

124. Mr. DIEZ (Chile), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, quoted a recent interview in the Italian periodical *Oggi* in which the wife of Andrei Sakharov emphasized how little the West knew about the true conditions in the Soviet Union and noted that Red Cross representatives were not permitted to visit political prisons in the Soviet Union, where the situation was more tragic than that in Chile.

125. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Committee, in its long debate on the widespread and flagrant violations of human rights in Chile, had learned what the true status of women was in Chile. He recalled that the representative of the junta had attempted to reject

the report⁵ of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group established by the Commission on Human Rights.

126. Rather than ferret out anti-Soviet fables in various newspapers, The Chilean representative would do better to study that report and the relevant resolutions adopted by the Committee more carefully. The Chilean representative had given no indication as to what the junta was doing to comply with those resolutions.

The meeting rose at 11.40 p.m.

⁵ A/10285, annex.

2179th meeting

Friday, 5 December 1975, at 11.00 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2179

AGENDA ITEMS 75 AND 76

International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (*continued*)

Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and co-operation between States (*continued*) (A/10003, chap. III, sect. F; E/5725 and Add.1, A/10042, A/10045, A/10049 and Corr.1, A/10056, A/10057, A/10066, A/10070, A/10071, A/10073, A/10075, A/10076, A/10088, A/10089, A/10099, A/10107, A/10111, A/10138, A/10140, A/10160, A/10210, A/10263, A/10264, A/10340, A/C.3/643, A/C.3/644, A/C.3/647, A/C.3/648, A/C.3/L.2193, A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2195-2198, A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2200, A/C.3/L.2206)

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that Lesotho and Oman had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2193; that Oman had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195; that Hungary had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196; that Canada, Liberia and Zambia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198; that Zambia had become a sponsor of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1; and that Belgium, Uganda and Zambia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200.

2. Mr. STÄHL (Sweden) said that the United Nations could look back with a certain satisfaction at what had been achieved during the International Women's Year. The United Nations had a long record of fruitful work in

promoting the status of women in the context of basic human rights; the quest for equality between men and women had now been recognized as an integral part of the struggle against poverty and under-development. Furthermore, the integration of women into development had been linked with the establishment of a new international economic order.

3. A life of poverty, hunger and exploitation was the grim reality for millions of people in the poor countries, and those conditions could be changed only through a new world order. However, new international economic relations would not automatically bring about equality between men and women, and reforms in the international economic system must be coupled with domestic reforms. It would take dedicated efforts on the part of the Governments of the world to implement the measures that had been agreed on under the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (see E/5725 chap. II, sect. A) and that work must form part of over-all efforts to attain equality between individual members and groups of society. The World Plan of Action allotted a crucial role in its implementation to the United Nations system, and it was the task of the United Nations to stimulate and monitor national efforts. The United Nations must also strive to ensure equality between men and women in its own activities for social and economic development. At the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975 and during the current session of the General Assembly his delegation had initiated and supported proposals designed to strengthen the unit of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for implementing the World Plan of Action, as well as measures designed to link the follow-up of the World Plan of Action with the everyday social and economic work of the organizations of the United Nations system.

4. The United Nations could look forward with hope to continued efforts by all nations and international organizations to promote equality between men and women. The issue of equality between the sexes had been recognized as fundamental in the life of all nations; that awareness should be translated into renewed efforts to promote equality, development and peace.

5. Mrs. HERRERA (Dominican Republic) said her delegation had been most surprised to hear the representative of Saudi Arabia (2173rd meeting) affirm that the decadence of the Western world was directly linked with the breakdown of the family and with the efforts of women to occupy their rightful place alongside men. Far from being the cause of Western decadence, women were the only hope of the world to stop the march towards disaster and to attain a more secure, human and just future. The International Women's Year had healed many of the wounds which women had inherited from the past and had given further impetus to all those who sought to enhance the status of women.

6. During the Year women and men in the most remote corners of the world had gained fuller awareness of the prejudices against half the human race which abounded at all levels in all cultures and which must be eradicated if lasting changes were to be achieved. Women had a crucial role to play in achieving full awareness of their rights. Her delegation opposed any belittling of the role of women as mothers, since the feminine task of procreation was essential to the survival of the human race. At the same time, men had to share in the responsibility of bringing up children. Excessive emphasis on women's role as mothers also excluded the many women who did not choose to bear children.

7. Her delegation believed that the world could not advance towards a more just future until women were included in all human projects. However, that did not mean that women should seek to monopolize the leadership roles currently reserved for men; women had the mission to impart to future generations a full awareness of existing sexual, racial and religious prejudices and a profound sense of the right of all human beings to a just share of the material and cultural wealth of the human race. The Dominican Republic therefore supported the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace (see E/5725, chap. I) and the World Plan of Action, and it had sponsored the draft resolutions aimed at ensuring the continuation of the work begun during the Year. Her country remained opposed to the inclusion of Zionism and other subjects of a political nature in some paragraphs of the resolutions, since that would merely delay the united action of all countries which was essential for the attainment of the goals of the Year.

8. In the Dominican Republic women had long participated in important roles in all spheres of national and international life. During the International Women's Year studies had been made on the condition of women, seminars had been held and leaflets published with a view to drawing attention to the problems which women faced at all levels. On 12 June 1975 the Executive Council had issued a decree approving the creation of a centre for the integration of women into development. The purposes of

that centre included the provision of research and information services, participation in the national planning process, the encouragement of educational reforms, the promotion of health services for women and children, working for the elimination of discrimination against women in employment and assistance in the organization of training courses for rural women. The Dominican Republic hoped that the centre would, in the not too distant future, become a regional centre for the realization of the World Plan of Action for Central America and the Caribbean. Her Government had also made a study of Dominican legislation and national codes with a view to revoking all regulations which discriminated against women.

9. All resolutions on enhancing the status of women must be translated into immediate projects with short-term and long-term plans. The future would be the result not only of decisions but also of changes in thinking and aspirations. It was necessary to reach agreement on the path to be followed and it was therefore essential to eliminate the divisions between feminists and traditionalists, Easterners and Westerners, socialists and capitalists. In the movement for the liberation of women there could only be futurists, those who hoped for a future in which equality between men and women would be the pivot of the struggle to ensure the dignity of all persons and their interdependence in a single human family.

10. Mr. AZIZ (International Labour Organisation) said that at its sixtieth session in June 1975 the International Labour Conference had adopted a declaration and two resolutions concerning the need to improve the economic and social conditions of women; those resolutions had resulted from the discussion of a major ILO report concerning equality of opportunity and treatment for women workers. The declaration and resolutions concerned the need to eliminate discrimination against women and to promote equality of opportunity and treatment for working women, who currently numbered about 600 million in a world labour force of 1,637 million. ILO had also adopted a convention and resolution aimed at improving the lot of rural women, who in the developing countries constituted a very high proportion of all working women. The convention committed the ratifying countries to facilitating the establishment and growth on a voluntary basis of strong and independent organizations of rural workers. The Conference had also adopted a convention and resolution to encourage Member States to modernize their training and vocational guidance policies and programmes so as to eliminate inequality.

11. He recalled that the principle of equal pay for work of equal value was enshrined in the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value (No. 100) and the Recommendation on the same topic (No. 90),¹ which had been adopted 24 years earlier and had been ratified by over 80 countries. The International Women's Year had provided an opportunity to review the implementation of the Convention; a Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations had carried out a world-wide survey of the Convention and its parallel recommendations. It was

¹ International Labour Organisation, *Conventions and Recommendations 1919-1966*, (Geneva, 1966).

particularly gratifying that Mrs. Helvi Sipilä, Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, had been able to visit the Conference during the session at which it had considered the findings of the Committee of Experts. ILO was also considering whether there was a need to revise the Convention concerning Night Work of Women in Industry (Revised) (No. 89) of 1948,¹ and the matter had been raised in the Governing Body. It was expected that a tripartite meeting of experts would consider the question in depth during the 1976-1977 biennium. ILO would report back to the Committee on the results of those findings.

12. Mrs. GHIMIRE (Nepal) said that her delegation fully supported the main principles of the Declaration of Mexico, the World Plan of Action and other resolutions adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year (*ibid.*, chap. III) and believed that proper implementation of the decisions of the Conference would greatly enhance the status of women and thereby bring about major improvements in the world economic and social situation. During the proposed United Nations decade for women (see A/C.3/L.2195), her Government would endeavour, to the limit of its modest resources, to implement the decisions of the Conference. Most of the recommendations contained in the World Plan of Action included areas of activity with which the Government of Nepal had already been concerned for some time. An endeavour would be made to adopt the strategies, plans and programmes within the framework of the over-all development plan.

13. Her delegation supported the proposed biennial review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action and the proposal to convene another world conference in 1980 to review and evaluate the implementation of the decisions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (*ibid.*). It felt that research activities and the availability of data constituted the most important factor for formulating national and regional plans and programmes of action and for evaluating the progress of their implementation and was therefore glad that the World Plan of Action placed special emphasis on research, data collection and analysis. In that connexion it reiterated its support for resolution 26 of the Conference aimed at establishing an international institute on research and training for the advancement of women. Nepal had developed a research project of its own, under which it aimed to make a study of the current status of Nepalese women and the hindrances to their progress, with a view to developing a project for the advancement of Nepalese women. It hoped for some international assistance and co-operation in carrying out the project, which it believed could serve as a pilot project for other developing countries of the region with similar socio-economic situations. Her delegation felt that the impetus of the World Conference should be sustained by organizing regional and interregional meetings at regular intervals on different aspects of the problems relating to the equal status of women and their contribution to development.

14. The International Women's Year had given the women of Nepal an increased consciousness of their equal rights in society. Many activities were being carried out on a nation-wide basis through both governmental and non-governmental agencies, and a national Committee of the International Women's Year had been constituted under the

patronage of the Queen of Nepal. With more than 95 per cent of the population engaged in agriculture, the status of Nepalese women could not be enhanced unless the socio-economic and cultural status of the rural women of Nepal was improved. Her Government had therefore given highest priority in its national plan to the development of the agricultural sector of the economy. In that connexion, it supported resolution 21 of the Conference concerning the condition of 'women in rural areas. The international community should give due consideration to the problem of rural women, especially in the least developed of the developing countries, which needed financial, technical and other international assistance for their efforts in rural development.

15. Miss MATETE (Lesotho) said that it was the policy of Lesotho to respect women's rights and to include women in the development of the country. Since the time of Lesotho's political independence, the women of Lesotho had had the same right to vote as men, and they were entitled to equal pay for work of equal value. The Government had emphasized that equal numbers of men and women should be enrolled at the Lesotho National University. Her delegation strongly believed that the social responsibilities of women, including child-bearing, should not prevent them from participating fully in society. It was contrary to the Charter of the United Nations to ignore that human issue. One of the most discouraging factors that women had to deal with was the tendency of Governments to take the view that constructive action to change the prevailing situation should be left to women themselves. Women in Lesotho had for many years successfully showed their ability in the commonly accepted roles of women, such as nursing, teaching and agriculture; it was sad to note that in the higher echelons of administration and in work for development, women often found themselves in inferior positions despite their qualifications. In that connexion, her delegation felt that it was not enough to voice support for women's rights; Governments should take the responsibility for abolishing the anachronistic legal barriers and inherited social structures which prevented women from fully participating in development. Her delegation believed that it was a great pity that the developing countries, which needed the participation of all the people in nation building, were under-utilizing their human resources.

16. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) said that the debate on items 75 and 76 in the Committee had shown the very keen interest of delegations on the topics. That interest had also been shown by the events which had been organized at regional, national and international levels in many parts of the world. She expressed appreciation to all the speakers who had spoken favourably of the work done by her deputy, Mrs. Bruce, and her staff and by herself and also to the Governments and non-governmental organizations which had invited her to visit their countries during the International Women's Year. She hoped that co-operation would be further increased during the proposed United Nations decade for women.

17. The CHAIRMAN said that since the Committee had completed its general debate on items 75 and 76, it would proceed to take decisions itself on the draft resolutions which had been submitted under those items.

18. Mr. SAELZLER (German Democratic Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1, said it was natural that women should make a particular contribution to peace and should take an active stand for the elimination of colonialism, racism, *apartheid* and aggression, since experience showed that they had to bear the major part of the sufferings and burdens caused by such evils. Without secure peace and the elimination of all the obstacles standing in the way of social progress, independence and the implementation of the principles of the United Nations, there could be no genuine equality and development of women, and the demands of the World Plan of Action could not be implemented. His delegation therefore deemed it necessary to stress the importance of the contribution of women to the strengthening of peace, the development of international co-operation and the attainment of national liberation and independence as well as the recognition of the dignity of the peoples and of their right to self-determination, and to appeal again to all Members of the United Nations to lend their support to that noble objective.

19. In a spirit of co-operation and compromise, the sponsors of the draft resolution had prepared a revised draft taking into account the advice and suggestions of other delegations. With regard to operative paragraph 6, it believed that the proposed report could help draw the attention of the world community to the efforts made by women to bring about lasting peace and to eliminate the international obstacles which still hindered them from using all opportunities for their equal development in society. The report could be based on all sources available to the Secretary-General. The draft resolution was fully consistent with the demands and principles of the Declaration of Mexico and was based on resolution 29 and other relevant decisions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year.

20. Mr. BELOUSOV (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/L.2196 concerning equality between men and women and elimination of discrimination against women, said that the text was based on decisions adopted by the Mexico City Conference and that the sponsors had considered it appropriate to reaffirm support for those decisions and for the relevant General Assembly resolutions. It had also seemed appropriate to confirm the general orientations of the International Women's Year and the Mexico City Conference, which was all the more important because the proposed United Nations decade for women would be devoted to the task of securing the equality of women in accordance with the three main goals of the Year, namely, equality, development and peace.

21. After introducing the preambular part of the draft resolution, he referred to operative paragraph 1 and stressed, on the one hand, the importance of the international instruments and recommendations of ILO and other specialized agencies designed to promote the equality of women in labour relations and professional training and, on the other hand, the necessity of implementing international instruments securing the rights of women, in order to ensure equality in all spheres of life, including political life and the safeguarding of peace. Moreover, at a time when favourable developments were taking place in international

relations, when the cold war was becoming a thing of the past and when a spirit of business-like co-operation was being established among States in the effort to find solutions to international disputes, more effective measures should be taken to ensure the implementation of agreed standards in all matters relating to the status of women. That was a part of the process of the codification of international law which the United Nations had undertaken in accordance with the Charter. In that connexion, he noted that operative paragraph 1 called on all States that had not done so to ratify such international instruments and that operative paragraph 2 requested the Commission on the Status of Women to complete in 1976 the elaboration of the draft Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. He regretted the slow pace of progress in drafting the Convention and stressed the importance of completing the final text so that it could be opened for signature. That would represent an important stride towards securing the equality of women. With regard to operative paragraph 3 which called for the wider participation of women in strengthening international peace, in *détente*, in settling the problems of disarmament, in eliminating colonialism, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid* and in all other forms of political life, he expressed the sponsors' conviction that the involvement of women in those fields would contribute to the elimination of discrimination against women and to the promotion of their status.

22. He recalled that at the 2177th meeting of the Committee the representative of Egypt had submitted some oral amendments, which the sponsors of the draft resolution fully supported but which, owing to lack of time, had not yet been incorporated into the text. He therefore requested the Committee to regard the final version of the draft resolution as incorporating the oral amendments submitted by Egypt and asked the Secretariat to issue revised versions of the text.

23. He noted that there had been objections to proposals that women should be given full political rights and should become involved in activities for the strengthening of peace, *détente* and the elimination of colonialism, foreign occupation, racism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*. For some reason, those justifiable proposals were regarded by some delegations as inconsistent with the achievement of equality for women; those delegations seemed to want women to be forever relegated to the kitchen, child-rearing and the church, although such an attitude was harmful not only to women but to all mankind. There were good reasons to involve women in the spheres of life he had mentioned. For example, at the United Nations women had fully demonstrated their ability to deal with diplomatic and political issues and other world problems. He therefore tended to think that delegations which sought to bar women from playing their rightful role in such matters were really opposed to the substance of the policies involved.

24. In conclusion, he said his delegation hoped that the draft resolutions submitted to the Committee on the items under consideration would be adopted as a whole, since they were in keeping with the three goals of the International Women's Year and the proposed United Nations decade for women, namely, equality, development and peace.

25. Mrs. SIPLÁ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) announced that the statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2194, contained in document A/C.3/647, would also apply to the revised version of that draft resolution, on the understanding that the report requested in operative paragraph 6 would be based on information available to the Secretary-General, including information which would be requested from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

26. Mr. BADAWI (Egypt) proposed that the Committee should postpone further consideration of draft resolutions submitted under items 75 and 76 until the afternoon meeting. There were two reasons for his proposal. First, the delegation of Madagascar had submitted an amendment (A/C.3/L.2206) to draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195, and he wished to consult with that delegation in order to reach a compromise which would not prejudice the basic assumptions of the draft resolution in question. Secondly, his delegation was concerned about the fate of the remaining eight items on the agenda and felt that it might be appropriate for the Committee to devote the rest of the morning meeting to considering what should be done about them.

27. Mr. SRINIVASAN (India) supported the proposal made by the representative of Egypt and expressed the hope that all the resolutions and the draft decision relating to items 75 and 76 would be adopted by consensus.

28. Mr. ALFONSO (Cuba) endorsed the proposal that the delegations of Egypt and Madagascar should try to reach a friendly compromise on the text of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 but wondered whether, since that was the only draft resolution requiring further consultations, it might not be possible for the Committee to take action on the remaining draft resolutions and the draft decision at the current meeting or at the beginning of the afternoon meeting. That would enable the Committee to devote more time in the afternoon to dealing with the other items on the agenda.

29. Mr. SANCHEZ GAVITO (Mexico) and Miss GUERRA (Madagascar) supported the proposal made by the representative of Egypt.

30. Mr. KAMARAKE (Sierra Leone) said that the Committee would be setting a bad precedent if it voted on some resolutions relating to a particular item while postponing the vote on other draft resolutions on the same item. He therefore proposed that the Committee should postpone the voting until it could vote on all the relevant texts.

31. Mr. SPEEKENBRINK (Netherlands), supported by Mr. WILSON (Liberia), fully endorsed the proposal made by the representative of Egypt and suggested that the remaining draft resolutions on the items under consideration should be introduced at that time.

32. Mr. SMIRNOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the proposal made by the representative of Egypt had been motivated by a desire to expedite the work of the Committee, which was faced with the complex task of completing its consideration of items 75 and 76, on which

seven draft resolutions and one draft decision had been submitted. The consultations proposed by the representative of Egypt might produce a solution which would make it easier for the Committee to vote on all the draft resolutions at the afternoon meeting. His delegation therefore supported the Egyptian proposal concerning draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195.

33. Referring to the Egyptian suggestion, that the Committee should consider at that time what to do about the agenda items which it had not had time to deal with during the current session, he said that his delegation attached great importance to some of those items, such as item 71 relating to the world social situation. The Committee would have before it a report by the Secretary-General on that subject, which contained a general survey of the question and pointed out the difficulties which certain countries had experienced in their attempts to achieve social progress; that report merited detailed consideration by the Committee. Moreover, items 72, 68 *b* and 84 relating to youth, the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights were also very important and required careful attention. It would take at least 26 more meetings to do them justice, but the date by which the Committee should complete its work had already arrived. He also pointed out that some draft resolutions and draft decisions on the remaining items had been informally submitted. In those circumstances, he felt that the Committee should attempt to find a solution to its difficulty on a non-discriminatory and non-selective basis. He reserved his delegation's right to submit specific proposals in that connexion at a later stage.

34. Miss MARKUS (Libyan Arab Republic) said that her delegation fully supported the proposal by the representative of Egypt that the consideration of draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 should be postponed in order to enable the delegations concerned to hold consultations. It also supported the view of the Cuban representative that the Committee must decide how to deal with the draft resolutions which had not yet been introduced.

35. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that, although her delegation believed that the Egyptian proposal concerning draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 was a wise one, it also agreed with the representatives of Cuba and the Libyan Arab Republic that delegations must be allowed to continue to introduce the remaining draft resolutions relating to agenda items 75 and 76. She therefore suggested that the Committee should not try to consider the remaining items on the agenda until all the draft resolutions under consideration on those two items had been introduced. Moreover, all delegations should continue to observe the ten-minute time-limit on statements.

36. Mr. KAMARAKE (Sierra Leone), referring to the need for the Committee to respect the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, said that a dangerous precedent would be set if the Committee did not take account of the provisions of rule 128.

37. The CHAIRMAN said he did not think that rule 128 of the rules of procedure was applicable since the Committee had not yet begun the process of voting. He suggested

that it should continue to hear the introduction of the remaining draft resolutions relating to items 75 and 76.

38. Mrs. MOHAMMED (Nigeria), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198, drew attention first of all to an amendment proposed by the representative of Mali and said that she hoped the sponsors would be able to agree to it, even though they had not had time to discuss it. The representative of Mali had suggested that, in the first preambular paragraph, the word “the” before “low-income countries” should be replaced by the word “some”.

39. Draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198 had been based on resolution 10 adopted by the World Conference of the International Women’s Year and on the belief that there could be no equality for women unless they were granted equal treatment in economic and social matters. The draft resolution was therefore designed to give women facilities currently offered only to men by financial and lending institutions and to urge Governments and the United Nations development system to provide women with opportunities to improve their efficiency in business and financial management. The sponsors were of the opinion that the question of improving the economic status of women for effective and speedy participation in the development of their countries should be given the support it deserved, and they therefore hoped that draft resolution A/C.3/L.2198 could be unanimously adopted by the Committee.

40. Mrs. BURNLEY (United Republic of Cameroon), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200, said that the representative of Argentina, which had become a sponsor of the draft resolution, had suggested the addition of a new second preambular paragraph, which would read: “*Recalling* also draft resolution A/C.2/L.1473/Rev.1, adopted by the Second Committee”.² That amendment was intended to show that the question of measures for the integration of women in development had been as much a matter of concern to the Second Committee as it had been to the Third Committee. She felt that the rest of the draft resolution was quite straightforward and that the operative paragraphs did not require any explanation. She therefore expressed the hope that the Committee as a whole would be able to support draft resolution A/C.3/L.2200.

41. Mrs. MAIR (Jamaica), introducing the draft decision contained in document A/C.3/L.2197, said that the sponsors had agreed that, the words “an accounting” should replace the word “a”, so that the request in that part of the decision would read: “an accounting report on the existing state of the fund”. Moreover, in the last clause of the draft decision, the sponsors had agreed to delete the words “for the continuation of the fund”.

42. As was well known, a Voluntary Fund for the International Women’s Year had been established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1850 (LVI). Member States had made generous contributions to the Fund, which had been administered by the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Disbursements

from the Fund had been effective in providing information about the principles and goals of the International Women’s Year, and hence in promoting increased awareness of the problems of women. As stated at the World Conference, however, a great deal still remained to be done. The World Conference had therefore adopted resolution 12, which related to the question of special resources for the integration of women in development and recommended that the General Assembly should declare 1975-1985 a decade for women and development. It also invited the Secretary-General to present a report to the thirtieth session of the General Assembly, which, taking into account the existing Voluntary Fund for International Women’s Year, would advise on ways in which additional funds, contributed for the express purpose of the integration of women in development, could best be canalized and administered through appropriate United Nations bodies.

43. The purpose of the draft decision contained in document A/C.3/L.2197 was therefore to reaffirm and expand the objectives of resolution 12 of the World Conference by requesting the General Assembly, at its thirtieth session, to agree to extend the Voluntary Fund to cover programmes for the proposed decade. The draft decision also requested the Secretary-General to present an accounting report on the existing state of the Fund to the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session and to submit proposals for the future management of the Fund and the criteria to be applied for future disbursements, since it was obvious that effective and imaginative fund-raising and management would be necessary in the future. The United Nations had a variety of systems which could serve as possible models for a management body, and it was to be hoped that, after examining those systems, the Secretary-General would advise the Economic and Social Council at its sixtieth session on an economical administrative arrangement which would effectively serve the purposes of the Fund. With regard to the criteria to be applied for future disbursements, it would be desirable for further major expenditures for the fund to be frozen until such criteria had been approved. Since adequate resources were necessary if the proposed decade for women was to focus on constructive action and practical implementation, the sponsors of the draft decision, which was aimed at making such resources available, hoped that the draft decision would receive the Committee’s unanimous support.

44. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) said that her delegation fully supported the draft decision (A/C.3/L.2197), which was one of the most important proposals made in connexion with the questions being considered. The establishment of the fund would be important for the implementation of the programmes called for in draft resolution A/C.3/L.2195 and required for the proposed decade for women and development. The Fund should supplement regular budgetary resources and not be used as a substitute for resources that should regularly be used for women’s questions. Thus, the Fund should not be regarded as a regular trust fund administered by the Secretary-General but, rather, as a unique fund affording many possibilities for growth and development. Governments, for instance, could ask for direct assistance under the Fund for their women’s programmes. If the Fund was managed with integrity and imagination, it would be able to grow, but it

² Subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 3505 (XXX).

would also require the formulation of a programme to encourage contributions from Governments and private individuals. In that connexion, it was envisaged that women in rural areas in countries such as the Philippines would be willing to contribute even in a modest way to the Fund when they had seen what it was doing to improve their status. Lastly, with regard to the composition and policies of the board to be entrusted with the management of the fund, it was felt that they must reflect the interests and concerns of Governments.

45. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs) stated that the Fund had been established in order to supplement existing resources for the implementation of the International Women's Year programme. By the end of 1974 the contributions received to the Fund had been extremely limited and totally insufficient to finance any meaningful project. The bulk of the contributions had been received in the first part of 1975.

46. Those contributions had, however, been primarily earmarked for activities pertaining to the World Conference of the International Women's Year. That fact had been clearly reflected in the allocation of resources. The financing of new projects had been deferred, pending the policy decisions to be adopted and any programme recommenda-

tions to be made by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session in the light of the recommendations of the World Conference. The availability of about \$1 million currently in the fund could be explained by the cautious attitude of the Secretariat, which had wished to ensure that resources were allocated according to the directives of the policy-making bodies.

47. The proposed decision referring to the extension of the Voluntary Fund to cover the period of the proposed United Nations decade for women would now enable the Secretariat to make long-term plans in the light of correlated decisions taken by the General Assembly at its thirtieth session. That new development undoubtedly called for new arrangements regarding the administration and operation of the fund. She would welcome, therefore, the suggestions contained in the proposed decision to that effect. With that purpose in view, the Secretary-General would give careful consideration to all the suggestions made at the present meeting and in the proposed decision and submit to the Economic and Social Council at its forthcoming session specific proposals for the management of the fund and the criteria to be applied for future disbursements.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

2180th meeting

Friday, 5 December 1975, at 3.20 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ladislav ŠMÍD (Czechoslovakia).

A/C.3/SR.2180

AGENDA ITEMS 75 AND 76

International Women's Year, including the proposals and recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (*continued*)

Status and role of women in society, with special reference to the need for achieving equal rights for women and to women's contribution to the attainment of the goals of the Second United Nations Development Decade, to the struggle against colonialism, racism and racial discrimination and to the strengthening of international peace and co-operation between States (*continued*) (A/10003, chap. III, sect. F; E/5725 and Add.1, A/10042, A/10045, A/10049 and Corr.1, A/10056, A/10057, A/10066, A/10070, A/10071, A/10073, A/10075, A/10076, A/10088, A/10089, A/10099, A/10107, A/10111, A/10138, A/10140, A/10160, A/10210, A/10263, A/10264, A/10340, A/C.3/643, A/C.3/644, A/C.3/647, A/C.3/648, A/C.3/L.2193, A/C.3/L.2194/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2195-2198, A/C.3/L.2199/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.2200, A/C.3/L.2206)

1. Mrs. SHAHANI (Philippines) recalled that at the end of its 2179th meeting the Committee had raised the question of the status of the Voluntary Fund which had been set up

for International Women's Year. It would be useful to have details on that subject before taking a vote on draft decision A/C.3/L.2197 concerning the Fund.

2. Mrs. SIPILÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), said that until the end of 1974 the Fund had been extremely small. At the beginning of the International Women's Year it had comprised only \$184,000, of which \$23,000 had not been received at that time. Only Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, Iran, Iraq, the Philippines, Switzerland and the United States of America had sent in their contributions. Those figures explained why the programme planned for the Year had not been very extensive. In fact, most of the contributions had arrived early in 1975, and in the first quarter of the year the fund had passed the \$1.5 million mark as a result of the contributions received from Australia, Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands and Sweden (\$750,000) and from Princess Asha (\$500,000). In the second quarter contributions had been received from Canada, China, Ethiopia, Gabon, Jamaica, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Senegal and the United Kingdom, and in the third quarter Austria had forwarded its contribution. Altogether only 25 Governments had made contributions, but some had contributed more than once—for example, Iran and Sweden. In all, the