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GENERAL

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fifth session

DRAFT CONVENTION ON POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN
(Memorandum of the Secretary-General)

Introductory Note

1. By resolution adopted at its third session, in March 1949, the Commission on the Status of Women, "noting the Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Political Rights to Women, signed at Bogota in May 1948", requested the Secretary-General to examine the possibility of proposing a similar convention.^{1/}

A "Report on the possibility of proposing a convention in the field of political rights of women"^{2/} was prepared by the Secretary-General for the consideration of the Commission at its fourth session.

2. By resolution adopted at the fourth session, in May 1950, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General "... to prepare for submission to this Commission at its next session a draft convention on the granting to women of equal political rights with men".^{3/}

By resolution 304 B (XI)^{4/} adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its eleventh session, in July 1950, the Council drew "the attention of the Commission, in connexion with its consideration of a draft convention on the political rights of women, to the opinions expressed in the relevant summary records of the Council".^{5/}

^{1/} Report of the third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, E/1712, paragraph 18.

^{2/} Document E/CN.6/143.

^{3/} Report of the fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, E/1712, paragraph 25.

^{4/} Resolutions of the eleventh session of the Economic and Social Council, E/1849, page 36.

^{5/} Document E/AC.7/SR.132.

3. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Commission, for its consideration, a draft convention on the political rights of women.

4. This draft does not include provisions concerning measures of implementation nor any final and formal clauses.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to the fact that neither the provisions implementing the International Covenant on Human Rights nor the final and formal clauses thereof, have, at the date of issue of the present document, been drafted in their final form. The Secretary-General therefore suggests that, with a view to achieving uniformity in international instruments issued under the auspices of the United Nations and designed to promote respect for human rights, the drafting of the articles on implementation and of the final and formal articles of the Convention on political rights of women be postponed until action is taken in this respect concerning the International Covenant on Human Rights.

Draft Convention

The Contracting Parties,

Desiring to implement the principle of equality of rights for men and women, contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing that every person has the right to take part in the government of his country and has the right to equal access to public service in his country, and desiring to equalize the status of men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of political rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Having resolved to conclude a Convention for this purpose,

Hereby agree as hereinafter provided:

Article 1. Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on the same conditions as men.

Article 2. Women shall be qualified to be elected or appointed to public office on the same conditions as men.

Article 3. Women shall be qualified to exercise all public functions of every nature on the same conditions as men.
