

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

SECOND SESSION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Lake Success, 5 to 16 January 1948

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Session of the Commission on the Status of Women opened on Monday, 5 January 1948, at the Interim Headquarters of the United Nations, Lake Success, N. Y. The Commission held..... plenary meetings and terminated its work on January 1948.

2. The following Representatives of Member Nations on the Commission attended:

Chairman:

Mrs. Marie Helene Lefauchaux (France) Representative

Vice-Chairmen:

Mrs. Amalia C. de Castillo Ledon (Mexico) Representative

Mrs. Elizavieta Alekseevna Popova (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) Representative

Rapporteur:

Mrs. Alice Kandalf Cosma (Syria) Representative

Mrs. J. M. Grey Street (Australia) Representative

Mrs. Evdokia Uralova (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) Representative

Miss Cecilia Sieu-Ling Zung (China) Alternate

Mrs. Graciela Morales F. de Echeverria (Costa Rica) Representative

Mrs. Bodil Begtrup (Denmark) Representative

Mrs. Sara B. de Monzon (Guatemala) Representative

Begum Shareefah Hamid Ali (India) Representative

/Mrs. Mihri Paktas

Mrs. Mihri Paktas	(Turkey)	Representative
Miss Mary Sutherland	(United Kingdom)	Representative
Miss Dorothy Kenyon	(United States of America)	Representative
Mrs. Isabel de Urdaneta	(Venezuela)	Representative

3. The following Representatives of Specialized Agencies were also present at the Session:

Miss Joan Maass	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Dr. Mildred Fairchild	International Labour Organization
Miss Beatrice Howard	World Health Organization

4. The Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, Miss Minerva Bernardino, was present in an advisory and informative capacity, in accordance with Resolution No. 48 (IV), Section B (7) of the Economic and Social Council; and arrangements were made with this organization for the exchange of information on subjects relating to the status of women.

5. The following consultants from Non-Governmental Organizations were also present:

Category A

Miss Toni Sender	}	American Federation of Labor
Mr. Peter D. Garvan		

Category B

Miss Susan B. Anthony	}	Women's International Democratic Federation
Mrs. Françoise LeClercq		
Mrs. Emmy Freundlich		International Women's Co-operative Guild

6. The Representatives of France (Mrs. Lefauchaux) and of Guatemala (Mrs. Monzon) were unavoidably delayed in reaching the Session.

Mrs. Lefauchaux participated in the twenty-first and following meetings; Mrs. Monzon participated in the twenty-fourth and following meetings.

7. Dr. John P. Humphrey, Director of the Division of Human Rights, represented the Secretary-General. Miss Leonie Mitchell acted as Secretary of the Commission.

8. The Commission adopted as its Agenda the Provisional Agenda, amended in document E/CN.6/22/Rev.1.

9. The Commission took note of the Rules of Procedure for Functional Commissions adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 12 August 1947, and proceeded to elect officers for the year 1948 in accordance with these rules.

10. The expression of the views of the Members of the Commission is embodied in the Summary Records of the Plenary Meetings (documents E/CN.6/SR.20 to).

11. In order to expedite its work, the Commission created three committees, to deal respectively with the drafting of resolutions, the examination of communications, and the examination of the information relating to the status of women collected by means of questionnaires. The membership of these committees, as determined by the Chairman with the approval of the Commission, was as follows:

Committee on Resolutions:

The Representatives of Australia (Chairman),
China, Costa Rica, and Syria.

Committee on Communications:

The Representatives of Denmark (Chairman),
Turkey, Venezuela, Byelorussia, United Kingdom,
and India.

Committee on Questionnaires:

The Representatives of the United States (Chairman),
the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Syria,
and Mexico.

All Members of the Commission were invited to participate in the work of the Committees.

CHAPTER II

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

12. The Commission examined the preliminary report on the political rights of women prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of the replies of Member Governments to Part I of the Questionnaire on the legal status and treatment of women, and on such information as was available from other authoritative sources (document E/CN.6/27 and E/CN.6/30). Verbal statements regarding the position of women in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic., which had not replied to the Questionnaire, were presented by the Representatives of those countries.

13. The Commission noted with satisfaction that since its last meeting Argentina and Venezuela had granted women full political rights. It expressed the hope that plans for similar action, now under way in Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru and Chile, might be completed as soon as possible. It extended its congratulations to the peoples of Argentina and Venezuela, and to their Governments, on their achievement of full political rights for men and women in this regard; and called upon the women of these countries to make full use of their new responsibilities.

14. The Commission unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolution on the Political Rights of Women

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

RECOGNIZING that the dignity and worth of the human person, the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, which are referred to in the Charter of the United Nations, insistently call for the abolition of the political inequality of women which still prevails in many countries;

CONSIDERING that the equal participation of women in national, economic, cultural and social and political life is impossible unless women are granted equal rights with men;

HAVING REGARD TO the General Assembly's decision of 11 December 1946 concerning the political rights of women and of the replies received from some of the Member Governments;

NOTES THAT, although the vast number of these make no distinction between men and women as to the use of the franchise and eligibility for public office, some report limitations on women in this regard;

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council;

(a) instruct the Secretary-General to address a communication to all Governments which have not replied and which do not now grant full political rights to women, inquiring as to their plans to give effect

/to the Charter

to the Charter affirmation of "equal rights for men and women", in regard to the franchise and eligibility to public office, and urging them to take appropriate and immediate action;

(b) request the States Members of the United Nations where women have not yet been given the same political rights as men, to grant them such rights in all spheres of economic, national, cultural and social and political life. The Commission also draws attention to the fact that opportunities for the exercise of these rights and a greater measure of activity by women voters, in making use of their right to take part in elections, as well as the introduction of a more general system of electing women to key posts in national, public, municipal and other institutions, will serve as an effective method of stimulating the interest of women voters, will increase their interest in social and political work, and will ensure a fuller use by women voters of their right to take part in elections; and

(c) in line with the resolution presented by Denmark in the first session of the Assembly on Political Rights of Women, present this information and the chart and analytical summary on the franchise rights of women and their eligibility to public office to the third General Assembly, and annually to succeeding Assemblies until all women throughout the world have equal political rights on the same terms as men.

15. The Commission considered various problems relating to conflicts of law in fields of nationality, domicile, marriage and divorce. As a result of this consideration it adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution on Nationality

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTING the many and varied discriminations against women that result from conflicts in national laws relating to nationality, domicile, marriage and divorce, and

NOTING The Hague Convention on the Conflict of Nationality Laws (1930) and the Montevideo Convention on the Nationality of Women (1933) and the studies in this field undertaken by the League of Nations,

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council instruct the Secretary-General:

(a) to obtain from all Member States an account of their present laws and administrative practices in the fields of nationality, domicile, marriage and divorce insofar as they affect women married or formerly married to husbands of a different nationality, and the anomalies arising therefrom, and as they affect children born to parents of

/different nationalities,

different nationalities, and prepare a report thereon for the next session of the Commission; and to report on existing treaties and conventions in the field of nationality and the signatories thereto;

(b) to obtain the views of the International Law Commission, the Social Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, and various other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on this subject and to make this information available to the Commission on the Status of Women for its use in making recommendations for a suitable Convention on nationality;

(c) to forward to Member Governments the request that married women should have the same rights as regards nationality as are enjoyed by men and single women.

16. The Commission considered the means to achieve increased participation of women in Government, both at the national level and international organizations and conferences. As a result of this consideration it adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution on the Participation of Women in
Activities of Governments

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTING that Article 8 of the United Nations Charter provides that "the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs;

EXPRESSES CONCERN that the Secretary-General has as yet appointed very few women to key positions in the Secretariat;

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council:

- (a) request the Secretary-General to appoint women to key positions in the Secretariat of the United Nations;
- (b) suggest that Member Governments include women in increasing numbers as their representatives on organs and agencies of the United Nations and in international organizations and conferences; and
- (c) suggest that where such organizations do not now include women, special consideration be given to the appointment of women whenever vacancies occur.

Resolution on Equal Opportunities for Women at all
Levels of governmental activity

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

TAKING NOTE that in some countries not all the positions in the civil service are open to women, that there is no representation of women on the civil service committees in charge of examinations and appointments, and that there are differences between men and women regarding qualifications,

/preference in appointment

preference in appointment, remuneration, opportunities for advancement and promotion, and disqualifications, such as that married women are barred from appointment and continuation of office; and

CONSIDERING that there is discrimination against women as to professional opportunities and access to diplomatic and consular posts and to judiciary posts, even if women are fully qualified,

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council instruct the Secretary-General to draw the attention of Member States to the pledges concerning the status of women undertaken when signing the United Nations Charter, with a view to granting women, married or unmarried, full and equal opportunities in the civil service and in all professions and in all diplomatic, consular, and judicial spheres, and at all levels of governmental activity.

17. The Commission considered a report of the Secretary-General on programmes of information on the use of the franchise in countries where women have recently acquired the right to vote, and establishment of a centre for the collection of publications on this subject (documents E/CN.6/25 and E/CN.6/25/Add.1). It decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council instruct the Secretary-General to continue to collect information on these subjects, and to provide a centre of reference for organizations requiring information on the subject.

CHAPTER III

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

18. The Commission considered the replies received to the questions in Part I paragraph D, (relating to education) of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women (document E/CN.6/27). Following a general discussion of the information therein provided, the Commission gave consideration to recommendations for possible action to advance the rights of women in the educational field. It studied the possibilities of co-operation with UNESCO, particularly with regard to development of basic education programmes.
19. The Commission adopted the following resolution relating to educational opportunities for women:

Resolution on Educational Opportunities for Women

In connection with the aims of affording women equal educational rights with men and securing a general education for all women in all countries, the Commission notes considerable shortcomings in the achievement of these objectives, as shown by the lower educational level of women compared with men in many countries where serious attention is not being paid to the education of women.

The Commission also notes that in many countries sex discrimination is exercised against women in the matter of securing professional or technical education. The Commission notes that the main reasons which militate against women receiving an education are the economic and social conditions existing in those countries, and also the fact that the educational rights of women are not constitutionally guaranteed.

The Commission considers it its duty to draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the above situation prevailing in the sphere of women's education in many countries and recommends that the Economic and Social Council request the States Members of the United Nations to grant women, through the legislative channel, equal educational rights with men, and to ensure that they are afforded genuine educational opportunities.

The Commission, furthermore, recommends that these rights should be guaranteed them, irrespective of nationality or race, by general compulsory education, free elementary education, a system of state bursaries for outstanding students in higher schools, school instruction in the indigenous language of the country and the organization in enterprises and rural areas of free industrial, technical and agricultural instruction for women.

20. Having noted the information available in the replies received from Member Governments and from Non-Governmental Organizations to Part I, Section D (Educational Opportunities) of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women, the Commission considered that this information was not at present sufficient to provide a basis for recommendations. It therefore resolved to recommend to the Economic and Social Council:

- (a) That Governments that have not yet replied to this Section of the Questionnaire be asked to do so by 1 June 1948;
- (b) That the Secretary-General be instructed to prepare on the basis of these replies, supplemented where necessary by other available material, for circulation not later than six weeks before the third session of the General Assembly, a detailed comparative report arranged by subjects showing the existing disabilities of women in the field covered by this section of the Questionnaire;
- (c) That the replies be made available to UNESCO, with the consent of the Governments concerned, to facilitate its work in areas where women and girls suffer disabilities in the field of education.

21. The Commission adopted the following resolution relating to the Teachers' Charter proposed by UNESCO:

Resolution on the Proposed Teachers' Charter

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN,

SUPPORTS the suggestion made by UNESCO that the proposed Teachers' Charter include the phrase that "no bar founded on distinctions of race, colour, sex or creed should operate in any way in any branch of the teaching profession";

URGES that in view of wide-spread practices, additional suggestions be made that this Charter support the principle of equal pay and also freedom from discrimination on the ground of marital status; and

SUGGESTS further that in view of their joint interest in this field, UNESCO be requested to include in its annual Report information on its progress and plans for improving educational opportunities for women.

22. The Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council request UNESCO to work out suggestive programmes for the education of adult women in the various countries where such programmes would help to solve the problem of illiteracy.

/23. The Commission

23. The Commission recommended that the Economic and Social Council request UNESCO to suggest that Governments include in their educational programmes of Grammar and High Schools a course dealing with the political, social and civic rights of women, and the historical evolution and practical results of this important matter, in order to teach the younger generations the principles of equality of both sexes.

CHAPTER IV

ECONOMIC RIGHTS OF WOMEN

24. In accordance with the instruction of the Fourth Session of the Economic and Social Council that the Commission take as its immediate programme of work the examination of existing legal and customary disabilities of women as regards, inter alia, economic rights (subject to consultation with the International Labour Organization), with a view to framing proposals for action, the Commission considered this subject and adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution on Economic Rights

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

RECOGNIZING that any limitations in the matter of equal rights of men and women are a breach of fundamental human rights and are incompatible with the obligations assumed by Members of the United Nations under the Charter,

NOTING the existence in a number of countries of discrimination as regards the economic and social status of women, as a result of which the dignity and worth of woman and the active part she plays in society are not given the legal recognition and opportunities they deserve, thereby retarding the development of social progress and the improvement of the standards of living of the population of these countries,

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council request the States Members of the United Nations to ensure

- (a) that, irrespective of their nationality, race, language or religion, women are granted equal rights with men to employment and remuneration therefor, leisure, social insurance and professional training;
- (b) that in each country the rights of mothers and children be guaranteed by law.

Resolution on Equal Pay

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

AFFIRMS its support of the principle of equal pay for women, and recommends that the Economic and Social Council:

- (a) call upon Member Governments to encourage the establishment of this principle through all possible means, especially in their own publicly supported and civil services;

/(b) Invite the ILO

(b) invite the ILO and non-governmental organizations in category A to compile memoranda setting forth what action they are taking to provide equal pay for men and women and so implement the principle of the United Nations Charter that there shall be no discrimination based on sex, these memoranda to be submitted to the Commission at its next session.

The Commission suggests that special consideration be given equal pay for women on the agenda of its next session.

Resolution on Property Rights of Married Women

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

AFFIRMS its belief that all women should be assured full economic rights regardless of marital status;

CALLS attention to variations in laws in this field, some of which operate to restrict married women in regard to their rights to act as guardians, to control property and earnings, and to undertake independent business ventures and in other ways;

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General to complete, as promptly as possible, sections of the questionnaire pertinent to the economic rights of married women, now in preparation, for submission to governments.

25. The Commission considered a draft Resolution concerning possible relationship with the International Labour Organization on matters concerning the economic rights of women (document E/CN.6/63). It decided to incorporate the substance of this Resolution as Annex "A" of this Report.

CHAPTER V

SECTION OF THE DRAFT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BILL OF HUMAN
RIGHTS CONCERNING THE PARTICULAR RIGHTS OF WOMEN

26. In accordance with Resolution 48 (IV) of the Economic and Social Council, the preliminary draft of the International Bill of Human Rights, prepared by the Commission on Human Rights at its Second Session, was circulated to the Members of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission reviewed this Report. The former Chairman and Rapporteur of the Commission, who represented the Commission at the Second Session of the Commission on Human Rights, reported on the discussions that took place concerning the particular rights of women and on their participation in those deliberations. The representative of France reported on her participation in the First Session of the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities.

Following upon its review of the Report of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following resolutions:

Amendment to the Text of Article 1 of the Draft International Declaration on Human Rights:

All people are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed by nature with reason and conscience, and should act towards one another in the spirit of brotherhood.

Amendment to Article 13 of the Draft International Declaration on Human Rights:

Men and women shall have equal rights to contract or dissolve marriage in accordance with the law.

CHAPTER VI

MARRIAGE

27. The Commission on the Status of Women decided to draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council to the following extract of the statement of aims adopted at its first session:

Full equality in all civil rights, irrespective of nationality, race, language or religion, including

(a) Marriage - Freedom of choice, dignity of the wife, monogamy, equal right to dissolution of marriage.

To this statement of aims the Commission decided to add the following observations:

1. Monogamy. The Commission emphasizes its belief in the principle of monogamy and urges the United Nations to work for the acceptance of this principle.
2. Freedom of Choice. This right cannot be fully guaranteed unless it is recognized that individuals have the right to leave their country on marriage and to reside with the other partner in any country from which they cannot lawfully be excluded. The Commission therefore notes with satisfaction the terms of Article 10 (2) of the Draft Declaration on Human Rights (E/600) as recognizing a right essential for safeguarding freedom of choice in marriage.

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

28. The Sub-Committee on Communications examined in closed meeting the confidential list of communications prepared according to Resolution 76 (V) of the Fifth Session of the Economic and Social Council. The Commission adopted the Report of the Rapporteur of that Committee (document E/CN.6/66) and noted the disadvantages of the procedure laid down by the aforesaid resolution. However, the Commission felt that it was premature to suggest any action until machinery has been set up for the implementation of human rights.

CHAPTER VIII

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE

29. In accordance with the request of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission examined the Provisional Questionnaire prepared by the Trusteeship Council (document T/44). As a result of this examination it decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council suggest to the Trusteeship Council the following changes in the present wording:

Question 24: Amend the question to read as follows (amendment underlined):

"Explain briefly the suffrage laws and regulations and in detail their application to men and women and to racial groups. Do women vote on the same terms as men? Are women and men equally eligible to public office?"

Question 25: Insert a new question after Question 25, as follows:

"What measures have been taken to increase the participation of women in organs of the government? Submit exact figures or statistical tables."

Question 133: Amend the question to read (amendment underlined):

"What is the legal capacity of women (married and unmarried) in civil law, including access to courts of justice, rights to own or inherit property, to control earnings, to act as guardians, and to engage in business? Is the wife responsible for the husband's debts, and vice-versa?"

Question 135: Insert after this question the following additional questions:

"135 (a) Are educational opportunities available equally for boys and girls? Is school attendance compulsory? Do local laws or customs restrict education for women?"

"135 (b) What women's organizations or associations exist, if any? What are their aims, purposes, membership, nature of their services, and what has been done to encourage their development?"

Question 151: Sub-divide paragraph (i) of this question into two separate questions:

"(i) Employment of women

(ii) Employment of young persons and children"

Question 166: Amend this question to read (amended portion underlined):

/"What measures

"What measures have been taken to prevent discrimination in employment and in wage and salary payments according to race, sex, nationality, religion, or tribal association?"

Question 182: Amend this question by adding the following items:

"Submit information concerning the state of birth and mortality rates of the local population, in particular child mortality.

"Point out what measures have been taken for the prevention of mortality, especially child mortality.

"Submit information about expenditures given for the development of health."

Question 220: Amend this question to read (amended portion underlined):

"What are the educational systems and current educational programmes both public and private? Do these include both sexes?"

CHAPTER IX

CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARAGRAPHS 39
AND 40 OF THE REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION

30. The Economic and Social Council, at its fourth session, instructed the Commission to give further consideration to the recommendations in paragraphs 39 and 40 of Chapter XII of the Report on its first session relating to visits of members of the Commission to Member States and to the summoning of regional Conferences.

31. The Commission decided to set aside for the moment the idea of visits of its members to Member States.

32. On the summoning of regional conferences, it was informed by the Chairman that she had received a formal invitation from the Government of Lebanon that the Commission hold its next session in that country.

33. The Commission decided to express its thanks to the Government of Lebanon and to submit to the Economic and Social Council the recommendation that it be permitted to accept the invitation.

34. It passed the following resolution on this subject:

Resolution on Regional Conferences

"THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

BELIEVES that the most practical and economical means of stimulating improvement in the status of women is to hold occasional sessions of the Commission in different areas of the world;

NOTES the comments of the Secretariat on the labour and expense that this will involve;

RECOMMENDS

1. that its 1949 session be located in the Near East, provided suitable arrangements can be made with a Government in that region;

2. that it be of not more than 3 weeks duration;

RECOMMENDS further that official agencies, non-governmental organizations and others in the region be encouraged to develop at the same time a conference on the status of women, the promotion, direction, and expense of which will be the responsibility of the local agencies and not of the United Nations, in which members of the Commission can participate;

AUTHORIZES its Chairman, past Chairman, and Rapporteur to proceed with the Secretariat on plans for this meeting;

/URGES

URGES on the Economic and Social Council the advantage the International Labour Organization has found in its regional meetings as a means of developing wider understanding of its problems and programmes, and the increased support that can be expected from women's organizations and others in the area for the work of the United Nations as a whole through the location of a meeting having practical value for them where they can observe and attend."

CHAPTER X

INFLUENCING PUBLIC OPINION

35. The Commission heard a report on this question presented by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. It adopted the following resolutions on the matter:

Resolution on the Use of Means of Information

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

HAVING CONSIDERED the need to influence world public opinion in favour of equality between men and women,

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council request the Secretary-General

(a) to call upon the world press, radio, film and other information agencies to help in removing such prejudices as have been proved to exist in this respect; and

(b) to call upon the Department of Public Information of the United Nations to assist all such information agencies in these efforts to the fullest possible extent, and to prepare suitable information material of all kinds for this purpose.

Resolution on Publications

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

APPRECIATES the chart and analytical summary prepared by the Secretariat on the franchise rights of women and their eligibility to public office,

RECOMMENDS to the Economic and Social Council that a popular pamphlet be prepared for general use, if possible to include charts and maps to display effectively the nations where women vote in contrast with those where women are denied the franchise in whole or in part, and urges that this be published within the year.

Resolution on Assistance to Women Voters

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

RECOMMENDS to the Economic and Social Council that the Commission be permitted to assist women's groups which have been organized in those countries where the right to vote has recently been obtained or is in the process of being obtained by helping them in every way possible to acquire the necessary information, with a view to the maximum use of the rights recently obtained, including visits to those countries if and when requested and practicable.

36. In view of the fact that little publicity had been given to the principles, aims and activities of the Commission, the Rapporteur drew the attention of the Commission to the desirability of the appointment of an information liaison officer from the Department of Public Information for the task of information and publicity in all aspects of the status of women.

CHAPTER XI

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND REGIONAL
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

37. The Economic and Social Council, at its Fourth Session, instructed the Secretary-General to make arrangements for the presence of observers from regional inter-governmental organizations in the field of women's rights at the sessions of the Commission to act in an advisory and informative capacity, and to arrange for the exchange of information between the Commission and these organizations on subjects relating to the status of women.

38. In accordance with these instructions, the Commission heard the report presented by the Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, on the work of her organization. She submitted to the Commission the unpublished report of this organization, prepared for the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota, Colombia. This report deals with political rights, nationality of married women, legal capacity of married women and opportunities given to women in professions, occupations and trades.

39. The Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women extended to the Commission on the Status of Women a formal invitation to send an observer, in an advisory and consultative capacity, to the sessions of the Inter-American Commission of Women whenever they take place.

CHAPTER XII

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Commission adopted the following resolutions on this matter:

Resolution on Co-operation with the Social Commission

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

NOTING that a number of the aspects of the work of the Social Commission (for example, Traffic in Women and Children, Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, Family Welfare, etc.) are of direct interest to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women both in the field of women's rights and in promoting the participation of women in public activities,

CONSIDERING that close co-operation and consultation between the two Commissions on such matters would be of mutual benefit but that, as both commissions meet only once annually, this could not be satisfactorily achieved merely by an exchange of documents and of representatives at meetings,

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council instruct the Secretary General

- (a) to keep the Commission on the Status of Women informed of the progress in those subjects, under consideration by the Social Commission, which would be of interest to it; and
- (b) to invite the Social Commission to refer, whenever necessary, to the Commission on the Status of Women for its consideration, those aspects of its work which might profitably be examined from the point of view of women's rights and interests.

Resolution on Co-operation with the Commission
on Human Rights

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council arrange for the representation of the Commission on the Status of Women at the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights with the right to participate without vote in the deliberations involving the status of women.

In view of the fact that it is impossible to know at what point in the discussions an aspect relating to the discrimination against women or the rights of women may occur, the Commission on the Status of Women requests that no limitations be imposed such as were made in the resolutions of the Economic and Social Council of 29 March 1947 in respect of the attendance of the representatives at the Commission on Human Rights.

/Resolution

Resolution on Co-operation with International
Labour Organization

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council instruct the Secretary-General to forward its resolutions to the International Labour Organization and to arrange for reciprocal representation between the International Labour Organization and the Commission on the Status of Women so that the Commission may be represented at meetings of the International Labour Organization with the right to participate without vote in the deliberations on subjects involving the status of women as provided in Article 70 of the Charter and the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organization and that, insofar as practicable, the Commission be given an opportunity to comment on ILO proposals affecting women before their adoption.

Resolution on Co-operation with UNESCO

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council instruct the Secretary-General to forward its resolutions to UNESCO and to arrange for reciprocal representation between UNESCO and the Commission on the Status of Women so that the Commission may be represented at meetings of UNESCO with the right to participate without vote in its deliberations on subjects involving the status of women as provided in Article 70 of the Charter and the Agreement between UNESCO and the United Nations and that, insofar as practicable, the Commission be given an opportunity to comment on UNESCO proposals affecting women before their adoption.

CHAPTER XIII

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

41. The Commission adopted the following resolution proposed by the Committee created to examine the Preliminary Report Prepared by the Secretariat on Replies to Part I, Public Law, of the Questionnaire on the Legal Status and Treatment of Women:

Resolution on Questionnaires

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

CONSIDERS that, in order to obtain the needed background data on which to base its work of determining general policies, making specific recommendations for action and planning publications and other publicity and educational materials, the Secretary-General must supply it with pertinent facts as to the various discriminations existing against women, which facts can be obtained from:

1. Governments
2. Non-Governmental Organizations, Inter-governmental Organizations and Specialized Agencies
3. Individuals able and interested to supply them
4. General research

It therefore recommends that the Economic and Social Council instruct the Secretary-General that:

- A. Emphasis in the questions to Governments should be on the existence and extent of discriminations, rather than on equality, and to this end questions must be fewer, shorter and more searching than is the case with the questions contained in the present questionnaire.
- B. The material collected from Governments should be regarded as only one source of information which must be supplemented and, where necessary, checked by other sources to insure a complete, accurate and rounded picture.
- C. The presentation should be by subject matter.

Resolution on Programme of Future Work

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

RECOMMENDS therefore the following as the programme for future work in connection with questionnaires for the coming year:

- A. Part I of the Questionnaire should be completed. Governments which have not yet replied to it should be asked to do so on or before the following dates:

Sections A and B, Political Rights.... 1 June 1948
Section D, Educational Opportunities.. 1 June 1948
Section C, Nationality..... 1 July 1948
Remaining Sections..... 1 December 1948

It is understood that the Secretariat will have considerable work to do following receipt of this material as it will have to be supplemented from other sources, analyzed, etc., as indicated above.

B. It is recommended that the Economic and Social Council instruct the Secretary-General to proceed at once to draft short, simple questions dealing with the rights of married women, particularly as to domicile, marriage, divorce and control of property, and distribute the text of these proposed questions to the Commission for its review by 1 September, so that the Commission may discuss this text at its next session and decide on the time and manner of its distribution to Governments as well as on any revision in it.

C. In line with the Resolution presented by Denmark on the political rights of women in the First General Assembly, Memorandum E/CN.6/30, relating to the franchise rights of women and their eligibility to public office prepared by the Secretariat for the Commission, should be brought up to date, including reference to action by governments since the signing of the Charter, and presented to the Third General Assembly and similar material should be presented annually to succeeding Assemblies until all women throughout the world have the same political rights as men.

D. A popular pamphlet on Political Rights accorded or denied women should be prepared for general use, if possible to include charts and maps to display effectively the nations where women have full political rights in contrast with those where they are denied them in whole or in part. If possible, this should be published within the year.

E. The information obtained on Education (Section D of the Questionnaire) should be made available to UNESCO with the consent of the Governments concerned.

The representative from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made reservations as to the inclusion of items 3 and 4 as sources of information.

42. To facilitate the performance by the Secretary-General of the various tasks which the Commission expects him to accomplish, the Commission adopted the following resolutions:

Resolution on the Secretariat

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

HAVING regard to the difficulties which have been encountered by the Secretariat of the United Nations in obtaining adequate information that would make it possible to establish the existence of discriminations on account of sex, and

TAKING NOTE that the Commission on the Status of Women, in order fully to accomplish its task of promoting equal rights for women in the political, economic, civil, social and educational spheres, must rely upon accurate studies which will enable it to indicate injustices to which women are still subjected,

RECOMMENDS that the Economic and Social Council endeavour to find the means of strengthening the Secretariat Office of this Commission, assigning to it sufficient technical staff in order to fulfil the great task with which it has been entrusted.

During the discussion of the programme for future work, the Chairman, as representative of France, asked her colleagues to keep in mind for future consideration a proposal for the organization in Member States, where conscription for military service is practiced for men, of a corresponding civic social service for women in order to implement the principle that equality of rights should be accompanied by equality of responsibilities.

43. During the discussions on the need to strengthen the Secretariat Office of the Commission, hopes were expressed that the Section on the Status of Women of the Secretariat could be constituted as a Division of the Department of Social Affairs and a woman appointed as its Director. The Commission decided that the view on this matter expressed by one of its members be noted in the report.

ANNEX A:

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

I. WELCOMES the Chief of Section on Women's Work of the ILO as its representative at this session, and the opportunity thereby provided for joint review of the common purpose and problems of both bodies and of plans through which they may co-operate effectively, and urges the continued effort of the ILO to afford women workers the full benefit of the promise contained in the Declaration of Philadelphia, especially as regards equal pay and the rights of motherhood;

- II.
1. RECOGNIZES the importance of regulations to promote the health and welfare of all workers in industry, whether men, women, or children;
 2. CONSIDERS the most effective means of achieving this objective to be adequate pay to provide a reasonable standard of living, reasonable hours of work, safeguards against occupational accidents and diseases and social insurance against other occupational hazards without discrimination as to race, religion, language, or sex;
 3. BELIEVES that safeguards for women workers in particular call in the first instance for the provision of equal pay and equal opportunity for training, work and promotion, maternity leave with benefits paid from public funds with guaranteed re-employment and adequate facilities for the care of the children of working mothers but that where standards are low as regards hours, wages, and general conditions of labour or women are not well organized in trade unions, or where the nature of the occupation menaces their health and welfare, special provisions may be required to protect the health and welfare of women;
 4. CONSIDERS further that regulations safeguarding maternity and the rights of motherhood fall within a special category of safeguards that concern the health and well-being of all, men and women alike;
 5. SUGGESTS that in all regulations which make distinctions on the basis of sex, care should be taken that such regulations are not a disguise for unwarranted distinction aimed in reality at excluding women from choice of employment, opportunity for promotion and well-paid suitable employment.

III. APPROVES the practice adopted by the ILO of fostering the development of trade unions to assist workers in improving working conditions and of promoting appropriate measures to assist government in eliminating unhealthy and unsatisfactory conditions of employment and urges the periodic and progressive review and revision of ILO Conventions as an appropriate procedure for changing regulations in accordance with changing conditions of labour;

IV. CONSIDERS the implementation of the ILO Recommendation on Employment Organization (Transition from War to Peace) adopted in Philadelphia, 1944, as of vital importance to the status of women workers, in particular the paragraphs concerning equality of opportunity for men and women in the employment market, the establishment of wage rates based on job content without regard to sex, together with investigations to determine precise and objective standards for such judgments, and the raising of the relative status of those industries and occupations in which large numbers of women have traditionally been employed, and requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the ILO to report at the next session of the Commission on the progress that has been made by its Member nations in carrying out these recommendations.

V. EXPRESSES its satisfaction that the ILO Convention on Social Policy in Non-Metropolitan Territories provides for the abolition of all discriminations among workers on the grounds of sex, but notes the inclusion of a provision that the policy of equal pay shall not operate unless this principle is likewise accorded in the metropolitan territory, and in view of the need to avoid perpetuation in non-metropolitan territories of the general evils consequent upon the existence of a pool of cheap female labour, requests the Economic and Social Council to inform the ILO that the Commission regrets the inclusion of this provision and expresses the hope that steps will be taken as soon as possible to eliminate from this clause of the Convention the proviso following the words "work of equal value".

ANNEX B

Resolution on Commercialized Prostitution and
Venereal Disease

The Commission considered a draft resolution on venereal disease. The subject matter being within the terms of reference of the Social Commission and the World Health Organization, it was decided to include it as Annex B of the present report for transmission to these bodies.

WHEREAS

Commercialized prostitution and stage regulation of prostitution is a violation of human rights and is contrary to the principles of the United Nations; and brings the greatest dishonour, degradation and humiliation upon women;

WHEREAS

It is known that in many countries powerful and wealthy interests are involved in commercialized vice and in the traffic in women, and oppose all efforts to eradicate this social evil;

WHEREAS

The existence of brothels provides a market for women and therefore encourages traffic in women, which is contrary to international conventions;

WHEREAS

Registered brothels and registered prostitutes create a false sense of security from infection from venereal disease; and

WHEREAS

The best informed opinion today is that the evils of prostitution and venereal disease should be dealt with by social workers and doctors and that the most effective preventive of venereal disease is free and secret treatment of venereal disease accompanied by suitable education;

THEREFORE

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN requests the Economic and Social Council to forward this resolution to the Social Commission and World Health Organization for their information.