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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Eighth Session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIFTY MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 9 April 1954, at 2.45 p.m.

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of Women

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isp.

PRESENT:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Miss BERNARDINO	Dominican Republic
<u>Rapporteur:</u>	Mrs. FIROUZ	Iran
<u>Members:</u>	DAW NGWE KHIN	Burma
	Mrs. NOVIKOVA	Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
	Miss GONZALES	Chile
	Miss YANG	China
	Miss MAÑAS	Cuba
	Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX	France
	Mrs. GUERY	Haiti
	Mrs. TABET	Lebanon
	Begum ANWAR AHMED	Pakistan
	Mrs. DEMBINSKA	Poland
	Mrs. ROSSEL	Sweden
	Mrs. FOMINA	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
	Mrs. WARDE)	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	Mr. ATTLEE)	
	Mrs. HAHN	United States of America
	Mrs. SANCHEZ de URDANETA	Venezuela
	Mrs. MITROVIC)	Yugoslavia
	Mr. BOZOVIC)	
<u>Also present:</u>	Mrs. FLOURET	Argentina
	Mrs. CHAVES)	Inter-American Commission of Women
	Mrs. de CALVO)	

Representatives of specialized agencies:

Mrs. FIGUEROA	International Labour Organisation
Mr. ARNALDO)	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
Mrs. CRUZ SANTOS)	

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

Mrs. FOX World Federation of United Nations
Associations.

Category B and Register:

Mrs. MAHON International Alliance of Women
Mr. LONGARZO International Conference of Catholic
Charities
Mrs. REGISTER International Council of Women
Mrs. HYMER)
Miss RANDALL) International Federation of
Business and Professional Women
Miss ROBB International Federation of
University Women
Miss SMITH)
Mrs. RUIZO) International Federation of
Women Lawyers
Mrs. EGENOLF International League for the
Rights of Man
Miss DINGMAN International Union for Child
Welfare
Mrs. GILLICUDDY Liaison Committee of Women's
International Organizations
Mrs. FOWLER)
Miss SCHEIN) Pan Pacific Women's Association
Mrs. WALSER Women's International League for
Peace and Freedom
Mr. JACOBY World Jewish Congress
Mrs. SCHAEFER World Union of Catholic Women's
Organizations
Miss PEZZULO Young Christian Workers

Secretariat:

Mrs. TENISON-WOODS Chief of the Status of Women Section
Mrs. GRINBERG-VINANVER Secretary of the Commission

RATIFICATION BY ISRAEL OF THE CONVENTION ON POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The CHAIRMAN announced that she had been informed by the Israel observer that the Government of Israel was in process of ratifying the Convention on Political Rights of Women. She congratulated the Government of Israel on the important step it had taken.

ADOPTION OF THE COMMISSION'S REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

(E/CN.6/L.140 and Add.1 - 4)

Mrs. FIROUZ (Iran), Rapporteur, introduced the Commission's draft report to the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter I (E/CN.6/L.140)

Mrs. de URDANETA (Venezuela) asked that the name of the alternate representative of Venezuela should be included in the list of representatives of member States of the Commission.

It was so decided.

Mrs. FOMINA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) considered that paragraph 3, concerning the representation of China, should reflect the views expressed at the time by the representatives of the USSR, the Byelorussian SSR and Poland. She proposed the insertion, after the words "Poland and China", of the following text: "the representatives of the USSR, the Byelorussian SSR and Poland stated that China's seat could be occupied only by a representative appointed by the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, the only lawful Government of China".

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America), supported by Miss YANG (China) said that if that addition was made to the report she would ask that the following sentence should also be added: "The representatives of the United States and

China expressed the view that the delegate present was the proper representative of the Chinese Republic and that a discussion on membership was outside the terms of reference of the Commission."

Both amendments were adopted.

Chapter I, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter II

Chapter II was adopted without discussion.

Chapter III

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) considered that it would be more correct for the first paragraph on page 13 of the report to state "that women in some of the Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories enjoyed greater political rights than women in some sovereign States".

Begum ANWAR AHMED (Pakistan) supported the United States representative's view.

The amendment proposed by the United States representative was adopted.

Chapter III, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter IV

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) said that the title of the chapter should be amended to read "Nationality of Married Women", which would correspond more exactly to the wording of the corresponding agenda item.

It was so decided.

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) did not feel that the wording of the second half of the first sentence in the last paragraph on page 15 clearly expressed the reasons why the Commission had been unable to deal with the problem of the nationality of children. It should be amended as follows in order to make those reasons clear: "however, the Commission considered that, as it had decided that that phase of the nationality problem lay outside its competence, it should be dealt with at a later date by a different organ of the United Nations..."; the remainder of the sentence should remain unchanged.

It was so decided.

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) pointed out that the first paragraph on page 16 seemed to imply that the Commission had undertaken to adopt and recommend a final text for the draft convention at its next session. She considered that it would be advisable to replace the words "when the Commission would make a recommendation on a final text" by the words "of the Commission, with a view to further action".

Miss MAÑAS (Cuba) expressed a preference for the existing text.

Begum ANWAR AHMED (Pakistan) felt that the two views could be reconciled by the adoption of the wording "when the Commission hoped to make a recommendation a final text".

It was so decided.

Chapter IV, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter V

Speaking at the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs. FIGUERCA (International Labour Organisation) stated that the ILO understood paragraph 5 of the resolution on page 26 of the English text as expressing the Commission's wish that it should continue to be informed on the progress of the ratifications of the Convention on Equal Pay and on the steps taken to implement it. As the Commission knew, under its Constitution the ILO had the exclusive right to supervise the implementation of the Convention and to examine the extent to which the national legislation of States conformed to its provisions.

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) pointed out that ILO Convention No. 100 and recommendation No. 90 were not the only international instruments concerning equal pay, as the Economic and Social Council had also taken decisions on the subject. The last sentence of the second paragraph on page 23 should accordingly be amended by inserting the word "inclusive" before the word "international".

It was so decided.

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) pointed out that the discussion in the Commission had emphasized the importance of collective bargaining as a means of implementing the principle of equal pay, and suggested expanding the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 24, which referred only to membership in trade unions, to include collective bargaining.

Mrs. NOVIKOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) considered that the part played by trade unions in implementing the principle of equal pay should be given due emphasis. She therefore asked that the following words should be added at the end of the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 24:
"in order to make their efforts to obtain equal pay for equal work more effective".

The Byelorussian proposal was adopted.

Chapter V, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter VI (E/CN.6/L.140/Add.1)

Chapter VI was adopted without discussion.

Chapter VII (E/CN.6/L.140/Add.2)

Mrs. GUERY (Haiti) reminded the Commission that the Yugoslav delegation had made a very important contribution to the discussion on draft resolution E/CN.6/L.134/Rev.1, with which paragraph 11 of the document under consideration was concerned. The question of the bride price had been raised by that delegation. She accordingly proposed that the Yugoslav delegation's position should be explained in the paragraph. Furthermore, on page 4 of the document Mrs. Lefauchaux, the Commission's representative to the ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, should be mentioned by name.

It was so decided.

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) pointed out that the amendment referred to at the end of paragraph 11 had been intended, not to remove undue emphasis on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories, but to avoid restricting to such Territories observations which might apply to other countries and other regions.

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) supported the French representative. The Commission would recall that the amendment in question had been submitted by her delegation and not by the United Kingdom delegation. She proposed that the words "and also to remove undue emphasis on Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories" on page 7 should be replaced by the words "by including other areas along with Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories".

The amendment was adopted.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) said that the word "inconsistent" on the seventh line of page 8 should be replaced by the word "incompatible".

The amendment was adopted.

Chapter VII, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter VIII (E/CN.6/L.140/Add.3)

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of the Dominican Republic, reminded the Commission of the strenuous protest she had made concerning the statistics relating to her country in the UNESCO report. She proposed that the words "and did not correspond to reality" should be added after the words "were out-dated", in paragraph 4, and that the phrase "as it affected her country" should be deleted.

It was so decided.

Chapter VIII, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter IX (E/CN.6/L.140/Add.4)

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) pointed out that a reference to the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/242) had been omitted from paragraph 1. The following text should therefore be added at the end of that paragraph: "and a report by the Secretary-General on fellowships and other assistance available to Governments for the training of persons interested in improving the status of women (E/CN.6/L.242)".

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) pointed out that the fourth sentence in paragraph 4 tended to restrict the contemplated advice to purely legislative problems, and proposed that the phrase "on drafting legislative changes, after" should be replaced by the words "based on", and the words "than exchange" by "than a mere exchange".

It was so decided.

Chapter IX, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter X

Chapter X was adopted without discussion.

Chapter XI

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) pointed out an omission in paragraph 7. Beginning at the ninth line of the paragraph, the text should read: "and suggested that discussion of the question should be postponed until the tenth session. This draft resolution was then withdrawn by its sponsor in favour of a revised draft (E/CN.6/L.148/Rev.1) proposing that the subject should be placed as a sub-item on the agenda of the ninth session of the Commission under the subject Economic Opportunities for Women."

Mrs. DEMBINSKA (Poland) requested that the words "At its 171st meeting, the Polish representative had submitted a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.143)" should be added at the end of paragraph 1. She would prefer to have the draft resolution mentioned in paragraph 1, rather than in paragraph 10 as had been done. She also asked that the complete text of her draft resolution should be given in the report.

Mrs. GUERY (Haiti) said that she also had asked that the full text of her draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.129/Rev.1) should be given in the report, instead of being merely mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN said that in accordance with the usual practice, only the texts of resolutions adopted by the Commission were given in the report.

Mrs. NOVIKOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) thought that the fact that a resolution had not been put to the vote or adopted did not mean that it should not be reproduced in the report. During the debate on the Polish draft resolution it had been decided that the text would appear in the report as it was to be reconsidered by the Commission at its next session. She supported the Polish and Haitian representatives' requests that the texts of the two draft resolutions should be given in full in the report.

Mrs. RÖSSEL (Sweden), supported by Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France), observed that only the subject matter of the joint French and Lebanese draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.136) and of the joint French and Swedish draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.137) was mentioned in chapter VII, paragraph 10. She suggested that the same procedure should be followed in regard to the Polish and Haitian draft resolutions.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) read out part of the summary record of the 173rd meeting (E/CN.6/SR.173), which showed that the Commission had decided that the two draft resolutions should be mentioned in the report. They were in fact mentioned and analysed in detail in chapter XI, paragraph 7.

Mrs. DEMBINSKA (Poland) proposed that the texts of the draft resolutions should be annexed to the report as they would form the basis of the Commission's work when it considered the protection of mother and child at its next session.

The CHAIRMAN felt that there was no need to do so as the draft resolutions would in any case be reconsidered at the next session.

Mrs. DEMBINSKA (Poland) did not press her amendment.

Chapter XI was adopted.

Chapters XII, XIII and XIV

Chapters XII, XIII and XIV were adopted without discussion.

Chapter XV

Mrs. HAHN (United States of America) pointed out that the description of the United States proposal in paragraph 2 was not necessary. She suggested the final sentence of that paragraph be replaced by the words "A proposal by the representative of the United States (E/CN.6/L.147) was subsequently withdrawn by its sponsor".

The amendment was adopted.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) pointed out that item (f) of category II (Ad hoc projects of high priority) in the programme of work should read: "Educational opportunities for Women: ILO Report on access of Women to Apprenticeship". She also drew the attention of the Commission to the corrigendum (E/CN.6/L.140/Add.4/Corr.1) adding a paragraph 7 at the end of chapter XV taking into account the request contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 497 C (XVI).

Mrs. NOVIKOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) thought that the addition of the paragraph was unnecessary. During the course of the discussions there had been no question of including a paragraph of that kind in the report.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) called the Byelorussian representative's attention to document E/CN.6/248. In paragraph 4, the Secretary-General drew the Commission's attention to resolution 497 C (XVI) and to certain previous resolutions, in which the Council had requested its commissions "to include in a special section of their next reports to the Council a description of the progress made in so concentrating their efforts".

Mrs. NOVIKOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) thought that since that was the case, it would be enough to retain the first part of the corrigendum up to the words "to concentrate its efforts". The remaining details were superfluous; in particular it seemed inadvisable to mention the question of protection of mother and child, to which the Commission attached so much importance.

Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia) thought that paragraph 7 (c) gave a false impression of previous debates, during which the Commission had been anxious to deal with the question of protection of mother and child. He thought that the question should appear in the programme of work not under III ("Projects of Low Priority") but under II ("Ad Hoc Projects of High Priority").

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Commission had unanimously adopted the programme as set out in the report, and that the question could not be reopened.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom) thought that the Commission should accept the corrigendum which was in accordance with the facts and merely referred to decisions which had been taken.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the Byelorussian proposal to delete the end of the corrigendum after the words "The progress made".

The proposal was rejected by 5 votes to 8, with 5 abstentions.

Chapter XV, with the addition of paragraph 7, was adopted.

Chapter XVI was adopted without discussion.

The annex was adopted without discussion.

The report as a whole was adopted unanimously.

Mrs. MANAS (Cuba), supported by Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom), Mrs. HAHN (United States of America), Mr. BOZOVIC (Yugoslavia), Miss YANG (China), Mrs. GUERY (Haiti), Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France), DAW NGWE KHIN (Burma), Mrs. SANCHEZ de URDANETA (Venezuela), the Begum ANWAR AHMED (Pakistan) and Mrs. FIROUZ (Iran) paid a tribute to the competence, tact and impartiality of the Chairman and to the work of the Rapporteur and the Secretariat. They thanked the ILO, UNESCO and the non-governmental organizations for their valuable co-operation and they expressed satisfaction at the constructive work which had been accomplished by the Commission whose debates had taken place in a friendly atmosphere.

Mrs. TABET (Lebanon) associated herself with the statements of the previous speakers, but wished to protest against an article on Lebanon published in an illustrated review that had been distributed by certain organizations. The facts reported in that article were wholly untrue and she was surprised that a responsible body attached importance to what a young hot-head had to say and helped him publish his fabrications.

Mrs. FOMINA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mrs. NOVIKOVA (Byelorussian SSR) and Mrs. DEMBINSKA (Poland), also paid a tribute to the Chairman and the Secretariat. However, they expressed regret at the Council's decision concerning the Women's International Democratic Federation as the Federation whose activities were in defence of the rights of women and in conformity with the provisions of the Charter, had actively co-operated in the work of the Commission.

Mr. ATTLEE (United Kingdom), supported by Mrs. HAHN (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, said that it was not for the Commission to criticize the decision of a higher body.

Mrs. NOVIKOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) saw no reason why her delegation, or the delegations of the USSR and Poland, should not express regret at being deprived of the services of the Women's International Democratic Federation. The Commission was a United Nations body in which everyone had the right to express his opinions freely.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) read a message to the Chairman from the non-governmental organizations which congratulated the Commission and its Chairman on the work that had been accomplished and assured them of their continued co-operation. They wished the Commission every success in its future work.

Mrs. FLOURET (Argentina), speaking as an observer, thanked the Commission and the Chairman for the opportunities they had given her to take part in the discussion, and stressed the interest with which her delegation had followed the Commission's work.

Mr. ARNALDO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), on behalf of his Organization's Director-General, thanked the members of the Commission for the tribute which they had paid UNESCO. He pointed out that in order to be able to draw up its report on educational opportunities for women, UNESCO needed the co-operation of all governments which would have to furnish it with regular reports. In the absence of such co-operation, UNESCO's report could not be up to date or of real value.

The CHAIRMAN emphasized that the Commission's report reflected the efforts of the different delegations to solve the various problems affecting women. On receiving the report, women throughout the world who followed the Commission's work with interest would see that their cause was not neglected and had already made progress. The Convention on Political Rights of Women had been ratified by two more countries and could be placed in force in the near future. A convention on the nationality of married women was being studied

and would, she hoped, soon be adopted. Unfortunately in some countries women were still treated as menials of no importance. It was on behalf of those women in particular that the Commission must continue its work. The Commission must give its undivided attention to all the items on its agenda, since, so long as women had not attained a stage of equal development and equal rights with men, the Commission would not have achieved its purpose.

She thanked the representatives for their kind words and thanked them, the Rapporteur and the members of the Secretariat who had helped her in her task. The co-operation of the ILO, UNESCO and the non-governmental organizations had been of the greatest value.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.