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REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

PRESENTED TO THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN, HELD IN

March - April 1954

at

New York, N.Y.

PAN AMERICAN UNION  
Washington, D.C.

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The functions of the Inter-American Commission of Women are as follows:

.....

(d) To establish close relations with inter-American organizations, and also with those of world-wide scope, whose objectives are related to those of the Commission;

(Chapter II, Article 2, of the Organic Statutes of the Commission)

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## INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Commission of Women is taking part in the Eighth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women as an advisory and informative body under resolution 57 (IV) and 48 (IV) B (paragraph 7), 1947, of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The cordial invitation extended to the Commission by the Secretary-General of the United Nations once more reflects the importance of maintaining close co-operation between the two inter-governmental commissions of women, and of effectively combining their efforts towards the solution of the problems with which they are concerned.

This Report sets out the chief work done by the Inter-American Commission of Women since the seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women; the resolutions passed at its Ninth Assembly concerning items on the agenda of the Eighth Session of the United Nations Commission; and the political, civil, economic, social and cultural changes which have occurred in the status of women in America during the period reviewed by this Report.

NINTH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

The most important act of the Inter-American Commission of Women during the period covered by this Report was the holding of its Ninth Assembly.

That Assembly was held, on the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Paraguay, in the City of Asunción from 7 - 23 September 1953, and was attended by delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. His Excellency, the Mexican Ambassador, Dr. Luis Quintanilla, attended as representative of the Council of the Organization of American States, and Dr. Giovanni Tamburi as representative of the International Labour Organisation.

At the Preliminary Session Mrs. Stella Rufinelli de Moreno González, wife of the Minister of Foreign Relations and Church Affairs of Paraguay, was elected Honorary Chairman of the Assembly, and Mrs. María Concepción de Chaves, permanent delegate of Paraguay, was elected Chairman of the Assembly.

The Inaugural Session was held in the Dr. Ignacio A. Pane Municipal Theatre on 7 September. The President of the Republic, H.E. Mr. Federico Chaves, took the chair and delivered an eloquent address.

At the first plenary session the following officers were elected:

Honorary Vice-Chairman of the Assembly: Mrs. María Elena Chaves de Felice

First Vice-Chairman: Mrs. Fortuna Augustin Guéry, delegate of Haiti

Second Vice-Chairman: Dr. Olga Núñez Abaunza, delegate of Nicaragua

Third Vice-Chairman: Dr. Nora von Borries Méndez, delegate of Bolivia

Secretary-General of the Assembly: Dr. Carmela Aguilar Ayanz,  
Delegate of Peru

The following agenda were adopted at the second and third plenary sessions:

1. Opening of the Assembly, election of executive committee, appointment of working committees.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Survey of action taken in accordance with the Work Plan and resolutions adopted at the Eighth Assembly.



4. Amendments to Organic Statutes of the Commission.
5. (a) Political rights of women,  
(b) Eligibility of women for election and appointment to public office (Resolution V of the Eighth Assembly)
6. Family and property rights (Resolution VII, Eighth Assembly)
7. (a) General economic and social problems of women,  
(b) Compliance with Resolution XXIII of the Ninth International Conference of American States,  
(c) Report on Resolutions III and IV of the Eighth Assembly.
8. (a) Report on Resolutions VII and XVIII of the Eighth Assembly,  
(b) Educational opportunities for women.
9. Relations between the Inter-American Commission of Women, the Commission on the Status of Women of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation and other official international organs.
10. Work Plan of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and determination of priorities.
11. Administrative aspects of the Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women.
12. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the period 1953-1957, and of the members of the Executive Committee for the period 1953-1955.
13. Adoption of the Final Act of the Ninth Assembly.

As a result of its deliberations, the Assembly approved the following resolutions in pursuance of the functions of the Commission:

- I. Empowerment of the Chairman of the Commission to submit the Draft Amendments to the Organic Statutes to the Tenth International Conference of American States.
- II. Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women to the Tenth International Conference of American States.
- III. Grant of suffrage to women.
- IV. Amendment of Codes to conform to the real status of women.
- V. Political rights of women.
- VI. Establishment within each National Committee on Co-operation of a Standing Committee on political and civil rights.

- VII. Inter-American Conventions.
- VIII. Civil capacity of women.
- IX. Reform of matrimonial property systems.
- X. Report to the United Nations on resolutions relating to the family and property.
- XI. Rights of married women.
- XII. Family rights.
- XIII. Amendment of discriminatory laws on the status of women.
- XIV. Increased co-operation of delegates with women's organizations and prominent persons in each country.
- XV. Family allowances.
- XVI. Establishment of schools of social service.
- XVII. Educational opportunities for women in rural areas.
- XVIII. Establishment of an inter-American school of social welfare.
- XIX. Access of women to employment and vocational training.
- XX. Educational opportunities for women.
- XXI. Development of the teaching profession.
- XXII. Participation by women in international gatherings.
- XXIII. Compliance with Resolution XXIII of the Ninth International Conference of American States.
- XXIV. Vocational education in relation to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.
- XXV. Equal pay for work of equal value.
- XXVI. Recommendation for a congress of technical and administrative officers of women's labour bureaux.
- XXVII. Budget.
- XXVIII. Separation of property in consequence of wife's adultery.

The Assembly also approved the Draft Amendments to the Organic Statutes of the Commission, to be submitted by the Chairman to the Tenth International Conference of American States for final approval in accordance with the Assembly's Resolution I. It also approved a Work Plan for execution by the Commission during the next working year.



The reports of the Chairman of the Commission, the participating delegates, the Executive Secretary of the Commission, and the representative of the International Labour Organisation were submitted in successive plenary sessions under the corresponding agenda items.

Mrs. María Concepción de Chaves was elected Chairman and Dr. Bertha Lutz Vice-Chairman of the Commission for the period 1953-1957 at the 11th plenary session held on 22 September.

Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Uruguay were elected to be the States members of the Executive Committee of the Commission for the period 1953-1955.

At the ceremonial closing session held on 23 September, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman elected for the period 1953-1957 assumed office, and the Assembly rose.



INFORMATION CONCERNING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA  
OF THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION  
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

ITEM 3. POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN

(b) Report on ways in which equal political rights for women may  
be achieved and made effective

Under its Organic Statutes, the Inter-American Commission of Women works for the extension of political rights to the women of America on an equal footing with men, and reports annually to the Commission on the Status of Women on the results of its work.

Item 5 on the agenda of the Ninth Assembly of our Commission included the following sub-heading:

"(a) Political Rights of Women"

After consideration of this item the Assembly approved the following resolutions:

III. Grant of suffrage to women, which recommends:

"That the Continental Campaign approved in Resolution I of the Eighth Assembly, in behalf of the Recognition and Exercise of Women's Political Rights in America be continued."

"That the Chairman be requested to study the matter of fellowships and facilities for the education of women in the responsibilities of citizenship and participation in Government, and to report to the delegates any opportunities of that nature afforded to them by their governments and women."

Resolution V, on Political Rights of Women, recommends to those Governments of American Republics which have not as yet done so to incorporate in their Constitutional legislation the following principles:

- "1. All nationals of both sexes have the same rights,
- "2. Men and women nationals have the same rights with regard to -
  - "(a) Voting and being elected in national, state and municipal elections,
  - "(b) Occupation of public office, subject solely to the technical requirements of law relating to capability.
  - "(c) Retaining and changing nationality, and transmitting nationality to their descendants."

Resolution VI recommends to delegates composing the organization to establish within each national "Committee on Co-operation" a standing committee on political and civil rights with members drawn from all representative sectors of feminine opinion in the country.

Resolution VII, on Inter-American Conventions, recommends:

"Work for the signature, ratification and deposit of instruments of ratification by the governments of those American Republics which have not yet done so."

"A request to the delegates of the Republics represented on the Inter-American Commission of Women, with the support of their respective 'Committees on Co-operation' and associations for the defence of women's rights, to work for the promulgation of legislation necessary for the implementation of such conventions and to report to the Commission on the results of their work."

#### Recent Information

COLOMBIA - Last February the Commission on Constitutional Studies, which is drawing up the draft amendments to the Constitution, at a plenary meeting, rejected by 9 votes to 8 the incorporation of an amendment granting universal suffrage to Colombian women.

COSTA RICA - The entry into force of articles 90, 93 and 98 of the Constitution of 7 November 1949, granting women political rights on an equal footing with men, enabled women on 26 July 1953 to participate for the first time in the national elections, when three women deputies and one councillor were elected to the National Legislative Assembly.

HONDURAS - On 6 January 1954 the National Congress approved an amendment to article 24 of the Constitution of 28 March 1936 granting women the right to vote and be appointed to public office.

This amendment still requires ratification by a two-thirds vote of the next legislature.

MEXICO - Mexican women achieved full grant of their political rights on 6 October 1953, when the Congress of the Union approved the passage by the Chambers and Legislatures of the states of the amendments to articles 34 and 115 of the Constitution, granting women the right to vote and to be elected in national elections.



The 1954 map of American women's political rights shows the following picture:

Universal Suffrage, 15 countries:

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Mexico
Panama
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela

Municipal Suffrage, 2 countries:

Haiti
Peru

Countries where women's suffrage has not yet been introduced:

Colombia
Honduras
Nicaragua
Paraguay

There are now women members of the legislatures of the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Panama, United States and Uruguay.

In 1953 the Chamber of Deputies of the Argentine Republic elected a woman deputy as vice-president, the first time in that country that a woman had been elected to that honourable position.

(d) Draft survey on women in public services and functions

Item 5 (b) of the agenda of the Ninth Assembly was: The status of women with respect to their eligibility for election and appointment to public office, recommended by Resolution V of the Commission's Eighth Assembly.

Consequently the Commission submitted to its Ninth Assembly document NAA/53/4 on "Women in the public service of the American Republics", with information on the

legal and factual aspects of the question in the twenty-one countries, with particular reference to the following topics:

- |    |  |                  |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Constitutional and legal provisions ensuring women equal opportunities with men in election or appointment to public office. |                  |
| 2. | When at present active in political life   | Duties performed |
| 3. | Women in national administration:  |                  |
|    | (a) In the Cabinet   | ....             |
|    | (b) In branches of Ministries and other administrative bodies  | ....             |
|    | (c) In education:  |                  |
|    | Pre-school   | ....             |
|    | Primary  | ....             |
|    | Secondary  | ....             |
|    | University   | ....             |
| 4. | In independent institutions  | ....             |
| 5. | In social-welfare organizations  | ....             |
| 6. | In the foreign service:  |                  |
|    | (a) diplomatic and consular  | ....             |
|    | (b) international and inter-American conferences and gatherings  | ....             |
| 7. | In courts of justice   |                  |

This document is submitted to the Eighth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women for its information. The most recent information covers 1953 and refers to the present situation in 11 countries: Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and the United States.

The Ninth Assembly of the Inter-American Commission of Women approved Resolution XXII: Participation by women in international gatherings, which recommends that American governments be requested to implement Resolution XXII referring to such participation, which was approved by the Inter-American Conference on Problems of War and Peace held in Chapultepec, Mexico, in 1945.



The Inter-American Commission of Women reports that women served on the delegations of eleven countries to the Tenth International Conference of American States at Caracas: viz. Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States and Venezuela.

The Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee of that conference was the Panamanian representative, Mrs. Cecilia P. de Remon, First Lady of the Republic.

The Inter-American Commission of Women also noted that during the eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly the following American governments included women in their delegations in various capacities: Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The Commission further noted that Miss Minerva Bernadino, representative of the Dominican Republic in that Assembly, representative in the Inter-American Commission of Women, and Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women, was elected Vice-Chairman of the Third Committee on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs.

#### ITEM 4. NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN

The Convention on the Nationality of Women, signed by 19 countries at the seventh International Conference of American States at Montevideo in 1933, has since been ratified by twelve countries. Costa Rica, which did not originally sign the Convention, ratified it on 12 June 1953 and deposited its instrument of ratification on 17 July 1953.

The text of this Convention is as follows:

"Article 1. No distinction in legislation or practice relating to nationality shall be based on sex."

Part 2 of Document 25 (Spanish text; parts 1 and 2) on the civil and political rights of American women submitted by the Inter-American Commission of Women to the Tenth International Conference of American States reports on the existing legislation in the twenty-one American Republics relating to the nationality of married women.

The Ninth Assembly of the Commission approved Resolution VII, Inter-American Conventions, recommending that governments which have not yet ratified this Convention be urged to sign and ratify it and deposit their instruments of ratification.

The following table shows the present position of ratifications:

<u>Signatory countries</u>	<u>Countries which have not yet signed</u>	<u>Date of instrument of ratification</u>	<u>Date of deposit of instrument of ratification</u>
Argentina			
Bolivia			
Brazil		9 November 1937	22 December 1937
Colombia		22 June 1936	22 July 1936
	Costa Rica	12 June 1953	17 July 1953
Cuba		26 November 1943	15 December 1943
Chile		11 July 1934	29 August 1934
Dominican Republic			
Ecuador		24 June 1936	3 October 1936
El Salvador*			
Guatemala		6 April 1936	17 July 1936
Haiti			
Honduras*		23 May 1935*	26 June 1935*
Mexico		1 October 1935*	27 January 1936*
Nicaragua**		3 February 1937	
Panama		11 November 1938	13 December 1938
Paraguay			
Peru			
United States*		30 June 1934*	13 July 1934*
Uruguay			

\* With reservations.

\*\* Ratification not deposited.



ITEM 5: EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK FOR MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS. ITEM 6, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

In furtherance of the provisions of its Organic Statutes, the Inter-American Commission of Women is working for the recognition of women's economic and social rights.

At its Ninth Assembly the following resolutions in favour of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value were adopted:

Resolution XXV recommends the establishment:

"3... of classification schedules based on the rate for the job regardless of sex, and that legislative and other measures be adopted to secure equal pay for male and female government employees".

Resolution XXVI recommends a congress of technical and administrative officers of the women's labour bureaux which exist in each American country to study problems concerning the economic and moral position of the working woman, and to lay down agreed uniform measures for solving them.

Studies

"The economic position of the working woman in America" was studied by a woman technical specialist under the auspices of the Inter-American Commission of Women in compliance with Resolution XXXIII of the Ninth International Conference of American States held at Bogotá. It was the first inquiry on this subject undertaken by an American inter-governmental organization. It consists of five volumes, and has been distributed to international and inter-American bodies such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the International Labour Organisation, the Economic and Social Council of the Organization of American States and others, in order to obtain from them the co-operation recommended in Resolution XXIII. This study was provisionally submitted by our Society to the Tenth International Conference of American States as the result of the inquiry entrusted to it by the Ninth International Conference of American States. It is also subject to the recommendation of Resolution XXIII of the Ninth Assembly of our Commission, which requests its circulation to the delegates to the Assembly for examination.

Another important study is that prepared by the International Labour Office, "Vocational training of women in the Americas", also for the Ninth Assembly of

of our Society. Item 8 (b) on the Assembly's agenda was educational opportunities for women, and the International Labour Office contributed to the examination of the matter the information contained in that study upon the following aspects:

- I. The International Labour Organisation and the vocational training and education of women.
- II. Problems involved in the professional training of women and girls in the Americas.
- III. Proposed subjects for study.

The study also deals with the agreements adopted by the International Labour Organisation regarding vocational training and education regardless of sex. It was submitted as document NAA/53/15, and results from co-operation between that world organization and the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Our Commission also obtained, from the Social Service Section of the Economic and Social Subjects Department of the Pan-American Union, document NAA/53/13 on the employment of social workers in Latin America, which it submitted to its Ninth Assembly for consideration under item 7 (a) of the agenda: "General economic and social problems of women". It states that there are 67 social-service schools in Latin America.



ITEM 7: STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW

- (a) Family Law
- (b) Property Rights

The Commission's Ninth Assembly adopted Resolution X, report to the United Nations on resolutions relating to the family and property, which recommends that there be sent -

"to the United Nations a report on the essential principles contained in the resolutions adopted by the Inter-American Commission of Women regarding marriage, property, ownership and disposal of property, and care of children".

On this subject the Ninth Assembly adopted a series of resolutions covering all the aspects detailed in Resolution X, viz.:

Resolution VIII, Civil capacity of women, establishing the following principles and legislative measures:

- "1. The family, as the basis of human society is under the protection of the State.
2. Every normal individual has the right to marry and found a home and family.
3. Men and women have the same rights on contracting marriage, during marriage and on dissolution.
4. A woman who marries again does not lose parental authority over children of the previous marriage.
5. These principles imply -
  - (a) maintenance of full civil capacity by the married woman, and free exercise of her civil rights and acts;
  - (b) the determination of the conjugal home by mutual agreement;
  - (c) the right of the married woman to work for pay;
  - (d) the right to obtain civil documents and passports and to open current accounts in banks without her husband's consent;
  - (e) the joint exercise of parental authority;
  - (f) equal rights of spouses with regard to property and succession".

Resolution IX, Reform of matrimonial property systems, which recommends:

"That the Member Governments be informed through the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States of the express wish of this Ninth Assembly that the chapters of the Civil Code relating to matrimonial property systems should be revised by the legislatures of all those countries in which those systems restrict the civil capacity of married women".

Resolution XI, Rights of married women, recommends to the Member Governments that they should guarantee married women the same rights as those enjoyed by men with regard to:

- (a) judicial protection in case of separation or divorce;
- (b) the possession, ownership and disposal of property acquired before or during the marriage;
- (c) the fair distribution of joint property during marriage, or in case of separation or the succession of one or other spouse;
- (d) the right to exercise parental authority.

Resolution XII, Family rights, recommends to the Member Governments of those countries which practice discrimination against women by granting to the husband the right to represent his family, that they should amend their laws to provide that family rights shall be exercised by joint agreement and the wife shall be free to administer her property.

Resolution XIII, Amendment of discriminatory laws on the status of women, recommends to the Member countries that when amending their codes they should observe the following principle:

"A married woman may apply for powers of guardianship over a spendthrift husband."

Resolution XXVIII, Separation of property in consequence of wife's adultery, recommends to the Member Governments that they should consider the cases in which a wife is divorced for adultery, with a view to entitling her, at the time of the divorce to request separation of her property with power of disposal.

The Inter-American Commission of Women submitted to its Ninth Assembly a document (NAA/53/8) on these matters entitled Family and Property Rights of Women under American law, drawn up by its secretary, containing information on the legal



and factual aspects of this question in the twenty-one American Republics and, in the performance of its duty to submit official reports to the Inter-American Conferences on the civil status of women in America, submitted to the tenth International Conference of American States a study on all the aspects of women's personal and property rights.

This study, which was submitted to the Conference as Document 25, Civil and Political Rights of Women in America, and the above-mentioned document NAA/53/8, are submitted by our Commission to this Eighth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women for information.

#### MEXICO

The amendments made in the Civil Code and the Codes of Civil and Commercial Procedure with the object of giving Mexican women the same rights as Mexican men constitute the most recent achievement with regard to the civil rights of American women.

The Presidential Bills passed by the Congress of the Union in December 1953 include articles 163, 169, 170, 171, 282, 372, 426 and 489 of the Civil Code and articles 205, 206, 207, 209, 210, 212, 213, 214 and 217 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

ITEM 8: EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

In examining item 8 (b) of its agenda on Educational Opportunities for Women, the Ninth Assembly of the Inter-American Commission of Women adopted the following resolutions concerning the important problem of the training of the American woman.

Resolution XVI, Establishment of Schools of Social Service the training of experts in this field in several American countries, recommends that, whereas the aim of the social worker is to help every citizen to reach a higher standard of living, the governments of those countries should establish such schools.

Resolution XVII, Educational Opportunities for Women in Rural Areas, recommends to member Governments the adoption of educational measures designed to achieve the full development of the individual, without distinction of sex, through the establishment and progressive advancement of special educational centres to foster the growth of rural education.

Resolution XVIII, Establishment of an Inter-American School of Social Welfare, recommends the establishment of such a school to ensure a more specialized knowledge of the subject and to establish closer collaboration between the Latin-American countries for the solution of this important problem.

Resolution XIX, Access of Women to Employment and Vocational Training, recommends provision of:

"1(b) facilities for consultation and guidance and for education and training for women, which will enable them to be trained and to work in occupations and industries to which they have or may in the future have access."

Resolution XX, Educational Opportunities for Women recommends to Member Governments:

"1(a) the adoption in primary or elementary schools and in higher educational establishments, in rural and urban areas, of a system providing the basic education required by each citizen and necessary for both family and community life, and offering girls the same opportunities as boys.



- (b) that equal opportunity should be given to girls to complete their higher as well as their primary education and to attend such universities and other advanced educational institutions as befit their vocation and abilities.
- (c) that scholarships should be awarded to girls in the same proportion as to boys."

Resolution XXI, Development of the Teaching Profession, recommends to Member Governments:

- "1(a) that Teachers' Training Colleges should be established in the appropriate educational institutions in each country;
- (b) that additional facilities should be provided in special institutions for the training of teachers, with particular emphasis on the training of teachers suitable for rural areas;
- (c) that national Ministries of Education and educational authorities be encouraged to employ trained women in their offices and other administrative posts concerned with education."

Resolution XXIV, Vocational Education in relation to the Principle of Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value, recommends:

- "(a) that no discrimination as to sex should prevent the access of women to all forms of vocational and technical training, including agricultural training.
- (b) that statutory and other provisions governing the distribution of scholarships should offer opportunities to both sexes, solely on the ground of fitness, in order to allow women to receive education in all fields of knowledge and to enter the professions."

With regard to the establishment of rural Teachers' Training Colleges in America, the Eighth Assembly of the Commission, which was held in 1952, adopted Resolution XVIII, by virtue of which document NAA/53/10, "Rural Teachers' Training Colleges of Latin America", prepared by the Division of Education of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Pan American Union, was submitted to the Ninth Assembly. In this document it is stated that, for the purpose of co-operating with the governments of the Latin-American countries in the improvement of rural teachers' training, the Pan American Union has established the Inter-American Rural Teachers' College as part of the programme of technical co-operation of the

Organization of American States. This college will operate in Rubio, Venezuela, with the assistance of that country's Government. It will train teams of instructors for rural teachers' colleges throughout the Latin-American Republics, each one of which will be entitled to send five teachers on scholarships granted by the Pan American Union. One from each country, who must be a woman, will specialize in domestic science. Other specialized branches will include: organization of rural teachers' training colleges, teaching techniques, agriculture and stock raising, and health. The school will open at the beginning of next year.

Also, by virtue of Resolution VII of the Eighth Assembly, when the Ninth Assembly was examining item 8 (a) of its agenda on Educational Opportunities for Women, our organization submitted document NAA/53/16, on "Vocational Training of Women in Latin America", also prepared by the Division of Education of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Pan American Union.



AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN  
STATES AND THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

At the Tenth International Conference of American States, held at Bogotá in 1948, the representatives of the Governments signed the Charter of the Organization of American States, article 53 of which provides:

"It is also the duty of the Council:

"(c) to conclude agreements with the Inter-American Specialized Organizations to determine the relations that shall exist between the respective agency and the Organization".

In accordance with the terms of this clause and of Chapter VII, article 7 of the Organic Statutes of the Inter-American Commission of Women, the delegates to the Eighth Assembly, held at Rio de Janeiro from 23 July to 8 August 1952, approved the text of the Agreement to be concluded between the Council of the Organization and the Commission.

On 16 July 1953, Dr. Alberto Lleras, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, representing the Council, and Mrs. Amalia de Castillo Ledón, Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women, representing the Commission, signed the Agreement; this act, of such vital importance in the legal history of the Commission, coincided with the anniversary of the establishment of the Commission at the Sixth International Conference of American States at Havana in 1928.

Article I of the Agreement recognizes the Commission as an American Specialized Organization of a permanent nature".

PARTICIPATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN IN THE  
TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organic Statutes of the Inter-American Commission of Women provide that one of the functions of the Commission is:

"To submit official reports to the Inter-American Conferences on the civil, political, social and economic status of women in American and also on the problems that should, in its opinion, be considered; and to submit to those conferences any resolutions looking to their solution."

Similarly, article IV of the Agreement of June 1953 between the Council of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Commission of Women provides that:

"The Commission may send observers to the Inter-American Conference and also to the meetings of subsidiary organs and commissions of the Council, when they discuss questions related to the Commission's activities".

The Ninth Assembly of the Commission approved Resolution II on the "Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women to the Tenth International Conference of American States", which recommends:

"That this Report shall include all matters relating to the legal and real status of women, together with an account of the Commission's activities in the interval between the Ninth International Conference of American States and the Conference to be held at Caracas."....

Studies submitted:

In accordance with the provisions adopted, and in response to the cordial invitation of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States and the Secretary-General of the Conference to our Organization to send an observer, the Inter-American Commission of Women submitted the following studies to the Tenth International Conference of American States:

Civil and political rights of women in America. (Pursuant to article 2 of the Organic Statutes of the Commission, approved by the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogotá)

Draft amendments to the Organic Statutes of the Inter-American Commission of Women. (Approved at the Ninth Assembly of the Commission)

Preliminary study on the economic status of working women in the American Republics. (Resolution XXIII of the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogotá)



History of the Inter-American Commission of Women, 1928-1953

Reference documents giving the history of the Commission and its work during the twenty-five years that have elapsed since its establishment at the Sixth International Conference of the American States at Havana in 1928 have been sent to the Library of the Conference, together with valuable maps and documentary material for the Exhibition organized by the Pan American Union.

The Inter-American Commission of Women was represented at this inter-American event by its Chairman, Mrs. Maria Concepción de Chaves.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN AND THE UNITED NATIONS  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Ninth Assembly of the Inter-American Commission of Women recommended the exchange of documentary material between the offices of the two inter-governmental commissions on women as a means of maintaining co-operation between them by its Resolution III, which requested our organization to draw up reports on the progress made in countries where women do not possess the suffrage making use of the material on that subject in the possession of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

A further resolution adopted was Resolution X, Report to the United Nations on resolutions relating to the family and property, which authorized the Chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women to send a report for the information of the United Nations Commission on resolutions adopted by our organization regarding marriage, property, ownership and disposal of property, and care of children.

This report, which is set forth earlier in this document in connexion with item 7 of this Session's agenda, will be amplified at a later date as a result of the studies upon which our Commission is now engaged.

The documents published in preparation for the Seventh Session were received in good time by the office of the Inter-American Commission of Women from the Commission on the Status of Women; and similarly this office has sent to the office of the United Nations Commission the working documents prepared for the Ninth Assembly and for the Tenth Inter-American Conference. This constant exchange of documentary material has helped both Commissions to carry out the studies required for the execution of their programmes.

The working documents of the Ninth Assembly were the following:

Women and the Discharge of Public Functions and Offices in the American Republics. NAA/53/4

Report on the Three Inter-American Conventions: the Nationality of Women; Grant Political Rights to Women; and Grant of Civil Rights to Women  
NAA/53/7

Women and Family and Property Rights in American Legislation. NAA/53/8

Rural Teachers' Training Schools in Latin America. NAA/53/10



The Employment of Social Assistants in Latin America. (This document was prepared by the Social Service Section of the Pan American Union for the Ninth Assembly of the Inter-American Commission of Women). NAA/53/13

The Vocational Training of Women in the Americas. (A document prepared by the International Labour Office). NAA/53/15




The Vocational Education of Women in Latin America. (This document was prepared by the Division of Education of the Pan American Union). NAA/53/16

The Inter-American Commission of Women wishes to express its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for giving it the opportunity of being represented at the eighth session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and its desire that the necessary close co-operation between that Commission and the Inter-American Commission of Women should continue.

# DERECHOS POLITICOS

1954



SITUACION LEGAL DEL SUFRAGIO FEMENINO EN LAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS	
Nacional	
Municipal	
La Mujer no tiene Derecho al Sufragio	

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