

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

E/CN.6/SR.16  
26 February 1947  
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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING

Held at Lake Success, New York, Wednesday, 19 February 1947, at 11:00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman:	Mrs. Begtrup	(Denmark)
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. Street	(Australia)
Rapporteur:	Mrs. Uralova	(Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)
Members:	Mrs. New	(China)
	Mrs. de Echeverria	(Costa Rica)
	Mrs. Lefaucheux	(France)
	Miss Basterrechea	(Guatemala)
	Mrs. Hamid Ali	(India)
	Mrs. de Castillo Ledon	(Mexico)
	Mrs. Cosma	(Syria)
	Miss Sutherland	(United Kingdom)
	Miss Kenyon	(United States of America)
	Mrs. Popova	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
	Mrs. Urdaneta	(Venezuela)

Representatives of Specialized Agencies:

Mrs. Rowe (ILO)

Non-Governmental Organizations:

Miss Sender (American Federation of Labor)  
Miss Spiegel (World Federation of Trade Unions)

Secretariat: Mr. Humphrey  
Mr. Lawson  
Miss Bowerman (Secretary of the Commission)

1. Next Session of the Commission

Mrs. HAMID ALI (India) proposed that the next session should be held at Geneva.

Mrs. BEGTRUP (Denmark), speaking as the representative of Denmark, pointed out that the Commission should meet twice a year, and in view of the

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importance to the Commission on the Status of Women of the draft Bill of Human Rights, she proposed that the Commission should meet at Geneva before the Human Rights Commission.

Mrs. de CASTILLO LEDON (Mexico) supported this proposal, emphasizing the importance of contacts with the Human Rights Commission for the elaboration of the Bill of Human Rights.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) shared this view and reminded the Commission that the cost of a session at Geneva would not be higher than elsewhere.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) whilst agreeing that the Commission must take account of financial necessities, referred to the need of contacts with the Human Rights Commission and proposed that the Commission on the Status of Women should be represented at the meetings of the Human Rights Commission. She added that she would like the Commission to meet as soon as possible after 1 September.

As regards the place of meeting, she thought it was for the Economic and Social Council to choose between Geneva and New York.

Mrs. STREET (Australia) asked the Secretariat for information on the dates scheduled for the various Commissions.

Mrs. LEPAUCHEUX (France) reminded the Commission that the General Assembly itself was to be held in September and it was therefore undesirable to choose that time.

The proposal to hold the next session of the Commission as soon as possible after 1 September 1947 was put to the vote and rejected by 9 votes to 3.

Mrs. STREET (Australia), who supported the Danish representative's proposal, stated that she would like the Commission to meet a short time before the Human Rights Commission.

The Commission decided by 11 votes to 2 to express its desire to meet at Geneva, if possible shortly before the Human Rights Commission.

2. Hearing of Representatives of Women's Organizations

The CHAIRMAN proposed that the Commission should continue the hearing of representatives of women's organizations begun at the previous meeting; and the Commission listened in turn to the representatives of:

- (1) The International Federation of Business and Professional Women
- (2) The International Council of Women
- (3) The American Section of the Pan-Pacific Women's Association
- (4) The World Women's Party
- (5) The Pan-American Women's Organization

The CHAIRMAN thanked the speakers for their statements on the work, history and scope of their organizations.

3. Adoption of a Proposed Amendment to the Commission's Terms of Reference

Mrs. STREET (Australia) presented a proposal to amend the Commission's terms of reference (documents E/90 and CN.6/SR.2). She requested that the phrase: "women's rights in political, economic, social and educational fields" be replaced by the phrase: "women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields"; and that the words: "...formulate proposals for the implementation of these recommendations" be added at the end of the paragraph on the Commission's duties.

DECISION: The proposed amendment submitted by the Australian representative was adopted by 10 votes to 0.

4. Consideration of the United States Representative's Proposal on the Use of the Questionnaire on the Status of Women

After adoption of the explanatory statement on the United States proposal on the use of the questionnaire on the status of women, Miss KENYON (United States of America) proposed that the Commission should vote upon point 1, worded as follows: "The primary duty of the Commission shall be to implement the General Assembly's Resolution on the political rights of women". A specific proposal had already been adopted on this subject, to which the Commission desired to add the principles referred to under the head "General Provisions" at the beginning of the questionnaire.

DECISION: Point 1 was adopted by 10 votes to 0.

At the request of Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), supported by Mrs. URALOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) and Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France), discussion on the United States proposal was postponed until the Russian and French translations of the amendments were made available.

5. Discussion of the Report of the Nuclear Sub-Commission on the Status of Women (document E/38/Rev.1) comprising the Additions and Deletions Contained in the Proposals of the Representatives of Australia, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, India, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Commission on the Status of Women

Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX (France) said that, as the new text had not been translated into French, to her great regret, she would be unable to take part in the discussion.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) recalled that, at the suggestion of the Venezuelan representative, the Commission had expressed its agreement with the principles set forth in the Nuclear Sub-Commission's report, but thought that it had been unanimously understood that the Commission's proposals were to be the subject of draft resolutions. She added that the Nuclear Sub-Commission's report was too vague to be of use as a working basis, and tended to include matters which were within the scope of other commissions.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Commission had decided that the Nuclear Sub-Commission's report was to be taken as a basis for its work.

Miss KENYON (United States of America), supporting the United Kingdom representative, thought that, although the principles set forth in the Nuclear Sub-Commission's report had been adopted, the Commission had not decided to adopt the text itself as the first basis of its report.

Mrs. URALOVA (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic) pointed out that the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States of America would have every opportunity to make observations and propose amendments in the course of discussion of the new text, paragraph by paragraph.

Mrs. STREET (Australia) proposed that the document prepared by the Secretariat should be taken into consideration. The Commission need only

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decide to incorporate the initial sub-commission's report in its own.

Mrs. URDANETA (Venezuela) thought that the Commission ought to vote the amendments as draft resolutions and then use them as a basis for its report.

Mrs. NEW (China), a former member of the Nuclear Sub-Commission, considered that the latter's report constituted a whole and was a historic text. She felt that the Commission ought to draw up a new report.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) suggested that it would be better to use the text of the Nuclear Sub-Commission's report rather than consider it as sacrosanct historical document.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) paid tribute to the Nuclear Sub-Commission's work but added that its terms of reference were ill defined and that the Commission on the Status of Women should now concern itself with certain other problems also within the scope of the Human Rights Commission.

DECISION: On the proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Commission decided by 9 votes to 2 to use the Nuclear Sub-Commission's report as a basis for its work.

The meeting rose at 1:05 p.m.

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