

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

REPORT ON THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

(24 February - 5 March 1982)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women ^{1/}

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, in which the Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/140 of 11 December 1980,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 36/131 of 14 December 1981,

Stressing the central role of the Commission on the Status of Women in considering within the United Nations matters relating to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Reaffirming its conviction that the ratification of, or accession to, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of its provisions are important for the attainment of the three objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

1. Welcomes with great satisfaction the entry into force on 3 September 1981 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. Urges Governments that have not yet become parties to the Convention to ratify it or to accede to it;

3. Expresses its interest in the earliest possible commencement of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women provided for in part five of the Convention, in particular with a view to considering national reports on the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 18 thereof;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the reports of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women;

^{1/} See chap. III below.

5. Recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women should include the question of the status of the Convention in the agenda of its thirtieth session;

6. Recommends the Secretary-General to consider a concerted information effort to spread knowledge regarding the Convention.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Situation of women and children in the occupied Arab territories 2/

The Economic and Social Council,

Deeply concerned about the prevailing conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly the women and children,

Noting the great sacrifices of the Palestinian women and children in pursuit of their inalienable right to have their own homeland,

Considering that international co-operation and peace are threatened by colonialism, neo-colonialism, fascism, zionism, apartheid and foreign occupation, alien domination and racial discrimination in all its forms,

Affirming its full solidarity with the Palestinian women in their struggle for independence under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization,

Expressing its grave concern that the Palestinian women and people continue to be denied their inalienable rights, in particular their right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted, the right to self-determination and the right to national independence and sovereignty,

Recognizing that the mass uprooting from their homeland obstructs the participation and integration of women in efforts to achieve progress,

1. Appeals to all women of the world to proclaim their solidarity with and support for the Palestinian women and people in their drive to put an end to the flagrant violation by Israel of fundamental human rights in the occupied territories;

2. Also appeals to all States and international organizations to extend all moral and material assistance to the Palestinian and Arab women and people in their struggle for the restoration of their inalienable right to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted;

3. Further appeals to all women in the world to take the necessary measures to secure the release of thousands of persons, including women and children, fighters for the cause of self-determination, liberation and independence, held arbitrarily in the prisons of the occupying forces;

2/ See chap. VI below.

4. Requests the United Nations and its organs and specialized agencies, as well as all national, regional and international women's organizations, to extend their help, both moral and material, to the Palestinian women and their organizations and institutes.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Role of women in economic development 3/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980, in which the Assembly endorsed the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 4/

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Emphasizing the importance of women's full participation in the development process as agents and beneficiaries of development,

Aware that improvement in the economic condition and role of women is a necessary prerequisite for an improvement in the status of women,

Aware that at present women are not equal beneficiaries of the fruits of economic and social development,

1. Recommends that the General Assembly should request all specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to consider including special financial components, within existing budgetary resources, in their technical co-operation programmes for the economic development of women, enhancing the entrepreneurial and technological capacity of women, particularly in the co-operative and non-traditional sectors and in developing countries;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

3/ See chap. II below.

4/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. A.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others 5/

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the terms of General Assembly resolution 317 (IV) of 2 December 1949,

Referring to resolution 1 (XXVII) of 4 April 1978 of the Commission on the Status of Women, 6/

Recalling its resolutions 1980/4 of 16 April 1980 and 1981/40 of 8 May 1981,

Taking into account the work of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the report on its thirty-fourth session,

Having taken note of the report presented orally to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session,

Aware of the contribution that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs can make by reason of its interdisciplinary competence,

Convinced that the scope of the problem raised by the traffic in persons, women and children requires consultation and co-ordination by all the competent agencies in the United Nations system or outside the system - the regional commissions, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Tourism Organization, INTERPOL and non-governmental organizations interested in this problem,

Recommends that at the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Third Committee, after hearing the reports intended for the Assembly, should have before it a proposal for the appointment, within existing budgetary resources, of a special rapporteur, who could ensure co-ordination of surveys and studies, submit an in-depth analysis of the situation and propose appropriate measures to prevent and suppress those practices which are contrary to the fundamental rights of human beings.

5/ See chap. VI below.

6/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1978, Supplement No. 2 (E/1978/32/Rev.1), chap. IX.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Action to be taken to ensure the recovery abroad of maintenance 7/

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that in many countries the number of divorces and separations has continually increased during recent years,

Taking note of the fact that judicial or administrative decisions taken on the occasion of divorces and separations often include the payment of maintenance intended to meet, at least partly, the needs of the spouse and the children, as issue of the union, for whom the spouse is responsible, taking into consideration existing legislation in the countries of the two spouses,

Considering that the recovery of such maintenance, which is already difficult within the national territory, becomes practically impossible when the debtor spouse resides abroad,

Emphasizing the extreme prejudicial situation of creditors in respect of maintenance due who are injured in this way,

Emphasizing also the important progress constituted, for the States that have ratified it, by the New York Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, of 20 June 1956, 8/

1. Requests the Secretary-General to provide full information on the New York Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance of 20 June 1956; in addition, States parties could study possible improvements in the light of their experience of that Convention;

2. Expresses the wish that States which have not yet done so should ratify the Convention as soon as possible, in view of its undeniable humanitarian scope;

3. Invites the States parties to that Convention, in conformity with article 10 thereof, to accord the highest priority to the transfer of funds payable as maintenance or to cover expenses in respect of proceedings under that Convention.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Abuses against women and children 9/

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of the continued and consistent concern expressed by the international community at the blatant and inhuman abuses of women and children,

7/ See chap. VI below.

8/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 268, No. 3850, p. 32.

9/ See chap. VI below.

Recognizing the evils of such abuses as kidnapping, abduction, forced child labour, battered women and children, violence in the family, rape, prostitution, and the inevitable serious problems of mental and physical health,

Appalled by the resultant exploitation, oppression and violence to human dignity,

Believing that the abuse of women and children is an intolerable offence to the dignity of the human being and is a harsh indictment of our claim to be civilized,

1. Calls upon States Members of the United Nations to take immediate and energetic steps to combat these social evils and to inform the Secretary-General of the action taken;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to compile a study on the action taken by Member States and to submit the report to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1985, if so decided by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

Elderly women and the World Assembly on Aging 10/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 32/131 of 16 December 1977, 33/52 of 14 December 1978, 34/153 of 17 December 1979 and 35/129 of 11 December 1980,

Further recalling resolution 13, entitled "Social security and family security for women, including the elderly and the handicapped", adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, 11/ and resolution 4, entitled "Elderly women and economic security", adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 12/

Emphasizing the fact that, because the increasing life expectancy of women exceeds that of men in many developing and more developed societies, elderly women are a fast-growing segment of the national population,

Aware that elderly women have suffered from past discrimination and lack of opportunity and that in many countries the economic plight of elderly women is becoming more serious,

10/ See chap. VI below.

11/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. III.

12/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. B.

Concerned that this situation is further complicated by increased migration of family members and other cultural phenomena resulting in socio-economic hardships for the aging,

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 13/

1. Urges that the special problems faced by elderly women, such as income security, education, employment, housing, health and community support services, should be given explicit and full attention by the World Assembly on Aging to be held at Vienna from 26 July to 6 August 1982, and should be dealt with in the plan of action to be adopted by the World Assembly;

2. Requests States Members of the United Nations to ensure that women are included in the preparations for the World Assembly on Aging and are appointed as members of their delegations to that Assembly;

3. Requests the United Nations and its member States to continue to collect data on the situation of elderly women to serve as a basis for formulating and implementing policies and programmes to define their special economic and social planning needs;

4. Urges all Governments, national and international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, the mass media, educational bodies and all individuals concerned to strengthen their efforts to adopt or change national laws to ensure that elderly women have equal opportunities to live in health, dignity, self-reliance and self-fulfilment.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Women and children under apartheid 14/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/206 N of 16 December 1980, entitled "Women and children under apartheid",

Recalling also resolution 45, adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 15/

Reaffirming that apartheid is a crime against humanity,

Noting with admiration the great sacrifices of the women and children in South Africa and Namibia in the struggle for their inalienable rights and their national liberation,

13/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

14/ See chap. VI below.

15/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. B.

Recognizing that the so-called constitutional and other reforms by the racist minority régimes are no more than mere adjustments within the framework of apartheid,

Affirming its full solidarity with the women of South Africa and Namibia in the struggle for liberation under the leadership of their national liberation movements,

Considering that international efforts should be greatly intensified to publicize the plight of women and children in South Africa and Namibia and to promote greater solidarity with and assistance to them in the context of their heroic struggle for the liberation of South Africa and Namibia,

Appreciating the valuable contribution made by the various United Nations voluntary funds for southern Africa, including the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa,

Gravely concerned about the inhuman oppression of millions of women and children under apartheid, resulting in the killing, detention and torture of school-children protesting against discrimination, the enforced separation of women from their husbands and mass starvation in the reserves,

Commending the Special Committee against Apartheid and its Task Force on Women and Children for giving special attention to the plight of women and children under apartheid,

Noting with appreciation the establishment of the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia,

1. Reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to the total eradication of apartheid and the promotion of the establishment of a democratic society in which all the people of South Africa as a whole, irrespective of race, colour, sex or creed, will enjoy equal and full human rights and fundamental freedoms and will participate freely in the determination of their destiny;

2. Invites all Governments and organizations to observe 9 August annually as the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia;

3. Appeals to all Governments and organizations to provide generous contributions to the projects of the national liberation movements and front-line States for assistance to refugee women and children from South Africa and Namibia;

4. Further appeals to all Governments to make generous contributions to the various trust funds for southern Africa, including the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa;

5. Welcomes the decision of the Special Committee against Apartheid to organize, in co-operation with the International Committee of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa and Namibia, an international conference on women and apartheid, to be held at Brussels from 17 to 19 May 1982;

6. Invites women's organizations all over the world to intensify their action in solidarity with the struggle for liberation in South Africa and Namibia and to consider a greater co-ordination of their efforts in co-operation with the Special Committee against Apartheid.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

Women and children refugees 16/

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering the agony and suffering of the Kampuchean refugees in South-East Asia,

Considering the special problems of women refugees, particularly with regard to physical safety,

1. Expresses grave concern at the plight of Kampuchean women and children, including the many thousands who have been forced to flee to other countries as refugees;
2. Calls upon the international community to continue to share the burden of assisting refugees and displaced persons from Democratic Kampuchea.

DRAFT RESOLUTION X

Communications concerning the status of women 17/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947 and 304 (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, which continue to form the basis for the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women to receive at each regular session a list of confidential and non-confidential communications relating to the status of women,

Recalling also its resolution 1980/39 of 2 May 1980,

Recognizing the desirability of strengthening the capacity of the Commission on the Status of Women to deal with communications and, in this respect, taking note of paragraph 274 of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 18/ in which it was emphasized that the Commission's ability to consider communications should be improved,

Considering that, since the beginning of the United Nations Decade for Women, the volume of communications on the status of women has increased substantially,

Affirming that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and that women and men should participate on the basis of equality, irrespective of race or creed, in the social, economic and political processes of their countries,

16/ See chap. VI below.

17/ See chap. V below.

18/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. A.

1. Reaffirms the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, beginning at the thirtieth session, a report on confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women, which shall include:

(a) Communications received under Council resolutions 76 (V) and 304 (XI), including the comments of Governments thereon, if any;

(b) Communications received by specialized agencies, regional commissions and other United Nations bodies, together with information on action that may have been undertaken following receipt of such communications;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to solicit the co-operation of the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other United Nations bodies in compiling the report called for under paragraph 2 above;

4. Authorizes the Commission on the Status of Women henceforth to appoint a working group consisting of not more than five of its members, selected with due regard for geographical distribution, to meet in closed meetings during each session of the Commission in order that it may perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including replies of Governments, which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which will indicate the categories in which communications are most frequently submitted to the Commission;

5. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to examine the report of the working group and to avoid duplication of the work undertaken by other organs of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission being, in this respect, empowered only to make recommendations to the Council, which shall then decide what action may appropriately be taken on the emerging trends and patterns of communications;

6. Decides that all actions envisaged in the implementation of the present resolution by the Commission on the Status of Women shall remain confidential until such time as the Commission may decide to make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council;

7. Decides to authorize the Secretary-General to provide, within existing budgetary resources, the services and facilities necessary for the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION XI

Preparations for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women 19/

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that the General Assembly, in its resolution 35/156 of 11 December 1980, decided to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace a world conference to review and appraise the achievements of the Decade,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/126 of 14 December 1981, in which the Commission on the Status of Women was requested to give priority at its twenty-ninth session to the question of the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, with a view to submitting to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, specific proposals on that question,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 35/10 C of 3 November 1980, by which the Assembly decided that preparatory committees should be established for special conferences only if that function could not be appropriately performed by an existing intergovernmental organ,

Emphasizing the importance of undertaking at the conclusion of the Decade a critical review and appraisal of progress at international, regional and national levels in the achievement of the goals of the Decade - equality, development and peace - and the subthemes of education, health and employment, and the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the implementation of the objectives of the International Women's Year 20/ and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 21/ and also of developing a forward-looking perspective on the status of women,

Emphasizing also the need to identify the most effective strategies and methods of work at the international level and to establish priorities for the United Nations system,

Bearing in mind the positive response of many Governments to the World Plan of Action, in the form of national mechanisms or legislation,

Also bearing in mind the need in the coming years to realize the full potential of these mechanisms or legislation to enable women to maintain and consolidate gains made during the Decade,

19/ See chap. IV below.

20/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

21/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. A.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (E/CN.6/1982/8), to be held in 1985,

1. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall be the preparatory body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women and shall operate on the basis of consensus, and invites the widest possible participation by States Members of the United Nations in the deliberations of the preparatory body;

2. Further recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the Conference, should meet at Vienna in extraordinary session in 1983 and again in 1985 with conference preparations as the sole item of the agenda, and that its thirtieth regular session, in 1984, should be extended to allow additional time for conference preparations;

3. Decides also to recommend to the General Assembly that the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat should serve as the secretariat of the preparatory body, as well as of the Conference;

4. Recommends that the General Assembly should make the necessary budgetary allocations in order to enable the Advancement of Women Branch to perform these duties;

5. Recommends that, with a view to the achievement of the goals of the Decade, a forward-looking draft perspective on the status of women to the year 2000 should be prepared by the preparatory body for consideration by the Conference based on the experience gained in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women;

6. Encourages Member States to consider establishing national committees to assist, for example, in national-level preparations for the Conference, consultations on issues and themes and the preparation of national reports;

7. Invites the Regional Commissions to conduct consultations, within existing resources, on issues and themes for the Conference and on organizational arrangements at the regional level to prepare for the Conference, and to submit the results of those consultations to the preparatory body;

8. Invites Member States to submit their views, in writing, on the proposed goals and specific themes of the Conference by 1 July 1982, so that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs can prepare a report based on these views by 31 January 1983, for consideration at the 1983 extraordinary session of the Commission;

9. Also invites non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and intergovernmental organizations to submit their views, in writing, on their contributions to the Conference and on possible issues and themes for the Conference to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, for consolidated presentation to the preparatory body.

10. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake interagency consultations on issues and themes for the Conference with a view to presenting an interagency report on the questions to the preparatory body at its first session.

B. Draft decisions

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

International Conference on Women and Apartheid 22/

The Economic and Social Council decides to designate the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-ninth session to represent the Commission, in the capacity of observer, at the International Conference on Women and Apartheid to be held at Brussels from 17 to 19 May 1982.

DRAFT DECISION II

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session
of the Commission on the Status of Women 23/

The Economic and Social Council approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session
of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women during the period 1982-1983
 - (a) Review and appraisal of progress made at the national level

[Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 3490 (XXX), 35/78, 35/136 and 36/74 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2060 (LXII) and 1981/12]

22/ See chap. VI below.

23/ See chap. VII below.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (fifth biennial report to the Commission on the Status of Women on review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women (1982-1983)).

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the preparation of a world survey on the role of women in development

- (b) Measures taken by the United Nations system of organizations and by intergovernmental organizations, progress made in the implementation of new strategies for women and work aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of actions of various bodies of the United Nations system

[Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 36/126 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 48 B (IV), 154 F (VII), 821 IV B (XXXII), 1978/34, 1980/3 and 1980/38]

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations activities during the biennium 1982-1983

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of new strategies for women and work aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of action of the various bodies of the United Nations system

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women

Report of the International Labour Organisation on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the World Health Organization on its activities of special interest to women

Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women

Report of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women

Information on the activities of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

4. Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

[Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 35/136 and 36/123 and

the resolution to be adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982]

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

[Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 34/180]

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, transmitted by the Secretary-General for the information of the Commission

6. Communications concerning the status of women

[Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolutions 11 (II), 48 (IV), 76 (V) and 304 I (XI) and the resolution to be adopted by the Council at its first regular session of 1982]

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a non-confidential list containing a brief summary of communications dealing with the principles relating to the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a confidential list of communications concerning the status of women

7. Participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation, and all forms of foreign domination

[Legislative authority: decision of the Commission (para. 192 below) and General Assembly resolutions 3318 (XXIX) and 34/24]

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and children living under racist minority régimes and in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories

8. Programme of future work, including a draft provisional agenda for the thirty-first session

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirtieth session

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission, 24/ is brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision

At its 16th meeting, on 5 March 1982, the Commission decided to postpone consideration of the following draft resolution until its thirtieth session:

Protection of the rights of parents and children in cases of the separations of couples of different nationalities

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that, during recent decades, international trade and relations have developed rapidly,

Noting that this situation has led to an increase in the number of marriages between persons of different nationalities,

Noting that the separation of some of these couples generates, for the child and for one of the spouses, difficult and complex and often dramatic situations,

Considering that a child whose parents of different nationalities are separated has a right, save in exceptional circumstances, to the maintenance of personal relations with both his parents, as well as to regular contacts with their family and cultural environments,

Further considering that the rights and duties of the two parents must be equitably distributed between them,

Emphasizing that, in many cases, the rights of one of the two parents are infringed by unilateral decisions against which there is no judicial recourse,

Requests the Secretary-General

(a) To invite the competent agencies to give very full information on the Hague draft Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, of 25 October 1980, and the European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children, of 20 May 1980;

(b) To ascertain the status of this problem in the world and the negotiations between States that have taken place so far and to communicate such information to the Commission on Human Rights;

(c) To invite the Commission on Human Rights, on the occasion of the final elaboration of the convention on the rights of the child, to reaffirm the imperative principle of maintaining the inalienable right of the child to personal relations with both his parents in the event of separation of the couple.

24/ See chap. VI below.

Chapter II

REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION AND THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN DURING THE PERIOD 1980-1981: (A) REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS MADE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL; (B) MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATIONS AND BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS; (C) PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW STRATEGIES FOR WOMEN AND WORK AIMED AT THE FOLLOW-UP AND HARMONIZATION OF ACTION OF VARIOUS BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

4. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 7th, 11th and 14th meetings, from 24 to 26 February and on 1, 3 and 4 March 1982. It had before it the following documents reporting on the progress made and measures taken by Governments, members of the United Nations system of organizations and intergovernmental organizations:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (A/36/564 and Corr. 1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken by Governments to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women (E/CN.6/1982/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1);

(c) Report of the International Labour Organisation on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1982/3 and Corr.1);

(d) Report of the Inter-American Commission on Women (E/CN.6/1982/4);

(e) Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1982/5);

(f) Progress report of the Secretary-General for the biennium 1980-1981 on the implementation of new strategies for women and work aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of action of the various bodies of the United Nations system (E/CN.6/1982/6);

(g) Progress report of the Secretary-General on the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women (E/CN.6/1982/7);

(h) Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1982/11);

(i) Report of the World Health Organization on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1982/12).

5. The Director of the Advancement of Women Branch, in her introductory statement, emphasized the need for systematic action to implement the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's

Year 25/ and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 26/ in particular with regard to education and health. She praised the replies received from Governments and the agencies, which had provided the basis for the documents before the Commission, and asked the Commission to make a critical analysis of them and to put forward suggestions, in order to improve the review and appraisal and to accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action.

6. The introduction of item 3 was continued in more detail by a representative of the Advancement of Women Branch, who explained that the report of the Secretary-General on measures taken by Governments (E/CN.6/1982/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1) was based upon information provided by 42 Governments. It was limited to information on the implementation of the recommendations in paragraph 51 of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women.

7. A more comprehensive request for information would be made for the 1982-1983 biennial round of review and appraisal, with a view to securing the substantial information required not only for the submission of a report to the Commission at its thirtieth session in 1984, but also for the preparation of materials for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1985.

8. With regard to measures taken by the United Nations system of organizations and by intergovernmental organizations, the reports before the Commission, including the report of the Secretary-General on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women (A/36/564 and Corr.1), showed first that all but a few agencies, organizations and bodies having purely technical or organizational functions were actively engaged in programmes specifically concerned with the advancement of women. In addition to the continuing and very substantial work of agencies and organizations involved in what might be described as the traditional areas of concern - education, health and employment - work was beginning on broader issues and factors of a basically macro-economic and political nature.

9. With regard to the implementation of new strategies for women and work aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of actions taken by various bodies of the United Nations system, it was explained that the analysis made in the report of the Secretary-General on the Copenhagen Conference indicated that substantial progress had been achieved during the period since the Conference.

10. The representative of the Statistical Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, in introducing the progress report of the Secretary-General on the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women (E/CN.6/1982/7), called attention to several important points treated in the paper: the strong interest of Governments and intergovernmental bodies in the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women;

25/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico City, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

26/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. A.

the tremendous amount of technical work being done in that field throughout the United Nations system, the work of the Statistical Office and the international Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women relating to the improvement of statistics and indicators on the situation of women; and the importance and objectives of the co-ordination of international work in that area, as stressed by the Statistical Commission and the Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC).

11. In the discussion on this item, several representatives expressed appreciation of the substantive reports before the Commission.

12. Representatives recognized the role of initiatives taken by the United Nations, through its proclamation of the International Women's Year and, subsequently, the United Nations Decade for Women, in raising the level of consciousness of the world community concerning the grave inequalities existing between women and man and the need to mobilize women's full participation and integration within all sectors of national life in order to accelerate development. The World Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City in 1975, and the Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, held at Copenhagen in 1980, had together provided the broad policy and planning framework, as well as the specific guidelines and priorities for action to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to improve the status of women and to achieve the objectives of the Decade - equality, development and peace.

13. Several representatives reported on measures taken at the national level to implement the Programme of Action. Some highlighted existing and emerging areas of problems for priority attention for the second half of the Decade.

14. The Programme of Action had been widely publicized at all levels, through various means, by both governmental and non-governmental organizations. It was pointed out that the Programme of Action, with its specific proposals, had served as the basis for the formulation and reformulation of national plans and policies aimed at the advancement of women and their participation and integration within over-all national, social, economic, political and cultural life. There was a growing recognition that measures to improve the effective participation of women were indispensable for all efforts to achieve progress at the national level.

15. Efforts had been made to establish national machineries for implementing, co-ordinating, guiding or monitoring activities of both governmental and non-governmental organizations working for women's advancement, for example through the setting up of a women's ministry or women's advisory body. In countries where national institutional arrangements already existed, measures had been taken to strengthen the role of such institutional machinery, for example by locating those bodies within the highest political office in the country or by developing appropriate links between the national and the community levels.

16. Among the major measures reported for achieving equality between women and men were those in the field of legislation. Many representatives reported that equality for women and men was already embodied in their constitutions. Many representatives reiterated the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex) as an effective instrument for achieving equality for women and implementation of their rights. The coming into force of the Convention in September 1981 was seen as a most important achievement in the efforts to improve

the status of women and several representatives urged Governments that had not yet ratified the Convention to do so. Several representatives announced their countries' intention to accede to or ratify the Convention in the very near future.

17. Several representatives reported that a legal framework to ensure equality of opportunities and prevent discrimination against women had already been realized in their countries. That had not been enough, however, to eliminate discrimination entirely in practice; in one country it was said to be currently more indirect than direct. The deep-rooted influence of traditional social norms and practices still persisted in some countries, perpetuating stereotyped attitudes about and discriminatory behaviour towards women. Women themselves still lacked the confidence to avail themselves of widening opportunities to participate in education, training, employment and public life. Other representatives reported continuing work on the reformulation of existing laws and the enactment of new ones to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sex, to improve the status of women and their families and to uphold women's rights as individuals, family members - siblings, offspring, spouses or parents - and as workers in the towns.

18. Several representatives pointed to the increasing numbers of women participating in high offices in administration, business, government, politics, legislature and other policy-making and decision-making positions at the local, national and international levels. Many representatives also addressed themselves to the progress made in women's access to and participation as beneficiaries and contributors in the fields of health, education, and employment, the subthemes of the 1980 Conference. In the health field, many representatives, especially from the developing countries, noted the increased provision of primary health care facilities, including maternity and child health centres, the training of medical and health care personnel, and the development of community health volunteers, including women, thus improving the accessibility and quality of health care for women and children, especially for reproductive health, infant care and improved nutrition to combat high rates of malnutrition among children and mothers. Programmes and services to encourage mothers to space their children was mentioned as important to the health and welfare of mothers and their families.

19. In the field of education, several representatives reported that a framework for equality of education had been established in their countries. Some representatives reported increasing enrolment of females and improvements in educational programmes resulting from various measures. Several representatives expressed concern about the high rate of illiteracy among women compared with men and various adult education, non-formal education and literacy programmes were reported to have been set up to combat the problem, particularly in the rural areas. The importance of education as a means of improving the status of women and contributing to national socio-economic life was widely recognized. In that connexion, representatives reported the expansion of opportunities through such means as open universities and adult education programmes, as well as life-time education enabling women to study whenever they wished to do so.

20. In the field of employment, particular attention was being paid to equality of opportunity and treatment for men and women emphasizing equal pay for equal (work) value and facilitating the dual role of the working mother in economic production as well as in reproduction. In connexion with the latter, representatives mentioned, inter alia, various provisions relating to maternity leave and benefits, child-care leave - in some countries for both parents, night work, flexible working hours, part-time work, regularization of work in the home, child-care facilities,

retraining schemes and other employment provisions which gave due consideration to the woman as a worker and mother.

21. Various vocational and technical training programmes were being offered to upgrade the skills of women and to broaden the opportunities for non-traditional employment. Informational activities to increase awareness of employment or training requirements and opportunities were also reported. They included projects for the establishment of women's centres and the publication of a national dictionary and classification of occupations, which would provide information on occupations, including conditions of work, remuneration, and supply and demand, together with data on personal attributes and requirements for each occupation. Several representatives reported programmes for the generation of employment and income for women through training in skills development, marketing, management and other entrepreneurial skills.

22. Many representatives underlined the continuing need to focus on the situation of rural women, who formed a significant, if not major, part of the population in most developing countries. In that connexion, mention was made of programmes for integrated rural development, improvement of the incomes of rural women by creating opportunities for employment and development skills for other income-generating activities, the increase of women's productivity and reduction of their work burden through the development and appropriate use of renewable energy sources, science and technology, infrastructural development - better communications, electrification, health care etc. - and the betterment of women's knowledge of and access to social services, functional literacy and so on.

23. In general, many representatives endorsed the importance of regional and international exchange and co-operation in accelerating efforts for women's advancement. The facilitating and complementary role of non-governmental organizations was recognized by several representatives, who urged that those organizations should continue to be closely involved in implementing the Programme of Action.

24. Many representatives reiterated their desire for peace, one of the three goals of the Decade, and underlined the vital importance of the participation of women in the maintenance and promotion of a stable international environment. Some representatives expressed concern about the build-up of arms, which incurred expenditure that could be better spent on social development activities, especially to improve the living standards of women. In that connexion, a few representatives identified the strengthening of peace and related programmes as a central task for the second half of the Decade. The Commission was urged to pay attention to the forthcoming second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament and to call for specific steps to be taken thereon.

25. Several representatives addressed themselves to the vital contribution by financial and technical assistance programmes to measures taken at the national and regional levels to improve the status of women. In particular, the valuable role of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women in assisting rural and low-income women at the grass roots was recognized. The continuing need to provide technical and financial assistance to women entrepreneurs in co-operative sectors and to enhance their entrepreneurial and technological development was singled out by one representative.

26. While noting the considerable progress made in implementing the Programme of Action, it was widely emphasized that much more needed to be done to achieve the threefold objectives of the Decade.

27. In addition, deep-seated socio-cultural norms and attitudes still persisted, impeding the full attainment of de facto equality for women. In particular, persisting economic inequalities between men and women were noted. Women still stood on the lower rungs of the employment ladder. They were the last to be employed and the first to lose their jobs in times of economic uncertainties. The view was expressed that the early achievement of a new international economic order would alleviate the adverse economic situation of women, especially in the developing countries. Developments in the field of science and technology had not always improved the situation of women, and in some cases had even worsened it by curtailing women's traditional economic activities and sources of income. Women, especially rural women, still lagged behind in their efforts to achieve recognition and equality with men in the remuneration they received for work done within and outside the home. Their contribution was often overlooked and not given any monetary value. The lack of an adequate data base and indicators for the measurement of women's economic contribution to the gross national product (GNP) perpetuated their lack of "visibility" and exclusion from the management of national resources and technology. Moreover, in the area of policy and decision-making and assumption of public office, women's participation was still far from satisfactory. Their choice of occupational and educational fields was still influenced by traditions and custom. Often, women themselves lacked the self-confidence to break into new fields and levels of participation. Problems of malnutrition and provision of adequate maternity and comprehensive health care affected women and children, especially in rural developing areas. Poor health among women workers resulting from inappropriate application of technology was also identified, pointing to the need for constant assessment of the implications of development for women. Several representatives indicated the continuing need to pay greater attention to primary health care and the improvement of basic infrastructural services and facilities, such as availability of family planning and responsible parenthood programmes, adequate sanitation, safe water supply and the provision of health facilities to maintain a minimum level of health for all women and their families. Other areas of concern included problems arising from rural migration, family sexual violence, wife-battering and the special needs of indigenous women.

28. In connexion with the above, members of the Commission called for the intensification of efforts by governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental bodies to support measures at the national level to implement the Programme of Action. Among the specific measures highlighted were: the full integration of women's concerns in all development sectors; programmes that promoted the interests of women, which should not be seen as separate and isolated from the mainstream of development processes but should aim at integration within existing development sectors and programmes at all national, regional and international levels; increased support for women's dual role as producers and, uniquely, as reproducers of society; the improved development of statistics; indicators and statistics on the contribution made by women, especially to the economy and to the furtherance of peace; increased financial and technical assistance programmes to assist women - in particular, a call was made for existing funds within the United Nations system to include special components for programmes exclusively for the economic development of women; continued emphasis on the strengthening of rural development programmes, especially with regard to the urgent needs of rural women; improvement of primary health care, including preventive measures to improve the health status of mothers and their children; increased availability of widespread family planning information and services and education in responsible parenthood; strengthening of the capacity of women's organizations, non-governmental organizations and women themselves to play a more effective role in achieving the goals of the Decade;

strengthening of the participation of women in local organizations, including trade unions; and intensification of the efforts to hasten change in social attitudes towards the capacities and roles of women. Many representatives expressed the view that the Commission should appeal to the General Assembly at its second special session devoted to disarmament to take specific steps to ensure progress in that extremely important area.

29. Only a few representatives referred to progress made during the biennium 1980-1981 in implementing new strategies for women and to the work of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs on the follow-up and harmonization of activities of the various bodies of the United Nations system that contributed to the promotion of the rights of women. The need for better co-ordination within the United Nations system was stressed. It was emphasized that questions relating to the status of women should not be isolated within women's programmes, but should constitute an integral part of all United Nations programmes and policies. It was also pointed out that special attention should be paid to socio-economic problems affecting women.

30. The opinion was expressed that institutions like the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women would function best if they maintained a high degree of independence and were not drawn into the regular work of the Centre. One representative stressed the need for a lead office for women's questions within the United Nations system and suggested that the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre could meet that requirement, thereby providing a sounder base for the design and monitoring of programmes for women. The same representative expressed the view that, because the Branch was a part of the Centre, and was located at Vienna, it was desirable that the Centre should be given a measure of decentralized authority in order that its work might be carried out more effectively.

31. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said that current world problems made it difficult to hope for an improvement in the condition of women. Experience during the period 1980-1981 had not, however, been entirely negative: the Copenhagen Conference and discussions in preparation for the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade had both served to increase Governments' awareness of the need to give more recognition to women's contribution to economic and social development. The General Conference of the ILO, in its resolution II of 23 June 1981 concerning the role of the ILO in the International Development Strategy, had invited the Director-General to further promote equality of opportunities and conditions of women so as to enable them to contribute fully to and benefit from the national development process. The decision of the Director-General in July 1981 to incorporate the Office for Women Workers' Questions into the new Programme for the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment was a first step in the implementation of that resolution. Referring to the report of her organization on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1982/3 and Corr.1), the representative of the ILO drew the Commission's attention to principal aspects of those activities, and to the future orientation of its programme. For women in developing countries, efforts had been focused upon improvement of the condition of women in rural areas, technological change and rural women, and relations between women's work and demographic change. The ILO had also been concerned with professional training, the development of co-operatives and workers' education. A network of contact points had been established both within the organization and between it and its regional offices, thus facilitating collaboration with the regional commissions, which was often very close, particularly in Africa. Finally,

the representative of the ILO referred to a problem common to most United Nations organizations: how to achieve a balance between activities directly related to women, but liable to receive low priority, and more general projects where attention to women was intended but not always realized. A second problem was the dissemination of the very substantial information available, particularly to the majority of women, many of them illiterate, who were outside the normal distribution circuits.

32. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), introducing her organization's report on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1982/5), stated that, since the proclamation of the International Women's Year, all UNESCO efforts had been guided by the concern to make a full contribution to the work of the Decade. She pointed out that in 1980 it was no longer enough to undertake isolated activities for the integration of women in development; the challenge to the international community was to rethink the role of men and women, ignoring stereotyped attitudes in that regard. While continuing to give high priority to activities related to the education and training of women, UNESCO had undertaken activities aimed at strengthening the role of women in political, economic and cultural life and in the world of learning. It was also recalled that the activities of UNESCO were undertaken with the participation of the women themselves and that new forms of information and training were being sought, in order to reach the most deprived of women, those who were illiterate or barely literate.

33. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), introducing her organization's report on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1982/11), stated that FAO was concerned with the deteriorating world food situation and had recognized the important contribution of women to agricultural food production. Women represented up to 80 per cent of the world's food producers, but receive 5 to 10 per cent or less of the supported agricultural extension services. The current policy of FAO was to promote benefits for women in all relevant programmes in agriculture, fisheries and forestry. With regard to the proposed world survey on women, FAO would like to see the chapter on women in the rural/agricultural sector reflect the most important development issues through carefully selected "core indicators". The ACC Task Force on Rural Development, for which FAO was acting as the secretariat, included panels on monitoring and evaluation and people's participation. In view of the lack of participation by women in development, it was agreed to convene a subpanel on rural women's participation, with a view to developing relevant guidelines and criteria as an input to the main panel.

34. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) introduced the report of her organization on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/1982/12), stating that the activities of WHO concerning women had to be seen within the general framework of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000. ^{27/} The implementation of the Global Strategy would constitute an essential contribution to the improvement of over-all socio-economic conditions, and thus to the achievements of the health component of the World Plan of Action.

^{27/} Adopted by the World Health Assembly in its resolution WHA 34.36 of 22 May 1981.

35. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) summarized the activities of ECA during the biennium 1980-1981. She pointed out that 20 research studies had been completed and innovative training programmes had been initiated, relating to vocational training, development planning and training for newly liberated Portuguese-speaking countries. She expressed appreciation of the assistance given by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. The year 1980 had constituted a turning point for Africa, as the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, at its second extraordinary session, had adopted the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa (A/S-11/14, annex I), aimed at achieving rapid economic and social development by the year 2000. The Lagos Plan of Action held the integration of women in the development process to be a priority. The implementation of the Plan called for the acceleration of women's access to education, science and technology to enable them to participate in the process of industrial development in Africa.

36. The representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) noted the increasing convergence of the priorities of the Commission on the Status of Women with the efforts of UNICEF to consider the links between the condition of women and that of children. She also pointed out that UNICEF had responded to the recommendations of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women by appointing women to senior staff positions. Moreover, it had made a major effort to strengthen collaboration with other organizations in the United Nations system and with other sources of international and bilateral assistance, particularly in its project formulation and in its review and appraisal of projects of importance to women, for example those dealing with water and the application of technology, and income-generating projects. It had learned from experience that the most promising programmes were of a multifunctional or integrated type, carried out within a prescribed geographical area to support women's multiple roles and responsibilities through combined contributions in the areas of health, education and economic opportunities. Positive achievements had, however, remained limited owing to a lack of governmental capacity to give women's concerns the priority they deserved and to the isolation of women's issues from the broad stream of national development. UNICEF hoped that the lessons of its programme experience could be pooled with those of other bodies of the United Nations system to further the work that still lay ahead for the remainder of the Decade.

37. The observer for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women reported on activities approved by the Board of Trustees at its second session, in January 1982. She said that the Institute should co-operate closely with the Commission, using modalities that were expected to be discussed at the next meeting of the Board, early in 1983. The general orientation of the substantive programme of the Institute was to ensure, through research, training and information activities, the integration of issues relating to women into mainstream developmental activities at all levels, for the ultimate benefit of entire populations. Efforts were to be made to improve the methodological framework for incorporating women into development which would take into account the interrelationship of economic and social issues. The Institute would operate through networks as the basic means of carrying out its work. The phased development of a series of co-operative activities within and outside the United Nations system was envisaged for the execution of particular programmes, including the preparation of indicators and related basic statistics concerning women; planning and programming methods for better participation by women in the

development process; the role of women in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the search for a new international economic order; the collective self-reliance of the developing countries; food strategies; water; energy etc. The course proposed for the Institute was to a certain extent an experimental one, which would depend a great deal for its success on the availability of financial and other support from national, regional and international organizations. She expressed gratitude and optimism regarding the support received so far, in view of the catalytic role the Institute could play in strengthening the focus on women in major developmental activities.

38. In introducing the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (E/CN.6/1982/4), the President of that Commission stated that it had prepared a regional plan of action in 1976 to meet the needs of women in the hemisphere and to solve their problems. Since then, its activities had been included within the framework of the plan, and many important activities had been carried out. Evaluation of the results showed that progress was slow and that there were still very serious problems caused by the under-development of the region. The Inter-American Commission of Women was trying to speed up its activities, and was emphasizing the participation of women in development, but its resources were limited. It therefore sought the collaboration of regional and world bodies and was endeavouring to maintain close links with the Commission on the Status of Women.

39. The representative of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions stressed the role played by trade unions in the implementation of the World Plan of Action. The number of women affiliated to free trade unions had increased from 5 million to 25 million in 20 years. Recently they had been carrying out a programme to integrate more women in the decision-making processes, especially in developing countries.

40. The hope was expressed that non-governmental organizations would be more closely associated with the further review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action, in order to have a more comprehensive picture of the situation.

41. The representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation drew attention to the need for special efforts to promote peace and disarmament, which were prerequisites for advancement in women's rights. She proposed, as an example, to organize seminars with the theme "Women and Peace" under the auspices of United Nations agencies. The seminars could be further used to draw up material on the social and economic consequences of the arms race for the situation of women, which could be a subject for consideration at the thirtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

42. The representative of St. Joan's International Alliance stressed that the problem of the status of women in developing countries and the role of women in development should have highest priority in further activities.

43. Several non-governmental organizations recommended that special attention should be paid to the role of women in food production. The consequences for women of new development projects should be studied carefully in order to avoid negative implications for women, and delegations for negotiating development projects between donor and recipient countries should include women.

Consideration of draft resolutions

Role of women in economic development

44. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of India, on behalf also of Australia, 28/ Honduras and Pakistan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Role of women in economic development" (E/CN.6/1982/L.6).

45. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed adding the words "within existing budgetary resources" after the words "financial components" in operative paragraph 1. The amendment was accepted by the sponsors.

46. At its 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution III).

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

47. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1982/L.10). Subsequently, Cuba and Honduras joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976,

"1. Takes note of the work undertaken to make the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women operational and expresses gratification at the results already obtained;

"2. Expresses its satisfaction at the programme established in agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Institute and at the jointly defined guidelines;

"3. Wishes that close co-operation will be continued between the Institute and bodies of the United Nations system as well as with the regional commissions;

"4. Expresses the wish that the Advancement of Women Branch will associate the Institute as rapidly as possible in its work, particularly with regard to the elaboration of the world survey on the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1985;

"5. Considers that a detailed report on its activities should be submitted by the Institute at every session of the Commission on the Status of Women;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to give to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women the administrative and

28/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

physical assistance necessary to enable it finally to complete its installation in the Dominican Republic;

"7. Invites Governments to participate in the fund for the support of the Institute so that it can ensure the normal development of its programme."

48. At the 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the representative of France withdrew the draft resolution.

Chapter III

CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

49. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th and 11th meetings, from 24 to 26 February and on 1 and 3 March 1982.

50. In introducing the item, the Director of the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs noted that, since the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex), the Centre had undertaken a number of activities with a view to giving the Convention further publicity and to increasing the number of States parties to it. She referred to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen in July 1980, at which 64 States had signed the Convention and two States had deposited their instruments of ratification. Since that time remarkable success had been achieved in the signing and ratifying of the Convention. As at 17 February 1982, 37 States had become parties to the Convention.

51. In that connexion, she drew attention to article 17 of the Convention, which provided that a Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should be established for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. She underlined the need to nominate candidates for the Committee, who would be elected at United Nations Headquarters on 16 April 1982. She also referred to article 18 of the Convention, under which States parties were to submit to the Secretary-General, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures which they had adopted to give effect to the provisions of the Convention and on the progress made in that respect.

52. She stressed the fact that notes verbales had been sent to the States parties in respect of both articles 17 and 18 of the Convention and appealed to representatives to take every opportunity to help ensure the timely preparation and quality of content of those reports. She also referred to article 21, paragraph 2, of the Convention, which provided that the Secretary-General should transmit the reports of the Committee to the Commission on the Status of Women for its information.

53. A number of representatives expressed their great satisfaction at the enactment of the Convention on 3 September 1981 and at its thirty-seventh ratification. They stated that the Convention was recognized by many Governments and by the women of the world as a most important legal document. Since considerable discrimination against women still existed, the Convention would be a necessary instrument for women's equal rights, irrespective of the socio-economic system in which women lived. The Convention was regarded as a major achievement of the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women. States which ratified the Convention were obliged to further equality, to adopt special laws to prevent discrimination against women and to abolish discriminatory laws and practices. The Convention requested Governments to inform the United Nations regularly about the measures taken.

54. Some representatives referred to the signing of the Convention by their Governments and described the current efforts of their Governments to ratify the

Convention without reservations. Once they had signed the Convention, Governments were bound by the spirit of that most important international instrument relating to women and were committed to its ratification as soon as possible.

55. Some representatives referred to the idea expressed in the Convention that the strengthening of international peace and security would promote social progress and development and as a consequence would contribute to the attainment of full equality between men and women. They stated that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace required the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields. They requested that the Commission should take steps to promote the implementation of the Convention.

56. Some representatives expressed their satisfaction at the fact that, during the United Nations Decade for Women, laws had been enacted that prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex and that required equal pay for equal work. They stressed that the number of women who held policy-making positions in local States and federal Governments continued to grow. It was pointed out, however, that laws changed more easily than human nature and that was why the struggle to achieve equality between the sexes according to the Convention must continue.

57. Some representatives described the success of their countries in implementing the Convention. Other representatives and observers informed the Commission of measures taken in their countries to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the principles contained in the Convention. Serious thought was being given to how to bring legislation into conformity with the various provisions of the Convention. The need for more information activities concerning the Convention was stressed, as women themselves would have to learn about their rights in order to claim them. Other representatives referred to specific articles of the Convention, for example articles aiming at the improvement of the situation of women in developing countries.

58. The representative of UNESCO informed the Commission that UNESCO had undertaken studies on obstacles to the implementation of the Convention in the form of legal texts and practices. The studies would give special attention to women's own activities to support national measures designed to implement the Convention.

59. The representative of UNICEF stressed the fact that the Convention referred also to the status of children. The joint child-rearing responsibilities of mother and father were enshrined in the Convention, with fundamental implications both for the roles of men and women, and for the child.

60. One representative, emphasizing the central role played by the Commission in realizing the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women, underlined the need to submit the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to the Commission and expressed the hope that an early beginning would be made by that Committee.

Consideration of a draft resolution

61. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (E/CN.6/1982/L.3). Subsequently Cuba and the German Democratic Republic joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

62. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A above, draft resolution I).

63. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Pakistan, Malaysia and India expressed reservations on it.

Chapter IV

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO REVIEW AND APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

64. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 4th, 6th to 8th and 16th meetings, on 25 and 26 February and 1 and 5 March 1982. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women (E/CN/6/1982/8).

65. In introducing the item, the Director of the Advancement of Women Branch commented on the goals and purposes of the Conference to be held in 1985. She noted that, after 1975, the level of world awareness of women's important role in economic, political and social affairs had been raised. The World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, adopted at Mexico City, and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, adopted at Copenhagen, had given extensive coverage to all the problems faced by women. It was necessary to implement their recommendations in all sectors of society. Although some goals had been achieved, there were still very many which had not. Many things had been left undone because women's questions were considered to be either of marginal interest or merely a fashionable slogan. Consequently, implementation of the recommendations of the two conferences had not been seriously undertaken. The Director suggested that, in preparation for the 1985 Conference, emphasis should be given to practical aspects of how to implement existing recommendations and to bring about a real improvement in women's situation. Both Governments and the United Nations system should be prepared to take a hard look at themselves, to determine what had not been accomplished, what programmes had failed and where they had not tried sufficiently hard, and to understand why that had been so. The Director appealed to all responsible Government's to concentrate their efforts, within the context of their diverse cultures, on influencing the international community to undertake a major and carefully articulated effort so that women might be able to participate on an equal footing with men in the development process. She also appealed for solidarity among all women, and for men to demonstrate their solidarity with women so that all might concentrate upon resolving current problems. As an example of such problems, the Director singled out the fact that the level of women's participation in decision-making was still very far from satisfactory, and she wondered how that situation could be improved when the majority of women were illiterate and economically dependent. And yet their participation in decisions affecting societies for substantial periods into the future was essential.

66. The Director also drew the attention of the Commission to the question of organizational arrangements for the preparation of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1985. She pointed out that the report before the Commission on preparations for the Conference presented proposals by the Secretary-General on the following organizational questions: (a) form and composition of the intergovernmental body to prepare for the Conference; (b) the secretariat of the Conference; (c) the organization of work; (d) documentation; (e) rules of procedure; (f) public information activities; and (g) national, regional and sectoral preparations.

67. Citing the proposals of the Secretary-General regarding the form and composition of the intergovernmental body to prepare for the Conference, she suggested that the Commission might wish to recommend that it should itself serve as the preparatory body for the Conference, working as far as possible within its normal pattern of meetings. Alternatively, if that proposal was not acceptable,

the Commission might wish to consider recommending that an open-ended preparatory body should be established, consisting of representatives of those States whose nationals served on the Commission and of representatives of other interested States.

68. Several representatives suggested that careful thought should be given to the central purpose of the 1985 Conference before any detailed planning of the topics to be considered was begun. The Conference should certainly review and appraise what had been achieved since 1975, and should in particular seek to identify the factors that had prevented more rapid progress in each area. A number of representatives suggested that discussion should be extended from a review of progress to consideration of the need for proclamation of a second United Nations decade for women. In general, representatives expressed reservations on the matter: it was felt that a second decade would in itself do little to resolve what had not been achieved during the first. It was felt that the existing Plan of Action and Programme of Action contained enough recommendations for all to work on for the remainder of the century, although it might be that some adjustment in emphasis would be useful. It was also felt that decisions on the matter should await a more comprehensive appraisal of achievements during the first Decade. Regional commissions might, however, proclaim further regional decades in order to help to achieve particular aims.

69. While expressing appreciation of the ideas presented in the report of the Secretary-General on issues and themes for the Conference, several representatives disagreed with the point made to the effect that women's employment should be seen in relation to employment of men. Even in situations of limited employment opportunities, they stressed that women should have an equal chance for employment.

70. It was indicated that on the whole the suggestions contained in the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/1982/8) provided a useful basis for preliminary discussion of the substantive content of the 1985 Conference. Several representatives expressed the view that, since the plan seemed very ambitious, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Advancement of Women Branch should establish work priorities. A number of representatives considered that it was important not to settle all major substantive issues at too early a stage. Discussion of the themes for the Conference should be undertaken by as many interested agents as possible, including Governments and international organizations, particularly the regional commissions and non-governmental organizations. At a later stage in the preparations, perhaps in one year's time, it would be appropriate for a smaller, but representative, body to reconsider substantive topics and to translate them into a specific list of issues for consideration. Nevertheless, it might be important to leave room for discussion by the Conference of issues not anticipated during its preparation. At the Copenhagen Conference, the existence of a formal draft programme of action had had the effect of limiting the discussion of certain topics which many women wished to examine and regarding which they would have liked to share their experiences. It was important not to stress differences in the situation of women at the expense of common goals and aspirations. In particular, the Conference should be more responsive than the previous two conferences to the precise needs of national decision-makers, who were responsible for translating its recommendations into specific policies. It should also examine the priorities of international organizations in relation to the extent of their effective attention to the concerns of women throughout the Decade and their plans for the future.

71. Notwithstanding the general view that the substantive content of the Conference should be a matter for further discussion at a later date,

representatives felt that a number of topics should be included within that discussion. The close relations between the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women, the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and the establishment of a new international economic order required careful examination. The situation of poor women, particularly in rural areas, needed to be examined. The need for national institutional and economic structural changes and their implications for women was also a matter for review. Important questions concerning the nature of development and societal change and women's role within it called for careful attention. It would be important to approach such issues as economic structure, monetary matters, food production and energy with a view to being able to promote patterns of development that would both contribute to the economic growth and stability and improve the status of women. The links between development in science and technology and the situation of women needed also to be examined.

72. Although it was recognized that improvements in the way the contribution made by women to the national product was measured were badly needed, a number of representatives warned that it might not be advisable to evaluate every aspect of women's contribution to society in purely monetary terms.

73. One representative pointed out, in that regard, that the concept of dependent work performed for a salary within very strict daily time-tables throughout the working life of an individual had appeared during the period of industrialization in the developed countries. It was important to change that image of work and to develop a new model which would be much more favourable to the multiple roles of women in society. In some countries, a new image was taking hold, with the extension of flexible working hours, independent and co-operative work, continuous retraining and occupational mobility. Other representatives drew attention to a related and important point, namely the particular problems faced by women who were penalized by society for accepting the functions of motherhood. Family planning for responsible parenthood was an important means of reducing some part of the set of problems associated with that issue, but provision for child-care and for increased acceptance by fathers of their parental responsibilities was also necessary. Some representatives expressed the view that one most important problem requiring consideration at the 1985 Conference was the continued oppression of women by men within society. It was felt that, if that problem were not solved, it would be difficult to improve other aspects of women's unsatisfactory status. The means of improving women's legal status and reducing the violence to which women were subjected were considered also to be important items for examination. The special problems of rural women should be emphasized.

74. A number of representatives pointed to the need for more effective participation by women in decision-making and in political life, inter alia, in matters related to the reduction of tension between individuals, groups and nations, the struggle for peace and disarmament and the prevention of all forms of exploitation.

75. Several representatives expressed their appreciation of the quality, brevity and clarity of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General regarding the organizational arrangements for the 1985 Conference.

76. There was a consensus that the preparations for the Conference should draw on the organizational experiences of the conferences held in 1975 and 1980 at Mexico City and Copenhagen, but should also be forward-looking and open to innovative and more efficient ways and means to fulfil the principles and objectives of the Conference and the Decade.

Form and composition of the intergovernmental body to prepare
for the Conference

77. Many representatives supported the proposal that the Commission on the Status of Women should itself be designated as the preparatory body but most suggested that it would not be feasible for the Commission to undertake that responsibility within the normal pattern of meetings. It was consequently proposed that there should be three meetings of the Commission as preparatory committee in 1983, 1984 and 1985. Several representatives suggested that, if that proposal was accepted, the 1984 meeting should be held in conjunction with the thirtieth session of the Commission. Several members suggested that the host country for the Conference should participate in the meetings of the preparatory body. It was also suggested that observers should be invited in order to accommodate States not members of the Commission which were interested in contributing to the preparatory work and that observers from non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations should likewise be invited to express their views at the preparatory meetings. Some representatives noted that consultations among the organizations of the United Nations system should be held as soon as possible and others suggested that Member States should begin to organize national committees to assist in preparations for the Conference at the national level.

78. While there was general support for the decision of the General Assembly, in resolution 36/126, to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the Decade, a world conference to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, a few representatives stressed the need to hold a comprehensive series of national, regional and sectoral meetings before the end of the Decade. One representative questioned the value of convening a world conference at the end of the Decade and recommended instead that a conference should be held every two years, in 1985, 1987 and 1989, to review and appraise the achievements of the Decade on a more specific and issue-focused basis.

Secretariat of the Conference

79. Many representatives supported the proposal made in the report of the Secretary-General that the existing staff of the United Nations concerned with the advancement of women should be designated as the secretariat for the Conference, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 35/10 C, in which it had been decided that the secretariats for special conferences should, to the extent possible, be provided by the existing Secretariat machinery with such temporary strengthening as might be required. The importance of having a secretariat with sufficient time to devote to the preparation for the Conference was also noted.

Organization of work

80. In the report of the Secretary-General, it was proposed that the intergovernmental preparatory body for the 1985 Conference should decide on the over-all structure of the Conference on the basis of such criteria as the number of substantive items to be discussed, facilities and time available.

81. Some representatives questioned the value of long oral statements elaborating national positions in the introductory general debate, and suggested that country reports should be submitted in writing so that more time would be available to discuss specific topics. In addition, they suggested that one alternative to country statements might be a presentation by regions, subregions or other

groupings of countries, setting out as vividly as possible the progress that had been made by women in the areas concerned and the problems that still remained.

82. Several representatives also suggested that, prior to the first meeting of the preparatory body, consultations should be held on the issues and themes of the conference at the regional level, by the regional commissions, and at the global level among the organizations of the United Nations system and among nongovernmental organizations.

Documentation

83. Several representatives noted the need for the documentation of the Conference to reflect a critical appraisal of the achievements of the Decade and for statistical profiles of the status of the world's women to serve as a basis for the review. The profiles should, it was argued, reflect both qualitative and quantitative data. They stressed the need for in-depth reporting and for the limitation of documentation.

Public information activities

84. Many representatives noted the importance of obtaining media coverage for the Conference to ensure understanding of the event and its regional and national preparatory meetings. One representative inquired whether there had been any study or content analysis of the media coverage of the 1980 Conference, and suggested that such a study, if combined with a similar study of the 1985 Conference, might provide a useful tool for measuring the progress and impact of United Nations work in that field. Several representatives expressed the view that precautions should be taken to avoid sensational types of press coverage and provide instead positive and constructive coverage for those dimensions focused on the advancement of women.

National, regional and sectoral preparations

85. Several representatives also supported the proposals in the report of the Secretary-General regarding national, regional and sectoral preparations. One representative suggested that sectoral meetings should be convened in each region on the themes of education, health and employment, bringing together experts on those questions, and that one cross-sectoral meeting should be held in each region to bring together staff from national machineries for the advancement of women to review and appraise progress and plan for the future from an interdisciplinary and interministerial perspective.

86. Another representative stated that the Commission should not forget the need to recommend that the attention of both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, should be set aside for special meetings or should include special items on women in a variety of selected fields so that the Conference itself could avoid being overburdened with such a heavy agenda that its deliberations would be reduced to a very superficial level.

87. Some representatives proposed that all the regional preparatory meetings should have the same agenda, so that the resulting reports to the Conference would have a basic similarity that would enrich the comparative analysis of national, regional and sectoral issues, and that the organizations of the United Nations

system should likewise co-ordinate their efforts to assist the regional commissions in that regard.

Participation by non-governmental organizations

88. A number of representatives expressed the wish that non-governmental organizations would participate in the 1985 Conference and in the preparations for it and that they would do so with the same rights as observers as were granted to intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system.

Consideration of the report of the informal open-ended working group

89. At the 16th meeting, on 5 March 1982, the representative of India, on behalf of the Chairman of the informal open-ended working group, 29/ Ms. P. Patil (India), Vice-Chairman of the Commission reported orally on the discussions of the working group. He introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women", prepared on the basis of extensive discussion in the working group, and also in a contact group consisting of all interested delegations. He stated that the draft resolution had met with broad agreement and called upon the Commission to adopt it by consensus.

90. A statement of the financial implications of the draft resolution is contained in annex III, section B.

91. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution XI).

92. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed some reservations concerning operative paragraph 4 and the concern of his delegation that funds should be found from within existing budgetary resources.

29/ See para. 201 below.

COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF WOMEN

93. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 8th, 11th, 14th and 16th meetings, on 1 and from 3 to 5 March 1982.

94. In her introductory statement, the Director of the Advancement of Women Branch referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by Council resolution 304 (XI) I, in which the procedure for handling communications relating to the status of women by the Commission was established. In those resolutions, the Council had requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a non-confidential and a confidential list containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication; it had recognized at the same time that the Commission on the Status of Women had no power to take any action in regard to any complaints. The Council had suggested that the Commission should, at each session, appoint an ad hoc committee to meet shortly before its next session for the purpose of reviewing the confidential list of communications prepared by the Secretary-General and of recommending which of those communications, in original, should be made available to members of the Commission on request.

95. The Director of the Branch explained that that practice had been followed until 1970.

96. In its resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970, the Economic and Social Council had authorized the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to appoint a working group to consider all communications, including replies of Governments thereon, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Sub-Commission those communications, together with replies of Governments, if any, which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms within the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission.

97. At its twenty-fifth session, the Commission on the Status of Women had decided that, in future, communications relating to the status of women should be considered in accordance with Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) and that the question should be deleted from the Commission's work programme. 30/

98. By its decision 86 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, the Council had decided to invite the Commission to consider the advisability of continuing to deal with communications concerning the status of women, in the light of the report of the Secretary-General (E/5628) and the discussion in the Social Committee of the Council at its fifty-eighth session, and to report to the Council at its sixty-second session.

99. At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women had appointed an ad hoc working group on communications to consider the confidential

30/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 4 (E/5451), chap. I, para. 4.

and non-confidential lists of communications concerning the status of women; 31/ the ad hoc working group had also considered a note by the secretariat on relevant resolutions and procedures dealing with communications concerning human rights and the status of women. The Commission had recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Council, 32/ in which the Secretary-General was requested to appoint an ad hoc group of experts to study procedures for dealing with communications relating to the status of women and report to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session. That draft resolution had not been adopted by the Council.

100. Instead, in its resolution 1980/39 of 2 May 1980, the Council had requested the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women to submit their views to the Council at its first regular session of 1982 on how communications relating to the status of women should be handled. In the same resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to assist the Council in its consideration of the matter of such communications by providing background information regarding existing procedures on communications within the United States system.

101. At its 8th meeting, on 1 March 1982, the Commission on the Status of Women appointed an ad hoc working group on communications, consisting of the following five representatives nominated by their respective regional groups: Nihad Abou Zikry (Egypt), Martha Luz Mejia (Honduras), Siti Norma Yaakob (Malaysia), T. N. Nikolayeva (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), and Margaret Galey (United States of America).

102. At the same meeting, a confidential list of communications (S.W. Communications List No. 20) was distributed in a sealed envelope to the representatives of States members of the Commission attending the session.

103. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Communications held a private meeting on 2 March 1982. It had before it the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (S.W. Communications List No. 20) and a non-confidential list of communications (E/CN.6/CR.26). Background information on procedures concerning communications on the status of women in the United Nations system was made available on an informal basis by the Secretariat.

104. At the 16th meeting, on 5 March 1982, the representative of Egypt reported orally on the discussions in the Ad Hoc Working Group, which had held one meeting in closed session. Members had decided not to elect a chairman, but to exchange views on an equal footing with respect to the confidential list of communications. Subsequently, members had referred to the importance of procedures for handling communications on the status of women, including the need for the Ad Hoc Working Group to develop procedures governing its discussion of the confidential communications. Another member referred to the importance of discussing the substance of the confidential list pending the development of such procedures. She had then referred to various categories of communications appearing on the 1982

31/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1980, Supplement No. 5 (E/1980/15), chap. VI.

32/ Ibid., chap. I, sect A, draft resolution X.

confidential list, indicating that that list had not provided any information on the disposition of communications from the 1980 list. She had suggested that, in future, the Secretariat should provide, in an introduction to the confidential list, information on the disposition of the communications on confidential lists from the previous year or years. Another member of the Ad Hoc Working Group had stated that the Commission should not consider communications on the status of women, which should be handled by other United Nations agencies and bodies. Other members, however, had expressed the view that the Commission should receive communications, but had questioned how they should be handled. One member had referred to a written request from one Government concerning a communication on the confidential list which it wished to have deleted from the list; it also wished to have its objection recorded. Two members had expressed the view that such objections should be recorded, but that the Ad Hoc Working Group was not in a position to recommend deletion of the communication from the list. Members had agreed to report on the substance of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group to their respective regional groups; one member would report thereon in the plenary meeting of the Commission.

105. The Commission took note of the oral report.

Consideration of draft resolutions

106. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic introduced a draft resolution entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" (E/CN.6/1982/L.4), which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Noting the role of the Commission on the Status of Women as a central body within the United Nations system with regard to questions relating to the status of women,

"Emphasizing that the Commission should concentrate its efforts on major problems on which progress in the attainment of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace depends,

"Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/39 of 2 May 1980, in which the Commission is requested to express its opinion on procedures for dealing with communications relating to the status of women,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the opinions of States members of the Commission on possible procedures for dealing with communications relating to the status of women;

"2. Considers it desirable to entrust the Commission on Human Rights with handling communications relating to the status of women in accordance with existing practices and procedures for dealing with such communications."

107. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the Ukrainian SSR suggested that, since two draft resolutions had been submitted under the item, it would be useful for consultations to be held before further discussion took place.

108. At the same meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf also of Australia, 33/ Canada, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, 33/ Honduras, Japan, the Netherlands, 33/ Nigeria, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" (E/CN.6/1982/L.12). In introducing the draft resolution, he explained that, according to Economic and Social Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by resolution 304 (XI) I, the Commission on the Status of Women had the mandate to receive and to take note of communications concerning the status of women. It was obvious that only some of the communications received within the entire United Nations system came to the attention of the Commission. The specialized agencies often had their own rules for handling communications. He stressed the need for the Commission to be informed of all communications addressed to those organizations, so that the Commission would be better able to deal with women's questions in the employment, health and education sectors etc. He regretted that the background paper prepared by the Advancement of Women Branch on existing procedures for handling communications within the United Nations system had not been distributed to representatives at the current session of the Commission.

109. At the 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the representative of the Ukrainian SSR proposed that consideration of the matter should be deferred until the thirtieth session of the Commission since, in the view of her delegation, further work was needed on it. Her delegation had decided to withdraw draft resolution E/CN.6/1982/L.4 and hoped that the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/1982/L.12 would do the same.

110. At the same meeting, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution E/CN.6/1982/L.12, the representative of the United Kingdom said that, despite lengthy consultations, it had not been possible to agree on a consensus text. In reply to the representative of the Ukrainian SSR, he stated that the sponsors of the draft resolution could not agree to withdraw it. He believed that there were significant areas of common consent and urged delegations to adopt the draft resolution by consensus and to submit the recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1982, together with those submitted by the Commission on Human Rights.

111. The representatives of Cuba and the USSR referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/39 and stated that the question of communications concerning the status of women should be handled by the Commission on Human Rights, which had appropriate procedures to deal with it.

112. At the same meeting, following a procedural debate, the Commission took a roll-call vote on the proposal by the Ukrainian SSR to defer taking a decision on the question until the thirtieth session.

113. The proposal was rejected by 13 votes to 8, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Guatemala, India, Pakistan, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

33/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Against: Canada, Finland, France, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Norway, Panama, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Abstaining: China, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria, Senegal, Zaire.

114. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/1982/L.12 by a roll-call vote of 16 to 6, with 5 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Canada, Finland, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Zaire.

Against: Cuba, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, India, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: China, Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal.

115. The resolution adopted by the Commission read as follows:

Communications concerning the status of women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947 and 304 (XI) I of 14 and 17 July 1950,

Reaffirming its desire to continue to consider communications on the status of women,

Mindful of Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/39 of 2 May 1980, in accordance with which the Council will consider at its first regular session of 1982 procedures for handling communications on the status of women, taking into account the views of, inter alia, the Commission on the Status of Women,

Aware that communications on the status of women are not only received by the Commission under Council resolutions 76 (V) and 304 (XI) I, but are also received by specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[See chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution X].

116. Speaking in explanation of vote before the vote, the representative of the Ukrainian SSR stated that the Commission was not in a position at that time to decide on the handling of communications; it had not had before it a background paper on current procedures for dealing with communications. Her delegation would therefore vote against the draft resolution.

117. The representative of Cuba, speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, stressed that the mandate contained in the draft resolution would lead to a duplication of work with other organizations, and that her delegation had therefore voted against it.

118. The representative of Pakistan, speaking after the vote, explained that her delegation had abstained because the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1980/39 had sought the views of the Commission and it felt that the decision on communications in the draft resolution adopted was inadequate, since it did not incorporate the views of all members of the Commission. It would have been more helpful to the Council in its consideration of its procedures for dealing with communications had it done so.

Chapter VI

CONDITION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN: (A) CONDITION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICT; (B) SITUATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN LIVING UNDER RACIST MINORITY REGIMES AND IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND OTHER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; (C) OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CONDITION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

119. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th to 14th meetings, on 26 February and from 1 to 4 March 1982. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the condition of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence (E/CN.6/1982/9 and Corr.1), a note by the Secretariat on the situation of women and children living under racist minority régimes and in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories (E/CN.6/1982/10), and a letter dated 11 February 1982 and from the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid to the chairman of the Commission (E/CN.6/1982/13).

120. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the report of the Secretary-General, which drew to the attention of the Commission the activities undertaken by a number of Governments, specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations, on the basis of humanitarian concern for the condition of women and children suffering from emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. He noted, however, that such problems must be examined in the broader context of the mutual relations between the status of women in society and the strengthening of peace, and those matters would be given greater priority in the work of the Advancement of Women Branch in the biennium 1982-1983. With reference to subitem 7 (b), on the situation of women and children living under racist minority régimes and in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories, he explained that, because no significant information on substantial changes in the situation had been brought to the attention of the Secretariat, no new report had been prepared for the Commission. In that connexion, he drew the attention of the Commission to General Assembly resolutions 35/206 N and 36/172 K, as well as to the preparations for the International Conference on Women and Apartheid, which was to be held at Brussels from 17 to 19 May 1982 and to which the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid had invited the members of the Commission.

121. With regard to the condition of migrant women and children, he informed the Commission of the substantial and varied work undertaken by the United Nations system during the biennium 1980-1981.

122. Concerning the effect of transnational corporations on the status of women in southern Africa, he explained that hitherto certain bodies of the United Nations had paid attention to the role of transnational corporations in that region, but not specifically to the effect of their activities upon women. He stated that the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations had done a great deal of work on various aspects of the activities of those corporations throughout the world, but as yet nothing specifically on their impact upon women. He also stated that the ILO had undertaken many activities in connexion with women's employment in southern Africa, but again not specifically on the impact of transnational corporations on women. During the biennium 1982-1983, the Advancement of Women Branch, as part of its programme of research into the relationships between the status of women and macro-economic processes, would seek to work closely with all the specialized agencies and other organizations concerned.

123. Several representatives stated that women in southern Africa living under apartheid régimes suffered from prolonged discrimination based on race and sex. For instance, it was pointed out that South African women suffered economic disabilities in the cities, in the jobs available to them, in their pay and in other working conditions. That was because the South African Government viewed the presence of black women in cities as a potential threat to the geographical separation of peoples, which was a basic tenet of apartheid. The system of apartheid deprived people of their most fundamental human rights on the basis of the most superficial distinction: skin colour. It was a system that was offensive to the values of freedom, justice and basic human rights. One representative reminded the Commission that the United Nations had proclaimed the years 1973-1983 as the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. With the end of the decade very near, that representative felt, however, that the brutal oppression of women and children in South Africa was continuing. Many representatives, concerned about the condition of the oppressed people, particularly of women and children in South Africa and Namibia, said that their Governments would further expand their humanitarian assistance. A few representatives referred to solidarity campaigns with the people of southern Africa, organized by women's organizations in their countries.

124. The observers for three non-governmental organizations (the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, the World Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Women's International Democratic Federation) expressed their concern at the conditions of women and children living under apartheid and appealed to all Governments to assist them. One observer reported that their African regional organization was organizing a symposium on women workers under apartheid, scheduled to take place at Gaborone, Botswana, which would bring together women from South Africa.

125. Observers for the South West Africa People's Organization, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the African National Congress addressing the Commission expressed their concern at the problems experienced by millions of their people, including women and children, who had been denied the right to independence and self-determination by the apartheid régime. They regretted that no new information on this situation had been placed before the Commission at the current session. One of the observers pointed out that the situation in South Africa could be described as genocide, for it made possible a high incidence of killer diseases, such as malnutrition and kwashiorkor. They called upon Governments to play an important role in assisting the struggle of the southern African people.

126. Some representatives pointed out that the situation in the Middle East also posed a very serious threat to international peace and security. The question of the rights of Palestinians to their homeland remained the cause of the continuing crisis in the region. The tragic situation of Palestinian women and children in the occupied territories was again stressed. Some representatives therefore called again upon Israel to withdraw from Arab lands occupied since June 1967, to desist from building new settlements there and to stop all kinds of activities designed to alter the demographic and cultural character of the occupied lands, which were contrary to the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. One of the observers stated, however, that since 1967 the situation of Palestinian women had in fact improved.

127. Many representatives expressed their concern about the situation of refugees in many regions of the world, particularly the situation of refugee women and children, whose number was continually increasing owing to political conditions in their home countries. In terms of numbers, the African and Asian refugee problem

was without parallel. The situation posed problems for neighbouring countries, which were trying to give assistance to the refugees but, being developing countries, in most instances could not do enough in that respect. The need to help refugees through contributions to the special international fund established by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross to assist countries of first asylum was stressed by one representative. Recognizing that the traditional disadvantages of women were compounded when they were refugees, the representatives of China, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America endorsed, on humanitarian grounds, the need for continued international support and assistance designed to cater to the special needs of Afghan women and children refugees in Pakistan. The observer for the South West Africa People's Organization referred to the extremely difficult situation of refugees from Namibia, especially women and children under 16 years of age, and noted the assistance that was being given to them by neighbouring countries, where they found education, training and job possibilities.

128. In its consideration of the exploitation of the prostitution of others and traffic in persons, the Commission heard an oral statement by the Director of the Advancement of Women Branch on the work of the Commission on Human Rights in that field. The attention of the Commission was drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/4, in which the Council endorsed the Commission's request for a report to be prepared on the application of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, emphasizing in particular the causes and the socio-economic conditions which encouraged the development of prostitution. The Commission was also informed of the adoption of resolution 1981/40, in which the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake an inquiry among the Governments of Member States and the concerned international organizations on the status of the question, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. The Director of the Branch also explained that, by Council decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI), the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities had been authorized to appoint a working group to meet regularly prior to each of its sessions to review developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others. At its last meeting, the working group had considered the question and adopted recommendations dealing with the item under discussion, which were subsequently approved by the Sub-Commission and were currently under consideration by the Commission on Human Rights.

129. On the same subject, one representative indicated that traffic in persons affected not only young women but also children from two to four years of age, who were sold either for the purpose of exploiting their labour or for prostitution. She suggested that the Advancement of Women Branch should closely follow the examination of that question by the Commission on Human Rights, and that a special rapporteur should be designated by the General Assembly to study the question, in consultation with all the specialized agencies concerned, notably the ILO, UNESCO and WHO. She noted that INTERPOL had an international network dealing with the question and kept substantial files on the matter. In her view, the struggle to prevent the evils of prostitution should continue. She also stressed the urgent need for social rehabilitation of prostitutes. Another representative indicated her appreciation of the fact that the matter was included in the programme budget of the Advancement of Women Branch for the biennium 1982-1983.

130. In introducing subitem 7 (c), a representative of the Advancement of Women Branch drew the attention of the Commission to resolution 5 of the World Conference

of the United Nations Decade for Women, 34/ in which the Conference had considered that violence in the home and in the family, as well as in institutions, and in particular physical, sexual and other forms of abuse of women, children and the elderly constitutes an intolerable offence to the dignity of human beings as well as a grave problem for the physical and mental health of the family as well as for society. The Secretary-General, in co-operation with all the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, had been requested to prepare a study on the extent and types of physical, sexual, and other forms of abuse in families and in institutions and on existing resources available for dealing with the problem.

131. She pointed out that the topic of battered women and violence in the family had been brought to public attention mostly through the actions of women's movements to provide a more affirmative image of women in modern society. Improved communication among Member States had drawn increasing attention to the problem, which had serious social consequences and which perpetuated itself from one generation to the next.

132. A preliminary paper had been prepared by the Branch. It was explained that the paper could not give a cross-section of the problems in all regions of the world, since the available information referred only to a few States in which research activities in that field had been undertaken. She underlined the fact that a study of the scope requested by resolution 5 of the Copenhagen Conference would require a systematic survey of national experience, which could be achieved only with the full participation of Governments. It was suggested, therefore, that the Commission should consider extending the mandate given by the Conference in that resolution, in order to authorize the Branch to seek the views of Governments on how the problem could be solved.

133. Subsequently, the representative of the Branch made some recommendations on how to overcome the traditional tolerance of violence in the family and in institutions and how to eliminate its causes, for example by bringing the national policy into line with international instruments concerning human rights, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; by taking legislative, administrative and other measures to prevent the abuse of women pursuing such cases ex officio; statistically following and analysing cases of violence; improving the educational system; providing shelters etc.

134. With regard to the impact of transnational corporations on the status of women in southern Africa, one representative opposed an approach to the problem that was too narrowly focused on selection of employment and region. Another representative, on the other hand, considered that transnational corporations in southern Africa were the cause of poverty among the people in the region.

135. With regard to the question of migrant women, one representative expressed support for the work of the Working Group on the Drafting of an International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, created pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/172. The problem of the effects of the migration of men upon women who remained behind was stressed by

34/ Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and Corrigendum, chap. I, sect. B.

the UNESCO representative, who pointed out that the matter had already been the subject of research in a few countries, including Algeria, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Turkey.

136. One representative drew attention to and reiterated the special needs of aging women which should be thoroughly dealt with at the forthcoming World Assembly on Aging. That was important in order to ensure that the growing numbers of the aging population indicated by demographic forecasts would not result in a regression in their social and economic condition.

Consideration of draft proposals

International Conference on Women and Apartheid

137. At the 13th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the representative of India orally proposed a draft decision on the International Conference on Women and Apartheid.

138. Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic joined in sponsoring the draft decision.

139. A statement of financial implications was read out by the Secretary (see annex III, sect. A).

140. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, above, draft decision I).

Situation of women and children in the occupied Arab territories

141. At the 13th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the representative of Iraq introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of women and children in the occupied Arab territories" (E/CN.6/1982/L.5). Subsequently, Cuba and Tunisia 35/ joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

142. At its 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the Commission adopted the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 14 to 8, with 4 abstentions

(see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour: China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, India, Iraq, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Zaire.

Against: Canada, Finland, Honduras, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela.

Abstaining: France, Italy, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago.

143. Statements in explanation of vote were made before the vote by the representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Italy, Canada, Honduras, Spain and the German Democratic Republic.

35/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

144. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that his delegation would vote against draft resolution E/CN.6/1982/L.5 because his Government considered that many of the issues it raised were not directly relevant to the work of the Commission. There were other forums where they could be discussed and much more effectively handled. His Government was sensitive to the problems of the Palestinian refugees and especially the sufferings of their women and children. Nevertheless, his delegation could not accept the sweeping and unsubstantiated claims made in operative paragraph 3. Nor, in addition, could it accept the implied link between fascism and zionism in the third preambular paragraph.

145. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation would vote against the draft resolution since it was a more appropriate issue for other United Nations forums. His delegation further objected to the intemperate language, including the equation of zionism and fascism. Resolutions of the sort contributed nothing to the constructive search for peace; on the contrary they made the task more difficult and as such they should be firmly rejected.

146. The representative of Canada expressed concern regarding the third preambular paragraph and said her delegation would vote against the draft resolution because it opposed the equation of zionism with fascism. It also objected to operative paragraph 3 because it believed that it was inappropriate to deal with issues that were beyond the scope of the Commission.

147. The representative of Honduras said that her delegation, while sympathetic to the problems of the Palestinian refugees, would have to vote against the draft resolution because certain elements of the preamble ran counter to the policy of non-intervention of Honduras.

148. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of Finland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

149. The representative of Finland said that the question had been dealt with by the General Assembly and the Security Council; her delegation believed that the Commission should not duplicate the efforts of other United Nations organs. The equation of zionism with racism was not acceptable to her delegation. She drew attention to her country's support for the Palestinian people with continuing contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

150. The representative of the USSR reiterated the position taken by his country in the General Assembly and in other international organizations on the same subject. His delegation welcomed the draft resolution and had voted in favour of it.

Protection of the rights of parents and children in cases of the separation of couples of different nationalities

151. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of the rights of mothers and children in cases of the displacement or retention of children" (E/CN.6/1982/L.7). Subsequently, Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

152. On the proposal of the representative of Finland, the representative of France agreed to the deletion of the words "most often those of the mother of the

family" in the sixth preambular paragraph. The title of the draft resolution was consequently changed to read "Protection of the rights of parents and children in cases of the separation of couples of different nationalities".

153. At the same meeting, the representative of Zaire proposed postponing consideration of the draft resolution until the thirtieth session of the Commission, to enable members to be adequately informed about the Hague Convention of 25 October 1980 and the European Convention of 20 May 1980. China supported that proposal.

154. After an exchange of views in which the representatives of France, China and the USSR took part, the Commission adopted the proposal of Zaire by 12 votes to 7, with 5 abstentions. (For the texts of the decision and the draft resolution, as amended, see chap. I, sect. C, above).

Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others

155. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of France introduced a draft resolution entitled "Suppression of the traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others" (E/CN.6/1982/L.8). Subsequently, Honduras joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

156. At the 13th meeting, on 4 March 1982, on the proposal of the representative of Trinidad and Tobago, the representative of France revised the operative paragraph of the draft resolution by inserting the words "within existing budgetary resources" after the word "appointment" and the last part of the paragraph to read "suppress those practices which are contrary to the fundamental rights of human beings".

157. At its 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution IV).

Action to be taken to ensure recovery abroad of maintenance

158. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of France, on behalf also of Honduras and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Action to be taken to ensure the recovery abroad of maintenance" (E/CN.6/1982/L.9). In introducing the draft resolution, she stressed the problems encountered by mothers in obtaining child maintenance.

159. At the 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the representative of France orally revised the draft resolution by replacing operative paragraphs 1 and 2, which read:

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to give instructions for a study, by the competent offices, that will make it possible to assess correctly the present status of this problem as well as the advisability of strengthening the provisions of the New York Convention of 20 June 1956;

"2. Wishes that full information be given on that Convention";

by the following text:

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to provide full information on the New York Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance of 20 June 1956; in

addition, States parties could study possible improvements in the light of their experience of that Convention."

160. On the proposal of the observer for Tunisia, the representative of France added, at the end of the second preambular paragraph, the words "taking into consideration existing legislation, in the countries of the two spouses".

161. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution V).

162. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America indicated that her delegation had joined in the consensus although her country had not yet ratified the Convention, partly owing to the fact that those matters were regulated by individual States rather than by Federal laws.

Abuses against women and children

163. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf also of Canada, China, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Malaysia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Abuses against women and children" (E/CN.6/1982/L.11).

164. At the 13th meeting, on 4 March 1982, on the proposal of the USSR, the representative of Pakistan added the words "if so decided by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference" at the end of operative paragraph 2.

165. At its 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution VI).

Elderly women and the World Assembly on Aging

166. At the 11th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf also of Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, 36/ Honduras, Japan, Pakistan, Spain and Trinidad and Tobago, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Elderly women and the World Assembly on Aging" (E/CN.6/1982/L.13).

167. At the 13th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed adding a new operative paragraph which would call upon all States to sign and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Following an exchange of views in which the representatives of Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago and the USSR took part, the representative of the United States agreed to add a new preambular paragraph reading as follows:

"Bearing in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women".

168. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution VII).

36/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Women and children under apartheid

169. At the 12th meeting, on 3 March 1982, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf also of China, Cuba, Egypt, Pakistan, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia 36/ and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women and children under apartheid" (E/CN.6/1982/L.14/Rev.1).

170. At the 13th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the Commission adopted the draft resolution by a roll-call vote of 19 to 1, with 6 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution VIII). The voting was as follows:

In favour: China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Finland, German Democratic Republic, India, Iraq, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, France, Italy, Malaysia, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

171. The representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote, deeply regretting having to vote against the draft resolution. She fully sympathized with the situation of women in South Africa and Namibia and hoped that the current negotiations, in which the United States was involved together with other members of contact groups, would soon lead to success, so that Namibia would speedily take its rightful place among the family of nations. Her delegation felt that the draft resolution was not conducive to that end. The representative of the German Democratic Republic also made a statement.

172. The representative of Canada, speaking in explanation of vote after the vote, said that her delegation had abstained because it recognized the General Assembly as the appropriate forum for the discussion of the question.

173. The representative of the United Kingdom had difficulty with certain paragraphs, notably the tenth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. None the less, his delegation supported the principle thrust of the draft resolution in so far as it drew attention to the effects of the apartheid system on the status of Women in South Africa.

174. The representative of the USSR said his country had voted in line with its policy on the question.

Women and children refugees

175. At the 13th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the representative of Malaysia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women and children refugees" (E/CN.6/1982/L.15/Rev.1). Japan and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

176. At its 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, above, draft resolution IX).

177. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the USSR, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and India.

Chapter VII

PROGRAMME FOR FUTURE WORK, INCLUDING THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTIETH SESSION

178. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at its 12th, 14th and 16th meetings, from 3 to 5 March 1982. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General containing the proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989: subprogrammes on the advancement of women (E/CN.6/1982/CRP.2); a note by the Secretary-General containing relevant extracts from the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 (E/CN.6/1982/CRP.1); and a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/1982/L.16) containing a draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation, to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to its work and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

179. At the 12th meeting, on 3 March 1982, a representative of the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement in which he drew the attention of the Commission to documents E/CN.6/1982/CRP.1 and 2 and to General Assembly resolution 35/9 on the medium-term plan for the period 1980-1983.

180. Regarding the relevant sections of the approved programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 (E/CN.6/1982/CRP.2), he noted that the programme had been translated into detailed work schedules and preliminary activities had already been undertaken. He also noted that a number of activities had been added to the approved programme pursuant to requests of the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session. He then summarized the operative paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 36/74 of 4 December 1981, entitled "Comprehensive outline of a world survey on the role of women in development", and drew the attention of the Commission to Assembly resolution 36/127 of 14 December 1981, entitled "Consideration within the United Nations of questions concerning the role of women in development". He pointed out that, in paragraph 5 of the later resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to ensure that the Commission on the Status of Women was consulted inter alia, the preparation of the world survey on the role of women in development requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 10 of its resolution 35/78 of 5 December 1980. The annotated agenda for the current session of the Commission (E/CN.6/1982/1 and Corr.1) had given information on this question.

181. During the discussion of the item, several representatives recognized that the documents before the Commission were based on the conceptual framework and objectives of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Decade, but noted, in particular, the ambitious activities envisaged in the note by the Secretary-General on the medium-term plan (E/CN.6/1982/CRP.1), the relationship of the Voluntary Fund for the Decade to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (ibid., para. 41), and the activities envisaged under subprogramme 2 of the Centre, entitled "Participation of women in international affairs and strengthening of peace" (ibid., paras. 59, 61, 63 and 69). A number of questions were raised regarding those aspects of the programme.

182. One representative, referring to the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the Decade, suggested the need for a review of the organizational structure of the Fund's Consultative Committee so that the views of more Governments of States

Members of the United Nations could be reflected in the activities of the Fund. She said that fewer Member States were represented in the Fund's Consultative Committee than in other similar funds, and therefore thought it desirable to increase the membership of that Committee and to strike an appropriate balance between donor and recipient countries.

183. Another representative outlined four areas of work which she had found to be common to the United Nations system: research; training; information; and operational activities. She argued that there was a need for a better system-wide rationalization of tasks and co-ordination to ensure that issues that were central to the advancement of women would be effectively tackled and based on agreed priorities linked with the national development goals of Member States. She stated that the role of harmonization should continue to be the responsibility of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, especially with respect to (a) the United Nations system-wide review and appraisal; and (b) Secretariat functions regarding the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. She also suggested that the Centre should serve as the secretariat for the 1985 Conference. She remarked that the primary responsibility of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women should be research and training, and that of the regional commissions should be operational and practical programmes.

184. In this regard, another representative drew the attention of the Commission to General Assembly resolution 36/126, concerning the United Nations Decade for Women, in which the Assembly emphasized the role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point for the organizations of the United Nations system with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action and requested the Secretary-General to give the Centre the assistance required to enable it to carry out its mandate. She also cited Assembly resolution 36/129 on the Voluntary Fund for the Decade, in which the Assembly stressed the interrelationship of the Voluntary Fund with the Advancement of Women Branch of the Centre and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session a report on the substantive and financial implications and his proposals for the timing and modalities for a relocation of the Fund within the Centre in order to enable Member States to take a decision in the matter.

185. Several representatives suggested that the Institute and the Voluntary Fund should submit regular reports to the Commission.

186. Some representatives suggested that the note by the Secretariat (E/CM.6/1982/L.16) should be amended by deleting from the list of documents under item 7, entitled "Conditions of women and children", the report of the Secretary-General on the condition of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, stating that the relevant mandate (Economic and Social Council resolution 1687 (LII)) called for a report to be prepared at every second session of the Commission.

187. Some representatives questioned the wide coverage envisaged for the world survey on the role of women in development and expressed the view that the progress report to be submitted to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session should be followed by another report to the Commission at its thirtieth session.

188. Many representatives considered that document E/CN.6/1982/CRP.1 should reflect all three themes of the Decade, namely, equality, development and peace. Regarding

the latter theme, they suggested that the draft medium-term plan should be approved as it appeared in that document, and that a new item should be added to the draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session on the participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination.

189. The representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) drew the attention of the Commission to the complex problem of the integration of women in the industrialization process and expressed the hope that the subject would receive adequate coverage in the future programme of work of the Commission. She pointed out that, over the past years, UNIDO had undertaken a number of activities related to women and industrialization, including the meeting on the role of women in industrialization in developing countries held at Vienna from 6 to 10 November 1978 and studies submitted to a seminar organized recently by UNIDO and the Government of Bulgaria. UNIDO had undertaken technical assistance projects in varied industrial spheres relating to women, such as ceramics, leather and textiles. It had the capacity and expertise to play a significant role in the advancement of women in society through industrialization if properly applied. It was hoped that the Commission would not only stimulate a greater understanding of the part that industrialization could play in fostering the economic and social well-being of women, but would also offer guidance to the international community on that important question.

190. At the 14th meeting, on 4 March 1982, the representative of the USSR proposed (a) the deletion of item 6, entitled "Communications concerning the status of women", and (b) the insertion of a new item entitled "Participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation, and all forms of foreign domination".

191. At the 16th meeting, on 5 March 1982, the representative of the German Democratic Republic, on behalf of the group of socialist States members of the Commission and observers, read out an appeal in which the group expressed its conviction that peace was the common precious attainment of mankind, and that women could and should play an outstanding role in defending peace. The group noted with satisfaction that peace was one of the main objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women, and stressed its approval of provisions of the Declaration of Mexico on the Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace and the World Plan of Action, adopted at the 1975 Conference; of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace (General Assembly resolution 33/73); and of the decisions taken by the 1980 Conference, particularly the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Decade. Referring to General Assembly resolution 36/127, the group invited the Economic and Social Council to pay greater attention to issues connected with the role of women in development and in the struggle for international peace and disarmament and against the threat of a nuclear holocaust; to recommend to the members of the Commission and other relevant United Nations bodies that they should take into account the importance and interrelation of the main objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women; to request the Secretary-General to bear in mind, when preparing documentation for the second special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, all the possible benefits of disarmament for women and children in all countries of the world; and further to request the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at that session of the above views. The group deemed it necessary for the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its thirtieth session the effects of peace and disarmament on the promotion of the status of women and children in the world.

192. At the 16th meeting, on 5 March 1982, the representative of the USSR withdrew the proposal made at the 14th meeting concerning the deletion of item 6 (see para. 190 above). At the same meeting, the Commission voted on the second proposal of the USSR and decided, by a roll-call vote of 13 votes to 7, with 5 abstentions, to insert a new item in the agenda, entitled "Participation of women in the struggle for the strengthening of international peace and security and against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation, and all forms of foreign domination". The voting was as follows:

In favour: China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Zaire.

Against: Canada, Honduras, Japan, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Finland, France, India, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago.

193. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its thirtieth session, as revised, together with the documentation requested, and, in accordance with paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979, decided to submit it to the Council for its review (see chap. I, sect. B, above, draft decision II).

Chapter VIII

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

194. At its 16th meeting, 5 March 1982, the Commission adopted the report on its twenty-ninth session (E/CN.6/1982/L.2 and Add. 1-3, Add.4 and Corr.1 and Add.5-8), as amended during the discussion, and entrusted to the Rapporteur the task of finalizing the report.

Chapter IX

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Opening and duration of the session

195. The twenty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women was held at the Vienna International Centre from 24 February to 5 March 1982; the Commission held 16 meetings. The session was opened by the Acting Chairman of the Commission, Helga Hoerz (German Democratic Republic).

196. In her opening statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs noted that the current session of the Commission was a historic one, since it was the first since the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, held at Copenhagen in 1980; it was also the first time that the Commission was meeting to consider the preparatory activities for the World Conference to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1985. The Assistant Secretary-General welcomed the newly appointed Director of the Advancement of Women Branch and the Director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. She also acknowledged the valuable contribution of the former Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the former Assistant Director of the Advancement of Women Branch. She went on to emphasize the complexity and diversity of the women's issue, especially in the historical perspective of the progress made since 1947, when the Commission on the Status of Women had first met at Lake Success, New York. She then drew attention to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex), in which the General Assembly, inter alia, underlined the relationship between the status of women and development, and to Assembly resolution 35/78, in which the Assembly called upon the United Nations system to give sustained attention to the integration of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development projects in the context of the Strategy. Referring briefly to the work programme of the Advancement of Women Branch for the period 1980-1981 and the priority being given to a developmental approach, as well as to legal and human rights issues, she drew the attention of the Commission to the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983 and the draft medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, and noted the parallel activities of other branches in the Centre, which treated women's questions in the context of special groups and themes - disabled persons, aging, youth, crime prevention, social welfare, popular participation and migrant workers.

197. She traced the evolution of efforts to develop an interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women and referred to the progress made in launching the activities of the Institute. She also noted developments regarding the Voluntary Fund for the Decade, and stressed the necessity of examining the

modus operandi of interrelations between the regional commissions, the Member States which were the main beneficiaries of the Fund and the Advancement of Women Branch, taking into account the fact that the office of the Fund was located not at Vienna but in New York. She then surveyed the provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/1982/1 and Corr.1) and drew attention to item 5, entitled "Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women". She cited it as the most important issue before the Commission. She expressed the hope that, during the preparatory activities for the Conference, more effective strategies would be found to translate ideas and resolutions into actual policies, programmes and projects that could assist women. The challenge for Governments and the United Nations system was to make the 1985 Conference more oriented towards action and results. She expressed gratitude for the important contributions made by non-governmental organizations in relation to women's issues. She also referred to the limited resources of the Advancement of Women Branch vis-à-vis the great variety of substantive issues with which it was concerned. Finally, she cited the need to streamline and consolidate mandates and to improve organization and co-ordination within the United Nations Secretariat in processing documents and preparing for the session. She concluded by expressing the hope that the recommendations of the Commission would, to a large extent, determine the direction and priorities of the women's programme in the coming years.

Attendance

198. The session was attended by 29 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and three observers for non-member States, representatives of bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as well as observers for national liberation movements, also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

Election of officers

199. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 24 February 1982, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman:	Olajumoke Oladayo Obafemi (Nigeria)
Vice-Chairmen:	Dagmar Molkóva (Czechoslovakia)
	Marjatta Rasi (Finland)
	P. Patil (India)
Rapporteur:	Hanna Binstock (Venezuela)

Agenda and organization of work

200. At its 1st meeting on 24 February 1982, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for the session (E/CN.6/1982/1 and Corr.1), which had been drawn up by the Secretary-General on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session and by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1980/144 of 2 May 1980, and other relevant decisions taken by the Council and the General Assembly since the twenty-eighth session of the Commission. The agenda, as adopted, is reproduced in annex II to the present report.

201. At its 3rd meeting, on 25 February 1982, the Commission approved the suggestions made in a note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session (E/CN.6/1982/L.1). The Commission also decided to hear general statements on item 5 in plenary meetings and to establish an informal open-ended working group with a view to formulating proposals based on the discussion in the plenary meetings.

202. In considering the various items of the agenda, some members of the Commission expressed regret at the considerable delay experienced in the distribution of documents.

203. The list of documents before the Commission at its twenty-ninth session is contained in annex IV to the present report.

Consultations with non-governmental organizations

204. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975), the observers of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements at the twenty-ninth session:

Category I:	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions	(items 3 and 7)
	International Federation of Business and Professional Women	(item 5)
	Women's International Democratic Federation	(items 3 and 7)
Category II:	St. Joan's International Alliance	(item 3)
	World Women's Christian Temperance Union	(item 7)

205. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are listed in annex IV.

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

Canada: Maureen O'Neil, Louise Holmes,* J. R. Crowe,* Freda Paltiel, Ms. Judy Erola

China: Guan Minqian, Zhu Meide, Xie Shanshan

Cuba: Olga Finlay, Jorge Morales*

Czechoslovakia: Dagmar Molková, Va'clav Kodýs*

Egypt: Nihad Abou Zikry, Nahed M. El-Ashry,* Mr. Hamed Ali

Finland: Marjatta Rasi, Eeva-Liisa Tuominen,* Ulla Vaisto-Melleri,* K. Jaatinen,*

France: Marcelle Devaud, Michel Removille,* Cécile Goldet,* Claude Jolif,*
Edith Nowak,* Lucette Testart

German Democratic Republic: Helga Hoerz, Heinz Duehring,* Siegfried Nitzsche*

Ghana: Florence Dolphyne**

Guatemala: Edna Haydee León Menéndez

Honduras: Martha Luz Mejía, Martha de Midence*

India: P. Patil, V. P. Marwah,* S. Menon,* A. Sreenivas

Iraq: Adnan Assif, Suror Mahmoud*

Italy: Paola Gaiotti de Biase, Lamberto Zannier,* Ester Caiani

Japan: Yoko Naita, Ryoko Akamatsu,* Mitsuko Horiuchi, Masamichi Yoshifuji,
Akame Mori, Hiroko Matsuo

Lesotho: Mahlape T. Qoane

Malaysia: Nik Safiah Abdul Karim, Fatimah P. Sri Datin Hamid-Don,*
Siti Norma Yaakob, Tuan Syed, Shahizan Yunos, Syed Daniel

Nigeria: Olajumoke Oladayo Obafemi, Lasisi Adetuyi*

Norway: Grethe Vaernoe, Gerd Vollset,* Lars Wensell,* Erling Stroemberg*

* Alternate.

** Did not attend.

Pakistan: Attiya Inayatullah, Aziz Ahmad Khan*

Panama: Ernesto Koref

Senegal: Amadou Ba

Spain: Maria Isabel Pérez Serrano Jauregui, D. Enrique Suárez de Puga*

Sudan: Fatima Talib Ismael**

Trinidad and Tobago: Elmina Clarke-Allen, Lenore Dorset,* Cynthia Bishop*

Uganda: Marjorie Dungu**

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republics: Nina K. Kovalskaia

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: T. N., Nikolaeva, L. S. Lobanov,*
A. N. Samoilov, V. A. Tsarev,
A. I. Shaitukhov

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: R. T. Gardner of Parkes,
T. Spens,* C. J. Ingham,*
N. P. Carter,*
B. W. Mackenzie,*
W. G. Sandover*

United States of America: Nancy Clark Reynolds, Vivian L. Derryck,*
Margaret E. Galey, Harvey J. Feldman, Julia Jacobson,
James D. Phillips, Phillis Kaminsky, Robin Ritterhoff,
Carol A. Colloton

Venezuela: Hanna Binstock, Wilma Aray de Jiménez,* Delma Miralles,*
Dulce Maria Planas

Zaire: Bolie Nonkwa, Mutombo Tshitambwe,* Bintou'a Tshiabola, Ngoi Kabuya

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, Denmark, Ecuador,
Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Mexico,
Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden,
Tunisia, Turkey, Yugoslavia

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy Sea, Republic of Korea, Switzerland

United Nations Secretariat

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic Commission for Latin America, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Western Asia

United Nations bodies

United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Food Programme, International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization

Other intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

Commonwealth Secretariat, Council of Europe, League of Arab States, Inter-American Commission of Women (OAS)

Liberation movements

South-West Africa People's Organization, African National Congress of South Africa, Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Alliance of Women, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of United Nations Associations

Category II: All India Women's Conference, Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'i International Community, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (World Council of Churches), International Catholic Child Bureau, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of University Women, St. Joan's International Alliance, Socialist International Women, Union of Arab Jurists, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Association of World Federalists, World Jewish Congress, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Women's Christian Temperance Union, World Young Women's Christian Association, Zonta International

Annex II

AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Adopted by the Commission at its 1st meeting, on 24 February 1982

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action and the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women during the period 1980-1981:
 - (a) Review and appraisal of progress made at the national level
 - (b) Measures taken by the United Nations system of organizations and by intergovernmental organizations
 - (c) Progress on the implementation of new strategies for women and work aimed at the follow-up and harmonization of action of various bodies of the United Nations system
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
5. Preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women
6. Communications concerning the status of women
7. Condition of women and children:
 - (a) Condition of women and children in emergency and armed conflict
 - (b) Situation of women and children living under racist minority régimes and in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories
 - (c) Other aspects of the condition of women and children
8. Programme of future work, including the draft provisional agenda for the thirtieth session
9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-ninth session

Annex III

PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TAKEN
BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

A. Draft decision recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I)

1. The programme budget implications of the decision recommended by the Commission to designate the Chairman of the Commission at its twenty-ninth session to represent the Commission, in the capacity of observer, at the International conference on Women and Apartheid to be held at Brussels from 17 to 19 May 1982, would entail the cost of airfare between New York and Brussels and payment of subsistence estimated at \$1,700.

B. Draft resolution recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution XI)

2. By operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution, the Economic and Social Council would decide that the Commission on the Status of Women should be the preparatory body for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women and should operate on the basis of consensus and would invite the widest possible participation by States Members of the United Nations in the deliberations of the preparatory body. It is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the Commission would perform the function of preparatory body for the Conference without any change in its full membership or character as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council. The governmental experts who serve on the Commission when it performs its regular functions will therefore also be serving on the Commission in the same capacity when it performs the function of preparatory body for the Conference and, consequently, they would continue to be eligible for payment of travel expenses under the guidelines established under General Assembly resolution 1798 (XVII). Other States not members of the Commission that avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in the deliberations of the preparatory body would not be entitled to such payments for travel expenses of their representatives as is the case when those States participate in regular sessions of the Commission.

3. By operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution, the Council would further recommend that the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory body for the Conference, should meet at Vienna in extraordinary session in 1983 and again in 1985 with conference preparations as the sole item of the agenda, and that its thirtieth regular session, in 1984, should be extended to allow additional time for conference preparations.

4. The convening of these two sessions and the extension of the 1984 session would give rise to additional expenditures in the regular budget of the United Nations.

A. 1983 session

5. The estimated costs for convening the 1983 session are provided below, based on the following assumptions:

(a) The session would be held at Vienna for a duration of eight working days;

(b) Documentation, interpretation and other conference services would be provided in all six official languages;

(c) There would be 50 pages of pre-session, 100 pages of in-session and 40 pages of post-session documentation in all six official languages;

(d) Conference servicing costs are calculated on a full-cost basis as indicated in the annex;

(e) Consistent with the normal entitlement of the members of the Commission to travel at the expense of the United Nations, the cost of travel of members of the Commission would be borne by the United Nations in accordance with the understanding of the Secretary-General as indicated in paragraph 1 above;

(f) Travel and subsistence would be required for one representative each of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), one staff member from the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (DIESA), and two staff members from the Office of Secretariat Services for Economic and Social Matters (OSSECS).

<u>Estimated costs</u>	<u>\$</u>
Conference servicing costs	257 200
Travel of 34 representatives of the Commission	71 400
Travel and subsistence of:	
One staff member from DIESA	3 000
One staff member from each of the regional commissions:	
ECA	3 200
ECLA	4 700
ECWA	4 400
ESCAP	6 000
Two staff members from OSSECS	<u>6 200</u>
Total:	<u>356 100</u>

B. Extension of the 1984 regular session

6. The estimated costs at 1983 rates for the extension of the 1984 regular session are provided below, based on the following assumptions:

(a) That the regular session of the Commission will be extended by eight working days to enable it to function as the preparatory body for the Conference;

(b) Documentation, interpretation and other conference services would be provided in all six official languages;

(c) There would be 50 pages of pre-session, 100 pages of in-session and 40 pages of post-session documentation in all six official languages;

(d) Conference servicing costs are calculated on a full-cost basis as indicated in the appendix hereto

<u>Estimated costs</u>	<u>\$</u>
Conference servicing costs	257 200
Subsistence for 10 days (eight working days) of:	
One staff member from DIESA	700 <u>a/</u>
One staff member from ESCAP, ECLA, ECA and ECWA	2 800 <u>a/</u>
Two staff members from OSSECS	<u>1 400 a/</u>
Total:	262 100

a/ Represents only the subsistence allowances for the period of extension of the regular session of the Commission.

C. 1985 session

7. The estimated costs at 1983 rates for the convening of the 1985 session, based on the assumptions indicated in paragraph 4 above, would be the same as those for the 1983, i.e. \$356,100.

Summary

8. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt the draft resolution, the total estimated additional requirements would be \$974,300. It should be emphasized that this cost estimate includes a provision for the travel of the members of the Commission, acting as the preparatory body to attend its extraordinary sessions in 1983 and 1985, in accordance with the understanding indicated in paragraph 1 above.

Appendix

Estimated costs of conference servicing of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as preparatory committee for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

(eight days in 1983, 1984 and 1985, Vienna)

	<u>\$</u>
A. <u>Pre-session documentation</u>	
(16 500 words, A, C, E, F, R, S)	42 300
B. <u>Meeting servicing</u>	
(languages of interpretation: A, C, E, F, R, S)	94 100
C. <u>In-session documentation</u>	
(3 300 words, A, C, E, F, R, S)	84 800
D. <u>Post-session documentation</u>	
(13,200 words, A, C, E, F, R, S)	34 000
E. <u>Requirements of the Office of General Services</u>	<u>2 000</u>
Total costs at 1983 rates	257 200
Cost of 1984 meeting	257 200 a/
Cost of 1985 meeting	<u>257 200 a/</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>771 600</u>

a/ The meetings in 1984 and 1985 are costed at 1983 rates on the assumption that they have the same requirements as the meeting in 1983. Adjustments for changes in salaries and inflation will be reflected in the proposed 1984-1985 programme budget.

Annex IV

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION
AT ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
A/36/564 and Corr.1	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women
E/CN.6/1982/1 and Corr.1	2	Annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session
E/CN.6/1982/2 and Corr.1 and Add.1	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken by Governments to implement the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women
E/CN.6/1982/3 and Corr.1	3 (b)	Report of the International Labour Organisation on its activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/1982/4	3 (b)	Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women
E/CN.6/1982/5	3 (b)	Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/1982/6	3 (c)	Progress report of the Secretary-General for 1980-1981
E/CN.6/1982/7	3 (c)	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women
E/CN.6/1982/8	5	Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/1982/9 and Corr.1	7 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on the condition of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence
E/CN.6/1982/10	7 (b)	Note by the Secretariat on the situation of women and children living under racist minority régimes and in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories
E/CN.6/1982/11	3 (b)	Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/1982/12	3 (b)	Report of the World Health Organization on its activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/1982/13	7	Letter dated 11 February 1982 from the Chairman of the Special Committee against <u>Apartheid</u> to the Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women
E/CN.6/CR.26	6	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a non-confidential list containing a brief summary of communications dealing with the principles relating to the promotion of women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields
E/CN.6/1982/CRP.1	8	Proposed medium-term plan for 1984-1989 - Subprogrammes on the advancement of women: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/1982/CRP.2	8	Relevant extracts from the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983: note by the Secretary-General

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/1982/INF.1		Information for participants
E/CN.6/1982/L.1	2	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.6/1982/L.2 and Add.1-3, Add.4 and Corr.1 and Add.5-8	9	Draft report of the Commission
E/CN.6/1982/L.3	4	Cuba, German Democratic Republic and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.4	6	Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.5	7 (b)	Cuba, Iraq and Tunisia: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.6	3 (c)	Australia, Honduras, India and Pakistan: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.7	7 (c)	France and Venezuela: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.8	7 (c)	France and Honduras: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.9	7 (c)	France, Honduras and Venezuela: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.10	3 (c)	Cuba, France and Honduras: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.11	7	Canada, China, Guatemala, Honduras, Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.12	6	Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, Honduras, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/1982/13	7	Canada, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Honduras, Japan, Pakistan, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.14/Rev.1	7	China, Cuba, Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.15/Rev.1	7 (a)	Japan, Malaysia and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/1982/L.16	8	Draft provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission
E/CN.6/1982/L.17	5	Programme budget implications of the draft resolution on the preparations for the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women
E/CN.6/1982/NGO/1	3	Statement submitted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation, non-governmental organization in consultative status, category I
E/CN.6/1982/NGO/2 and Corr.1	5	Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Organization of Consumers Unions, the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the Women's International Democratic Federation, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category I; the Associated Country Women of the World, the Bahá'i International Community, the Baptist World

Document numberAgenda itemTitle or description

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
		Alliance, the International Federation of University Women the Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, St. Joan's International Alliance, Socialist International Women, Soroptimist International, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Movement of Mothers, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, the World Women's Christian Temperance Union and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category II; and Altrusa International and the International Society for Community Development, non-governmental organizations on the Roster
E/CN.6/1982/NGO/3	3	Statement submitted by the All India Women's Conference, non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II
E/CN.6/1982/NGO/4	5	Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II
E/CN.6/1982/NGO/5	7 (c)	Statement submitted by the International Catholic Child Bureau, non-government organization in consultative status, category II
E/CN.6/1982/NGO/6	3	Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status,

Document number

Agenda item

Title or description

category I; and the All India Women's Conference, the Associated Country Women of the World and the International Federation of University Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category II

E/CN.6/1982/NGO/7

8

Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category I; and the All India Women's Conference and the International Federation of University Women, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category II

E/CN.6/1982/NGO/8

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Statement submitted by the Associated Country Women of the World, non-governmental organization in consultative status, category II

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