



UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS
TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 7

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Report to the Economic and Social Council on the thirteenth session of the Commission
held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 27 March 1959 inclusive

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its thirteenth session at United Nations Headquarters. The session began on 9 March and ended on 27 March 1959.

Attendance

2. Attendance at the session was as follows:

Argentina: Mrs. Blanca Stábile;
Canada: Mrs. Harry S. Quart, Miss Marion Royce,*
Mr. D. C. Arnould;**
China: Mrs. Chu-sheng Yeh Cheng,* Mr. Chun Hu,**
Cuba: Miss Uldarica Mañas, Miss Silvia Shelton;*
Czechoslovakia: Mrs. Helena Leflerová, Mr. Dusan Spácil,* Miss Zdenka Hornáková;**
Dominican Republic: Miss Minerva Bernardino, Miss
Mária Teresa Espínola;*
France: Madame Marie-Hélène Lefauchaux, Mr. J. M.
Bouquin;*
Greece: Mrs. Alexandra Mantzoulinou;*
Israel: Mrs. Tamar Shoham-Sharon, Miss Hava Hareli*;
Japan: Mrs. Setsu Tanino, Mr. Masao Ito;**
Mexico: Miss Maria Lavalle Urbina;
Netherlands: Miss Jeantine Hefting*;
Pakistan: Begum Shireen Aziz Ahmed, Mr. Basil W.
Walke;**
Poland: Mrs. Zofia Dembinska, Mr. Antoni Czarkow-
ski*;
Sweden: Mrs. Agda Rössel, Mr. Marc Gizon,* Mr. Folke
Persson;**
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Mrs. Ekaterina
Korshunova, Miss Irene Gorodetskaya,* Mr. B. P.
Pissarev,**

* Alternate.

** Adviser.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:
Miss Ruth Tomlinson, Mr. P. W. J. Buxton,* Mr. A. C.
Dugdale*;

United States of America: Mrs. Lorena Hahn, Mrs. Alice
A. Morrison,** Mr. Chauncey G. Parker III.**

OBSERVERS

Colombia: Mrs. Clara Nieto de Ponce de León;
Peru: Miss Rosario Ortiz de Zevallos;
Philippines: Mrs. Etta C. Enríquez;
Romania: Mrs. Florica Magheru;

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

International Labour Organisation: Dr. R. A. Métall,
Mr. P. Blamont,** Mr. Mirza Kahn,**
*United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
Organization*: Mrs. A. K. Gegalova;
World Health Organization: Dr. Rodolphe L. Coigney,
Mrs. Sylvia Meagher.*

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ¹

Inter-American Commission of Women: Mrs. Graciela
Quan, Mrs. Esther N. de Calvo.*

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CATEGORY A

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions:
Mr. W. Kemsley, Miss Janet Seigel, Mrs. Bessie
Hillman, Miss Margot Thompson, Mrs. Caroline
Davis, Mrs. Lillian Hatcher, Mrs. Mary Hanscom,
Mrs. Angela Bambace, Miss Pauline Newman;

¹ In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolu-
tion 48 (IV), part B, paragraph 7.

International Federation of Christian Trade Unions: Mr. G. Thormann;
World Federation of Trade Unions: Miss Elinor Kahn;
World Federation of United Nations Associations: Mrs. Oliver Weerasinghe, Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf.

CATEGORY B

All-India Women's Conference: Mrs. Mithan J. Lam;
All-Pakistan Women's Association: Begum Rani Mirza Khan;
Associated Countrywomen of the World: Mrs. Robert L. Craig, Mrs. Ian MacDonald, Mrs. George F. Roberts;
Catholic International Union for Social Service: Mrs. Carmen Giroux;
Commission of the Churches on International Affairs: Mrs. Hanna Kiep, Mrs. Esther W. Hymer, Mr. A. Dominique Micheli;
Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations: Mrs. Hélène B. Kadane;
Friends World Committee for Consultation: Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, Mrs. Lois Kellogg Jessup, Mrs. Alice Atwater;
International Alliance of Women: Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, Miss Frieda S. Miller, Mrs. William B. Doyle;
International Catholic Child Bureau: Miss Margaret M. Bedard;
International Conference of Catholic Charities: Mr. Louis C. Longarzo;
International Council of Women: Mrs. Mary Craig Schuller, Mrs. Frances M. Freeman;
International Federation of Business and Professional Women: Miss Margaret P. Hyndman, Mrs. Esther W. Hymer, Mrs. Salima Ahmed, Mrs. Irene Haig, Miss Grace B. Daniels;
International Federation of University Women: Miss Elmina R. Lucke, Mrs. Haniko Oiwa;
International Federation of Women Lawyers: Mrs. Rose Korn Hirschman, Mrs. Nadine Lane Gallagher, Mrs. Doris Jonas Freed, Mrs. Ezlynn Deraniyagala, Mrs. Mithan J. Lam, Miss Angie Brooks;
International League for the Rights of Man: Mrs. Hildegard Wolle-Egenolf, Mrs. Claudia Lavenstein;
International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples: Miss Corry H. M. van der Poel;
Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations: Miss Anna Lagemann;
Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association: Mrs. Helen Fowler, Mrs. Seouw Peck Leng;
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: Mrs. Adelaide N. Baker, Mrs. Brenda Bailey;
World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession: Mr. Paul Welty, Mr. Miller;
World Federation of Catholic Young Women and Girls: Mrs. Frank J. Berberich;
World Jewish Congress: Mr. Gerhard Jacoby;

World Movement of Mothers: Miss Salomeja Narkeliunaite;
World Union for Progressive Judaism: Mrs. Eleanor S. Polstein;
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations: Mrs. Mary Spillman, Miss Catherine Schaefer, Miss Alba Zizzamia, Sœur Marie-André du Sacré-Cœur;
World Young Women's Christian Association: Miss Alice Arnold, Mrs. Ronald Standen, Miss Margaret Forsyth, Mrs. Elizabeth Palmer;
Young Christian Workers: Miss Caroline Pezzullo.

REGISTER

St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance: Miss F. McGillicuddy, Mrs. Magda de Spur, Sœur Marie-André du Sacré-Cœur;
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts: Mrs. Edward F. Johnson, Mrs. Charles H. Ridder, Miss Eloise Centoz;
World Federation for Mental Health: Mrs. Helen S. Ascher.

3. Mr. John P. Humphrey, Director of the Division of Human Rights, and Mrs. Sophie Grinberg-Vinaver, Chief of the Section on the Status of Women, represented the Secretary-General. Mrs. Tamar Oppenheimer acted as Secretary to the Commission.

Representation of China

4. At the 285th meeting, the representative of the USSR protested against the absence of any representative of the People's Republic of China, whose place, she contended, was illegally occupied by a person who had no right to represent China. This view was supported by the representative of Czechoslovakia.

5. The representative of China stated that she represented the only legal government of China, and pointed out that the Commission on the Status of Women was not competent to take any action in the matter. This view was supported by the representatives of Argentina and the United States of America. It was agreed that the views expressed would be included in the records of the session.

Election of officers

6. The Commission at its 285th meeting on 9 March 1959 unanimously elected the following officers:

Miss Uldarica Mañas (Cuba), *Chairman*.
 Mrs. Zofia Dembinska (Poland), *First Vice-Chairman*.
 Mrs. Setsu Tanino (Japan), *Second Vice-Chairman*.
 Mrs. Tamar Shoham-Sharon (Israel), *Rapporteur*.

Committees

7. In order to expedite its work, the Commission at its 286th meeting established two *ad hoc* committees as follows:

Committee on Resolutions: The Committee was composed of representatives of Canada, France (Chairman), Mexico, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America.

Committee on Communications: The Committee was composed of representatives of Argentina, Greece, Netherlands, Pakistan and the United Kingdom (Chairman).

Meetings, resolutions and documentation

8. The Commission held twenty-six plenary meetings. The views expressed at those meetings are summarized in the records of the 285th to 310th meetings.

9. The resolutions and decisions of the Commission appear under the subject-matters to which they relate. The draft resolutions submitted for consideration by the Economic and Social Council are set out in chapter XVII of the present report.

10. The documents before the Commission at its thirteenth session are listed in annex I to this report.

11. In the course of its thirteenth session, the Commission took note of statements of financial implications made by the Secretary-General in respect of those proposals the implementation of which could entail additional budgetary provision. A summary of these statements relating to the proposals as adopted by the Commission is given in annex II to this report.

Agenda

12. The Commission considered its agenda at its 285th meeting. It had before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.6/337 and Add.1) drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission.

13. The representative of the Dominican Republic proposed that an item entitled "Participation of women in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies" be added to the agenda as item 11. The Commission unanimously accepted that proposal.

14. The Commission accepted unanimously the suggestion of the Chairman that the order of the items be changed, items 4 to 9 inclusive of the provisional agenda being replaced by items 8, 9, 7, 5, 4 and 6 respectively, in order to group together items dealing with political and legal subjects and those dealing with economic subjects.

15. At its 285th meeting, on 9 March 1959, the Commission unanimously adopted its agenda as amended.

16. The agenda in its final form (E/CN.6/337/Rev.1) was as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Political rights of women:
 - (a) Annual memorandum on political rights of women;
 - (b) Report on the status of women in Trust Territories;
 - (c) Report on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories.
4. Status of women in private law:
 - (a) Supplementary report on status of women in family law;
 - (b) Supplementary report on property rights of women.
5. Nationality of married women
(Report containing information on recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women, and signatures and ratifications of the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women).
6. Tax legislation applicable to women
(Report on tax legislation applicable to women).
7. Equal pay for equal work
(Revised draft pamphlet on equal pay for equal work).
8. Access of women to education:
 - (a) Progress report on UNESCO activities in 1957-58 of special interest to women;
 - (b) Report on access of women to the teaching profession.
9. Economic opportunities for women:
 - (a) Report on the occupational outlook for women in the professions of architect, engineer and jurist;
 - (b) Note on the age of retirement and the right to pension.
10. Advisory services programme
(Progress report on the advisory services programme).
11. Participation of women in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.
12. Report of the representative of the Commission on the Status of Women to the eleventh session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
13. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
14. Communications concerning the status of women:
 - (a) Non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women;
 - (b) Note transmitting the report of the Committee on Communications of the Commission on Human Rights.
- 15 and 16. Review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities; control and limitation of documentation:
 - (a) Note on the programme of work, establishment of priorities, and control and limitation of documentation;
 - (b) United Nations programme in the matter of human rights and the status of women (an appraisal).
17. Adoption of the report to the Economic and Social Council.

II. POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

17. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 286th to 290th meetings. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to the political rights of women (A/3889), reports by the Secretary-

General on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/338) and in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/339), and a statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/71). On the Chairman's suggestion it was decided to deal, under

item 3, only with that part of the report on the status of women in Trust Territories which referred to the political rights of women and to discuss the other chapters of the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/338) as well as his report on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories in due course under the appropriate substantive items of the agenda.

18. In the course of the general debate on this item, the Commission reviewed the progress achieved towards the recognition of political rights for women. It was generally agreed that much had been achieved by the enactment in most countries of legislation securing political rights for women. Some representatives noted that in eleven countries women still had no political rights. Several members deplored the failure of some States Members of the United Nations to sign or ratify the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (General Assembly resolution 640 (VII)). One member stated that the absence of a territorial application clause hindered her Government from becoming a party.

19. Dissatisfaction was expressed by some members that in the forthcoming referendum to be held in the Northern Cameroons under the auspices of the United Nations, women would not have a vote under the draft resolution which was being discussed in the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly (E/C.4/L.582/Rev.1).² The United Kingdom representative, quoting the United Nations Visiting Mission's report,³ explained the local difficulties which existed and which the United Kingdom faced in establishing general suffrage in the Northern Cameroons and pointed out that difficulties arose from certain political attitudes which were influenced by the religion and culture of the region, but it was emphasized by another member that the application of religious teaching was local only. The Chairman suggested that members might approach their respective delegations in the Assembly in order to have appropriate action taken to improve the present arrangements for the referendum.

20. Following the debate on the progress achieved towards the recognition of political rights, it was felt generally that the stage had now been reached when it was essential to investigate ways of making use of those rights. It was emphasized that the notion of woman's participation in public life was not opposed to that of her responsibility for the well being of her home and family; rather it was an extension of that responsibility to the larger family of the State, which needed to combine influences of masculine and feminine opinion. Various methods of encouraging the active use of political rights were suggested. The value of community service was stressed as a means of introduction to political activity at a level of local interest, for it was considered that participation in local government was a practical possibility for the woman who was also occupied with the management of her home. It was generally agreed that a sense of civic responsibility was an essential basis

for political activity whether at local or other levels. Several members spoke of the importance of seminars as a means of education for citizenship, particularly in under-developed countries which required advice and assistance in making full use of rights often only recently acquired. Reference was made to the regional seminar held at Bangkok in August 1957, which had proved of great assistance to women in the region, and also to the forthcoming seminar to be held at Bogotá in May 1959 for women of the Western Hemisphere. It was agreed that the value of seminars depended on the way in which the ideas introduced and discussed were followed up later and some suggestions for methods of continuing the education programme begun in the seminars were brought forward. One member expressed the belief that it was the duty of women with special qualifications to take an effective part in training less fortunate members of their community in order to develop in them a sense of civic responsibility. Another member suggested as a practical measure that UNESCO might consider emphasizing citizen education. In this connexion, it was proposed by another member that education for citizenship could well be encouraged in schools, thus creating among young girls in their formative years an interest in community service which might later be developed by participation in the activities of the non-governmental organizations.

21. There was agreement at all times during the discussion on the importance of the role of non-governmental organizations. It was felt that their constructive and imaginative programmes were designed to secure ever wider appreciation of the political rights of women. They served as an effective means of training women for participation in parliamentary activities.

22. Some members drew attention to the value of personal contacts between women active in the public, economic and cultural life of their countries, which could be stimulated not only by seminars but by exchange visits of delegations and of individuals and by fellowships. One member referred to the survey of international relations and exchanges in the fields of education, science and culture requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 695 (XXVI). Another member pointed out that this resolution dealt only with such exchanges and made no reference to the exchange of experience relating to the political rights of women. She wondered whether that would be covered by the UNESCO survey. The representative of UNESCO indicated, in reply, that the UNESCO survey, while covering a broad field, would not deal with such exchanges and that there was no danger of duplication.

23. It was pointed out that the Convention on the Political Rights of Women had been the most important step in the field of political rights for women to date; a second activity, that of implementation, was currently receiving attention in the Commission, but there was still a third method of work, namely, the gathering of information for use in the work of implementation, and that was achieved in the annual memoranda of the Secretary-General. Some members expressed interest in the possibility of preparing statistical surveys of the participation of women in the work of legislative, judicial

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirteenth Session, Annexes*, agenda item 13, document A/4095, para. 30.

³ See *Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Twenty-third Session, Supplement No. 2*, document T/1426 and Add.1.

and administrative bodies. There was considerable discussion on the value of such surveys and the possibility of carrying them out. One member believed that by indicating whether women have access to certain public functions, it is possible to ascertain the reasons for the denial of such access where it occurred. It was felt that such a study would have great value.

24. With regard to the question of a statistical survey, the representative of the Secretary-General referred to the work of the Statistical Commission, which at its tenth session had approved a form of census which could be used by all countries. She referred to the publication *Principles and Recommendations for National Population Censuses*.⁴

25. Another member proposed that the Secretary-General be asked to send a letter to Governments of States parties to the Convention on the Political Rights of Women as a follow-up to the Economic and Social Council resolution 504 E (XVI) concerning the measures taken by them to implement the provisions of the Convention. The Commission was in general agreement with the proposal.

26. The Chairman expressed regret at the result of the recent referendum on the political rights of women in Switzerland and gratification that those rights had been achieved for women in the Canton of Vaud at the cantonal level. She was supported by several members of the Commission.

27. During the course of the debate, the Commission heard a statement by the representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women. Statements were also made by the observers for the All-India Women's Conference, the International Alliance of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association and the World Young Women's Christian Association.

28. With a view to making greatest possible use of the material furnished in the annual report of the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the field of political rights of women, it was suggested that it would be useful to have a consolidation of the material which was contained in the annual memorandum prepared for the ninth session of the General Assembly in 1954 (A/2692) and in subsequent annual memoranda.

29. The representative of the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.257) relating to the submission of the report of the Bogotá seminar to the Commission at its fourteenth session. Subsequently, the sponsor of the draft resolution, together with the representatives of France and Israel, submitted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.257/Rev.1) which incorporated the substance of the original draft resolution.

30. During the 288th meeting, separate votes were taken on the two parts (A and B) of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.257/Rev.1); each was unanimously adopted. The Commission then voted on the draft resolution as a whole, which was adopted unanimously. The text of the resolution is as follows:

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 58.XVII.5.

1 (XIII). POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

A

Believing that the memorandum on constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to political rights of women prepared annually by the Secretary-General is helpful to Governments and to non-governmental organizations,

Noting that, subsequent to the publication of the consolidated revision of the annual memorandum (A/2692) prepared for the ninth session of the General Assembly in 1954, a considerable amount of information on new developments has been included in subsequent annual memoranda,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation of the annual memorandum of the Secretary-General;

2. *Suggests* that a consolidated revision of this document, including memorandum A/2692 and succeeding memoranda, be prepared in advance of the forthcoming fourteenth session of the General Assembly.

B

Noting that the seminar on the participation of women in public life, which will be held in Bogotá in May 1959, will include consideration of the meaning of civic rights and responsibilities and methods for making these effective,

Believing that the report on this seminar should be taken into account in discussing the political rights and responsibilities of women,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the report of the Bogotá seminar available to the members of the Commission in advance of its fourteenth session;

2. *Decides* that at the fourteenth session of the Commission the agenda item on advisory services in the field of human rights should be considered immediately following the item on political rights.

31. A draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.258) was submitted by the representative of Czechoslovakia calling upon Governments, through the Economic and Social Council, to help the development of international co-operation in the fields of promoting equal political, economic and social rights of women, in particular by facilitating personal contacts, the exchange of delegations, experts and materials in the said fields, as well as to assist the exchange of experience among women who take active part in the political and economic life of their own countries; and also calling upon the appropriate organs of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations to assist, within their respective competences, the development of such international co-operation.

32. During the discussion of this draft resolution it was felt by some members that it would be more appropriate for the Commission to adopt a resolution of its

own instead of addressing itself to the Economic and Social Council. In deference to the general opinion of the Commission, the representative of Czechoslovakia agreed to the proposed procedure, but expressed the belief that the question of promoting international co-operation among women should be reconsidered at some future session. One member asked the representative of the Secretary-General whether the Commission was competent to address itself to Governments direct, rather than through the Economic and Social Council. In reply, the Legal Counsel explained that the Commission was precluded by its terms of reference from either addressing its recommendations or expressing its hopes to Governments, except through the Council.

33. The draft resolution was referred to the *ad hoc* Committee on Resolutions which presented to the Commission a new text (E/CN.6/L.259). At its 290th meeting the Commission voted on the new draft. At the request of the representative of Czechoslovakia, a separate vote was taken on the inclusion of the words "in consultative status" in the operative paragraph.

34. The words "in consultative status" were adopted by 14 votes to 3. The representatives of Czechoslovakia and of the USSR explained that their votes against the inclusion of those words indicated that in their view the words limited the scope of the resolution. The resolution as a whole was then adopted unanimously. The representative of Poland indicated that although she had voted for the draft resolution as a whole, she favoured the original draft resolution by which the Economic and Social Council would have called on

Governments and not only on non-governmental organizations for action.

35. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

2 (XIII). POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the necessity for constant improvement of the status of women,

Having regard to Economic and Social Council resolution 663 I (XXIV) of 31 July 1957 urging the extension of international co-operation through the development of personal contacts and the exchange of experience among experts,

Being convinced that the co-operation and the exchange of experience in the field of the emancipation of women in the political, civic, educational, economic and social spheres may expedite the improvement of the status of women and may also facilitate the development of mutual understanding among women,

Invites the non-governmental organizations in consultative status to help the development of international co-operation in promoting equal political, civic, educational, economic and social rights of women, in particular through facilitating personal contacts, the exchange of persons, experts and materials in the said fields, as well as to assist the exchange of experience among women who take an active part in the political, civic, educational, economic and social life of their own countries.

III. STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

36. The Commission examined item 4 of its agenda at its 288th to 293rd meetings. It had before it two supplementary reports by the Secretary-General on the status of women in family law (E/CN.6/185/Add.16) and property rights of women (E/CN.6/208/Add.4) and statements submitted by the St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance (E/CN.6/NGO/64), the Liaison Committee on Women's International Organizations (E/CN.6/NGO/62) and the Pan Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association (E/CN.6/NGO/67).

37. During the discussion the Commission noted that appreciable progress had been made in recent years towards securing legal recognition of equality of rights for women in private law, but that the situation nevertheless remained unsatisfactory in several countries. The Commission considered that women should make a sustained effort to bring about the desired legislative changes; several representatives laid particular stress on the role of non-governmental organizations in the education of the people, *inter alia*, through the circulation of publications on the subject. One representative suggested the holding of a seminar on the status of women in private law.

38. Some representatives observed that, even in countries where the law recognized equality of rights

for women, traditions and customs based on the idea that the husband was the head of the family were still deep-rooted, with the result that in practice women did not exercise the rights accorded them by the law. Those representatives expressed the hope that women would come to exercise those rights fully when they had a better understanding of their scope.

39. One member of the Commission expressed her keen appreciation of the documents prepared by the Secretary-General, and the hope that they would continue to be prepared annually. Since they brought earlier information up to date those documents were most useful to women working for equal rights in private law.

40. During the general debate the Commission heard statements by the representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the observers for the All-India Women's Conference, the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and the St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance.

41. The discussion centred largely upon Economic and Social Council resolution 680 B (XXVI), concerning

the age of marriage, free consent, and registration of marriages.

42. Several representatives expressed disappointment that the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 680 B (XXVI) had altered draft resolution B I submitted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twelfth session,⁵ by requesting the Secretary-General, in paragraph 5 of the resolution, to prepare for the fourteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women a "recommendation" instead of the "draft convention" for which the Commission had expressed a desire in the aforementioned resolution 2 (XII). Those members of the Commission felt that only the adoption of an international instrument such as a convention was likely to set up a genuine current of public opinion and stimulate Governments to take steps to bring their national legislation into harmony with the principles enunciated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The mere adoption of a recommendation on the subject would produce no such results, for experience had shown that recommendations did not as a rule lead to action by Governments. Furthermore, recommendations on those matters had already been made to the Governments of Member States by both the General Assembly (resolution 843 (IX)) and the Economic and Social Council (resolution 652 G (XXIV)). Those representatives considered that the Commission should ask the Economic and Social Council to reconsider its resolution 680 B (XXVI) at its next session.

43. Other representatives thought it premature to ask the Secretary-General to prepare a draft convention before the Commission was in possession of full information on the subject. Mention was made in particular of Governments' replies to the questionnaire (E/CN.6/335) submitted to them by the Secretary-General, which would not reach the United Nations Secretariat before August 1959. Those representatives considered that the Commission should study that information at its fourteenth session and, in the light of it, decide what form the future convention should take.

44. Several representatives, while acknowledging the value of the additional information which the Commission would have before it at its next session, felt that that information would be extremely useful when the Commission came to discuss the draft convention setting forth guiding principles on those matters. In those representatives' opinion, the principles in question should be laid down in an international instrument as soon as possible.

45. The representatives of France, Greece, Israel and Sweden presented a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.261) under which the Commission would invite the Economic and Social Council to reconsider the decision taken in resolution 680 B (XXVI) by which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a recommendation on age of marriage, free consent to marriage and registration of marriages, and would recommend to the Council the adoption of a resolution requesting the Secretary-

⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7*, chap. IV, para. 56, and chap. XVI, draft resolution B I.

General to prepare for the fourteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women a draft convention dealing with the three questions enumerated above.

46. During the discussion the United Kingdom representative proposed various amendments (E/CN.6/L.262) to the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.261). The amendments related to the third and fourth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of the draft resolution.

47. The sponsors of the draft resolution accepted those amendments and embodied them in a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.261/Rev.1).

48. The United Kingdom representative said that she would support the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.261/Rev.1) on the understanding that the draft convention to be prepared by the Secretary-General would contain only substantive articles; the United Kingdom was obliged to reserve its position with regard to a draft convention because its attitude would depend among other things on whether a territorial clause was included in or omitted from the text of the convention.

49. The revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.261/Rev.1) was adopted at the Commission's 292nd meeting by 13 votes to none, with 5 abstentions. The resolution reads as follows:

3 (XIII). AGE OF MARRIAGE, FREE CONSENT,
AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolution 2 (XII) in which it recommended the Economic and Social Council to invite the Secretary-General to prepare for the fourteenth session of the Commission a draft convention dealing with age of marriage, free consent to marriage and registration of marriages,⁶

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 680 (XXVI) of 10 July 1958 in which the Council invites the Secretary-General to prepare for the fourteenth session of the Commission a recommendation dealing with these questions,

Considering that the importance of the problems may make it appropriate to prescribe in these fields standards giving effect to the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by means of an international instrument carrying great authority,

Noting that the various organs of the United Nations have made recommendations on these subjects in the past,

1. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to reconsider the decision taken in resolution 680 B (XXVI) by which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a recommendation dealing with the three questions enumerated above;

2. *Recommends* the Economic and Social Council to revert to draft resolution B I, the adoption of which had been recommended to it by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twelfth session;

⁶ *Ibid.*

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

[For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVII, draft resolution B.]

50. The Commission also examined the question of the ritual practices to which girls are exposed in some parts of the world. It noted with satisfaction that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 680 B II (XXVI), had transmitted to the World Health Organization (WHO) the request contained in resolution 3 (XII), adopted by the Commission at its twelfth session,⁷ to undertake a study of the persistence of the customs mentioned above and of the measures adopted or planned for putting a stop to such practices, and to communicate the results to the Commission. Several members of the Commission, however, expressed their surprise and disappointment at resolution EB23.R75, adopted by the Executive Board of WHO at its twenty-third session, to the effect that, since such practices were of a social

⁷ *Ibid.*, chap. IV, para. 61.

and cultural rather than a medical nature, the study requested was outside the organization's competence. They disagreed with the attitude of WHO and expressed the hope that a study of the medical aspect of that problem would be undertaken.

51. Some members of the Commission pointed out that the subject would be discussed at the World Health Assembly, which would take a decision on it. They also pointed out that the Secretary-General would be represented at the Assembly and expressed the hope that his representative would make known the views of the Commission and the Economic and Social Council on the subject. It would also be useful, they added, for members of the Commission to intercede with their respective Governments in order to ensure that representatives to the World Health Assembly should rally to the support of Economic and Social Council resolution B II (XXIV).

52. During the general debate the Commission heard replies from the representatives of WHO and UNESCO to questions asked by one of its members.

IV. NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

53. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 293rd and 294th meetings. It had before it a report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/254/Add.5) on recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women. The report contained excerpts from nationality and citizenship laws not previously available to the Secretary-General, a table of countries which by 12 January 1959 had signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, and a table on the "Effects of marriage on nationality of women", which supplements and brings up to date a similar table contained in the report on *Nationality of Married Women* (E/CN.6/254)⁸ and recapitulates the information contained in the addenda to that report (E/CN.6/254/Add.1-5).

54. It was noted during the general debate that the information contained in the report indicated general progress in the direction of equal rights for men and women with respect to nationality. It was also noted that twenty-five countries had, so far, signed the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, that twelve had ratified it, and that two other countries had acceded to the Convention. The Convention on the Nationality of Married Women came into force on 11 August 1958. Several representatives stated that annual reports by the Secretary-General on this subject were essential for the work of the Commission, and expressed their appreciation to the Secretary-General for the particularly extensive coverage of information contained in the memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/254/Add.5).

55. It was felt that it would be of assistance to the Commission and useful in informing the public to have a pamphlet issued setting out the history of the Con-

vention, giving a commentary of its provisions, and bringing up to date the information contained in the original publication (E/CN.6/254).

56. The representative of the Secretary-General made a statement on the financial implications of issuing the publication in English, French and Spanish.

57. A joint draft resolution was submitted by the representatives of Argentina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico (E/CN.6/L.260) containing a request to the Secretary-General for the preparation and early publication of such a pamphlet.

58. During the discussion of the draft resolution, some representatives expressed their concern about the cost of the publication of the pamphlet, and remarked that it would be out of date more quickly if it also contained actual legislation of various countries. One representative suggested that the pamphlet be issued in two parts at different times, the first part, containing the history and commentary, to be issued as soon as possible. Other members felt that the representatives should all have in mind the very important purpose of the publication and gave as an example the great value of the pamphlet entitled *Legal Status of Married Women*.⁹ Some representatives felt that the pamphlet would lose its homogeneity if divided into two publications issued at different times and would not fulfil its aim.

59. The representative of Israel proposed an oral amendment, which was accepted by the sponsors of the draft resolution, adding the word "that" at the beginning, and deleting the comma at the end, of the second preambular paragraph, and adding the words "is practically exhausted". The representative of the United Kingdom proposed oral amendments to the draft resolution

⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.IV.1.

⁹ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1957.IV.8.

calling for the insertion of the letter “(a)” after the words “Secretary-General” in the operative paragraph, the deletion of the word “also” and the addition of the words “(b) to make preparations for a later publication”. The amendments proposed by the United Kingdom were put to the vote and rejected by 11 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions.

60. The draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.260) as modified by the oral amendment proposed by the representative of Israel was adopted at the 294th meeting by 14 votes

to none, with 4 abstentions. The resolution reads as follows:

4 (XIII). NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women

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

[*For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVII, draft resolution C.*]

V. TAX LEGISLATION APPLICABLE TO WOMEN

61. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 293rd to 295th meetings. The Commission had before it a report prepared by Mr. Oliver Oldman, Lecturer on International Tax Law, Harvard University, acting as consultant to the United Nations Secretariat, with Mr. Ralph Temple, Teaching Fellow in Law, Harvard University (E/CN.6/344 and Add.1-2). All members expressed their appreciation of this comprehensive and scholarly document.

62. In the general discussion of this subject, it was agreed that only those aspects of tax legislation were of interest to the Commission which in any way discriminated against women, and in particular the married working woman. It was pointed out that the report referred to roughly two kinds of taxation of income: assessments against the individual income and assessments based on an aggregation of incomes, whether of husband and wife, or of the family as a unit. While recognizing that both methods of taxation affected both men and women, it was nevertheless considered by a number of members that the married working woman was often penalized by heavy assessment on her earned income.

63. One member pointed out that where there was aggregate taxation and tax was assessed on a progressive rate it might very well cost a married woman something to work and that circumstance might be a factor against her continuing her career after marriage. Another member felt that consolidation of incomes could amount to discrimination because only by aggregation did the wife's income, as part of the joint income, come within a range high enough to attract taxation. Otherwise, the wife's income, where lower, if assessed separately, might not be taxable.

64. Reference was made to discrepancies in deductions allowable to married men and women. One member said that in her country special allowances for married working women for domestic help and child care were not yet made. In discussing allowances for housekeepers, another member said that in her country the primary intention of such allowances was to assist the man where there were children in the home and no mother. A woman in a parallel situation was expected to be able to look after the children herself. She pointed out that aggregation did not always necessarily discriminate against wives but could be said to be hard on husbands too.

Some members felt that, while not in itself discriminatory, when connected with other economic matters the result might very well place women in an adverse position.

65. There was some discussion on the relative advantages of individual and aggregate taxation. The former was a recognition of the individual identity of the spouses, but, in the opinion of some members, both reflected variations in social patterns, and tax legislation could be worked out only in the light of a country's own system.

66. At the Chairman's request, Mr. Oldman clarified certain points raised. He indicated that family taxation was a small part of the general field of tax legislation and that aggregation was the only aspect which might be said to raise a problem, but pointed out that it was a problem arising from the different views of different countries and variations in social systems.

67. The Commission then proceeded to discuss future action with regard to the subject. Some members felt that with the release of the report, the item, which had been on the agenda for some years, was now exhausted, and expressed some doubts as to whether further, more detailed studies of tax legislation fell within the terms of reference of the Commission. Other members, although considering that it was properly a subject for study by the Commission while any discriminatory measures existed whether in law or in fact, nevertheless believed that it could be properly dealt with under economic items which were already on the agenda.

68. Some representatives felt that the subject should be further discussed at the next session of the Commission when members and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status would have had sufficient time to consider the report and be in a better position to formulate their recommendations.

69. The Chairman suggested that the subject might become a sub-item under the item “Economic opportunities for women”, and it was felt generally that the matter could be so included on the agenda for the fourteenth session of the Commission as an *ad hoc* project.

70. During the discussion, the Commission heard statements by the observers for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

VI. EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

71. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 295th to 299th meetings. It had before it a report by the International Labour Office and by the Secretary-General submitting the text of a revised draft pamphlet on equal pay for equal work (E/CN.6/341), and also a statement by the Open Door International (E/CN.6/NGO/69).

72. The Commission heard the representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), who explained the procedure for the application of the ILO Convention (No. 100) and Recommendation (No. 90) concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value.¹⁰ He welcomed the interest and support of the Commission with regard to this question, and also announced that the first ratification of the ILO Convention (No. 111) concerning Discrimination in Employment and Occupation, adopted in 1958,¹¹ had recently been registered. The draft pamphlet which was now before the Commission was intended to give a general picture of developments in the implementation of ILO Convention No. 100 and to bring them to the attention of the public. Further suggestions for improving the document would be welcomed.

73. In the course of the general debate, all members stressed the importance of the principle of equal pay for equal work. One member, referring to it as a fundamental right, emphasized that its importance in the economic sphere was comparable with that of the right to vote in the political sphere. Other members referred to the increasing importance of women's role in the national economies, with the growth of the female labour force. Equal pay meant increased purchasing power in a community.

74. Reference was made to the varying methods used in different countries to further the implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work. Some countries favoured legislative action, whereas in other countries wages and salaries were largely determined through the achievement of collective bargaining agreements between employers and employees. Some members of the Commission noted that the legislative method of regulating the problem of equal pay for equal work, if combined with other methods such as collective bargaining, would contribute more fully to the legal implementation and factual recognition of the principle. The activities of trade unions were of great value and the importance of women's participation in the work was stressed. It was mentioned that in some industries certain employers objected to employing women if equal pay was a mandatory condition of employment.

75. Members of the Commission repeatedly emphasized the importance of providing adequate vocational guidance and educational and training opportunities for women to enable them to become qualified for advancement to higher posts. It was agreed by several members that there

was a need for accurate job analysis and an evaluation of the relative content of "women's jobs" as compared to equivalent occupations in other fields, and in this connexion one member noted that trade unions in her country were undertaking analyses of that type. Some members stressed the necessity of refusing piece-work methods for evaluating the work of women and noted that that method was in use in several countries.

76. Several members referred to the need for more ratifications of ILO Convention No. 100 and felt that non-governmental organizations, including trade unions, should intensify their efforts to influence the Governments of their countries to ratify the Convention. In referring to the constitutional difficulties of certain federal States, one member pointed out that the adoption of equal pay legislation at the local level would tend to facilitate the adoption of adequate and comprehensive legislation at the national level.

77. General satisfaction was expressed at the adoption of ILO Convention No. 111 and several members welcomed the fact that article 6 of the draft instrument had been deleted from the Convention as finally adopted. One member emphasized that the action undertaken by the Commission with regard to the matter illustrated the continuing co-operation that had developed between the Commission, the specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations interested in the status of women.

78. There was general approval of the revised draft pamphlet. It was considered that the material would be of great value to Governments and non-governmental organizations, particularly trade unions, interested in achieving equal pay for equal work. There was a consensus of opinion that the pamphlet should be issued as soon as possible and that, when published, it should have the widest possible distribution.

79. In the course of the discussion a number of suggestions were made relating to matters of drafting and to certain alterations and corrections. There was some discussion regarding the form of the charts, and of the annexes and the material contained in them, it being understood that the secretariats of the United Nations and the ILO would co-operate closely in the editing of the pamphlet, and would aim at basing all charts on the same group of countries. Preference was expressed for the use of the term "equal pay for equal work" rather than "equal remuneration for work of equal value" in the title, as the former term had always been favoured by the Commission.

80. The Commission received a statement on the financial implications of the publication. The text of the statement is contained in annex II below.

81. The Commission heard statements by the observers for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the All-India Women's Conference, the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women, the

¹⁰ See International Labour Office, *Official Bulletin*, vol. XXXIV, No. 1 (1951), pp. 9 and 14.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. XLI, No. 2 (1958), pp. 72 and 76.

International Federation of Business and Professional Women and the International Federation of Women Lawyers.

82. The representatives of China, Cuba, Greece, Japan and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution relating to the publication of the pamphlet (E/CN.6/L.263). An amendment to the draft resolution was submitted by the representative of the United Kingdom (E/CN.6/L.264).

83. The draft resolution and the amendment were referred to the *ad hoc* Committee on Resolutions, which presented to the Commission a revised text (E/CN.6/L.265). At its 299th meeting the draft resolution was adopted unanimously by the Commission. The text of the resolution reads as follows:

5 (XIII). EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting the absence of information, in suitable form for public distribution, on international aspects of equal pay,

Believing that the draft pamphlet (E/CN.6/341) presented to the Commission at its thirteenth session is a significant contribution to the material on this subject,

Recognizing that each country shall, by means appropriate to the methods in operation for determining rates of remuneration, promote, and in so far as is consistent with such methods, ensure the application to all workers of the principle of equal pay for equal work,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Secretary-General and the International Labour Office for their work in developing and revising this document;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to edit the draft pamphlet in the light of discussion in the Commission;

3. *Recommends* that this pamphlet be issued by the United Nations as a sales publication;

4. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following resolution:

[*For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVII, draft resolution D.*]

VII. ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION

84. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 298th to 301st, 303rd and 305th meetings. It had before it a progress report prepared by UNESCO dealing with UNESCO activities in 1957 and 1958 of special interest to women and main activities proposed for 1959-1960 (E/CN.6/342); a report prepared by UNESCO (in collaboration with the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession) on access of women to the teaching profession (E/CN.6/345); relevant parts of the reports by the Secretary-General on the Status of Women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/338) and in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/339) and statements submitted by the International Alliance of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/70), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/63) and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (E/CN.6/NGO/68).

85. The Commission heard a statement by the representative of UNESCO, who reviewed the aspects of the work of that organization during 1957 and 1958 which were of special interest to the Commission. She indicated that the period had been distinguished by action which intensified and co-ordinated the activities of UNESCO in that field. She stressed the importance of the collaboration between UNESCO and the non-governmental organizations, which had grown during the period. A programme of increased activity in matters of particular interest to women had been adopted by the tenth session of the General Conference of UNESCO for 1959-1960. The programme included, among other activities, the preparation of a report on access of women to out-of-school education for the fourteenth session of the Commission, and a regional project for the countries of tropical Africa. Introducing the UNESCO report on the access of women to the teaching profession (E/CN.6/345),

she pointed out that the findings in the report indicated the necessity not only of assisting women to become teachers but also of encouraging them to obtain the qualifications required for improving the standard of the profession and also for securing senior posts in the profession.

86. In the course of the general debate, the Commission dealt first with the question of access to education in general. Most members felt that the eradication of illiteracy was of first importance not only to those areas of the world where illiteracy was widespread but also to those regions where it existed in villages and rural areas. It was recognized that certain factors impeded the advance of education in those countries and territories, such as a shortage of trained staff, limited financial resources of Governments, or family financial difficulties which often led to a choice being made on economic grounds so that education was available for boys only. Several members, while acknowledging the importance of access to every level of education, nevertheless considered that emphasis should be placed on the need for universal primary education. One member believed that this should be planned to meet the needs of the community and referred to the importance of some elementary technical training in industrial areas. Another member gave details of an educational programme being carried out in rural areas of her country. The need for teachers was stressed, one member emphasizing the role of the woman teacher in a village community, where she was often leader and adviser on many aspects of village life. Reference was made by several members to the value of regional seminars as a means of furthering the education of women in less developed regions. There were expressions of appreciation for the reports of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/338 and E/CN.6/339) which,

in a clear and stimulating way, had furnished much valuable background material for the debate on that subject.

87. The Commission next dealt with the question of the access of women to the teaching profession. Most members agreed that in most countries there were no problems of access to the teaching profession; in fact, teaching had often been among the first professions open to women. However, there were many other problems of concern to the woman teacher. Several members referred to the position of the married woman teacher, who often found it difficult to combine home duties with a career, or who, in some countries, faced the possibility of dismissal on marriage. Other members pointed out that in their countries, the married woman was encouraged to return to teaching after raising her family, and one instance was given of a training programme for the older married woman which equipped her to enter the teaching profession in middle life, and which had proved most successful. There was some discussion concerning the possibility of part-time work for women teachers, but it was considered by several members that the matter was outside the scope of the debate.

88. It was noted with concern that in some countries unequal pay scales for men and women teachers still existed. Several members mentioned that even where equal pay obtained, the standard of salary was so low that men were not attracted to the profession. As access to other professions became available to women, the number of women entering the teaching profession tended to decrease. It was felt, too, that where salaries were low in comparison with incomes from other professions, this reflected on the status of the teacher in the community and was a further deterrent to possible recruits to the profession. With respect to women teachers, it was noted that in many countries there was a very high proportion of women teachers at the primary and intermediate school levels but comparatively few at the upper levels. Some members stated that, since women were particularly successful teachers of very young children, it should also be recognized that boys' schools should have some women teachers since both male and female influence was important.

89. Replying to a question asked by one member concerning the term "institution of higher learning", the representative of UNESCO stated that the term had already been defined in the report prepared for the twelfth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/327) to indicate those institutions such as universities or technical colleges which gave a degree or diploma or a certificate of professional competence. One member considered that these should include institutions of professional training and said that confusion might likewise arise from the use of the term "primary schools", which in some countries included "pre-school" classes. Another member emphasized the distinction between teaching posts and administrative posts in institutions of higher learning.

90. Some members expressed appreciation of the UNESCO report, while others pointed out that some of the statistics presented in the report were outdated and

did not correspond to facts. It was felt that the report had drawn on source material which was inadequate and that additional sources of information should be drawn on in future reports. One member suggested that a new study, based on a questionnaire directed to Governments, was called for. The representative of UNESCO, replying to a question from another member, indicated that the report was based on a report prepared for the secretariat of UNESCO by the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession. The general trends and conclusions in the report reflected the trends for countries for which data had been examined. In drafting the final version, UNESCO had reflected also some individual opinions which were to a large degree included in the document submitted by the Confederation. One member pointed out the importance of taking into account the work of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in that field.

91. At the conclusion of the general debate, the Commission heard the representative of the ILO, who referred to the findings of a committee of experts which had been convened on 3 October 1958 by the ILO to deal with problems of teachers. UNESCO had also been represented at the meeting, the report of which had recently been submitted to the Governing Body of the ILO. The report emphasized, *inter alia*, that teachers and persons wishing to enter the teaching profession should be free from discrimination on any grounds.

92. The Commission heard statements by the observer for Romania, the representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and the observers for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade Unions, the All-India Women's Conference, the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, the International Federation of University Women, the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and the World Young Women's Christian Association.

93. The representatives of Greece and Poland submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.266) requesting the Economic and Social Council to call upon States to provide in their educational programmes for measures securing (a) increased facilities for the training of girls as teachers, (b) equal pay and equal promotion opportunities, (c) continuation or return of married women to teaching, and (d) a raising of the economic and social level of the teaching profession.

94. The representative of the United Kingdom submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.268) recommending, in view of the incompleteness of the report, that the Economic and Social Council invite UNESCO to prepare for the fifteenth session of the Commission a further report on the access of women to the teaching profession.

95. The two draft resolutions were referred to the *ad hoc* Committee on Resolutions. The Committee adopted a text (E/CN.6/L.269), which was presented to the Commission.

96. The Commission considered the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.269) at its 303rd and 305th meetings. The representative of the United States of America sub-

mitted an amendment replacing the words "and taking" in operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council by the words "this further report to take". The representative of the United Kingdom also submitted an amendment, calling for the insertion of the words "possibly owing to the vast sources of material available" after the words "nevertheless that" and of the word "now" after the word "is" in the fourth paragraph of the preamble to the Commission's draft resolution. The draft resolution, incorporating those amendments, was adopted unanimously. The text of the draft resolution is as follows:

6 (XIII). ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EDUCATION
ACCESS OF WOMEN TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting with satisfaction the steps taken by the organs of the United Nations regarding discrimination against women in the general field of education,

Noting also the report on the access of women to the

teaching profession prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the thirteenth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/345),

Appreciating the effort involved in the preparation of the UNESCO report,

Considering nevertheless that, possibly owing to the vast sources of material available, this report is now incomplete in that it does not reflect adequately the position of women in many member countries,

Considering that education is an important factor in combating discrimination against women in political, economic and social fields,

Considering also that, in numerous countries and territories where educational systems are in the early stages of development, discrimination is shown against girls when economic conditions require a choice to be made,

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

[For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVII, draft resolution E.]

VIII. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

97. The Commission discussed item 9 of its agenda at its 302nd to 309th meetings. It had before it a report by the Secretary-General on the occupational outlook for women in the professions of architect, engineer and jurist (E/CN.6/343 and Add.1-3) and a note by the Secretary-General on age of retirement and right to pension (E/CN.6/336). In addition, the Commission had before it statements by the International Council of Social Democratic Women (E/CN.6/NGO/59), the International Council of Women (E/CN.6/NGO/60), the International Federation of University Women (E/CN.6/NGO/66), the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations (E/CN.6/NGO/61) and the St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance (E/CN.6/NGO/65).

Occupational outlook for women

98. The question of the occupational outlook for women in the professions of architect, engineer and jurist was discussed by the Commission at its 302nd to 307th meetings.

99. In the course of the general debate, several members stressed that true equality could not be achieved by women until and unless they enjoyed equal economic rights. It was agreed that while few legal barriers remained, it was still necessary to work for the removal of existing prejudices and antiquated customs before complete equality of opportunity could be achieved. Many employers were reluctant to incur the expense of training women workers who retired after marriage or the birth of children. However, it was noted that this reluctance was being overcome gradually by the tendency of women to continue working after marriage, or to return to

work after children reached school age. The importance of woman's professional life was emphasized and many members agreed that a woman's domestic responsibilities should not necessarily prevent her from participating in the work of the community.

100. One member expressed the view that protective legislation originally intended to benefit women could result in discrimination. Another member pointed out that where such legislation applied to work underground, it was a deterrent to the entrance of women into the profession of mining engineering. Other members said that equal rights for women should not be understood formally, and that women should be granted protective measures in the field of labour.

101. In discussing ways of acquainting girls with the wide range of occupations in modern society, and the training requirements and employment possibilities involved, several members referred to the great value of adequate vocational guidance programmes. The role of mass media of communication in imparting knowledge and stimulating interest was stressed, and it was noted that the organization of forums and the publication of pamphlets were of considerable use. While the importance of government initiative in these matters was recognized, it was felt that the non-governmental organizations at all times made an important and valuable contribution.

102. During the debate, members of the Commission expressed appreciation of the comprehensive and imaginative report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/343 and Add.1-3). One member regretted that the report was based on the information furnished by only forty-one Governments; it was understood that additional material received would be issued as an addendum to the report for use at future sessions of the Commission.

103. The Commission heard the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO), who drew attention to the opportunities for women in the profession of sanitary engineering. Referring to the more general question of opportunities for women in the medical and para-medical professions, she stated that WHO was in a position to provide information on training and qualifications for those professions. Much of the information was contained in WHO publications such as the *World Directory of Medical Schools* and in other publications listed in the *Catalogue of WHO Publications*. She suggested that any questionnaire on opportunities for women in the medical and para-medical professions should exclude requests which would duplicate information already published by WHO or in the course of preparation. She also stated that it was not possible for WHO to increase its work in that field by undertaking a broader study. Finally, she emphasized that the training for men and women in all health professions was the same, and that WHO had no information to indicate that women were excluded from any specific categories of health professions. In reply to a question, she described the budgetary cycle of WHO.

104. While emphasizing the value of the studies undertaken by the Secretariat, and their future use as reference material, most members considered that it was essential to decide the direction in which further studies should develop. It was noted that there were already in existence reports on social work such as, for example, the study *Training for Social Work*,¹² on opportunities for women in handicrafts and cottage industries, on working mothers, on part-time employment and on the employment of older women workers. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization had been invited to prepare a revised report on access to the teaching profession and WHO had considerable information available regarding opportunities in the medical and para-medical professions. It was suggested that WHO would greatly assist the work of the Commission if it included in its regular programme of collection of information, inquiries on the participation of women in those professions, with particular regard to their access to those occupations, their status, their numbers in relation to the total and prospects for the future, including possibilities of official and public acceptance.

105. One member referred to the first selection of occupations which had been made from professions in which women had only recently begun to participate. She favoured continuing inquiries in those fields but at levels below the university level, particularly in the fields of architecture and engineering. Several members agreed that such inquiries would be useful in revealing the range of occupations now evolving, the background of workers who moved to higher levels, the methods of acquiring training and skills, and the possibilities of training programmes for older women workers. Some felt that a study of training and opportunities in occupations at the middle level could in turn lead to subsequent studies of economic opportunities for women in the range of

unskilled and manual work. It was also considered that further studies would be of additional value if they indicated trends in occupations over a period, so that variations in the numbers of women undertaking such occupations could be noted. It was suggested that it would be useful to have details of constructive measures being taken by women in various countries to encourage women to turn to new professions and trades. It was suggested that the form of the questionnaire to Governments be altered slightly by placing questions relating to training before those relating to employment opportunities. One member suggested that a question should also be put to Governments and non-governmental organizations concerning measures taken in order to improve the occupational outlook for women.

106. In the course of the debate, the Commission heard statements by the observers for the All-India Women's Conference, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the Pan Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association and the International Council of Social and Democratic Women.

107. The representatives of France, Japan, Mexico, Sweden and the United States of America submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.270). During the discussion of the draft resolution the representatives of the USSR, Poland, Israel and the United States proposed several oral amendments. The joint draft resolution was referred to the *ad hoc* Committee on Resolutions, which adopted a text (E/CN.6/L.272) and presented it to the Commission.

108. Some representatives stated that they would support the draft resolution, although they were not in full agreement with its wording. They felt that the resolution should have included a reference to the main factors hindering women from receiving equal free education, general as well as professional, and that in some countries economic conditions precluded the primary and vocational training of the broad mass of the population. One member expressed the view that the contemplated report should be expanded to cover the whole scope of the technical and liberal professions so that it might be possible to ascertain from such a comprehensive report where discrimination lay. The representative of the USSR asked for a separate vote on the fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs. These paragraphs were adopted by 15 votes to none, with 3 abstentions. The draft resolution was put to the vote and was adopted unanimously. The text of the resolution is as follows:

7 (XIII). OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK FOR WOMEN

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolution 5 (XI) and Economic and Social Council resolution 652 E (XXIV) in which the Council decided to undertake a global study of the access of women to training and employment in the principal professional and technical fields,

Having considered the valuable report of the Secretary-General on the access of women to and exercise by them of the professions of architecture, engineering and law,

¹² United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.IV.1.

Considering that, in order to enable the Commission to make substantive recommendations on this subject, the samples of global studies already undertaken in the professional and technical fields should include those professions related to architecture, engineering and law listed in the *International Standard Classification of Occupations* of the International Labour Office published in 1958,

Noting that the major obstacles to the training of women, and to the exercise by them of, these professions appear to stem from the inadequacy of the vocational guidance of girls and from the attitude of the public and of employers towards the recruitment of women into these professions, as well as from the conditions of employment and the availability of opportunities for advancement in them,

Considering that these obstacles can best be overcome by the enlightenment of public opinion, including parents, school teachers at various levels, and employers.

Considering also that non-governmental organizations, particularly professional associations, can give great assistance in such education,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to collect information and to prepare for the fifteenth session of the Commission, in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, a report on the availability of opportunities for women in the professions enumerated in group O — X, draughtsmen and science and engineering technicians not elsewhere classified (O — XI and O — X9), and in group O — Y, other professional, technical and related workers (O — Y1 and O — Y4), particularly those that are related to the professions of architecture, engineering and law, and to this end:

(a) To circulate, to States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies and to non-governmental organizations in consultative status, a questionnaire similar to that annexed to Economic and Social Council resolution 652 E (XXIV), together with a list of the above-mentioned professional and technical occupations as they are described and defined in the *International Standard Classification of Occupations* of the International Labour Office published in 1958;

(b) To invite such States and non-governmental organizations to transmit their replies to the Secretary-General, if possible before 1 September 1960, or, if such information has already been transmitted to the United Nations or to a specialized agency, to give a precise reference to the information previously furnished;

2. Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status, including professional associations, to continue and to increase their activities in the field of education of public opinion towards a wider understanding and knowledge of the facilities and opportunities existing for girls and women in the professions of architecture, engineering and law.

Age of retirement and right to pension

109. The Commission discussed the question of age of retirement and right to pension at its 305th to 309th meetings.

110. During the course of the debate, members of the Commission considered the question of the desirability of equal or lower retirement and pensionable ages for women as compared to those of men.

111. Several members referred to the importance of securing absolute equality with regard both to the compulsory and the optional age of retirement and to pensionable age. It was felt that there was danger of discrimination against women in employment if a lower pensionable or retirement age were maintained. Not only were the possibilities of career advancement for women reduced, but women started their careers on an unequal footing if the duration of the career were shorter. The view was expressed that some employers would be inclined to encourage women to retire before men, or would be unwilling to engage women who were approaching pensionable age. Reference was made to the lower life expectancy of men and it was considered by some members that that was an added reason for an equal retirement and pension age for both men and women. It was felt that women as well as men should have the opportunity of continuing in employment as long as they wished, provided they remained fit and efficient. The age at which women chose to retire often was the same as the age chosen by men.

112. It was pointed out by other members that woman's unique contribution to society and her important role as mother should be considered and that recognition by the community should be expressed by having a lower optional pensionable age for women than for men so that the retirement of women would become a right and not an obligation. Some members noted that less qualified women workers, particularly manual workers, were generally in favour of a lower pensionable age for women than for men. One member drew attention to the fact that in her country some members of the professions were also in favour of an earlier retirement age for women. The importance of safeguarding the right of women to continue to work while receiving a pension was also stressed. Attention was called to the importance of distinguishing between compulsory and voluntary retirement systems.

113. All members recognized the complexities of the existing position, which differed from country to country according to the social pattern there. Some members emphasized that the Commission should take the lead in the problem as the Commission had been created for the purpose of encouraging Member States to modify their legislation, where discriminatory, and to bring it into line with the principles of equality enunciated in the Charter. Some members indicated that there was a division of opinion on the subject in the Commission and that it might not be advisable to send the same resolution to the Economic and Social Council without an adequate explanation. It was suggested that the decision on the matter should be postponed to a later session.

114. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) made a statement in which he summarized the trends of thought on the question. He felt that both members who supported the idea of full

equality and those who believed in a differential in the age of retirement and optional pensionable age should have regard to the effect, on the labour force and consequently on social security, of the technical advances such as automation and the introduction of atomic energy for industrial purposes.

115. The Commission heard statements by the observers for the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, the World Federation of Trade Unions and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women.

116. At its 307th meeting, the Commission considered a draft resolution submitted by the Dominican Republic, France, Mexico and Sweden (E/CN.6/L.274). Amendments to the draft resolution were submitted by Czechoslovakia (E/CN.6/L.275), the text of which read as follows:

"In the draft resolution to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council:

"(1) Insert the words 'at least' between the words 'conditions of work' and 'equal' in the first paragraph of the preamble;

"(2) Replace the second paragraph of the preamble by the following:

'Considering, however, that women workers should, with respect to retirement age, have a more favourable position than men workers';

"(3) In *paragraph 1* replace the words 'equal rights of women' by the words 'the right of women to a more favourable position';

"(4) Replace the text of paragraph 2 by the following: '*Recommends* that all States Members of the United Nations and specialized agencies should promote in every way the equal rights of men and women workers with respect to pension plans and the implementation of the principle that women workers should enjoy a more favourable position with respect to retirement age.'"

117. At its 309th meeting the sponsors of the joint draft resolution submitted a revised draft resolution

(E/CN.6/L.274/Rev.1), which took into account several suggestions made during the course of the debate.

118. At its 309th meeting the Commission rejected the Czech amendments by 3 votes to 15. The suggestion of the representative of Canada that the full expression of views as reflected in the debate should be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council with the resolution was supported by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Argentina and Czechoslovakia. The draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.274/Rev.1) was put to the vote and was adopted by a roll-call vote of 11 to 3, with 4 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Canada, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden.

Against: Czechoslovakia, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Argentina, Israel, United Kingdom, United States of America.

The resolution, as adopted, read as follows:

8 (XIII). AGE OF RETIREMENT AND RIGHT TO PENSION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 680 C II (XXVI), of 10 July 1958,

Having considered the question of the age of retirement and right to pension in the light of its previous proceedings and those of the Council at its twenty-sixth session,

Believing that there should be no difference between men and women workers with respect to the age of retirement, either optional or compulsory, and right to pension, and that retirement age and pension rights should be determined according to rules applicable to men and women alike,

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

[*For the text of the draft resolution, see chapter XVII, draft resolution F.*]

IX. ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME

119. The Commission considered item 10 of its agenda at its 307th meeting. It had before it a report by the Secretary-General on advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.4/775 and Add.1 — E/CN.6/346 and Add.1).

120. During the discussion of this item several members noted with appreciation the work performed by the Secretary-General and the Division of Human Rights of the Secretariat in the successful organization of several seminars under the programme of advisory services. Satisfaction was also expressed with the increase by the General Assembly of the 1959 budget for the programme of advisory services and with the fact that more Governments were extending invitations to the Secretary-

General to hold future seminars in their countries. Members of the Commission manifested their appreciation to the Governments of Colombia and Ethiopia for their invitations to act as hosts for regional seminars on the participation of women in public life. During the course of the discussion one member noted that if more Governments were aware of the fact that, under the General Assembly resolution, they had to take the initiative by addressing an invitation to the Secretary-General, more Governments would be making use of the opportunity.

121. In view of the success of the Bangkok seminar, the hope was expressed that the seminar on the participation of women in public life, to be held at Bogotá,

Colombia, during May 1959, will be equally useful for the implementation of women's political rights. The representative of the Dominican Republic stressed the importance for Latin American women of the holding of the Bogotá seminar.

122. All members of the Commission participating in the debate emphasized the value of the seminars and their contribution to the improvement of the status of women. Several members stated that it would be desirable to hold seminars dealing with the status of women in family law and other related fields. It was generally felt that seminars on the status of women should be held on an annual basis. One member pointed out the usefulness of national seminars on the promotion of the right of women, particularly in countries which had recently

become independent and in Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories. Another member felt that in organizing the regional seminar in Ethiopia it would be desirable to assure the participation of women from all parts of Africa, with emphasis on the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa.

123. One member felt that particular attention should be given to the follow-up of the seminars by holding national seminars and that the importance of other aspects of the advisory services programme should also be stressed, such as provision of fellowships and expert assistance in the field of human rights.

124. In the course of its discussion the Commission heard statements by the observers for Colombia and for the International Federation of Women Lawyers.

X. PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

125. The Commission discussed item 11 of its agenda at its 307th and 308th meetings.

126. During the debate it was agreed that the participation of women in the work of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies was a matter of particular interest to the Commission, which was concerned with the implementation of Article 8 of the United Nations Charter, and that the item should be included in the Commission's agenda each year.

127. Several members of the Commission noted that the participation of women in the work of the General Assembly and in the secretariats of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies had increased in the lower levels and decreased in senior positions during the past years. It was felt that this situation was far from satisfactory: in their opinion the participation of women in the secretariats should not be limited to appointment and employment at lower levels; they also expressed the hope that more Governments would appoint women to responsible positions in their delegations to the General Assembly, to other organs of the United Nations, and to their permanent delegations to the United Nations, and that women in the secretariats would have the same opportunities for promotion as men. They also expressed their confidence that the Secretary-General and the Directors-General of the specialized agencies would make every effort to appoint women to senior positions.

It was generally felt that, in order to increase the participation of women, Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations, should recommend both women and men to vacant positions.

128. One representative expressed her concern at the lack of a qualified woman specialist in the department of education of the secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In her opinion, a qualified specialist in that particular field would be of the greatest value to the work of the Commission and of UNESCO.

129. Two members expressed the hope that a qualified woman would be appointed to the post of Chief of the Women's and Young Workers' Division in the International Labour Office, which was currently vacant. The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) stated that, according to paragraphs 1 and 3 of article 9 of the ILO Constitution, the personnel of the ILO was appointed "by the Director-General under the regulations approved by the Governing Body" and that "a certain number of these persons shall be women".

130. The Commission felt that both UNESCO and the ILO, which had co-operated so closely with the Commission, should include among their staff women specialists to work in the fields of interest to women.

XI. REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN TO THE SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES AT ITS ELEVENTH SESSION

131. The Commission considered item 12 of its agenda at its 307th meeting.

132. The Commission heard an oral report by Miss Mañas (Cuba), who had represented the Commission at the eleventh session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

133. Miss Mañas reported on her participation in the discussion of the item dealing with discrimination in the field of employment and occupation. The Sub-Commission had before it the texts of the Convention (No. 111) and Recommendation (No. 111) concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupa-

tion which had been adopted by the International Labour Conference at its forty-second session in June 1958.¹³

134. She also referred to her participation in the discussion of the item dealing with discrimination in the matter of religious rights and practices and more particularly with the "Form of celebration of marriage

¹³ See International Labour Office, *Official Bulletin*, vol. XLI, No. 2 (1958), p. 72.

and its dissolution". She drew attention to the questions of the age of marriage, the prior consent of the intending spouses, and the registration of marriage.

135. In taking note of this report, the Commission expressed its deep appreciation of the services rendered by its representative.

136. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) appealed to members of the Commission to call upon their Governments to ratify Convention No. 111 at an early date.

XII. REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

137. The Commission had before it the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/349). During its 309th meeting the Commission heard a statement by the President of that Commission.

138. Several members of the Commission expressed their great interest in the report as well as in the statement made by the President of the Inter-American Commission of Women; they also manifested their

appreciation of the work of the Inter-American Commission, commenting on its long and distinguished history and on the valuable collaboration between that Commission and the Commission on the Status of Women.

139. The Commission took note with appreciation of the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

XIII. COMMUNICATIONS

140. In accordance with resolution 76 (V) of the Economic and Social Council, as amended by resolution 304 I (XI), communications concerning the status of women had been summarized by the Secretary-General in a non-confidential list (E/CN.6/CR.12); no confidential communication had been received.

141. The non-confidential list was reviewed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Communications, whose report

(E/CN.6/L.271) was unanimously approved by the Commission at its 305th meeting.

142. The Commission had also before it a note of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/347) drawing the attention of members of the Commission on the Status of Women to the report of the Committee on Communications of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/782). The Commission took note of the report.

XIV. PLACE OF MEETING OF NEXT SESSION

143. At the 307th meeting of the Commission, the representative of Argentina extended to the Commission an invitation from her Government to hold the fourteenth session of the Commission at Buenos Aires.

144. The place of meeting of the next session was considered at the 309th meeting. Several members commented on the benefits derived from holding sessions in different parts of the world, particularly by women and women's organizations in the regions where meetings were held. One member reminded the Commission that the holding of the third session of the Commission in Beirut, Lebanon, had contributed to the promotion of political rights for women in that part of the world.

145. The representative of the Secretary-General, in a statement of financial implications, reminded the Commission that sessions could be held away from Headquarters only if the Government issuing the invitation was willing to defray the expenses exceeding the cost of

holding the session at Headquarters, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII). It was pointed out that the excess cost of a session held away from Headquarters was a matter for negotiation with the host country. The representative of Argentina stated that her Government maintained its invitation, subject to the terms of paragraph 2 (e) of General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII) concerning the financial consequences of holding meetings away from Headquarters.

146. Members of the Commission were most appreciative of the generosity and initiative shown by the Government of Argentina in extending its invitation. A joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.277), was submitted by the representatives of Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Israel, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, the USSR, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The text of the resolution, which was adopted unanimously, is as follows:

9 (XIII). PLACE OF MEETING OF THE NEXT SESSION

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having noted with appreciation the kind invitation of the Government of Argentina to hold the fourteenth session of the Commission in that country,

Hoping that this invitation will be accepted by the United Nations,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council to decide that the Commission on the Status of Women should meet at Buenos Aires in 1960.

**XV. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES
AND CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF DOCUMENTATION**

147. At its 309th meeting the Commission considered items 15 and 16 of its agenda. The Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the review of the programme of work, establishment of priorities and control and limitation of documentation (E/CN.6/340), an appraisal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations programme in the matter of human rights and the status of women (E/CN.4/787-E/CN.6/348) and a working paper by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/L.273) suggesting a list of priorities on the basis of decisions reached at the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission.

148. The Commission proceeded to consider the working paper by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/L.273). The representative of the United Kingdom suggested that the report on tax legislation applicable to women be dealt with under "Equal pay for equal work" (item (f) of the list of *ad hoc* projects of high priority for the fourteenth session of the Commission), and not under "Economic opportunities for women" (item (e) of that list). The suggestion was not accepted by the Commission, which preferred to adhere to its previous decision as reflected in paragraph 69 of its report to the Council.

149. The representative of the USSR suggested the inclusion in the list of projects of an item on maternity protection and the rights of working women, which are dealt with in International Labour Conventions Nos. 45 and 103. She felt that the addition of such an item to the programme of work of the Commission might promote the enactment of legislation on those subjects by countries which had not yet ratified those conventions. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) pointed out to the Commission that reports on the application of ILO conventions were examined by a committee of experts, who submitted their findings to the Annual Conference of the ILO for consideration. It would be unfortunate if the Commission on the Status of Women were to encroach on an area where control was exercised by the ILO with a great deal of care. He suggested that action of the kind contemplated by the representative of the USSR could best be taken in the ILO.

150. Several members stated that they were in full agreement with the suggestions of the Secretary-General contained in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of his note (E/CN.6/340). The representative of the United States of America felt, however, that progress reports of the ILO on equal pay for equal work should be continued on an annual basis. The representative of the ILO urged the Commission not to prejudge the issue at that time since a

report on the subject would be prepared for its fourteenth session and since the International Labour Office was not in a position to report to the Commission annually in the future.

151. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed her appreciation of the *Newsletter on the Status of Women* in its new form and suggested that members of the Commission make available to the Secretariat any information which might be of use.

152. The following programme of work was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 309th meeting:

I. Continuing project of high priority

- (a) Political rights of women: (i) Consolidated memorandum on the franchise and eligibility of women (E/3228, para. 30; resolution 1 (XIII), part A); (ii) Report on the status of women in Trust Territories (E/CN.6/340, para. 9); (iii) Report on the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories (E/CN.6/340, para. 9);
- (b) Advisory services in the field of human rights: Progress report by the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 926 (X));
- (c) Equal pay for equal work: Progress report by the International Labour Office on implementation by Governments of the principle of equal pay for equal work including signatures and ratification of the ILO Convention (No. 100) on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; (E/CN.6/307, para. 4 and E/CN.6/340, para. 7);
- (d) Status of women in private law: Supplementary reports on legislation and practice in family law and property rights of women (Economic and Social Council resolution 547 F (XVIII));
- (e) Nationality of married women: Supplementary report of the Secretary-General containing information on recent changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women (E/2850, para. 182);
- (f) Biennial *Newsletter on the Status of Women*: (E/1712, para. 93; E/3228, para. 151);

II. Ad hoc projects of high priority

- (a) Political rights of women: Report of the Secretary-General on the access of women to public services and functions (E/3096, paras. 26 and 172);
- (b) Advisory services in the field of human rights: Report of the seminar held in Bogotá in May 1959 (E/3228, para. 30, resolution 1 (XIII), part B);
- (c) Status of women in private law: (i) Report of the Secretary-General on the age of marriage, free consent of the parties to the marriage and registration of marriages, based on replies of Governments and of non-governmental organizations to the questionnaire (E/3096, para. 56; Economic and Social Council resolution 680 B (XXVI)); (ii) Report by the Secretary-General containing a draft Convention on the age of marriage, free consent of both parties to the marriage and the compulsory

- registration of marriages (E/3096, para. 56 and E/3228, para. 49; resolution 3 (XIII));
- (d) Access of women to education: Report by UNESCO on the access of women to out-of-school education (E/3096, paras. 30, 42 and 172);
 - (e) Economic opportunities for women: Consideration of the report on tax legislation applicable to women, prepared for the thirteenth session of the Commission (E/3228, para. 69);
 - (f) Equal pay for equal work: Publication of the pamphlet on equal pay for equal work (E/3228, para. 83, resolution 5 (XIII))
- III. *Ad hoc projects of low priority for the fifteenth session of the Commission*
- (a) Access of women to education: Further report by UNESCO on the access of women to the teaching profession (E/3228, para. 96, resolution 6 (XIII));
 - (b) Economic opportunities for women: Report by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the specialized agencies concerned, on the occupational outlook for women (Economic and Social Council resolution 652 E (XXIV) and E/3228, para. 108, resolution 7 (XIII));
 - (c) Economic rights of women: Report by the International Labour Office on the application of ILO Convention (No. 111) concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation (Economic and Social Council resolution 625 B III (XXII); E/3096, para. 169);
 - (d) Nationality of married women: Publication on the nationality of married women, containing the history and commentary of the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women and bringing up to date the information contained in the earlier publication on the subject (E/3228, para. 60, resolution 4 (XIII)).

XVI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

153. At its 310th meeting the Commission on the Status of Women unanimously adopted the report of its thirteenth session to the Economic and Social Council.

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

A

Report of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women (thirteenth session) (E/3228).

B

Status of women in private law

AGE OF MARRIAGE, FREE CONSENT, AND REGISTRATION OF MARRIAGES ¹⁴

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 680 B (XXVI) of 10 July 1958 concerning a minimum age of marriage, the requirement of the free consent of both parties to the marriage, and the compulsory registration of marriages,

1. *Considers* that it may be appropriate to prescribe desirable standards in these fields by means of an international instrument prepared under the auspices of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare for the fourteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women a draft convention dealing with the three questions referred to above.

¹⁴ See paragraphs 41-49.

C

Nationality of married women ¹⁵

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that, by its resolution 1040 (XI) of 29 January 1957, the General Assembly had adopted the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women and that, by 6 March 1959, the Convention had been signed, ratified and acceded to by twenty-seven countries,

Noting that the printed publication on the *Nationality of Married Women* ¹⁶ prepared by the Secretary-General for the ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women is practically exhausted.

Noting also the subsequent reports prepared annually by the Secretary-General for submission to the Commission on the Status of Women, containing changes in legislation affecting the nationality of married women and other valuable information,

Believing that a history of the Convention and a concise and objective commentary on its provisions should be made available to the public in the form of a printed publication similar to the successful publication on the *Convention on the Political Rights of Women*, ¹⁷

Requests the Secretary-General to prepare and arrange for the publication, at an early date, of a book on the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, containing a history of the Convention and a commentary on its provisions, and also bringing up to date

¹⁵ See paragraphs 55-60.

¹⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.IV.1.

¹⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No.: 1955.IV.17.

the information contained in the publication prepared for the ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and in subsequent reports.

D

Equal pay for equal work¹⁸

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women that the draft pamphlet on equal pay prepared by the Secretary-General in collaboration with the International Labour Office¹⁹ be issued by the United Nations as a sales publication,

Believing that progress in this field may be stimulated by this publication,

Requests the Secretary-General to issue this publication as soon as possible.

E

Access of women to education

ACCESS OF WOMEN TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION²⁰

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the views expressed in the debates of the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirteenth session on the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the access of women to the teaching profession,²¹

¹⁸ See paragraphs 78-83.

¹⁹ E/CN.6/341.

²⁰ See paragraphs 87-96.

²¹ E/CN.6/345.

1. *Calls the attention* of States to its resolutions 547 K (XVIII) of 12 July 1954 and 587 G (XX), of 3 August 1955;

2. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare for the fifteenth session of the Commission on the Status of Women a further report on the access of women to the teaching profession based on information from Member States and other authoritative sources, this further report to take into account the debates in the Commission at its thirteenth session and also the developments arising from the report of the Meeting of Experts on Teachers' Problems convened by the International Labour Office in Geneva in October 1958.

F

Economic opportunities for women

AGE OF RETIREMENT AND RIGHT TO PENSION²²

The Economic and Social Council,

Accepting the principle that women workers should be accorded conditions of work equal to those of men workers,

1. *Recommends* that all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies facilitate by all appropriate means, the equal treatment of men and women workers with respect to pension plans, and the implementation of the principle that the retirement age, either optional or compulsory, and the pensionable age, should be the same for men and women workers;

2. *Urges* the non-governmental organizations in consultative status to continue their efforts towards equal rights of women with respect to the age of retirement and to rights of workers to pension.

²² See paragraphs 110-118.

ANNEXES

Annex I

List of documents prepared for the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirteenth session

A/3889	Constitutions, electoral laws and other legal instruments relating to political rights of women: memorandum by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/185/Add.16	Status of women in family law: report by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/208/Add.4	Status of women in property rights: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/254/Add.5	Nationality of married women: memorandum by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/335	Questionnaire prepared by the Secretary-General on consent to marriage, age of marriage and registration of marriages
E/CN.6/336	Age of retirement and right to pension: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/337 and Add.1	Provisional agenda for the thirteenth session of the Commission
E/CN.6/337/Rev.1	Agenda as adopted by the Commission
E/CN.6/338	Information concerning the status of women in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/339	Information concerning the status of women in Non-Self-Governing Territories: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/340	Review of programme of work, establishment of priorities; control and limitation of documentation: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/341	Equal pay for equal work: report of the International Labour Office and of the Secretary-General submitting a revised draft pamphlet
E/CN.6/342	Access of women to education: report by UNESCO on its activities in the field of women's education in 1957-1958 and for 1959-1960
E/CN.6/343 and Add. 1-3	Occupational outlook for women: access of women to training and employment in architecture, engineering and the legal profession: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/344 and Add. 1-2	Tax legislation applicable to women: report prepared by Mr. Oliver Oldman, Lecturer on International Tax Law, Harvard University, acting as a consultant to the United Nations Secretariat
E/CN.6/345	Access of women to the teaching profession: report prepared by UNESCO in collaboration with the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession
E/CN.6/346 and Add.1 E/CN.4/775 and Add.1	Advisory services in the field of human rights: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/347	Note by the Secretary-General drawing the attention of the Commission to the report of the Committee on Communications of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/782)
E/CN.6/348- E/CN.4/787	Review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities; control and limitation of documentation: appraisal by the Secretary-General of the programme in the matter of human rights and the status of women
E/CN.6/349	Report by the Inter-American Commission of Women
E/CN.6/CR.12	Non-confidential list of communications
E/CN.6/L.273	Review of the programme of work and establishment of priorities: working paper by the Secretary-General suggesting a list of priorities on the basis of decisions reached at the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission
E/CN.6/NGO/59	Economic opportunities for women: statement by the International Council of Social Democratic Women
E/CN.6/NGO/60	Economic opportunities for women: statement by the International Council of Women
E/CN.6/NGO/61	Economic opportunities for women: statement by the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations
E/CN.6/NGO/62	Status of women in private law: statement by the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations

E/CN.6/NGO/63	Access of women to education: statement by the International Federation of University Women
E/CN.6/NGO/64	Status of women in private law: statement by the St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance
E/CN.6/NGO/65	Economic opportunities for women: statement by the St. Joan's International Social and Political Alliance
E/CN.6/NGO/66	Economic opportunities for women: statement by the International Federation of University Women
E/CN.6/NGO/67	Status of women in private law: statement by the Pan Pacific South-east Asia Women's Association
E/CN.6/NGO/68	Access of women to education: statement by the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations
E/CN.6/NGO/69	Equal pay for equal work: statement by the Open Door International
E/CN.6/NGO/70	Access of women to education: statement by the International Alliance of Women
E/CN.6/NGO/71	Political rights of women: statement by the International Alliance of Women

Annex II

Financial implications of decisions taken by the Commission on the Status of Women during its thirteenth session

1. In the course of its thirteenth session, the Commission took note of statements of financial implications made by the Secretary-General in respect of those proposals the implementation of which would entail additional budgetary expenditures. A summary of these statements relating to the proposals as adopted by the Commission is given below.

Nationality of married women ^a

2. The proposed printing in 1960 of a publication of approximately 125 pages on the Convention on the Nationality of Married Women would entail an estimated cost (for English, French and Spanish editions) of \$3,400. Some sales income is to be expected. The estimated cost for translation is \$2,250.

Equal pay for equal work ^b

3. The proposed printing in 1960 of a publication of approximately 80 pages on equal pay for equal work would entail an

estimated cost (for English, French and Spanish editions) of \$2,300. Some sales income is to be expected.

4. These additional expenditures would be taken into account by the Secretary-General in connexion with the submission to the General Assembly at its fourteenth session of revisions of his initial budget estimates for 1960.

Place of meeting for the fourteenth session of the Commission ^c

5. The additional costs of holding the Commission's fourteenth session (1960) in Buenos Aires would be wholly met by the Government of Argentina, in accordance with para. 2 (e) of General Assembly resolution 1202 (XII). As required by that resolution, the Secretary-General will consult with the Government of Argentina concerning the nature and extent of the extra costs. The Secretary-General will submit a detailed financial statement to the Economic and Social Council at its twenty-eighth session.

^a See paragraph 56.

^b See paragraph 80.

^c See paragraph 146.