

**ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL  
ECONOMIQUE  
ET SOCIAL**

E/HR/ST/3  
1. May 1946

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE  
SUB-COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Monday 29 April 1946 at 5:10 PM

Members of the sub-commission

Mrs. Bodil Begtrup	
Miss Minerva Bernardino	
Miss Angela Jurdak	
Mme. Le Fauchaux	
Mrs. Hansa Mehta	
Miss Gabriela Mistral	
Mrs. W. S. New	
Miss F. Kalinowska	
Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt	} ex officio
Mr. Cassin	
Mr. Dusan Brkic	

1. Mr. Laugier, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Affairs, opened the meeting at 5:10 PM. In his speech welcoming the members Mr. Laugier told them of the tremendous work awaiting them which might be based on the previous studies undertaken by the Committee of Experts of the League of Nations. He mentioned that there were progressive laws in many countries but stressed the fact that, on the one hand, they had not been applied and on the other hand, women had first to receive political education. The sub-commission had only a short time in which to report to the Commission on Human Rights and, therefore, it was necessary to get down to the agenda forthwith.

2. The election of the chairman. On the nomination of Miss Bernardino, Mrs. Begtrup was elected by acclamation.

She first thanked the Economic and Social Council for taking up the question of the status of women. Women had to have an equal place in the national field and had to ~~participate~~ participate in the international field. In the areas which may be placed under trusteeship there were four-hundred-six-hundred million people and a great work was to be done for their sake

and that of mankind.

World public opinion had to strengthen the equality of men and women, a principle stated in the charter of the United Nations. The creation of the sub-commission was giving hope to millions of women and must not deceive them.

3. Adoption of rules of procedure. The chairman then read the rules of procedure which were adopted unanimously with the addition of the provision in Rule I for a rapporteur in addition to vice-chairman.

4. Election of vice-chairman. The chairman then called for nomination for vice-chairman. Miss Bernardino was nominated by Miss Jurdak and Miss Kalinowska by Mr. Brkish. A vote was taken by secret ballot and Miss Bernardino was elected as vice-chairman.

Miss Bernardino	- 4
Miss Kalinowska	- 2
Abstentions	- 1

In replying, Miss Bernardino paid a tribute to the president and members of the Economic and Social Council for the creation of this sub-commission and recognized the initiative of feminist movements in Latin America. She offered to place her experience as chairman of the Inter-American Commission of Women at the disposal of the sub-commission. Miss Bernardino suggested that the sub-commission should invite qualified men to work with it in order to help establish permanent equal civil, economic, social and political rights for women throughout the world. This goal could be attained by a charter. In conclusion, she remarked that the time had come for realistic action.

5. Election of rapporteur. Miss Bernardino proposed Miss Jurdak and Mrs. New seconded her. Mr. Brkish nominated Miss Kalinowska. A vote was taken by secret ballot and Miss Jurdak was elected rapporteur.

Miss Jurdak	- 4
Miss Kalinowska	- 3

6. Consideration of programme. The chairman then read the remaining items on the provisional agenda and put it to the members that this

agenda might be considered as a basis for discussion with the provision that additional items could be added at later meetings. After a brief discussion, the members agreed to adopt the agenda on this understanding.

The chairman announced that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 1 May at 10:30 AM. The meeting then adjourned at 6:25 PM.