



C O N T E N T S

	Page
Technical assistance in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women	5

Chairman: Mr. G. F. DAVIDSON (Canada).

Technical assistance in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women (A/2430, chapter VB, section XII, paragraphs 876 to 878, A/2454, A/C.3/L.339/Rev.1, A/C.3/L.399/Rev.1/Add.1)

[Item 2]*

1. The CHAIRMAN stated that the delegation of the Dominican Republic, jointly with the delegations of Cuba and Pakistan, had submitted a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.339/Rev. 1) relating to item 62 of the agenda.

2. Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that there was no longer any need to discuss the principle of women's rights, a principle which no one could oppose, which most of the Member States had accepted and to which the General Assembly had already devoted several resolutions. The General Assembly was in a position to give enthusiastic approval to the provisions of resolution 504 J II (XVI) recently adopted by the Economic and Social Council.

3. At its fifth session, held in 1951, the Commission on the Status of Women had considered the possibility of adopting a programme of technical assistance in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women. At its seventh session the Commission, on the proposal of the Pakistan delegation, had unanimously adopted a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council to that effect,¹ and the Council had in turn adopted its resolution 504 J II (XVI).

4. Her delegation hoped that the Third Committee would endorse the provisions of the Council resolution, and had therefore, together with the delegations of Cuba and Pakistan, submitted a draft resolution (A/C.3/L.399/Rev.1).

5. Mr. BEAUFORT (Netherlands) was happy that he should have to deal with the rights of women in his first speech in a Committee on which a number of eminent women who had done much for the United Nations had served as representatives. The status of women was far from unfavourable in his country, which, as a supporter of technical assistance, had no objection to using such assistance for the purpose of promoting and safeguarding women's rights.

6. Recalling the provisions of Council resolution 504 J (XVI), he pointed out, however, that part II of that resolution, which related to services not within the framework of existing programmes, had given rise to doubts and objections among a number of delegations, as pointed out in paragraph 877 of the Economic and Social Council's report (A/2430).

7. The Netherlands delegation, for its part, was not opposed either to the Economic and Social Council resolution or to the draft resolution submitted by Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Pakistan. Nevertheless, before voting, it would like to know more specifically in what way technical assistance could be used to improve the status of women.

8. Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) said she had participated from 1949 to 1951 in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, and had voted for the Council resolution mentioned by the Dominican representative. As an example of how women's rights could be promoted, she cited the case of her own country, where women, by taking an important part in the nation's life during the war, had attained political maturity and as a result had been accorded full political rights a year and a half previously. Technical assistance could do much to improve the status of women in countries in which they still did not enjoy equal rights with men.

9. That was why she had been in favour of the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council and would support the draft resolution submitted by Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Pakistan.

10. Mrs. MARZUKI (Indonesia) expressed her delegation's deep appreciation of the practical action taken by the Commission on the Status of Women to extend to women the benefits of the technical assistance programmes. Indonesia attached great importance to that point. It had regretted the General Assembly's decision (resolution 542 (VI)), to separate political and civil rights from economic, social and cultural rights. On 20 December 1952, however, the General Assembly had adopted the Convention on the Political Rights of Women (resolution 640 (VII)), which Indonesia regarded as an important step towards equality. It realized that the granting of political rights did not suffice to eliminate the feeling of insecurity or to do away with ignorance, and that in the past such rights had been useless when not accompanied by economic, social and cultural rights. It was convinced that, before women, like men, could develop their personalities fully, their economic and social position had to be improved; and technical assistance programmes could help to bring about such improvement in many countries where the position of women was not as favourable as it should be, particularly in less developed countries. The Indonesian delegation agreed with the statement made in the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/189) that the status of women was raised where the general living conditions had been raised.

* Indicates the item number on the agenda of the General Assembly.

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixteenth Session, Supplement No. 2, chapter XI.*

11. The Indonesian delegation felt that women could also make a valuable contribution in the preparation and execution of technical assistance programmes, thereby at the same time improving their own status. Non-governmental organizations and other interested groups could also usefully be drawn into that work.

12. Her delegation therefore whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution, the implementation of which would enable qualified women to take part in technical assistance programmes.

13. Mrs. MENON (India) said that her delegation supported the draft resolution. Nevertheless, she did not quite understand what was meant by the words "technical assistance in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women". In her view the status of women depended primarily on women's access to education and employment.

14. She recalled that the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights had for some time been working on some of the problems covered by the agenda item under discussion. The Commission on Human Rights, however, was currently marking time because the countries which had enthusiastically subscribed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were not ready to sign a covenant which would compel them to keep their promises. The Indian delegation commended the Commission on the Status of Women for keeping open the basic questions of the equality of the sexes and of the abolition of discriminatory practices on the ground of sex. If the States that had signed the Charter had kept their commitments, they would have granted women equal social, economic and political rights with men. As a result there might have been less international tension, or perhaps none at all, for women had a more humane approach to the problems on which men were divided. Not being primarily intellectual, they would have displayed more practical common sense in the negotiations. Women were concerned about the growing seriousness of the international situation and the Indian delegation therefore felt that they should have constantly increasing opportunities. It was not enough to speak of those opportunities or to record them in official reports and General Assembly resolutions. They had to become basic realities in all societies, organizations and institutions, both national and international, and had to exist even in the territories which did not govern themselves.

15. The United Nations had an expanded programme of technical assistance, but it, too, was a programme drawn up by men; it was primarily concerned with increasing production through the use of expert knowledge and technical assistance and did not recognize the importance of the human factor. Women were not participating in the preparation of the programme and were not directly affected by it. Furthermore, the studies carried out by the United Nations Secretariat would not be enough to improve the status of women in society. Moreover, it could not be said that the principle of equality was respected in the Secretariat or in delegations, as shown in the memorandum by the Secretary-General on "Participation of women in the work of the United Nations and the specialized agencies" (E/CN.6/216).

16. The only way to improve the status of women was by ensuring them access to education and employment and by guaranteeing them legal equality in marriage, divorce and succession. Experience had shown, however, that in some of those fields the countries

which claimed to be advanced democracies were more backward even than the under-developed countries. That could be seen by considering such questions as equal pay for equal work, the access of women to certain types of employment or the participation of women in legislative bodies. She referred, in that connexion, to a report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/212) which gave comparative figures on the participation of women in political and public life in various countries. That document showed, for example, that the number of women in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom had decreased since the Second World War, and that in the United States of America the number of woman representatives in Congress was insignificant. In India, on the other hand, thirty-five members of the central legislature were women, and several women held cabinet rank. She noted in that connexion that the figures regarding India in that document were incorrect. She also referred to a report by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/189/Add.1) giving information on the part women had so far played in technical assistance programmes.

17. The world had a great deal to learn from the Asian countries regarding the rights of women, who were the mothers of the race and the source of life and progress. In those countries, as a result of the progressive influence of Buddhism, women had always lived in an atmosphere of economic and social freedom and had enjoyed rights that the West had rarely granted them. They did not need the kind of technical assistance provided by the United Nations. What they did need was access to education, so that they could understand the tremendous movements that were taking shape in the world. Further, they had to be able to help in framing policy and in planning specific technical assistance projects. That was why the Indian delegation felt that the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women approved by the Economic and Social Council barely touched the surface of the problem, a national problem which could be solved only through a change in the outlook of the population, brought about by cultural progress, social betterment and economic development.

18. Mrs. LORD (United States of America) said that her delegation was in favour of the provision of services by the Secretary-General to improve the status of women. It did not minimize the gains which had accrued to women through the operation of existing technical assistance programmes. Women benefited wherever the general living conditions of a country were raised. The current programmes had also brought other advantages to women. Thus, the selection of women as technical assistance experts in the fields of home economics, public health and public administration had done much to encourage women to participate in public life.

19. There were, however, certain needs faced by governments in improving the status of women which were not met by the technical assistance programmes in operation. She was thinking particularly of revision of laws and practices regarding public services, inheritance, property rights and the rights of married women, especially in relation to their children. All those legal questions were involved in a practical expression of equality for women. In the past few years the Commission on the Status of Women had assembled a remarkable collection of documentation regarding those matters, and it was in a position to make the experience of various countries available to governments which

were considering changing their laws to bring them into line with those principles.

20. The considerations which had to be taken into account in such revision were frequently complex. Systems of family organization, religious beliefs and long custom and experience were of critical importance in determining the status of women and in benefiting society as a whole. Governments would no doubt have to provide for transitional measures. A mere exchange of documentation would hardly suffice: what was required was a careful analysis of the particular situation and of the changes which have to be made to meet local needs. The United States of America was particularly conscious of those problems, because matters relating to the family were within the jurisdiction of the individual states and not of the Federal Government. The laws in the states varied, because they were based on the legal systems which settlers in the various areas had brought with them. In planning changes affecting women, the United States had therefore learned to take into account local customs and opportunities.

21. For those reasons, the United States delegation believed that it would be useful and appropriate to authorize the Secretary-General to provide services to assist governments in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women. While those services would be rendered only in response to requests from a particular government, it should be possible for them to be rendered on a co-operative basis to several governments.

22. Questions had been raised regarding the cost of such a programme. It was of course difficult to estimate the number of requests that might be received from governments or the extent of the services which they might ask. For the first year at least, it should be possible, in her delegation's view, for the Secretary-General to render useful services within the existing budget of the Division of Human Rights, by taking advantage of experienced personnel who might be travelling or other persons for whom requesting governments might be able to pay expenses. Her delegation was aware that the demands on the Division of Human Rights were great and that the provision of technical assistance could not be allowed to delay the preparation of materials needed for the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women or other United Nations bodies. However, the Secretary-General's experience in rendering such assistance would probably be helpful to the Commission in making decisions as to its future work. If after a year it was found that there were continuing demands, then consideration could be given to budget provisions in the light of over-all needs.

23. The United States delegation hoped that the proposal would receive unanimous support.

24. Mr. MUFTI (Syria), being anxious to aid the Committee in its work, wished to make certain preliminary comments and raise several questions.

25. His comments were prompted primarily by his country's deep concern with problems relating to the status and rights of women, which was reflected at the national level by an appreciable improvement in the status of Syrian women in the political and social fields; and he was anxious that the resolutions resulting from the Third Committee's decisions should have a real chance of being faithfully carried out by the various bodies responsible for that task.

26. The rather complex structure of the Technical Assistance Administration and the multiplicity of its

tasks raised many problems in connexion with the planning, administration and financing of technical assistance programmes, together with quite difficult problems of interpretation and co-ordination. For the same reasons, beneficiary governments were confronted with similar problems on the purely national level.

27. He recalled that the technical assistance being furnished by the United Nations was based on two programmes: the regular programme set forth in resolutions 58 (I), 418 (V) and 246 (III) of the General Assembly, and the expanded programme set forth in resolution 222 A (IX) of the Economic and Social Council. The services which the United Nations was already rendering within the framework of technical assistance included the provision of experts; the granting of fellowships; the organization of conferences and seminars, training and demonstration centres; and the furnishing of technical information. In the past, technical assistance in the social field had been rendered to a large extent within the framework of the programme of advisory social welfare services, authorized by resolution 418 (V) of the General Assembly. Financing for the activities undertaken was provided either under the budget for the ordinary programme or out of the special fund for financing the expanded programme.

28. Several questions were suggested by a perusal of resolution 504 J (XVI), particularly part II, in the light of the above-mentioned considerations. What, for example, were the financial implications of the proposal for rendering services which did not fall within the scope of existing programmes? Would those services be rendered with existing credits and by existing staff or would a special fund have to be created? In the first case, the Secretary-General would have to be authorized to charge the necessary sums to the section of the budget relating to advisory social welfare services. In the second case, it would be necessary to consider immediately the possibility of creating a special fund; the Committee should not confine itself to expressing pious hopes, it should give the Economic and Social Council precise and practical instructions.

29. It might also be asked what kind of services could best safeguard the rights of women. Part II of the Council's resolution might have mentioned, if only by way of example, some of the new services which it was proposed to offer to governments.

30. Lastly, if in 1953 the increase in requests was equal to twice the amount of money available, a choice would have to be made and a system of priorities established, taking into account the urgency of each request and the services required in each case.

31. In so far as social progress was conditioned by economic development, special attention ought to be given to the under-developed areas, and it followed that those areas would have to be allowed a greater share in the programme of advisory social welfare services or any similar programme than that allotted to other countries, particularly those in Europe. In any case, the status of women was in many respects more satisfactory in European countries than elsewhere, and those countries could seek assistance within the framework of such programmes as the European exchange scheme, much of the cost of which was borne by the governments concerned.

32. In conclusion, he hoped that discussion would make it possible to define the exact scope of the Council's resolution and that the draft resolution submit-

ted to the Committee would be amended in such a way as to take account of the observations he had just made.

33. Mr. MEADE (United Kingdom) regretted that he could not support the joint draft resolution (A/C.3/L.339/Rev.1).

34. The United Kingdom was not opposed in principle to measures designed to promote and safeguard the rights of women, but certain reservations appeared necessary in the case under consideration. Resolution 504 J (XVI) of the Economic and Social Council comprised two parts. The United Kingdom had unhesitatingly supported part I, which dealt with requests for aid within the framework of existing programmes. Part II, the terms of which recurred in the draft under discussion, appeared less acceptable.

35. In the first place, the services proposed under the draft resolution were extremely vague. No reference was made to the possible financial implications of the proposal. The Third Committee could not recommend the General Assembly to adopt a resolution without knowing its possible financial consequences. A new type of technical assistance was involved and no demands had been made in the past on which an estimate could be based.

36. The United Kingdom delegation was not at all certain that there was a real need for special technical assistance for the female element in a given population, apart from the assistance given to the community as a whole. It did not seem advisable to stimulate new demands and, at a time when resources were already inadequate, to encourage countries to make requests of a kind which they had not yet thought of.

37. The United Kingdom delegation would therefore be unable to vote for the draft resolution until the need for it had been definitely established and the financial and administrative implications had been thoroughly discussed.

38. He recalled, moreover, that the United States delegation had asked for the inclusion on the agenda of the tenth session of the Commission on Human Rights of an item concerning technical assistance for the purpose of promoting respect for human rights, of which the question under consideration was but one aspect; it would be better to await the result of the studies in progress on that subject.

39. He therefore considered the draft resolution in all respects premature.

40. Mrs. PINTO DE VIDAL (Uruguay) recalled that since the time of the San Francisco Conference, and in all the organs of the United Nations, Uruguay had constantly defended the principle of equality between men and women. Her delegation had largely contributed to the adoption of the existing texts of Article 8, 13 and 55 of the Charter, which explicitly condemned distinctions based on difference of sex. Her country, which had signed the Convention on the Political Rights of Women in December 1952, had accorded full political equality to women ever since December 1932.

41. Political rights, however, were not enough to ensure real equality. It was essential that in civil matters a woman should have privileges equal to those of a man. Parental authority, for instance, should not be the prerogative of the male. In that respect the situation appeared more satisfactory in Uruguay than in a number of other countries. One important

aspect of the question was that of equality in employment; in that matter too, Uruguay could pride itself on possessing a particularly enlightened legislation.

42. In general it could be said that in the world as a whole the number of women enjoying equality with men was relatively small. It was important therefore that the rights of women should be promoted and safeguarded, and the United Nations could make a worth-while contribution in that direction. For that reason her delegation was prepared to support any proposal designed to encourage that trend, which slowly though surely had to develop.

43. As regards the draft resolution itself, however, certain amendments were called for. The exact nature of the technical assistance proposed should be specified. Only after that point had been cleared up to the general satisfaction could the Committee consider taking a decision which would promote the cause of the rights of women.

44. Miss DRIESSEN (Belgium) supported the draft resolution. Within the clearly defined framework of certain general principles, Belgium had always been in favour of the emancipation of women. She would therefore vote for the proposal.

45. When the time came to put the resolution into effect, however, the limits fixed by the Secretary-General, that was to say, the limits of the available funds and existing staff, would have to be observed. The assistance contemplated should be provided only at the request of the States which were to benefit from it.

46. Mr. MENESES PALLARES (Ecuador) also supported the draft resolution.

47. His delegation was of the opinion that technical assistance needed fresh inspiration: as the Indian representative had so justly remarked, more account should be taken of the human factor. While the efforts already made by the United Nations were doubtless of great value, there were other possible fields of activity in which great achievements of social importance might be expected. In many countries, the application of a satisfactory social policy was impeded by the absence of appropriate institutions, by the lack of means of communication and by technical and material difficulties of every kind. In that respect, therefore, United Nations assistance would prove very useful, particularly in the promotion and safeguarding of the rights of women.

48. The question of the financial implications of the proposal had already been discussed in detail in the Economic and Social Council; there seemed to be no point in reverting to it. Perhaps it would be enough to leave consideration of the financial problems to the Fifth Committee, which would have the benefit of the advice of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

49. It had been asked whether the proposed assistance would come under the regular programme of technical assistance, the expanded programme or the advisory social welfare services. He would like to have the Secretariat's opinion on that point, and particularly the opinion of the Technical Assistance Administration, whose Deputy Director-General, Mr. Martínez Cabañas, was attending the current meeting.

50. Mr. JOUBLANC RIVAS (Mexico) supported the draft resolution, which respected the principle of

the sovereignty of Member States, and the financial implications of which he thought need not be as substantial as was apparently feared.

51. In Mexico, women had access to all types of employment and therefore enjoyed absolute civil as well as political equality. It was, however, noted that they showed a certain lack of interest in public affairs. It was probably some such cause, rather than the existence of discrimination, which accounted for the decrease in the number of women in the legislative assemblies to which the representative of India had drawn attention. The lack of interest in politics displayed by Mexican women was due to long-established customs, which efforts were being made to change. Success in those efforts was being achieved by an educational campaign which had already produced remarkable results. Similar action would probably be all that was needed in most countries for the effective promotion of women's rights. Such programmes would be relatively simple to carry out and would not involve large-scale expenditure.

52. In any event, as the representative of Ecuador had pointed out, the financial problems were primarily a matter for the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The sponsors of the draft resolution might unofficially ask the members of those Committees for their views, and, when the proposal came up for discussion at a plenary meeting, might give the General Assembly definite information on the point. Meanwhile there was nothing to prevent the Third Committee from approving the three-Power draft resolution in principle.

53. He had refrained from entering upon a detailed discussion of the political situation of women in Mexico because he considered that it was a matter which came under item 65 of the agenda. He reserved the right to revert to it when the Committee began its discussion of that item.

54. Mr. HUMPHREY (Secretariat), replying to the question on the financial implications of the draft resolution, said that in the absence of precise information as to the nature and possible scope of the assistance, the Secretariat was not in a position to provide an estimate. He could only quote paragraph 4 of the Secretary-General's note on the financial implications of the proposal (E/2486/Add.1), which the Secretary-General had transmitted to the Economic and Social Council under rule 34 of the Council's rules of procedure. According to that note, if the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would endeavour in 1954 to meet any requests for assistance which might be made under the terms of the resolution by drawing on existing appropriations and using only the available staff. The experience gained during that first year would enable the Secretariat to submit precise estimates for the following financial year.

55. Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS (Secretariat) said, in reply to the question addressed to him personally by the representative of Ecuador as to the programme within which the proposed assistance would be given, that for the time being, the Secretariat could not take a decision on the point; everything would depend on the nature, scope and number of the requests which the United Nations received.

56. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) said he would like to know whether it was intended that the Technical

Assistance Administration should take part in executing programmes proposed in connexion with the rights of women, and if so, whether the administrative expenses involved would be charged to the section of the budget relating to the funds placed at the Secretariat's disposal for technical assistance.

57. Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS (Secretariat) referred to the Secretary-General's note (E/2486/Add.1.) which Mr. Humphrey had quoted. No new credits had been provided for 1954. The Technical Assistance Administration utilized the funds placed at its disposal in accordance with decisions reached by the competent political organs. No withdrawals could be made for the purpose of the assistance envisaged by the proposal before the Committee without a resolution being adopted by the General Assembly.

58. Mr. DE SEYNES (France) thanked the Secretariat representatives for their explanations.

59. Opinions in the Committee on the subject of the draft resolution appeared to be equally divided; the feminine members showed an enthusiasm which was not on the whole shared by their masculine colleagues.

60. The French delegation would reserve its position, or, to be more accurate, would wait and see. There was reason to fear that adoption of the programme would entail the allocation thereto of credits which could well be used elsewhere. France was in favour of the principle of women's right, as past history showed. In the matter of technical assistance, every effort had been made so far to achieve greater concentration of programmes. The proposed resolution would apparently result in a certain dispersal. Those fears were perhaps unfounded. The experience gained in 1954 and the conclusions the Secretary-General would be able to draw from it would probably dispel all doubts and enable a final opinion on the question to be formed. In the meantime he would maintain his position so long as certain apprehensions appeared to be justified, and in the absence of any new factors would abstain in the vote.

61. Mr. ENCINAS (Peru) would first emphasize that the Peruvian delegation was in favour of the principle on which the draft resolution was based. Nevertheless, some elucidation seemed to be called for.

62. He wondered to what extent the proposed resolution would affect the current work of the Technical Assistance Administration. He realized the existing difficulty of making a financial estimate; he was particularly interested in the administrative aspect of the question, because of the difficulties being encountered by TAA. It should be possible to give an approximate indication based on the assumption of minimum requests for assistance. It would also be well to know the order of priority to be given to the programmes instituted under the resolution. He hoped the Secretariat would be able to reply to those two questions.

63. He drew the attention of the sponsors to the form in which their proposal was presented. A resolution usually empowered the Secretary-General to take certain specific steps. The text in question was remarkably vague; it referred only to services which did not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes. That unusual form of words appeared somewhat dangerous. He would be unable to vote on the substance of the question until those points had been explained.

64. Mr. MARTINEZ CABAÑAS (Secretariat), replying to the Peruvian representative's first question,

said that it was extremely difficult to estimate even approximately how the resolution would affect the current technical assistance programme, since no one could foresee the volume, magnitude or nature of the requests governments might submit. As long as those factors remained unknown the Secretariat would be unable to give any information on the point.

65. With regard to the Peruvian representative's second question, he said that the Secretariat was not competent to establish an order of priority for the programmes. That was a matter which lay exclusively within the jurisdiction of the General Assembly, and the Secretariat could only comply with whatever decision the Committee itself took.

66. He emphasized that at that point it was very difficult for the Secretariat to give positive answers to the questions which had been raised.

67. Miss MAÑAS (Cuba) invited the Committee to support the draft resolution.

68. Without wishing to review the whole history of the question, she recalled the many studies which the United Nations had made and the great difficulties which the Commission on the Status of Women had had to overcome in the course of its work on the subject. The draft resolution adopted by the Commission at its seventh session had not given rise to any debate and had been adopted unanimously. The text had been revised at the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Council so as to state more clearly the principle that women should enjoy equal rights with men.

69. The draft resolution submitted by the representatives of Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Pakistan (A/C.3/L.339/Rev.1) proposing that the Committee should take note of the resolution adopted by the Council and approve the Council's decision was therefore constructive and was in a way the logical culmination of several years' work. Moreover, there was no basis for the United Kingdom representative's argument that action such as that proposed in the draft resolution would be premature. If three or four years of preliminary work were not sufficient it was questionable whether the problem could ever be solved.

70. The French representative had implied that the sponsors of the joint draft resolution had shown a lack of foresight by failing to consider its financial implications. The explanations given by the Secretariat's representatives—which they had already made to the Council at its sixteenth session—should have removed any misunderstanding on that point and made it clear that it was impossible to estimate the cost of such a project so long as the nature and volume of the requests to be submitted were unknown.

71. It was appropriate that the General Assembly's Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Questions should adopt a text which would represent a real step towards improving the status of women throughout the world.

72. Mr. GUTIERREZ (Costa Rica) explained that he would refrain from discussing the substance of the question until definite answers had been given to the various questions raised by members of the Committee.

73. For his part he would welcome some clarification on the following point: Council resolution 504 J (XVI) consisted of two parts; the first recommended to governments that consideration should be given to ap-

pointing qualified women to posts in which they might share in framing policy and planning specific technical assistance projects; in the second part, the Council had decided to authorize the Secretary-General to render, at the request of Member States, services which did not fall within the scope of existing technical assistance programmes, in order to assist those States in promoting and safeguarding the rights of women.

74. The text submitted to the Committee, however, made no reference to part I of the Council's resolution, a fact which was the more surprising as the three sponsors had expressed their keen desire to see women participate, in increasing numbers, in the planning of technical assistance programmes.

75. Mr. BAROODY (Saudi Arabia) said that for the time being he would concentrate on the financial aspects of the problem but reserved the right to explain his delegation's attitude on the substance of the question at a later stage.

76. The Committee could not take a hasty decision without knowing its financial implications, or at least without some general assurance that the necessary funds could be found to give effect to it. It was quite clear and understandable that without the necessary information the representatives of the Secretariat could not give any such assurance even for the immediate future, for 1954. There was no point therefore in continuing to press for information and the Committee, to expedite its work, should rather refer the financial implications of the question to the competent body—in that instance the Fifth Committee—before continuing to study its substance.

77. In order to avoid any misunderstanding he explained that he did not intend to oppose the draft resolution in principle; his only purpose was to avoid prolonging a discussion which could only lead to an impasse.

78. Mr. YU Tsune-Chi (China) said that his delegation whole-heartedly supported the draft resolution (A/C.3/L.339/Rev.1), just as it had supported the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its sixteenth session.

79. The advancement of the community as a whole depended fundamentally on the social measures taken to promote the rights of the individual, and mankind would only truly enjoy lasting peace in a well-balanced world. To that end, women should be encouraged to develop an awareness of their rights. The importance of the question was vital and could not be measured in terms of money.

80. Moreover, the problem of financial implications was not as acute as some representatives seemed to think. The United Nations was not called upon to undertake certain activities in compliance with requests which Member States might submit but merely to assist governments, through the Secretary-General, to carry out the tasks they undertook with a view to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women. The cost of such a project could not yet be estimated but it could reasonably be assumed that the funds required would not be unduly high. According to the Secretary-General's statements on the subject, the United Nations would apparently be able to provide the services in question on an experimental basis for one year and in those circumstances the necessary estimates could be prepared at a later date on the basis of the information acquired during that first year.

81. Certain representatives had emphasized the need to avoid a hasty decision and to proceed cautiously. In recent years the world had embarked upon daring adventures and had witnessed the development of jet aircraft and experiments with atomic energy without knowing what ultimately would be the part those discoveries would play or the purposes they would serve. There was therefore no reason why greater diffidence should be shown in the matter of adopting a social measure the effects of which could only be beneficial for all mankind.

82. In conclusion, he emphasized that the question under discussion involved a fundamental principle from

which the Third Committee, whose members included a great many women, could not deviate in any way.

83. Mr. CHAUVET (Haiti) thought that it would be advisable to give the Secretariat an opportunity to study the questions which had been raised so that it could reply to them with a full knowledge of the facts and he therefore proposed that the meeting should be adjourned.

The proposal was adopted by 20 votes to 3, with 25 abstentions.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.