

**ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
ECONOMIQUE
ET SOCIAL**

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

Held at Gillet Hall, Hunter College, New York City
Monday 29 April 1946 at 5:10 PM

Members of the sub-commission

Mrs. Bodil Begtrup	(Denmark)	
Miss Minerva Bernardino	(Dominican Republic)	
Miss Angela Jurdak	(Lebanon)	
Miss F. Kalinowska	(Poland)	
Mme. Lefauchaux	(France)	- unable to attend first meeting
Mrs. Hansa Mehta	(India)	
Miss Gabriela Mistral	(Chile)	- unable to attend first meeting
Mrs. W. S. New	(China)	
Not Yet Appointed	(USSR)	
Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt) ex officio members
Mr. Cassin (unable to attend first meeting)		
Mr. Dusan Brkish		

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 co-operate in the international field. In the areas which may be placed under trusteeship there were 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. Birkish. 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 the outstanding feminist of Brazil, Dr. Bertha Lutz and other Latin American women delegates to the San Francisco Conference. 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. In this manner only would the preamble of the charter of the United Nations, which reaffirms faith in the principle of equal rights for men and women, be translated into living reality. 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.
