



SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 53rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SOBHY (Egypt)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/34/SR.53
26 November 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the deadline for inscription on the list of speakers on item 80 (a)-(d) should be 6 p.m.

2. It was so decided.

3. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions under item 81 should be extended to 1 p.m.

4. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 77: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.3/34/L.38)

5. The CHAIRMAN noted that the draft resolution in document A/C.3/34/L.38 had been adopted without a vote by the Economic and Social Council.

6. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.38 without a vote.

7. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 72: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR (continued) (A/34/468 and Corr.1; A/C.3/34/L.39)

8. Mr. VOICU (Romania), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.39, said that Bhutan, Chile, the Congo, Cuba, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Qatar, Turkey, Uganda and the Upper Volta had joined the sponsors. The draft resolution was a follow-up to General Assembly resolution 33/7 and further developed the efforts made by the Committee to ensure adequate preparation for the holding of an international youth year, which would be an important event in the sphere of international co-operation. The preambular part of the draft resolution was a synthesis of the Committee's thinking on the subject of youth. During the course of consultations delegations had emphasized in connexion with the fourth preambular paragraph that in the promotion of international co-operation and understanding among youth, the history, traditions, spiritual values and cultural heritage of each nation should be fully preserved and respected. Taking into account the experiences of the International Year of the Child, the sponsors had included in the draft resolution a preambular paragraph recognizing that the preparation and observance of an international youth year would contribute to the reaffirmation of the goals of the new international economic order. In connexion with the eleventh preambular paragraph, many delegations had emphasized the value and importance of youth activities organized under the auspices of regional organizations. Operative paragraph 1, containing the decision to designate 1985 as "International Youth Year: Development and Peace", was based on the over-all content of the replies from Governments summarized in the report of the Secretary-General (A/34/468). The sponsors believed that the Advisory Committee for International Youth Year should

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be convened in 1980 to prepare the programme for the Year so as to maintain the impetus of the General Assembly's decision to proclaim International Youth Year and to develop it by appropriate action in the years to come. In connexion with operative paragraph 7, one delegation had stressed the need to encourage the development of communications among young people within the framework of the preparation for the Year, and, in particular, the need for regional and international meetings to be convened between developed and developing countries to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experience and help all countries better understand one another and make a more substantial contribution to the cause of world peace and development. Operative paragraph 8 appealed for generous voluntary contributions in view of the modest financial resources available to the United Nations for implementing specific actions and programmes in the field of youth. Taking into account the fact that the draft resolution was a follow-up to General Assembly resolution 33/7, which had been adopted by consensus, the sponsors considered that it met all the requirements for adoption by consensus.

9. With regard to the questions raised by delegations during consultations on the draft resolution, his delegation noted that the delegations which had suggested changes in the title of the Year had not been able to reach agreement on a new theme. It felt that the title "Development and Peace" was adequate; moreover, it was based on the views of States which had been officially communicated to the Secretary-General over the years, and on the Secretary-General's report and proposals. The concept of participation was clearly and specifically referred to in the second, sixth, eighth and ninth preambular paragraphs, thus anticipating the concerns of those delegations which wanted to include that concept in the title of the Year. The inclusion of the word "participation" in the title could give rise to confusion, since the word had different meanings in different languages and could lend itself to a number of interpretations. The definitions of the word "participation" in the Grand Larousse, the Oxford Dictionary and the Great Soviet Encyclopedia differed significantly.

10. His delegation considered that the proposal to include the expression "youth organizations" in several of the operative paragraphs was already met in the text since the expression "non-governmental organization" included international youth organizations. Youth organizations should not be singled out, because other non-governmental organizations were also concerned with youth, for example, the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

11. The proposal that the Advisory Committee for International Youth Year should not meet until 1982 was highly debatable. It was not a good idea to proclaim a Year and then decide upon its programme three years later: public opinion and Governments would be very disconcerted by such a procedure, and it would also slow down the momentum created by the proclamation, by consensus, of International Youth Year. Moreover, the United Nations had no institutional structure for the preparation of the Year. It was therefore essential that the Advisory Committee should be convened in 1980. The Advisory Committee might not have to meet every year after that once it adopted the programme of the Year.

12. As to the idea of including a reference in the preambular part of draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.39 to Economic and Social Council decision 1979/64 entitled "International years and anniversaries", he noted that that decision had been purely

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procedural. However, the report of the Secretary-General on international years and anniversaries (E/1979/85) would be a very useful document for the work of the Advisory Committee and it was to be hoped that the Secretary-General would include it among the official documents of the Advisory Committee.

13. Mr. O'DONOVAN (Ireland) said that his delegation and a number of others which had suggested changes in draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.39 were not opposed to the convening of International Youth Year but considered that there should be thorough and adequate preparation for it. Nor were they opposed to the proposal to observe the Year in 1985. However, they felt that the Year should not be simply a year for youth but also a year of youth, and they therefore wanted to include the word "participation" in the title of the Year and to refer in the body of the draft resolution to the role which youth organizations could play. They also had serious doubts about the proposal that the Advisory Committee for International Youth Year should meet first in 1980 and then annually, because of its financial implications and also because it did not seem necessary. It would be preferable for the Advisory Committee to meet in 1982 and thereafter as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 80: UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (A/34/357, A/34/542)

- (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3519 (XXX): REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/471, A/34/113, A/34/391)
- (b) STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN EDUCATION AND IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/321, A/34/577)
- (c) INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/579)
- (d) VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/34/612)
- (e) WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN: REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE (A/CONF.94/PC/12; A/34/657 and Add.1)

14. Mrs. SIIPIIÄ (Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs), noting that a major review and appraisal of the progress made and obstacles encountered in action to achieve the objectives of the International Women's Year and the Decade for Women would be undertaken at the coming World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, introduced the documents on the item. The Secretary-General's report on women's participation in the strengthening of international peace and security and in the struggle against colonialism, racism, racial discrimination, foreign aggression and occupation and all forms of foreign domination (A/34/471) had been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 3519 (XXX) and 32/142 and was based on replies received from nine Governments, three specialized agencies and 22 non-governmental organizations. The report also made use of relevant information

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contained in replies from Governments to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretary-General in January 1979 concerning the implementation of the World Plan of Action adopted at the 1975 World Conference of the International Women's Year at Mexico City.

15. The Secretary-General's report on the status of women in education and in the economic and social fields (A/34/577) was a very comprehensive report based on replies from 73 Governments to the Secretary-General's questionnaire just referred to and on information provided by 51 organizations. The report offered an in-depth survey of the present condition of women and the possibilities for improvement in the less developed and more developed countries of the world. The conclusions of the report emphasized the close interdependence between the improvement of the situation of women and several broader social and economic factors affecting development as a whole.

16. The Secretary-General's report on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (A/34/579) dealt first with the questions of host facilities for the Institute and indicated that following the withdrawal by the Government of Iran on 12 January 1979 of its offer to serve as host country for the Institute, the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1979/11 had recommended that the Institute should be located in the Dominican Republic. Pending the signature of the agreement between the Government of the host country and the United Nations, substantive and administrative preparation for the establishment of the Institute would continue in New York. The report also covered the appointment of the Board of Trustees of the Institute and the President of the Board. Some significant developments had taken place in October and November 1979 since the issue of the report. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Institute had been held in Geneva in October 1979. The meeting had been attended by the 10 members of the Board appointed by the Council, the Board President and the ex-officio members of the Board, namely the representative of the Secretary-General and the directors and representatives of the regional centres and programmes for women of the regional commissions of the United Nations. Observers from seven specialized agencies and institutions of the United Nations system and of regional intergovernmental organizations concerned had also attended. The Board had adopted the programme of work and budget of the Institute for the biennium 1980-1981, as well as guidelines for the immediate and long-term actions of the Institute. The Board had also given a definite mandate to the Secretary-General to take all necessary administrative and financial measures to initiate the activities of the work programme without delay, in order to ensure that the Institute could make a significant contribution to the documentation and studies to be presented to the 1980 World Conference. The report of the Board's meeting would be presented to the coming regular session of the Economic and Social Council. At the recent 1979 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, \$17,508 had been pledged to the Institute, which should be added to the previous sum of \$1,636,882 already pledged or contributed to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Institute. The Board of Trustees had at its first meeting placed great emphasis on the necessity of seeking new and more important resources for the Institute in order to allow it to perform its functions and attain its goals.

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17. The Secretary-General's report on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women (A/34/612) showed that, although the Voluntary Fund had become operational less than two years earlier, it had already given support to 93 projects in developing countries and regions. Ongoing commitments through 1981 amounted to \$6.5 million. In April 1979, on the advice of the Consultative Committee to the Fund, new procedures had been adopted with UNDP for submission of project proposals directly from the country level and not through the regional commissions. As a result, demands on the Fund's resources began to multiply immediately, reaching \$4 million in the current year, and the Fund's ability to reach rural women and low-income women in urban areas at the country level had been increased. The Fund had also benefited immeasurably from co-operation with the major funding organizations within the United Nations system, in particular UNDP and UNICEF. Such co-operation included reviews of project proposals and the referral of projects within the mandates of those organizations, thus expanding the technical and financial capacity of the Fund as well as its administrative efficiency. The Fund also enjoyed the full co-operation of the United Nations and its specialized agencies as executing agencies for projects at the country and regional levels working with the regional commissions and UNDP. She drew particular attention to section III of the report, which described innovative activities supported by the Fund, and to annex I, which listed the 53 projects approved in 1979. The projects exemplified the Fund's role as a catalyst for encouraging the wider involvement of women in the economic life and development efforts of their countries. The improved procedures implemented in collaboration with UNDP helped to ensure that projects receiving assistance from the Fund were integrated into wider development efforts of Governments and the United Nations family of organizations and that concern for women was not an isolated but an integrated contribution to national and regional development.

18. Mrs. MAIR (Secretary-General, World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women) said that a detailed programme of preparations for the World Conference, and for the work of the Conference itself, had been adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 33/189, which included a decision to establish a Conference secretariat to prepare the Conference. Because of certain inevitable delays it had not been possible for the Conference secretariat to begin work in January 1979, as had originally been planned, nor had it been possible for the secretariat to reach its full staff complement until recently. Nevertheless, all of the functions foreseen in resolutions 33/185 and 33/189 concerning the Conference's subtheme of "Employment, Health and Education" had been carried out. It had also been possible to develop, within the General Assembly's guidelines, a number of parallel activities which would be focused on the Conference and would strengthen its work. The Conference secretariat had received the invaluable support of a number of other sections of the United Nations Secretariat, the specialized agencies, the regional economic commissions and Member States. Regional meetings in preparation for the World Conference, originally planned for the first half of 1979, had been delayed for a variety of reasons. The meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe on the economic contribution of women to that region had been held in Paris in July 1979; the preparatory meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had taken place in New Delhi in early November, and the meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America had been held in mid-November in Venezuela.

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Still to come were the regional meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa, to be held in Lusaka in early December, and that of the Economic Commission for Western Asia, to be held in mid-December. The three regional meetings held so far had demonstrated by their high levels of participation the strong and growing commitment of Member States to the objectives of the Decade. Each, in the way most appropriate to its region, had made a valuable contribution to advancing the cause of women at the national and regional levels and had contributed significantly to the work of preparing the documentation for the Conference. That documentation, in common with other aspects of the preparatory work, had been subject to initial delays, due mainly to difficulties encountered by Member States in collecting the very comprehensive information which had been requested in the Secretary-General's questionnaire and on which the task of review and appraisal of progress made in implementing the Mexico Plan of Action was to be based. She was happy to report that the Secretariat had now received replies from 86 Member States, which, along with information provided by the specialized agencies and other branches of the United Nations system, had yielded approximately 6,000 pages of raw data, which was now being reviewed and evaluated by the Conference secretariat for initial presentation to the Commission on the Status of Women.

19. Negotiations with the host Government, Denmark, had been proceeding most satisfactorily and she was confident that participants in the Conference could look forward to excellent facilities. The programme of information for the Conference was fully staffed. A series of radio programmes was being produced and distributed and the printed materials called for by the General Assembly would soon become available. Those efforts were being supplemented by programmes funded at the regional level and would be reinforced by information activities on the part of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies. She also wished to acknowledge the contribution of non-governmental organizations, both in disseminating information about the Conference and in undertaking such activities as seminars and meetings on subjects related to the Conference agenda. Such activities continued to be of real value in the critical task of mobilizing public opinion world-wide.

20. Turning to the report of the Preparatory Committee in document A/CONF.94/PC/12, she said that the Committee had made considerable progress at its most recent session. It had considered the draft rules of procedure and had reached a number of decisions. It had decided to leave it to the General Assembly to deal with the following matters: the number of Vice-Presidents, the distribution of offices of the Bureau and the question of how the Conference could most effectively deal with its work in terms of the number of simultaneous meetings required. Furthermore, the Committee had suggested guidelines for use, along with other material, in the preparation of the Conference documents in respect of both the item on the effects of apartheid on the women of southern Africa and the programme of action to be proposed for the remainder of the Decade. In the context of the document on review and appraisal, agreement had been reached that attention should be paid to the economic and social needs of Palestinian women. Finally, it had been concluded that for a number of reasons, the most important of which was the delay in holding the regional preparatory meetings, a third session of the Preparatory Committee would be necessary. In that connexion, the secretariat had

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been asked to prepare detailed proposals, including budgetary provisions, in six general areas which had been identified by the Preparatory Committee at its second session (A/CONF.94/PC/12, para. 6).

21. The Secretary-General's report in document A/34/657 and Add.1 contained the response to that request. The report should be considered in the light of the fact that the budget for the Conference and its preparation had been drawn up for the thirty-third session of the General Assembly, before the Conference secretariat had come into existence and its exact needs could be determined: the Conference secretariat had thus had no input into the budget proposals. The budget prepared at that time covered 1979 and made proposals for 1980 which represented minimum reasonable resources. It had not been anticipated at that time that a series of interrelated delays would result in a shorter period of peak preparation for the final Conference documents and, consequently, in greater expense. It had likewise not been anticipated that such a large number of countries would want to participate and would seek assistance in doing so. The budget had also envisaged a cut-off point for many important activities immediately following the Conference. In that connexion, the Preparatory Committee had requested the Secretariat to provide details of the resources that would be required to enable least developed countries and countries with special considerations to participate in the World Conference.

22. Section II of the report contained the three categories defined by the United Nations and the number of countries which would be involved if all of those eligible for assistance under those categories were in fact to seek such assistance. A fourth category of countries had also been identified in the Preparatory Committee; those countries did not appear on any existing list but could clearly demonstrate a continuing involvement in the subject of the Conference and severe difficulty in funding their own participation. The Preparatory Committee had directed that, if the Assembly decided to assist such countries, the General Assembly itself should determine and agree on a list of those to be so assisted. A provisional figure of 10 countries without specification had been included in paragraph 10 of the report, simply as a notional figure for the purpose of making a budget presentation. She added that, while it had been customary for such assistance to be provided from extrabudgetary resources, such assistance was being sought from the regular budget of the United Nations at the current session of the General Assembly in respect of three other United Nations conferences.

23. Section III of the report, dealing with the satisfactory preparation of the documents for the Conference, concerned the need for a small amount of additional consultancy servicing arising from the altered schedule caused by the various delays. The preparation of the statistical annex, if it was to be of value beyond the Conference, required specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat; similarly, the documents on apartheid and the subtheme "Employment, Health and Education" would benefit greatly from the work of acknowledged experts working on a consultancy basis. The figure of nine work-months represented a minimum demand and was made in the hope that it could be supplemented by extrabudgetary sources.

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24. Sections IV and VII, as well as section A of Addendum 1, should be considered together, since all three related to staff needs of the Conference secretariat. The existing budget made provision for only five persons: a Secretary-General, a Principal Officer, a special assistant and two General Service staff members, to complete the work between the end of the Conference and the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly. However, it was already quite clear that much work would have to be done in that period, in connexion with both the completion of the documents to be presented to the General Assembly and the relevant United Nations meetings which would take place. She noted that General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) embodied a decision that the concerns of women should find a place in the 1980 special session of the General Assembly, and that view had been strongly endorsed at the recent session of the Preparatory Committee. The Secretariat was therefore proposing that a senior Social Affairs Officer post, one of the temporary posts provided for the Conference, should be extended through the end of 1980 and that two other posts at the P-2 and P-3 levels should be provided for that additional period of four months as well. The retention of the Administrative Officer until the end of the life of the Conference secretariat and extra secretarial support was also being requested.

25. Section VII of the report reflected the wish of the Preparatory Committee - foreseen by the Economic and Social Council at its 1979 spring session - to hold a third session before the World Conference and to review at that time all of the Conference documentation in its final draft form. Paragraph 41 of the report explained that the estimated Conference requirements were not an appropriation figure, since the real cost of holding a third session of the Preparatory Committee would not be determined until the table contained in the document was considered in the context of the consolidated statement of total conference servicing requirements, which was to be reviewed towards the end of the current session of the General Assembly. In that same context, and following the same full costing procedures, members would note that the cost of the pre-session documents, 760 pages in all, had been included in the estimate and also in the programme budget for the Conference itself, which had recently been endorsed by the Fifth Committee. Addendum 1 also contained a second request, which sought to rectify an oversight. Resources were being requested to enable one representative from each of the regional commissions to participate in the World Conference. In the existing budget such participation had been provided for in respect of sessions of the Preparatory Committee, and it was even more important to enable those representatives to bring the benefit of their experience and the results of the regional meetings to the World Conference itself.

26. In presenting the proposals contained in document A/34/657 and Add.1, the secretariat had responded to the expressed desire of the Preparatory Committee at its second session that its priorities should be taken into account. Accordingly the Secretariat had not sought any provisions from the regular budget for the expert costs involved in holding the planned joint seminar with UNESCO on women in the mass media; those funds were being sought from extrabudgetary sources. She hoped that the Third Committee would agree that the supplementary activities described in the report were necessary to strengthen the World Conference and that it would take a decision in principle, which could then be submitted to the budgetary bodies

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concerned. In that connexion she announced that significant additional needs for resources had arisen during 1979 and had been met by approaching a variety of funding sources for extrabudgetary grants. In that connexion she acknowledged the contributions of the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway and the United States. Most of those extrabudgetary resources had been used to provide support for regional, subregional and national initiatives in the preparation of case studies on successful projects and policies and to support regional information activities.

27. Mr. ULRICHSEN (Denmark) said that the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session (A/CONF.94/PC/12) showed that considerable progress had been made in preparing for the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women. However, although the provisional rules of procedure had been all but completed, a considerable amount of work on substantive matters still had to be done, particularly in the light of the results of the recent regional preparatory meetings. The Secretariat would have to analyse and process both the useful ideas concerning the programme of action for the second half of the Decade that had been put forward during the second session of the Preparatory Committee and the many replies received from Governments on the review and evaluation of the progress made and obstacles encountered at the national level in attaining the objectives of the World Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Women's Year. It would be necessary to hold a third session of the Preparatory Committee and to approve the other budgetary appropriations proposed by the Secretary-General, and his delegation therefore fully supported the proposals set forth in document A/34/657.

28. Currently, his Government was completing negotiations with the Bella Center at Copenhagen. The following facilities would be made available to serve the bodies mentioned in General Assembly resolution 33/189 on the World Conference, as well as other meetings: three large conference rooms with interpretation into six languages; a conference or caucus room with facilities for interpretation into at least four languages; three smaller caucus rooms with facilities for interpretation into two languages; and the auditorium of the Center, which could be used for such supplementary functions as press briefings, film showings and seminars. The auditorium and other adjacent facilities could cover further needs at short notice, if necessary.

29. As far as the organization of the work of the Conference was concerned, his country's observer at the second session of the Preparatory Committee had suggested that the number of simultaneous meetings with full interpretation should be three, in other words, six meetings daily. It was clear that with the facilities available in Copenhagen it would be possible to service the Conference in accordance with General Assembly resolution 33/189.

30. His Government attached great importance to the action-oriented character of the Conference. There were good prospects of achieving substantive results, and his Government would certainly continue to do its utmost to help the Conference attain its goals.

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31. Ms. WERKMAN (Netherlands) said that the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women would provide an opportunity to evaluate progress made in achieving the goals set by the World Plan of Action in 1975 and to determine what specific operational guidelines were needed to make that Plan of Action more effective. During the Conference, emphasis would have to be placed on strategies and implementation. The temptation to rewrite the World Plan of Action must be resisted, and participants must concentrate on considering how women and Governments could be assisted in their efforts to implement the World Plan of Action as well as national and regional plans designed to ensure full participation of women in the social, economic and political processes of development. Those considerations should determine the content of the programme of action for the second half of the Decade.

32. It was clear that differences in cultural, social and religious attitudes towards women in the various regions of the world must be respected but, at the same time, it was important that the programme of action for the second half of the Decade should retain the universality of the World Plan of Action and be applicable to a wide range of situations. More specific situations and problems should initially be considered at the regional level. During the past year much attention had been given to institutionalization of activities for women in the regional commissions of the United Nations system. Further thought needed to be given to expansion and improvement of the existing regional machinery.

33. Her delegation was fully satisfied with the organizational arrangements proposed by the delegation of Denmark. Furthermore, it supported the proposals with financial implications that the Preparatory Committee had considered, including those concerning participation of representatives of least developed countries, additional documentation and an expanded information programme.

34. It was essential that many Governments should ensure the participation of women and women's groups and organizations in the preparations for the Conference and in the Conference itself. It was also to be hoped that the forum that was being organized by the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the Decade for Women would be successful. That Committee deserved support from all quarters.

35. Ms. ILIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that the Preparatory Committee had been able to make progress during its second session in spite of the lack of documents and sufficient information on national, sectoral, regional and international implementation of the documents drawn up at Mexico in 1975. Her delegation especially appreciated the effort made by the secretariat of the Conference to produce a conceptual framework and to draft guidelines for the preparation of documents for the 1980 Conference. The Preparatory Committee had thus been able to formulate draft guidelines for the programme of action for the second half of the Decade for Women with a view to implementing the World Plan of Action. That programme should be based on the documents drawn up at Mexico, particularly the World Plan of Action, and it should also take into account the recommendations of particular concern to women made during numerous conferences and meetings held under the auspices of the United Nations since the Mexico Conference. Moreover, it should be conceived within the framework of the establishment of the new international economic order.

(Ms. Ilić, Yugoslavia)

36. It was also necessary to make a thorough analysis of the results achieved since the Mexico Conference at the national, regional, sectoral and international levels, as well as of the obstacles encountered. It was only thus that the Preparatory Committee could successfully draft an action-oriented plan for the second half of the Decade, taking into account the subtheme of employment, health and education. In order to accomplish that task, the Preparatory Committee would need to hold a third session. The most important question that would have to be dealt with during that third session was preparation of documents for the Conference, and her delegation therefore was in favour of appropriating the necessary financial resources. Neither the Preparatory Committee nor the Conference itself should be left to consider such unsettled questions as the number of Vice-Presidents and distribution of offices of the Bureau among regional groups in the two Main Committees. Provided that the principle of equitable geographical distribution was observed, her delegation would support a majority decision with respect to the exact number of posts.

37. Mrs. DEVAUD (France) said that, as indicated in the 1978 Report on the World Social Situation (E/CN.5/557), the role of women was evidence of the fact that the role and social status of individuals and groups were not determined entirely by the level of their income, and the evolution of the legal and social status of a group was thus often a pre-condition for the economic progress of that group. The Mexico Conference had revealed a latent malaise resulting from the imbalance that existed in society to the disadvantage of women. The Decade for Women had brought about a general awareness of the role that women could play in the world, and at Copenhagen the international community would be in a better position than it had been in at Mexico to judge what form follow-up action and the programme for the second half of the Decade should take.

38. It was clear from the documents before the Committee that considerable progress had been made in promoting a universal awareness of the need for equal rights for women. It was true that the situation of great numbers of women was still highly unsatisfactory, particularly in developing countries but also in instances where there were pockets of poverty and backward areas in the developed countries. It was therefore to be hoped that during the second half of the Decade it would be possible to address such problems, as well as the problem of the negative effects that ill-conceived technological progress had for women. Efforts had so far been directed toward integrating women into development, but now it was essential to promote participation of women in the decision-making process at all levels and in all areas.

39. Mr. KALLENBERGER (Federal Republic of Germany) said that his country endorsed all international instruments aimed at the realization of the goals of the Decade for Women and it was actively supporting the work of the United Nations for the advancement of women. His country attached great importance to the forthcoming World Conference for Women and was following the work of the Preparatory Committee closely. In view of the results of that Committee's activities, his delegation was confident that the Conference would be a success.

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(Mr. Kallenberger, Federal
Republic of Germany)

40. His delegation was particularly pleased that the areas of employment, health and education would be among the major topics of the Conference, for they encompassed the basic needs of women in all countries and should be given comprehensive consideration with a view to undertaking specific action. Since the World Conference should be strictly action-oriented, Member States should submit working papers that took the real needs of women into account. Instead of making lengthy statements, delegations should concentrate on putting forward realistic proposals. If the situation of women was to be improved, the Conference should lead to measures and programmes designed to initiate an over-all programme of action for the second half of the Decade.

41. His country intended to devote increasing attention to the needs of women in developing countries. It was therefore promoting a large number of development projects, a significant proportion of which were devoted to improving the social, cultural, political and economic situation of women. At the bilateral level, his country was promoting the interests of women and children in co-operation with local women's organizations. His country's non-governmental organizations were working together with non-governmental organizations in developing countries with that same objective. At the multilateral level, his country was co-operating primarily with UNICEF on projects that were of both direct and indirect assistance to women. Priority topics were rural water supply, health, education and nutrition. His country was ready to enter into discussions at any time with developing countries with a view to identifying specific needs for assistance. It had made available more than \$3 million for individual measures within the framework of the Decade for Women and would continue to promote such projects to the best of its ability.

42. Ms. MARKUS (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) requested that the note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Preparatory Committee (A/34/657) should be made available in Arabic.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.