

# **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

## **REPORT ON THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

**(20 March - 5 April 1978)**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

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**NOTE**

**Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.**

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I. ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY OR ARE BROUGHT TO THE  
ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommended the following draft resolutions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

I

National machinery for monitoring the implementation of  
the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women 1/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that General Assembly resolution 3517 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 concerning the mid-term review and appraisal of progress in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade states that all States and competent organizations should give priority to the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference of the International Women's Year in the formulation of their economic and social policies,

Recalling also that General Assembly resolution 3524 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 recommends that all organs of the United Nations development system and other international technical and financial assistance programmes and agencies should give sustained attention to the integration of women in the formulation, design and implementation of development projects and programmes,

Recalling further that paragraph 34 of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year 2/ states, inter alia, that the establishment of machinery at the national governmental level, with adequate staff and budget, can be an effective transitional measure for accelerating the achievement of equal opportunity for women and their full integration in national life.

Noting that General Assembly resolution 31/136 of 16 December 1976 recommends that Governments should establish, where appropriate, such machinery as bureaux and commissions, in order to ensure the effective implementation and evaluation of the

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1/ See paras. 52-54 of the present report.

2/ See Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. II, sect. A.

World Plan of Action and of the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women 3/ within the framework of national development plans and regional policies,

Considering the sustained attention which the Commission on the Status of Women was given to the need for national machinery; the support given to the Commission by the specialized agencies, in co-operation with national Governments, in the promotion of equality of opportunity and treatment for working women; the implementation of recommendations, conventions and other measures relating to participation, utilization and integration of women in the economic and social life of Member States,

Bearing in mind that many countries have established national machinery and the important role which it will play in providing assistance to the regional commissions, the international and regional centres for women, the agencies of the United Nations system, national Governments, and others, responsible for framing policies and decisions essential to development.

1. Welcomes the measures taken by Member States to establish machinery at the national governmental level to monitor the integration of women in development and to participate in measures for policy making and decision making in favour of women;
2. Encourages Member States to take all necessary steps to strengthen such national machinery as bureaux for women, commissions and other organs established at the national governmental level, and to ensure that their opinions and recommendations are an integral part of development planning and the implementation of development programmes and projects;
3. Urges Member States which have not yet taken the aforementioned steps to do so, bearing in mind the advantages of such machinery for the development of all the human resources of the country and more substantial progress in development;
4. Recommends that the national machinery should have adequate authority and resources to ensure that women are included in development planning and other activities and to propose, if necessary, special programmes for women;
5. Envisages the need for national machinery to guarantee that women benefit from technical assistance programmes and projects and that such assistance relates to the specific requirement of women;
6. Recommends that the national machinery should be informed and consulted in all spheres concerning women and, especially on the replies which Member States are called upon to furnish in response to requests from the Secretary-General relating to the implementation of programmes for the United Nations Decade for Women and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year;

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3/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5909), annex V.

7. Emphasizes the need for such national machinery for co-operation and the co-ordination of programmes of regional training and research institutes and regional centres for women, to ensure favourable relations with Governments, non-governmental organizations actively promoting the status of women, and women in the rural and urban sectors, and to strengthen co-operation between men and women in the attainment of development objectives and goals;

8. Requests that the national machinery should give particular attention to a review and evaluation of progress at the national level in the programmes for the Decade and should identify the obstacles which have prevented the attainment of the national objectives and goals pursued by the national machinery on behalf of women.

## II

### Institutions responsible for implementing the World Plan of Action within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Women 4/

#### The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, in which the Assembly encouraged the full integration of women in development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 3010 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, in which the Assembly proclaimed the International Women's Year,

Recalling also the resolution adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held in Mexico City in 1975, concerning research and training for the advancement of women, 5/ and taking account of the special difficulties encountered by the regional research and training centres for women as a result of the lack of regular financing,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which the Assembly emphasized the importance of regular reviews and appraisals of the progress made in achieving the goals of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year,

Taking account of the efforts made by the regional commissions to promote programmes and aware of the scope of the programmes undertaken and of the limitations imposed on the regional commissions by the lack of sufficient funds and staff,

1. Requests the General Assembly to take all appropriate measures to identify regular budget resources in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 3534 (XXX) of 17 November 1975, 31/93 of 14 December 1976 and 32/201 of 2 December 1977 in regular budget of the United Nations, with the financial resources and personnel necessary to enable them to undertake the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year;

2. Invites Governments, the specialized agencies, other United Nations organs intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations concerned to co-ordinate their activities for the integration of women in development with the regional commissions;

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4/ See paras. 58-67 of the present report.

5/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.1), chap. III.



3. Recommends that the General Assembly take appropriate measures to provide for the financial resources and personnel necessary for the regional research and training centres for women from the regular budget of the United Nations.

### III

#### Rationalization of the reporting systems on the status of women 6/

##### The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the existing biennial reporting system on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women 7/ and related instruments under its resolutions 1325 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and 1677 (LII) of 2 June 1972,

Recalling further that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975 and with General Assembly resolution 3490 (XXX) of 12 December 1975 entitled "Implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted by the World Conference of the International Women's Year", reporting procedures have been established and are being carried out for biennial system-wide reviews and appraisals of the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and of progress made under the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade, 8/

Recognizing the importance of such reports for the review of the progress achieved in the promotion of the full equality of women with men in all spheres of life,

Noting with concern that the responses received to the requests for information on the basis of the above-mentioned resolutions have been insufficient in number and also often overlap in their coverage, as shown in the reports submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-seventh session (A/32/216 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2 and E/CN.6/611),

Underlining the desirability for all Member States to submit such reports, with the requests in the aforementioned resolutions,

Bearing in mind the burden placed upon Governments when complying separately with the requests in the aforementioned resolutions,

Convinced that there is a need for rationalization of the reporting systems referred to in the first and second preambular paragraphs above,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly the integration of the reporting systems outlined in the aforementioned resolutions into a single system;

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6/ See paras. 71 and 72 of the present report.

7/ General Assembly resolution 2263.

8/ General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV).

2. Requests the Secretary-General to review, in order, if possible, to simplify them, the contents of the questionnaires forwarded to Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, in the context of the integrated reporting system, paying particular attention to regional requirements, by selecting evaluation criteria which take account of regional disparities;

3. Urges Member States, when preparing their reports, to make use of national machinery established to promote the advancement of women and of the views of the appropriate national non-governmental organizations;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General, in compiling the replies, to provide an analytical report on progress achieved in the improvement of the status of women; as well as on obstacles encountered and policies for future action, including, if possible, comparative surveys on developments within each region;

5. Urges the General Assembly to review periodically the new reporting system in the light of further developments.

#### IV

Question of elaborating a draft declaration 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 9/

#### The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/142 of 16 December 1977, in which the General Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider, as a contribution to the preparation of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980, the elaboration of a draft declaration 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 and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1978,

Expressing the hope that the Commission on the Status of Women will make every effort to consider elaborating the draft declaration at its twenty-eighth session,

1. Invites all Governments, the specialized agencies and other international intergovernmental organizations, as well as concerned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, to transmit to the Secretary-General their views and/or proposals concerning the nature and content of a draft declaration 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;

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9/ See paras. 81-85 of the present report.

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit the views and/or proposals received to the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session;

3. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to consider in the light of those views and/or proposals the question of elaborating a draft declaration at its twenty-eighth session with a view to submitting it to the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

V

Provisional agenda of the World Conference of the  
United Nations Decade for Women 10/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period from 1976 to 1985 United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, to be devoted to effective and sustained national, regional and international action to implement the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and related resolutions of the World Conference of the International Women's Year held at Mexico City.

Recalling further resolution 32/140 of 16 December 1977 and other Assembly resolutions, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977,

Mindful that the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980, should be an important step towards the attainment of the three objectives of the Decade: equality, development and peace, which are inseparably linked,

1. Recommends that the provisional agenda of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women should be so drawn up as to include the following substantive items:

- (a) Review and evaluation of the progress made in attaining the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, in the period from 1976 to 1980 at the national, regional and international levels, as was recommended by the World Conference of the International Women's Year;
- (b) Programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980 to 1985;

2. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee provided for in Council resolution 2062 (LXII) should take the foregoing into consideration in drawing up recommendations on the preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

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10/ See paras. 86-89 of the present report, and chap. IX below, resolution 3 (XXVII).

## VI

### World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women 11/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 32/140 of 16 December 1977,

Convinced that the role of the Preparatory Committee will be central to the further preparation of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, which the General Assembly decided to convene in 1980, in its resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975,

1. Requests its President to nominate, after consultation with regional groups, twenty-five members of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and taking into account the experience and the expertise of members of the Commission will meet from 19 to 30 June 1978;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to propose to the General Assembly the appropriate personnel and financial resources for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, in the light of the proposals of the Preparatory Committee.

## VII

### Subtheme of "Employment, Health and Education" for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women 12/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, 32/138 and 32/140 of 16 December 1977, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999 (LX) of 12 May 1976 and 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977,

Bearing in mind that the three areas of employment, health and education are of primary concern to Member States today in their endeavours to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

Considering that the goals of equality and development can best be achieved in conditions of international peace,

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11/ See para. 90-92 of the present report.

12/ See paras. 93-95 of the present report, and chap. IX below, resolution 4 (XXVII).

Aware of the need to draw up an action-oriented agenda for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980,

1. Recommends the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education" for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980, whose overall objective will continue to be the review and evaluation of the progress made in the first half of the Decade, and to recommend necessary changes and readjustments for the second half of the Decade, in order to attain equality, development and peace;
2. Recommends further that the World Conference place emphasis on elaborating new strategies for integrating women into the developmental process, particularly by promoting economic and employment opportunities on an equal footing with men through, inter alia, the provision of adequate health and educational facilities, and that the preparatory work for the Conference be carried out accordingly;
3. Recognizes that both the contents of and the projects related to each of the three above-mentioned areas of concern would differ from country to country;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate the present resolution, together with the list of topics suggested in its annex, to all Member States;
5. Invites Member States to present to regional preparatory meetings and seminars which might to be held in 1979, and/or to the World Conference itself, reports on national experience which would include, inter alia, specific information on projects related to the topics suggested in the annex to the present resolution, or on other projects connected with the fields of employment, health and education;
6. Recognizes the great importance of such information for Member States in planning their own strategies in these three closely related fields of endeavour;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the World Conference an analysis of the material in the above-mentioned reports of Member States, paying particular attention to listing and describing their projects in the three fields mentioned above;
8. Takes note of the developments of the Inter-Agency Programme described in document A/32/175 and particularly the topics mentioned in paragraphs 14 to 16;
9. Recommends that regional commissions, in convening seminars and meetings in the framework of Council resolution 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1979, devote some of those regional and subregional meetings to practical and country-oriented topics, and that the reports of those meetings be submitted to the Conference;
10. Requests the specialized agencies, especially the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Children's Fund, to prepare, with the co-operation of the regional commissions, region-wide reports for the World Conference, in particular evaluating progress in substantive areas and programmes for which they have special competence and responsibilities.

## ANNEX

### Suggested Topics for Comment and Information

Member States are invited to select those topics on which they have particular projects, as well as to give information on any other projects falling under the three broad areas of employment, health and education.

#### Employment

1. Training in technological methods of farming
2. Training schemes, both elementary and advanced, for women employed in industry
3. Vocational training
4. Social support services to enable parents to combine employment and home care
5. Income-generating projects for women living in urban slums or in rural or backward areas
6. Promotion of and training in income-raising group activities for women living in rural areas and in urban slums
7. Legal aid programmes

#### Health

8. Basic services for women and children
9. Promotion of education in the fields of health, nutrition and family planning

#### Education

10. Programmes to achieve functional literacy
11. Accelerated courses of education
12. Programmes to make both formal and non-formal education available to girls and women
13. Promotion of education relevant to the needs of developing economies.

VIII

The effects of apartheid on the status of women 13/

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 32/105B of 14 December 1977, in which the Assembly proclaimed the year 1978 as International Anti-Apartheid Year,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effects of apartheid on the status of women in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia (E/CN.6/619),

Seriously concerned about the inhuman conditions to which the oppressed peoples of southern Africa, including women, are subjected,

Aware that women in Southern Africa are perpetually deprived of their rights as adults because of the illegal, arbitrary and racist apartheid system,

Noting with deep concern the fate of Mrs. Winnie Mandela and other who are at present on trial in South Africa,

Vigorously condemning the activities and practices of the transnational corporations in Southern Africa, which are incompatible with United Nations resolutions,

Noting with appreciation the contribution so far made by Member States and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the United Nations assistance programmes for Southern Africa - the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Institute for Namibia and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa,

Expressing its concern, however, at the fact that the assistance received to date falls short of the needs of women,

1. Condemns most categorically the shameful practice of apartheid and racial discrimination, which keeps the women of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Namibia in inhuman conditions;

2. Urges all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies to take the necessary measures with a view to completely isolating the racist regimes of Southern Africa;

3. Urges all Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and its specialized agencies to contribute generously to the United Nations assistance programmes for Southern Africa, through financial support and other assistance;

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13/ See paras. 137-143 of the present report.

4. Recommends to the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women that it take the necessary steps to ensure that resources from the Voluntary Fund are used to provide legal aid to women in Southern Africa;

5. Appeals to Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies to grant training scholarships to the women of Southern Africa;

6. Decides, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, paragraph 6, to invite women from the liberation movements of Southern Africa recognized by the Organization of African Unity to participate as observers in the future sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980;

7. Recommends to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference that it include in the agenda of the Conference the item entitled "Effects of apartheid on women in Southern Africa";

8. Requests the Secretary-General to have the competent United Nations organs and specialized agencies collect and disseminate information on the status of the women victimized by apartheid;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women, on the basis of studies already made on the question of transnational corporations, a report on the detrimental effects of the objectives of transnational corporations and their discriminatory employment practices on the status of women in Southern Africa;

10. Also requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, to have appropriate training programmes organized for the women of Southern Africa.

B. Draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommended the following draft decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination 14/

The Economic and Social Council decides, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/199 of 16 December 1977, to designate Mrs. Sonja Fredgardh to represent the Commission on the Status of Women, in the capacity of observer, at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held at Geneva from 14 to 25 August 1978.

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14/ See paras. 201 and 202 of the present report and, for the financial implications, para. 14 of annex III.



**C. Resolutions adopted by the Commission which require action by the Council**

3. The Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following resolutions which require action by the Economic and Social Council:

5 (XXVII). Women in development international conferences 15/

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling resolution 31 adopted at the World Conference of the International Women's Year, in which the Conference requested increased participation of women in international conferences, and the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, in which the Conference stated that women should have equal opportunity with men to represent their countries in all international forums and in particular at meetings of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Recalling also that in its resolutions 3342 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 and 3524 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, on the integration of women in development, the General Assembly urged Governments to give sustained attention to the integration of women in the planning, formulation, design and implementation of development projects and programmes,

1. Notes that, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 31/179 of 21 December 1976 and 32/183 of 19 December 1977, a United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries will be held at Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978;

2. Notes with interest that the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, pursuant to resolution WHA.28.88 and WHA.29.19 of the World Health Assembly and to the decision taken by the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund at its 1977 session, will hold an International Conference on Primary Health Care at Alma Ata in September 1978;

3. Takes note of the decision adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its sixty-sixth session 16/ to convene a World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, which was supported by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1967 (LIX) of 30 July 1975; further notes resolution 13/77 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations calling for that Conference to be held at Rome in July 1979 and particularly welcomes resolution 14/77 of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the integration of women in rural development, which were both adopted by the Conference at its nineteenth session of that organization in November 1977;

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15/ See paras. 96-99 of the present report.

16/ FAO Council, document CL 66/REP/5, para. 39.

4. Takes note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2028 (LXI) of 4 August 1976 and General Assembly resolution 31/184 of 21 December 1976, in which it was decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development in 1979 at Vienna;

5. Calls upon the Economic and Social Council to urge all Governments to ensure:

- (a) That women are involved in the planning stages of international conferences and are included in the governmental delegations attending the above-mentioned Conferences;
- (b) That the topic of women and development be included within the substantive discussions of the Conferences and, where appropriate, be considered as a separate agenda item;
- (c) That the recommendations related to women and development emerging from the above-mentioned Conferences be available for the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-eighth session and for the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in Iran in 1980;
- (d) That national and regional forums and activities related to women and development be organized to provide an important input for consideration at the above-mentioned Conferences, in connexion with which the participation of both governmental and non-governmental organizations is recommended for the development of national and/or regional guidelines and programmes of action;

6. Invites the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that at the 1979 World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development a programme of action for rural women in agrarian reform and rural development be developed and adopted;

7. Invites the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization to report to each session of the Commission on the Status of Women on their activities related to women and development.

9 (XXVII). The Commission on the Status of Women in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system 17/

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling paragraphs 10 and 11 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, in which the Economic and Social Council was requested to regroup the terms of reference of its subsidiary bodies or to assume direct responsibility for their work,

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17/ See paras. 178-181 of the present report.

Taking into account that the General Assembly, in resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, appealed to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System to ensure that the machinery designed to deal with questions relating to women be strengthened, particularly the role of the Commission on the Status of Women and the procedures established for system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year,

Convinced that it discharges important and essential functions with a view to the advancement of women,

Convinced also that its membership, which was established in the light of its objectives, makes it a special organ within the United Nations,

1. Invites the Economic and Social Council, in the course of the review relating to the restructuring of the economic and social organs of the United Nations system, to take account of the originality and specificity of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women;

2. Accordingly invites the Economic and Social Council to retain the Commission;

3. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider redefining and strengthening, if necessary, the terms of reference of the Commission in the light of the additional tasks it must now assume as a result of the evolution in the status of women, and especially taking into account the obstacles which remain to be overcome in order to achieve the integration of women into the development process;

4. Requests the Economic and Social Council to envisage holding the twenty-eighth session of the Commission before the World Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980.

D. Resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission which are brought to the attention of the Council

4. The Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following draft resolutions and draft decision (which are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council for the texts, see chapter IX of the present report):

Resolution 1 (XXVII)	Measures to combat prostitution
Resolution 2 (XXVII)	Co-operation with intergovernmental bodies outside the United Nations system
Resolution 6 (XXVII)	Inclusion of the question of consumer protection in the Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women
Resolution 7 (XXVII)	Protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence

**Resolution 8 (XXVII)**

**Reuniting of families who have been victims of  
apartheid**

**Decision 2 (XXVII)**

**Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the  
implementation of the World Plan of Action for  
the Implementation of the Objectives of the  
International Women's Year**

II. INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND STANDARDS RELATING TO THE STATUS OF WOMEN: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

5. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 682nd to 685th meetings, on 21 and 22 March 1978. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of full equality of women and men in all spheres of life in accordance with international standards and the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session. 18/

6. Introducing the report, the representative of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs explained that it was based on replies to a request for information made by the Secretary-General on developments that had taken place since June 1976. Replies were received from 31 Governments, 7 specialized agencies and 13 non-governmental organizations. After referring to the legislative mandates which called for the preparation of the report, she stated that the information received was diverse and fragmentary. Some replies dealt mainly with broad trends and policies, others emphasized legislation and other measures undertaken in implementation of specific articles of the Declaration or some aspects thereof. In some instances, the focus was on special legislative action such as the removal of discrimination against women in the field of family law and property rights or the enactment of legislation embodying the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. In other cases, attention was focused on the establishment or improvement of facilities of all types to enable women to take advantage of opportunities for education, training and employment, bearing in mind the need to encourage them to take a more active role in the life of society. Because of the relatively small number of replies and fragmented or limited coverage, it had not been possible to make a global analysis of the situation. However, progress in the condition of women and towards equality of women with men was clearly manifested, and the discrimination based on sex and to the advancement of women. The replies also showed that the problems confronting Member States are complex and not readily amenable to legal or administrative action. There was a realization, she stated, that existing obstacles such as tradition and general socio-economic conditions required a long-term effort by Governments and private entities to be overcome.

7. Most representatives addressed themselves to the situation prevailing in their countries with regard to the de jure and de facto implementation of the Declaration of the Elimination of Discrimination against women and to the most recent developments in that regard. While many representatives expanded on the information analysed in the report, a few elaborated in great detail because their Governments had not provided the information requested. It was explained that that was not because of a elimination of discrimination against women was considered of paramount importance. Among the reasons for not replying were the many requests for

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18/ A/32/216 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

information received from the Secretariat; the duplication implicit in such requests, in particular those relating to the implementation of the Declaration and the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year, as well as the short time allowed for submitting replies. Several representatives suggested that a better response might be achieved if, wherever possible, reporting systems could be integrated and improved by concentrating on requesting quantifiable information on key issues. It was also suggested that reporting should concentrate on what remained to be done rather than what had been achieved.

8. There was general agreement that the situation of women had improved both de jure and de facto. It was often stated that the awareness of the need to implement in law and in fact the principles of the Declaration had crystallized in the creation of national machinery for the advancement of women of various types and structures, within the Government, outside the Government or partly governmental. The view was expressed that the important changes that had occurred, significant activities of non-governmental organizations in which women played a vital role. However, the consensus was that much remained to be done, in order to translate legal equality into de facto equality.

9. The representatives of the socialist countries remarked that in their countries matters relating to women were being dealt with in a highly satisfactory manner in both legislative and practical terms. Women in their countries had unlimited opportunities to participate in all aspects of life. The efforts of their Governments were directed at creating optimum conditions for work, daily life, leisure and the rearing of children - in short, for all aspects of life.

10. All members were agreed that it was most important to give publicity to the provisions of the Declaration at the national level, in the national language and in ways that would reach all segments of the population, since women and men were still far from being familiar with such provisions in spite of commendable efforts made to that effect in certain countries.

11. With respect to the de jure situation of women, many representatives referred to constitutional or legislative provisions of a general nature, whether in existence for some time or recently enacted, embodying the principles of equal rights of women and men and/or the prohibition of discrimination against women. Others mentioned efforts under way aimed at the elimination of existing discriminatory legislation. In various instances reference was made to the ratification of international instruments dealing with women's rights or to the recent ratification of International Covenants on Human Rights. Several representatives expressed the hope that the General Assembly, at its thirty-third session, would adopt the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. <sup>19/</sup> Such an instrument, once ratified, would become legally binding among States parties to it and would accelerate progress towards universal acceptance of equality of women and men and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

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19/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5909), chap. I, draft resolution I, annex.

12. Referring to specific legislative action, several representatives mentioned laws giving women the right to vote and to be elected. In that context, one representative announced that her Government had lifted its reservation concerning the ratification of the Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 20/ which would result in equality of access of women with men to all public offices. Few representatives gave information regarding the nationality of married women. Reference was made by a number of them to recent legislation ensuring equal rights of women with men within the family, including parental rights and duties and/or provisions providing women with the right to administer their property during marriage or inherit their husband's property. Mention was made, in one instance, of the introduction of innovative principles such as the duty of both partners to co-operate in carrying out domestic chores. Reference was made also to abortion, which either had been legalized or was in the process of being so. The issue of traffic of women and exploitation of prostitution of women was mentioned by a few representatives and the Commission was urged to attempt to find a solution to the problem. In the field of education several representatives described recent developments providing constitutional guarantees for free and compulsory primary education for all children. Details were provided on how such guarantees were actually implemented. In the field of economic life, reference was made to recent legislative enactments providing equal pay for work of equal value and, in one instance, the enactment of a new labour code ensuring the promotion as well as the protection of working women.

13. Concerning the de facto situation of women, although progress was noted in various instances and significant data provided in some cases, there was agreement that the situation was still far from being satisfactory and that much remained to be done to translate legal provisions of equality and non-discrimination into reality. The main obstacle cited was the perpetuation of traditional concepts of the roles of women and men and their respective capabilities, which prevailed in older and younger countries alike. Examples of the impact of such traditional attitudes on the situation of women were given. For example, in the field of education and employment, it was noted that even where girls had equal access with boys to education, including access to co-educational institutions providing a uniform curriculum, girls still tended to gravitate towards certain traditional disciplines or types of training which, in turn led them to concentrate, later on, in the tertiary sectors of the economy. It was also mentioned that in times of economic stress, women were always the first to be laid off and that there was a tendency among women to refuse promotion to avoid humiliating their husbands who earned less. Several representatives therefore expressed the conviction that unless there were profound changes of attitudes regarding the role of women and men in society, legal action would not bring about actual equality. Efforts to that end should have the full encouragement and financial support of Governments, so as to facilitate the implementation of large-scale programmes to educate public opinion. Reference was also made to affirmative action policies requiring organizations to be conscious of the need to give equal opportunity to women in their hiring and promotion policies.

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20/ General Assembly resolution 640 (VII).

14. Without denying the specificity of women's problems and the extent of the progress made in dealing with them, some representatives observed that the improvement of the status of women, particularly in the developing countries, formed an integral part of the elimination of the imbalance between developed and developing countries and of the plan to establish the new international economic order.

15. Some representatives also drew attention to the problem of unemployment existing in many countries which caused material, moral and psychological suffering to women.

#### Consideration of draft resolution and voting

16. At the 701st meeting, the representative of Zaire, on behalf also of France, the Niger and Togo, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Measures to combat prostitution" (E/CN.6/L.738). Senegal joined as a sponsor. Subsequently, a revised text of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.738/Rev.1) was introduced by the representative of Zaire, in the light of suggestions made by various representatives.

17. At the 702nd meeting, on 4 April 1978, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (for the text, see chap. IX below, resolution 1 (XXVII)).

18. At the same meeting, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany provided clarifications with respect to the stand of his Government on the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. 21/

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21/ General Assembly resolution 317 (IV).



III. DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMME FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: (A) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE DECADE; (B) PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN, INCLUDING THE ACTION CALLED FOR IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1999 (LX) AND 2062 (LXII) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 3520 (XXX), 32/140, 32/197 AND 32/142 IN WHICH THE COMMISSION IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE ELABORATION OF A DRAFT DECLARATION; (C) REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION

Agenda items 4 (a) and 4 (c)

19. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (a) at its 685th to 688th meetings and at its 691st and 692nd meetings, between 22 and 28 November 1978. It considered agenda item 4 (c), in conjunction with item 4 (a), at its 688th to 692nd meetings.

20. Under item 4 (a) the Commission had before it a report by the Secretary-General entitled "Measures taken to implement the World Plan of Action and the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women" 22/ and a note on preparation work for the World Conference for the United Nations Decade for Women (E/CN.6/610). The Commission also considered a report on the activities of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) of special interest to women (E/CN.6/614 and Corr.1) and a report on the activities of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) of special interest to women (E/CN.6/615). The report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/616) and the report on the status of Arab women (E/CN.6/617) were also considered under this subitem. It also had before it five statements from the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: the International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council of Women, Associated Country Women of the World, Baha'i International Community, Baptist World Alliance, Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc., International Council of Social Democratic Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Rehabilitation International, Soroptimist International, St. Joan's International Alliance, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Movement of Mothers, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Women's Christian Temperance Union and Zonta International (E/CN.6/NGO/276); the Associated Country Women of the World (E/CN.6/NGO/277); the Bahà'i International Community (E/CN.6/NGO/279); Soroptimist International (E/CN.6/NGO/280).

21. Under item 4 (c), the Commission had before it a report of the Secretary-General on review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International

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22/ A/32/175.

Women's Year (E/CN.6/611). It had also before it a statement by the International Federation of University of Women (E/CN.6/611).

22. In introducing the report of the Secretary-General 22/ on measures taken to implement the World Plan of Action and the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women, the Assistant Director noted that it had been prepared in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/136 of 16 December 1976, and had been submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session. It described steps taken since the preparation of the previous report on the subject, 23/ submitted to the Assembly at its thirty-first session and to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session. She focused in particular on developments relating to the interagency programme for the United Nations Decade for Women; the establishment of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; the elaboration of regional plans and programmes, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and the pledging conference which had been held at Headquarters on 8 November 1977. With respect to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to be established at Teheran, the Commission was informed of progress made towards its early establishment, including substantive preparations and the sending of a mission to Teheran in December 1977. The Commission was informed further of General Assembly resolution 32/137, 16 December 1977, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-fourth session on progress achieved towards the establishment of the Institute and to submit to it a draft document describing the structure, composition, responsibilities and programme of the Institute, as well as the co-ordination of its activities with other concerned bodies. The Commission also was appraised of developments regarding regional plans and programmes and of the regional meetings that had been held in 1977 and those being planned for 1978.

23. Concerning the Voluntary Fund for the Decade, the representative of the Centre referred to the first report of the Secretary-General 24/ which had been submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session and to resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976 in which the General Assembly had endorsed criteria for the utilization of the Fund's resources and proposals for its management. The Commission was informed that the President of the General Assembly had appointed a Consultative Committee on the Fund, consisting of the German Democratic Republic, Jamaica, Nigeria, the Philippines and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, representing the five regional groups. The Committee had held three sessions in 1977 and with respect to the Voluntary Fund had recommended that "bloc allocations" of \$400,000 each be made to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA); and \$300,000 to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. The latter, who would co-ordinate Fund matters, had already been appointed.

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22/ A/32/175.

23/ A/31/220.

24/ A/32/174.

The Commission was also informed that the pledging conference had resulted in a total of \$3,837,155 pledged - \$3,301,555 to the Voluntary Fund and \$535,500 to the Institute.

24. The Assistant Director briefly described the historical background of the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women and reported on the most recent developments relating to it. She also informed the Commission of the preparatory work being done on the study of the interagency programme requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 32/138 of 16 December 1977.

25. Referring to the report of the Secretary-General on review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action (E/CN.6/611), the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs pointed out that it was based on 22 substantive replies, which had been received in 1976 after the preparation of the previous report on the subject submitted to the Commission at its twenty-sixth session, 25/ as well as on replies, received by 1 December 1977, to a questionnaire sent out on 25 July 1977. She noted that 21 additional replies had been received after that date and were currently being analysed.

26. A number of representatives expressed appreciation for the information provided in that report. However, many of them made specific reference to the small response to the questionnaire and took advantage of the opportunity to reiterate their earlier appeal for a review of the reporting systems.

27. Many representatives described activities undertaken in their countries in implementation of the World Plan of Action and of the Programme for the Decade. Various representatives mentioned the establishment of national plans of action and/or special comprehensive plans based on the World Plan. A number of representatives reported the establishment of national machinery to implement the goals of the Decade and influence national policies for the purpose, describing the functions of those commissions or bureaux. Many representatives referred to improvements in educational opportunities and programmes for women, efforts to provide benefits for working women, the incorporation of women into the process of national economic planning, assistance provided to rural women on basic problems of agriculture and family living and efforts to utilize the mass communication media to publicize the objectives of the Decade. More specifically mention was made in various instances of the establishment of a variety of centres or groups such as national research institutes, working groups on welfare and development or child-care centres for rural women, seminars or training in literacy, education, employment and the communication media. There were also some seminars aimed at continuing the dialogue between urban and rural women. In one instance, training projects assisted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were cited in the areas of horticulture, food processing and animal husbandry. Various representatives described developments in their countries in the field of women's employment, such as the enactment of new labour laws or the current drafting of a new labour code. Some referred to technical and other assistance given for specific projects which encouraged women to expand their area of economic activity, such as marketing of products, and the promotion and extension of co-operatives and loan and credit facilities.

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25/ E/CN.6/598 and Add.1 and 2.

28. One representative drew attention to his Government's new strategy on the improvement of the status of women in developing countries which would give guidance for developing countries in stages of project planning, implementation and evaluation. Those criteria should ensure that the needs and constraints of women were effectively taken care of. He added that most of the projects planned by churches were relevant to women and that non-governmental organizations had also financed a series of projects in the field of social structure.

29. Many representatives addressed themselves to ways and means of implementing the World Plan of Action in order to achieve by mid-Decade the minimum targets contained in paragraph 46 of the Plan. While implementation at the national level was deemed essential, representatives stressed the importance of a regional approach to implementation. Several participants noted the problem of obtaining the financial resources to implement the programme for the Decade adequately. However, in one instance, administrative and organizational problems encountered at the national level were singled out as the most serious obstacle to implementation of the World Plan of Action.

30. Many representatives commented on the positive significance of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace in improving the status of women throughout the world, giving impetus to the movement to combat discrimination against women and involving the broad masses of women in the development of their countries and in the struggle to strengthen peace and social progress.

31. Concerning the goals of the Decade and the priorities for action, representatives identified rural development, education, economic roles and employment, and health as being of primary importance. Regarding rural women, several representatives expressed their particular concern that their needs should be identified and satisfied. They recognized the need for developing projects that would help to alleviate the heavy daily burdens of rural women. Further, they were of the opinion that the World Plan of Action had not paid sufficient attention to the problems of women in that category. Regarding education, the consensus was that equal access to improved education was a corner-stone of the implementation of the goals of the Decade. The view was expressed, however, that education programmes could not have much meaning while a vast number of people lived below the poverty line and directed all their energy towards survival.

32. With regard to women's economic activities and employment opportunities, several representatives pointed out that economic development had often caused fundamental and sometimes disadvantageous changes in the traditional roles of women, depriving them of their traditional occupations while denying them the opportunity for participating in new ones. It was suggested that since rural women suffered more than men from lack of employment opportunities, wherever appropriate, unemployment should be tackled through an integrated approach to rural development. A number of representatives stressed the need for further research and studies on women's contribution to family income and also a re-examination of women's access to certain types of work.

33. Referring to the work of the ILO and UNESCO, various representatives commended those agencies for their reports and their valuable contributions to the Decade. The absence of similar reports from other specialized agencies was regretted. One representative noted, however, that those reports made reference to recommendations

adopted a long time ago and encouraged the agencies to concern themselves with the needs of broad masses of people in the context of present-day society.

34. With respect to the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, a number of representatives expressed interest in being better informed as regards arrangements concerning its establishment as well as its structure, organization, programme and co-ordination. The Acting Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs provided details on the stage of progress achieved on the establishment of the Institute. A number of representatives expressed the apprehension that prospective donors would contribute to the funding for the Institute only when they knew the details regarding its operation. A question was raised by a representative as to the need for the establishment of the Institute, since in her view regional centres were of greater and more immediate relevance to individual countries.

35. In the discussion of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, differing views were expressed regarding the approach adopted by the Consultative Committee on the Fund and its application of the criteria for the use of the Fund's resources. In some instances reference was made to certain projects that it was hoped would qualify for funding from the Voluntary Fund.

36. With regard to public information activities for the Decade, there was agreement that it was necessary to launch a programme that would clearly focus on the objectives of the Decade and would stimulate action at the grass-roots level. Concern was expressed that insufficient funds were available for any significant public information programme for the Decade and it was suggested by a few representatives that 10 per cent of the Voluntary Fund should be allocated to that purpose. Regret was expressed at the limited allocation made by the Consultative Committee for public information activities. The Director of the Centre for Economic and Social Information, Office of Public Information, provided details with regard to a number of public information activities currently being undertaken. He hoped that an interagency meeting scheduled to be held in April would assist in the elaboration of a system-wide programme. Concerning a specific public information programme for the World Conference to be held in 1980, he pointed out that it could be established only when the substantive aspects of the Conference had been clarified.

37. The representative of ECA stated that the African Research and Training Centre for Women was the outcome of the revision of the ECA Women's Programme in May 1975. The activities of the Centre included an itinerant training programme, a programme for a corps of development volunteers, research, a programme for the national commissions and offices and a village technology programme. She referred to the difficulties encountered by the Centre in obtaining established posts and finance from the United Nations budget. She also mentioned the need for regional co-ordination of activities concerning women. She explained the process of decentralization of the Centre's activities, taking place through ECA's subregional offices, as a result of the regional conference held in Nouakchott.

38. The representative of ECLA informed the Commission of the various programmes and activities undertaken by ECLA in conjunction with UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other specialized agencies. She also gave a brief description of

what ECLA has achieved during the past year and the plans to respond to national and subregional needs. She described ECLA's efforts to obtain information from Governments on their suggestions as to how to proceed with the integration of women in development. Thus, for example, studies had been undertaken on the expectations of the indigenous woman on her role in development in various countries of the region. UNDP was collaborating in providing information for the project.

39. The representative of ECWA noted that its work on women's concerns had begun only in 1974 and that elaboration of a regional plan of action had been delayed by events in Lebanon. She expected, however, that a plan of action would be agreed to later in 1978. ECWA was participating in an interagency working group concerning the legal and religious status of Arab women. A data bank on social and economic indicators was brought up to date, and projects planned included a survey of national machinery, an annual directory of women and a study of health and social services.

40. The representative of ESCAP cited, among the activities and developments that had taken place since the International Women's Year, the adoption of a regional plan of action for the advancement of women. A Regional Seminar on the Participation of Women in Political, Economic and Social Development had been held in Nepal in 1977. Later in 1978 an expert group meeting would be held on the role and functions of women's organizations in rural areas. A further regional conference of Ministers of Social Welfare and Social Development was planned for 1980. Forthcoming projects included the training of rural women in income-generating and labour-saving activities, and the effects of modernization and development on the status and role of women. Three additional staff members had been or soon would be attached to ESCAP.

41. The Director of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development stated that the Centre had been inaugurated in February 1977. Since that time it had conducted courses on training, leadership skills and the changing roles of women. It had prepared a training manual, designed a curriculum for literacy corps training, provided technical and advisory services to Member States, established a clearing-house and commissioned a number of case studies. The Centre also had held an Expert Group meeting to identify the critical needs of women.

42. The representative of the ILO introduced the report of the organization on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/614 and Corr.1), which described action taken or planned in connexion with the Declaration and Plan of Action on Equality of Opportunities and Treatment of Women Workers, adopted by the ILO Conference at its sixtieth session, in June 1975. Since the preparation of the report the ILO had begun publication of its news bulletin Women at Work. She noted that a serious threat to women workers was to be found in the recent recession in the industrialized countries. Over 50 per cent of the unemployed in those countries were women, although women represented only 35 to 40 per cent of the active labour force. The efforts of the ILO in the industrialized countries were focused in two areas: the elimination of de jure discrimination against women workers, and the establishment of adequate child-care services for workers of both sexes with family responsibilities. Concerning women in developing countries, the observer noted that the organization's efforts to provide assistance were sadly out of proportion to the actual needs of those women. Indications were that economic progress had contributed very little to improving the situation of rural women; those women had sometimes actually suffered from such "progress". The organization was working in the areas of

vocational training, illiteracy, the ability to earn income and the role of women in population. It was the ILO's intention to ensure that all the ILO projects would benefit both women and men workers.

43. The representative of UNESCO, introducing her organization's report on its activities of special interest to women (E/CN.6/615), emphasized the recommendation on the development of adult education adopted by the General Conference at its nineteenth session, stressing the elimination of the isolation as women from adult education, ensuring equality of access and their full participation in the entire range of adult education activities. She also drew the attention of the Commission to the International Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, stressing the participation of women teachers in programmes to provide them with equal career opportunities in practice, which had been prepared by the ILO and UNESCO. She also described the activities of the organization in their efforts of apartheid in women's employment, family life and other fields. She also mentioned studies that were being undertaken, such as one on women in the mass communication media and another on rural migration in Latin America. Reference was also made to the co-operative action programme with Member States and other literacy projects on women undertaken together with FAO, UNICEF and other specialized agencies. Finally, she outlined the medium-term plan and the measures to increase women's involvement in various fields.

44. The representative of FAO drew the attention of the members of the Commission to the situation of rural women, which must be taken fully into account in planning the World Conference to be held in 1980, and its national programmes. She felt that for the most part rural women had been bypassed by plans of action and resolutions adopted either at the World Conference of the International Women's Year or emanating from the international conferences on population, food and human settlements. She also pointed out that those were the women who tended to be neglected within the planning and implementation of international aid and assistance. She noted that FAO had increased its programming for rural women since 1975, though the needs were overwhelmingly greater than the means. She described FAO trends and mechanisms established to reach and benefit rural women. She mentioned the campaign of the organization to add women's components within its activities. She stressed FAO's technical assistance in the elaboration of an integrated curriculum on rural development regarding the improvement of family life. Finally the collaboration with the regional commissions on projects and meetings as well as the plans for the integration of women in rural development were extensively described. Like other specialized agencies, FAO was stressing the importance of increasing the number of women at the professional level both in the field and at headquarters.

45. The representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) noted that women were among the major beneficiaries of its assistance. She also described policies and programmes for implementing food aid. Besides participation in supplementary feeding programmes, women were also encouraged to participate in group activities to enable them to become self-reliant in producing food. Mention was made of women in the WFP secretariat and the proposed target of 200 female participants by 1980. It was pointed out that proposals had been made for amending project documentation to include statistical and other data on women's involvement and participation in WFP-assisted projects. The amended documentation would form the organization's contribution to the Interorganizational Programme for the Decade.

46. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that the concern of her organization for the participation of women in health and development had been expressed in recent resolutions adopted by the WHO Executive Board and the World Health Assembly. The representative said that women were the main providers of primary health care in their capacity as wives, mothers, and community health workers. A task force had been established at WHO headquarters and focal points had been designated at the WHO regional offices to identify and strengthen activities benefiting women within existing or planned programmes. Particular attention was being given to the specific health needs, to the utilization of health services by women, and to women's role in the promotion of health. WHO's programme for the promotion of primary health care within the national context encompassed activities relevant to the needs of women and children. The International Conference on Primary Health Care, sponsored by WHO and UNICEF, would take place in September 1978 and would devote special attention to the role of women in the provision of health services at the community level.

47. The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) emphasized her organization's concern over the situation of women in the United Nations and noted that women had constituted one third of UNITAR's professional staff in 1976. UNITAR studies indicated the disturbing fact that the proportion of professional women in the United Nations was 40 per cent at the P-1 level, but only 13 per cent at the P-4 level, 2.9 per cent at the D-2 level and 16.5 per cent over all at the end of 1976. The Executive Director of UNITAR had referred to a widespread feeling of restlessness and discontent among female staff in the United Nations, and a UNITAR-sponsored meeting had recommended a target of 30 per cent female staff in the United Nations by 1980. UNITAR had sponsored a number of colloquia and seminars on the subject, the results of which has been published.

48. The representative of the World Bank noted that the organization had established an office of adviser on women and development to review Bank-wide activities. She said the Bank had no separate women's projects, preferring to identify women's problems within development projects and to focus on the special problems women faced as contributors and beneficiaries. She cited a number of recent loans that reflected the Bank's concern with women's problems, including projects in East Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya and Papua New Guinea, which provided assistance in integrated rural development, nutrition, education and water supply.

49. In introducing the report of the Inter-American Commission of Women (E/CN.6/616), the President drew attention to the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for the Decade for Women. In that connexion, she pointed out that not only the Inter-American Commission but other organs and agencies of the Inter-American system were involved in the implementation of the Plan. As a major achievement of the Commission she mentioned the establishment of the multinational centre for women in Argentina to provide training and research for women. Other activities, including a seminar on mass communication media and their influence on the image of women were mentioned as well. She also stressed the importance of joint efforts towards better co-ordination of activities between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) related to women. She emphasized the need for a systematic exchange of information and the development of joint programmes where appropriate. Activities relating to the laboratory for applied research on rural women and the inter-American laboratory for applied research on the technical education of women were currently in the follow-up stage at the national level. Another important activity was the programme on women's bureaux,



which was being implemented in four phases and involved 10 countries in the region. A project was also under way on appropriate technology for rural women from the poorest sectors in the Americas. The general aim of the project was to identify appropriate technology to raise the low incomes of women and to promote appropriate technology for rural women to improve the development of business activities by offering training and technical and financial assistance services.

50. The representative of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women introduced a report (E/CN.6/617) on the recent achievements of her organization. The Arab Plan of Action, which was adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States as resolution 3446, was a major accomplishment through its being the first comprehensive plan developed for the entire Arab world. The Plan of Action contained a number of proposals for such fields as health, nutrition, education and training, housing, social services and political participation. The Arab Women's Commission had held several seminars. The first focused on family law in the Arab world, which endorsed the position of women in the family and called for the elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex. Two seminars had been devoted to the study of the role of women in national development, with special emphasis on rural women. Another seminar had been held on the subject of education and the eradication of illiteracy. A fifth seminar had been held on the subject of the role of women in nutrition. A sixth seminar had discussed the role of women as portrayed by the mass communication media.

51. The representative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) stated that her organization fully supported the work being done by the ECA's African Training and Research Centre for women. She hoped that the Commission would recommend to the Economic and Social Council at its next session that the Centre benefit from the regular budget of the United Nations, to enable it to implement the Programme for the Decade in the region. OAU hoped that the Centre might expand its role to serve as co-ordinator of specialized agency activities and as a clearing-house for information on activities of non-governmental organizations.

Consideration of draft resolutions and voting  
on items 4 (a) and 4 (c)

52. At the 699th meeting, on behalf of his delegation, the representative from Belgium introduced a draft resolution entitled "National machinery for monitoring the implementation of the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women" (E/CN.6/L.733). Denmark, France, Sweden and the United States of America became sponsors of the draft resolution.

53. The representative of Belgium, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the text as follows: in operative paragraph 1, the words "measures taken by" were added before the words "Member States" and the words "which have established" were replaced by "to establish"; in operative paragraph 6, the words "that such machinery should ensure that" were replaced by "and more particularly on replies which Member States are called upon to give to the requests from the" and the words "receive all due attention" were deleted; in operative paragraph 7, the words "women's organizations" were replaced by the words "non-governmental organizations which are active in the promotion of the status of women"; and in operative paragraph 8, the word "permanent" was deleted.

54. At the 701st meeting, on 3 April 1978, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chapt. I above, draft resolution I).
55. At the same meeting, the representative of Peru, on behalf of Argentina (observer), the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, the Niger, Peru, Togo, Venezuela and Zaire introduced a draft resolution entitled "Co-operation with intergovernmental bodies outside the United Nations system" (E/CN.6/L.736). Senegal joined the list of sponsors.
56. At the 702nd meeting, on 4 April 1978, the sponsors introduced a revised text of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.736/Rev.1), which took account of various suggestions made.
57. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. IX below, resolution 2 (XXVII)).
58. At the same meeting, the representative of Zaire, also on behalf of Ethiopia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, the Niger, Senegal and Togo, introduced a draft resolution on "Institutions responsible for implementing the World Plan of Action within the framework of the United Nations Decade for Women" (E/CN.6/L.743).
59. A representative of the Budget Division made a statement concerning the financial implications on the draft resolution (see annex III below).
60. The representative of the Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development provided clarifications as regards the funding and operations of centres within regional commissions dealing with women's programmes.
61. At the 704th meeting, submitted the sponsors a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.743/Rev.1) incorporating changes proposed during the discussion. The representative of Zaire orally revised operative paragraph 2 by replacing the word "through" by the word "with". The sponsors also accepted a proposal to place the words "other United Nations organ" after the words "specialized agencies", to add the words "as well as" after the word "organs", and to delete the word "and" after the word "concerned". The sponsors also orally revised operative paragraph 3 to reflect an oral proposal made by the United States and to read as follows: "Recommends that the General Assembly take appropriate measures to provide from the regular budget of the United Nations the financial resources and personnel necessary for the regional research and training centres for women". The representative of the United Kingdom expressed her reservations regarding the financial implications of operative paragraphs 1 and 3 and said that if there were a vote, her delegation would abstain.
62. At the same meeting, the revised draft resolution as orally revised was put to a vote.
63. The representative of the USSR, seconded by the representative of Bulgaria, requested separate votes on operative paragraphs 1 and 3.
64. Operative paragraph 1 was adopted by 16 votes in favour, 4 against, with 7 abstentions.

65. The representatives of Cuba and the German Democratic Republic pointed out that the voting had not been correctly carried out since the votes against paragraph 1 were 5 instead of 4.

66. Operative paragraph 3 was adopted by 16 votes in favour, 4 votes against, with 8 abstentions.

67. The revised draft resolution as orally revised was adopted by 21 votes to none, with 7 abstentions (see chap. I above, draft resolution II).

68. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics lodged a strong protest about the conduct of the Bureau and the Secretary of the Commission. The representative of the Niger felt that her remark was inappropriate. The representatives of New Zealand and the United States of America expressed the view that the protest made by the representative of the USSR was completely unwarranted and unjustified.

69. The representatives of the Byelorussian SSR and the USSR, in explanation of vote, said that they had abstained in the vote on the draft as a whole because they considered operative paragraphs 1 and 3 contrary to the decisions and to established General Assembly procedures on budgetary matters.

70. The representative of the United States said that it was her understanding that the resolution did not imply any increase in the current regular budget.

71. At the 699th meeting, the representative of Sweden, on behalf also of Denmark and New Zealand, introduced the draft resolution entitled "Rationalization of the reporting systems on the status of women" (E/CN.6/L.730). The representative of France proposed two amendments (E/CN.6/L.745) to the draft resolution. The first amendment proposed the addition of the following words at the end of operative paragraph 2: "by selecting evaluation criteria which take account of regional disparities"; the second amendment proposed the replacement of paragraph 4 by the following: "Further requests that the Secretary-General, in compiling the replies, provide a thorough report on progress achieved in the improvement of the status of women and comparative surveys of regional developments and specific obstacles encountered, with a view to providing working papers to be used in formulating strategies suited to each region for future action."

72. Subsequently, a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/730/Rev.1) was submitted to reflect the exchange of views which had taken place. At the 702nd meeting, on 4 April 1978, the revised draft resolution was adopted (see chap. I above, draft resolution III).

#### Agenda item 4 (b)

73. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (b), on the preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980, at its 688th to 691st and 693rd meetings, on 24, 27 and 28 March 1978. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/610).

74. The Senior Social Affairs Officer in the Advancement of Women Branch, of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in introducing the item, referred to the note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/610), which contained the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) and General Assembly resolutions 32/140, relating to the World Conference, and 32/197, containing related provisions. The note also set out the objectives of the World Conference, which were to review and evaluate the progress made in the first half of the United Nations Decade for Women and to recommend changes and adjustments considered necessary in the programme for the second half of the Decade, 1980-1985. The proposed provisional agenda for the Conference contained in the note focused on the review and evaluation of progress made and of obstacles encountered at the national, regional and global levels, as well as on the elaboration of a programme of action for the period 1980-1985. It was also proposed that the documentation should consist of a number of basic documents, as well as background documents supplementing information analyzed in the basic documents. The note by the Secretary-General further suggested that regional preparatory meetings and regional intergovernmental conferences should be organized.

75. The Commission considered that the 1980 World Conference should be a follow-up to the World Conference of the International Women's Year held in 1975. It was generally agreed that the over-all objectives of the 1980 Conference should be: (a) to review and evaluate the progress made so far in the implementation of the programme for the United Nations Decade for Women; (b) to propose adjustments to the programme for the second half of the Decade in the light of the results obtained during the first half. The Conference should thus come up with concrete and practical proposals and strategies for action for the second half of the Decade. It should focus on the three goals of the Decade: equality, development and peace, and on some key issues which would contribute to the attainment of those objectives.

76. With respect to the agenda for the World Conference, many representatives agreed that a new approach was required and suggested restricting the agenda to a limited number of concrete subjects. It was felt that the Conference could give a new impetus to the implementation of the World Plan of Action by adopting an action-oriented agenda and by concentrating on a few well-defined key issues. In that connexion, a number of representatives suggested that the Conference should centre its discussions on the following main themes: economic activities, education and health as related to women. The subtheme of employment, health and education was suggested for the Conference, within the framework of its over-all objective, which was a review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action and necessary changes and readjustments of the Programme for the second half of the Decade. Some representatives were of the opinion that it was essential to define those key issues on the basis of the three main goals of the Decade. They stressed that the Conference should not adopt a one-sided approach by considering only issues related to development but should also give priority attention to equality and peace; strong emphasis should be given to the participation of women in the strengthening of international peace and security. Some representatives considered that the active involvement of women in the three areas of equality, development and peace could not be achieved in isolation from the struggle for disarmament and against colonialism, racial discrimination, aggression and all forms of foreign domination. A number of representatives also indicated that the agenda for the Conference should allow for discussion on the effects of apartheid and racial discrimination on the status of women.

77. In addition to the above-mentioned main issues proposed for discussion at the World Conference, some representatives suggested further items for consideration by the Conference, such as the formulation of standards to ensure the advancement of women, the establishment of government machinery to bring about equal opportunity and improve the situation of rural women. One representative requested that the Conference take into account, in particular, the needs and wishes of the developing countries. It was also proposed that due consideration be given to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and the Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. It was also suggested that, in view of the venue of the Conference, Arabic should be of the working languages.

78. With respect to the documentation for the 1980 Conference, a representative suggested that there should be three types of documents for the Conference: (a) an analytical paper reflecting general trends and progress made and obstacles encountered in implementing the World Plan of Action, especially at the national level; (b) a draft of a practical programme of action for the second half of the Decade; and (c) sectoral papers related to each of the key issues. The analytical paper and the draft programme could be discussed in plenary meeting, instead of devoting that time to lengthy general statements, whereas the sectoral papers should be discussed in expert group meetings, which could formulate a limited number of goals to be attained during the second half of the Decade. Many representatives underlined the need to ensure timely preparation and distribution of conference documentation.

79. Concerning the responsibility for the preparations for the 1980 Conference, the Commission agreed that the success of the Conference would depend to a large extent on the preparatory work. One representative proposed that the Commission define the general orientation of the Conference as a contribution to the work of the Preparatory Committee. Some representatives expressed the hope that in the preparatory work particular attention would be given to co-ordination between the United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the non-governmental organizations. The fullest use should be made of the experience gained through the programmes implemented by various Governments and the specialized agencies. Some representatives also underlined the importance of holding regional and national seminars and workshops with a view to exchanging information and suggesting strategies. A number of them referred to the major international conferences taking place before the 1980 Conference and felt that it was not only important for the conferences to consider issues related to women but the results of those conferences should be brought to the attention of the 1980 Conference.

80. The Commission noted that subsequent to the adoption of Council resolution 2062 (LXII) and General Assembly resolution 32/140, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 32/197, in which the Assembly had endorsed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System to the effect that the Council should assume direct responsibility for the preparatory work for the Conferences to be convened by the Council and, as appropriate, by the General Assembly, "without prejudice to arrangements already agreed upon for conferences currently under preparation". In view of the importance of the role of the Preparatory Committee in preparing for the Conference, some representatives expressed concern at the possibility that the Council might be entrusted with that task and doubts were expressed about the qualifications and

capabilities of the Council in that respect. Moreover, delays in setting up and convening the Preparatory Committee could have a negative effect on the preparation and therefore on the success of the Conference. Most representatives, however, considered that the Commission should proceed on the assumption that the Preparatory Committee would be established. The Commission was informed that the final decision on the establishment of the Preparatory Committee would be taken at the first regular session of the Council in 1978. Should the Preparatory Committee meet as planned in June 1978, it would have to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session through the second regular session of the Council in the summer of 1978. As suggested by several representatives, the Commission considered it advisable to make its views on the issue known to the Council and to request the President of the Council, who was in New York, to receive a delegation from the Commission. A number of representatives also raised the question of the composition of the Preparatory Committee. The view was expressed that the Committee should include representatives familiar with issues concerning women, as well as representatives of the Commission, and should invite observers from the regional commissions and the United Nations specialised agencies, as well as from the non-governmental organizations.

#### Consideration of draft resolutions and voting on item 4 (b)

81. At the 698th meeting, the representative of the German Democratic Republic, also on behalf of Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Madagascar, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.731) on the question of elaborating a draft declaration 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.

82. The representative of the United Kingdom proposed the replacement of the word "elaborate" in the second preambular paragraph by "consider elaborating". She also proposed the deletion of the word "elaborate" from operative paragraph 3 and its replacement by the words "consider in the light of those views and/or proposals the question of elaborating". Her proposal was accepted by the sponsors.

83. The representative of the United States of America proposed the replacement of "The Economic and Social Council" in the preamble by "The Commission on the Status of Women". That proposal was later withdrawn in the light of the clarifications made by the Secretary of the Commission.

84. At its 700th meeting, on 3 April 1978, the Commission adopted without a vote the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. I above, draft resolution IV).

85. The representatives of Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Indonesia, Iran, New Zealand, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America explained that while they joined in the spirit of consensus, they maintained their original positions and reservations as stated when General Assembly resolution 32/142 was adopted.

86. At the 699th meeting, the representative of Bulgaria, also on behalf of the Byelorussian SSR, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.732) concerning the provisional agenda for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women.

87. The sponsors accepted a proposal by New Zealand to replace the word "Decides" by "Recommends" in operative paragraphs 1 and 2.

88. At the 700th meeting, on 3 April 1978, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, supported by Belgium, Denmark, France, Iran, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Thailand, introduced oral amendments to the preambular paragraph of the draft resolution and the second preambular paragraphs of the draft recommended for adoption by the Council, whereby the words "General Assembly" would be deleted before the word "resolutions: and the reference to resolution 32/142 would be replaced by the words "other resolutions of the General Assembly". The representative of the Byelorussian SSR rejected the amendments, which were then put to a vote. The amendment to the preambular paragraph of the draft resolution was adopted by 14 votes to 8, with 5 abstentions. The amendment to the second preambular paragraph of the draft recommended to the Council was adopted by 14 votes to 8, with 4 abstentions.

89. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted as orally amended (see chapt. IX below, resolution 3 (XXVII)).

90. At the 699th meeting, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany, on behalf also of Iran and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women" (E/CN.6/L.737).

91. At the 701st meeting, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany informed the Commission that the draft resolution was also sponsored by Belgium, New Zealand and Thailand. At the 702nd meeting, a revised text of the draft resolution was submitted by the sponsors (E/CN.6/L.737/Rev.1).

92. At the 702nd meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. I above, draft resolution VI).

93. At the 701st meeting, the representative of India, on behalf also of Belgium, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the Philippines (observer), Sweden and Thailand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Subtheme 'Employment, Health and Education' for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women" (E/CN.6/L.739), which she orally revised to include in operative paragraph 10 the mention of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations after the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

94. The representatives of the Federal Republic of Germany and of Iran indicated that the draft resolution had been discussed and agreed upon by the Informal Working Group on Resolutions and proposed that the draft resolution be adopted without a vote.

95. At the 701st meeting, on 3 April 1978, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. IX below, resolution 4 (XXVII)).

96. At the 702nd meeting, the representative of Mexico, on behalf also of Indonesia, Pakistan and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women in development and international conferences" (E/CN.6/L.740). Subsequently, France, the Niger and Thailand became sponsors.

97. Following a discussion of the draft resolution, the sponsors submitted a revised text (E/CN.6/L.740/Rev.1) at the 704th meeting.
98. At the 704th meeting, on 5 April 1978, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chapt. IX below, resolution 5 (XXVII)).
99. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed her Government's reservations on operative paragraph 5 (a) on the basis that merit and not sex should be the criteria for governmental delegations attending Conferences. Another reservation was made on operative paragraph 5 (d) on the basis that her Government could not commit itself in advance to finance such activities.
100. At the 702nd meeting, the representative of Mexico, on behalf also of Trinidad and Tobago, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.741) on the inclusion of the question of consumers protection in the Programme of Action for second half of the United Nations Decade for Women.
101. Following a discussion on the draft resolution the sponsors submitted a revised text (E/CN.6/L.741/Rev.1) at the 704th meeting. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany suggested the deletion of the words "and enforcement machinery" in operative paragraph 2 (a) (ii), which was accepted by the sponsors.
102. At the 704th meeting, on 5 April 1978, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. IX below, draft resolution 6 (XXVII)).
103. The representative of Pakistan explained that if the draft resolution had been put to a vote, her delegation would have abstained owing to the late distribution of the text.



#### IV. PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY AND ARMED CONFLICT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, SELF-DETERMINATION, NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE

104. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 691st to 694th, 696th and 698th meetings, from 28 to 31 March 1978. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/612 and Corr.1) prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1687 (LII). It also had before it a statement by the World Movement of Mothers (E/CN.6/NGO/282), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

105. In introducing the report, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that the report was based on information requested by the Secretary-General in accordance with the Council resolution and furnished by Governments, United Nations organs and bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations as well as on the relevant reports of the United Nations organs. She informed the Commission that two Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, dealing with the protection of victims of international armed conflicts and non-international armed conflicts respectively, had been adopted at the fourth session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, in June 1977. Those Protocols contained provisions with respect to the protection of women and children, which strengthened those of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and included, inter alia, provisions for the evacuation of children and the protection of women and children against rape, enforced prostitution and any form of indecent assault.

106. Many representatives underlined the importance of developing and strengthening norms of international humanitarian law in order to protect women and children in emergency and armed conflicts. They welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women, of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (resolution 3318 (XXIX)). They paid a tribute to the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross with respect to the preparation of the two draft Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and commended the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts for adopting them at its fourth session.

107. Many representatives noted with deep regret the sufferings of women and children in specific situations and mentioned in particular South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Chile and Israeli-occupied territories of the Middle East. They expressed special concern with respect to the harsh treatment of women in detention, imprisonment of children, torture of women and children and deplorable prison conditions.

108. Some representatives expressed their firm support for the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the creation of their own State.

109. Many representatives referred to the humanitarian assistance rendered by their Governments to women and children in specific situations of emergency and armed

conflict, which included, inter alia, help for refugees; rehabilitation programmes; medical, child-care and educational services; material and financial help, including contributions to respective United Nations funds; as well as measures to mobilize world public opinion in support of women and children in cases of emergency and armed conflict.

110. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of the solution of international conflicts by peaceful means and without use of force, the strengthening of the process of détente and respect for the norms of international humanitarian law for the resolution of the problem of protection of women and children in specific situations.

111. In the opinion of some representatives, any effort directed towards singling out certain groups of civilians tended to detract from the general protection that should be enjoyed by the civilian population as a whole. Most representatives, however, felt that though issues affecting women and children were inseparable from issues affecting human rights in general, women and children were the most vulnerable victims of armed conflicts and should, therefore, be given special priority in the development of international humanitarian law.

112. The role of the Commission on the Status of Women was repeatedly underlined and in that connexion reference was also made to the forthcoming International Year of the Child, which, in the opinion of some delegations, should focus the attention of world public opinion on the problem of protecting children in situations of emergency and armed conflicts, and should mobilize world opinion in support of suffering children in specific situations.

113. A large number of representatives appealed to Governments to adhere to existing international conventions concerning the protection of human rights in armed conflict, including, first of all, the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, and the two Additional Protocols.

#### Consideration of draft resolution and voting

114. At the 696th meeting, the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.729) concerning the protection of women/children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence. The representative noted with satisfaction further developments in international humanitarian law since the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict evidences by the adoption of the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conference of 1949. The representative stated that humanitarian organizations were able to do much more, and the draft resolution therefore appealed for greater support from Governments for international and humanitarian organizations which could thereby achieve greater results.

115. During the discussion of the draft resolution, the following oral amendments were made: the representative of Cuba proposed that the words "including those engaged in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence" should be deleted in operative paragraph 1; the representative of the Byelorussian SSR proposed the insertion of the word "relevant" before the words "international humanitarian organizations" in operative paragraph 2; the

representative of Denmark suggested adding the words "such as the International Committee of the Red Cross" after the word "organizations" in operative paragraph 2; the representatives of Indonesia and Pakistan proposed the deletion of the words "adhering to" in operative paragraph 5. After some deliberations, the representatives of Cuba and the Federal Republic of Germany presented a joint oral revision to operative paragraph 1, deleting the words "including those engaged" and replacing them by the words "in emergency situations". The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany was agreeable to oral amendments made by the representatives of the Byelorussian SSR, Denmark, Pakistan and Indonesia.

116. At its 698th meeting, on 31 March 1968, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. IX below, resolution 7 (XXVII)).

117. The representatives of Denmark, Sweden and the United States of America stated that, though they had joined the consensus, they felt that the Commission's concern should be to promote equal treatment of men and women in all fields. Every effort should therefore be made to protect the whole civilian population, irrespective of sex.

118. The representative of Pakistan felt that legislation should concern all civilians. However, she recognized that women and children occupied a special position. The representative of France stated that, had there been a vote, the French delegation would have abstained.

## V. THE EFFECTS OF APARTHEID ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

119. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 691st, 693rd, 694th and 695th meetings, between 27 and 29 March 1978. It had before it a report of the Secretary-General entitled "The effects of apartheid on the status of women in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia" (E/CN.6/619), and a preliminary report of UNESCO on the effects of apartheid on the status of women, which was circulated as a conference room paper. It also had before it a statement by The Associated Country Women of the World (E/CN.6/NGO/278), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

120. In introducing the former report, the representative of the Secretary-General explained that the report, which had been prepared in response to resolution 3 of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolutions 3520 (XXX), contained analyses of apartheid and its effects on the legal, social, economic and political status of women.

121. The Commission commended the report of the Secretary-General and noted that it provided a useful basis for deliberations. The Commission also expressed appreciation to UNESCO for its preliminary report.

122. A number of representatives strongly condemned apartheid as a crime against humanity, as well as the degrading and deplorable conditions to which non-whites were subjected in southern Africa, making specific reference to women, who were subjected to double discrimination, both on the grounds of colour and of sex.

123. A few representatives also denounced equally vehemently help provided by imperialist Powers and monopolies to the racist régimes in southern Africa.

124. Many representatives deplored the pass laws established under apartheid, which had the effect of forcibly separating women from their families. They called for an end to those and other laws or practices that denied the right or opportunity to women to work or to receive equal pay for equal work. In that connexion, some representatives stated that the racist minority régimes in southern Africa were supported by a few States whose economic interests in the area received higher priority than their commitment to human rights. It was also noted by some representatives that certain transnational corporations continued to collaborate with, lend support to, the racist minority régimes in contravention of numerous United Nations resolutions; they also continued to pursue discriminatory employment and wage practices with respect to non-white in general and non-white women in particular. One representative called for a study on the perpetuation of apartheid by transnational corporations from southern Africa in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

125. Several representatives proposed that, in view of the proclamation of 1978 as the International Year against Apartheid, the Commission should pronounce itself on the issue of apartheid and put forward specific measures to assist non-white women who were suffering under apartheid. A few representatives put forward the opinion that the Commission should assume official responsibility for such women and called

upon States that had not done so to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 26/ and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. 27/

126. Many representatives endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 73 to 79 of the Secretary-General's report (E/CN.6/619) and recommended that an item entitled "The effects of apartheid on the status of women" be put on the agenda of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980. Some representatives also proposed that such an item be included in the agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission and indeed of all future sessions. A number of representatives pointed out that 1978 had been proclaimed International Anti-Apartheid Year, and called on Governments which had not yet done so to ratify the International Conventions on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

127. Many representatives drew the attention of the Commission to Security Council resolution 418 (1977) calling for a mandatory arms embargo against South Africa, by which the Security Council had for the first time invoked Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations against a Member State. They urged Member States to enforce that and all other United Nations resolutions that had been adopted to bring pressure on the racist régimes in southern Africa.

128. Several representatives also proposed that Member States should give aid to the victims of apartheid either by making contributions or increasing their pledges as the case might be, to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa and the United Nations Institute for Namibia. A proposal was made that the United Nations should endeavour to disseminate information about apartheid generally, and about its effects on women in particular. One representative noted that the United Nations Institute for Namibia had reported in 1976 that only 40 per cent of its students were women, and recommended that the Trust Fund and Training Programme should also be requested to provide, through non-governmental organizations, a breakdown of the percentages of victims of apartheid according to sex. It was also suggested that an allocation of funds from the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women could be made available to non-governmental organizations to undertake specific mandates, as for example, the provision of legal aid for women detainees. Many representatives stated that the urgent elimination of the remaining enclaves of racism and colonialism required decisive and consistent action from the entire international community in order to implement the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, 28/ and to ensure the complete international isolation of the racist and colonialist régimes of southern Africa.

129. One representative proposed that more research should be carried out to ensure that all aspects of the effects of apartheid on women were considered.

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26/ General Assembly resolution 2106A (XX), annex.

27/ General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex.

28/ General Assembly resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex.

130. One representative proposed that the Commission should consider submitting the conclusions and proposals of the Secretary-General's report to the Economic and Social Council in the form of a resolution and that women from southern Africa, perhaps representatives of the liberation movements, be invited to address the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference. She further proposed that the Secretary-General's report should be submitted as the Commission's paper to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held in Geneva in August 1978. The Commission also heard statements from the observer of one intergovernmental organization and one non-governmental organization in category I consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and from the representatives of three specialized agencies.

131. The representative of the Organization of African Unity drew the attention of the Commission to the trials, detentions and banning of many African women in South Africa and urged the Commission to adopt concrete measures to assist those victims of apartheid. She thanked the non-governmental organizations for their work in southern Africa.

132. In introducing the preliminary report of UNESCO, the representative of that organization explained that it was part of a study that was scheduled for publication later in the year.

133. The representative of WHO stated that in a study conducted by her organization it had been established that apartheid was an obstacle to good health. WHO had prepared, at the request of the Special Committee against Apartheid, a report on apartheid and mental health care which revealed the connexion between apartheid and psychosocial strains. WHO continued to study the impact of apartheid on various aspects of health.

134. The representative of the ILO drew the attention of the Commission to the organization's declarations and recommendations against discrimination based, inter alia, on race and colour, in particular Recommendation No. 111, which forbade discrimination based on race. She drew the attention of the Commission to the eleventh special report of the Director-General 29/ on the application of the declaration concerning the Policy of Apartheid of the Republic of South Africa and the Symposium on Equality of Opportunity and Treatment in Employment in Africa, held at Dakar from 19 to 30 September 1977 at which the issue of apartheid was widely discussed. She stated that the ILO would continue its struggle against all forms of discrimination, including apartheid.

#### Consideration of draft resolutions and voting

135. At the 702nd meeting, the representative of France, on behalf also of the Niger and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Reuniting of families who have been victims of apartheid" (E/CN.6/L.742 and Corr.1). Subsequently, the Federal Republic of Germany, India, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Senegal, Sweden and Thailand became sponsors.

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29/ Geneva, International Labour Office, 1975, International Labour Conference, sixtieth session.

136. The representative of France, in the light of the discussion, made the following oral revisions to the text: in operative paragraph 1 the words "Invites the Economic and Social Council to denounce such practices" were replaced by the words "Condemns such inhumane practices"; in operative paragraph 2 the words "the Government of South Africa creates the" were deleted and words "be created" added at the end of the paragraph.

137. At the 703rd meeting, on 4 April 1978, the Commission adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. IX below, resolution 8 (XXVII)).

138. At the same meeting, the representative of the Niger, on behalf also of Ethiopia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Senegal, Togo and Zaire, introduced a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.744/Rev.1) on the effects of apartheid on the status of women. Madagascar subsequently joined the sponsors. The representative of the Niger orally revised operative paragraph 3 by replacing the words "Secretary-General that he" by "Consultative Committee to", and also revised operative paragraph 5 by adding immediately following the phrase "to invite women" the words "in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3280 (XXIX)".

139. The representative of the Budget Division made a statement concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution (see annex III below).

140. At the 705th meeting, the representative of the Niger, on behalf of the sponsors, joined by India, submitted a revised text (E/CN.6/L.744/Rev.2) following consultations with a number of representatives. In submitting the revised text, the representative of the Niger stated that the sponsors had accepted an amendment proposed by the representative of Bulgaria to replace the sixth preambular paragraph, which read "Condemning the continued presence and investments of transnational corporations in South Africa" by the following text: "Vigorously condemning the activities and practices of the transnational corporations in southern Africa, which are incompatible with United Nations resolutions".

141. The representative of the United States requested a vote on the revised text. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics then requested that the vote be by roll-call.

142. At its 705th meeting, on 5 April 1978, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution as orally revised, by 19 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions (see chap. I above, draft resolution VIII). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, India, Iran, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

143. The representative of the United States, in explanation of her negative vote, observed that although the United States remained firmly opposed to apartheid, the new amendment incorporated in the text was politically destructive, divisive and, far from improving the situation in southern Africa, could serve to strengthen the hand of the supporters of apartheid by giving them two mistaken impressions: the first was that the United Nations means to challenge the existence of the State or Government of South Africa; the second was that the international opposition to apartheid may not be total.

144. The representative of Denmark, on behalf of the members of the European Community, explained that while they too were firmly opposed to apartheid, they had abstained because they had important reservations about several paragraphs. Thus, they considered that in the sixth preambular paragraph the condemnation by the Commission of the activities of transnational corporations was inappropriate since there was a Commission on Transnational Corporations specifically charged with the study of their activities. Also, operative paragraph 2 was contrary to the provisions of the United Nations Charter which gives only the Security Council authority to take such a decision. Further, it ran counter to the efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the situation in Namibia and Southern Rhodesia. Finally, the proposal in operative paragraph 4 did not fall within the criteria of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women as adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 31/133.

145. The representative of Japan also explained that she had abstained because of the inappropriate wording of the resolution.

146. The representatives of Sweden and New Zealand explained that their abstentions did not reflect any change in their opposition to apartheid. Their objection was based on the formulation of the sixth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 2.



## VI. COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS OF WOMEN

147. At its 696th meeting, on 31 March 1978, the Commission considered agenda item 7, which had been included in the agenda as a result of a decision of the Commission during the exchange of views on the adoption of the agenda.

148. During the discussion, various representatives argued that the item continued to belong to the agenda of the Commission not only at the current session but also at future sessions, unless the Economic and Social Council were to decide to the contrary. In their view, the matter continued to be governed by Council resolution 76 (V), as amended by Council resolution 304 (XI). They regretted that no lists of communications had been prepared for the consideration of the Commission in accordance with those resolutions and expressed the wish that the lists to be prepared for the twenty-eighth session would deal with communications concerning the status of women received since the preparation of the last lists considered by the Commission. They stressed the importance of the question, pointing out that the procedure permitted the Commission to be informed of the very serious problems faced by women whose fundamental rights were violated.

149. A number of representatives, referring to decision 223 (LXII) of the Economic and Social Council, whereby the Council decided to defer action on draft resolution X, entitled "Communications concerning the status of women", recommended for adoption by the Commission at its twenty-sixth session, 30/ were of the opinion that the Commission, as a subsidiary organ of the Council, had to await action by the latter, which would determine whether or not the Commission should deal with the question. Furthermore, they reiterated the position indicated at previous sessions of the Commission, namely, that the consideration of communications concerning the status of women should be dealt with in the context of the existing procedures followed for communications on human rights.

150. The representative of the Secretary-General offered an explanation of the fact that no item on the subject had been included in the provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session of the Commission. It was recalled that at its twenty-fifth session, the Commission had decided that 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. The Council, by decision 86 (LVIII), 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 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. At its twenty-sixth session the Commission had recommended to the Council draft resolution X, on which the Council had not yet taken a decision.

151. Some delegations expressed reservations on that explanation by the Secretariat.

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30/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (E/5909), chap. I.

VII. PROGRAMME OF WORK, INCLUDING THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL  
AGENDA FOR THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION

152. The Commission considered agenda item 8 at its 696th to 698th meetings, on 30 and 31 March 1978. It had before it the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979 concerning the status of women, 31/ a report by the Secretary-General on working women and the sharing of household duties (E/CN.6/613); a note by the Secretariat entitled "Special problems relating to human rights of women detained or imprisoned" and another on the influence of activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent territories, which were circulated as conference room papers; and a note by the Secretary-General containing a draft provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/L.746).

153. The Assistant Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs drew attention to the programme budget for the biennium 1978-1979. She also indicated that work was currently under way on the preparation of the medium-term plan for 1980-1983. The plan was being elaborated with the priorities of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in mind. She informed the Commission that it would be helpful for the Secretariat to have its guidance on its future work programme so that its suggestions might be taken into account in the preparation of the programme budget for the next biennium. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on working women and the sharing of family responsibilities (E/CN.6/613), she stressed that it sought to examine the scope of the major concepts involved, and analyse the patterns of allocation of household duties among family members and their impact on the family in general and working women in particular. It proposed a number of measures designed to achieve a more equitable distribution of household duties and suggested that the report, together with the views of the Commission on it, might be transmitted to the ILO, which was undertaking a general survey of the application of Recommendation No. 123 concerning the employment of women with family responsibilities (1965). Concerning the special problems relating to the human rights of women detained or imprisoned, she briefly referred to the request of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities contained in its resolution 4 (XXVII) 32/ and to the discussion of that request by the Commission at its resumed twenty-sixth session. The note by the Secretariat on special problems relating to the human rights of women detained or imprisoned contained background information to assist the Commission in its consideration of the matter. It dealt mainly with action taken by the Sub-Commission and the Commission on Human Rights in the field of the human rights of persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; and action taken by the General Assembly. Regarding the influence of activities of foreign economic and

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31/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/32/6), vol. I, sect. 5A, subsect. 8.

32/ See E/CN.4/1180, chap. XXI.

other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent territories, the Assistant Director referred to the legislative background of the issue and explained that the note by the Secretariat on the subject contained relevant background information. The note reviewed in detail the steps taken following the decision by the Commission at its twenty-second session, in 1969, to request that a study be submitted to the Commission by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

154. Many representatives expressed concern about the future of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the United Nations women's programme in the light of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system currently under way. They stressed the special nature of the Commission within the United Nations system in terms of its composition and its objectives, a fact that they strongly hoped the Economic and Social Council would take into account. It was imperative, in their view, that the Council permit the Commission to continue its work. There was agreement, however, that the terms of reference of the Commission could be redefined and strengthened in the light of the new tasks, if necessary, in order to enable it to discharge the specific responsibilities resulting from the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and the United Nations Decade for Women.

155. Questions were raised with respect to the additional staffing that was required for adequate implementation of the vast programme for the Decade.

156. An exchange of views took place regarding items and reports that should be considered by the Commission at its twenty-eighth and subsequent sessions. The majority of representatives felt that the twenty-eighth session should be primarily concerned with the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980. In that connexion, a number of members expressed the view that the session should be held after the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee and prior to the Conference in order to make an appropriate contribution to its preparations and the suggestion was put forward that the session be scheduled in the latter part of 1979 rather than early in 1980. A few representatives, however, were of the opinion that the twenty-eighth session of the Commission should not duplicate the work of the Preparatory Committee and that in any event the Commission should consider substantive items relevant to its normal activities, which were outside the scope of the Conference. A number of representatives felt that the Commission should concentrate its discussions on a few substantive items in order to achieve concrete results.

157. Concerning the special problems of the human rights of women detained or imprisoned, various representatives referred to the inhuman suffering of women who were the victims of sexual abuse, forced prostitution, and torture of various types. They strongly advocated that the Commission should, as soon as possible, respond to the request of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities contained in its resolution 4 (XXVIII) and as such it should consider the question at its twenty-eighth session, on the basis of a report to be prepared by the Secretary-General, in which the findings of scholars and non-governmental organizations that had carried out substantial investigations of the problem would be taken into account. The view was expressed, however, by one representative that the issue was adequately dealt with in the context of the item on the protection

of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, and that there was no need for a special item or report on the subject.

158. Various representatives expressed the view that an item on communications concerning the status of women should be included in the provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission and that the Commission should consider the lists of such communications in accordance with existing procedures under Economic and Social Council resolutions 75 (V), 76 (V) and 304 I (XI). A few representatives were of the opinion that such an item should be included only if the Council so decided, after its consideration of draft resolution X on the subject which the Commission, at its resumed twenty-sixth session, had recommended for adoption.

159. In considering the problems encountered by women who worked both outside and within the home, there was agreement that the improvement of the conditions of women workers was very important, since the majority of women were workers, whether in industry, agriculture, government or elsewhere. Some representatives found the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.6/613) outdated and retrogressive vis-à-vis ILO Recommendation No. 123.

160. The representative of the ILO stated that the revision of Recommendation No. 123 envisaged the elimination of the stereotyping of roles of both men and women. The revision would be based on a report prepared by a committee of experts from information compiled from the replies of Governments to an ILO questionnaire on the implementation of Recommendation No. 123. The representative suggested that, since the draft report was already out, the Commission might wish to submit its views to the Conference of the ILO.

161. A few representatives suggested the inclusion of an item on the influence of the activities of foreign economic and other interests on the living conditions of women in dependent territories and the preparation of a report thereon, as had been requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 1516 (XLVIII).

162. Concerning the influence of the mass communication media on attitudes towards the role of women and men in contemporary society, various representatives agreed that the media could play a crucial role in removing prejudices and sexual stereotyping, thus accelerating the acceptance of women's new and expanded role in society and their integration into the development process as equal partners with men.

163. The Secretary of the Commission explained that, in response to the draft resolution recommended by the Commission at its resumed twenty-sixth session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2063 (LXII) had decided to appoint a Special Rapporteur but that the Rapporteur had not yet been designated. Such designation would be greatly facilitated if the Commission were to propose one or more candidates. In that connexion she reminded members that there was no provision for an honorarium and that the financial implications of the draft resolution adopted last year by the Commission referred only to travel and per diem expenses for two visits to United Nations Headquarters and one visit to UNESCO headquarters.

164. The Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs informed the Commission of current plans regarding the preparation, in conjunction with UNESCO, of a mass media seminar, to be held in Paris in 1979, and

of the possibility of holding another seminar on the image of women and advertising to follow the first one; the second seminar could be held at Headquarters.

165. A number of representatives, referring to General Assembly resolution 32/142, emphasized the need to include in the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session of the Commission an item on the draft declaration 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.

166. A proposal was also made to include in the provisional agenda an item on women in development in order to enable the Commission to consider various substantive aspects of that issue. Compilation of the necessary background documentation on such an item, however, would necessitate collecting information on the many women's programmes undertaken within the United Nations system and on action taken to implement the World Plan of Action not only by governmental but also by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It would also require the establishment of criteria that could measure the involvement of women in the development process as well as the impact of development projects on women.

167. Other proposals for additional items included the status of migrant women workers, the effects of apartheid on the status of women and the status of ratifications of or accessions to all international instruments relating to women, including reservations made as well as reasons that had prevented Member States from becoming parties thereto.

168. The Assistant Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs reminded the Commission that the Economic and Social Council had already requested it to consider at its twenty-eighth session a number of substantive items and reports, among which were the review and appraisal of the implementation of the World Plan of Action and the outline of a Programme of Action for the second half of the Decade, which were basic to the documentation of the World Conference.

Draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women

169. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Commission had before it a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/L.746) containing the following draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-eighth session:

1. Election of officers

[Legislative authority: Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975)]

2. Adoption of the agenda

[Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, rules 5 and 7 of the rules of procedure (E/5975)]

3. Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women:

- (a) Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year:

A report on the review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action will be submitted. [Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 3490 (XXX); Economic and Social Council resolution 2060 (LXII)]

- (b) Programme of action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1980-1985):

A report outlining a programme of concrete action for the second half of the Decade will be submitted. [Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII), paragraph 2]

- (c) Elaboration of a draft declaration 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:

A report containing views and observations of Governments on a text for such a declaration will be submitted. [Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 32/142, draft resolution IV adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its twenty-seventh session 33/]

A progress report on preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women will be submitted.

4. Measures taken to implement the Programme for the United Nations Decade for Women by organizations within the United Nations system and by intergovernmental organizations.

A report of the ILO on its activities of special interest to women will be submitted; [Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 821 IV B (XXXII)]

A report of UNESCO on its activities of special interest to women will be submitted; [Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 154 F (VII); resolutions 6 (XXIII) and 12 (XXIV) of the Commission on the Status of Women]

A report of FAO on its activities of special interest to women will be submitted;

A report of the Inter-American Commission will be submitted; [Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 48 B (IV)]

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33/ See chap. I above.

A report of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women bill be submitted.  
[Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 48 B (IV)]

Note by the Secretary-General on co-ordination of activities within the United Nations system and with intergovernmental organizations for the implementation of the World Plan of Action. [Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 48 B (IV); General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV); resolution 2 (XXVII) of the Commission of the Status of Women]

5. Programme of future work, including a draft provisional agenda for the twenty-ninth session.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-eighth session.

170. At its 705th meeting, on 5 April 1978, the Commission considered the draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-eighth session (E/CN.6/L.746).

171. Some representatives expressed views on the wording of item 3 (c), and after discussion, it was agreed that the words "Consideration of the" should be added before the word "elaboration". Under the same item, it was agreed that the first paragraph of the annotations should read: "A report containing views and observations of Governments concerning the nature and content of such a declaration will be submitted." After a short discussion, it was agreed that the second paragraph would read as follows: "A progress report on preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women including the related subtheme of 'employment, health and education' will be submitted."

172. At the suggestion of two representatives, the addition of WHO to the third paragraph of annotations under item 4 was agreed to. The paragraph would then read as follows: "Reports of FAO and WHO on their activities of special interest to women will be submitted."

173. Various representatives suggested the inclusion of an additional item on communications concerning the status of women. They expressed the view that in spite of the fact that the Economic and Social Council had not taken action on that question the Commission should maintain the item on its agenda and continue to review such communications. Other representatives strongly opposed the inclusion of the item. They were of the opinion that since the Economic and Social Council had not acted the Commission did not have the authority to consider the item. One representative stated that the inclusion of the item would overburden the Commission and the Secretariat and would detract from the major priorities of the Commission. Another representative suggested a compromise wording for the item which would read as follows: "Communications concerning the status of women unless the Economic and Social Council decides otherwise." That was supported by another representative.

174. The following additional item was proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda: "Reports on the integration and role of women in development submitted by United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, regional organizations and institutions and Governments".

176. One representative suggested the inclusion of an item on the special problems relating to the human rights of women detained or imprisoned, as had been requested by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

177. The Chairman noted that the Commission because of lack of time had been unable to approve the draft provisional annotated agenda submitted for its consideration. Under rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, therefore, all the proposals submitted would be considered by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman, for the preparation of the provisional agenda of the twenty-eighth session.

#### Consideration of draft resolution and voting

178. At the 699th meeting, the representative of France, on behalf of the Niger, Togo, and Zaïre, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.734) on the Commission on the Status of Women in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. Indonesia and Senegal joined the sponsors of a revised text (E/CN.6/L.734/Rev.1). At the 702nd meeting, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.734/Rev.2) and further revised it orally to include, as a second preambular paragraph, the following element of draft resolution E/CN.6/L.735 submitted by Belgium, Thailand, Mexico and the United States of America: "Taking into account that the General Assembly, in resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, appealed to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System to ensure that the machinery designed to deal with questions relating to women be strengthened, particularly the role of the Commission on the Status of Women and the procedures established for system-wide review and appraisal of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year; also, the former second preambular paragraph was orally revised to replace the word "privileged" by the word "important". The former third preambular paragraph was orally revised to replace the word "unique" by the word "special". Operative paragraph 4 was orally revised to delete all the words after "1980 Conference".

179. At the 702nd meeting, on 4 April 1978, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. IX below, resolution 9 (XXVII)).

180. The representative of the United States America, on behalf of the sponsors, ~~withdrew~~ draft resolution E/CN.6/L.735.

181. Reservations were expressed by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Sweden, who said that they would have abstained had there been a vote on the draft resolution.



## VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

182. At its 704th meeting, on 5 April 1978, the Commission considered the draft report on its twenty-seventh session (E/CN.6/L.728 and Add.1-10) which it adopted at the 705th meeting, on the same date, and agreed to leave it to the Rapporteur to prepare the remaining sections of the report, which because of the late hour at which the consideration of certain items had been completed, could not be submitted to the Commission.

**IX. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION  
AT ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

**A. Resolutions**

183. The following resolutions were adopted by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session:

**1 (XXVII). Measures to combat prostitution**

**The Commission on the Status of Women,**

**Having regard to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 317 (IV) of 2 December 1949,**

**1. Condemns absolutely this shameful exploitation which, where it exists, continues to detract from the dignity of women;**

**2. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others;**

**3. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a document on the causes and consequences of prostitution and on the socio-economic conditions likely to promote its spread;**

**4. Expresses the wish that, in the second part of the United Nations Decade for Women, decisive measures be taken to combat mutually reinforcing social evils, such as alcoholism and drug addiction and, in particular, prostitution, of which women are the principal victims.**

**2 (XXVII). Co-operation with intergovernmental bodies outside the United Nations system**

**The Commission on the Status of Women,**

**Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 48 (IV) of 29 March 1947,**

**Recalling also General Assembly resolution 2716 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 concerning the programme of concerted international action for the advancement of women,**

**Bearing in mind that various regional intergovernmental bodies, including the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, the**

Commission on the Status of Arab Women, the League of Arab States, and the Pan-African Organization of Women are implementing the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year and other United Nations resolutions relating to the United Nations Decade for Women,

Recalling further that the Commission on the Status of Women in its resolution 15 (XXIV) of 2 March 1972 34/ emphasized the importance of co-ordinating efforts between international organizations and regional and national specialized intergovernmental bodies,

Bearing in mind that the Commission on the Status of Women considered interorganizational co-ordination to be a prime factor in the implementation of the World Plan of Action,

1. Recommends the establishment of close co-ordination between the Commission on the Status of Women and the regional intergovernmental organizations, including the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, the Commission of Arab Women of the League of Arab States, and the Pan-African Organization of Women, and others, as a contribution to the implementation of the Plan of Action at the regional level;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to guarantee the co-ordination of programmes at the regional level which are being implemented by intergovernmental organizations in accordance with the terms of resolution 15 (XXIV) of the Commission on the Status of Women and to report to the Commission at its next session.

3 (XXVII). Provisional agenda for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling resolutions 3520 (XXX), 32/140 and other resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolution 2062 (LXII) concerning the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and the World Conference of the Decade, to be held in 1980,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council should adopt the following draft resolution:

/For the text, see chap. I above, sect. A, draft resolution V/

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34/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (E/5109), chap. VIII.

4 (XXVII). Subtheme of "Employment, Health and Education" for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, and 32/138 and 32/140 of 16 December 1977, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999 (LX) and 12 May 1976 and 2062 (LXII) of 12 May 1977,

Considering that participation of women in economic activities brings them into the mainstream of national development and helps to secure to them an equal status with men, in the family and in society,

Bearing in mind that education, both formal and non-formal, relevant to the particular needs of a country, makes women far more effective in achieving their social, political, economic and other goals and which, in turn, benefits their society,

Recommends that the Economic and Social Council adopt the following draft resolution:

/For the text, see chap. I above, sect. A, draft resolution VII/

5 (XXVII). Women in development and international conferences

The Commission on the Status of Women,

/For the text, see chap. I above, sect. C/

6 (XXVII). Inclusion of the question of consumer protection in the Programme of Action for the second half of the United Nations Decade for Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and 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, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2111 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977,

Aware that the Economic and Social Council is now studying the situation with regard to the existing laws and institutions on consumer protection in developing countries with the aim of determining the possible need to provide technical assistance to Governments which request it,

Recognizing that women, as well as men have a fundamental interest in having adequate safety and health standards guaranteed and in having their purchasing power protected against fraud, deception, economic manipulation and other commercial abuses,

**Noting that the inflation which is affecting the whole world constitutes a very serious problem,**

**Recognizing further that women as a result of their experience, are as qualified as men to play a significant role in this important area of development and consequently in the decision-making process,**

**1. Requests the Secretary-General to send to this Commission also a copy of the survey of the institutional and legal arrangements existing in the field of individual consumer protection at the national level requested in Economic and Social Council resolution 2111 (LXIII) of 4 August 1977;**

**2. Recommends that the revised World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year should take into account the following objectives for action:**

**(a) At the national level:**

- (i) The formulation of broad legislation for the protection of the consumer based on the consumer's right to be informed and protected against dangers to his safety and health;**
- (ii) The establishment of suitable institutions to ensure the formulation and maintenance of adequate standards governing the safety, health, information and quality and performance of products;**
- (iii) The introduction and strengthening of consumer education services in organized groups, schools and the mass media;**

**(b) At the regional level:**

- (i) The exchange among Governments of information on consumer standards;**
- (ii) Technical co-operation in product testing and the establishment of standards;**
- (iii) The establishment of regional standards, as appropriate;**

**(c) At the international level:**

**Urge Governments to request the Economic and Social Council to study this subject in depth with a view to developing international guidelines on consumer protection so as to establish international minimum standards of health, safety and the availability of consumer information.**

**7 (XXVII). Protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence**

**The Commission on the Status of Women,**

**Recalling its resolution 4 (XXII) of 3 February 1969, on the protection of women and children in emergency or wartime, fighting for peace, national liberation and independence,**

**Further recalling the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, contained in General Assembly resolution 3318 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1515 (XLVIII) of 28 May 1970 and 1687 (LII) of 2 June 1972,**

**Noting with appreciation the progress made in the development of international humanitarian law applicable for the protection of women and children in armed conflicts by the two Additional Protocols adopted at the final session of the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts on 8 June 1977,**

**Mindful of the role that humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross play in alleviating the suffering of victims, especially of women and children,**

**Convinced that adherence to and observance of the Additional Protocols will greatly improve the protection of the civilian population in emergency and armed conflicts,**

**1. Calls upon all States and all parties to armed conflicts, in emergency situations in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence, to accord special protection to women and children in accordance with the relevant international provisions applicable in armed conflicts and to give every possible support to the work of international humanitarian organizations to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population, especially women and children, in these conflicts;**

**2. Calls upon relevant international humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue to do their utmost for the protection of the civilian population, especially of women and children, in emergency and armed conflicts, including those in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence;**

**3. Requests international humanitarian organization helping the civilian population in armed conflicts to give special care to pregnant women and mothers with small children and to orphans;**

**4. Expresses its appreciation that the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, adopted by the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts, improve and extend the protection of the civilian population, including women and children, in armed conflicts;**

5. Urges all States to consider the Additional Protocols and to observe them for the protection of women and children;

6. Requests Governments, when deciding on their contributions to the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the United Nations fund for southern Africa, to consider the beneficial work of such organizations and funds for the protection of women and children.

8 (XXVII). Reuniting of families who have been victims of apartheid

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on the effects of apartheid on the status of women in South Africa, Namibia and Southern Rhodesia (E/CN.6/619), and of the relevant reports submitted by the specialized agencies,

Mindful of the constraints imposed on women in these countries by discriminatory labour, travel and residence laws inherent in the apartheid régime,

Deeply concerned by the pernicious effects of this situation on families divided in this way,

Believing such provisions to be contrary to the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

1. Condemns such inhuman practices, which detract from the dignity of women victimized by apartheid;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to seek, with the assistance of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, measures designed to ensure that the conditions necessary to prevent families from being divided are created;

3. Further requests Governments and non-governmental organizations to furnish humanitarian aid to women victimized by apartheid.

9 (XXVIII). The Commission on the Status of Women in the context of the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system

The Commission on the Status of Women,

/For the text, see chap. I above, sect. C/

B. Decisions

184. The following decisions were adopted by the Commission at its twenty-seventh session:

1 (XXVII). Letter addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations

At its 683rd meeting, on 20 March 1978, the Commission authorized the Chairman to address the following letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations:

"On this the 21st day of March 1978, being International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the beginning of International Anti-Apartheid Year, the Commission on the Status of Women, at its twenty-seventh session, wishes to express its support for, and sympathy with, all victims of racial discrimination, noting that, at this session, there is for the first time on the Commission's agenda an item concerning the effects of apartheid on the status of women."

2 (XXVII). Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 3490 (XXX), the Commission, at its 705th meeting, on 5 April 1978, decided to transmit to the Economic and Social Council, through the Committee for Development Planning and the Committee on Review and Appraisal, the report of the Secretary-General on review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year (E/CN.6/611), together with an account of its discussion of that report at its twenty-seventh session. 35/

3 (XXVII). World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

At its 705th meeting, on 5 April 1978, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it adopt the following draft decision:

For the text, see chap. I above, sect. B/

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35/ See chap. III above.



## X. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### Opening and duration of the session

185. The Commission on the Status of Women held its twenty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 20 March to 5 April 1978. The Commission held 26 plenary meetings (680th-705th meetings).

186. The session was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

### Attendance

187. The following States members of the Commission were represented: Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, New Zealand, Niger, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela and Zaire. The following State member of the Commission was not represented: Gabon. Observers of other States Members of the United Nations, representatives of bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations also attended the session. A complete list is given in annex I to the present report.

### Election of officers

188. The Commission proceeded to the election of its Chairman at its opening (680th) meeting. Since there were two nominees, namely, Mrs. E. K. Romanovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mrs. Janet Cockcroft (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), the election took place by secret ballot in accordance with rule 66 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions. Mrs. Cockcroft received 19 votes and Mrs. Romanovich received 11. Mrs. Cockcroft, having received the largest number of votes, was declared elected Chairman.

189. Prior to the election, the representative of Belgium pointed out that the system of rotating the chairmanship had been discontinued at the twenty-sixth session, so that, in view of her special competence, the chairman of the working group which had prepared the draft convention on the elimination of discrimination against women could occupy that post. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics observed that in keeping with this principle of rotation, it should have been the turn of the socialist group of States to exercise the chairmanship at the current session. The election of a representative of the Western countries violated that generally accepted principle. Moreover, the election to the office of Chairman of a representative of a country which was a permanent member of the Security Council set an undesirable precedent. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed reservations regarding the

observation by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics about the appropriateness of a representative of a permanent member of the Security Council holding the chairmanship. Two representatives of the Western group reminded the Commission of the agreement referred to earlier by the representative of Belgium, in the light of which Mrs. Crockcroft's election had been fully in accord with the principle of rotation. The representative of the German Democratic Republic suggested that the Commission should decide at the current session that the chairmanship of the twenty-eighth session should go to the socialist States of Eastern Europe. The representative of the Niger felt that such a decision would be premature and that any groups which wished to do so should be free to submit a nomination for the chairmanship at the next session. The Commission took no action on the matter.

190. At its 681st meeting, on 20 March 1978, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation: Vice-Chairmen: Mrs. E. K. Romanovich (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Mrs. Homa Rouhi (Iran) and Mrs. Farida Allaghi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya); Rapporteur: Mrs. Verónica Peñalver de Lepage (Venezuela).

191. At its 682nd meeting, on 21 March 1978, the Commission was informed that Mrs. Verónica Peñalver de Lepage, who had been elected to the office of Rapporteur in her absence, and without prior consultation, could not assume that function because she would not be present for the whole of the Commission's session. An official communication to that effect had been sent to the secretariat of the Commission by the Permanent Mission of Venezuela. The Latin American group therefore nominated Miss Corinne Baptiste of the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, who was duly elected.

#### Agenda

192. The Commission considered its agenda at the 681st and 682nd meetings. It had before it the revised provisional agenda (E/CN.6/609/Rev.1), drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission at its twenty-sixth session.

193. The Commission adopted a proposal by the representative of the German Democratic Republic to revise item 4 by deleting the words "including preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, 1980" at the end of subitem (a); by adding a new subitem (b) reading "Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, including the action called for in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999 (LX) and 2062 (LXII) and General Assembly resolutions 3520 (XXX), 32/140, 32/197 and 32/142 in which the Commission was requested to consider the elaboration of a draft declaration"; and by renumbering former subitem (b) as subitem (c). A proposal by the representative of Denmark to add as item 7 entitled "Communications concerning the Status of Women". This proposal was adopted by 12 votes to 9, with 7 abstentions. A few representatives noted the irregularity of including this item in the agenda of the session since the matter was being considered by the Economic and Social Council. As reflected in the vote, other representatives did not share that view. The Commission adopted its agenda, as a whole, as amended. The text is reproduced in annex II to the present report.

## Organization of work

194. At the 682nd meeting, the Commission approved the suggestions made in a note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.6/L.727).

### Summary records, resolutions and recommendations

195. At its 682nd meeting, the Commission decided to have summary records of the discussion of agenda items 4, 6 and 8.

196. The draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council are reproduced in chap. I of the present report.

197. The documents before the Commission at its twenty-seventh session are listed in annex IV.

### Consultations with non-governmental organizations

198. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the observers of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements during the twenty-seventh session:

Category I: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities (item 4)

International Council of Women (item 3)

International Organization of Consumers Unions (item 4)

International Planned Parenthood Federation (item 4)

Women's International Democratic Federation (items 5 and 6)

World Federation of Trade Unions (item 4)

Category II: International Council of Social Democratic Women (item 4)

St. Joan's International Alliance (item 3)

199. The written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations are included in the list of documents in annex IV.

200. Pursuant to a proposal by the representative of Denmark, the Commission authorized the Chairman, at its 683rd meeting, to send a letter to the Secretary-General on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the beginning of the International Anti-Apartheid Year (see chap. IX above, sect. A, decision 1 (XXVII)).

201. In accordance with resolution 32/129 adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 1977, the Secretary-General invited the Commission on the Status of Women to participate as an observer in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held at Geneva from 14 to 25 August 1978.

202. In response to that invitation, the Commission, at its 705th meeting, on 5 April 1978, decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it designate Mrs. Sonja Fredgardh to represent the Commission in the capacity of observer at the World Conference (see chap. I above, sect. B, draft decision).

203. The Commission was informed of the financial implications before the decision was taken (see annex III below).

ANNEXES

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

Belgium: Marijke Van Hemeldonck; A. M. Lisin;\* M. A. Lary;\* Johan Verkercke\*

Bulgaria: Maria Dinkova

Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic: E. K. Romanovich, I. I. Gladkovskaya;\*  
S. S. Khmel'nitsky\*

Cuba: Esther Véliz; Olga Finlay;\* Ana María Navarro\*

Denmark: Dorte Bennedsen; Eigil Pedersen;\* Marianne Lehmann\*

Dominican Republic: Licelott Marte de Barrios a/; Ana Esther de la Maza;\*  
Myrtha Tavez de Grossman\*

Ethiopia: Debebe Worku

France: Marcelle DeVaud; Robert Fauris\*

Gabon: b/

German Democratic Republic: Helga Hörz; Horst Keilau;\* Heinz Dühring\*

Germany, Federal Republic of: Inge Donnepp; Christoph Merkel;\* Irene Maier;\*  
Dieter Schaad;\* Elisabeth Haines;\* Gesine Wacup\*

India: A. J. Dastur; S. Magumdar\*

Indonesia: Suwarni Saljo; Pek Poedjioetomo;\* Sapartini K. Jakti\*

Iran: Homa Rouhi; Shirin Sami;\* Maryan Shamlou\*

Japan: Ayako Oba

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: Zohra Alfallah; Fatma Hussein Algabsi\*

Madagascar: Andreas Monique Claudine Rasonirina

Mexico: Hilda Anderson Nevarez de Roja; Consuela Saenz de Miera\*

\* Alternate.

a/ Did not attend.

b/ Not represented at the session.

New Zealand: Colleen Dewe; Jan Beagle\*

Niger: Sabatier Gani Diaroume; Alzouma Louissette\*

Pakistan: Taxeen Faridi; Khurshid Hyder\*

Peru: Bertha Vega Pérez; Carmen Silva de Arana\*

Senegal: Léna Gueye a/; Samba Mbodj\*

Sweden: Sonja Fredgardh; Karin Ahrland;\* Johan Nordenfelt\*

Thailand: Khunying Amporn Meesook

Togo: Alonkoba Aithnard; Awa Nana;\* Latévi-Atcho Lawson\*

Trinidad and Tobago: Elmina Clarke-Allen; Corinne Baptiste\*

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: T. N. Nikolayeva

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Janet Cockcroft;  
Grace Thornton;\*  
Alison Richard;\* Richard Edis\*

United States of America: Koryne Horbal; Barabar J. Good\*

Venezuela: Verónica Peñalver de Lepage; Edith Márquez de Pereyra\*

Zaire: Lunanna Luniny; Mbali Ma Mbalikada;\* Muthshaila Irung;\* Moyila Ngonda Bempu\*

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Egypt, Finland, Israel, Netherlands,  
Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Sudan, Yugoslavia.

Non-members of the United Nations represented by an observer

Holy See

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 Development Programme, World Food Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research

## Specialized agencies

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

## Other intergovernmental organization represented by observers

League of Arab States (Commission on the Status of Arab Women), Organization of African Unity, Organization of American States (Inter-American Commission of Women)

## Liberation movement

Palestine Liberation Organization

## Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Alliance of Women, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Organization of Consumers' Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of Trade Unions

Category II: Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'i International Community, Baptist World Alliance, International Council of Social Democratic Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Soroptimist International, St. Joan's International Alliance, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, World Movement of Mothers, World Young Women's Christian Association, Zonta International.

Annex II

**AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION**

1. **Election of officers**
2. **Adoption of the agenda**
3. **International instruments and standards relating to the status of women: implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against women**
4. **Developments relating to the programme for the United Nations Decade for Women:**
  - (a) **Implementation of the programme for the Decade**
  - (b) **Preparations for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, including the action called for in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999 (LX) and 2062 (LXII) and General Assembly resolutions 3520 (XXX), 32/140, 32/197 and 32/142 which requests the Commission to consider the elaboration of a draft declaration**
  - (c) **Review and appraisal of progress achieved in the implementation of the World Plan of Action**
5. **Protection of women and children in emergency and armed conflict in the struggle for peace, self-determination, national liberation and independence**
6. **The effects of apartheid on the status of women**
7. **Communications concerning the status of women**
8. **Programme of work, including the draft provisional agenda for the twenty-eighth session of the Commission**
9. **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twenty-seventh session**



Annex III

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS TAKEN  
BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Oral statement of financial implications of  
draft resolution E/CN.6/L.743 a/

1. Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution reads as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to take all appropriate measures to provide the regional commissions, from the regular budget of the United Nations, with the financial resources and personnel necessary to enable them to undertake the implementation of the World Plan of Action;"

2. The proposals contained in the World Plan of Action were endorsed by the General Assembly in 1975 in resolution 3520 (XXX). This resolution invited the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to submit proposals and suggestions for implementing the Plan of Action to the Economic and Social Council at its sixty-second session and also requested the Secretary-General to take its requirements into account in preparing revised estimates for 1977 and the medium-term plan for 1978-1981.

3. The measures taken to implement the World Plan of Action were reported to the General Assembly at its thirty-first session in document A/31/220 and reference is made to the Plan of Action in both the medium-term plan for 1978-1981 and the budget for the current biennium, which began on 1 January 1978.

4. General Assembly resolution 31/93, which concerns the medium-term plan, urges the sectoral, functional and regional programme formulating organs to refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan and the subsequent programme budget unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises as determined by the General Assembly. In resolution 32/206, in which the Assembly urges subsidiary bodies to refrain from making recommendations on the relative priority of the major programmes, as outlined in the medium-term plan, those bodies are also requested to propose, through the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence. This wording may also be found in paragraph 40, section VI of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197, on restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination will be reviewing the medium-term plan for 1980-1983 at its eighteenth session later this year.

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a/ Subsequently a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.743/Rev.1) was submitted and adopted by the Commission (see chap. I above, sect. A, draft resolution II).

5. This information demonstrates the two following points. The first is that the Secretary-General was fully aware of the provisions of the World Plan of Action at the time that he prepared the current medium-term plan and programme budget, and took these provisions into consideration within the framework of the over-all policy of budgetary restraint within which he has to operate. The second point is that the Secretary-General, by virtue of the financial regulations, is not empowered to transfer resources between sections of the budget. Each regional commission represents a separate section. Consequently, the implementation of the present resolution would require that, in order to finance augmented activities in certain programmes of the regional commissions, other programmes would have to be correspondingly reduced. The Commission on the Status of Women may wish to take these matters into account in any recommendations it may make to the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination.

6. As regards operative paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, the Commission may be aware that the African Centre for Research and Training for Women is one of three subprogrammes within the programme of social development in the Economic Commission for Africa. Its funding has come partly from the regular budget and partly from voluntary contributions. Although paragraph 3 of the present draft resolution is addressed to the General Assembly and not to the Secretary-General, it should be noted that both the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee are becoming increasingly reluctant to approve transfers of funding from extra-budgetary sources to the regular budget except when a clear legislative mandate has been given. Such mandates have, in the past, normally referred to larger organizational units than the one under consideration in the present draft resolution. In this connexion, the attention of the Commission is again drawn to resolutions 32/197 and 32/206 in which the General Assembly invited subsidiary bodies to propose, through the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination, relative priorities to be accorded to various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence.

Oral statement of the financial implications of  
draft resolution E/CN.6/L.744 b/

7. The Secretary-General notes that while under the terms of paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, women from the liberation movements of southern Africa would be invited to participate as observers in the future sessions of the Commission and meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, to be held in 1980, no reference is made to funding the cost of such travel and subsistence under the regular budget of the United Nations. Consequently, the paragraph as it stands contains no financial implications.

8. Should the draft resolution be amended in such a way as to include a request for a provision of funds for travel, the financial implication would entail the cost of

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b/ Replaced by E/CN.6/L.744/Rev.1. Subsequently, a second revised version (E/CN.6/L.744/Rev.2) was submitted and adopted by the Commission (see chap. I, draft resolution VIII).

travel and subsistence of four representatives of the national liberation movements to attend the twenty-eighth session of the Commission and two sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference, in 1978 and 1979, estimated at \$25,000.

9. Operative paragraph 8 of the draft resolution calls for a report to be prepared on the interrelationship between the goals of transnational corporations and discriminatory practices and the deplorable conditions to which non-white populations, in particular women and children, are subjected.

10. In this connexion, the Secretary-General draws the attention of the Commission to resolution 32/197 on restructuring and specifically to section VI of the annex to that resolution concerning planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation. Paragraph 4 of the annex to the resolution refers to the procedure for the submission of statements of programme budget implications to intergovernmental bodies and requires that such statements shall indicate, as appropriate, related programmes already indicated in the medium-term plan, the percentage increase in the expenditures of the Secretariat units concerned and the resources which could be released from any programme elements which have become obsolete, of marginal usefulness or ineffective.

11. Should a proposal related to new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan, the provisions of resolution 31/93 would apply, wherein sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs are urged to refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan and the subsequent programme budget unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises as determined by the General Assembly.

12. In the present instance, no provision exists in the present plan and budget for a study of the type indicated, and consequently it would be necessary for the Commission to consider whether to recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that the proposal represents a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature.

13. For the information of the Commission, it is estimated that outside expertise would be required for the completion of the report. It is further estimated that, should the General Assembly decide to include this programme element in the programme of work for 1979, the costs involved would be of the order of \$20,000 and could be met from within available resources on the programme budget for 1978-1979.

Financial implications of the draft decision recommended  
by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social  
Council (see chapter I above, section B, decision)

14. The financial implications of the decision taken by the Commission to designate Mrs. Sonja Fredgardh, of Sweden, of the representative Commission, in the capacity of observer, at the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held at Geneva, from 14 to 25 August 1978, would involve the payment of round-trip economy class airfare between Stockholm and Geneva and per diem for two weeks, in a total estimated amount of \$1,800.

Annex IV

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

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/609	2	Provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session
E/CN.6/609/Rev.1	2	Revised provisional agenda for the twenty-seventh session
E/CN.6/610	4	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/611 and Add.1	4	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/612 and Corr.1	5	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/613	8	Report of the Secretary-General on working women and the sharing of household duties
E/CN.6/614 and Corr.1	4	Report of the International Labour Organization on its activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/615	4	Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on its activities of special interest to women
E/CN.6/616	4	Report of the Inter-American Commission of Women
E/CN.6/617	4	Report of the Commission on the Status of Arab Women
E/CN.6/618	2	Agenda for the twenty-seventh session as adopted
E/CN.6/619	6	Report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.6/INF.30		List of representatives to the twenty-seventh session

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/L.727	2	Organization of work
E/CN.6/L.728 and Add.1-10	9	Draft report of the Commission on the twenty-seventh session
E/CN.6/L.729	5	Germany, Federal Republic of: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.730	3 and 4	Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.730/Rev.1	3 and 4	<u>/same sponsors/</u> : revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.731	4	Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Madagascar: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.732	4	Bulgaria and Byelorussian Socialist Republic: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.733	4	Belgium, Denmark, France, Sweden and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.734	8	France, Niger, Togo and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.734/Rev.1	8	<u>/same sponsors/</u> : revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.734/Rev.2	8	<u>/same sponsors/</u> : revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.735	8	Belgium, Thailand, Mexico and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.736	4	Argentina,* Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, Niger, Peru, Senegal, Togo, Venezuela and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.736/Rev.1	4	<u>/same sponsors/</u> : revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.737	4	Germany, Federal Republic of, Iran and Mexico: draft resolution

\*Observer

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/L.737/Rev.1	4	[same sponsors]: Belgium, New Zealand and Thailand: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.738	3	France, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.738/Rev.1	3	[same sponsors]: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.739	4	Belgium, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.740	4	France, Indonesia, Mexico, Niger, Pakistan, Thailand and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.740/Rev.1	4	[same sponsors]: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.741	4	Mexico, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.741/Rev.1	4	[same sponsors]: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.742 and Corr.1	6	France, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal, Sweden, Thailand and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.743	4	Ethiopia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Zaire: draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.743/Rev.1	4	[same sponsors]: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.744	6	Replaced by E/CN.6/L.744/Rev.1
E/CN.6/L.744/Rev.1	6	Ethiopia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal, Togo and Zaire: revised draft resolution

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/L.744/Rev.2	6	[same sponsors]: and India: revised draft resolution
E/CN.6/L.745	3 and 4	France: amendments to document E/CN.6/L.730
E/CN.6/L.746	8	Draft provisional annotated agenda for the twenty-eighth session
E/CN.6/NGO/276	4	Statement submitted by the International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council of Women, Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'í International Community, Baptist World Alliance, Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc., International Council of Social Democratic Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Rehabilitation International, Soroptimist International, St. Joan's International Alliance, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Movement of Mothers, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, World Women's Christian Temperance Union and Zonta International
E/CN.6/NGO/277	4	Statement submitted by the Associated Country Women of the World
E/CN.6/NGO/278	6	Statement submitted by the Associated Country Women of the World
E/CN.6/NGO/279	4	Statement submitted by the Bahá'í International Community
E/CN.6/NGO/280	4	Statement submitted by Soroptimist International

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.6/NGO/281	4	Statement submitted by the International Federation of University Women
E/CN.6/NGO/282	5	Statement submitted by the World Movement of Mothers