

"2. Welcomes also, with interest, the decision to hold a seminar in Hungary in 1966 on participation in local administration as a means of promoting human rights, a seminar which should be of particular interest to women anxious to participate in public life;

"3. Expresses the hope that the basic documents and the recommendations of the seminars will be distributed on a wider scale to non-governmental organizations, in order to enable them to benefit from these recommendations in their work;

"4. Recommends that the programme of fellowships for 1966 allow the award of a larger number of fellowships than in 1965 and that the attention of Governments be drawn to the possibilities of including a larger number of women among their candidates."

172. The representative of the Dominican Republic suggested that the draft resolution should also contain references to the seminars to be held in 1966 on subjects relating to the status of women and to human rights in developing countries. The representative of France accepted these suggestions and revised operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution accordingly.

173. The representative of the USSR stated that since no evaluation of reports of the Secretary-General had appeared under other items, the word "excellent" should be deleted from the first line of the first preambular paragraph. The representative of France accepted this suggestion.

174. At its 426th meeting, on 9 March 1965, the Commission adopted unanimously the draft resolution as revised. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

#### 8 (XVIII). ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

##### "The Commission on the Status of Women,

Considering the report by the Secretary-General on advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.6/436),

Considering the value of the three reports, ST/TAO/HR/18 on the Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law (Bogotá, 3-16 December 1963), ST/TAO/HR/21 on the Seminar on Human Rights in Developing Countries (Kabul, 12-25 May 1964), and ST/TAO/HR/22 on the Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law (Lomé, 18-31 August 1964),

Convinced that seminars help to encourage Governments to take legal, judicial and social measures to improve the status of women,

Considering further that the programme of fellowships in the field of human rights can also help to improve the status of women,

1. Welcomes the announcement of the two seminars planned for 1965, namely:

(a) The seminar on the multinational society, to be held in June 1965 at Belgrade, Yugoslavia, for participants selected on a world-wide basis;

(b) The seminar on the participation of women in public life, to be held in August 1965 at Ulan Bator, Mongolia, for participants from countries and territories within the geographical scope of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East;

2. Welcomes also, with interest, the arrangements for holding seminars in 1966, namely:

(a) The seminar on participation in local administration as a means of promoting human rights, to be held in Hungary, a seminar which should be of particular interest to women anxious to participate in public life;

(b) The seminar on human rights in developing countries, to be held in Senegal;

(c) The seminar on a subject relating to the status of women;

3. Expresses the hope that the basic documents and the recommendations of the seminars will be distributed on a wider scale to non-governmental organizations, in order to enable them to benefit from these recommendations in their work;

4. Recommends that the programme of fellowships for 1966 allow the award of a larger number of fellowships than in 1965 and that the attention of Governments be drawn to the possibilities of including a larger number of women among their candidates."

## VI. STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

175. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 425th, 426th and 427th meetings.

176. In the provisional agenda of the Commission, item 7 was divided into three sub-items: (a) legal conditions and effects of the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation; (b) parental rights and duties, including guardianship of children; and (c) legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and property rights.

177. Since the Secretary-General's report on parental rights and duties, including guardianship of children (sub-item (b)) could not be completed in time to be submitted to the Commission at its eighteenth session, the Commission decided to postpone consideration of that sub-item to its nineteenth session (413th meeting), and sub-item (c), on legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and property rights, was consequently renumbered as sub-item (b).

178. Under sub-item (a), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the legal conditions and effects of the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation (E/CN.6/415 and Corr.1 and Add.1) prepared in accordance with resolution 14 (XV) of the Commission. 13/

179. Under sub-item (b), the Commission had before it a supplementary report of the Secretary-General on legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and property rights (E/CN.6/425) prepared in accordance with resolution 587 D I (XX) of the Economic and Social Council.

180. The reports of the two seminars on the status of women in family law held at Bogotá, Colombia, in December 1963 (ST/TAO/HR/18), and at Lomé, Togo, in August 1964 (ST/TAO/HR/22), and the report of the seminar on human rights in developing countries held at Kabul, Afghanistan, in May 1964 (ST/TAO/HR/21) were also before the Commission.

181. Written statements were submitted by the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/150), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/154), the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (E/CN.6/NGO/158), the International Federation of Women Lawyers (E/CN.6/NGO/148/Rev.1) and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (E/CN.6/NGO/151). Oral statements were made by the observers for the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the International Social Service, the Pan-Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

182. In introducing the reports before the Commission the representative of the Secretary-General recalled that, when adopting resolution 14 (XV), the Commission had stressed that it was not taking any position on the principles of divorce,

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13/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 227.



annulment of marriage or judicial separation, but wished to study the respective rights and duties of each spouse as regards the legal conditions and effects of those institutions. The purpose of the report requested by resolution 14 (XV) was to enable the Commission to determine to what extent article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides in particular that men and women of full age "are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution", was taken into account in national legislation. In accordance with the Commission's resolution, a questionnaire had been sent out to the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies; and the report before the Commission (E/CN.6/415 and Corr.1 and Add.1) was based exclusively on the replies of forty-two Governments to that questionnaire.

183. The original report on the legal conditions and effects of dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation (E/CN.6/415) had been submitted to the Commission at its seventeenth session, but it had been decided to postpone consideration of the report until the current session. Information based on replies received from Governments after the original document had been issued was circulated in document E/CN.6/415/Add.1.

184. Chapter I of the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/415 and Corr.1 and Add.1) dealt with dissolution of marriage by divorce. It did not cover dissolution of marriage by death since that matter was partially covered by the report on inheritance laws considered by the Commission at its sixteenth session (E/CN.6/391 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1). Chapters II and III dealt with annulment of marriage and judicial separation respectively, and chapter IV contained information concerning remarriage after divorce or annulment.

185. With regard to sub-item (b), on legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and property rights, it was recalled that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 587 D I (XX) of 3 August 1955, had requested the Secretary-General to bring information on these matters up to date, in annual reports. Pursuant to that resolution, a series of reports on the status of women in family law had been submitted to the Commission at its sixth to tenth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions (E/CN.6/185 and Add.1-17) and another series of reports on the property rights of women had been submitted at the seventh to tenth and fourteenth sessions (E/CN.6/208 and Add.1-5). These reports were based on the replies of Governments to parts II and III of the questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women prepared in 1950. At its sixteenth session, in 1962, the Commission had decided that information on the status of women in family law and property rights should, in the future, be submitted every two years in one report on both subjects and not annually in separate reports. <sup>14/</sup> Accordingly, the supplementary report which was before the Commission at its present session (E/CN.6/425) dealt with the status of women in family law and with property rights as well. It contained information received from the only two Governments which had sent replies to the questionnaire since 1959.

186. Sub-items 7 (a) and (b) were considered together by the Commission.

187. Several representatives, including those of Governments which had not yet sent information to the Secretary-General, described the situation in their countries and the progress which was being made therein to improve the status of women as

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<sup>14/</sup> Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 154.

regards the subject-matter of item 7. The discussion centred on legal conditions and the effects of dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation. Some references were made, however, to other aspects of the status of women in family law and to property rights.

188. Several representatives noted that family law was generally slower than other branches of the law to evolve towards the desired goal of full equality of status between men and women. The Secretary-General's reports (E/CN.6/415 and Corr.1 and Add.1; and E/CN.6/425) showed that, in spite of some notable progress, much still remained to be done. In the view of several representatives, this relatively slow progress might be explained partly by the fact that, in various parts of the world, family law was influenced, if not still largely governed, by customs and religious rules which were often unfavourable to women. Some representatives said that proposed reforms sometimes appeared to the public at large to be an attack against highly respected traditions; even though this was untrue it made the introduction of reforms difficult. Some groups of the population tended to place great emphasis on such traditions, interpreting or rather misinterpreting them to their own advantage; and too many women had not the required knowledge and courage to bring about needed reforms. In that connexion, the need for spreading education among women, and in particular the need for giving women full information on the rights and duties of the spouses, was emphasized by several representatives.

189. During the debate several representatives gave much information illustrative of such efforts towards reform and of the difficulties of implementation. Some of this information concerned various aspects of the law of marriage, apart from the questions of dissolution, annulment and judicial separation. In several countries, the law had recently fixed the minimum age of marriage for men and women above the customary age, and the official registration of marriage had become a legal requirement. The Commission was also informed that the traditional institution of the dowry (dot), which, in some areas, had given rise to much abuse and had prevented the marriage of impecunious young persons, had been abolished in at least one country. Polygamy had been forbidden by law and made a crime in one country. In another, the efforts of the reformers to abolish polygamy had been slowed down by the less progressive groups, which had temporarily succeeded in persuading part of the population that such attempts were to be opposed as gravely undermining tradition; but the law had laid down conditions for a man's contracting more than one marriage, such as the consent of the first wife and the full support of all wives, which had resulted in a steady decline in the number of polygamous marriages.

190. As regards property rights, it was noted that in one country efforts were being made to amend a law under which wives had no rights of inheritance, while unmarried or divorced women could inherit from their parents. Under a religious law which was still in force in some countries, upon dissolution of a marriage by the death of the woman, all her property went to her husband's relatives. Such a law had been repealed in one country.

191. As regards sub-item 7 (a), it was emphasized by a number of representatives that the need for ensuring the stability of the family, which article 16, paragraph 3, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights so aptly described as "the natural and fundamental group unit of society", was of paramount importance. The attention of the Commission was drawn to various measures designed to strengthen the family and to prevent the breaking up of the marriage tie.

192. In the view of several representatives, every effort should be made to offer appropriate education for marriage to adolescents and, under certain conditions, to adults as well. Such courses might deal with a wide range of subject-matter, from applied psychology to child care and home economics. The Commission learned that in some countries, for instance, education for marriage was part of the secondary school curricula and that special courses on this subject were available to adults. The 1963 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law, held at Bogotá, had concluded, inter alia, that education for marriage should be intensified, and it had considered that the establishment of institutes and centres where men and women could be trained to assume the responsibilities of marriage was of great importance.

193. Some representatives also expressed interest in marriage counselling, whereby professional skills were brought to the assistance of married couples to help them to understand their problems and settle their differences. In some countries, marriage counselling was taught in the universities or specialized establishments, and it had attained the full status of a profession. Some representatives suggested that the services of marriage counsellors should be made widely available, particularly when a divorce was pending.

194. Several representatives drew the Commission's attention to various measures designed to preserve the marriage tie when a divorce or separation was pending. It was noted, for instance, that in some traditional systems where the husband could repudiate his wife, his decision became irrevocable only at the expiry of a period of several months. In the laws and judicial decisions of some other countries, there was a trend towards requiring a waiting period between the filing of a divorce action and the hearing of the case, during which efforts could be made to bring the parties together. While it was recognized that efforts at conciliation should be encouraged, there was some difference of opinion as to the form which reconciliation procedures should take. One representative expressed the fear that compulsory reconciliation procedures carried out by a third party might be regarded as an unwarranted interference with the freedom of the individual and thereby give rise to difficulties. Other representatives felt that, in view of the very beneficial effects of a sympathetic hearing by a competent third party when divorce or separation was contemplated or formally requested, the requirement that such hearings be held before the institution of proceedings was justified. The consensus of opinion was that the Commission should recommend that facilities for reconciliation be made available.

195. While the importance of preserving the stability of the family was thus stressed, it was noted that the need to legislate for the eventuality of dissolution of marriage or judicial separation had been recognized in all countries. As pointed out by several representatives, the grounds and procedures for divorce, annulment and judicial separation varied from country to country, but some provisions existed everywhere for at least one of those possibilities.

196. It was considered essential by some representatives that the grounds and procedures for divorce and separation should be so formulated as not to encourage the breaking up of marriages. Without dissenting from that view, some other representatives were of the opinion that there was not necessarily a correlation between the frequency of divorces and the open or restrictive character of the legal provisions in force. According to those representatives, available statistics showed that the frequency of divorce might vary widely in countries which had very similar grounds and procedures for divorce; and that various other factors

such as the degree of urbanization, age of marriage, lack or inadequacy of formal education at the time of marriage, public attitude towards action designed to preserve family stability, and the practical operation of the reconciliation machinery could account for such differences. It was considered necessary to intensify research of this kind, with a view to diversifying measures to preserve the stability of the family and to increasing the effectiveness of such measures.

197. It was stressed that, whatever were the legal grounds and procedures for divorce, annulment and separation, all possible steps should be taken to ensure equality of rights between men and women in such circumstances. This was the primary purpose of the Commission's action in that field. It appeared from the debate that, while full equality existed in some countries, in several other countries, in fact if not in law, women were still placed in an inferior or unfavourable position as compared to men.

198. The Commission noted that, in some countries, the legal grounds for divorce and separation were the same for men and women; in some legal systems, no specific ground was set forth by law, and the courts granted divorce or separation only when they were convinced, after a thorough examination of the case, that family life could no longer be saved; but women enjoyed full equality of status with men before the courts. In some other countries, however, the grounds for divorce and separation which were open to women were still different and narrower than those available to men. For instance, in some countries, adultery of the wife was always a ground for divorce, while adultery of the husband was a ground for divorce only if it had been committed at the conjugal residence or accompanied by scandalous conduct. Moreover, in some legal systems influenced by religious or customary rules, married women could obtain a divorce only on certain specified grounds to be submitted to the courts, while men were allowed to repudiate their wives without a statement of reasons or on very wide grounds.

199. Some representatives indicated that in the latter countries, as regards the procedure for divorce, the progressive elements generally thought that the requirement of judicial determination in all or most cases of divorce and separation would constitute an important improvement. They felt, in particular, that recourse to the courts would act as an effective deterrent against easy divorce, which might be desired by men; that it would better ensure equality in the application of existing laws and bring about a better settlement of problems relating to alimony for the wife and custody and support of children. Other groups in those countries had expressed the opinion, however, that evidence in support of a petition for divorce might have a permanently damaging effect not only on the wife - whose reputation was particularly important in such societies - but also on the whole family, including the children. It was further argued that the submission of such evidence in court would make it more difficult for couples desiring divorce to consider restoration of their marriages. This debate was at present being carried on in some countries.

200. Information and views were exchanged in some detail as regards the award of alimony to the divorced or separated woman. Various elements were taken into consideration by the courts in that respect. One of them was the guilt or innocence of the woman as determined in divorce proceedings, a guilty woman not being entitled to alimony in several legal systems. Another group of factors to which the courts of some countries paid great attention was the size of the woman's financial resources and her ability to earn a living at work. It was pointed out by one representative that in her country the law made the award of alimony

dependent not only upon the woman's ability to work - which she was expected to do except in special circumstances - but also upon several other factors such as the existence of children, the age of the children, the duration of the marriage and the extent of the husband's financial resources. According to this representative, such a law, while recognizing in principle the woman's right to alimony, made it difficult for a divorced woman to stay at home and look after her children. In another country, alimony was to be paid to the divorced wife if she had been engaged solely in household activities during marriage and her health was not good enough to enable her to support herself by working outside. It was generally recognized that special consideration should be given to divorced women with several children, as they often found it hard to earn a living. Some representatives pointed out that the solution of these important problems regarding the support of divorced mothers might be made easier in countries where extensive facilities were offered for the care of children.

201. According to the customs or traditional law which still prevailed in some countries, the custody of children was usually granted either to the mother or to the father, according to the sex and age of children. As pointed out by several representatives, there was, however, a growing trend in modern legislation towards settling this matter in accordance with the best interests of the children as determined in each case by the court. In some areas of the world, this basic criterion of the best interests of the child was qualified by a provision under which young children, in view of their extremely strong physical and emotional need for their mothers, should in all cases remain with their mothers until they reached a specified age.

202. In several countries, irrespective of the guilt of the wife and the court's decision regarding the award of alimony to the wife and the custody of children, the father was solely or essentially responsible for his children's support.

203. Some references were made to the property rights of women consequent to divorce or separation, a question which was closely related to the law on matrimonial régimes. One representative pointed out that in her country a woman with several children who devoted herself exclusively to her household during marriage was considered by law as contributing to the common income in the same proportion as her working husband; and that in case of dissolution of her marriage, she was entitled to half the joint property acquired during marriage.

204. Some representatives expressed the hope that a comparative study of family law, based on the information obtained from the seminars already held on the subject and on Governments' replies to the Secretary-General's questionnaires, could be prepared and kept up to date as further information became available.

#### Consideration of draft resolution

205. A draft resolution was submitted by Finland, France, Ghana and Sierra Leone (E/CN.6/L.413). It contained a draft resolution for the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the operative part of which read as follows:

"Recommends that Governments of Member States take all possible measures to ensure equality of rights between men and women in the event of dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation;

"Recommends the following principles for ensuring such equality:

"(1) Appropriate measures for reconciliation should be taken before the institution of proceedings for divorce or judicial separation;

"(2) A divorce or judicial separation shall be granted only by a competent judicial authority and shall be legally recorded;

"(3) Both spouses shall have the same rights and shall have available the same legal grounds and legal defences in proceedings for divorce, annulment of marriage and judicial separation;

"(4) The right of either spouse to give full and free consent should be ensured by law in the event of divorce on the ground of mutual consent;

"(5) In proceedings regarding custody of children, the interest of the children shall be the paramount consideration;

"(6) Men and women shall have the same legal status and capacity after divorce, annulment of marriage or judicial separation;

"(7) Men and women shall have the same rights after dissolution of marriage by death."

206. Taking into account oral amendments and suggestions made by various representatives, the sponsors orally revised sub-paragraphs (1) and (4) of the second operative paragraph of their draft resolution for the Economic and Social Council. Sub-paragraph (1) of the second operative paragraph, as orally revised, read:

"Facilities for reconciliation should be made available;"

In sub-paragraph (4), the words "or withhold" were inserted between the words "to give" and the word "full"; and, in accordance with an oral amendment originally submitted and later withdrawn by Hungary but reintroduced orally by the United Kingdom and accepted by the sponsors, the words "in countries where mutual consent is a ground for divorce" were added at the end of the sub-paragraph, after the word "consent". Sub-paragraph (4), as revised, read:

"The right of either spouse to give or withhold full and free consent should be ensured by law in the event of divorce on the ground of mutual consent, in countries where mutual consent is a ground for divorce;"

207. At its 427th meeting, on 10 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.413), as orally revised, by 16 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. At the request of the representative of Guinea, the vote was taken by roll-call. The results of the vote were as follows:

In favour: Austria, China, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Ghana, Hungary, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sierra Leone, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Guinea, Iran, United Arab Republic.

208. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

9 (XVIII). STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Invites the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following draft resolution:

/For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVIII, draft resolution VI.7

## VII. ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

209. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 428th to 430th meetings. It had before it three reports by the International Labour Office: a report on ILO activities of special interest from the standpoint of women's employment (E/CN.6/424); an international survey of part-time employment (E/CN.6/428); and a report on vocational guidance and training of girls and women (E/CN.6/429).

210. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/146); the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/149); the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/154 and 156); and the Open Door International (E/CN.6/NGO/155). During the debate oral statements were made by observers from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the International Council of Social Democratic Women and St. Joan's International Alliance.

### Activities of the ILO which have a bearing on the employment of women

211. In introducing the report on the International Labour Organisation's activities of special interest from the standpoint of women's employment (E/CN.6/424), the representative of the ILO drew particular attention to two major developments of special interest to women workers. The first related to the conclusions reached by the International Labour Conference in June 1964 on women workers in a changing world: these were contained in annex III of the report of the ILO. They consisted of a proposed text of a draft recommendation on the employment of women with family responsibilities, which the ILO Conference would deal with at its 49th session, in June 1965, and of four resolutions: one dealing with women workers in a changing world, the second with the economic and social advancement of women in developing countries, the third with part-time employment, and the fourth with the application of ILO standards on maternity protection and consideration of this question at some future session of the Conference.

212. With regard to the second major development, the representative of the ILO drew attention to the action taken by the Second African Regional Conference of the ILO held at Addis Ababa in December 1964, which had discussed, as one of the two technical items on its agenda, employment and conditions of work for women in African countries. The Conference had adopted two resolutions, one on measures for equipping and enabling women to play a larger role in economic and social development, and the other on ILO action to advance the economic and social status of women in Africa. Attention was also drawn to a tripartite technical meeting for the clothing industry, held in Geneva in September 1964. The conclusions of that meeting were of interest because of the large number of women employed in the industry. Also of interest was a meeting of experts on welfare facilities for industrial workers held in October 1964, which had reached several conclusions of special concern to women.



213. In connexion with technical co-operation, reference was made to the donation of funds by the Swedish Government for the execution by the ILO of projects for vocational training for girls and women in African countries; two projects were reported to be already in operation in Kenya and in Sierra Leone. Arrangements had been approved for the opening of the Turin International Centre for advanced technical and vocational training, and the International Institute for Labour Studies had continued its courses on human problems in economic development. In drawing attention to the special study on unemployment among women (E/CN.6/424, annex II), the ILO representative emphasized "invisible unemployment", which was higher for women - especially for married women - than for men. The risk of unemployment was proportionate to the lack of education of the youth of both sexes, who were subject to the higher unemployment rates, particularly the girls, since often they had received less education than boys. Further studies of unemployment amongst women, carried out at the national level, were necessary before any comparative analyses at the international level could be truly worth while.

214. The representative of the Secretary-General drew attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 961 E I (XXXVI), adopted on the recommendation of the Commission in 1963, in which the Secretary-General was asked to transmit to the ILO "the views and decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women relating to economic rights and opportunities for women, together with the records of decisions thereon, for the reference of the 1964 session of the International Labour Conference during its consideration of the agenda item 'Women workers in a changing world'"; and reported that a document had been circulated to the International Labour Conference in 1964 in accordance with this request.

215. Members of the Commission expressed their appreciation to the International Labour Office for the comprehensive report which it had submitted, and their satisfaction with the ILO activities affecting the employment of women. Various representatives indicated that employment opportunities for women had improved in their own countries as a result of economic and social reforms, and revisions of outmoded laws; that women and girls were making increasing use of these new opportunities and that, consequently, the percentage of women employed was constantly rising. It was pointed out that in the present era of rapid economic development, the participation of women in economic and social progress was of ever-increasing importance; that in the newly independent countries although there had been considerable improvement in the status of women, women were not always able to make use of their talents because of the countries' low level of economic development, and that an increase in their employment was therefore dependent on the economic development of the countries. It was also held that, in some countries, planning and direction were needed to enable women to make real use of the equal rights accorded them by law.

216. Several representatives expressed the view that economic rights and opportunities for women were essential to the attainment of complete equality in public and family life. The right to work was said to constitute one of the main factors - if not the main factor - in the emancipation of women, and it was emphasized that expansion of employment opportunities for women was of paramount importance for economic and social development. In this connexion, attention was drawn to the ILO Convention (No. 122) and Recommendation (No. 122) concerning

Employment Policy, which called for freedom of choice of employment and the fullest possible opportunity for each worker to use his skills in a job for which he was well qualified.

217. Some representatives expressed the hope that such matters as the right to work and the right to equal pay for equal work would be defined with greater clarity in the ILO draft recommendation on the employment of women with family responsibilities. It was stated that the real problem concerning women's employment arose in families with small children. It followed, therefore, that the efforts of the ILO should be concentrated on the problem of women with family responsibilities, and not on the question of women's employment in general, bearing in mind that it should be possible for both parents to continue working outside the home, without lowering the standards of the care of the children. It was hoped that special care would be exercised in the drafting of all future ILO instruments, in order not to place female labour in such a special position on the labour market as to make equality of status for men and women more difficult to ensure.

218. Some representatives noted with regret that in some parts of the world discrimination against women in matters of economic rights and opportunities still existed, and hoped that it would be eliminated in the near future. Regret was also expressed at the fact that ILO Conventions, such as the Convention concerning the Employment of Women before and after Childbirth (No. 3), the Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value (No. 100) and the Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (No. 111), had not yet been ratified by all countries. It was observed that since information contained in the report of the ILO on the question of unemployment rates for men and women dealt with the situation in only thirteen countries, adequate consideration of the question was not possible, in the absence of comparable data for other countries.

219. The necessity of appointing women delegates to international and regional conferences concerned with questions relating to the employment of women was emphasized. In this connexion it was said that continual vigilance was necessary to ensure that Governments, which had accepted the principle that women should be members of bodies dealing with women's work, continued to do so.

220. The representative of the International Labour Organisation stated that the ILO would continue to bring to the attention of the Commission information relating to the implementation of Conventions relating primarily to the employment of women, including the maternity protection instruments which were currently under review by the ILO under the machinery established for supervising the application of its standards. Some representatives noted that the question of women workers in a changing world was still on the agenda of the International Labour Conference, and hoped to receive further information from the ILO on this matter at its next session.

#### Consideration of draft resolution

221. A draft resolution on the activities of the ILO which have a bearing on the employment of women was submitted by France, Iran, Mexico, the Philippines and Poland (E/CN.6/L.417). According to that text, the Commission would congratulate

the ILO on its initiative and work on behalf of women workers with family responsibilities and express the hope that the ILO would find it possible to report to the Commission at its next session on the work done on that subject by the International Labour Conference, and the results accomplished.

222. The representative of Guinea referred to the second preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, reading:

"Noting further that the text adopted by the Conference in June 1964 as a basis for a further consultation of Governments' calls for a series of social measures and facilities and for the social adaptation necessary to enable women workers with family responsibilities to fulfil their heavy tasks at home and at work, without prejudice to their opportunities for employment and promotion,".

She proposed that the paragraph be amended to read: "... calls for the introduction of effective measures and facilities, together with adequate social adaptation, to enable women workers with family responsibilities to fulfil their heavy domestic duties alongside of their other work, ...". This amendment was accepted by the sponsors.

223. At its 430th meeting, on 14 March 1965, the Commission unanimously adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.417) as amended. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

#### 10 (XVIII). WOMEN WORKERS WITH FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES

##### The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with satisfaction that the question of the employment of women with family responsibilities has been placed on the agenda of the 49th International Labour Conference (Geneva, June 1965), where a proposed international recommendation on this subject will come up for discussion for the second time,

Noting further that the text adopted by the Conference in June 1964 as a basis for a further consultation of Governments calls for the introduction of effective measures and facilities, together with adequate social adaptation, to enable women workers with family responsibilities to fulfil their heavy domestic duties alongside their other work, without prejudice to their opportunities for employment and promotion,

1. Congratulates the International Labour Organisation on its initiative and work on behalf of women workers with family responsibilities,

2. Expresses the hope that the International Labour Office will find it possible to report to the Commission at its next session on the work done by the International Labour Conference on this subject and the results accomplished.

### Part-time work for women

224. In introducing the international survey on part-time employment prepared by the International Labour Office (E/CN.6/428), the representative of the ILO stated that the survey had been prepared as a result of interest expressed in the subject by the Commission and by ILO bodies. It was the most comprehensive study yet made on part-time employment and contained information concerning fifty countries. The survey dealt with the prevalence of part-time employment, the nature of part-time employment arrangements, the characteristics of the part-time labour force, conditions of employment, social security and the existing attitudes towards part-time employment. Part-time employment was increasing in many countries for a variety of social and economic reasons. While it was a form of employment in which men and women, the elderly, students and handicapped persons engaged, the overwhelming majority of part-time workers were women, particularly women between the ages of 20 and 50, the period during which family responsibilities tended to be heaviest for women. The survey stressed the need to ensure that arrangements made regarding part-time employment should be based on the principle of equality of status and treatment for men and women so as to protect part-time workers from exploitation, and full-time workers from unfair competition. It was pointed out that part-time work was a fact, and the problems associated with it would have to be faced and solved on the basis of fact and principle, with careful planning. The Commission was informed that the International Labour Conference, in a resolution adopted at its 1964 session, while recognizing that part-time work existed and that it helped to meet the needs of certain men and women, particularly women with family responsibilities, had invited the International Labour Office, in co-operation with the competent authorities and organizations of employers and workers, to undertake inquiries into the number and nature of part-time employment opportunities and the number and characteristics of persons seeking part-time employment. The Commission was further informed that the International Labour Office would be glad to report the result of this inquiry to the Commission if the Commission so wished.

225. It was observed by some representatives that part-time employment met a special need of married women and would enable mothers better to discharge their family responsibilities and at the same time to broaden their interests and to take a larger part in community life while still contributing to the national economy. It produced extra income for the family, as well as providing an outlet for the energies of the woman worker and often enabling her to keep up her skills during a period when she could not conveniently engage in full-time work outside the home. On the other hand, it was pointed out that part-time employment should not be looked at specifically as a matter of concern to women only, though it was clearly a matter of primary concern to them, and especially to those with family responsibilities. The main drawbacks to part-time employment were that salary would be reduced by more than half, since incidental expenses, such as travel to and from work, would remain the same and that, in general, social security benefits, sickness pay and pension rights might suffer. Moreover, there was the danger of exploitation and undermining of the position of the full-time worker. The employers' difficulties with part-time employment were also very real and had to be taken into account. Several representatives drew attention to specific problems caused by part-time work, such as problems of arranging satisfactory social security coverage for part-time workers, sickness pay, pension rights, etc., which would have to be solved.

226. Several representatives emphasized that the individual should have the freedom to choose between full-time and part-time employment. It was observed that the question of part-time work for women desiring or needing employment should be studied locally, with a view to providing part-time employment for women with young children in areas where facilities to enable them to undertake full-time employment were lacking.

#### Consideration of draft resolution

227. A draft resolution was submitted by the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.419). At the 430th meeting, on 14 March 1965, the draft resolution, as orally revised at that meeting by the United States representative, was adopted by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

#### 11 (XVIII). PART-TIME WORK

##### The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with interest the international survey on part-time employment prepared by the International Labour Office (E/CN.6/428),

Conscious of the particular importance of opportunities for part-time employment for numbers of women with family responsibilities, as well as for other categories of men and women workers who desire part-time work,

Conscious further of the need for arrangements for part-time employment to respect the principles of non-discrimination as regards remuneration, social security and other treatment laid down in instruments of the International Labour Organisation, on these subjects,

Noting that the International Labour Conference, at its 48th session in June 1964, adopted a resolution inviting the International Labour Office to make a further study of part-time work,

Expresses the hope that the International Labour Office will find it possible to undertake this study in the near future and will report the results of its study to the Commission at an early session.

#### Vocational guidance and training of girls and women

228. In introducing the report of the International Labour Office on vocational guidance and training for girls and women (E/CN.6/429), the representative of the ILO stated that this report had been prepared in response to requests from the Commission and from the ILO panel of consultants on the problems of women workers. The report was illustrative rather than inclusive; a particular effort had been made to draw on the experience of countries in the different regions where developments in vocational preparation for girls and women were taking place.

229. The essential note in the report was one of change and progress. Women were becoming better equipped for work, with better opportunities and less discrimination in more sectors of the economy, and were acquiring a more realistic idea of their potential contribution to the future of their countries and of the vocational preparation they needed. Those symptoms of change reinforced the need for more and better vocational guidance for girls, particularly in the economies undergoing rapid change and technological progress, with fast-changing patterns of women's employment. There was a risk that if girls and adult women in all walks of life were not helped to reach a realistic understanding of their potentialities in the economic and social fields in rapidly changing conditions and were not helped to develop those potentialities, there would be no general improvement in the status of women. Enlightened vocational guidance could play a real part in expanding occupational horizons for girls and women in the context of national needs and conditions; and realistic vocational training based on growing opportunities for them had to be made available. Co-operation in the international effort was vital. UNESCO, FAO, ILO and international women's organizations were doing much to encourage realistic modernization of vocational guidance and training for girls and women in accordance with the conditions prevailing in each country.

230. Several representatives emphasized the need for the establishment of new centres of vocational and technical training for girls and women. It was pointed out that there was an obvious link between the right to work and the right to receive vocational and technical training. Vocational and technical training was said to constitute an essential prerequisite to the right of women to work. Measures should therefore be taken to give women access to educational facilities, vocational and technical training, and thus to the economic life of the country.

231. In emphasizing the great importance of vocational and technical training, it was observed that the unskilled job carried the disadvantage of low status, pay and retirement pension, not to mention the lack of personal satisfaction in the work. It was also observed that large numbers of women in countries where compulsory education had not yet been introduced had not even acquired elementary education. In those countries, therefore, the immediate and pressing need was basic education on a universal basis. Vocational guidance facilities should also be incorporated in school curricula. Several representatives emphasized the need for trained vocational guidance counsellors. They held that all teachers should undertake to give their pupils vocational guidance, for it was important to start such guidance as soon as possible. It was pointed out that short-term vocational training facilities could also be of great assistance in solving women's employment problems.

232. It was observed that in certain places girls had not taken advantage of facilities for vocational training in technical subjects to the same extent as boys, partly because of deep-rooted traditional attitudes about the suitability or non-suitability of certain types of employment for women. Such attitudes, customs and beliefs take time to change, and educational systems should assist in bringing about the desired changes.

## Consideration of draft resolutions

233. A draft resolution on vocational guidance and technical education and training of girls and women was submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (E/CN.6/L.416). At the 430th meeting, on 14 March 1965, the draft resolution, as orally modified at that meeting by the representative of the USSR, was unanimously adopted. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

### 12 (XVIII). TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

#### The Commission on the Status of Women,

Considering resolution 8 (XV)<sup>15/</sup> and 6 (XVI)<sup>16/</sup> of the Commission on the Status of Women, Economic and Social Council resolutions 771 E (XXX), 821 IV (XXXII), 961 E (XXXVI) and General Assembly resolution 1824 (XVII),

Attaching great importance to the problem of the vocational and technical education and training of women,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the International Labour Organisation and of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in encouraging equal access of women to vocational and technical education and training, and particularly the report of the International Labour Office on vocational guidance and training of girls and women (E/CN.6/429),

1. Requests the International Labour Office and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue to include in their periodic reports to the Commission on the Status of Women, information regarding the technical and vocational education and training of girls and women;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in co-operation with the specialized agencies concerned, to submit to the Commission a review of the results obtained in the implementation of the recommendations made by United Nations bodies on this question, as referred to in the preamble to this resolution.

234. A draft resolution submitted by Guinea, Hungary and the United Arab Republic (E/CN.6/L.418) recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, in which the Council:

"1. Recommends Member States to take all possible steps to permit the access of women to education and vocational training;

"2. Appeals to Member States to facilitate by all possible means the access of women to economic and social life;

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<sup>15/</sup> Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 143.

<sup>16/</sup> Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 71.

"3. Draws the attention of Member States to the necessity for ratifying as soon as possible the ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (No. 111 of 1958) and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960), and for accepting the principles laid down in the ILO Recommendation concerning Vocational Training (No. 117 of 1962) and the UNESCO International Recommendation on Technical and Vocational Education (1962)."

235. The representative of Iran proposed the replacement of the word "permit" in operative paragraph 1 by "promote". This amendment was accepted by the co-sponsors.

236. At the 430th meeting, on 14 March 1965, the draft resolution as amended was unanimously adopted. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

13 (XVIII). TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF  
GIRLS AND WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

/For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVIII, draft resolution VII./



### VIII. EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

237. The Commission considered item 9 of its agenda at its 430th and 431st meetings. It had before it a report of the International Labour Office on equal pay for equal work (E/CN.6/423 and Add.1).

238. Written statements on this agenda item were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/147); and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (E/CN.6/NGO/148/Rev.1).

239. During the debate an oral statement was made by the representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

240. In introducing the report (E/CN.6/423 and Add.1), the representative of the International Labour Organisation drew attention to significant developments since the date of that report and to some of the factors favouring and impeding the more rapid application of the principle of equal pay for equal work.

241. The ILO representative pointed out that the number of ratifications of the Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value of 1951 now totalled forty-eight, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Iraq and Paraguay having ratified the Convention since the last meeting of the Commission, in 1963. Attention was also drawn to the resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference at its forty-eighth session in June 1964, urging, inter alia, ratification of the Convention.

242. Progress had been made in the member countries of the European Economic Community towards the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work, which was laid down in article 119 of the Treaty establishing the Community; but in most countries of the Community there were still difficulties in the full application of the principle. The introduction of job classification had operated in some cases to the detriment of women workers; there had been complaints concerning the creation of new categories of light work and the more or less automatic classification of women in these categories. In Africa the principle of equal pay was widely accepted and, generally, Governments set a good example. There were encouraging developments in other parts of the world. However, in most countries progress towards equal pay remained disappointingly slow and, in addition, the general level of women's wages remained low in comparison with that of men's wages; in some countries the position was even deteriorating.

243. The reasons for this situation were to be found partly in non-objective job classification, which operated to the detriment of women; partly in the fact that many collective agreements had not come up for renewal during the period under review; and partly in the relatively low level of participation in trade unions by women, which resulted in weak representation of women's interests. In some countries, efforts to stabilize wages and prices were said to have delayed the implementation of the principle of equal pay. The indifference of many men and women to the problem was an important factor, and there still remained in some countries considerable opposition from employers to its full application.

244. The lower level of women's wages resulted very largely from the lower level of education and training of girls and women, from unrealistic vocational guidance and from the unwillingness of too many girls to make the necessary effort to develop their full vocational potential.

245. Some factors facilitated the application of the principle of equal pay, and the following were specifically mentioned by the representative of the ILO: (a) progress of automation, making it easier to define jobs on the basis of work content; (b) growing pressures for the employment of more women at higher levels and a growing tendency by women to seek more responsible posts in trade unions and to insist on participating in collective negotiations; (c) increasing use of periodic inquiries into wages of men and women in all branches of the economy, making possible comparisons over time; (d) research and studies into the economic impact of equal pay for equal work; (e) studies seeking to define careers for women in terms related to changes in their economic and social opportunities and in terms related to equal opportunities for women in all careers for which they may have equal aptitude and qualifications.

246. When more women with the required qualifications had equal opportunities to work alongside of men in various economic sectors, it would be easier to ensure equal pay for equal work. Women themselves should recognize equal pay as an issue affecting their status. Public information and education based on objective research were essential. Governments had a key role to play, but the rate of progress in most countries would also depend to a large extent on efforts made by the trade unions and by women's organizations.

247. Members of the Commission expressed appreciation of the report prepared by the International Labour Office and of the work that had been done to promote the principle of equal pay for equal work.

248. Some representatives, expressing satisfaction at the fact that forty-eight countries had ratified the Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, pointed out that legal sanction was not in itself a guarantee that the principle of equal pay for equal work was uniformly applied. A number of representatives provided information about the progress achieved in their own countries in the implementation of that principle and about the difficulties which had been encountered. It was pointed out that some Governments had fully implemented the principle in the public sector, but, in some cases, equally satisfactory progress had not been made in the private sector.

249. Several obstacles were mentioned as impeding the application of the principle of equal pay. These included the employment market situation in many countries; where employment opportunities were limited, women were often under pressure to accept lower wages. Another important factor retarding implementation was the common attitude to women's work, which was regarded as supplementary to that of men, who, in some countries, were thought to have the sole, or main, responsibility for the support of the household.

250. It was thought that the traditional division of jobs in most industries into women's work and men's work, and the tendency of women to specialize in certain occupations reinforced those attitudes, and also that, in these circumstances, job classification might encourage discrimination. Some representatives stated that discrimination in employment and promotion opportunities placed strong pressures upon women to accept lower wages for a job.

251. The view was expressed that Governments and trade unions had not played an active enough part in promoting the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work, and it was thought that the low rate of participation by women in trade-union affairs might be the reason for this. Some representatives stated that implementation of the principle depended, not only on legislative measures, but also upon the attitudes of the people, which could be influenced by non-governmental organizations, especially those concerned with women's interests, through the encouragement of girls to take advantage of their opportunities and of Governments to take special measures to assist girls.

252. A number of representatives pointed out that the average level of income of women was generally lower than that of men because women were generally employed upon the less skilled jobs. It was emphasized that women would only achieve the same income as men when they were equally qualified for, and doing, the same jobs as men. General education, vocational training and vocational guidance were therefore essential, and special efforts were needed to encourage positive attitudes on the part of girls to the development of their skills and potentials.

253. Representatives emphasized that better education and training facilities and guidance services were needed for girls and women, together with co-ordinated efforts to encourage their greater and more effective participation in economic life. It was suggested that the problems facing women in the economic and social field were part of the problems confronting society as a whole, and that progress in the implementation of the principle of equal opportunity and remuneration would help to bring about a favourable climate for implementation of the principle of equality of status for women.

## IX. EFFECT OF RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

254. The Commission considered item 10 of the agenda at its 432nd meeting. It had before it a report on the effect of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission on national legislation (E/CN.6/437), prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with requests made by the Commission at its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions. 17/ The report was based on information contained in United Nations documents in respect of political rights of women and the status of women in private law. A bibliography of the documents consulted for the preparation of the document was also circulated to the Commission. The representative of the Secretary-General, in introducing the report, pointed out that no attempt had been made to assess or to evaluate the effect of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission on national legislation, but an indication had been given of the substance of national legislation enacted after the date of the adoption of the relevant resolution or recommendation of the Commission.

255. Many representatives expressed satisfaction with the information contained in the Secretary-General's report, which they felt would enable the Commission to see at a glance the important steps being taken in different parts of the world towards the advancement of women in the fields of political rights and private law. Several representatives expressed the view that the report showed that the work of the Commission was not limited to collecting information and adopting recommendations, but also had had, and was having, repercussions in action by Governments. In the opinion of all representatives this was a great encouragement to the Commission in its work. In stressing the value of the report, it was noted that documents of this nature would be of great use to the Commission when considering its future goals and programme of work. Several representatives mentioned that the report was also valuable as a means of exchanging information, not only among members of the Commission, but also among all countries, since it contained a wealth of information about legislation enacted in recent years.

256. It was noted that the report was necessarily incomplete, since as requested by the Commission, it was based exclusively on information available in United Nations documents and therefore, as some representatives pointed out, did not include relevant legislation that had been enacted in some countries and territories. It was agreed that a more complete report, based on wider sources, was desirable, and it was thought that the report should be forwarded to Governments and that they should be asked to supplement the information contained in it.

257. Some representatives pointed out that the report would serve to remind Governments of the recommendations adopted by the Commission, especially if they were asked to supplement the information contained therein. The view was also

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17/ Ibid., Thirty-Fourth Session, Supplement No. 7, paras. 145, 148-151 and 159; and Thirty-Sixth Session, Supplement No. 7, paras. 188-192.

expressed that a document of this kind was of value for non-governmental organizations in influencing public opinion and in their work with Governments to promote the advancement of women.

258. Some representatives thought that the next report on the subject should deal with all the fields of work studied by the Commission. Others, however, felt that it would be more valuable if it were limited to one field only, which should be the status of women in private law. In this regard it was mentioned that other subjects were already dealt with in documents regularly submitted to the Commission, either by the Secretary-General or by the specialized agencies.

259. Some representatives pointed out that the effectiveness of the report was diminished by the fact that the Secretary-General had not been able to assess or to evaluate the effect of the Commission's resolutions on national legislation. On the other hand, some expressed the opinion that it was not possible to assess the relationship between the recommendations of the Commission and the legislation enacted by Governments, since factors contributing directly and indirectly to improvements in the status of women were numerous, and many of them were not easily discernible.

#### Consideration of draft resolutions

260. Two draft resolutions were submitted relating to the preparation of a further report on the effect of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission on national legislation: one by the representative of Mexico (E/CN.6/L.425) and another by the representative of the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.426).

261. Under the draft resolution proposed by the representative of the United States of America, the Commission:

"1. Invites the Secretary-General to continue reporting along the lines of the present document on developments in the field of private law;

"2. Suggests that the report be re-titled 'Progress in National Legislation in relation to Private Law', and that it be made available as a sub-item, under the agenda item 'The status of women in private law';

"3. Expresses the hope that the report can be issued annually, on the basis of information currently available, in order to alert the Commission to significant trends and achievements."

262. After an exchange of views the representative of the United States of America withdrew her draft resolution.

263. In the draft resolution submitted by the representative of Mexico (E/CN.6/L.425), and subsequently sponsored also by the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Iran, the Philippines and Peru, the Commission:

"Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) To forward the report to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in order to supplement the information on national legislation contained therein;

"(b) To prepare a supplementary report for submission to the Commission at its twentieth session."

264. Amendments to the operative paragraph were proposed orally. Firstly, the representative of the United Arab Republic proposed the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c) reading: "And to include, if possible at the twentieth session, legislation enacted by Member States prior to the adoption of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission". Secondly, the representative of Ghana proposed the addition of a new sub-paragraph (d) reading: "To provide information on the implementation of political rights for women".

265. In submitting her amendment, the representative of the United Arab Republic stated that the absence of information on certain countries might give the impression that those countries were backward in granting rights to women, while on the contrary, women had acquired many of their essential political rights and rights in private law some time before the date of the adoption of the relevant recommendation by the Commission. The sponsors of the draft resolution felt that the amendment would deprive the report of its main value, since the Commission was primarily interested in the impact made by its recommendations, and not in national legislation which had existed previously and which came to its attention in other reports. The representative of the United Arab Republic subsequently withdrew her amendment.

266. The representative of Ghana, in introducing her oral amendment, explained that she believed it would be of great value for the Commission, in its future work, to have information available on the implementation of the relevant legislation in the country concerned, particularly in the field of political rights. The sponsors of the draft resolution, while concerned about the practical application of the rights acquired by women in the political sphere, noted that the Commission already received, every two years, reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, and that the inclusion of the oral amendment would entail duplication of documentation. The representative of Ghana subsequently withdrew her amendment.

267. The representative of the USSR, in stressing the value of the report, especially if supplemented by information supplied by Governments, suggested that it should be submitted to the Commission at regular intervals. She therefore proposed that sub-paragraph (b) should read: "To prepare supplementary reports, if possible biennially, for submission to the Commission". This amendment was accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution.

268. At its 432nd meeting, on 15 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.425), as orally amended, unanimously. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

14 (XVIII). EFFECT OF RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
COMMISSION ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with interest the report by the Secretary-General on the effect of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission on national legislation (E/CN.6/437),

Noting further that this report is based entirely on information contained in United Nations documents,

Considering the value of the information contained in the report for the future work of the Commission especially in the field of private law,

Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To forward the report to Governments of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in order to supplement the information on national legislation contained therein;

(b) To prepare supplementary reports, if possible biennially, for submission to the Commission.

## X. ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

269. The Commission considered item 11 of its agenda at its 432nd to 434th meetings. It had before it the following documents: a report by UNESCO on its activities in 1963-1964 of special interest to women, and the main activities proposed for 1965-1966 (E/CN.6/432 and Add.1); and a report by UNESCO on the access of girls to secondary education (E/CN.6/433).

270. Written statements were submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/150); the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/154 and 156); the International Federation of Women Lawyers (E/CN.6/NGO/148/Rev.1); and the World Young Women's Christian Association (E/CN.6/NGO/159).

271. A number of observers from non-governmental organizations, who had asked to make oral statements, were unable to do so because of lack of time.

272. Members of the Commission expressed their appreciation to UNESCO for the reports which it had submitted, and their satisfaction with the UNESCO activities affecting the access of women to education. Various representatives indicated that the access of women to education had improved in their own countries as a result of the great emphasis being placed on education, and that the number of primary, secondary and vocational schools, as well as the proportion of girls attending them, had increased.

### Activities of UNESCO of special interest to women

273. In introducing the report on the activities of UNESCO in 1963-1964 that were of special interest to women, and the main activities proposed for 1965-1966, the representative of UNESCO stated that it was generally held that equality in education, in educational opportunities and in educational and cultural achievement was the foundation for women's equality in every aspect of life; and that education was a decisive factor in economic and social development and that women's position in modern society depended on their standard of education. It was pointed out that most of the 117 States members of UNESCO were developing countries, with very great educational needs. Considerable assistance from sources outside UNESCO's regular budget was directed towards education, and UNESCO also laid great stress on national planning, for where resources were small, needs must be evaluated most carefully. In 1963 alone, UNESCO had sent out twenty-one planning missions at the request of Member States, and centres for training planners and administrators had been set up at Beirut, New Delhi, Bangkok and Dakar. In addition, UNESCO had helped to set up training institutes, with special stress on teacher training. The United Nations Special Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other such organizations had gradually recognized the importance of co-operation; thus, sixty-seven projects costing approximately \$76 million had been approved by the Special Fund, and UNESCO was co-operating with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in teacher training, which was very important for women's education. With the assistance of the Special Fund, UNESCO was carrying out twenty-nine projects involving scientific, vocational and technical institutions.



274. At the Commission's request, UNESCO had included in its report a section on the eradication of illiteracy, since women constituted the majority of the illiterate population in most countries. The Commission, at its seventeenth session (1963), had asked UNESCO to obtain from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Organization, information on methods of eradicating illiteracy among women. <sup>18/</sup> The information collected had been analysed and summarized by the group of non-governmental organizations and was presented in annex V to the report (E/CN.6/432/Add.1). In addition to those studies, regional meetings had been organized to shed light on obstacles to, and progress in, girls' education in countries with similar cultures.

275. With regard to UNESCO's main activities in connexion with women's education for the next two years, studies on the access of women to education at various levels would be pursued and the next two reports would deal with higher education and technical and vocational education. Fellowships would be granted and women's education would also receive attention in connexion with the UNESCO world literacy programme, which would begin with an experimental programme from 1966 to 1970. The plan was to initiate intensive action in three States in 1966, three in 1967 and two in 1968; and it was hoped on that basis to submit broader programmes for the eradication of illiteracy to the UNESCO General Conference in 1970.

276. The representative of UNESCO also stated that the Convention against Discrimination in Education had so far been ratified by thirty countries, and an instrument concerning the status of teachers was being prepared in collaboration with the ILO. It was hoped that similar information to that contained in annex I to the UNESCO report (E/CN.6/432) would be included in the report to be presented in two years' time. The fact that the UNESCO General Conference had placed special emphasis on the equality of educational opportunities for men and women was noted with great satisfaction.

277. Several representatives welcomed the proposed programme of UNESCO activities for the years 1965-1966, dealing with intensification of efforts to promote equality of access to education, particularly as regards girls and women. The world literacy programme was viewed with particular interest, for although it included men and women, it would probably be of greater benefit to women, since illiteracy was greater among women than among men. It was hoped that due attention would be paid to the participation of women in programmes for the eradication of illiteracy, and that the Commission would be provided with information on that aspect of the experimental programme that was to constitute the initial phase of the world literacy campaign. It was thought that the World Congress of Education Ministers to be held in Teheran in 1965 was of paramount importance, particularly from the standpoint of the education of vast sectors of adult illiterates who could be prepared to make valuable contributions towards the development of their countries.

278. It was generally agreed that only by education, by acquiring basic knowledge, general culture, civic training and technical and professional qualifications, could women assume their proper place in society, play their role in the industrialization and the development of their countries and thus make their essential contribution to the progress of the community to which they belonged. It was noted that at present there were fifty countries in which the number of girls entering secondary schools each year was roughly the same as that of boys. There were many countries, however,

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<sup>18/</sup> Ibid., Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7, para. 71, resolution 6 (XVII).

where the number of girls receiving secondary education was very small, and where the effects of the education received were reduced by the fact that girls left school at a very early age.

279. It was observed that a very high percentage of women were still illiterate. Many girls lacked even elementary education and the situation with regard to secondary education was even worse. Moreover, more than half of the 700 million illiterate persons in the world were women. Accordingly, UNESCO's efforts to improve women's education were of great importance, and it was gratifying that so many conferences, seminars and meetings of experts had been held on the subject. Particular importance was attached to the meetings on the access of women and girls to education held at Bangkok in February and March 1962 and at Tlemcen, Algeria, in April 1964. Although primary education was now free of charge in nearly all countries, it was not compulsory in many parts of the world. The quality of girls' education was in some cases inferior to that of boys. Even where education was free and compulsory, there was often a shortage of teachers and schools, schools were situated far from the dwellings of pupils and were antiquated, and erroneous concepts of women's place in society still prevailed.

280. In view of the fact that girls' education lagged behind that of boys, women's efforts to acquire professional training and skills were encountering serious obstacles. Concern was expressed at the fact that although four years had elapsed since the adoption of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education, it had so far been ratified by only thirty States.

281. It was held that national teacher-training programmes should be intensified and that Governments should be given further assistance in planning educational programmes. UNESCO should also promote the development of international co-operation in general education, and particularly in the education of women. To render those efforts more effective, greater attention should be paid to the experience acquired by certain countries and to the dissemination of information on that experience in newly independent countries.

282. The observation was made that a wide gap existed between useful, practical education and the curricula that were being forced on generations of pupils under the name of education. Priority must be given to stimulating students to think for themselves, to appreciate their own heritage and the contributions of other nations and to engage in a search for truth through research, enlightened methods of study, the use of library resources and first-hand contacts with people. A change in outdated attitudes was a basic condition for the improvement of education. In addition to being taught to read and write and to being given an elementary knowledge of modern conditions, women had a great need for reading material, in the form of text-books and simple magazines, to awaken their interest in learning and to broaden their outlook on life.

283. Several representatives from developing countries pointed to certain difficulties faced by such countries, which stemmed mostly from cultural, demographic, economic, social and technical conditions and affected women more than men.

284. The non-governmental organizations were congratulated on the imagination and ingenuity they had shown in helping to overcome illiteracy among women, as described in annex V of the UNESCO report (E/CN.6/432/Add.1). Many

representatives expressed the view that various aspects of UNESCO's activities for the advancement of women, particularly the moral and material assistance given to the non-governmental organizations with projects of special concern to women, were noteworthy. Although UNESCO's financial help to those organizations was limited, it did, however, encourage activities which had the aim of diffusing the principles and the programmes of UNESCO.

285. It was hoped that UNESCO would be able to submit to the Commission, at its next session, accurate figures on the proportion of illiterate women in the world, and also to adopt in 1966 the draft international recommendations concerning the status of teachers. 19/ It was pointed out that a study on the status of the teaching profession was of particular interest to women because in many countries women teachers were in the majority. It was important to find out whether the presence of a substantial number of women in the teaching profession was due to an advancement of the status of women or to the fact that the teaching profession too often lacked prestige and was underpaid.

#### Consideration of draft resolution

286. A draft resolution on the activities of UNESCO of special interest to women (E/CN.6/L.429) was submitted by Guinea and Hungary. The representative of the Dominican Republic suggested that the word "concerned" after "Member States" in operative paragraph 1 of the resolution the Council was being invited to adopt, should be deleted. The sponsors accepted the suggestion of the representative of the Dominican Republic. At the 434th meeting, on 16 March 1965, the draft resolution, as amended, was unanimously adopted. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

#### 15 (XVIII). LITERACY EDUCATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OF WOMEN

##### The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 821 (XXXII) concerning the elimination of discrimination in education and the eradication of illiteracy among women,

Having considered the report on the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of interest to women (E/CN.6/432 and Add.1), and in particular the information concerning the world literacy programme which is to be put into effect as from 1965,

Invites the Economic and Social Council to adopt the following draft resolution:

/For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVIII, draft resolution VIII.7

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19/ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Expert Committee on Teachers' Status, Final Report, UNESCO/ED/206 (Paris, 1964).

## Access of girls and women to secondary education

287. In introducing the UNESCO report on the access of girls to secondary education (E/CN.6/433), the representative of UNESCO observed that true independence was impossible without education, and an educated feminine population was essential to the achievement of a country's full development. To have equal preparation for life, it was necessary for boys and girls to have the same opportunity to follow curricula of the same standard. The purpose of the report was to bring up to date, in view of changing circumstances due to economic and social development generally and to the accession to independence of a large number of countries, the earlier study (E/CN.6/266) submitted to the Commission at its ninth session, in 1955.

288. Secondary education, unlike primary education, was not compulsory in most countries; participation of girls, therefore, tended to reflect general community standards and the parents' attitude towards education, since there was, with the exception of certain types of technical education, practically no legal discrimination as to access to secondary schools. The majority of countries answering the questionnaire (E/CN.6/433, annex I) had adopted co-educational schools for primary and higher education, but there was more segregation of the sexes at the secondary school level. In general, there was little differentiation between boys and girls in teacher-training education, but the choice for girls in technical and vocational training was limited.

289. In general, girls were no longer legally barred from access to secondary education. In several countries where the enrolment of girls in secondary schools was low, special efforts were being made to bring about the desired advance. Where primary education was well developed, the entry of girls to secondary schools was high. Generally speaking, there had been a great advance in secondary education over the past thirty years, and the proportion of girls enrolled had greatly increased. There was little absenteeism among girls; but on the other hand, in many countries a large proportion of girls failed to complete their studies, for various reasons such as marriage, economic considerations or customs and outlook. It was pointed out, however, that much still remained to be done to ensure that girls everywhere had an equal opportunity with boys to benefit from the advantages brought by education.

290. It was observed that the UNESCO report, while indicating spectacular progress, had also raised disturbing questions. One was the fact that girls did not always have the same choice of curricula as boys, and that, in many schools, girls could not obtain vocational and technical training. Another was the persistence in many countries of the customs and traditions which had denied women the benefits of education in past years; early marriage, household responsibilities and the care of younger brothers and sisters prevented girls from pursuing their education. Thus, although increasing numbers of girls were attending school, there was still need for constant pressure to bring secondary education within effective reach of every girl and to ensure that the education provided would equip her for a responsible and effective role in the community. In that connexion, the project for secondary education for girls in Africa which UNESCO was carrying out with the funds-in-trust contributed by the Government of Sweden was welcomed. The Swedish Government was to be commended for taking the problem of education for girls and women from the realm of discussion to the field of action.

291. It was noted with satisfaction that in the past few years UNESCO had placed great emphasis on the importance of secondary and vocational education. As pointed out in volume III of the UNESCO report entitled World Survey of Education, the most important trend of education was to prolong the period of general education, or compulsory education, so as to improve the general knowledge of the people and thus to meet the requirements of industrialization. The prolongation of the compulsory education period to the secondary level was now the ambition of many countries.

292. One representative drew attention to certain shortcomings in the UNESCO report on the access of girls to secondary education, in particular with regard to her own country, and hoped that if the report was to be published, Governments would be given the opportunity to submit further comments, corrections and additional information. It was hoped that UNESCO would continue to pay due attention to the problems of the access of girls to secondary education.

#### Consideration of draft resolution

293. A draft resolution on the access of girls and women to secondary education (E/CN.6/L.427) was submitted by Austria and France. The draft resolution was revised by the sponsors (E/CN.6/L.427/Rev.1) to take account of suggestions made by the representatives of Austria, Iran and the United States of America. Iran subsequently joined the co-sponsors.

294. In introducing the draft resolution as revised, the representative of France, speaking on behalf of the co-sponsors, orally modified the first preambular paragraph of the draft resolution the Council was invited to adopt, by adding the words "civil, political," before "economic and social fields". At the 434th meeting, on 16 March 1965, the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.427/Rev.1), as thus modified, was adopted unanimously. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

#### 16 (XVIII). ACCESS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN TO SECONDARY, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

##### The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the access of girls to secondary education (E/CN.6/433),

Noting with satisfaction that this report indicates a considerable increase in the percentage of girls obtaining secondary education in many countries,

Considering nevertheless that this percentage is still too low in the developing countries and that the percentage of girls receiving technical and vocational education is inadequate in most countries,

Congratulates the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its work to promote the access of girls to secondary education,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVIII, draft resolution IX.

## XI. PERIODIC REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

295. The Commission considered item 12 at its 437th meeting, held on 18 March 1965. It had before it the summaries of periodic reports on human rights concerning the period 1960-1962 prepared by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/860 and Add.1-3) and the reports submitted to the Secretary-General by the specialized agencies (E/CN.4/861 and Add.1-3). It also had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/438).

296. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretary-General recalled that the present system of periodic reports on human rights had been initiated by the Commission on Human Rights and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 624 B (XXII) of 1 August 1956. In accordance with that resolution, the Governments of all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies had been requested to transmit to the Secretary-General every three years reports describing development and progress achieved in the field of human rights and measures taken to safeguard human liberty in their metropolitan areas as well as in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. The rights dealt with in the reports were those enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the right of peoples and nations to self-determination. The Secretary-General had been requested to prepare and submit to the Commission on Human Rights brief summaries of the reports on a topical basis. The specialized agencies had been invited to transmit to the Secretary-General reports received from their member States. Having considered all such information, the Commission on Human Rights might transmit to the Economic and Social Council for its approval comments, conclusions and recommendations of an objective and general character in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

297. Under Economic and Social Council resolution 888 B (XXXIV) of 24 July 1962, the summaries of triennial reports were submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women for its comments. In a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/438), the attention of the Commission was drawn to the paragraphs of the summaries concerning developments which related to the status of women.

298. One representative expressed satisfaction over the fact that more than half the States Members of the United Nations had submitted reports covering the period under review and hoped that more States would do so in future.

299. It was said that the summaries of periodic reports provided evidence of the world-wide impact of the work of the United Nations; and in particular of the activities of the Commission on the Status of Women. It appeared, for instance, that recent developments such as the abolition of polygamy and of the bride-price, the establishment by law of a minimum age for marriage, or the enactment of new marriage and guardianship laws were due, to an appreciable extent, to the relentless efforts of the Commission to improve the status of women. Effective action by interested non-governmental organizations was also recognized as an important factor in such developments.

XII. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN AT THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF  
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES AND AT THE  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

300. The Commission considered item 13 of its agenda at the 437th meeting. It heard a report by Mrs. G.A. Tillett, representative of the United States of America, who had represented the Commission on the Status of Women at the latter part of the twentieth session of the Commission on Human Rights (17 February-18 March 1964). It also heard a report by Mrs. H. Sipilä, representative of Finland, who had represented the Commission at the seventeenth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (11-29 January 1965).

301. Mrs. Tillett reported that the Commission on Human Rights had paid a tribute to the memory of Madame Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux. The Chairman and other members of that Commission had spoken of Madame Lefauchaux's devotion to the cause of human rights, her participation in the General Assembly and other United Nations bodies, her warm feeling for all peoples and her particular understanding of the problems of women in developing countries. Mrs. Tillett said that, in her statement on behalf of the Commission on the Status of Women, she had spoken of the loss that Madame Lefauchaux's death meant to that Commission and of the staunch support that Madame Lefauchaux had given to the achievement of equal rights of men and women throughout the world.

302. In her oral report, Mrs. Sipilä recalled that the Commission on the Status of Women had for years been represented at the sessions of the Sub-Commission by Madame Lefauchaux. Mrs. Sipilä said that, in her opening statement to the Sub-Commission, she had paid a tribute to the memory of Madame Lefauchaux and had drawn attention to the loss that her tragic death meant to the Commission on the Status of Women.

303. Mrs. Sipilä pointed out that there were three items on the agenda of the Sub-Commission that were of interest to the Commission on the Status of Women. The first was entitled "Study of discrimination against persons born out of wedlock". A progress report (E/CN.41/Sub.2/248) had been submitted by the Special Rapporteur appointed by the Sub-Commission, Mr. V.V. Saario, and the final report was expected to be submitted at the Sub-Commission's nineteenth session, in 1967. The Special Rapporteur was at present engaged in the preparation of a series of country monographs, summarizing the situation in countries that had replied to his questionnaire on discrimination against persons born out of wedlock. These monographs were being circulated to the Governments concerned for their comments before the final report was drawn up. Members of the Commission and observers from the non-governmental organizations, if interested, could request their Governments to give them an opportunity of making observations, and thereby assist in the preparation of the Governments' comments. This could be done either by approaching the Governments directly or through the existing national commissions on the status of women, or similar bodies. Mrs. Sipilä informed the Commission that she had drawn the attention of the Sub-Commission to the similarity of the situation of children born out of wedlock and that of other children of broken families. Because of the great numbers of orphans, especially after the war, and owing to the

increasing frequency of divorces and judicial separations in some countries, which had given rise to a great number of children living with one parent only, discrimination against children born out of wedlock had somewhat diminished. Mrs. Sipilä had pointed out that the subject had been dealt with to some extent in the regional United Nations seminars on the status of women in family law. The seminar held in Bucharest in 1961, for example, had devoted a great deal of attention to the status of unmarried mothers. She hoped that, in view of the fact that this question was closely related to the status of children born out of wedlock, it would be taken up in the final report by the Special Rapporteur. Mrs. Sipilä had also asked the Sub-Commission to pay attention to the attitudes prevailing in different societies, particularly as regards discrimination against mothers of children born out of wedlock, which she felt merited consideration. She explained that the Sub-Commission's work on this item was still at a preparatory stage and thought that the Commission on the Status of Women would be particularly interested in the material collected, and in the conclusions of the final report on the item.

304. Another item on the agenda of the Sub-Commission of interest to the Commission was entitled "Study of equality in the administration of justice". This study was also still at the preparatory stage, and only a short progress report had been submitted to the Sub-Commission by the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Abu Rannat. Mrs. Sipilä said that she had limited herself to reminding the members of the Sub-Commission of the interest of the Commission on the Status of Women in matters relating to discrimination on the basis of sex in connexion with this study.

305. With respect to the item "Review of further developments in fields which have already been the subject of study or inquiry initiated by the Sub-Commission", Mrs. Sipilä had reminded the members of the Sub-Commission of the continuing existence of discriminatory attitudes and practices even in countries where the relevant conventions against discrimination had been ratified. She had called attention to the importance of education, vocational guidance and training in bringing necessary changes in prevailing attitudes on the position of women.



### XIII. REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

306. The Commission considered item 14 of its agenda at its 437th meeting. It had before it a report submitted by the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/440), which was introduced by Miss Martínez Bonilla, President of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

307. Various members of the Commission expressed appreciation of the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women and of the report it had submitted. It was hoped that regional inter-governmental bodies of this kind would be encouraged throughout the world. The identity of objectives of the Inter-American Commission of Women with those of the Commission on the Status of Women was pointed out and several representatives expressed the hope that the close co-operation between the two bodies would continue. Some also expressed the hope that the Inter-American Commission would find it possible to examine all aspects of the status of women at its next session.

#### XIV. COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF WOMEN

308. The Commission considered item 15 of its agenda at its 437th meeting. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by resolution 304 I (XI), the Secretary-General had prepared two lists summarizing communications received: a non-confidential list (E/CN.6/CR.17) of communications dealing with principles which relate to the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, social and educational fields; and a confidential list of other communications concerning the status of women (SW/Communications List, No. 11).

309. The Committee on Communications appointed by the Commission at its 431st meeting was composed of representatives of Austria, Hungary, Nepal, Peru and Sierra Leone. The Committee met on 17 March 1965, under the chairmanship of the representative of Sierra Leone, to review the non-confidential list and recommend which of the communications it contained should be made available, in the original, to the members of the Commission at their request. The Committee recommended that the originals of all communications should be made available. The Commission unanimously approved the report of the Committee (E/CN.6/L.433).

310. The Commission received and took note of the confidential list of communications at a closed meeting held on 18 March 1965.

XV. SURVEY OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. REVIEW OF THE  
PROGRAMME OF WORK AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES.  
CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION

311. The Commission considered item 16 of its agenda at its 436th and 437th meetings. It had before it the following documents prepared by the Secretary-General: a supplementary report on the survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved at the international level (E/CN.6/372/Add.3); a memorandum on United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women (E/CN.6/439); a note on review of the programme of work, establishment of priorities and control and limitation of documentation (E/CN.6/441); and a note on the programme of work and establishment of priorities (E/CN.6/431).

312. Oral statements were made on this item by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: the International Council of Women and St. Joan's International Alliance.

313. During the general debate, many representatives expressed the view that the Commission should meet annually. It was pointed out that women played an important role, especially in the developing countries, in the rapid social economic and legal changes which were taking place, and that it was essential that the Commission should be informed of developments and should determine the road to be followed and the appropriate techniques to be used in ensuring that women played a full and equal part with men. Several representatives also emphasized that the Commission still had before it the important task of completing the draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women, which must also be taken into consideration. It was said that this item should have first priority at the next session of the Commission.

314. It was suggested that the Commission might usefully receive more information about the activities of non-governmental organizations, which played an important part in ensuring the practical success of the work of the Commission. The view was also expressed that long-term progress in the social and economic fields and in the abolition of illiteracy should be basic concerns of the Commission and that greater efforts should be made to urge more States to ratify the various conventions affecting women. Some representatives thought that the Commission should consider the protection of maternity and childhood and legislation affecting working women. With regard to the item on the effect of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission on national legislation, one representative suggested that reports of the Secretary-General should also indicate whether recommendations of the Commission had not been reflected in national legislation.

315. The Secretary-General was requested to examine the possibility of publishing a pamphlet on the Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, which would be similar to the pamphlets already published on the Convention on the Political Rights of Women and the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women. It was thought that such a pamphlet would be of great use to members of the Commission and to non-governmental organizations in spreading knowledge of the Convention and in urging Governments to become parties to it.

316. The representative of UNESCO, speaking on behalf of the ILO and UNESCO, pointed out, in connexion with the question of access of girls and women to education, that information concerning education and training of girls and women in rural areas would be submitted to the Commission in the regular reports of those agencies on their activities of interest to women. She also stated, on behalf of UNESCO, that after the report on access of women to higher education, to be prepared for the nineteenth session, in 1966, the next report by UNESCO would deal with the access of girls and women to technical and vocational education, and not primary education.

317. The programme of work as approved by the Commission is set out below:

# I. PROJECTS OF HIGH PRIORITY

(for consideration at the nineteenth session of the Commission, in 1966)

## A. Continuing projects

<u>Project</u>	<u>Documentation</u>	<u>Authority</u>
1. <u>Political rights of women</u>		
(a) Progress achieved in the field of political rights	Memorandum by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments	Economic and Social Council resolution 120 A (VI)
(b) Status of women in Trust Territories	Report of the Secretary-General	Commission on the Status of Women, third and fifteenth sessions, (E/1316, 20/ para. 18; and (E/3464, 21/ paras. 205, 215 and 216)
2. <u>Advisory services in the field of human rights</u>	(i) Report of the Secretary-General	General Assembly resolution 926 (X)

20/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Ninth Session, Supplement No. 5.

21/ Ibid., Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 7.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Documentation</u>	<u>Authority</u>
	(ii) Report of 1965 seminar on the status of women	Commission on the Status of Women, thirteenth session, resolution I B (XIII) (E/3228, <u>22/</u> para. 30)
3. <u>Access of women to education</u>	Access of women to higher education	Report by UNESCO
		Commission on the Status of Women, eighth session, (E/2571, <u>23/</u> para. 71)
4. <u>Economic rights and opportunities</u>	ILO activities which have a bearing on the employment of women	Report by the ILO
		Economic and Social Council resolutions 821 IV B (XXXII) and 961 D and E II (XXXVI)
5. <u>Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved at the international level</u>	Supplementary report of the Secretary-General	Commission on the Status of Women, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, (E/3360, <u>24/</u> para. 144; and E/3464, para. 203)
6. <u>United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women</u>	Memorandum by the Secretary-General listing publications	Commission on the Status of Women, sixteenth session, resolution 13 (XVI), (E/3606/Rev.1, <u>25/</u> para. 157)

22/ Ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7.

23/ Ibid., Eighteenth Session, Supplement No. 6.

24/ Ibid., Thirtieth Session, Supplement No. 7.

25/ Ibid., Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Documentation</u>	<u>Authority</u>
B. <u>Ad hoc projects</u>		
1. <u>Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women</u>	Report of the Secretary-General containing the comments of members of the Commission	General Assembly resolution 1921 (XVIII) and Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session (paras. 110 and 111 above)
2. <u>United Nations assistance for the advancement of women</u>	Report of the Secretary-General	General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII) and Commission on the Status of Women, seventeenth session, resolution 10 (XVII) (E/3749, 26/ para. 137)
3. <u>Private law</u>  Parental rights and duties including guardianship of children	Report of the Secretary-General	Commission on the Status of Women, sixteenth session, (E/3606/Rev.1, para. 152)
4. <u>Participation of women in community development</u>	Report of the Secretary-General	Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session, resolution 6 (XVIII) (para. 149 above)
5. <u>Effects of family planning on the status of women</u>	Report of the Secretary-General	Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session, resolution 7 (XVIII) (para. 157 above)
6. <u>Economic rights and opportunities for women</u>  (a) Crèches and day nurseries	Report of the Secretary-General transmitting information available to WHO, ILO and the International Children's Centre	Commission on the Status of Women, sixteenth session, resolution 7 (XVI) (E/3606/Rev.1, para. 85)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Documentation</u>	<u>Authority</u>
(b) Women workers in a changing world	Report by the ILO on findings and recommendations of its 1964 and 1965 Conferences	Economic and Social Council resolution 961 E I (XXXVI) and Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session, resolution 10 (XVIII) (para. 223 above)

## II. PROJECTS FOR LATER SESSIONS

<u>Project</u>	<u>Documentation</u>	<u>Authority</u>
1. <u>Political rights of women</u>		
(a) Implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women	Report of the Secretary-General	Economic and Social Council resolutions 504 E (XVI) and 916 B (XXXVI) and Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session, resolution 1 (XVIII) (see para. 33 above)
(b) Status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories	Report of the Secretary-General	Commission on the Status of Women, third and fifteenth sessions, (E/1316, para. 18; and E/3464, paras. 205, 215 and 216)
2. <u>Access of women to education</u>		
(a) UNESCO activities of special interest to women	Report by UNESCO	Economic and Social Council resolution 154 F (VII) and 961 D and E II (XXXVI); and Commission on the Status of Women, seventeenth session, resolution 4 (XVII) (E/3749, para. 61)

<u>Project</u>	<u>Documentation</u>	<u>Authority</u>
<u>Access of women to education</u> (continued)		
(b) Access of women to technical and vocational education	Report by UNESCO	Commission on the Status of Women, eighth and eighteenth sessions, (E/2571, para. 71; and para. 316 above)
3. <u>Economic rights and opportunities</u>		
(a) Part-time work	Report by the ILO	Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session, resolution 11 (XVIII) (para. 227 above)
(b) Technical and vocational education and training of girls and women	Report of the Secretary-General in co-operation with the specialized agencies	Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session, resolution 12 (XVIII) (para. 233 above)
4. <u>Equal pay for equal work</u>	Report by the ILO	Economic and Social Council resolution 504 G (XVI) and 884 B (XXXIV); and Commission on the Status of Women, sixteenth session, resolution 4 (XVI) (E/3606/Rev.1, para. 52)
5. <u>Status of women in private law</u>		
Legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and property rights	Supplementary report of the Secretary-General	Economic and Social Council resolution 587 D I (XX) and Commission on the Status of Women, sixteenth session, (E/3606/Rev.1, para. 154)
6. <u>Effect of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission on national legislation</u>	Report of the Secretary-General	Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session, resolution 14 (XVIII) (para. 268 above)



<u>Project</u>	<u>Documentation</u>	<u>Authority</u>
7. <u>Nationality of married women</u>	Supplementary report of the Secretary-General	Economic and Social Council resolution 547 D (XVIII) and Commission on the Status of Women, fifteenth session, (E/3464, paras. 206 and 214)
8. <u>Periodic reports on human rights</u>	Summaries of reports for the years 1963-1965 by the Secretary-General and by the specialized agencies	Economic and Social Council resolution 888 B (XXXIV)

### III. PUBLICATIONS

1. <u>Newsletter on the Status of Women</u>	Issued biannually	Commission on the Status of Women, fourth session, (E/1712 27/, para. 93)
2. Revised edition of <u>Legal status of married women</u> United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1957.IV.8	1965 or 1966	Economic and Social Council resolution 884 D II (XXXIV)
3. Resources available to Member States for the advancement of women	1966	Commission on the Status of Women, eighteenth session, resolution 5 (XVIII) (para. 147 above)

### Consideration of draft resolution

318. A draft resolution relating to the periodicity of meetings of the Commission was submitted by the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.434); Iran, the United Arab Republic and the United Kingdom subsequently became co-sponsors.

319. The draft resolution was introduced on behalf of the co-sponsors by the representative of Mexico, who emphasized the great importance of the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women in the Development Decade. A number of

27/ Ibid., Eleventh Session, Supplement No. 6.

other members spoke in support of the draft. A number of representatives stressed the necessity for annual meetings, pointing out that the omission of a regular session in 1964 had prevented the Commission from giving attention to several important items.

320. The representative of the Philippines orally proposed the following amendments:

(a) In the fourth preambular paragraph replacement of the word "utilization" by "participation";

(b) In the fifth preambular paragraph, replacement of the word "utilization" by "participation"; insertion of the word "agriculture" before "industry", and of the words "and social development" after "industry"; replacement of "who are half the people of the world" by "who constitute half the people of the world", and of "certain very important problems" by "these very important problems".

(c) In the operative paragraph insertion of "regular" before "session".

321. The amendments were accepted by the co-sponsors. The representative of the United States of America stressed the importance of the participation of women in industrial progress, noting that a report of the Secretary-General dated January 1965 (A/5867 and Corr.1) had suggested the desirability of biennial meetings of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council except where a strict adherence to the biennial pattern might retard the rapid progress desired by Member Governments, as, for instance, in the field of industrial development.

322. At its 437th meeting, on 18 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended, unanimously. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

#### 17 (XVIII). PERIODICITY OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

##### The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1777 (XVII) of 7 December 1962 calling attention to the possibility of establishing a unified long-term programme for the advancement of women, particularly in the developing countries,

Recognizing that rapid social change in many areas is deeply affecting political, economic, social, educational and cultural developments as they relate to women,

Aware of the major potential of women in the United Nations Development Decade and the urgent need for equipping women to make their full contribution to social and economic progress,

Believing that accomplishment of this objective requires annual meetings of the Commission, in order to make recommendations to Governments on the effective participation of women in agricultural, industrial and social

development and to promote a favourable climate of public opinion, in co-operation with the non-governmental organizations,

Noting that omission of a regular session in 1964 has seriously retarded the progress of the Commission's work in stimulating the participation of women, who constitute half the people of the world, in agriculture, industry and social development, and that the exceptionally heavy agenda at the eighteenth session, in 1965, has prevented adequate consideration of these very important problems,

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council of 15 August 1964 to continue to convene the Commission on the Status of Women on an annual basis, 28/

Requests the Economic and Social Council to establish a firm policy of annual meetings of the Commission and to arrange for a regular session each year.

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28/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1, p. 35.

XVI. PLACE OF MEETING OF THE NINETEENTH SESSION  
OF THE COMMISSION

323. A draft resolution on the place of meeting of the nineteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women was submitted by Austria, China, the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Guinea, Hungary, Iran, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Sierra Leone, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Arab Republic, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America (E/CN.6/L.420).

324. At its 437th meeting, on 18 March 1965, the Commission adopted the draft resolution unanimously. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

18 (XVIII). NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE  
STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that if there is no invitation from any Member State for the nineteenth session of the Commission, the session will take place at Geneva in 1966.

XVII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

325. At its 438th meeting, on 19 March 1965, the Commission on the Status of Women unanimously adopted its report to the Economic and Social Council on its eighteenth session.

XVIII. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL

I

Political rights of women<sup>29/</sup>

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the progress achieved during recent years in the field of political rights of women,

Noting however that the Convention on the Political Rights of Women is still far from being an instrument of universal scope,

Noting further that a large number of States have not supplied the Secretary-General with information concerning the implementation of the principles stated in that Convention,

1. Invites all Member States to intensify action to enable them to accede to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women and to apply fully the principles contained in that Convention;

2. Appeals to all Member States to supply the Secretary-General in due time, in accordance with its resolution 961 B (XXXVI), with full information on the implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women.

II

Civic and political education of women<sup>30/</sup>

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the desirability of assisting women to utilize their civic and political rights more effectively by providing for the training of voluntary leaders and thereby equipping women to participate in public services,

Considering that seminars or workshops on the civic and political education of women are needed to accomplish this purpose,

Believing that women's non-governmental organizations in consultative status have valuable experience and special competence for assisting and equipping women for effective use of their rights and responsibilities as citizens through participation in public affairs,

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<sup>29/</sup> See paras. 27-33 above.

<sup>30/</sup> See paras. 34-50 above.

1. Invites the attention of Member States to help facilitate the utilization by women of their political rights through participation in public affairs:

(a) By offering to act as host for a regional seminar or workshop;

(b) By encouraging national and local seminars to serve as follow-ups at the community level;

2. Suggests that the national and local affiliates of non-governmental organizations in consultative status co-operate fully with Governments of Member States in planning, organizing and conducting seminars and workshops at the national or regional level and explore all possible resources at the international, national and regional levels and perform all tasks that might assist the Governments in the conduct of such seminars;

3. Invites interested specialized agencies, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation, and the United Nations Children's Fund, to co-operate with Member States and with non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status in carrying forward these objectives;

4. Recommends that the Secretary-General examine the possibility of:

(a) Giving top priority, within the limits of each annual budget, to the holding of a seminar or workshop on the civic and political education of women, in the nature of a demonstration or pilot project, which can be adapted and used for the follow-up projects at the national and local levels to equip women for more effective service to their communities;

(b) Including in his annual budget estimates for the human rights advisory services programme and in his supplementary estimates for 1966 and subsequent years additional funds:

(i) To hold a series of regional seminars or workshops on this subject;

(ii) To provide United Nations sales publications, including particularly the new pamphlet "Civic and Political Education of Women", 31/ free of cost for use in seminars or workshops organized with the assistance of interested specialized agencies and non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status.

### III

#### Establishment of centres for training competent corps or cadres of women leaders 32/

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the importance of training a competent corps of women leaders or cadres for the advancement of developing countries, particularly as regards schooling at various levels, vocational and handicraft training, the education of adolescent girls and adult women, including health education and home economics, and participation in economic, cultural and political life.

Taking into account the complexity of the functions that these women cadres would assume and the various kinds of assistance which would have to be supplied for their training,

1. Draws the attention of Member States to the advantage of establishing centres for the training of such cadres,
2. Decides to consider, in preparing the various United Nations assistance programmes, the question of assistance to countries which apply for it towards the training of appropriate cadres for assisting the advancement of women,
3. Recommends to the specialized agencies that they consider the possibility of also supplying assistance of this kind.

### IV

#### Co-operation at the regional level between national commissions on the status of women or existing national bodies with similar interests 33/

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering its resolution 961 F (XXXVI) on United Nations assistance for the advancement of women in developing countries,

Considering the recommendation contained in the operative paragraph of that resolution, which calls the attention of States Members of the United Nations to the value of appointing national commissions on the status of women,

Recommends that such national commissions on the status of women co-operate with each other, or with the already existing national bodies with similar interests, at the regional level and organize regional meetings and seminars whose reports would be sent for information to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

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32/ See paras. 134-137 above.

33/ See paras. 138-141 above.

Use of the resources available for the advancement of women  
through technical assistance and other programmes 34/

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women with regard to greater use of technical assistance and other United Nations resources for the advancement of women,

Believing that the full participation of women is essential to the social and economic development of a nation,

1. Recommends to Member States, and especially to those making use of technical co-operation programmes, that they give greater priority to projects and programmes directed towards the advancement of women, by all available methods including:

(a) Participation of a substantial number of women in all technical co-operation training projects and programmes, including especially those relating to education, vocational training, and fellowships;

(b) Creation of a special unit in the national government, set up as a continuing body, to survey needs, develop policies and programmes for the advancement of women, including co-ordination of plans and resources, and to advise on any changes in legislation or practice necessary to improve the status of women;

(c) Co-operation with the United Nations and the specialized agencies in seminars, training courses and similar opportunities for the exchange of experience in the advancement of women;

2. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Directors-General of the specialized agencies:

(a) To encourage the participation of women in projects requested by Governments, and to draw the attention of Resident Representatives of the Technical Assistance Board and Directors of the Special Fund to the importance of this request;

(b) To continue and, if possible, increase the use of qualified women as technical experts;

(c) To ensure that all technical co-operation experts are alert to the potential of woman-power for national development;

3. Calls the attention of Member States and interested bodies to the possibility of technical assistance on a payment basis ("funds-in-trust" arrangements) which might be utilized for the advancement of women;

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34/ See paras. 148-149 above.



4. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status to co-operate in action along the above lines, and to report to the next session of the Commission on any new projects they are undertaking on a regional or national basis for the advancement of women.

## VI

### Status of women in private law 35/

#### The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the principle of equality of rights for men and women is solemnly proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering that article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that men and women are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation (E/CN.6/415 and Corr.1 and Add.1) as well as the reports of the regional United Nations seminars on the status of women in family law,

Noting that, in some countries, the same legal grounds and legal defences in proceedings for divorce, annulment of marriage and judicial separation are not available to men and women on an equal basis,

Noting also that the principle of equality of rights for men and women with regard to legal status and capacity in the event of divorce, annulment of marriage and judicial separation is not ensured by law in some countries,

Noting further that there is no equality in the rights of men and women in the event of dissolution of marriage by death in some countries,

1. Recommends that Governments of Member States take all possible measures to ensure equality of rights between men and women in the event of dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation;

2. Recommends the following principles for ensuring such equality:

(a) Facilities for reconciliation should be made available;

(b) A divorce or judicial separation shall be granted only by a competent judicial authority and shall be legally recorded;

(c) Both spouses shall have the same rights and shall have available the same legal grounds and legal defences in proceedings for divorce, annulment of marriage and judicial separation;

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35/ See paras. 205-208 above.

(d) The right of either spouse to give or withhold full and free consent should be ensured by law in the event of divorce on the ground of mutual consent, in countries where mutual consent is a ground for divorce;

(e) In proceedings regarding custody of children, the interest of the children shall be the paramount consideration;

(f) Men and women shall have the same legal status and capacity after divorce, annulment of marriage or judicial separation;

(g) Men and women shall have the same rights after dissolution of marriage by death.

## VII

### Technical and vocational training of girls and women 36/

#### The Economic and Social Council,

Noting with appreciation the work of the International Labour Organisation on the employment of women and on vocational guidance and training of girls and women,

Convinced that, to attain complete equality in all fields, women must have the right to work,

Noting that it is a prior condition of women's ability to exercise this right that they should have the opportunity of access to education and vocational training,

1. Recommends Member States to take all possible steps to promote the access of women to education and vocational training;

2. Appeals to Member States to facilitate by all possible means the access of women to economic and social life;

3. Draws the attention of Member States to the necessity for ratifying as soon as possible the ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (No. 111 of 1958) and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960), and for accepting the principles laid down in the ILO Recommendation concerning Vocational Training (No. 117 of 1962) and the UNESCO International Recommendation on Technical and Vocational Education (1962).

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36/ See paras. 234-236 above.

Literacy education and continuing education of women<sup>37/</sup>

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the various resolutions concerning the world campaign for universal literacy adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations (resolution 1937 (XVIII)), the Economic Commission for Africa (resolution 115 (VI)), <sup>38/</sup> the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (resolution 55 (XX)) <sup>39/</sup> and its own resolution 1032 (XXXVII),

Referring more particularly to resolution 1.271 concerning the experimental literacy programme adopted unanimously and by acclamation by the General Conference of UNESCO at its thirteenth session,

Considering the importance of the World Congress of Education Ministers which is to be held at Teheran in September 1965 at the generous invitation of His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran,

Welcoming the appeal launched by His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah of Iran to Heads of State with a view to promoting wide international co-operation for the eradication of illiteracy,

Recognizing that the problem of world illiteracy mainly affects women,

Convinced that literacy is a prerequisite to the effective and continuous advancement of women in all fields and of women's participation in the life of the community,

1. Recommends Member States to give a prominent place to programmes for women in planning their national literacy programmes and to take account of the special problems affecting women in rural areas,

2. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:

(a) To devote particular attention at the World Congress of Education Ministers at Teheran to problems relating to the literacy education and continuing education of women;

(b) To encourage the inclusion, in the experimental programme to be launched in various countries during 1966, of projects relating particularly to the literacy education of women and directed towards the civic, social and economic education of women.

<sup>37/</sup> See para. 286 above.

<sup>38/</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 10, part III.

<sup>39/</sup> Ibid., Supplement No. 2, part III.

## IX

### Access of girls and women to secondary, technical and vocational education <sup>40/</sup>

#### The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the importance of the role of ordinary, teacher-training, vocational and technical secondary education in preparing girls for the responsibilities which they will have to assume in the civil, political, economic and social fields,

Considering the importance of such education in the training of women's intermediate cadres to enable the whole of the female population to attain social maturity,

Considering the importance of the role of educational and vocational guidance at the secondary education level,

Considering the need for utilizing fully the intellectual capacities of women both in the industrialized and in the developing countries,

#### 1. Recommends that Member States:

(a) Make provision, in planning their education systems, for all such measures - including schools, boarding schools and scholarships - as will assure girls, on a footing of complete equality with boys, access to ordinary, teacher-training, vocational and technical secondary education;

(b) Adopt the necessary measures to ensure that pupils of all secondary establishments, boys and girls, can obtain guidance to enable them to proceed to the type of ordinary, teacher-training, vocational or technical education best suited to their aptitudes,

(c) Ensure that girls who have completed their secondary studies have opportunities of access both to higher education and to the jobs and occupations for which their secondary studies fit them;

(d) Take advantage, in developing the educational institutions required for increasing the number of women teachers in secondary education, of all the possibilities offered by technical assistance;

2. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to devote particular attention, in all its activities concerning secondary education and the planning of education, to the opportunities offered to girls in secondary education.

## X

### Report of the Commission <sup>41/</sup>

#### The Economic and Social Council,

Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its eighteenth session (E/4025).

<sup>40/</sup> See paras. 293-294 above.

<sup>41/</sup> See para. 325 above.

## ANNEXES

### ANNEX I

#### Speech by Her Imperial Majesty the Shahbanoo of Iran, on 1 March 1965

It is most gratifying to me today to welcome, both in my own name and in the name of all the women of Iran, the honourable delegates attending the eighteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

I feel confident that your deliberations will contribute most effectively to the consolidation of the results achieved in the field of women's emancipation, and to the laying of the foundation for future progress.

The fact that your present session is being held in Teheran seems a happy coincidence, for since your last meeting the Iranian women have been emancipated, thanks to the nation-wide support of the initiative of His Imperial Majesty the Shahinshah. This decisive step forward makes them citizens with full rights. Henceforth, they can vote and be elected to the Houses of Parliament as well as to the Municipal Councils.

Everywhere we see signs of change: a new picture of women is emerging, more in accord with the needs of the modern world, and tending to obliterate the myths which have weighed so heavily and for such a long time on the status of our sisters. The notion of equality of the sexes is gaining ground every day, and a profound revolution is taking place. Our present era calls for the participation of all levels of the population in the work of economic and social progress, in all countries, but more particularly in the developing nations. As aptly put by a distinguished sociologist: "The attention of the historians of modern times no longer turns towards Cleopatra's nose, but towards women as personalities who are presiding together with men over the destinies of the world." Our sisters are preparing themselves with dignity and competence to assume the new responsibilities which fall upon them.

But old prejudices are not easy to eradicate and the new trend necessitates some modifications in legal and social structures. Your Commission, which has worked ceaselessly to improve the lot of women, still has a long way to go.

I can assure you that the Iranians, for their part, support you wholeheartedly in the accomplishment of your noble task. I sincerely wish you success in your endeavours.

## ANNEX II

### List of documents which were considered by the Commission on the Status of Women at its eighteenth session

#### Documents issued in the general series

A/5456 and Add.1; A/5735. Constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women: memoranda by the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/360/Add.3 and 4. Implementation of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women by the States Parties thereto: supplementary reports of the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/372/Add.3. Survey of the work of the Commission and of the results achieved at the international level: supplementary report of the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/415 and Corr.1 and Add.1. Dissolution of marriage, annulment of marriage and judicial separation: report of the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/418-E/CN.4/863. Advisory services in the field of human rights: report of the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/423 and Add.1. Equal pay for equal work: report by the International Labour Office.

E/CN.6/424. International Labour Organisation activities of special interest from the standpoint of women's employment: report by the International Labour Office.

E/CN.6/425. Legislation and practice relating to the status of women in family law and property rights: supplementary report of the Secretary-General.

E/CN.6/426 and Add.1 and 2. Draft declaration on the elimination of discrimination against women: memorandum by the Secretary-General.

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- E/CN.6/439. United Nations sales publications relating to the status of women: memorandum by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/440. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
- E/CN.6/441. Review of programme of work, establishment of priorities and control and limitation of documentation: note by the Secretary-General.
- E/CN.6/CR.17. Non-confidential list of communications.
- ST/TAO/HR/18. 1963 Seminar on the Status of Women in Family Law (Bogotá, Colombia, December 1963).
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- E/CN.6/L.416. Economic rights and opportunities for women - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution.
- E/CN.6/L.417. Economic rights and opportunities for women - France, Iran, Mexico and Poland: draft resolution.
- E/CN.6/L.418. Economic rights and opportunities for women - Guinea, Hungary and United Arab Republic: draft resolution.
- E/CN.6/L.419. Economic rights and opportunities for women - United States of America: draft resolution.
- E/CN.6/L.420. Place of meeting of the nineteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women - Austria, China, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Guinea, Hungary, Iran, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Sierra Leone, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution.
- E/CN.6/L.421. Economic rights and opportunities for women: resolution adopted by the Commission at its 430th meeting.
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- E/CN.6/L.423. Economic rights and opportunities for women: resolution adopted by the Commission at its 430th meeting.
- E/CN.6/L.424. Economic rights and opportunities for women: resolution adopted by the Commission at its 430th meeting.

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E/CN.6/L.426. Effect of resolutions and recommendations of the Commission on national legislation - United States of America: draft resolution.

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#### Documents issued in the NGO series

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E/CN.6/NGO/156. Access of women to education and economic rights and opportunities for women: statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women.

E/CN.6/NGO/157. Political rights of women: statement submitted by the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers.

E/CN.6/NGO/158. Status of women in private law: statement submitted by the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers.

E/CN.6/NGO/159. Access of women to education: statement submitted by the World Young Women's Christian Association.

### ANNEX III

#### Financial implications of decisions taken by the Commission on the Status of Women at its eighteenth session

##### A

1. The Commission on the Status of Women at its eighteenth session, at Teheran, recommended that the Economic and Social Council adopt a draft resolution (see chapter XVIII, draft resolution II) which recommends that the Secretary-General examine the possibility of:

"(a) Giving top priority, within the limits of each annual budget, to the holding of a seminar or workshop on the civic and political education of women, in the nature of a demonstration or pilot project, which can be adapted and used for the follow-up projects at the national and local levels to equip women for more effective service to their communities;

"(b) Including in his annual budget estimates for the human rights advisory services programme and in his supplementary estimates for 1966 and subsequent years additional funds:

"(i) To hold a series of regional seminars or workshops on this subject;

"(ii) To provide United Nations sales publications, including particularly the new pamphlet "Civic and Political Education of Women", free of cost for use in seminars or workshops organized with the assistance of interested specialized agencies and non-governmental women's organizations in consultative status."

2. The annual budget for human rights advisory services is \$180,000, which provides for fellowships and for three seminars, one of which is devoted to the status of women. It may be assumed that the draft resolution calls for one seminar or workshop on the civic and political rights of women to be held annually in addition to the existing programmes of advisory services in the field of human rights. The annual costs of the added seminar or workshop are estimated to be \$40,000, which would come under part V, "Technical programmes", of the budget.

3. Before the draft resolution goes to the Economic and Social Council for action at its thirty-ninth session, it will be reviewed by the Technical Assistance Committee (TAC) at its June 1965 session. The TAC review will be made in accordance with Council resolution 1008 (XXXVII), in which the Council decided that proposals emanating from commissions of the Council which affect the technical assistance resources of the United Nations should be transmitted to the Council through TAC.

4. The additional work that would arise from the adoption of the draft resolution by the Council would require the addition of one professional and one general service staff member in the Division of Human Rights at an annual cost of \$25,000, which would come under section 3, chapter I, "Established posts", of the budget.

5. The small additional cost of free distribution of United Nations sales publications, including the pamphlet "Civic and Political Education of Women", to participants attending the seminars or workshops would be provided from existing resources.

B

6. By resolution 5 (XVIII) (see chapter IV, paragraphs 142-147) the Commission has requested the Secretary-General to arrange for the printing, as a sales publication, of a revised text of document E/CN.6/435/Add.5 concerning resources available to Member States for the advancement of women. On the assumption that the revised text is approximately the same length as document E/CN.6/435/Add.5, the total cost for printing is estimated at \$3,100 (English: 4,000 copies - \$1,150; French: 2,000 copies - \$950; and Spanish: 2,000 copies - \$1,000).

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