

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL
E/C.2/258
3 July 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Council Committee
on Non-Governmental organizations

Dual Distribution

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL COMMISSION (SIXTH SESSION)

Statement submitted by the International Council of Women, a non-governmental organization in category B consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following statement which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 22 and 23 of Council Resolution 288 B (X).

1. The International Council of Women which has long established a special Committee on Child Welfare, has noted with great interest the draft of a United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Under paragraph 59, "Principles" for this Declaration are listed and, under this heading, point 1 explicitly demands moral and spiritual development for the child. Nevertheless, in the detailed exposition (points 2 to 10, same paragraph), physical, economic, intellectual and social development of the child is discussed at length, while its right to spiritual and moral growth and training is in no way emphasized.

The International Council considers it essential that this be specifically provided for in the Declaration and requests the Economic and Social Council to include a relevant statement in its resolution on this subject.

2. Concerning Welfare of the Aged, the International Council of Women wishes to point out that the situation of women in older age is being studied by one of its Committees. When this report is ready, the International Council of Women will gladly put it at the disposal of the Social Commission; meanwhile, we would appreciate a possibility of collaborating in planning the work in this field, if the Economic and Social Council decides that it is to be continued.

3. We wish to call the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the fact that the collaboration of Non-Governmental Organizations is not mentioned in connection with Welfare of the Aged (see draft resolution, paragraph 69, also paragraph 62) while in the resolution concerning handicapped persons (paragraph 88) the direct concern of non-governmental organizations in the subject and consultation of the Secretariat with non-governmental organizations are specifically mentioned. We believe that the omission of such provisions for work concerning welfare of the aged is probably accidental and request that non-governmental organizations be specifically mentioned in this connection also.

4. The Report of the Social Commission in paragraphs 66 and 67, mentions collaboration with Specialized Agencies and with governments. The International Council of Women suggests that the addition of a further paragraph on collaboration and consultation with non-governmental organizations would be valuable, inasmuch as some of the non-governmental organizations may have important information and experience in this field.

Finally, we have noted with interest (Annex IV, paragraph 30), that ad hoc study groups on social problems may be called; the International Council of Women would appreciate opportunity to delegate experts from among its members to such groups.