

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



GENERAL
E/CN.6/SR.91
14 May 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fifth Session
SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NINETY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York,
on Friday, 4 May 1951, at 4 p.m.

CONTENTS:

- Advisory services for improvement of the status of women: draft resolution proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Resolutions (E/CN.6/L.27, E/CN.6/L.38)
- Participation of women in the work of the United Nations (E/CN.6/167)
- Political rights of women: draft resolution proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Resolutions (E/CN.6/L.42)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the plight of survivors of Nazi concentration camps (E/1915)

<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX	France
<u>Members:</u>	Mrs. DALY	Australia
	Miss ZUNG	China
	Mrs. MEDEROS DE GONZALEZ	Cuba
	Miss BERNARDINO	Dominican Republic
	Mrs. TSALDARIS	Greece
	Mrs. GUERY	Haiti
	Mrs. SEN	India

Members:
(continued)

Mrs. KHOURY	Lebanon
Miss LAVALLE URBINA*	Mexico
Miss PELETIER	Netherlands
Mrs. DEMBINSKA	Poland
Mrs. POPOVA	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Miss SUTHERLAND	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mrs. GOLDMAN	United States of America

* Alternate

Representative of a specialized agency:

Mrs. STANLEY International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mrs. ACUNA de CHACON Inter-American Commission of Women

Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A

Miss KAHN	World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
Mrs. FOX	World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

Category B

Mrs. SUSHEELA DAYAL	All-India Women's Conference
Miss GUTHRIE	International Alliance of Women
Mrs. PARSONS	International Council of Women
Miss SCHAIN	Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations
Miss PALMER)	World's Young Women's Christian Association
Miss PERRY)	

Secretariat:

Mrs. TENISON-WOODS	Chief of the Status of Women Section
Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER	Secretary of the Commission

ADVISORY SERVICES FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN: DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS (E/CN.6/L.27, E/CN.6/L.38)

In reply to a question from the USSR representative as to what steps had been taken to expedite the arrival of the representative of the Women's International Democratic Federation, the CHAIRMAN stated that she had requested information on the subject which she would pass on to the Commission as soon as it became available.

/Mrs. SEN

Mrs. SEN (India) presented draft resolution E/CN.6/L.38, which, she said, was a redraft of the draft resolution submitted by Lebanon, Mexico and the United States (E/CN.6/L.27).

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that when the original draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.27) had been discussed in the Commission her delegation had opposed it because it did not consider the language appropriate. As, however, the sponsors of the original draft had accepted the United Kingdom amendment which improved the phrasing of the text, she would now support it.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) stated that she also had had some doubts with regard to the original draft resolution but would support the revised version.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that in the Committee on Resolutions her delegation had moved the deletion of the reference in paragraph 2 to the Secretary-General's Twenty Year Programme, which she felt had no direct bearing on the question of advisory services. She wished now to move the deletion of that reference.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the USSR amendment.

The USSR amendment was rejected by 12 votes to 2.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution on advisory services for improvement of the status of women (E/CN.6/L.38).

The draft resolution was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS (E/CN.6/167)

Mrs. PARSONS (International Council of Women) said that the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations had studied with interest and some disappointment the Secretary-General's report on the participation of women in the work of the United Nations (E/CN.6/167), which showed that the number of women occupying top positions in the Secretariat was small. She believed that women could usefully participate in many branches of the work of the United Nations such as, for example, technical assistance. The Liaison Committee thought the Commission might suggest to the Secretary-General that serious consideration should be given to appointing more women to the higher grades of the Secretariat, particularly in the field of technical assistance, and urged that the Commission should submit a resolution to that effect to the Council.

She noted with satisfaction that some distinctions between the position of men and women in the Secretariat had been done away with and that some staff rules which had discriminated between men and women had been changed.

Miss SCHAIN (Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations) said that the representative of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women also wished to speak on the subject but was not present at

The CHAIRMAN announced the closure of the general discussion on the subject and suggested that the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.28) should be referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) suggested that attention should be paid to the wording of paragraph 3. That paragraph should be phrased as an invitation to co-operate rather than a request, since the specialized agencies were autonomous and the Commission could not interfere with their rights with regard to their internal organization.

She recalled that at the morning's meeting one member of the Commission referring to the figures given in the Secretary-General's report, had said that the number of women in the higher grades of the Secretariat reflected discrimination against women. She wished to repeat, what she had already stated the year before, that unless the Commission had information as to the candidates for each particular post and their respective qualifications, it could not say that the small number of women appointed was an evidence of discrimination.

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) said that that morning she had stressed the fact that very few women had held or were now holding executive or administrative positions in the United Nations. Referring to paragraph 4 of the resolution she regretted that it did not say "Urges that the Secretary-General continue to appoint women to high positions".

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) said she was particularly interested in the subject of participation of women in the work of the United Nations as the resolution adopted at the fourth session had emanated from her delegation. She associated herself with the statement made by the representative of the Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations and expressed the hope that women might take a more active part, particularly in those branches of the United Nations work related to the welfare of children and the family.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America), referring to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, said that if a complete statement were submitted it would clarify the problem and would enable women to prepare themselves for the positions open in the Secretariat and thus participate to a greater extent in its work.

/She also

She also felt that circulation of a questionnaire on the subject would draw the attention of the specialized agencies to the fact that women were available to fill positions on their staff.

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) proposed that the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.28) should be submitted to the Committee on Resolutions for consideration.

It was so decided.

POLITICAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN: DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS (E/CN.6/L.42).

Mrs. SEN (India) explained that the draft resolution submitted by the Committee on Resolutions was a redraft of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.36) proposed by the representative of Cuba. Some changes of form had been made to clarify the meaning and there had been one substantive change in the last paragraph of the original draft resolution.

In answer to a question by the representative of Australia, she explained that in order to enable the Secretary-General to complete the pamphlet before the Commission's next session the redraft referred to in paragraph (b) was to be circulated as soon as possible to members for their comments, but not necessarily during the current session.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution on political rights of women (E/CN.6/L.42).

The resolution was adopted by 12 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE PLIGHT OF SURVIVORS OF NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS (E/1915)

Mrs. TENISON WOODS (Secretariat) gave a brief summary of the Secretary-General's progress report on the plight of survivors of concentration camps (E/1915). Up to 6 February 1951, the Secretary-General had received, from various sources, the names of some seventy victims of medical atrocities, but had been unable to determine the dimension of the problem, the kinds of assistance needed and the sums of money required. He had arranged for a study by a legal expert of the compensation which could be claimed by victims under the existing laws of all

the occupation zones of Germany. The expert had noted that existing legislation contained insufficient provision for such victims, and that compensation payable to them was inadequate and subject to many restrictions; he had therefore reached the conclusion that new legislation was necessary, and that the Federal and Democratic Republic of Germany should be liable for payment of indemnification. The Allied High Commission for Germany had informed the Secretary-General that the whole question was still under consideration within the framework of the broader problem of indemnification of victims of Nazi persecution.

The Secretary-General was negotiating with the International Refugee Organization to determine whether any funds were still available in that quarter. The World Health Organization was prepared to co-operate with the Economic and Social Council, at the latter's request, in connexion with the health aspects of measures for the care and protection of survivors of concentration camps.

In accordance with the Secretary-General's suggestions, the Economic and Social Council had adopted, on 19 March 1951, resolution 353 (XII) appealing to the competent German authorities to make the fullest possible reparation for injuries suffered by such victims; inviting the IRO and voluntary agencies to assist in alleviating the plight of the victims; inviting the WHO to assist in the health aspects of the problem; and requesting the Secretary-General to study the possibility of securing voluntary contributions to supplement the reparation measures proposed, if the latter proved inadequate.

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should take note, in its report, of the resolution adopted by the Council, expressing the hope that the action undertaken would proceed as rapidly as possible and that the measures proposed would bring relief to the victims concerned. It was not necessary for the Commission to adopt a resolution on the question, since the Council had now extended the field of action on the entire problem.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) approved the Chairman's suggestion, but felt that the Commission should register its regret that so little positive action had as yet been taken to relieve the suffering of the victims.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) expressed the view that the victims concerned should be cared for by the governments of the countries in which they now resided, and that the question of compensation for damage suffered should be settled in connexion with the drawing up of a peace treaty with Germany.

Mrs. DEMBINSKA (Poland) supported the first point brought out by the USSR delegation; her delegation at the twelfth session of the Council had taken the same position.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) expressed deep satisfaction with the action taken by the Council, which had confirmed the Commission's hope that continued efforts would be made on behalf of the survivors of concentration camps.

Mrs. SEN (India) was in general agreement with the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report, concerning the action to be taken; her delegation had supported those proposals in the Economic and Social Council.

The Chairman's proposal was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed that the Commission should proceed to the consideration of item 14 of its agenda, "Communications concerning the status of women", in a private meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.