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<u>Chairman:</u>	Mrs. LEFAUCHEUX	France
<u>Rapporteur</u>	Mrs. KHOURY	Lebanon
<u>Members:</u>	Mrs. DALY	Australia
	Miss ZUNG	China
	Mrs. de GONZALEZ	Cuba

Members (continued):

Miss BERNARDINO	Dominican Republic
Mrs. TSALDARIS	Greece
Mrs. GUERY	Haiti
Mrs. SEN	India
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

Representative of an inter-governmental organization:

Mrs. ACUNA de CHACON	Inter-American Commission of Women
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Representatives of non-governmental organizations:

Category A:

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

Category B:

Miss GUTHRIE	International Alliance of Women
Mrs. FREEMAN	(International Council of Women Liaison Committee of Women's International Organizations
Mrs. HYMER	International Federation of Business and Professional Women
Miss ZIZZAMIA	International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues

On the Register:

Miss SLEEPER	International Council of Nurses
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Secretariat:

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

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE WORK

The CHAIRMAN expressed the hope that the Commission's next session would not coincide with a session of the Commission on Human Rights; the Commission had the right to be represented on, and desired to participate in the work of the Commission on Human Rights, but it was not possible for it to do so if the latter body sat at the same time in a different place.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) said the information received as a result of the questionnaires circulated by the Commission raised a real problem. Governments could only be expected to submit information with regard to the legal status of women in their countries; the question of local customs and the treatment of women in actual practice was, however, of equal interest to the Commission. In order to obtain information on the latter point, it would have to have recourse to the non-governmental organizations in the various countries.

She felt that the question of technical assistance was of great importance. Women needed to be taught how to present their case in order to succeed in altering the legislation affecting their interests, and the seminars which might be held under the Technical Assistance Programme would be of great value in training them in that respect. She wished to emphasize, for the benefit of the public, that the Technical Assistance Programmes sponsored by the United States Technical Assistance Administration under the Point 4 Programme, were separate and distinct from the United Nations Programme of Technical Assistance. She drew attention to the 1951 pamphlet issued by the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, and in particular to the section headed "Development and Dissemination of Technical Information" on page 12 of the pamphlet, which dealt with the organization of the seminars to which she had referred.

She also emphasized the importance of insuring the inclusion of a woman when the various technical assistance programmes were planned. A woman's participation in the work would be of great assistance in developing women's rights and status. She pointed out that, as an indirect result of the Tennessee Valley Authority project electric light had been brought to neighbouring farms,

/and that

and that improvement had greatly helped the position of women on the farms. Similarly, in the development of other such technical assistance projects, the participation of a woman would result in greater understanding of the way women might benefit through certain subsidiary aspects of the projects. She drew attention to the progress which had been made in Mexico in the early 1940's as a result of the Mexican Cultural Missions, in which women had participated. She also indicated that the document on Low Cost Housing in South-East Asia (ST/SEA/3) had a chapter dealing with the subject of housing by aided self-help which was of immense importance. She told the Commission of various women experts who had gone to under-developed and other countries to assist in improving the lot of women there, and indicated that she had prepared a paper giving full information and details on the subject, which would be distributed.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) said she had been very interested in the United States representative's remarks with regard to the difference between the actual and the legal status of women. She herself had had that point in mind in relation to the question of education when UNESCO's co-operation in the study of the problem had been requested.

With regard to technical assistance, she emphasized that it was only to the extent to which countries could combine to contribute material aid which would render possible the development of under-developed countries that a real improvement in the position of women in those countries could be expected. She informed the Commission, in that connexion, that her Government was currently spending nearly 500 million pounds on development programmes in colonial territories. It was also contributing to the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme, and to the Colombo Plan, initiated the previous year, under which the Commonwealth Governments had combined their efforts in order to raise living standards throughout South-East Asia. Under that plan the countries concerned were preparing their own schemes and were estimating, in the light of their present manpower, revenues and resources, the amount of capital they could absorb in six years.

/She pointed

In view of the fact that technical and economic aid could provide a basis for real progress in improving the social status of women, she suggested that the Secretariat might submit a report to the next session on any aspects of technical assistance projects which seemed to have significance for the work of the Commission, and on the role of women advisers.

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) said that her country had been one of the first to benefit from the technical assistance programmes sponsored by the United Nations and the United States. A mission of agricultural experts sent out by the Food and Agriculture Organization had arrived in Lebanon about one week previously; in requesting the assistance of that mission, her Government had stressed the importance it attached to the inclusion of a woman home economist in the party in addition to the agricultural experts. A group of United States experts had also reached Lebanon recently. The group was composed of people who had worked on the TVA project, and was to advise Lebanon on the establishment of a similar development project. She agreed with the United Kingdom representative that the financing of technical assistance programmes was a major problem.

When the Commission had been established, it had felt that a study of legislation and a parallel study of its implementation in connexion with women was necessary. The Commission so far had studied only legislation. She therefore supported the suggestion that a study should also be made of its implementation.

Pointing out the strong impetus that the holding of the Commission's fourth session in Lebanon had given to the development of women's rights in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, she suggested that the following year's session should be held in a similar focal point of a region such as Scandinavia, the Pacific or Central Europe, where it would help to stimulate the development of women's rights.

With regard to the agenda for the following session, she presumed that the various items would be taken from the resolutions adopted by the Commission.

/Mrs. GOLDMAN

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) drew attention to the fortnightly bulletin of the United States Technical Assistance Administration, which referred to an English woman who had just gone to Scandinavia to study the health problems of women and children. Such action was of great interest to the Commission.

She fully agreed that reciprocal arrangements for financing must be made. The financing of technical assistance, which would enable people to promote their own development, was one of the best possible investments. She pointed out that one-third of the world's population was now living on 4 per cent of the world's income and indicated the necessity of a more equitable distribution of wealth and the means of producing it.

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) supported the Chairman's suggestion that the Commission should not in future hold its session to coincide with the session of the Commission on Human Rights.

She also supported the Lebanese representative's proposal that the Commission's next session should be held away from Headquarters. It was not possible to decide on a specific place at that time, but the Commission could agree that its session should not be held at Headquarters, and leave it to the Secretariat and the Chairman to make the necessary arrangements if and when an invitation to meet in a suitable area was received. If no invitation was received, the Commission might meet in Geneva.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) said that her delegation also attached great importance to the question of technical assistance as Greece was one of the countries which had suffered damage and destruction and was now devoting all its energies to reconstruction and rehabilitation. She took a strong personal interest in the problems of insurance and social welfare.

She stressed the importance of the desire expressed by the Chairman that the Commission should not in future meet at the same time as the Commission on Human Rights. Had it not been for the change in the date of the Commission's session that year, she would, at the Chairman's request, have represented the Commission in Geneva at the Commission on Human Rights.

/Mrs. KHOURY

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) fully agreed with the Chairman's wish in relation to the Commission on Human Rights. She wished, however, to recall to the Commission's memory the cable which had been received by the Chairman from the Secretariat representative on the Commission on Human Rights, in which reference had been made to a Lebanese proposal for absolute equality between men and women in economic, social and cultural matters. It was obvious from that communication that though the Commission had not been represented, in the flesh, at least its interests had not been forgotten.

Mrs. QUERY (Haiti) said that as the United States representative had so well stated Haiti, as an under-developed country, should be assisted to become self-sufficient in as brief a time as possible. Much attention had been paid to backward conditions in her country and some improvements could be shown. Haiti had, for some fifteen years, been training its technical experts, but they were unable to produce outstanding results in the absence of material resources. What her country principally required was something which would give the initial impulse to its development by promoting the direct exploitation of its existing resources and the discovery and development of new resources. In the transformation of the raw materials which constituted Haiti's most important economic asset modern technical processes had as yet been introduced only on a very small scale. Haiti was a stock-raising and agricultural country, nothing had yet been done to enable its tanneries to produce hides which could be utilized otherwise than in elementary manufacturing processes. Similarly, the development of roads, railways and other means of cheap transport was very necessary.

If the aid given to under-developed countries were to prove really effective, the whole question must be the subject of thorough study in which representatives of indigenous interests capable of supplying material and moral assistance should co-operate.

Mrs. HYMER

Mrs. HYMER (International Federation of Business and Professional Women) said her organization was concerned about the full utilization of women power and wished to bring the subject to the Commission's attention as one worthy of its notice and coming within its competence.

A year previously the Federation of Business and Professional Women of the United Kingdom had examined the question of the employment of women, particularly after the age of 40, in the professions and in executive posts in industry and commerce. That study had been undertaken because it was believed that it was essential to use to the fullest capacity and in the work for which they were best fitted, the trained men and women of every country. The Federation's report to the International Congress held in London the previous August had led to a request for a study of the problem by all national federations. National federations were further requested to take appropriate action with their governments and with employers' and employees' organizations for a solution of the problem so as to prevent loss to the economic, social and educational life of the community.

It had been found that the practice of the managements of some large establishments of running training courses for their employees helped to some extent to assist women to advance to higher positions. Part-time work and opportunities for re-training were other methods which might help to solve the problem.

The International Federation hoped that by the following year it would have a documented paper on the subject to submit to the Commission. However, since the International Federation did not have full opportunities for studying the matter in each country, it wished to request that the Commission should consider the problem and the possibility of asking the International Labour Organisation for further investigations and recommendations.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) in answer to the United Kingdom representative's question, thought it entirely appropriate that the Secretariat should prepare for the next session of the Commission a summary of those aspects of United Nations activities in the field of technical assistance which were of direct interest to the Commission. Such a project would be a logical sequel to the work done by the Commission on the question the preceding year and the recommendations it had made at that time.

/With regard

With regard to the comments of the representatives of Lebanon and the United States of America concerning the de facto position of women in the various countries as opposed to their de jure situation, she pointed out that Governments could hardly be expected to inform the Secretariat of the extent to which their laws were being enforced. For information of that type the Secretariat must turn to the non-governmental organizations. It had already done so with reference to the status of women in penal law and in private law; the results of those inquiries, which had produced some very valuable information, were now before the Commission. If the Commission so desired, the same procedure could be followed during the coming year; but she made it clear that although a resolution on the subject would not be necessary, the Commission should include in its report a clear statement of the specific fields in which it desired such information to be obtained.

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) said that her delegation would like information concerning the extent of implementation of laws concerning education.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) pointed out that the general subject of education lay within the sphere of activity of UNESCO; it would therefore be necessary for the Commission to request the Secretariat to collaborate with UNESCO in obtaining that information.

The CHAIRMAN, speaking as the representative of France, drew the attention of the Commission to the desirability of remaining within its own sphere of activity and avoiding too frequent intervention in the fields of activity of other United Nations bodies. The principal concern of the Commission was the achievement of equality of rights between men and women; although the subject of technical assistance was undoubtedly of the greatest interest, the Commission should take care to deal only with those aspects of the question which were clearly related to its own work.

She thought it unnecessary for the Commission to adopt a resolution concerning its future programme of work; it could simply take note in its report

of the observations made by the several delegations. As regards the place of meeting of the next session, that question could not be decided finally by the Commission itself. The Commission could only set forth its views on the matter in its report, drawing attention to the beneficial effects which had been achieved by holding the 1949 session in the Middle East.

Mrs. GOLDMAN (United States of America) thought that the subject of technical assistance was closely related to two items on the Commission's agenda, namely, the participation of women in the work of the United Nations, and the new subject of advisory services for women. She agreed that duplication of work among United Nations bodies should be avoided, but pointed out that it was the Commission's duty to ensure, in so far as possible, that the status and needs of women in all the fields of activity dealt with by other United Nations organs should be taken into consideration by those bodies.

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) shared the Chairman's views concerning the basic objectives of the Commission and the necessity to avoid encroaching upon the spheres of activity of other bodies.

Mrs. DALY (Australia) thought it important that the Commission should assist the women of under-developed countries by every means at its command. Nevertheless, she felt that the Commission should continue to meet at Headquarters. Although the additional cost entailed by holding a session away from Headquarters would not be great, since the host country bore a large part of the expense of such a session, she would not feel justified at present in suggesting to her Government any extra expenditure for such a purpose.

PROBLEM OF GREEK CHILDREN: DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, LEBANON AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (E/CN.6/L.54)

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) proposed that the words "complied with", in the third paragraph of the preamble of the joint draft resolution, should be altered to read "begun to comply with".

/Mrs. TENISON-WOODS

Mrs. TENLSON-WOODS (Secretariat) expressed some doubt as regards the amendment. The Commission must confine itself, in that paragraph of the text, to the remarks actually made by the representative of the Secretary-General; and in any event, it was impossible to determine whether or not any other country besides Yugoslavia had, in fact, begun to comply with the General Assembly's resolution.

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) withdrew her amendment.

The CHAIRMAN objected to the phrase "possibly stronger ways", in the last sentence of the draft resolution. After a brief discussion she endorsed a suggestion by Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) that the phrase should be altered to read "more effective ways".

The draft resolution was adopted by 13 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics), explaining her vote, recalled that the question of the return of Greek children to their country had been discussed at the last three sessions of the General Assembly. Resolution 193 (C) (III) of the General Assembly had called for "the return to Greece of Greek children at present away from their homes when the children, their father or mother or, in his or her absence, their closest relative, express a wish to that effect"; and decisions taken at subsequent sessions of the Assembly had reaffirmed the same position. The present resolution, however, did not reflect the urgent need for action which had been recognized and stressed by the Assembly; and for that reason her delegation had abstained in the vote.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) reaffirmed that her Government had always implemented the resolutions of the General Assembly. She reiterated her official statement that the seventy-five children who had thus far been returned to Greece had been restored immediately to their parents, and that all children repatriated in the future would also be promptly returned to their families, as had been categorically affirmed by the Greek Red Cross.

THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE LAW: DRAFT RESOLUTION OF LEBANON AND THE NETHERLANDS (E/CN.6/L.56)

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) pointed to a correction which should be made in the opening phrases of paragraphs (b) and (c); in each case the text should read "to prepare for the sixth session of the Commission... "

In reply to a question from Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) regarding the purpose of the new paragraph which had been added to the original Lebanese draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.55), Miss PELETIER (Netherlands) explained that her purpose in proposing the amendment was to supplement the official data received from governments with information, to be supplied by the non-governmental organizations, on the opinions of the women of the various countries regarding their national legislation and the measures which they thought should be taken to eliminate discrimination.

Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic), while paying a warm tribute to the work of the non-governmental organizations, was not sure what international organizations of that type would be in a position to furnish the desired information concerning Latin America.

In reply to Miss BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic), Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) said that the list of questions mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) of the joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.56) would be sent to all the non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council including those in categories A and B; it could also be sent to inter-governmental organizations such as the Inter-American Commission of Women.

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) said that the purpose of sub-paragraph (e) of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.56) was merely to ensure the co-operation of the non-governmental organizations in the preparation of the Secretariat's memorandum on family law and property rights.

/Miss BERNARDINO

MISS BERNARDINO (Dominican Republic) pointed out that there was no non-governmental organization with branches in all of the Latin American countries. She was seeking a formula whereby replies could be received on conditions in the largest possible number of Latin American countries. For example, the International Council of Women had four or five affiliated organizations in Latin America but there were at least fifteen countries where it was not represented. It would therefore be unable to furnish the Secretariat with information on conditions in about seventy-five per cent of the Latin American States.

In that connexion the CHAIRMAN suggested it might be wise to encourage the non-governmental organizations to establish branches in countries where they were not as yet represented.

Mrs. de GONZALEZ (Cuba) wondered whether it would not be possible to communicate again with the Inter-American Commission of Women with a view to completing the Secretariat's information on the status of women in private law in Latin America. She also suggested that the Latin American representatives on the Commission might be able to assist the Secretariat by furnishing information and by pressing organizations in their countries to communicate with the Secretariat. They might also suggest additional sources of information to the Secretariat.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) did not think it would be possible at that stage to send duplicate "lists of simplified questions" on the status of women in private law to any non-governmental organizations because the dates for reply had already passed. As to the Inter-American Commission of Women, it sent its annual reports to the Secretariat from which as much relevant material as possible was extracted.

It should be borne in mind that the Secretariat's relationship to the non-governmental organizations was governed by regulations from which the Secretariat could not depart. As a general rule, the Secretariat addressed itself for information to the non-governmental organizations with consultative status listed in categories A and B. Representatives could, however, urge other organizations to apply to the Economic and Social Council for consultative status. After they had been granted that status the Secretariat could request them to submit information.

/Mrs. POPOVA

Mrs. POPOVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) thought the problem might be settled if the Commission took a decision on the original text contained in document E/CN.6/L.55. That would of course be tantamount to deleting sub-paragraph (a) of the joint Lebanese and Netherlands draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.56). She felt that the relationship between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations was perfectly clear and that therefore sub-paragraph (a) was superfluous,

Miss PELETIER (Netherlands) could not accept the deletion of sub-paragraph (a) of the joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.56). It would be most helpful for the Commission in discussing the existing legislation on family law and property rights to know the views of the women directly affected by that legislation. She agreed that a system of communication with the non-governmental organizations had been established but she felt it would facilitate the Secretariat's task if the proposed draft resolution expressly instructed the Secretariat to circulate questions on family law and property rights to these organizations.

Mrs. GRINBERG-VINAVER (Secretary of the Commission) suggested that the Commission might wish to amend sub-paragraph (a) of the joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.56) to read "advice as to the changes which in their opinion are desirable".

Miss SUTHERLAND (United Kingdom) said that if the Secretariat's suggestion were adopted the phrase "to be introduced" in sub-paragraph (a) of the joint draft resolution (E/CN.6/L.56) should be deleted.

Miss PELETIER (Netherlands) accepted the Secretariat and United Kingdom amendments to sub-paragraph (a) of the joint draft resolution.

Mrs. KHOURY (Lebanon) also accepted the two proposed amendments.

Mrs. SEN (India) pointed out that article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on marriage and the family was closely related to the item the Commission was discussing. She felt that there should be a greater coordination of work between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. She therefore thought that some reference to the desirability of having an article on the family incorporated in the draft International Covenant on Human Rights should be included in the draft resolution. She suggested that an additional paragraph might be inserted

at the end of the draft text to read: "Requests the Economic and Social Council to invite the Commission on Human Rights to incorporate in the International Covenant on Human Rights articles based on article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

In that connexion, she mentioned the Commission's view that its sessions should not be held simultaneously with those of the Commission on Human Rights, for when the two bodies were meeting at the same time it was difficult for the Commission on the Status of Women to keep the other organ informed of its views.

The CHAIRMAN wondered whether it would be advisable to incorporate the Indian amendment in the proposed draft resolution which was directed primarily to the Secretary-General. Instead, the Commission might be willing to authorize her to cable to the Economic and Social Council expressing its view that the provisions of article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be incorporated in the International Covenant on Human Rights. She invited the Committee to consider her suggestion and take a decision later in closed session.

Mrs. SEN (India) endorsed the Chairman's proposal, saying that her only concern was to ensure quick action in the matter.

The CHAIRMAN put to the vote the draft resolution on the Status of Women in Private Law submitted by the representatives of Lebanon and of the Netherlands (E/CN.6/L.56).

The joint draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 14 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The CHAIRMAN reminded the Commission that it had postponed/^{further}consideration of item 6 of the agenda because all Governments had not sent in their replies. She expressed the Commission's appreciation of the valuable contributions sent in by the non-governmental organizations on that question and said that the Commission's report would refer to the helpful suggestions submitted by the

International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues. She also expressed deep appreciation of the work of the Secretariat commending it on the progress which had been made in the distribution of documents. She also mentioned the high calibre of the technical services furnished to the Commission at the current session.

Mrs. TSALDARIS (Greece) endorsed the Chairman's remarks. She too wished to thank the Secretariat for its valuable assistance without which the Commission could not have accomplished so much in so short a time.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.