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MEETING**

Thursday, 9 November 1972,
at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK

Chairman: Mr. Carlos GIAMBRUNO
(Uruguay).

AGENDA ITEM 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters XII (section H), XIII, XIV (sections A and C), XV (sections A and D) and XVII to XIX] (continued) (A/8703, A/C.3/L.1964, A/C.3/L.1965/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.1966, A/C.3/L.1967, Economic and Social Council resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII))

GENERAL DEBATE (continued) and
CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS
(continued)

1. Mr. AL-ZAIBAK (Iraq) said that his delegation would have no difficulty in endorsing the two draft resolutions before the Committee contained in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII), either in their present form or after amendment, since they were in harmony with the spirit which had inspired Iraq in its endeavours to improve the status of women—a process, needless to say, in which Iraqi women themselves had played a significant part. Notable progress had been made since the revolution of July 1958, and the presence of Iraqi women was currently making itself felt in every sphere of the nation's activity. Two women had held cabinet portfolios, and numerous others had ventured into professions formerly reserved exclusively for men. According to official statistics for 1968-1969, women accounted for 21.5 per cent of all university professors, 16 per cent of all the staff of the Ministry of Planning, 20 per cent of all insurance company officials and 20.9 per cent of all the staff of the Ministry of Health. The fact that women also made up 28.4 per cent of the university student body indicated that the future would be even brighter.

2. Various laws had been amended, and others approved, for the purpose of according women special rights. Iraqi women were entitled to six weeks' paid maternity leave, and married working women who wished to accompany their husbands on official assignments were entitled to take leave of absence without pay and to resume their former jobs upon their return, or else to be relocated within the area where their husbands were stationed. The most striking development, however, was that which had occurred in the traditional attitudes, habits and customs with respect to the position of women in society. There was a growing understanding of women's problems and an increasing approval and appreciation of their new role. More

important still, women themselves were fulfilling that role naturally and with steadily increasing confidence.

3. Mrs. BÉHANZIN (Togo) said that her delegation approved the concrete measures for the advancement of women contained in the report of the Economic and Social Council. In Togo, too, women had advanced considerably owing to the endeavours of the Government, and Togolese women currently occupied high positions in every sphere of activity. Her delegation therefore approved the draft resolutions on the subject which were before the Committee, as well as the proposed amendments to those draft resolutions.

4. Mrs. QUIJANO (Panama) said that Panama did not accept discrimination against women, as was shown by the fact that it had been one of the first countries in which women had been given the right to vote. However, in Panama as in many other countries, although women had the same legal rights as men, men still occupied the majority of important posts in public administration, the professions and commerce. That was a well-nigh universal problem, which should be thoroughly investigated. In the United Nations itself, the proportion of women representing the various Governments was minute in comparison with the proportion of men, but that was not because any form of legal discrimination against women was practised in the majority of Member States. Not until the causes of that *de facto* inequality had been determined would it be possible to put an end to the practices which, regardless of any laws or theories, were keeping women in an inferior position, not in law but in actual fact.

5. Her delegation fully shared the aspirations embodied in Economic and Social Council resolution 1676 (LII). It was impossible to understand why, in the United Nations itself, only 7 of the Organization's 245 senior posts were filled by women. There could be no doubt that the United Nations, perhaps involuntarily, was exercising some sort of discrimination against many qualified women. For that reason, the appointment of Mrs. Sipilä as Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Matters was an encouraging sign of the Secretary-General's deep sense of justice. She trusted that that trend would continue, and pointed out that Member States could help to ensure that it did by proposing their most distinguished women for important posts in the Secretariat. Her delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution in question, and of the draft resolution in Council resolution 1681 (LII) concerning International Women's Year.

6. Mrs. WARZAZI (Morocco) said that women had had to make a great effort in order to emerge from the lethargy in which they had been sunk since time immemorial and affirm their existence and personality. It would still be many years before they caught up with men, but there could be no doubt that their efforts would be increasingly victorious. Clearly the importance of their role in the modern world would depend essentially on their ability and determination to assert their presence in society. However, it was impossible to speak of the emancipation of women without thinking primarily of the millions of working women who were struggling to survive. It was those women who should be in the forefront of the international community's concern and who needed the help of United Nations programmes more than other, more fortunate members of their sex; their emancipation must be brought about with due regard for the realities and the demands of their environment.

7. It was important not to forget the great gap between women in the West and elsewhere. The problems of young women in Europe, or in the industrialized countries generally, were not the same as those of young women in the third world, and for that reason some of the solutions that were acceptable to the former were neither understood nor approved by the latter. For example, in countries like Morocco great emphasis was placed on the role of the family, and the situation of the unmarried mother referred to by various representatives of European countries in the Commission on the Status of Women would be inconceivable. If the solutions which had been proposed for that problem were accepted, many societies would conclude that, as unmarried mothers were to enjoy the same rights and privileges as wives, there was little point in the sacred institution of matrimony. However that might be, the most urgent problems for the women of the world were those of unemployment, hunger and illiteracy; the situation of the unmarried mother was a special problem which would have to be resolved within the general context of the promotion of literacy, education and a higher standard of living for women.

8. That was why the importance of professional training for women could not be too strongly emphasized. It was clearly through education alone that the women of the industrialized and non-industrialized worlds would be able to achieve mutual understanding.

9. She had already stated, both in the Commission on the Status of Women and at the International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran, that one of the major factors in the emancipation of women had been the invention of what was commonly referred to as "the pill". However, the full consequences of that invention should be considered, for the day would come when women would be able to use it as a means of exerting pressure on a Government that was facing a population shortage.

10. Although political rights belonged inalienably to women as well as to men, it was obvious that they could not mean very much to an illiterate woman who did not know of their existence. Nevertheless, there

was a tendency in the Commission on the Status of Women, and consequently in international organizations, to give priority to political rights in dealing with the problems of women. Thus, Economic and Social Council resolution 1677 (LII) requested States Members of the United Nations to submit information on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women according to a four-year cycle in which in the first period of two years information should be submitted on the implementation of civil and political rights. That meant that it would be necessary to wait even longer in order to discover what information Governments had submitted on the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights. That emphasis on civil and political rights showed that no attempt had ever been made to carry out a realistic study of the situation of women in the third world.

11. Of the two Economic and Social Council draft resolutions before the Committee, she would have no difficulty in supporting the one in resolution 1676 (LII): on the contrary, she welcomed the fact that, after years of preaching the United Nations was finally beginning to act by appointing women to senior posts. She congratulated Mrs. Sipilä and trusted that her appointment would be only a beginning. With regard to resolution 1681 (LII), while it was right to congratulate the Commission on the work it had done, there should also be a word of commendation for Governments, almost all of which had made great efforts to achieve the objectives proclaimed by the Commission. Antagonism between men and women was, or should be, a thing of the past, and it was desirable that men should be associated in the work of emancipating women—a task for which influential men would be needed. She therefore wondered why the draft resolution was not also addressed to those in charge of women's magazines and periodicals, which continued to be full of cooking recipes and love stories, as if nothing else could possibly be of interest to women on farms, in factories and in offices. In conclusion, she stated that women should seek to achieve parity with men, but not to replace them.

12. Mr. RESHETOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the Economic and Social Council was making a considerable effort to solve social and humanitarian problems and organizing valuable activities in its auxiliary organs. Among those organs special mention should be made of the Commission on Human Rights, which was principally concerned with the observance of human rights in the context of wars, national liberation movements, colonialism, and so forth. At its twenty-eighth session the Commission on Human Rights had given special importance to the question of the punishment of war criminals and of persons who had committed crimes against humanity and in its resolution 7 (XXVIII)¹ it had decided to include in the agenda of its twenty-ninth session, as a priority item, the question of the consideration of principles of international co-operation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of per-

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7, chap. XIII.*

sons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Economic and Social Council had also considered the question at its fifty-second session and in its resolution 1691 (LII) it had requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-ninth session an analytical survey of the comments, observations and proposals received from States, having regard to the need to formulate principles of international co-operation in the detection, arrest, extradition and punishment of persons guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Soviet delegation hoped that the Third Committee would give that question the importance it deserved at the current session.

13. At its twenty-eighth session the Commission on Human Rights had also considered the question of racial discrimination and had adopted resolution 1 (XXVIII)¹ on continued international action to combat racism and racial discrimination. In that resolution it requested the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to draw up a draft programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. One of the points of that programme was to be the enactment by States of laws prohibiting racial discrimination. At the same session the Commission had considered the question of the adoption of an international instrument on the suppression and punishment of the crime of *apartheid* and had made a recommendation, approved by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1696 (LII), that the General Assembly should be requested to consider the question as a matter of priority at its twenty-seventh session. The Third Committee at the current session had already examined the draft Convention on the suppression and punishment of the crime of *apartheid* submitted by Guinea, Nigeria and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (A/C.3/L.1942/Rev.1) and had recommended that the Assembly invite the Council to request the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-ninth session to consider as an item of priority that revised draft Convention and to submit the results to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session.² The adoption of that instrument would make it easier to combat effectively the policy of *apartheid*, which was a crime against humanity.

14. Another question considered by the Commission on Human Rights at its twenty-eighth session had been the violation of human rights in the territories occupied as a result of hostilities in the Middle East. In resolution 3 (XXVIII),¹ the Commission had expressed the view that grave breaches committed by Israel in the occupied Arab territories constituted war crimes and an affront to humanity. The Commission had also considered the question of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and in its resolution 5 (XXVIII)¹ it had decided to include that item in the agenda of the twenty-ninth session as a matter of priority and to discuss the study of special problems relating to human rights in developing countries.

15. The summary he had given underlined the contribution of the Commission on Human Rights to the

solution of humanitarian problems. The Soviet delegation considered that statements to the effect that the Commission dealt with questions whose solution interested only a part of mankind were unfounded. On the contrary, the Commission studied the prevention of notorious violations of human rights, a question which concerned mankind as a whole. Therefore, he thought that in general the Commission was on the right path in its work.

16. Although the resolutions concerning the Commission on Human Rights adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-second session were important, the Soviet delegation had doubts concerning some of them. Thus, it did not agree that the Commission should have been authorized, by resolution 1694 (LII), to hold a longer session in 1973, since that decision would entail financial implications which were unjustified inasmuch as the Commission would not devote the additional time to truly important questions. As the Council had stated in that resolution, Member States should avoid priority for matters of peripheral nature or limited interest to the United Nations. Moreover, resolution 1693 (LII) referred to a special session of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Periodic Reports of the Commission on Human Rights. His delegation was convinced that the task allocated in that resolution could be performed in the *Ad Hoc* Committee's ordinary sessions and that unnecessary expense would thus be avoided. Similarly, resolution 1695 (LII), concerning slavery, also was of concern to the Soviet delegation, since the question had hardly been examined by the Council. It therefore thought that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had been correct in deciding to study the matter further at its twenty-sixth session.

17. On the other hand, he attached great importance to the adoption of international measures to promote equality between men and women. The question constituted an urgent social problem, since in many countries women were still deprived of the most elementary human rights. In the USSR that problem had been solved and women played an active part in the social transformation which was an inherent part of the socialist system. In that field, the Commission on the Status of Women had performed an important task in connexion with the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Unfortunately, the main provisions of that Declaration were not widely observed and international legal norms for the protection of women were inadequate and obsolete. For that reason, if the status of women was to be improved, it would be necessary to revise the Declaration and supplement it with a new instrument, to be speedily implemented.

18. He welcomed the progress made by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-fourth session, as reflected in the report of the Economic and Social Council. He was particularly happy that considerable attention had been paid to the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. During its fifty-second

² See General Assembly resolution 2922 (XXVII).

session the Economic and Social Council also had adopted resolution 1687 (LII) in which it requested the Secretary-General and the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the desirability of drafting a declaration on the subject; that initiative was supported by the Soviet delegation. It should be pointed out that in the same resolution a request was made to the Governments of Member States, the United Nations organs, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations to mobilize world public opinion in connexion with the protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. In that regard, the United Nations organs still had to take measures in the framework of humanitarian international law.

19. At its twenty-fourth session the Commission on the Status of Women had also considered the status of the unmarried mother and the programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and to increase their contribution to the development of their countries. That programme, which did not include all aspects of the status of women, had also been examined by the Economic and Social Council, at its fifty-second session.

20. Resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII) of the Economic and Social Council, which were before the Committee, had been adopted by the Council on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women. In that connexion he felt that the proposal that the year 1975 should be proclaimed International Women's Year should be adopted as a priority, in view of the need to intensify the advancement of women in order to attain universal recognition of the principle of equality between men and women and categorically to exclude any discrimination against women in modern life.

21. Finally, he stated that the Economic and Social Council must give greater attention to economic and social development, since such development would make it easier for the United Nations to attain its objectives and for humanity as a whole to progress.

22. Mr. OGBU (Nigeria) said that it was unfortunate that since the founding of the United Nations in 1945 no woman had occupied the post of Under-Secretary-General and he appealed to the Secretary-General to give that question special attention and to redress the imbalance. His delegation endorsed the views of those speakers who had stressed that women should be given equal opportunity for education at all levels, that was to say girls as well as adults, in order to enable women to take up responsible positions at the executive level, nationally and internationally. In that connexion, he hoped that the draft resolution in Economic and Social Council resolution 1676 (LII) would be unanimously adopted and that it would be immediately implemented by the Secretariat. He particularly noted the appeal to Member States to submit the candidatures of qualified women for senior and professional positions in the world Organization. In that way, the Secretary-General would be able to

appoint more women at higher positions and at the policy-making level of the United Nations system.

23. In Nigeria, women were participating very actively in the economic development of the country. A substantial share of the economy was in the hands of women, and the education not only of sons, but of daughters as well was considered essential. Similarly, there was equal pay for men and women, and Nigerian women practised all types of professions and held various posts in the diplomatic service and in public administration. His delegation hoped that International Women's Year would highlight the efforts of women all over the world in their struggle to achieve equality and to make men recognize that the role of women was complementary to theirs at all levels and under all circumstances.

24. Mr. UTHEIM (Norway) said that his Government attached the greatest importance to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, the twenty-fourth session of which had been very fruitful. Among the many useful resolutions adopted during that session, his delegation took a particular interest in resolution 8 (XXIV)³ relating to the status of the unmarried mother, which contained, *inter alia*, a recommendation to Governments to take all possible measures to eliminate any legal and social discrimination against families consisting of an unmarried woman and her child. In introducing that resolution in the Commission, his country's representative had pointed out that the resolution was mainly concerned with the legal aspects of the problem. The social status of the unmarried mother would improve only after her full rights were recognized in law. The resolution contained a number of principles which, it was to be hoped, would serve as guidelines for Governments in preparing legislation in that field.

25. As to the two draft resolutions that the Commission had forwarded to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, his country had been a sponsor of resolution 1676 (LII) on the employment of women in senior and other professional positions by the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system. Although a general trend was apparent throughout the world towards more active participation by women in public life, the percentage of women holding high office was too small. Unfortunately, that was also the situation in the secretariats of the organizations in the United Nations system, as was shown by the statistics in the Secretary-General's report on the matter.⁴ The resolution was therefore particularly timely and necessary.

26. His country's representative in the Commission on the Status of Women had also supported resolution 1681 (LII) on International Women's Year. She had, however, been among those members of the Commission who expressed doubts as to the title of the resolution. The Norwegian delegation had suggested

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6*, chap. VIII.

⁴ Document A/8831, pertaining to agenda item 81, issued separately (offset).

that a better title would have been the international year to promote equality between men and women; it was therefore particularly gratifying to note that the sponsors, in the light of that observation, had decided to add a paragraph in which the General Assembly was invited to devote International Women's Year to intensified action to promote equality between men and women.

27. In conclusion, he informed the Committee that his country, through its National Council of Women, had only a few weeks before initiated a national campaign to promote better education and employment opportunities for women of all ages. That campaign, which would be of one year's duration, had been launched with a threefold objective: to stimulate, motivate and inform.

28. Mrs. DAES (Greece), referring to chapter XIV, section A, of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/8703), observed that among the resolutions adopted by the Council were resolution 1676 (LII), on the employment of women in senior and other professional positions by the secretariats of organizations in the United Nations system, and resolution 1681 (LII), on International Women's Year. Clearly, both were based on the fact that, despite the specific provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other international instruments adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and in particular the ILO and UNESCO, considerable discrimination against women continued to exist throughout the world. In the course of the preceding 25 years, the Commission on the Status of Women and the specialized agencies had been actively concerned with the problem and had made remarkable progress in the task of ensuring equal rights for men and women. In practically every country in the modern world, women had been moving towards the goal of equality with men. In some countries, that goal had already been reached; in others, much still remained to be done and major obstacles, such as custom and traditions, religious doctrine or other social and economic considerations, stood in the way.

29. Although her delegation had reservations concerning the proclamation of international years and international days for various purposes, it supported resolution 1681 (LII), under which the General Assembly would proclaim 1975 International Women's Year. That year, according to operative paragraph 2, would be devoted to intensified action to promote equality between men and women. One of the most powerful political ideas of the current day was undoubtedly the principle of equality; nevertheless, the delegations of Greece and Guatemala were of the opinion that the provisions of operative paragraph 2 of the draft in resolution 1681 (LII) were incomplete and vague, and had therefore submitted the amendment contained in document A/C.3/L.1966, which was designed to broaden the scope of that paragraph. The new paragraph 2 (a) retained the important political idea of promoting equality between men and women, an idea

which, in the view of the sponsors of the amendment, also covered the concept of equal pay for equal work, as well as the general principle of equal rights and equal obligations. In that connexion, it was gratifying to note the statement in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/8701 and Corr.1) that the ILO had been requested, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to update and distribute the publication entitled *Equal Pay for Equal Work*.⁵

30. In regard to operative paragraph 2 (b) proposed in the amendment (A/C.3/L.1966), which referred to the full integration of women in the total development effort, she noted that that very important objective was mainly based on resolution 1684 (LII), in which the Council recommended that the objectives and targets set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) should be realized in such a way as to benefit women at all levels of development. In the planning and implementation of their programmes, Governments should promote the advancement of women, taking into account their different needs, with a view to enabling them to achieve their maximum potential not only as wives and mothers, but also as full participants in the development of their countries. It should also be noted that it was important for women, during International Women's Year, to get a clear idea of their rights and obligations as citizens and of the great responsibility they must assume in order to play an important role in their communities and countries.

31. In her opinion, the qualities of a good citizen of any country were a sense of duty to the community, a spirit of tolerance and an ability to see national politics within the framework of the national interest and the interests of the international community. That observation related to paragraph 2 (c) proposed in the amendment submitted by Greece and Guatemala: during International Women's Year efforts must be made to ensure that women were prepared to make an increasing contribution to the solution of the important problems of the world. She therefore appealed to women to do their utmost to contribute more effectively to the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States and to the strengthening of world peace. Those ideas were based on the Charter and on the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

32. Turning to the Canadian amendments (A/C.3/L.1965/Rev.1), she expressed the view that their effect would be to improve and bring up to date Economic and Social Council resolution 1676 (LII) and stated that she was in favour of them. On the other hand, with regard to the Indian amendments (A/C.3/L.1967) to the draft in resolution 1681 (LII), her delegation believed that the amendment which it was sponsoring together with Guatemala already covered the question of programmes for the elimination of discrimination against women in the legal, social, vocational, economic and political spheres.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.60.IV.4.

33. Turning to the question of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of *apartheid* and colonialism, dealt with in paragraphs 514 to 519 of the report of the Economic and Social Council, she drew attention to article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stipulated that no one should be held in slavery or servitude and that slavery and the slave trade should be prohibited in all their forms. In Greece there had been no cases of slavery or cases involving the slave trade since the establishment of the Greek State and all acts contributing to the slave trade or similar practices were subject to very severe penalties under the Penal Code. In April 1972 Greece had ratified the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, and had now deposited its instrument of ratification.

34. She would vote in favour of the procedural draft resolution in document A/C.3/L.1964 concerning capital punishment.

35. Miss GARCIA BAUTISTA (Colombia) observed that the progress achieved in legislation on the political rights and legal status of women was enormous when considered from the standpoint of law affecting the family as the fundamental unit of society, with the result that standards had been established with a view to regulating the questions of responsible paternity, natural filiation, the rights of the child, special protection for pregnant women and other matters relating to the respect which the family deserved. However, women must be given better opportunities for education if they were to be able to realize fully their aspirations to be of service to the community.

36. It seemed incredible that in some countries women had not yet won the right of suffrage, and her delegation urged that the situation should be studied with a view to ensuring that women won their full rights wherever that tremendous lacuna still existed. In Colombia women had equal political rights with men and there was a wealth of civil legislation on the status of women. Moreover, in 1970 a Secretariat of Women's Affairs had been established.

37. Her delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolutions recommended in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII) and would support the amendment in document A/C.3/L.1966.

38. Mrs. DE BROMLEY (Honduras) said that she would enthusiastically support the draft resolutions recommended in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1676 (LII) and 1681 (LII). Honduras had been a member of the Commission on the Status of Women at the time when the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women had been under consideration and it continued to be keenly interested in the matter. She was therefore in favour of proclaiming 1975 International Women's Year and thus recognizing the need to strengthen the principle of the equality of all human beings.

39. Honduran legislation on women was very advanced. Since the introduction of women's suffrage less than two decades earlier, spectacular progress had been achieved, and today women were represented in all the professions. Suffice it to point out that in the Honduran delegation to the United Nations there were more women than men. Nevertheless, the rights which women had acquired were asserted only in certain sectors, and the majority of the population clung to outmoded traditions. That was why it was so important to change education, bearing in mind that true freedom consisted in having an open mind so that one could distinguish between the true and the false in customs inherent in cultures and could reconsider all preconceived ideas. Such education should serve to awaken the minds of men as well as women so that they could join in reaching an understanding of existing problems. She was therefore convinced that the programmes to be carried out during International Women's Year would be of great value in contributing to the attainment of the objectives envisaged in the draft resolutions which the Committee had before it.

40. With regard to draft resolution A/C.3/L.1964, on capital punishment, she thought that it would be very useful for the Economic and Social Council to consider the existing situation in order to keep alive the interest in developing stricter legal procedures and greater guarantees for accused persons and in order to promote the adoption of legislation stipulating the right of persons who were condemned to death to appeal to a higher court. She noted in that connexion that article 56 of the Constitution of Honduras recognized the inviolability of human life, which ruled out the application of the death penalty. She would therefore vote in favour of the draft resolution.

41. Miss GURUNG (Nepal) said it was paradoxical that the United Nations, which was trying to improve the status of women, did not live up to those ideals in recruiting Secretariat staff. If the United Nations were to give fair treatment to women employees of the Organization and could attract and recruit more women, perhaps it could serve as an example to the rest of the world.

42. In Nepal, prior to 1940 women had been subject to certain social restrictions, such as early marriage and lack of schooling for girls. Real progress in the sphere of women's education had begun after the revolution of 1950 in which the feudal régime had been overthrown. Although the results had not been spectacular, today there were women in high administrative posts and women working as teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers and government leaders.

43. When it was realized that 70 per cent of the female population of the world was illiterate, it was easy to see that in order to promote development it was essential to provide education for women in order to enable that large segment of human society to be more productive economically. It was obvious that the task of providing better educational opportunities for women required enormous efforts and resources, which made it particularly difficult for the developing countries. In Nepal the Women's Organization had launched an

adult education programme to eradicate illiteracy among women which had proved quite effective and had won the approbation of UNESCO.

44. Her delegation therefore supported the programme of concerted international action to promote the advancement of women and to increase their contribution to the development of their countries dealt with in paragraphs 452 to 467 of the report of the Economic and Social Council and hoped that more energetic efforts would be made to implement it. Lastly, she supported India's appeal to all Member States to ratify ILO Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, of 1951 without delay.

45. Miss CAO-PINNA (Italy) said that after submitting draft resolution A/C.3/L.1964 the sponsors had had occasion to consult with other delegations and they were pleased to announce that the draft appeared to command general support. However, a number of suggestions had been made to the effect that the words "in depth" in operative paragraph 2, which some delegations considered superfluous, should be deleted. Although the sponsors would have preferred to retain those two words, they had agreed, in a spirit of co-operation, to delete them.

46. Mr. TORRES (Philippines) noted that chapter XV of the report of the Economic and Social Council, which dealt with refugees⁶ and natural disasters,⁷ was included among the subjects to be considered under item 12. However, that chapter had not been

⁶ The question was discussed under agenda item 56; see the 1954th to 1957th meetings.

⁷ The question was discussed under agenda item 61; see the 1960th and 1961st meetings.

introduced and his delegation, which was keenly interested in the matter, had not made any statement with regard to it. His delegation's silence was due to the fact that it hoped to speak on the subject when the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator were present, at which time the subject could be dealt with in greater detail and in a more co-ordinated way and the members of the Committee would have the benefit of the experience of those two officials. He was sure that the representative of the Sudan would agree to that procedure and he hoped that the members of the Committee would do likewise.

47. He would like to take the opportunity to express his gratitude to all the Governments, non-governmental organizations, voluntary societies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross and similar bodies, and other individuals and groups which had assisted the people of the Philippines at the time of the disastrous torrential rains and floods which had occurred there; those thanks went also to UNDP, IBRD, FAO, UNESCO, WHO, IAEA, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNICEF, UNITAR, WFP and other United Nations agencies and bodies.

48. Mr. GUELLY (Sudan) supported the procedure proposed by the representative of the Philippines because while it was true that chapter XV of the report of the Economic and Social Council was included under the item which the Committee was considering, it was, in his view, closely related to item 56 (a), concerning the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and should be examined together with that report.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.