

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

E/38/Rev.1
21 May 1946

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE SECOND
SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

In accordance with the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of 16 February 1946 (E/27 of 22 February 1946) on the establishment of a Commission on Human Rights and a Sub-Commission on the Status of Women, the nuclear Commission on Human Rights met at Hunter College, New York City, from 29 April to 20 May 1946, to consider its terms of reference, the definitive composition of the Commission, and various documents referred to the Commission concerning human rights, and to report thereon to the Second Session of the Economic and Social Council.

The Commission consisted of the following nine members:

Mr. Paal Borg (Norway)
Mr. Alexander Borisov (U.S.S.R.)*
Mr. Dusan Brkish (Yugoslavia)*
Prof. Rene Cassin (France)
M. Fernand Dehousse (Belgium)
Mr. Victor Raul Haya de la Torre (Peru)
Dr. C. L. Hsia (China)*
Mr. K. C. Neogy (India)
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt (United States)

Mr. Paal Borg (Norway), M. Fernand Dehousse (Belgium) and

Mr. Victor Raul Haya de la Torre (Peru) were unable to attend the first

*Dr. C. L. Hsia had been nominated in place of Dr. John C. H. Wu, and Mr. Dusan Brkish in place of Dr. Jerko Radmilovic. Mr. Alexander Borisov replaced Mr. Nikolai Kriukov. Mr. Borisov took part in the meetings of the Commission from 13 May 1946. On his arrival Mr. Borisov stated that the former representative had been only an observer. Owing to a misapprehension on the part of the Commission as well as on the part of the Member from the U.S.S.R. first attending the Commission meetings this representative took part in all of the discussions and in the votes of the Commission up to the time Mr. Borisov arrived on 13 May 1946. As a result, Mr. Borisov took exception to certain agreements that had been reached, and in this report and in the Summary Records of the meetings of the Commission, his objections and dissents are recorded.

session of the Commission. The Commission held 18 meetings and one drafting session. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt (U.S.A.) was elected Chairman, M. Rene Cassin (France), Vice-Chairman, and Mr. K. C. Neogy (India), Rapporteur.

After the adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the first session of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/Commissions/1), Mrs. Roosevelt, Mr. Brkish, and M. Cassin were appointed ex-officio members of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Section B, Paragraph 5, of the Council Resolution on the establishment of the Commission on Human Rights (E/27).

I. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The terms of reference contained in Paragraph 2 of the Council Resolution (E/27) were reviewed and accepted by the Commission. It was generally felt that item (a), namely, an international bill of rights, might be found to cover substantially items (b), (c) and (d). Attention was drawn to the fact that item (e) of the terms of reference recommended in the Report of the Preparatory Commission (Page 36, Paragraph 16) - "any matters within the field of human rights considered likely to impair the general welfare or friendly relations among nations" - was not included in the terms of reference drawn up by the Council. The Commission agreed to request the Council to consider the desirability of adding a clause substantially on the lines of the original item (e), so as to be able to deal with any matter not covered by items (a), (b), (c), and (d), such as the eventual punishment of certain crimes which must be considered as international, as they constitute an offence against all mankind.

II. PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Commission discussed in detail Item 8 of the agenda (E/HR/5), concerning the scope of work of the Commission and the examination of documents submitted by Members of the United Nations

(E/HR/1, E/HR/2, E/HR/3).

The Commission proceeded with this examination in full realization of the grave importance of the task entrusted to it by the Charter of the United Nations. It fully realized the importance of achieving and promoting the recognition and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in the hope of drawing from the last world war which demanded the sacrifice of so many lives, the lessons which will aid us to achieve the highest aspirations of mankind. In addition, the Commission paid particular attention to well-considered plans and suggestions which were presented to it through hearings by qualified representatives of national and international organizations, well known for the importance of their work.

The members agreed that the fullest possible documentation and information concerning the whole field of human rights was of the utmost importance first for the drafting of an international bill of rights, and the Secretariat was requested to collect all available material on the subject, and to publish periodically the most important information. But the Commission is confident that the Member countries will make regularly and on their own initiative, either themselves or by an organ entrusted with this task, contributions for the information of the Commission, as they primarily will have to bear the responsibility for developing human rights and for assuring their observance.

The Commission felt that while it was within its competence to draft a bill of human rights, it was not as yet in a position to do so, but it would proceed with the preparatory work.

The Commission agreed that the full Commission should determine the character of the bill which is to be drafted, as well as the content and the form of the bill (for instance, should it be a resolution by the Assembly of the United Nations or an appendix to the Charter, having to be integrated into the constitution of each Member Nation, or a convention

between the States, or in any other form). Therefore, it was decided to recommend that the full Commission should draft an international bill of rights as soon as possible, and that this draft should be circulated among the United Nations governments for their comment.

The importance of regional conferences of experts was emphasized, and in this connection, reference was made to the Inter-American Conference of War and Peace Problems at Mexico City (Act of Chapultepec) in March 1945. Some members pointed out that it might be difficult, at present, to arrange for similar conferences in other parts of the world, such as the Far East.*

The Commission decided to recommend that if such conferences should prove impracticable in the very near future or before the convening of the full Commission, the advice of individual experts from various regions should be sought. It was considered most important that within the next weeks, the procedure for initial consultations should be started, in accordance with the decisions of the Economic and Social Council, so that their results may immediately aid the Commission in its work.

As the drafting of a bill of rights might take a certain time in spite of every effort at speed in its preparation, members of the Commission unanimously stressed the importance of the acceptance of the principle of including provisions for basic human rights in international treaties, particularly peace treaties. It was also agreed that such provisions should be accepted by all States, Members of the United Nations, and by States seeking admission to the United Nations.

With regard to the promotion and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Commission felt that practical and effective measures must be taken. Each Member State must feel bound to adopt, in accordance with its system of government, measures to safeguard the

* Mr. Borisev (U.S.S.R.) wished it to be recorded that he had not yet been able to study sufficiently the records of the meetings of the Commission and the various documents and preferred, therefore, to abstain from voting on the question of regional conferences.

observance and to provide against the violation of those rights and freedoms that are proclaimed in an international bill. But the Commission also felt the need for an international agency of implementation, entrusted with the task of watching over the general observance of human rights, in order to prevent the recurrence of acts as monstrous as those which formed the prelude of the Second World War.*

It was also pointed out that, pending the eventual establishment of such an agency, the Commission on Human Rights might assist the appropriate organs of the United Nations in the task defined for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in Articles 13, 55, and 62 of the Charter, and that it might aid the Security Council in the task entrusted to it by Article 39 of the Charter, by pointing to cases where violation of human rights may constitute a threat to the peace.

The Commission recognized that when the Economic and Social Council comes to consider the question of how to implement an international bill of rights, it may find that political actions are necessary. This may also be the case where protection of national minorities is concerned. The Commission, therefore, requests the Economic and Social Council to take this problem into consideration in determining the status and power of the Commission on Human Rights, of its Sub-Commissions, or of any other agency established to safeguard the observance of human rights.

The Commission considered that the number of sub-commissions, for the time being, should be limited, and that in addition to the existing Sub-Commission on the Status of Women, a Sub-Commission on Freedom Information should be established.

It was agreed that the Secretariat should be instructed to collect all documentation concerning items (c) and (d) of the terms of reference protection of minorities and prevention of discrimination on grounds of

* Mr. Borisov (U.S.S.R.) wished it to be recorded that he had not yet been able to study sufficiently the records of the meetings of the Commission and the various documents and preferred, therefore, to abstain from voting on the question of the provisions for implementation.

race, sex, language, or religion - as a preliminary step to future consideration of the question of establishment of Sub-Commissions on those subjects.

Finally, the Commission agreed to express the view that public discussion of human rights should be stimulated and encouraged throughout the world.

The recommendations to the Economic and Social Council with regard to the programme of work of the Commission on Human Rights were unanimously formulated as follows:

A. Documentation

The Commission recommends that:

1. The Economic and Social Council should instruct the Secretariat:

- (a) to compile a yearbook, the first edition of which should contain all declarations and bills on human rights now in force in the various countries.
- (b) to collect and publish information on the activities of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, the Hague Court, the Commission on Human Rights, and all other organs of the United Nations dealing with human rights and fundamental freedoms; to include information on the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials which might be important in the field of human rights; to include also a survey of the developments of human rights, as well as plans and declarations by specialized agencies and non-governmental national and international organizations.

2. The Economic and Social Council might suggest to the Member Nations to establish information groups or local human rights committees within their countries who would transmit periodically information to the Commission on Human Rights on the observance of human rights in their countries, both in their legal systems and their jurisdictional and administrative practice.

B. Draft Declarations

The Commission recommends that:

1. The full Commission should draft an international bill of rights as soon as possible. The nuclear Commission should proceed with the preparations for such a bill. The draft of the international bill of rights, as completed by the full Commission should be circulated among the United Nations governments for their suggestions.
2. The detailed examination of the documents submitted by the Delegations of Cuba and Panama (Documents E/HR/1 and E/HR/3) should be left to the full Commission or to a later session of the nuclear Commission.

3. The organization of regional conferences of experts should be taken under consideration. If such conferences should prove impracticable before the full Commission is convened, the advice of individual experts from different regions should be sought.*

C. Human Rights in International Treaties

The Commission recommends that:

without waiting for an international bill of rights to be written, the general principle should be accepted that provisions for basic human rights be included in international treaties, particularly peace treaties, that similar provisions be accepted by all States, Members of the United Nations, and by States seeking admission to the United Nations.

D. Provisions for Implementation

The Commission recommends that:

1. It shall be considered that the purpose of the United Nations with regard to the promotion and observance of human rights, as defined in the Charter of the United Nations, could only be fulfilled if provisions were made for the implementation of the observance of human rights and of an international bill of rights.
2. Pending the eventual establishment of an agency of implementation the Commission on Human Rights might be recognized as qualified to aid the appropriate organs of the United Nations in the task defined for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in Articles 13, 55, and 62 of the Charter, concerning the promotion and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and to aid the Security Council in the task entrusted to it by Article 39 of the Charter, by pointing to cases where violation of human rights committed in one country may, by its gravity, its frequency, or its systematic nature, constitute a threat to the peace.**

E. Sub-Commissions

The Commission recommends that:

The Council should consider the appointment of a Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press.

* Mr. Borisov (U.S.S.R.) wished it to be recorded that he had not yet been able to study sufficiently the records of the meetings of the Commission and the various documents and preferred, therefore, to abstain from voting on the question of regional conferences.

**Mr. Borisov (U.S.S.R.) wished it to be recorded that he had not yet been able to study sufficiently the records of the meetings of the Commission and the various documents and preferred, therefore, to abstain from voting on the question of the provisions for implementation.

III. DEFINITIVE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION

In accordance with Section A, Paragraph 6 of the Council Resolution (E/27), the Commission discussed in detail the definitive composition of the Commission.

With regard to the type of membership, it was generally felt that as the Economic and Social Council was elected by the governments represented in the General Assembly, and as the Members of the Economic and Social Council, in their turn, represented governments, the Commission on Human Rights, appointed by the Council, should not again consist of representatives of governments. It was further emphasized that the Commission should consist of highly qualified persons. The Commission, by a majority, agreed to recommend that all members of the Commission on Human Rights should serve as non-governmental representatives, appointed by the Council out of a list of nominees submitted by the Member States of the United Nations.*

The commission reached unanimous agreement on the recommendation concerning the number of members, their re-eligibility, and their term of office.

The question of fitting the nuclear Commission into the scheme of definitive composition of the Commission was considered. One member expressed the view that the Economic and Social Council might, if necessary call for the resignation of the present members, so as to enable the Council to appoint all the members of the Commission at the same time on a uniform basis.

* Mr. Borisov (U.S.S.R.) disagreed with the recommendation that all members should serve as non-governmental representatives. He expressed the view that all members of this Commission and its Sub-Commissions should be appointed as government representatives in the same way as the Members of the Economic and Social Council.

The members felt that the Commission was not in a position to make recommendations concerning the number and the duration of sessions of the full Commission. With regard to Corresponding Members, the Commission felt that it could not, at present, recommend the practice followed by the League of Nations of naming members of the Commission "Corresponding members" upon their resignation, but the members of the Commission unanimously agreed to recommend that the Commission on Human Rights should be authorized by the Economic and Social Council to call in ad hoc working groups of non-governmental experts or individual experts.

The recommendations to the Economic and Social Council with regard to the definitive composition of the Commission on Human Rights were finally formulated as follows:

1. Type of Membership and Method of Selection

- (a) All members of the Commission on Human Rights should serve as non-governmental representatives;
- (b) All member States of the United Nations should have the right to nominate not more than two individuals each for the Commission;
- (c) Any Member State desiring to do so, could nominate a national of another Member Nation;
- (d) The full list of nominees should be submitted to the Council and from this list alone the Council should appoint the members of the full Commission.
- (e) The Economic and Social Council should at all times pay due regard to equitable geographical distribution and to personal qualifications of the nominees for service on the Commission.

2. Number of Members

The full Commission should consist of eighteen members.

3. Re-eligibility

The members of the full Commission should be eligible for re-appointment.

4. Term of Office

Members of the full Commission should be appointed for a term of three years by the Economic and Social Council. Of the first eighteen members of the Commission appointed by the Council, the term of office of six members should expire at the end of one year, of six other members at the end of two years, and of the last six members at the end of three years.

5. Frequency of Meetings

The Commission felt that it was not in a position at the present time to make recommendations concerning the number and the duration of sessions of the full Commission. It was decided to inform the Economic and Social Council that the nuclear Commission would be ready to meet at the call of the council and to take up any work which the Council may refer to it.

6. Corresponding Members

The Commission felt that it could not, at present, recommend the practice followed by the League of Nations of naming members of the Commission "Corresponding members" upon their resignation.

7. Working Groups and Experts

The Commission should be authorized by the Economic and Social Council to call in ad hoc working groups of non-governmental experts or individual experts without reference to the Council, but with the approval of the President of the Council and of the Secretary-General.

8. Reciprocal Representation between Commissions

In accordance with the Report of the Preparatory Commission (Page 37, Paragraph 39), suitable arrangements for reciprocal representation should be made between the Commission on Human Rights and Commissions working in allied fields.

9. Specialized Agencies

In conformity with the Report of the Preparatory Commission (Page 39 Paragraph 40), the Commission should be authorized to invite representatives of the appropriate specialized agencies to take part in its meetings, in accordance with the terms to be laid down in the agreements between the Economic and Social Council and such agencies.

IV. SUB-COMMISSION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF THE PRESS

In the course of the discussion on the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press (E/HR/2, E/Commissions/4, E/HR/14 and E/HR/17, which the Commission desired to see established, one of the members called attention to the fact that in the United States the news services were a highly developed industry, while in many other parts of the world, newspapers and news services did not enjoy a comparable position. Other members pointed out that it had often happened that newspapers and news agencies had poisoned the mind of the public by twisting the facts. Freedom should always be coupled with responsibility, and these members felt that in the future, measures should

be considered against deliberate and systematic distortion of the truth. All members agreed that representation on this Sub-Commission should be as wide as possible, including the different regions in the world, as well as the different media of information.

The following recommendations were formulated:

1. Number of Members

The Commission (by a majority vote) recommends that the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press should be composed of twelve members.

2. Type of Membership

The Commission (by a majority vote) recommends that the members of the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press should be selected and appointed in the same way as is recommended for the full Commission on Human Rights.*

3. Terms of Reference

The Commission recommends that the function of the Sub-Commission, in the first instance, be to examine what rights, obligations, and practices should be included in the concept of freedom of information, and to report to the Commission on Human Rights on any issue that may arise from such examination.

4. Documents

The Commission decided to refer to the Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information and of the Press all documents on any subject pertaining to freedom of information and of the press.

V. HEARINGS

The Commission devoted one of its meetings to the hearing of a number of non-governmental organizations primarily concerned with human rights. On behalf of the Commission the Chairman informed the representatives of these organizations that the text of their speeches, together with various documents received, would be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the full Commission on Human Rights for further consideration.

* Mr. Borisov, (U.S.S.R.) disagreed with the recommendation that all members should serve as non-governmental representatives. He expressed the view that all members of this Commission and its Sub-Commissions should be appointed as government representatives in the same way as the members of the Economic and Social Council.

VI. REPORT ON THE SUB-COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The Commission transmits to the Council for its information the report of the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women appended hereto (E/HR/18). It commends the conscientious care and thoroughness with which the report has been prepared.

Section B of the resolution of the Council of 16 February 1946 on the establishment of the Sub-Commission (E/27) provided in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4:

- "2. The sub-commission shall submit proposals, recommendations, and reports to the Commission on Human Rights regarding the status of women.
- "3. The sub-commission may submit proposals to the Council, through the Commission on Human Rights, regarding its terms of reference
- "4. The sub-commission.....shall make recommendations on the definitive composition of the sub-commission to the Second Session of the Council through the Commission on Human Rights."

Taking these provisions into account, the Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council:

- 1 - That the Council might follow the suggestions concerning the composition of the full Sub-Commission made in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 4 of Section III of the Report of the Sub-Commission (E/HR/18) and that for all other questions, a similar procedure to the one recommended for the Commission on Human Rights be applied.*
- 2 - That, having due regard for the importance of Section I on Policy (E/HR/18), it be referred for study to the full Commission on Human Rights, and that the attention of the governments of all Member States should be drawn especially to the suggestions concerning development of education of women and their political rights wherever they are not yet in a position to assume their full responsibility. (E/HR/18, Page 9)
- 3 - That a complete and detailed study of legislation concerning the status of women and its practical application be initiated, taking into account all important alterations that have arisen since the first general inquiries made by the League of Nations. (E/HR/18, Sect. II, 1)
- 4 - That the Secretariat (Department of Social Affairs, Division of Human Rights) be furnished with all necessary means of qualified

* Mr. Borisov (U.S.S.R.) disagreed with the recommendation that all members should serve as non-governmental representatives. He expressed the view that all members of this Commission and its Sub-Commissions should be appointed as government representatives in the same way as the members of the Economic and Social Council.

personnel and material, to enable it to organize the studies referred to in Paragraph 3, to collect and distribute in agreement with the Department of Public Information and other services and branches of the United Nations, the documentation concerning the question of women, and to fulfill all the duties incumbent on the United Nations in this field. (E/HR/18, Section II, 1, 6)

- 5 - That consultations should take place with the governments of Member States on problems concerning women which may appear to them to be the first items for discussion, either by a general women's conference or by different conferences, each with a definite purpose, inside the field of one of the specialized agencies, such as the ILO, UNESCO, etc.. (E/HR/18, Sect. II, 4)

APPENDIX I

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Sub-Commission on the Status of Women, established by the Economic and Social Council under Council Resolutions of 16 and 18 February 1946 to submit proposals, recommendations and reports to the Commission on Human Rights regarding the status of women and to submit proposals to the Council through the Commission on Human Rights regarding its terms of reference and definitive composition met at Gillet Hall, Hunter College, New York City, during the period 29 April to 13 May 1946.

The Commission consisted of the following members:

Mrs. Bodil Begtrup - Denmark
Miss Minerva Bernardino - Dominican Republic
Miss Angela Jurdak - Lebanon
Miss Fryderyka Kalinowska - Poland
Mrs. Marie Helene Lefaucheux - France
Mrs. Hansa Mehta - India
Mrs. W. S. New - China

At its first meeting the Sub-Commission elected its officers:

Chairman - Mrs. Bodil Begtrup
Vice Chairman - Miss Minerva Bernardino
Rapporteur - Miss Angela Jurdak

Mrs. Janine Bernheim acted as Secretary of the Sub-Commission, and Miss Catherine Rolfe as Assistant Secretary.

Discussions centred on the fundamental principles to be adopted, the scope and programme of work to be undertaken, and the composition of the full Sub-Commission.

There was a general feeling among the members of gratitude towards the Economic and Social Council for taking up the question of the Status of Women, and for setting up this Sub-Commission to study the problems involved, and in this way, implementing the principle stated in the

Preamble of the Charter "the equal rights of men and women."

It was recognized that the Sub-Commission was set up to advise the Commission on Human Rights on problems relating to the status of women. In consequence, the Sub-Commission must work in harmony with that Commission. There was general agreement that the Sub-Commission should study the status of women in all its aspects and make the broadest possible recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights on the scope of the work to be undertaken by the Sub-Commission when fully constituted. The ideals at which to aim, and guiding principles on which to work, were defined by the members as a preliminary to their detailed discussions. Members considered that the work of the Sub-Commission should last until women had reached the point where they were on equal footing with men in all fields of human enterprise. In practice priority had to be given to Political Rights since little progress could be made without them. Nevertheless, improvements in civil educational, social and economic fields were especially important and therefore, these problems should be attacked simultaneously.

The question whether the Trusteeship Council, when it came into being, should be invited to consult the Sub-Commission regarding the status of women in the non-self-governing territories placed under its charge was discussed, having in mind Article 76 (c) of the Charter. It was generally agreed that this was a matter that could well be left for later sessions of the full Sub-Commission.

During the discussion on the question of definitive composition of the Sub-Commission, the advantages and disadvantages of a small membership were carefully weighed. A smaller body could be more efficient, although a large one would give more universal representation of women's activities. It was decided to recommend a minimum figure of fifteen, to include three ex-officio members from the Commission on Human Rights. The additional members were to be selected from regions insufficiently represented in the nuclear Sub-Commission, and particularly from countries where women had reached different stages in status. There was a difference of opinion on the question of representation. Some members considered that representative

should be on a governmental basis since without the support of governments the work of the Sub-Commission could not be effective. Others were of the opinion that members should be elected in their individual capacity in the same way as the nuclear Sub-Commission had been appointed by the Economic and Social Council. The members reached the conclusion that since, in practice, the Economic and Social Council would not appoint the individuals who were persona non grata with their governments the selection should be made according to individual capacity, by the Council. With regard to term of office, the members felt that continuity was necessary during the first years of the application of their programme. After 1950 a system of rotation should be put into effect, which might follow the lines laid down by the Economic and Social Council for the other Commissions.

In the course of the discussions the members of the Sub-Commission expressed their belief that democracy is now the only social order in which women can enjoy full rights as human beings, and that women, a great number of whom have made so many sacrifices in the cause of democracy and liberty and who have proved in action that they are able to face all duties and tasks, affirm their resolution to work in the service of world peace with all their heart, mind and will.

Accordingly, the Sub-Commission recommends that the full Sub-Commission should be guided by the following ideals in its future work:-

Freedom and equality are essential to human development and whereas woman is as much a human being as man and, therefore, entitled to share them with him;

Well-being and progress of society depend on the extent to which both men and women are able to develop their full personality and are cognizant of their responsibilities to themselves and to each other;

Woman has thus a definite role to play in the building of a free, healthy, prosperous and moral society and that she can fulfill this obligation only as a free and responsible member;

In order to achieve this goal, the purpose of the Sub-Commission is to raise the status of women to equality with men in all fields of human enterprise.

I. Policy

Therefore the Sub-Commission recommends that its aims shall be as follows:-

A. Political

Equal participation in governments and possibility to exercise all the rights and assume all the duties of a citizen which comprise:-

1. Universal suffrage
2. Equal right to vote
3. Equal right to be elected
4. Equal right to hold public office.

B. Civil

1. Marriage. Freedom of choice, dignity of the wife, monogamy, equal right to breach of marriage.
2. Guardianship. Equal right to have guardianship of her own and other children.
3. Nationality. Right to keep her own nationality, and her children having the right to choose the nationality of the mother on majority.
4. Property. Equal right to hold and acquire administer and inherit property.

C. Social and Economic

Full possibility of taking equal part in social life, which implies full opportunity of fulfilling her duties towards society.

1. To prevent discrimination against women in social and economic status and customs.
2. (a) To abolish prostitution by removing the legal and customary provisions pertaining to it.

- (b) To take ~~strong measures~~ to put down traffic in women and children.
 - (c) To prevent clandestine prostitution by providing conditions that make it no longer necessary for women to earn money by these means.
 - (d) To enable former prostitutes to return to normal life without discrimination by providing work for them as well as a broad and widely accessible educational system.
3. While no disability should be attached to woman on the ground of her sex, in regard to the enjoyment of full equality, in the exercise of social and labour rights and in the assumption of social and labour duties, special consideration on grounds of health may be given equally to men and women and special consideration to women on grounds of motherhood.
 4. There shall be an effective scheme of health and social insurance legislation which will provide equal preventive and remedial opportunities for women and will include special provisions for maternal and child care.

D. Education

Equal opportunity for compulsory, free and full education, equal opportunity in all specialized fields as well as training in outronics - the right to enjoy scientific discoveries applied to human growth and development.

To achieve these aims, the Sub-Commission proposes:-

1. that world public opinion be stimulated in favour of raising the status of women as an instrument to further human rights and peace. The Sub-Commission also recommends that in view of the fact that the governments of all the United Nations in signing the Charter recognized that one of its principal aims, as stated in the Preamble, was

"to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small", the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women expects the full collaboration and support of the governments of all the United Nations in their endeavours to raise the status of women throughout the world. At the same time, this Sub-Commission earnestly desires to render all possible assistance to those governments, in the application of the principle of equal rights as between men and women.

2. that the Sub-Commission collaborates with United Nations Commissions, with governments, with specialized agencies with public and private agencies, with international and national women's organizations,* with any other experts deemed necessary, and that representatives of the former organizations should be invited to participate as observers or as consultative agents.
3. that the Sub-Commission welcomes reports and recommendations.

II. Programme

Bearing in mind this broad outline of their goal the Sub-Commission proposes the following programme of work:-

1. To undertake a world wide, up-to-date, reliable and valid survey of laws pertaining to the status of women, their application and the actual status of women. (The Sub-Commission should secure the information through governments, specialized agencies, women's organizations, academic institutes, trade unions and others.)
2. To conduct polls in various regions to sound public opinions on matters of interest to the Sub-Commission.
3. To organize a forum to hear the views of the consultative agents.

* See Appendix I.

4. To call a United Nations Women's Conference to further the programme.
5. To arrange for international exchange of all categories of manual and intellectual women workers, including the industrial, agricultural and cultural fields.
6. To collect and systematize records on women's affairs in the form of books, pamphlets, charts etc. (preferably as a Section of the United Nations' archives).
7. To implement the proposal to create a world wide public opinion through the media of the press, radio, publications, lectures, motion pictures, etc.
8. That the United Nations Information Section prepare material about the United Nations to be distributed on request.
9. To request reference to the Sub-Commission of all communications and information concerning matters of interest to women received by the United Nations.
10. To train leaders in a course on women's affairs and to encourage the promotion of scholarships.
- *11. That public and private agencies be urged to plan and equip the homes in ways which will enable the housewife to devote more time to participate actively in civic affairs.
12. That an Executive Office on Women's Affairs be established as part of the Secretariat to deal with all work of the Sub-Commission, under the leadership of a highly competent woman who will be appointed after consulting the Sub-Commission and will be assisted by qualified staff.
13. That an Executive Committee be formed from members of the Sub-Commission residing in the vicinity of the headquarters of the United Nations. The purpose of this committee shall be to guard the general policy of the Sub-Commission.

III. Composition

Following the terms of reference in document E/27, Section B.4, that the nuclear Sub-Commission shall make recommendations on the definitive composition of the Sub-Commission, the nuclear Sub-Commission recommends:-

1. That the future composition should be fifteen members including three members from the Commission on Human Rights.
2. That the members should be appointed by the Economic and Social Council in their individual capacity.
3. That the additional members should be selected from the regions of the Balkan States, Great Britain, Latin America and the United States of America to make up the definitive composition of the Sub-Commission.
4. That selection should be made from among women prominent in public affairs.
5. That before final appointment by the Economic and Social Council, the chairman of the Sub-Commission should be consulted.
6. That in view of the fact that the present Sub-Commission is eligible for re-election and that its work cannot begin before October or November 1946, all members be re-elected for a period of three years commencing on 1 April 1947, to serve effectively during the period of initiation.
7. That after this period a sound system of rotation be adopted.
8. That members should attend regularly.
9. That in the case of an emergency, alternates may be designated according to the rules of the Economic and Social Council.
10. That the next session of the Sub-Commission should take place before the end of the year, the date to be determined by the Chairman of the Economic and Social Council in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Commission.

Members of the Sub-Commission wish to emphasize that action by the Economic and Social Council in establishing this Sub-Commission has awakened hope and expectancy among women in all parts of the world. It is the firm belief of the Sub-Commission that all the recommendations for social progress which it has made are equally important; yet it wishes to stress that immediate action can and should be taken under the headings proposed:-

1. Executive Office (Paragraph II, 12)
2. Survey (Paragraph II, 1)
3. Education (Paragraph I, D)
4. Women's Conference (Paragraph II, 4)
5. Political Rights (Paragraph I, A)

The Sub-Commission on the Status of Women earnestly requests the Economic and Social Council to direct an appeal to the governments of the United Nations that have not accorded suffrage to women, to take such action at the earliest date possible within their frame of government, in order that all the terms of the Charter of the United Nations shall be put into effect.

In conclusion, the Sub-Commission expresses the hope that the full Sub-Commission will explore the vast field of complex problems concerning the status of women all over the world so that it can play its part in building a better world in which men and women in full equality work together towards universal peace.

APPENDIX II

Memorandum to the ~~Commission on Human Rights~~ from the ~~Sub-Commission~~
on the Status of Women, dated 6 May 1948.

As the meeting of the Committee on Non-Governmental
Organizations is being held on 20 May, the Sub-Commission wishes to
make the following recommendation:

For the efficient handling of the work of the United Nations it is
important that the Sub-Commission on the Status of Women should
stimulate the interest of women of the international and national
organizations, to collaborate with these organizations and co-ordinate
their efforts.

Therefore, the Sub-Commission requests the Economic and Social Council
to refer to it all communications and information received concerning
all matters of interest to women.

The Sub-Commission would appreciate if it should be consulted in all
matters pertaining to women before any decision is reached by the Council.

The Sub-Commission would appreciate if the Commission on Human Rights
would transmit this to the Economic and Social Council.

APPENDIX III

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

- E/HR/1 Draft Declaration on Human Rights submitted by the Delegation of Cuba - and letter of transmittal
- E/HR/2 Communications concerning Freedom of Information and Freedom of the Press submitted by the Delegation of the United States to the General Assembly
- E/HR/3 Statement of Essential Human Rights presented by the Delegation of Panama
- E/HR/4 Draft Resolution concerning the Calling of an International Press Conference submitted by the Delegation of the Philippine Commonwealth to the First Part of the First Session of the General Assembly - and the Decision Reached on 11 February 1946
- E/HR/5 Provisional Agenda
- E/HR/6 Summary Record of First Meeting, held on 29 April 1946
- E/HR/7 Rules of Procedure (Amended)
- E/HR/8 Summary Record of Second Meeting, held on 30 April 1946 a.m.
- E/HR/9 Summary Record of Third Meeting, held on 20 April 1946 p.m.
- E/HR/10 Summary Record of Fourth Meeting, held on 2 May 1946 a.m.
- E/HR/11 Summary Record of Fifth Meeting, held on 2 May 1946 p.m.
- E/HR/12 Summary Record of Sixth Meeting, held on 6 May 1946 a.m.
- E/HR/13 Summary Record of First Drafting Session, held on 6 May 1946 p.m.
- E/HR/14 Statements concerning Freedom of the Press submitted by the Chinese Delegation to the Chairman, Commission on Human Rights
- E/HR/15 Summary Record of Seventh Meeting, held on 8 May 1946 a.m.
- E/HR/16 Summary Record of Eighth Meeting, held on 8 May 1946 p.m.
- E/HR/17 Communication to Chairman of Commission on Human Rights by Motion Picture Association
- E/HR/18 Report of the Sub-commission on the Status of Women
- E/HR/18/Rev.1 Report of the Sub-commission on the Status of Women (Revised)
- E/HR/19 Draft Report of the Commission on Human Rights to the Second Session of the Economic and Social Council

- E/HR/20 Summary Record of Tenth Meeting, held on 10 May 1946 p.m.
- E/HR/21 Memorandum from Preparatory Commission of UNESCO concerning the Question of Freedom of Information
- E/HR/22 Memorandum concerning the Commission on Human Rights from the National Council of Negro Women
- E/HR/23 Summary Record of Twelfth Meeting, held on 13 May 1946 p.m.
- E/HR/24 Summary Record of Thirteenth Meeting, held on 14 May 1946
- E/HR/25 Summary Record of Fourteenth Meeting, held on 15 May 1946 a.m.
- E/HR/26 Summary Record of Fifteenth Meeting, held on 15 May 1946 p.m.
- E/HR/27 Summary Record of Sixteenth Meeting, held on 16 May 1946 a.m.
- E/HR/28 Summary Record of Eleventh Meeting, held on 13 May 1946 a.m.
- E/HR/29 Summary Record of Seventeenth Meeting, held on 16 May 1946 p.m.
- E/HR/30 Summary Record of Ninth Meeting, held on 10 May 1946 a.m.
- E/HR/31 Summary Record of Eighteenth Meeting, held on 20 May 1946
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- E/Commissions/1 Provisional Rules of Procedure for the First Sessions of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council
- E/Commissions/2 Statement from United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations regarding the Composition and Functions of Commissions of the Economic and Social Council
- E/Commissions/3 Memorandum submitted by the United States Delegation to the United Nations regarding Composition of the Commissions of the Economic and Social Council
- E/Commissions/4 Memorandum on the Establishment of a Sub-commission on Freedom of Information, submitted by the United States Delegation to the United Nations
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- E/27 Commission on Human Rights and Sub-Commission on the Status of Women
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- E/38 Report of the Commission on Human Rights to the Second Session of the Economic and Social Council
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- E/38/Rev.1 Report of the Commission on Human Rights to the Second Session of the Economic and Social Council (Revised)